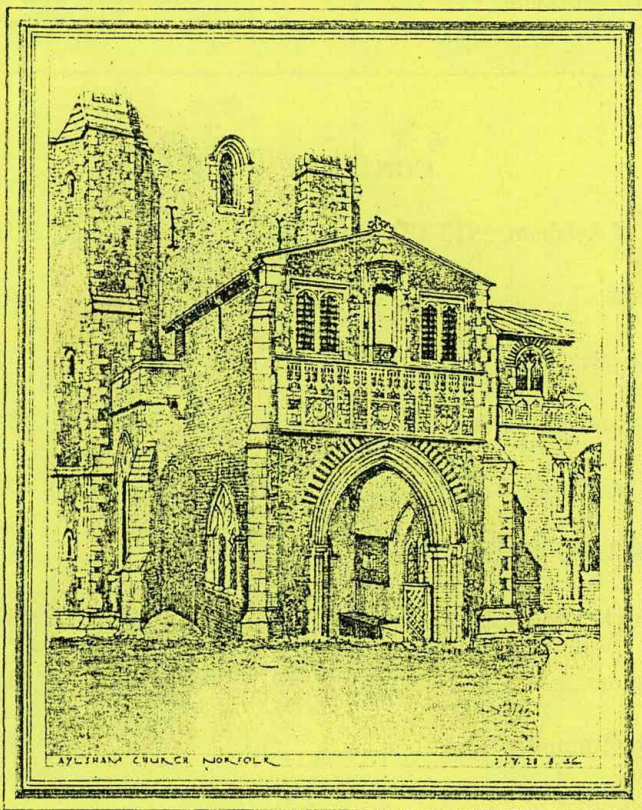


AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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EDITOR: Tom Mollard, Flint Cottage, Calthorpe Rd. Erpingham. Norwich
NR11 7QL. Phone Cromer 761638

CHAIRMAN: Peter Holman
Aylsham 733434

SECRETARY Betty Gee
Aylsham 734834

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COVER PICTURE: The South Porch; Aylsham church. From *Beautiful Norfolk Buildings*, by S. J. Wearing



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MEMORIES OF AYLSHAM 1913-1932

Gilbert White

First memories

Walking wounded from the 1914-1918 war in the town from the present hospital - known as the 'Spike'. Hip bath in front of the fire on Friday nights with water heated in a copper. A spoonful of Syrup of figs; going to bed by candlelight. Sunday school treat to Cromer in a horse drawn wagonette with Miss Samwell in charge.

Fairs and menageries in the market place, and a circus on the Buttlands. Saturday night; stalls in the market place and the shops open until late. People from the surrounding areas visiting - the place seething.

Cinema in the Town Hall with piano and Miss Williamson as accompanist. Whist drives and dances on Wednesday nights. Night soil collection; hurricane lamps on each corner of the cart, organised by Mr. Allen, known as "Webby".

Join me in a memory walk to some of the houses and people that I recall, starting in Drabblegate at Abbots Hall, then occupied by Dr. Shephard

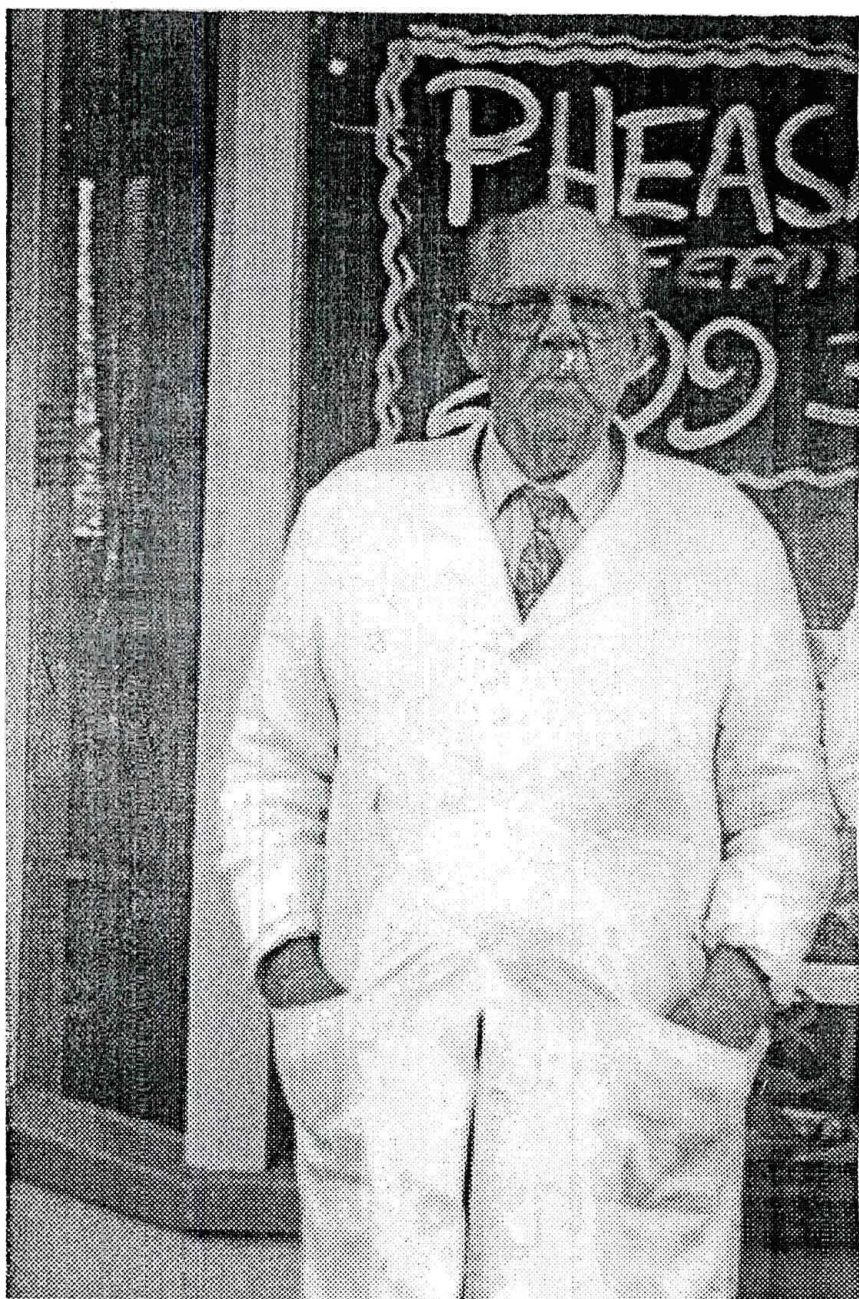
who kept otter hounds. I recall being by the river and hearing the crack of his long whip and told to clear off. Needless to say, *our feet found wings*, and we were off towards Millgate. On our left was the cottage occupied by the Wymer family; on our right a house in its own grounds owned by Mr & Mrs Mileham. He was a solicitor with Purdy's in the Market Place. Next, a lovely cottage and garden owned by Col. & Mrs Hart-Dyke, Mrs Mileham's parents, further along, Mr & Mrs Pitcher, - plumber for wells and pumps.

