

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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The **JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER** is the Quarterly publication of the Aylsham Local History Society. It is published each March, June, September and December, and is issued free to members. Contributions are welcomed from members and others.
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COVER ILLUSTRATION: Emblem of the Sutton Hoo Society. See the report of our society's visit to Sutton Hoo on p.144



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SOCIETY

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No. 5

THE OLD BANK HOUSE

David Walker

The Old Bank House, Aylsham is of particular architectural and historical interest. In November 1977, several years before the formation of our Local History Society, there appeared in 'Newsletter No.23' of the Aylsham Association an excellent description of the house, written by David Walker, who had just vacated the house after living there for over 40 years. David was a member of the Aylsham Association and I am happy to say, is still a member of our own society. With David's permission, and that of the Aylsham Association, I am pleased to be able to reproduce the original article in our Journal.

Ed.

There appear to be several sources of information to turn to when one wishes to write about old property. In the case of the Old Bank House at Aylsham I am fortunate in being able to refer to the title deeds which are more numerous, and go back further in time than in many cases. The building itself provides a good deal of information from a simple inspection of its construction and the architectural periods it shows. On a number of occasions also, I have met old people who have told me about the house and its former occupants. Some of these stories certainly reach back over 100 years, as many were told to me over 40 years ago by people in their late sixties or seventies.

The deeds provide some information from as early as the seventeenth century, although the sequence of ownership is sometimes not very clear. It is also often difficult with old deeds to identify the property with

descriptions in the earlier deeds (such descriptions being usually limited to the names of occupiers, and the names of owners of the adjoining properties) but it does appear from the older deeds that it may have been erected on a piece of land then called *Angel Close*. One could speculate that at one time Aylsham had an Inn called *The Angel*. It is also fairly clear that there was a house on the site in 1727, and that it was occupied by a William Spurrell who was a thatcher and carpenter. In the mid eighteen hundreds the property is described as a "Banking House", and it appears to have continued in this use until the adjoining office was built. The banking business was closed in 1855 when the bank (then Copeman's Bank) was taken over by Barclays and transferred to the present Market Place premises. While carrying on the banking business at the Old Bank House, the Copeman brothers were duly licensed to operate a bank (I have one of these licences) and they issued their own £5 and £10 notes.

The property was originally copyhold of the Manor of Aylsham Lancaster, and was enfranchised in 1867 by the Rt. Hon. William Schonburg, Robert, Marquis of Lothian, the then Lord of the Manor.

The names of the more recent owners may be interesting and are as follows:-

The dates are the dates of purchase.

1847	Robert Copeman	<i>Banker</i>
1867	Thomas Copeman	"
1874	Wm. Hy. Scott	<i>Solicitor</i>
1883	Wm. Thomas Gidney	<i>Ironmonger</i>
1892	Henry James Gidney	<i>Solicitor</i>
1930(July)	Charles T. Sword	"
1930(August)	David L. Walker	"
1977	Mr & Mrs Church.	

An inspection of the house is informative. The northern portion is clearly Queen Anne in style, possibly built in the 1720s. I find that this type of house is, locally, sometimes called a 'Flemish House'. There are "double dutch" gables at each end (although both have been partly cut into by later brickwork). It has a typical moulded brick string course,

two attractive dormer windows (locally called "lookums") and the good panelling in three rooms is clearly in keeping with the period, and is almost certainly original, as are the folding window shutters. Many of the window panes are the original 'crown' glass. There is a small hood over the north door which appears to be original in style. Unfortunately, recent repair work to the roof has destroyed or damaged some architectural features.

The southern portion of the house is of Georgian period, and was probably built about 1760. It has the usual sash windows, central front door, two beautifully panelled rooms and folding window shutters - all certainly original, and a fine parapet and cornice of cut and rubbed brick protected by a thick lead flashing. There is a good front doorway, of cut and rubbed brick, but it is probably rather later than the surrounding brickwork. The hall is to the full height of the building, over 20 feet, and contains a gallery supported by three rounded arches, and from the gallery the ceiling is supported by three large timber pillars.

In the Castle Museum at Norwich, there is a good watercolour picture showing the front of the house, just as it is at the present, except that the windows show the correct six panes to the sash, and not two, as now. The picture was painted late last century. On a brick in the front wall are scratched the initials M. C. and the date 1814. This may have been Matthew Copeman, who, I think, would then have been a boy of 12 or 14. Other initials are scratched with a diamond on window panes, and belonged to members of the Scott family, and on a pane in the bathroom window was part of a verse referring to a Greek goddess. I think this may have been the work of one of the Gidneys.

I have met a number of old people who remembered the Scott family. Mr Scott was said to be a very large man and rather fat, and generally to have worn tartan trousers. One of his daughters kept a small Dame School, and the late Col. Purdy told me that he remembered attending the school for a time as a small boy. I was told by the late Mr. Neale that until about 1890, there was a louvre-sided, box-like structure about 2 feet square, on the roof ridge. This contained

a bell with a rope leading down through an attic and a bedroom, into the present dining room (formerly used as the Banking room) so that in case of a raid, an alarm could be given. Norwich Road was at one time called Station Road, and earlier (for a century or two) it was called Dog Hill. The latter name was, of course, derived from the Dog Inn which stood on the present site of the shops and Midland Bank. There used to be a horse-fair held there and old people I have spoken to could clearly remember seeing horses trotted up and down the road, with crowds of farmers and dealers watching. I have often had letters addressed to me at Dog Hill.