Moving over the railway bridge, turn left for Dunkirk. Just around the corner is a driveway to the M&GN railway station - station master Mr Crosby with signal man and porters. This, the main line from the Midlands to Yarmouth and beyond. (Closed 1959). Still towards Dunkirk was a fenced-off roadway to the cattle pens where they were sorted for their various destinations. Further along, on high ground, a building - the isolation hospital. Then Mr Jones, the basket maker.

Turn round at the *Royal Oak* public house, and return towards Millgate. The staithe on the left with open ground, no trees. During the grass season I recall ponies tethered there - one black pony owned by Mr. Goodwin, and a black stallion belonging to Mr. Atkins. Opposite, a blacksmith's foundry where the little river flows free and fast, a favourite place for paddling. It was here that the carts and early tradesmen's vans were brought for washing. There was a large iron pump for the use of the traction engines (driven by steam), and a large trough for water. It was possible to paddle through to the *Anchor* entrance to the river.

We go over the big bridge, on the right the *Anchor* public house - landlady Mrs. Clarke, past their cart sheds, on the footpath to the meadows and across to Cromer Road. We turn right at the Meadow Cottages, on to more meadows near the iron bridge. On the bend of the river the bravest went swimming, but you had to be careful of the strong current.

Retrace your steps to Millgate Street. There is a cottage on the



Gilbert F. White, outside his shop in Red Lion Street

right owned by Mrs Beck and Miss Bellwood who were adept at dressing chickens. At the big house on the corner of Mill Row with a garden down to the river, lived the family Bringleoe. So to the Mill and the Millhouse with Mr & Mrs Rust; along the footpath across the front of the mill; past the mill pool - which was a good fishing spot, and then on to the staithe. Beyond Rusts was a farmer, Johnson.

Back to Millgate Street and turn left. On the left were Mr & Mrs Spalding, both schoolteachers. (Violet kept order with the edge of the ruler). Next was the *Stonemasons* public house, followed by the stone mason, a Mr. Hall who had only one leg, then a small shop - sweets, etc. - Mr. Atkins (owner of the black stallion), the Dent's stores selling most things. The manager was Mr Walter Finch. Opposite is Partridge, butchers with one horse and cart and two men. On towards Commercial Road [now Bure Way]. On the corner was Miss Dunthorpe, headmistress of Aylsham Girls School. Further along to the right is Mr & Mrs Smith, then a captain Day (naval). On the other side of the road a builder's premises/yard of J.W. Palmer - known as John Willey. At the junction of Cromer Road, on the left is T. Ingate, coach builders and cabinet maker. Next, a shoemaker, Williamson. Over the bridge to Bure Bank, which was part of the Lothian estate, with Mr & Mrs Saville Longley with one of the first cars, in green and gold livery and the chauffeur the same.

Return to Gas Hill. On the left was Mr Southgate, a retired police superintendent. He always had two dogs and a big stick; I kept clear of him! Up the hill, the gas works always had a slight smell of gas [closed approx 1938]. Turn left into Williamsons Lane, with open country on the left. P. Dove had market garden on the right. So to the "Rec" [1921-22] and back to Gas Hill. At the top was Ewing's market garden with glass houses. Now in White Hart Street, the house on the left was Mr Boffy's of Ward & George in the Market Place. Then Cedar House with a Mr Brundle, a gentleman farmer with a big black horse and high gig. Opposite is the White House of Mr Neave, another gentleman farmer, then S. Ducker - funerals and builders with four black horses - ostler Mr Smithson, known as Hourserake. Pass Town Lane, and on the same side was a dealer, Woodhouse, known as

'Lurcher' he always had two lurcher dogs behind his cart. Next came G. Briggs, pork butchers, then Riches the baker; a family, Golden, was next, and so to the *Ship* pub. Opposite alley way was a Mr. Blackstone - a handyman and barber [haircut 2p] then a small shop (Bonds, sweets etc.) At the corner of Red Lion Street was Bond's fish and chip shop. Opposite were two houses, back from the road, with Mr & Mrs Meale and Mr & Mrs Larke. There were orchards at the rear, and in the approach lived the families Pegg and Parnell. So to Bayfield House with two servants and a nanny, but I cannot recall the name.

Before Red Lion Street we go down the hill, with the vicarage on the left - Vicar Hoare, then Manley. The church meadows on the left with a gate wide enough to take a wagon. Once inside was a large asparagus bed on the right; in the kitchen gardens were wonderful raspberries. On the first meadow was a pond, on the next meadow, pig sties and a large shepherd hut for storage. All water had to be carried from the pump in Partridge's yard - he who hired the meadows. Beyond we see West Lodge, at this time occupied by Mr & Mrs Hepplewaite, their servants and two troublesome dogs. After them came Rex Carter and his horses, then the present owners, further down Cromer Road - Dr. Sapwell.

We return up the hill to Red Lion Street. On the left is Partridge, butchers - 2 horse and carts, 3 men and a boy. Then Stoner's, jewellers - manager, Chase. Next came the White family, harness makers, with cart shed at the rear over which was a long loft used to repair canvasses for horse drawn sail-mowers - two men and an apprentice. Next, Gibbons - sweets, etc. followed by Postle - hairdresser and tobacconist, then Laxen, bakers with a bake house up the yard. I remember people taking dinners to him for cooking. Then Pask, the tailor, previously the *Star* pub; then a jeweller - Cooper; next a shoe shop (F. Rout, known as Mr. Freddy) He was always immaculate with a bow tie and spotless shoes. Then the Cross keys Public House, followed by Dale's Ladies corsets etc. Then a tobacconist and sweet shop, followed by G. Pegg's, Builder & Plumber. Next, a hardware shop - Mr. Starlings, then Blofield, butchers - two men, one horse and cart. This was joined to the New Inn Public House next door with an archway.

It was a brave lad who larked about in Blofield's yard. There were two Old English Sheep dogs and a greyhound defending their property. Going down the yard, on the right was the Forester's Hall; on the left a cottage with Mr & Mrs Rouce. He worked for Ewings, market garden. The lane was shaded with oak trees like a tunnel, blackberries were in abundance. Open ground on the left was owned by Mr. Brundell of Cedar House. Blofield grazed his horses and sheep here. At the end of the lane, on Oakfield Road, was a builders yard - Stackwoods. Along the road in houses on the right, Mr & Mrs Roe in a detached house, then a family Crisp, followed by Mr & Mrs Green. There were oak trees on the left and before the houses were built it was called Back Lane.

We turn left down Burgh Road - a stonemason, Mr. Field, then a family, Fowler followed by a house sitting back from the road - Mr & Mrs Buckingham, with tennis court at the rear, then Stoners adjoining recreation ground.

We go back towards the town with an open field on the left part of the manor estate. There was a low part on the field fed by a spring which gave an area of shallow water for winter sledging and skating. On our left was an avenue of trees, and opposite Mr. Pilch and Mr. Beck; working in iron with hand blowers for the blacksmith's forges. Just beyond, a house set back from the road - Mrs Wade, who had a parrot in the garden. We would shout at it as we went past. At the top of Burgh Road, on the right - Mr & Mrs Brown, he being a solicitor with Gidneys. Then Jock Anderson, the vet; his helper was Tom Boxall and a good horse and trap was stabled at the Dog Public House. Then left down Norwich Road was Gidney, the solicitor, followed by the Manor House with Col. Bowman. (I can recall, as a wolf cub, having tea in the garden and a talk by the Colonel on growing up and debt to society and the appreciation of nature) and so to the L.N.E.R. Station - Stationmaster, Peacock, (with memories of a school trip to Wembley for the Exhibition); back towards Red Lion Street with the Orchards on the left - Dr. Little, then later the Sears family; the large barn next door, soon to be Watt's Garage.

The *Dog Hotel* is next, followed by two small shops later to be newsagents and sweets - Mr. Betts.

We are going north down Red Lion Street. On the left at the corner - Bonds outfitters, followed by a small shop - Duckers for New Zealand lambs. Opposite, Lloyds Bank and a family called Wards, cabinet maker and carpenter with workshop at the rear. Depending on where one stood, was a smell of turpentine, linseed oil, varnish, and a cricketer was able to make a cricket bat to required standard with the only machinery a foot operated lathe. On the same side was Dazeley's bicycle shop, and at the corner of the entrance to the Market Place was a tailor, Mr Breese.

Still going north - Ewings fruit and vegetables then a tea room - Mr & Mrs Blackstone [she was Ewing's daughter]. Then the chemists - Buckingham. Next was the International Stores [there was a fire here, but I cannot remember the date]. Then came Roofe, fruit and veg. Adjacent to his grocery shop, George Pretty's grocery etc. Then came the Red Lion Public House with stables for ten horses; the landlord was Captain Beard. Next door was Larke's outfitters, then Stoners - cycle shop and repairs etc. On the corner of Cromer road was Giddens, bakers. The bakehouse was open to the road with a half door. In the early morning the smell of new bread would hang in the air. Along the Terrace was a family, Kendle - he being manager at Pages grocery.

We return through the street to the Market Place entrance, go behind the Town Hall Lane - a family Hall, then John Moy, shoemaker; past the yard to the Post Office (Postmaster Mr. Bruton). Turn right towards the church for Dr. Holman's surgery. Go through the churchyard to School Lane, the house on the right is the *Wilderness* with Mr & Mrs Peed, two servants and one full-time gardener. Next is the schoolhouse with Frank Hodds the headmaster, also scoutmaster; I recall going on the M&GN Railway to camp at California gap near Caister. Facing the lane was the police station; opposite the school Mr Proudfoot's bungalow; opposite the *Wilderness* Major & Mrs Johnson.

We return to the Market Place. The house on the right, I cannot

recall the occupier, but next was Purdy, solicitor, followed by Lathem's chemists. Next door were Ward & George, grocers, then Ulph, harness makers. Next door was a larger shop - Ward & George milliner, and so to the *Black Boys* Public House; drive through the archway to the stables. On the opposite corner, a hardware shop. The name of Last springs to mind. Then is Hungate Street with Balls, fishmonger; next the *Unicorn* Public House with bowling green up the yard. At the corner was Franklin, tinsmith and at the end of the street the *Swan* pub.

Come back towards the Market Place. Postle, bakers; the house with open yard in front - Mrs. Payne. It was here that Mr. Bruton lodged and a painter in oils, the name of Scratcoff. Later Picasso visited. They were students together. So to Page's North Norfolk Store with carts for deliveries; on the same side was Barclay's Bank.

Continue around the Market Place. The newsagents and printers were Clements (now Barnwells). Then comes the offices of the Aylsham & St. Faiths RDC, followed by the sweetshop - Watts, soon to be Busseys. Past the alley way is Page's china shop. We cross the Market Place to Penfold Street - on the right the cinema (pianist Miss Williamson) later to be the Co-op Stores. Opposite was Wade's cycle repairs, and to the right of the pump, Mr. Bruce, the auctioneer. Facing the pump was Mr. Durrell - farmer, cow keeper with delivery of milk by horse and float, with churns on the back ladled straight to the jug. Before Bruce was Barwicks, hairdressers; opposite the family Williamson, horse trainers. At the corner of Holman Road was the *Black Boys* bowling green. On the left was Gottersons, grocers - one horse and cart. After the green was a blacksmith, Horners, then several cottages to Mr. Rout's greenhouses - and so to the *Feathers* pub.

Further towards Cawston was a Girls' School, The Beeches, with Miss Chamberlain the Mistress. Opposite, Mr Stevens with thrashing tackle and steam engines. There was a footpath here leading over the railway line to Spa Lane. I recall a spring here, in the hedge. The road was always damp. Return to Cawston Road. At the corner of Mill Road, the cattle markets (Irelands). As young boys we would help the drovers. (You went ahead and stopped the cattle going off the

correct route, i.e. shut all the gates.) Down Cawston Road; left at the Pump for Blickling Road, right down Rawlinson Lane, across Cromer Road, along Commercial Road (now Bure Way) down Millgate Street, right at the Staithe to the fenced-off roadway at Dunkirk to the cattle pens. The young drovers would hurry the beasts, as much as to say, *let's get the job over*. The older men would croon to their charges, as a lullaby to children.