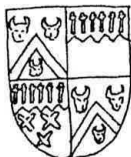
In 1961 the Old Bank House was placed on the Register of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic interest, and is now in Grade II. The house is specifically mentioned in Fodor's guide, and is written about in Dr. Sapwell's book on Aylsham. On the front walls of the house are growing fine specimens of *Wisteria* and *Magnolia Grandiflora*. The latter blooms plentifully in August and September, and I think both were planted by Mr. Scott who was a keen gardener. Horticulturists who have looked at the magnolia think it may well be approaching its century. The front garden has for many years been a French garden, with a pattern of small beds of several different shapes formed between little paths, and box-hedging. This also may have been laid out by Mr. Scott.

—ooOoo—

MORE ON BOLEYN.

R. C. Fiske

While Boleyn heraldry has received much attention¹, there are still some problems that need to be addressed. It has recently been pointed out² that the plain quartered shield (shown below, Fig.1) on the base of the tower of the church of St. Mary, Erpingham, confirmed the marriage of Geoffrey Boleyn of Salle, who died 25th. May 1440, to

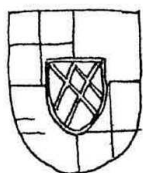


Quarterly, 1 and 4 A chevron between three bulls' heads caboshed (Argent a chevron between three bulls' heads couped sable - BOLEYN

2 and 3. Three quatrefoils on a chief indented six ermine spots in pale (Azure three mullets or a chief indented ermine - BRACTON) (Fig.1)

Alice, daughter and heir (or coheir?) of Sir John Bracton, knight.³

In a similar manner, the adjoining shield at Erpingham (Fig. 2 below) confirms another marriage which had also been in doubt.



1 and 4, *Quarterly* (Quarterly sable and argent - HOO):

2 and 3, *The remains of a fess* (probably Azure a fess between six crosslets or - St.OMER)

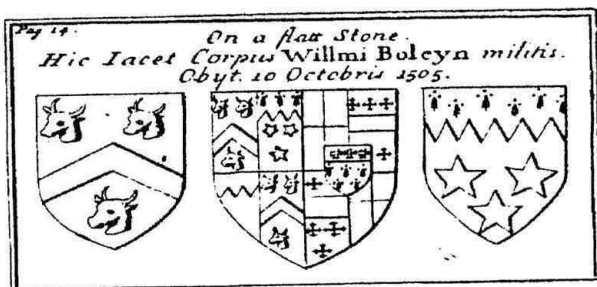
In pretence - Fretty (Azure fretty argent - ECHINGHAM⁴) (Fig.2)

The last coat has previously been attributed to St. Leger (*Azure fretty argent a chief gules*)⁵ but clearly there is no chief on the stone carving. The Hoo/Echingham marriage has been questioned by many authorities. The *Complete Peerage* added it in a nervous footnote⁶. T. W. King, a former York Herald, observed that "upon comparing the several pedigrees of Hoo with each other there are scarcely two which correspond"⁷. Even so, he preferred the following as the best to rely on.⁸ (See page 136)

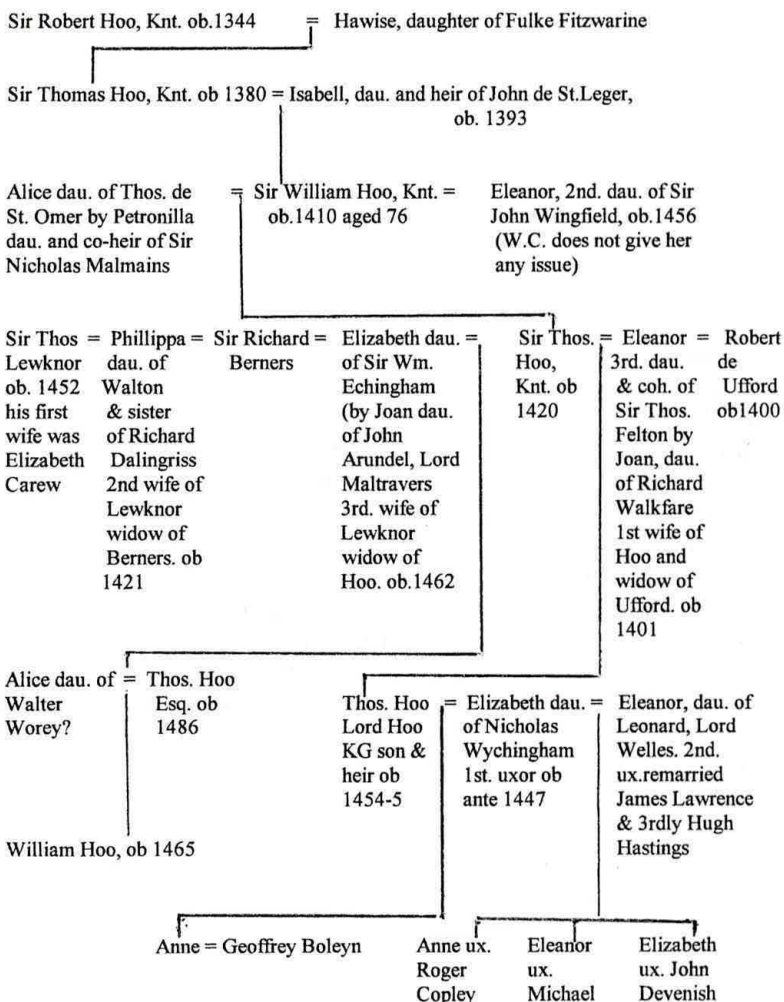
As the Hoo/Echingham shield denotes a marriage, it would appear that the Erpingham tower was erected before Sir Thomas Hoo died in 1420. It also supports the view⁹ that the Boleyn/Bracton quartering belonged to the bearer, Geoffrey Boleyn, who died in 1440, rather than, as we would expect today, his descendants. Further confirmation comes with Blomefield's statement¹⁰ that the tower was begun in Sir Thomas Erpingham's time (he died in 1428¹¹) and was roofed by Sir William Phelip (died 1441¹²).