Lots of Irish cattle came into the area. If in the Spring, they would go straight to the pastures and marshes. If in Autumn they were put into the farmers' yards for fattening, and to jam the straw and muck in the yards (modern compost). The heat from this kept the yard warm in winter. Speaking of the cattle markets in this area at this time, there was Kings Lynn-Tuesday; Reepham-Wednesday; North Walsham-Thursday; Aylsham-Friday and Norwich-Saturday. Of these at present only Norwich remains.

We, as young men or women, did not realise how the well-being of the town was so dependent on the farming industry. The middle twenties saw the coming of the tractors; less horses wanted, less harnesses; men being laid off the farms. We were caught up in the world depression (times getting harder). It was normal for farmers to settle their accounts after harvest, but not now. Many of them not able to pay were selling up or going broke. It was at this time that many farmers came to the area from Scotland (times were harder up there - as if that was possible). Some of them, no doubt, were backed by their Bank of Scotland which had faith in their fellow countrymen.

Many people were on Parish Relief. It was a common sight to see tramps and people picking up fag ends out of the gutter. Families went into the workhouse; these were very hard times.

Electricity arrived in 1930. There were then 12 Public Houses, 2 hardware shops, 4 chapels, 4 bakers, 8 outfitters and shoes, 1 church, 2 harness makers, 4 butchers, 5 grocers and 4 blacksmiths.

From 1928 to 1932, riding a tradesman's cycle, collecting and

delivering orders in the town and its surrounds, and coming from a family business family has helped in these memories. In 1932 I left the town, as did other young men and women. I well remember February 1939; a strong wind from the east bringing bitter cold and further rumours of impending war. The world depression brought chaos to Europe, especially Germany, with high unemployment and raging inflation. There was the story of the shopkeeper taking his week's money to the bank in a wheelbarrow, and going inside for help to unload, returned to find the money on the pavement and wheelbarrow gone! Many of the banks were being closed. It was at this stage (1920s and early 30s) when Hitler came into the picture, promising his people better conditions and full employment, and also more space by conquest. He blamed the depression on the world financiers, many of whom were of the Jewish faith; hence his persecution of the Jews. So, it could be argued that if there was no depression it is possible there would have been no Second World War - food for thought!

Having purchased premises and a business in town, I returned in 1951 with my wife and family. Many changes in the town, still no sewage system, still night soil collection. mains water came in 1939 and a sewage system installed in 1953 with the help of a grant or subsidy for property owners.

Many changes have crept up on us since 1951. I would suggest that those who are interested might walk the memory route of my earlier days to appreciate them, rather than for me to write of them.

I have endeavoured to make this impersonal, but must now sign. But first I must express the feeling that this is the finest town in the county; in the finest county in the country and the finest country in the world.

Maybe I am biased for this is my town.

Gilbert F. White, born 1913.

SOCIETY NEWS

Parson Woodforde and his Norfolk neighbours - The belief, hallowed by time, that Parson Woodforde spent every minute that he was awake, every day of his life, preparing to eat, thinking about eating, actually eating, and then recording the details in his diaries, is very hard to overcome. There was much more to the diarist. Richard Wood made quite sure those attending the society's meeting on November 26th. had a many-sided appreciation of the man by the time the evening drew to a close.

The diary entries of the cleric, born in Somerset in 1746, his father a rector, reveal a man not at the centre of events in the years the diary was kept. There was no great fame or distinction for Woodforde while he was alive. His notability exists in the value of his recording the day-to-day life of a rural cleric in the second half of the eighteenth century. For us he shines a light which illuminates the past. His entries reflect the "*socially stratified society*" in which he lived, to quote our lecturer directly. The descriptions he gives of his life and his family and friends, together with comments on the lives of those about him, those not in his circle, help us understand his time.

He studied at New College, Oxford and was ordained in 1764. After being a curate in the West Country, he was given the living at Weston Longville, by his college, in 1776. He stayed there until he died on New Years Day, 1803. He kept the diaries from 1759 until ten years before his death. The large audience for Richard Wood had their eyes opened to the possibility of a better understanding by a closer reading of the diaries, and the well researched studies now published. The life-long bachelor, who had hoped to marry in 1774, and who broke his journeys between Norfolk and Somerset to call at houses where he stayed for a few days, is a different person to the one-dimensional man of legend. There will, I am sure, be many people returning to, or discovering, the writings of Parson Woodforde after this excellent lecture by Richard Wood, and not just looking for a fat, jolly, rather comic caricature.

Peter Pink

Future Programme & Committee report. - The committee has been considering the possibility of two outings during the summer. One could be a half day visit to Wymondham, where we could see the abbey, the museum and historic parts of the town. We could also see some of the activities of the Wymondham Heritage Society which has carried out so much good work in the town. As a society we made a similar visit many years ago, which was a great success. There must be many newer members, (as well as some older ones,) who would welcome a repeat visit.

A second suggested outing could be to Otley Hall, near Ipswich. This could be designed to include a visit to Lavenham where there is the famous guild hall to see. Our secretary will explore the possibilities of both suggested outings. There have also been several requests for another one-day seminar on the history of Aylsham, with conducted tours of the town. The committee wishes to think about this suggestion, and perhaps arrange it for the year 2000.

THE AYLSHAM SHOW

The committee has heard informally from the organisers of the Aylsham Show that they are keen to produce a booklet on its history. The organisers would be pleased to know if any of our members are interested in this as an idea.?

This could be an interesting challenge for one or more of our members who may be searching for a worthy project to get involved in. The end product would make a useful contribution to the history of Aylsham.

Anyone interested could contact - Colin EWING, The old Rectory, Skepton. Telephone: 01692-538269

On the 22nd. May this year there will be a visit to Aylsham by the **Parson Woodforde Society**. Their members plan to have lunch at the *Black Boys* (just like Parson Woodforde did on 24th. Sept 1781, but hopefully with a better meal!) and to spend the afternoon at Blickling

Hall. They may request from us a tour of Aylsham in the morning, so some help might be called upon from our members. More details will emerge in due course.

Publications - It was also reported at the committee meeting that all copies of *Millgate* have now been sold, and the possibility of re-printing this is under consideration. The present difficulty with this is that the text of the book is held on a disk which is not readable by a PC. If we can transfer this to a PC readable disk it would make re-printing easier and more likely. So far, the chances of transferring the text seem to be pretty slender and the whole text may have to be re-typed or scanned.