Further evidence of the Boleyn heraldry (and its problems) is to be found in Norwich Cathedral. On the south side of the chancel was the tomb of Sir William Boleyn who died in 1505. It is now gone, but Weaver recorded its inscription,¹³ and Sir Thomas Browne produced a plate recording its heraldry. (Fig. 3)¹⁴.

Fig.3



THE HOO PEDIGREE



The heraldry is difficult, but the dexter half of the central shield appears to be that of Sir William quartering Bracton and Butler. This might be another example of a man quartering his own wife's (Margaret, daughter and coheir of Thomas Butler) arms, but, for reasons explained later, it is more likely a recorder's mistake for the plain quartered coat of Boleyn and Bracton. The sinister side of the central shield is that of his wife, Ann Hoo, via the arms of her father, Lord Hoo - quartering St. Omer with Wychingham in pretence. The flanking shields are, to the left: the family arms of Boleyn, probably representing his father, and to the right: his grand heir (and grandmother) Bracton.

Sir Thomas Browne also recorded, without textural reference, the following shields, '*on another gravestone, the inscription is defaced*' (Fig. 4). Again the heraldry is puzzling, but these arms are probably a

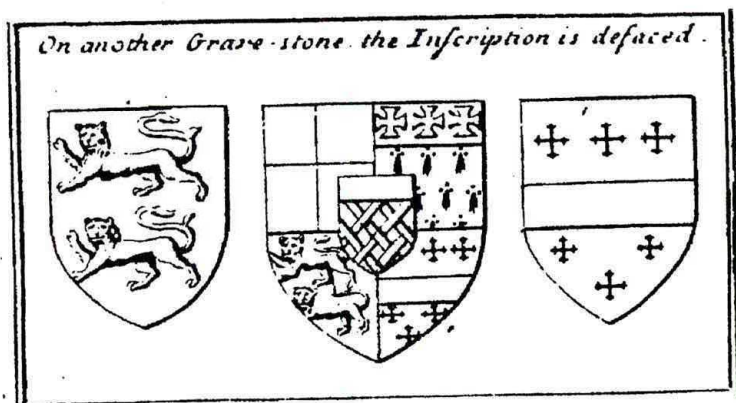


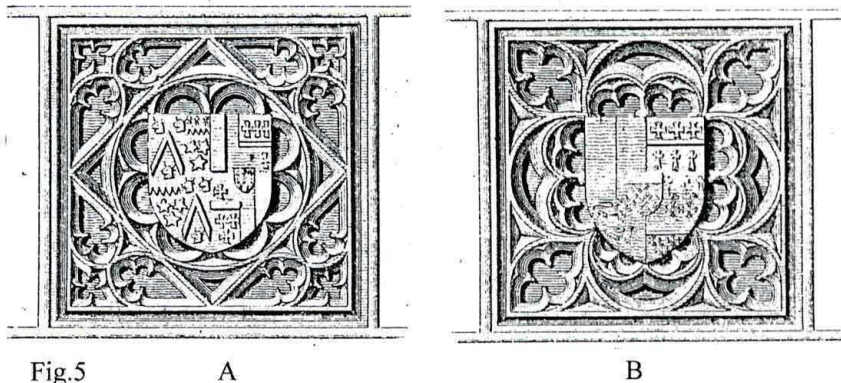
Fig. 4

memorial to Sir William Boleyn's mother, who we know was also buried in the cathedral.¹⁵ Being non-armigerous, she displays the arms of her father, Thomas Lord Hoo, quartering Wychingham, Felton, St. Omer and St. Leger; the latter being a rare example of the earlier method of displaying a fifth quartering in pretence¹⁶. The flanking shields are, to the left, his mother's family, Felton, and to the right, his grand-heir (and grandmother) St. Omer.

Finally, some mention must be made of the shields above the

chancel arches. These have already been well described,¹⁷ but their age is uncertain. Some are painted on plain shields, some are painted on conforming carved (or raised in relief?) shields, and others are painted on non-conforming shields carved party per pale and per chevron.

There is some evidence, not entirely clear, that the shields were renovated or repainted during the grand reception for Queen Elizabeth in 1578.¹⁸ If so, the paint seems to have gone by 1879 and 1893.¹⁹ Furthermore, when John Britton visited the cathedral some time before 1816²⁰, only the three shields over easternmost arch on the north side of the chancel were charged. That over the adjoining arch was blank. (He makes no mention of the arches on the south side of the chancel, or of the smaller shields in the spandrels of the arches.) Of the three charged shields he illustrated two:



It will be quickly noticed that these two shields bear a striking likeness to the central shields on Ann Hoo's and Sir William Boleyn's tombs. The only difference is that on the latter, (marked A) Sir William's arms are a plain quartering of Boleyn and Bracton already referred to. The small oversight in the failure to reverse the Felton lions is easily excused in what is otherwise a magnificent example of Le Keux's etching.