The Starling Manuscript - is still a strong possibility for publication. The text for this is now, happily on a PC compatible disk. A great deal of editorial work will still need to be carried out before it could be published. In the last issue of the *Journal* it was reported that we have a contact with the great-grandaughter of Frederick Starling, who lives in Australia. This contact continues, and I am delighted to record that Ms Keable has already become a member of our society. As a result, I have already received from Margaret Keable an article dealing with the descendents of the Starling family after they moved to Australia. This will appear in the *Journal* in the near future.

Winter Party - took place at the Friendship Club on January 29th. with an excellent attendance of 53 members and friends. The format of the party was the usual success and seems to be enjoyable to all, starting off with the welcoming glass of hot punch prepared by Liz and Geoff Gale. The catering was at its usual high standard prepared by our usual caterers. The competition was prepared from photographs taken by Derek Lyons with Peter Holman's collusion, and one had to guess the identity of certain Aylsham doorways and entrances and who might live there. Not as easy as it sounds when there is nothing else in the photograph to give clues away. There were still two winners - Margaret Rowe and Beryl Clarke.

I never seem to get the opportunity to tackle the competition. Or perhaps what I mean, it is always too difficult for me! but by the time I

have tackled the food, met a lot of people, enjoyed a good mardle and had a few sips (just a few) of liquid refreshment, it is time to go home. I think we arrange the Winter Party just at the right time. It is well clear of the Christmas round of celebrations, and comes just when we are feeling ready for something to cheer us up. T.W.M.

AYLSHAM TOKEN

Our secretary, Betty Gee, has been contacted by a Mrs Thompson of Bradwell (01493-663-814) who used to live in Aylsham, and who has in her possession an Aylsham Trader's token for disposal. From the description it appears to be a 1795 halfpenny token. On the obverse it reads:-

Prosperity to the town of Aylsham

and on the reverse it reads:-

Industry is the parent of success

Around the edge it should read "Payable at S.T. Ashley" or "Payable at I. & H. Boorman's"

One can read all about Aylsham tokens in Sapwell [p.63]. There were at least six traders tokens in circulation. These were produced, with official sanction, to ease the national shortage of copper currency. Anyone interested could approach Mrs Thompson on the number above.

NOTES & QUERIES

RUMP family - An enquirer writes for any information about the Rump family which he has traced back to the Aylsham area in the 18th. century. If you can help, he is:-

Mr L.T.Rumph, Edward House, Sopers Lane, Steyning, West Sussex.
BN44 3PU

Mr Rumph has also supplied a family tree and a copy of the will of John Rump (1775) which I have reproduced, for interest, although slightly abbreviated, on pp.285. He also mentions that his great grandfather, Thomas Rump was born in Banningham and died in Aylsham in 1890. The surname is spelt variously as Rump, Rump and Rumph.

LAXEN family - our member, Dr. David Case, who, readers will remember has studied and written about the Laxen family sends the following snippet - he found it in a second-hand bookshop in Canada, and it is from *"What's in a name? Travelling through Saskatchewan with the story behind 1600 place names"* edited by E.T.Russell (1975):

AYLSHAM - Aylsham is the second last stop on a CNR line that runs north east from Melfort to the end of the steel at Carrot River. Many of the early settlers - the Thirkettles, the Flowerdays and the Clarks - came from England and one of them, Dick Laxton(sic), named it for Aylsham, England. Aylsham in England is a market town just north of the city of Norwich, in Norfolk. . .

I expect David will be interested to know that we have some material in our Town archives on Aylsham, Canada

THE AYLSHAM ASSOCIATIONS

Tom Mollard

The Aylsham Association which exists today and to which several of our members belong, is a straightforward Amenity Society concerned with the future development of the town and its amenities, as well as the conservation of its surviving historical features. It is not to be confused with its predecessor, the original *"Aylsham Association"* which Dr. Sapwell refers to in his history of Aylsham.

"In the eighteenth century, before the formation of local police forces, there was so much undetected crime that local residents were led

to form voluntary associations, primarily designed to lead to the prosecution of criminals, as a deterrent to others, and so to protect themselves and their property."

Amongst Jane Nolan's papers there is a photocopy (reproduced below) of one of the original handbills announcing the proposed formation of the Association. The association was successfully launched in December 1786 with 41 initial subscribers. Horse stealing was specifically excluded from the list of crimes against which the association sought to protect its members. There is no official reason given for this, but perhaps horse theft was as common an occurrence then as car theft is today, and would have led to a large drain on the associations funds. Its exclusion is probably what led to the formation, in 1825, of the *"Aylsham & South Erpingham New Association for prosecuting horse-stealers and other felons."*

The growth in petty lawlessness led to the eventual formation of Borough and County police forces. Norfolk was quick to establish a police force, and a police presence was created in the town in 1840. This is probably what led to the disappearance of the original Aylsham Association, although I have no date for its final closure

AYLSHAM ASSOCIATION

December 1786

Whereas the parish of Aylsham has been lately very much infested by a set of idle disorderly persons, who make a practice of breaking down rails and fences, robbing gardens, stealing wood, turnips, poultry and committing divers other acts of felony, which chiefly arise from want of public prosecutions, and some time from the inability of the prosecutors; to put a stop to such growing evils, to give encouragement to bring offenders to justice, to deter others from committing such offences, and as far as in our power, to prevent the compounding of

felonies, we, whose names are here underwritten, have agreed to form ourselves into an association, and do agree to the following rules and orders.

I

That each person subscribe the sum of ten shillings and sixpence, to be paid into the hands of the treasurer, to be appointed by a majority of the subscribers at their first meeting, such treasurer to be continued in his office until the first Monday in January 1788, and then to be continued, or another appointed by the subscribers, and so from time to time upon the first Monday in every January, so long as this association shall subsist.

II

That the sum of ten shillings and sixpence be paid by each subscriber, yearly, upon the first Monday in every January if wanted, into the hands of the treasurer, in neglect thereof such person or persons so neglecting shall be struck out of this society, and shall have no benefit or advantage thereof.

III

That the treasurer shall keep a book, and therein enter this agreement, and all other rules and orders relative to this association, and shall also enter his accounts therein and produce and settle the same upon the said first Monday in January in every year.

IV

That when any person of this society shall be robbed or suffer any damage by having his hedges, or rails, or fences broken down, wood, turnips or poultry stolen, or gardens robbed, or any other article stolen or damaged, such person shall immediately give notice to the treasurer, and such treasurer shall immediately order handbills to be dispersed in the most publick manner, setting forth the said robbery, and that a reward, at the discretion of the treasurer be offered in such handbills, and also in the Norwich newspapers, if thought necessary by the treasurer, for the apprehending of the offenders, to be paid upon conviction, and if any accomplice or accomplices in such robbery, shall make discovery of the person or persons concerned with him or them

therein, such accomplice or accomplices shall be equally entitled to such reward as any other informer, and endeavours shall be had to obtain his or their pardon, as far as in the power of the subscribers.

V

That when any subscriber shall be robbed, the person or persons guilty of such robbery, or strongly suspected thereof, shall be apprehended, such subscriber shall prosecute, and all rewards and charges attending such discoveries and prosecutions shall be paid by the treasurer out of the subscription money, and all rewards allowed by government for the conviction of any felony, to which the prosecutor shall be entitled, shall be paid to the fund for the benefit of the society.

VI

That a reward shall be paid to any person who shall give any information, which shall appear to the treasurer reasonable cause of suspicion, on any person or persons, being concerned in any robbery upon or against any subscriber.

VII

That the treasurer shall call a meeting of the subscribers whenever occasion shall require, giving at least three days notice thereof, and that nine subscribers (if no more attend) shall be deemed a committee, of which the treasurer to be one, which committee shall have power to call meetings, and make any new orders for the benefit of this association.

VIII

That yearly meetings be held at the Black Boys, in Aylsham, on the first Monday in January in every year, to settle accounts and transact any other business relative to this society

Dec. 7 1786

AT a meeting held at the Black Boys Inn in Aylsham, pursuant to notice given, it was ordered by the subscribers then present as follows:

First, that Mr. *John Adey* be treasurer to this association until the first Monday in January, 1788, and that he publish the articles, with the subscribers names, in hand bills, to be placed up in the most conspicuous parts of Aylsham, and in all the inns and ale-houses in Aylsham, and the neighbouring Villages.

That whereas the posts and rails standing in divers places in the parish of Aylsham, and which are kept up and repaired by the said parish, are oftentimes maliciously broken, destroyed and pulled up and stolen, to the great expense of the parishioners, and the person or persons committing such theft and spoil are never punished; It is therefore ordered and agreed, that such offences be included in this association, and that the same reward shall be offered, and the expenses of such prosecutions borne by this society, as if the same were the real property of any of the subscribers.

That a yearly meeting of the subscribers, and all other meetings relative to this society, be held at the Black Boys in Aylsham, and that the treasurer shall give notice thereof at least three days before such meetings.

That no person be intitled to the benefit of this association, unless his subscription money be actually paid before the robbery committed.

That all persons intending to subscribe to the association shall apply to the treasurer, and pay the subscription money, and enter his name in a book, to be kept at the Black Boys Inn, in Aylsham aforesaid.

That horse stealing shall not be included in this association.

Subscribers Names.

A		C	
1	Adey John	6	Cook Robert
2	Ashley Stephen	7	Cook John
B		8	Clover Thomas
3	Bear John	9	Copeman William
4	Berry Mary	10	Copeman Peter
5	Barnard Thomas		

D		P	
11	Dye James	24	Piggon Edward Junior
12	Dix William	25	Porrett James
13	Dary Stephen	26	Paterson John
14	Drake Thomas	27	Parmeter Robert
15	Dashwood Jarrett, Esq.		R
	F	28	Roberts Francis
16	Francis Clement, Esq.	29	Roofe William
17	Francis Robert	30	Raymer Joseph
	H	31	Read Matthew
18	Holley George Hunt, Esq.		S
19	Harriman Richard	32	Saunders William
	J	33	Scotto Edmund
20	Jewell William, Clerk	34	Soame Sarah
	L	35	Scotto Martha
21	Lyng John	36	Sexton Joseph
22	Levick James		T
	M	37	Taswell William, Clerk
23	Moore Edward	38	Terrey William
			W
		39	Wade Edmund
		40	Witherill Robert
		41	Williams Peter

JOHN ADEY, Aylsham, Treasurer.

INGWORTH MILL

*Good-bye, good-bye, old friend, good-bye old mill,
One last farewell before they lay thee low.
A wreck? No! No! Thy former craft and skill
Needed no longer - therefore thou must go.*

*Nor shine, nor shade, on thy white walls shall fall
Nor rising mists about thee curl and creep
Vainly the breeze may seek, the rough wind call
Or the lone river round thee fondly sweep.*

*No sound of splashing wheel, or clinking chain
No footfall in the loft, or on the stair,
Gone the soft crunching of the grinding grain,
Only the lonely river weeping there.*

*Good-bye, good-bye, old mill. Thy work is done,
Like theirs who rest beside thee on the hill*
Their labours ended, now thine hour is come,
No further need for thee, old Ingworth Mill!*

*Nay! still we see thee in the empty air
Naught can be quite effaced, nor good, nor ill;
And in our visions shall our spirits rear,
Pale tender memories of Ingworth Mill.*

M. J. K

*The churchyard is on a knoll opposite the mill.

When water-mills were becoming redundant, they were quite happily disposed of without much sentiment - all in the name of "progress". Ingworth mill is no more, nor is Erpingham, nor Horstead, and many similar have disappeared. Today we see a different attitude. Great efforts are made to preserve what is left, and considerable amounts of money raised to ensure this.

It is interesting to see that when Ingworth mill was doomed,

someone was sufficiently moved at the thought of its disappearance to write the above lines. The poem survives as a newspaper cutting, dated 1913, in the possession of Mary Willcox, and from the initials I suspect it was written by the local rector Moritz Kauffman, who held Ingworth from 1892 until his death in 1920. He restored Ingworth church, and *'took a lively and affectionate interest in local affairs'* and no doubt regretted the disappearance of Ingworth Mill. TWM

TABLET UNVEILED AT INGWORTH

MEMORIAL TO MR EUSTACE KAUFMANN

On Wednesday evening, at the parish church, there was a crowded congregation for the unveiling of a tablet placed just inside the south door to the memory of a son of the late rector, the Revd. M. Kaufmann, Eustace Campbell Kaufmann, who was killed at Vimy Ridge on April 8th. 1917

The service was conducted by the rector, the Revd. B. S. Sapwell. Special hymns and psalms were effectively rendered by this little village choir. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Colonel H. Littlewood of Erpingham Lodge, and the dedication by Canon Meyrick, vicar of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

Colonel Littlewood, before releasing the Union Jack which covered the tablet, said they were fortunate to have Canon Meyrick with them. No one could take a greater interest than he in that ceremony, as his boyhood days were spent in the adjoining parish of Blickling. They were out to do homage to one who gave his all for his country, Ingworth could be justly proud of the part they took in the Great War. Out of a population of 150, 38 did work in the war, and 37 returned - a wonderful record. The Colonel spoke feelingly of the late rector. He saluted the tablet to the memory of the young officer and all those who had served. He quoted the following lines written by a master of one of the great English public schools:-

*He trod of old the hills we tread,
He played the games we play
The grave of him that is not dead
Belongs to us today.*

Canon Meyrick then dedicated the memorial tablet, after which he gave a feeling address. He said it was a great privilege to come to their little village church that evening, standing by the banks of the river, and which he had remembered all his life. He had known the late Eustace Kaufmann as a child. He congratulated the parish upon the part it had taken in the war.