Interpreting the marshalling of arms during a transition period is always difficult. Making conjectures is much easier! We know that Sir William's tomb was situated under, or just in front of, the easternmost bay of the south side of the chancel - under an arch of five main shields

and two in the spandrels. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that the similar arch on the northern side opposite, with the three large and two small shields was the place of entombment of Sir William's mother. This was the site, converted with leather cushions and crimson canopy, made to seat Queen Elizabeth on her royal visit in 1578²¹. Were then, as the late Dr. Saunders asserts²², the Boleyn arms made to blaze again their former associations? Or was the site chosen, and the seats and canopies constructed to hide the very coats of arms which might remind the queen of the ignominious fate of her mother?

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Henry Harrod, *Gleanings among the Castles and Convents of Norfolk*. 1857. pp 286-89
Edmund Farrer, *The church heraldry of Norfolk*. (3 vols.1887-93) Vol 3 pp 4-5
Anon. 'Notes on the coats of arms of the Boleyn family' in *Friends of the Cathedral church of Norwich. 2nd annual report* (1931) pp 8-9
E.E. Dorling, 'Notes on the mediæval heraldry remaining in the Cathedral church of Norwich.' in *ibid. 4th. Annual report* (1933) pp 8-24
John Dent. 'Boleyn Heraldry in Norwich Cathedral' in *Norfolk Heraldry*. Vol.1 (1991) pp 29-34
2. John Dent. 'Boleyn and Bracton' in *The Norfolk Standard* new series Vol 2 part 7 (1997)
3. The doubt was raised by the late Dr. Roger Virgoe, perhaps after a reading of W.L.E. Parson's *Salle; the story of a Norfolk parish* (Norwich 1937) who raises the very same question.
4. Sir Bernard Burke. *General Armory* (1884) p 313
Robert Rice or Ryce (1555-89) *Splendida Stirps Domini Hoe*. ms. transcribed 'out of Cousin Robert Appleton's 'MS of Nobility ' by Brampton Gurdon. (c.1677) p 38.
5. Farrer, *Church Heraldry* (as note 1) Vol.2 p.33
6. G.E.C(ockayne) *The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom, extant, extinct or dormant* (Revised edition, edited by Vicary Gibbs et al. 13 vols in 14. London 1910-1940. Vol VI pp 565-67.
7. T.W. King, York Herald. MS. *Hoo - Memorandum and pedigree principally as to the finding upon the inquisitions on Thomas Hoo, esq 1486 and 1487*. (1870)
8. Transcribed by T.W. King from 'Courthorpe's MS' volume 17 p.702
9. John Dent 1987 (as note 2 above)
- 10 Francis Blomefield. *An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk* (2nd. edition), 11 volumes 1805-10 Vol.VI p.412

- 11 Tony Sims, 'Sir Thomas Erpingham - a chronology' in *The Erpingham Symposium folder* (1996)
- 12 G. E. C. *Complete Peerage* (note 6 above) vol.I p.420
- 13 John Weaver. *Antient Funeral Monuments* (London 1767) p.526
- 14 Sir Thomas Browne, *Repertorium; or some account of the Tombs and Monuments in the Cathedral Church of Norwich*. (London, 1712) p.14
- 15 Tony Sims, 'Aspects of Heraldry and patronage' in Ian Atherton, Eric Fernie, Christopher Harper-Bill and Hassell Smith (editors) *Norwich Cathedral: Church, City and Diocese, 1096-1996*. p.462
- 16 For fifth quarterings in pretence see: John Woodward and George Burnett. *A Treatise on Heraldry* (Edinburgh 1892) Vol.II pp.485-6;
A.C. Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*. (London 1909) pp.544-6
Alexander Nisbet. *An Essay on the ancient and modern use of Armories*. (Edinburgh 1718) pp.97-100
- 17 See reference note 1 above
- 18 Dr. H. Saunders. 'Gloriana in 1578' in *Friends of the Cathedral Church of Norwich*. 3rd. Annual Report 1932 pp.12-19
- 19 Evans, 'Heraldry in Norwich Cathedral'. Farrer, *Church Heraldry* Vol.III pp.4-5 (both as in note 1 above)
- 20 John Britton, *The History and Antiquities of the See and Cathedral Church of Norwich*. (London 1816) plates VIII, XV; pp.34, 36.
- 21 The location is given in John Britton (note 20 above) plate VIII, p.34.
- 22 Saunders, 'Gloriana' (as note 18 above) p.14.

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*The above article first appeared in "Norfolk Heraldry" Volume 2, 1998. I am grateful to the editor and the author for permission to reproduce it in our Journal.*

*Ed.*

## SOCIETY NEWS

**Early Printing in Norfolk by Colin Hyson** - The entertaining lecture by Colin Hyson on early printing in Norfolk was very well attended by members and a substantial number of non-members. The story of printing in the County began during the reign of the first Elizabeth. It started indirectly through the inevitable clash, of Catholicism and Protestantism. Catholic Spain, intent on restoring its sovereignty over the unruly Netherlands dispatched the Duke of Alba at the head of a formidable army to 'attend to' two civil and social irritants in that part of the Spanish empire. A movement promoting freedom of worship, and the Protestant fervour which was sweeping through the



Netherlands and the low countries. News of the slow Spanish advance gave those who most feared this display of Catholic power time to leave the country and flee, either to Germany or across the German Ocean (the North Sea) to protestant England. Anyone who has seen that great French film comedy "La Kermesse Heroique" will recall the fear that was conjured up in the small Flemish town, at the news of the Spanish advance and the imagined consequences of their arrival.