The tablet which is designed by Mr. John E. Burton of Bank Plain, Norwich, is of gun metal attached to a marble slab, and bears the inscription,

*In memory of Eustace Campbell Kaufmann, of the Canadian Infantry,
who was killed in action at Vimy, on Easter day, 8th. April 1917
This tablet is placed by the people of Ingworth.*

A collection was taken on behalf of the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. The 'Last Post' was sounded by scouts Leonard Blackstone and Stanley Linstead. Several beautiful wreaths were laid at the foot of the tablet, one of laurel leaves from the young officer's mother who was present at the service.

[from a cutting in a local newspaper dated 1921]

Without realising it, I notice that this issue of the *Journal* is acquiring a slant towards items on Ingworth, and also an emphasis on the First World War. This is quite by chance, but as it is so, then one more item in a similar vein should fit in comfortably here.

Eighty years after the Armistice which brought to an end the horrors of the Great War, it seems appropriate to include the following newspaper extract which reminds us of those grim times. Ed.

*[from an unidentified and undated news cutting, in the Aylsham archives. Could be from either the EDP or from the Norfolk Chronicle. A rubber date stamp on the cutting reads:-
10 Nov. 1916]*

FOR OUR STRICKEN WARRIORS; Interesting celebrations at Aylsham

Aylsham has just celebrated in a spirit of generosity, one of the most interesting birthdays in its history. It was that of the local branch of the War Hospital supply depot, which is exactly a year old. The public do not always grasp what is meant by the mere title of such an organisation and oftentimes have only a poor idea of how much it stands for, what invaluable aid and comfort it affords to our wounded soldiers, as well as those of our allies; in fine, how splendidly it rises to the call of self-sacrificing duty in the hour of our country's need.

The Depot, it need not be said, is a purely voluntary undertaking. It has one object, namely to execute orders received from the headquarters organisation at Norwich to make serviceable articles for the comfort of the stricken warriors in the hospitals of the world. Roller bandages, woollen goods, pillows, mufflers, mittens, spine protectors, slings, head bandages, dressing gowns, slippers and a list of other useful things are fashioned in the most skilful way by the nimble fingers of the Aylsham Hospital Supply Depot. During its first year, no fewer than 11,770 of these articles were made and dispatched to the Russian Red Cross, the Ospedale da Campo, Italy, the General Hospital, Cairo, and to the hospitals in Mesopotamia, Belgium, France etc.

The crowning merit of the movement is that it is inspired and carried on by kind hearts and willing hands. The money required for the purchase of materials is raised by subscription in the district. The members themselves assist materially in this way, and in the bargain, give their services cheerfully and untiringly two days every week

making the articles which have been mentioned. At the head of the local organisation is Mrs Boulderson, the president, who is nobly assisted by Mrs Clutterbuck and Miss Bennett. Mrs Graves is the Hon. Treasurer of the fund. There are about fifty members, but we rather gather that if other ladies in the district could see their way to join it their help would be greatly appreciated. Surely they could not employ themselves more worthily.

The members pay a weekly subscription of sixpence and upwards. This forms the nucleus of a fund for the purchase of materials. Of course it is not enough to do all that is required, and the Depot casts about for methods of raising more money. One admirable present was £20 worth of materials; a concert realised £23, and the remainder of the first year's finances were supplied by voluntary subscriptions. At the end of the year the Depot had a balance in hand of over £12- a creditable piece of work. It has just begun its second year, and has been cheered by the enthusiasm which its birthday celebration evoked from the townspeople and those in the district. This little function took place at the Town Hall. Those who attended it came laden with cakes of a minimum value of twopence, and such other birthday presents as their own ingenuity and generosity suggested. The result was that the Hall contained a formidable collection of gifts, outstanding among which was a fine birthday cake, the private gift of a lady. This was the subject in the first place, of a weight guessing competition, which brought in many shekels to the fund, and afterwards was sold by auction on the Dutch principle. In the end it realised £7. Its destination is the Cawston Hospital for wounded soldiers.

A feature of the birthday celebrations was an exhibition of a month's work by the Depot. This represented nearly 2,000 articles, which were inspected with great pleasure and interest. The attendance at the Town Hall was very gratifying, and how successful the venture was may be gathered from the fact that it yielded £43 2s 10d for the exchequer of the Depot. The soldiers gave an enjoyable miscellaneous entertainment by the kindness of Major Hillman and Lieut. (and Adjutant) Kelly; the last named speaking from experience of the gratefulness which wounded soldiers felt for those who think and toil

for them in the way that the Aylsham War Hospital Supply Depot does.

—ooOoo—

THE MILLENIUM (only nine months to go)

As the date draws closer, heads are being scratched to come up with ideas for the ideal form of celebration. So far without success. It makes interesting reading to learn how the people of Aylsham tackled a similar problem 100 years ago. It was not the millenium of course, but on that occasion it was Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. I am grateful to Ron Peabody for the following newspaper cutting dated June 10th. 1897

THE JUBILEE - A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall, Aylsham, on Tuesday evening to consider what steps should be taken to celebrate the Jubilee. Mr William Forster was unanimously voted to the chair, and in opening the proceedings he said he would unfortunately be away at the time of the celebration, but he would co-operate in whatever the meeting resolved to do. He invited suggestions as to what was best to be done.

Mr. R.J.W.Purdy said he was strongly in favour of a recreation ground for the parish, in order that they could then have a permanent memorial. If he had a piece of land available he would willingly place it at the disposal of the parish. Mr Purdy gave the result of the Parish Council's efforts towards a recreation ground. Mr. B. Cook agreed with Mr. Purdy's views, but, at the same time, he considered the youngsters of the town ought to have something given to them, so that they should have something to remember.