Many of these refugees settled in Norwich, probably attracted by their earlier business dealings in the Norwich cloth trade. Among these sixteenth century "boat people" was Anthony de Solempne, his wife, two sons, a printing press, some cases of printing type and other equipment necessary for printing. They fled from Antwerp where he had been a seller of Rhenish Wines and a spice merchant but after he arrived in Norwich he had set himself up as a printer.

During the summer of 1568 John Parkhurst, the Bishop of Norwich, was instructed to carry out a census of the Dutch and Walloon refugees who were then resident in Norwich, and by then constituted 30% of the population. For a period the census recorded two printers in the city but one left and the remaining recorded printer was then "Anthonius de la Solemme, tipographus". The spelling of his name varies but this was probably due to the ability of the recording scribe. Two years later Anthony de Solempne was employed by Norwich Corporation to print the Corporations bye-laws and shortly afterwards he was able to purchase full citizen rights.

The long story of printing in Norfolk includes a number of printers, some of whom were the widows of printers and determined to carry on the successful business founded by their husbands. The account by Colin Hyson moved from books to broadsheets and eventually on to newspapers both daily and weekly and ended with today's EDP. The talk was laced with dramatic incidents, a small collection of cards which he believed to be the only research into early Norfolk printing. Examples of faked early printing, plaques, both blue and other colours which incorrectly celebrate an early printer. Plaques which had been covered over by Victorian decorators when they were inconveniently positioned.

As for early printers in Aylsham, that appears to have started in 1830 with Ephraim Silence in Red Lion Street, a few years later a Charles Clements was the main printer with an office in the Market Place. In time

THE  
RELIGION  
OF THE  
BIBLE:  
OR, A  
Summary View  
OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES,  
AS

The Records of True Religion; and as the Instrument  
which GOD uses for making Men Truly  
Religious;

CONTAINING

A few, short, and plain *Directions*; by the Help  
of which, a Christian may take up the Idea of  
his Religion from <sup>the</sup> BIBLE it self; and may  
read the Word of God with Judgment, and Profit.

By JOHN JEFFERY, D. D. Arch-Deacon  
of Norwich.

NORWICH: Printed by F. Burges, for T. Goddard,  
Bookfeller in the Market-place in Norwich; and  
for A. Baldwin, in Warwick-Lane, London. 1701.

*See Chamber's Norfolk p. 1207.*

An example of some early Norwich printing, from the Dean &  
Chapter Library, Norwich Cathedral

he was succeeded by Charles Henry Barnwell. For anyone wishing to read further about early printing in Norfolk I would recommend "The First Printers in Norwich from 1567 Anthony de Solempne, Albert Christianensz & Joannes Paetz" by William K. Sessions and David Stoker and the classic work on the history of printing "Printing Types, Their History, Forms and Use." By D.B. Updike. **G. Gale**

### THOMAS ARTHUR WEST

Tom was born in a Gate House on the Cambridge line at Two Mile Bottom, near Thetford, in 1920. For most of his working life he was employed by the LNER, mostly at Norwich Thorpe, but also at both of the Cromer stations and also at Dereham. He also had a short spell at Sheffield and Stratford.

The family's interest in steam began with Burrell's works at Thetford, and Tom remained keenly interested in steam railways all his life. He was a member of the Home Guard during the war, attending meetings whenever possible. This was often after 'firing' engines on what was often a 14 hour day, and involved cycling to and from Norwich, Cromer or Dereham after long tiring shifts.

Tom was a founder member of *Friends of Bure Valley Railway*. He was also a member of the "Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain and Ireland", and also a member of the "Vintage Arms Association". He was extremely knowledgeable about vintage arms; casting his own bullets, and, as a member of a gun club, firing them on approved ranges.

He loved old buildings, particularly castles and churches. He enjoyed outings with the Local History Society, the last one being the Millennium Mystery History Tour which took him right past his birthplace. He was closely connected with his parish church, serving on the PCC, and as a steward until ill-health forced him to cut back on his activities. He was a member of the Royal British Legion and a past Grand Master of the Loyal Marquis of Lothian Lodge of Oddfellows, and he was a dedicated and hard working member of our own Society.

**Mollie Long.**



**Winter Party** - The mid winter party was held on Thursday 25th. January 2001 at the Aylsham Lodge Hotel, and was attended by about fifty members. This change of venue was an experiment which certainly had some advantages over the Friendship Club. There was more room to put up the competitions. Julian Eve provided another of his portrait puzzles, Jean McChesney arranged and explained the many interesting objects of historical interest brought in by members and this proved to be a new and novel idea. There was another set of Peter Holman's photographs of Aylsham which had to be located on a large map. A second puzzle, based on the map, concerned two hidden messages in diamond shapes which baffled most members. These competitions were explained after a pleasant finger buffet. There were also glasses of warming punch on arrival. One of the big advantages was that none of our members had to prepare for any of this - nor would they have to do any of the washing up afterwards! This was a pleasant evening which gave members a chance to meet and talk over matters historical and non-historical, and I am still not sure whether it is Buttlands or Buttsland, but we all know where it is!

**Peter Holman**

**Visit to Sutton Hoo** - As part of the UEA course on Anglo-Saxon England, 275AD-1075AD, the tutor, John Chatwin suggested that we should make a field trip to a suitable site. He suggested Houghton-on-the-hill and West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, both of which we had been to on the Millennium Mystery Tour. We then opted for Sutton Hoo, the Burial Ground of kings, near Woodbridge in Suffolk. Now in the care of the National Trust, the site is not yet open to the public. The Trust has great plans and is about to start building an ambitious Visitor Centre. However, we made arrangements with the Sutton Hoo Society, who provided access and a guide for which we were most grateful.