He proposed that all the children of the town should have a tea on the evening of the Jubilee Day. The Rev. J.H. Cole said the vicar would give a tea in the vicarage grounds to all the aged and infirm people [*applause*]. Mr Sapwell was heartily in favour of both schemes, and the two ideas could go hand in hand. He seconded Mr.Cook's motion. Ultimately it was carried that the children under 14 years of age should have a tea and sports, and that the old

people should be invited to join in. Mr. H.J. Gidney said he thought the meeting ought to fix the age at which old people are to be feasted. As this was the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, he thought they ought to include all the old people of 60 years and over, and this was carried unanimously. The Chairman said the next thing was the money. There was a balance of £9 from the last Jubilee celebration in 1887, and he should be happy to give £10. Mr Purdy, in promising £5, said he hoped this would not supplant the more lasting proposal of the provision of a recreation ground for the parish, but that the negotiations now taking place for this object might be carried to a successful issue.

A committee was then formed to carry out the details, consisting of Messrs.H.G. Wright, Rev. J.G. Hoare, B. Cook, H.J. Gidney, B.B. Sapwell, J. Goulder, Rev. J.H. Cole, H. Page, S.E. Bruce, F.W. Starling, R.H. Ward, H. Marjoram, W.F. White, D.G. Nicholson, A.R. Tuddenham, R.H. Ward, E.J. Bird, S.D. Bone, W. Jackson, and J. Partridge with Mr H.F. Proudfoot as secretary.
... etc.etc.

Over 100 years later, in 1999, it is still a problem to get agreement on ideas for what to do to celebrate the millenium. So - nothing changes. To find out how they did celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in the end, read the chapter by Betty Gee and Elizabeth Punshon in *"A Backwards Glance - events in Aylsham's past"*.

They certainly did not get a Recreation Ground as a memorial. It was not until 1920 when the 'Rec' came into existence as part of the Great War memorial. It was provided by the Goulder family as a memorial to their three sons who lost their lives in the conflict. It is interesting to see that a J. Goulder was a member of the committee formed in 1897 considering ideas for a memorial.

---ooOoo---

WILL OF JOHN RUMPE 1775

The last will and testament of John Rumpe of Hempstead in the county of Norfolk, farmer.

First, I give unto John Rumpe, my eldest son, all my messuages, lands,

tenements and hereditaments in Banningham, Skeyton and Steanton, or near Aylsham in the county of Norfolk and elsewhere in the said county, to the said John, his heirs and assigns forever, subject to the payment of the annuity and legacies following.

That is to say, to Anne, my affectionate wife, one annuity or yearly sum of thirty pounds for the term of her natural life. To William, my son, the sum of two hundred pounds. To Samuel, my son, the sum of one hundred pounds. To Thomas, my son, the sum of one hundred pounds. To Phillip, my son, the sum of one hundred pounds. To Anne, my daughter, the sum of one hundred pounds. To Margaret, my daughter, the sum of one hundred pounds. To Elizabeth, my daughter, the sum of one hundred pounds. To Hannah, my daughter, the sum of one hundred pounds and to Mary, my daughter, the sum of one hundred pounds. These legacies to my said children are to be paid to them as they severally attain the age of twenty-one years, in good and lawful money of Great Britain, and if any of my said children shall die before the age of twenty one years, leaving lawful issue, then I give the legacy and legacies of such child or children so dying, to their issue, share and share alike.

Provided, nevertheless, and my will is that the said annuity or yearly sum of thirty pounds shall be paid by four equal quarterly payments in the year, at the place of residence of my said wife for the time being. The first payment thereof is to commence from the day of my decease, and to be paid up to the day of her decease, whether there shall be then more or less than a quarter's annuity then due, and if the said annuity or yearly sum of thirty pounds, and the legacies aforesaid to my said children and their issue shall not be paid as herein directed. Then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Anne, my wife, or any of my said children or their issue to whom the default in payment shall be . . . to enter into all or any part of my lands. . . devised to the said John only son, and possession thereof to keep till he, she or they are fully paid. . .

Nevertheless, . . . if my said wife and children shall make any claim or demand on my said real or personal estate under the marriage bond made by me before or after my marriage, or my said wife shall make

any claim or demand for Dower Thirds, then the said annuity and legacies given by this my will shall cease, and determine to all intents and purposes anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Item. I give and bequeath to the said Anne, my wife, and the said John, my son, all that farm now under lease to me from Lord Buckinghamshire, and all the stock thereon, together with all my household goods . . . to hold all in trust, that they. . . shall carry on the said farm during the said lease, for the support of such my children as shall then be then at home and not of age sufficient to support themselves . . . and monies arising yearly from the said farm . . . shall be placed out on interest, subject to the trust aforesaid, and so from year to year during the said trust, and that the stock and goods on the farm shall be valued as soon as may be . . . and entered in a book kept for the said trust affairs, and that the yearly accounts of the said trust shall be entered therein . . . At the end of the said lease, Anne my wife and John my son . . . shall sell and dispose of all the stock [etc] for the best price that can be got for the same, and the moneys arising from such sale, together with the monies from the earnings of the said farm since my decease . . . shall be paid to and amongst all my children, share and share alike.

Provided, nevertheless, that if the said Anne, my wife, shall marry before the determination of the said trust, then the trust and executorship of my said wife shall cease . . and vest solely in the said John my son . . .

Lastly, I . . . appoint the said Anne, and John my son . . . executors of this my will and guardians of the persons and estates of such my children. . . but the guardianship and executorship of my wife shall cease and be vested in John my son immediately on her marriage . . . etc etc.

[The will was signed sealed etc. before witnesses Mary Ann Wilson; Eleanor Smyth; Oli. Smyth on 3rd. April 1775]

The text of the will is considerably shortened by the editor, but I hope the gist of its contents are still correct. [NRO/ANW W71 78 MF 347]

And finally -

with apologies for the religious slant on most of these stories, but they have all been stolen from the *Newsletter* of the Ipswich Road United Reformed Church.

An Abbot, a Mother Superior and a male novice were in the middle of the lake fishing. The Abbot found he had forgotten his rod, so he got out of the boat, walked over the water, into the abbey and returned the same way with his rod. The novice was astounded.

About an hour later the Mother Superior said, *"I'll go and get some hot tea*, got out of the boat, walked over the water, into the convent and returned ten minutes later with a tray of tea. Again, the novice was astounded.

About two hours later, the novice felt hungry, and offered to go and get some food. His offer was accepted, and with some considerable trepidation the novice got out of the boat, into the water, and not surprisingly, sank.

As he was coming up for the third time he heard the Mother Superior say to the Abbot,
"Do you think we should have told him about the stepping stones?"

---ooOoo---