So we set off from the Market Place at 9.30am on Saturday, 26th. January, with a party of 30, made up of class members, our tutor, and members of the society. It was a misty morning as we travelled down in our Sunbeam coach, with the same driver from our last 'mystery' outing. As we approached Woodbridge, we began to see a change in the landscape - it was turning white! and by the time that we stopped at the inn it was like a Christmas card scene. Here (thank goodness) we met our guide who led the way in his car, off the main road on to farm



tracks that led off into a wilderness of large white fields until we finally reached a large old hut. We left the warmth of our coach and assembled in the unheated hut for an introductory talk by the guide. Surviving this, we stepped out into the wet snow to follow the guide to stand on, or by, the various burial mounds which loomed under their white coverings. He spoke extremely well, but our feet gradually left us. This was a strange and evocative place. The edge of the site dropped down through a wood (*Top Hat Wood*) to the tidal River Deben from which the burial ships had been dragged, for they were very large working ships sacrificed for the king's burial. Mound 1 produced the richest archaeological treasure ever found in Europe.

So finally, back to the hut to purchase books, into the coach and back to the inn by those lonely farm tracks through the snow. We decided that enough was enough, and not to call at the church at Iken, but to head for home. The landscape turned back to normal, and we were back at Aylsham in the late afternoon. We had had the unique experience of seeing the site under those conditions, so much so that the guide has asked that if anyone did manage any photographs, the Sutton Hoo Society would like copies for their archives.

**Peter Holman**

**Mrs. Joan Vyse** - With sadness we must also record the death of yet another of our founder members. Mrs Joan Vyse, the wife of Canon Jack Vyse (our first Chairman,) died in January 2001. Since retiring as Rector of Aylsham, Canon and Mrs Vyse have been living in Lincolnshire, but have always maintained a keen interest in Aylsham and in our society. It seems such a short time ago that I met them both in Norwich Cathedral. We offer our condolences to Canon Vyse and his family.

**TWM**

## ULPH FAMILY NEWS

Our member, Colin Ulph, produces an excellent newsletter which is circulated to members of the Ulph 'One-name' society. In the latest issue of the newsletter, Colin specifically states that he is quite happy for anyone to quote from, or reproduce material from it. So, taking

Colin at his word, I am delighted to reprint the following which should interest us with its Aylsham connections. I am also grateful to Ron Peabody who drew my attention to it. As you will see, it is very appropriately called:-

## BLACK SHEEP

Our reader, Judy Sergeant of Western Australia, has an ancestor called **Robert Ulph**, born at Foulsham in 1781. We knew that he had three wives - Frances Newman, Elizabeth Wigger and Ann Harbut; however, in the Aylsham Quarter Sessions records for 17 July 1816 we find:

*Anne Harbut of Foulsham to prosecute Robert Ulph [alias Overton] for bigamy.*

Then, under 'Prisoners at Aylsham' we find:-

*Robert Ulph, alias Overton, - felony - marrying Ann Harbut, his present wife still living. To go to Assizes.*

So Robert had married Ann Harbut bigamously around 1816, despite being married to Elizabeth Wigger, and having had at least seven children by her. And, what's more, as soon as Elizabeth Wigger died, he married Ann Harbut again! We don't know what happened at the Assizes, but will keep looking.

The article then goes on to tell us about another Robert Ulph, whose escape from the Aylsham Bridewell is noted in the "*Norfolk Chronicle*" of 11 June 1814.

### ESCAPED

*FROM OUT OF AYLSHAM BRIDEWELL*

On Thursday Evening last, about seven o'clock.

*ROBERT ULPH, a Convict.*

**H**E had on the County Breeches, and in his shirt only - he is twenty four years of age, dark eyes and dark hair cut short, and is about five feet four inches high. Whoever will apprehend the said convict and deliver him to the Keeper of the Bridewell shall be handsomely rewarded.

It was a good job he escaped in the middle of summer with only his

shirt and the 'County Breeches' on. What were the 'County Breeches'?

And for the final black sheep, we read:

At Aylsham on 24 April 1816 we find James Ulph and William Sparkes charged with larceny. They were found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for three months at Wymondham Bridewell.

Just so we don't form a wrong impression about Ulphs, and imagine that they all have criminal backgrounds, I must remind readers of another Aylsham Ulph who was described in *Memories of Aylsham*, by William Frederick Starling. Now, he was a perfect gentleman, and what did Starling say of him? Well, on second thoughts, I'll leave you to read it for yourselves. See page 76!

—ooOoo—

## THE IAN SEARS CLINIC      Tom Mollard

I expect I am not the first person to wonder what exactly the Ian Sears Clinic is, and why it was built, and why was it so named. From anyone strolling down to Key's Sales it attracts just a passing glance, but this building, at the corner of Palmer's Lane and Norwich Road has recently celebrated its 65th. birthday.

Its birth is recorded in the Eastern Daily Press for November 8th. 1935. The ceremony of handing over the building by its donor to the Norfolk County Council was recorded in great detail. The donor was a Captain James E. Sears. The newspaper report starts off in poetic style:-

*Here find your soul, O son of mine:  
This building your deserved shrine:  
Care for the children's happiness  
Your aim: to succour, help and bless.*

These verses, which were the tribute of Captain J. E. Sears to his little son, in whose memory The Ian Sears Child Welfare Centre has been erected in Aylsham, reveal the deep feeling that inspired the costly gift to the county, which was accepted on behalf of the County Council by the Lord Lieutenant (Mr. Colman) at the opening ceremony

performed by Lord Noel-Buxton yesterday.

The building, erected on a site that was formerly part of the grounds of the Orchards, is unique in the advantage that has been taken of the most up-to-date scientific knowledge of the requirements of such institutions. Aylsham firms did the work, Mr. A. G. Stackwood being the builder, and Mr. E. T. Stoner being responsible for the electric lighting and heating installation. It is evident that no expense was spared to make the centre worthy in every detail. The treatment rooms open off a central waiting room. There is an artificial light room for violet ray and massage treatment, a weighing room, a dental room with a dentist's chair adjustable for either children or mothers, a doctor's surgery with an eye testing apparatus, and a staff-room with cloak rooms. All the woodwork and doors are of oak, and every fitting is of the best quality.

A portrait of little Ian Sears, in permanent crayons, is on the wall opposite the entrance doors, and when this was unveiled it was seen that underneath was a brass tablet inscribed:-

*Ian James Tresidder Sears  
The Boy who always wanted to help.*

A larger portrait, in oils, the work also of Mr. Ronaldson of Kensington, is at the home of Captain and Mrs Sears, and upon their decease this will be exchanged for the crayon portrait at the centre. The Lord Lieutenant presided at the meeting, supported by Lord Noel-Buxton, Captain and Mrs Sears and the Rev. A. P. McNeile, vicar of Aylsham.

Captain Sears was called upon by Mr Colman to unveil the portrait and present the deeds of the building, and before doing so, Captain Sears said that he and Mrs Sears were most grateful to all for being present. Speaking with emotion, Capt. Sears said he wished to emphasise particularly that he did not wish to be thanked for giving this Centre. "So far as I am concerned," he said, "I am looking upon this as a birthday present from my little boy, and wish him to have all the kudos. This Centre would not have been possible if he had not been



such a gallant little chap. It is by his life and his love and his wonderful kindness he has earned this Centre for the children of Aylsham and district. No one can say that his life, although it was very, very brief, has not been crowned with a definite piece of useful work for humanity."

Handing the deeds to Mr. Colman, Capt. Sears said, "I hand you these deeds with Ian's love, and I hope that this Centre will be a great advantage and a blessing to the children of the county which Ian always loved. Ian was very fond of Norfolk, and of Norfolk people. It was the county of his heart, and although we are away from Norfolk now, we are glad to be able to make this gift on his behalf, with his love."

Mr Colman said it was difficult to reply to such a moving speech. When he was told of the gift that was to be made to the Norfolk County Council he naturally felt inclined to do everything he could to demonstrate the pleasure and gratitude felt by the County Council at the reception of such a princely gift.

Lord Noel-Buxton who declared the clinic open, expressed appreciation of being asked to perform that ceremony. He thought that in all their hearts was profound sympathy for the poignant loss that has led to the building of the clinic, and gratitude for the princely way in which the monument to Ian had been fitted out. It was amazing to think that past generations were able to do without these things, but that was at the cost of much suffering.

Mrs A. R. Gilbert said, "I would like to say how very proud we are in Aylsham and district to have such a lovely clinic. I cannot say too much of all that it means to us. . . . The Lord Lieutenant, responding, remarked "There is an old saying that *God helps those who help themselves*, you have done admirable work in Aylsham and this is your reward."

The Rev. A. P. McNeile pronounced the Benediction. The guests afterwards had tea in the Town Hall.

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This was not the first occasion that Captain Sears had earned a lengthy report in the newspapers. Two years previously, on May 11th. 1933 a very different story was reported, which read as follows:

### **SCENE AT CENOTAPH** **Aylsham man and German wreath**

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#### *Police Court sequel*

"There was an unexpected development in London on Thursday when the wreath placed on the Cenotaph in Whitehall by Dr. Rosenberg on behalf of Herr Hitler, was removed. About 11 o'clock, a car drove up to the Cenotaph, a man leapt out, seized the wreath, and the car was driven rapidly away. Mr Clifford C. Sears, who lives at Waltham Cross, told a reporter that the man who took the wreath was his father, Captain J. E. Sears, prospective Labour Parliamentary candidate for South West St. Pancras. Mr Sears said that his father, who lives at Aylsham, Norfolk, is a member of the St. Pancras British Legion, and Chairman of the Aylsham Branch of the Legion. He took the wreath as a protest against a representative of Hitler being allowed to place a wreath upon the British Cenotaph.

Later in the day, Capt. J. E. Sears appeared in court before Mr Fry at Bow Street, charged with larceny of a wreath. On this charge he was discharged under the Probation of Offenders Act. On a charge of wilful damage to a wreath he was charged 40s.

"The whole thing was planned deliberately", said Mr Sears in an interview with a reporter. "My father laid his plans early this morning, and he decided to drive up to the Cenotaph in his car, and get the wreath and throw it into the river"

"My father's intentions had been to place himself in the hands of the police as soon as he had disposed of the wreath. Just before he went to the Cenotaph, he said to me, "I have done this as a deliberate protest against the desecration of the Cenotaph by Hitler's hireling. Any spirit of generosity and brotherhood is entirely absent from Dr. Rosenberg's

action, and it is merely intended to throw dust in the eyes of the English people.

It is also a protest against the brutal barbarism which at present exists in Germany. From another point of view, Dr. Rosenberg's action is a public scandal in view of the fact that he represents a government which is now responsible for the growth in Germany of the military spirit which pertained during the war."

Mr. Sears denied all knowledge of an incident earlier in the day, when the swastika on the wreath was taken away. On this occasion the wreath was damaged by a man who drove along Whitehall in a motor car. Leaving the car by the pavement, he turned across to the Cenotaph, slashed the wreath with a sharp instrument, and cut away the swastika that was attached to it. He then re-entered the car and drove away towards Westminster. "We know nothing about that incident" said Mr. Sears. "In fact my father thought that perhaps he might keep the swastika as a souvenir."

Back home in Aylsham, Mrs Sears had been interviewed by the press, but was very discreet in her replies. She said she had no knowledge of the affair. She knew, however, her husband was strongly opposed to the treatment that people in Germany had received and were still receiving under Hitlerism. However, Capt. Sears himself was less reticent in his remarks. A brief report in the same issue of the newspaper reads:

"At a dinner of Aylsham Recreation Football Club last evening, Captain Sears produced a ribbon in the German colours which he said had been tied to the wreath he had thrown in the Thames. After repeating his statement made before the magistrates earlier in the day, he declared that his souvenir was well worth the 40s. fine."

As a happy tailpiece amongst all the other reports in the newspaper, we also can read this final snippet:

"The space at the Cenotaph which earlier yesterday was occupied by the wreath laid by Dr. Rosenberg, was last night filled by a chaplet of red and white tulips and gardenias. On a white card attached to it was the following

inscription, *"This wreath is placed here in sincerity by a British citizen, who resents the insult to our glorious dead. They fought for freedom. God save the King"*

Captain Sears was clearly a man of strong character and principles with the courage of his convictions. When he lived in Aylsham his home was the Orchards. Part of the garden he had given over to the building of the Ian Sears Centre. The house had been built originally by William Bartram of Millgate. It had been built for William Repton, who wanted it for his lawyer partner, William Henry Scott. When Captain Sears appeared in court he described himself as the Managing Director of a building company. In the press he was described as *"a tall white-haired figure in a navy blue suit, in the lapel of which he wore a British Legion badge."* He had had a distinguished record in the Great War, and had risen from the rank of private to that of Captain.

When he left Aylsham, Sears made one final gesture which was also reported in the local press. The Orchards was sold to the Aylsham and District local Labour Party. It was intended to be a hostel with games and reading rooms, public baths, billiards, a dance room with a fine parquet floor. The intention was to cater not only for commercial travellers, cyclists and hikers, but also for Summer Schools and conferences and to provide meeting rooms for local organisations.

Captain Sears said, it had come as a surprise to many that the Orchards was to be a Labour Party Centre, and many questions had been asked as to how the party had acquired possession. Owing to his political activities in London, he had found it impossible to have his home so far away. He had the financial arrangements made so as not to put an undue strain on the party. He also added that he had received a definite cash offer for the property whilst negotiations were in progress. He had no idea where the offer came from, but he would leave people to draw their own conclusions!

Other people had different views on the whole matter. Writing in the press three days later, a Frederick Higginbottom of Briston described the new centre as, *'a centre for political disturbance, to be*



*used as a distributing point for Socialist propaganda'*

Politics were much more lively in those days.

Before I discovered the above newspaper cuttings, I knew nothing about the Ian Sears Clinic and Captain Sears. Now I do, but the story raises as many questions as it answers. Questions I would love to know the answers to are: Did Captain Sears get elected to Parliament in the 'forthcoming' election? What happened next to the Orchards? How long did it remain a Labour Party Centre, and was it much used? Who was it sold on to next? Perhaps one of our members could write a follow-up to this piece.

**TWM**

—ooOoo—

## **OULTON DURING WORLD WAR 2**

**Sqn.Ldr. B.D.Davies**

*The account that follows has been received from Mollie Long. It is an account of the fearsome days towards the very end of World War 2, when the end of six years of danger was just coming in to sight. Death and danger was never absent right to the bitter end.*

Before I forget, I have just realised that Johnnie Wynne on the night of 3/4 March was detailed for operations described in the Ops Report simply as a "Window Patrol" possibly in the same area as Bennett, whose duty that night was also a "Window Patrol". Whereas I was detailed for, and successfully completed a "Jostle Patrol" (RT jamming) in support of a Bomber Command raid on the Dortmund-Ems Canal.

And now I will endeavour to recall the events which lead up to my witnessing Bennett being shot down, virtually within the circuit at Oulton, my subsequent visit to the crash site, and the lucky escape (for the second time within two hours) I experienced when the intruder shot up the Control Tower and Briefing Room, which incidentally was

crowded by already returned aircrew.

I cannot now remember what made me select for the op on 3/4th. March 1945 a different crew from my regular one, which I had brought with me from No 4 Group when we had completed 17 ops, flying Halifax aircraft. But for that night only Flt Lt Phillips (214 Gunnery Leader) was my tail gunner; Flt Lt Chant (Navigation Leader) occupied the front of the aircraft as Bomb Aimer and 2nd Navigator, and Flg. Officer Jock Fitzsimmonds (Deputy Flight Engineer Leader) was my Flight Engineer, who as usual, sat in the right hand 2nd pilot's (not carried) seat. Anyway, the operation as far as I remember was uneventful but, and for what reason I cannot remember, we crossed the English coast and approached Oulton on three engines, or perhaps we had, or were experiencing some other sort of emergency.

I seem to remember the drill on returning to Oulton was to announce our return to base with an ETA. only when we were at a range of 20 miles. I had of course been listening out to the RT traffic for some time and had heard Bennett call at 20 miles, and receive approval to be the first to enter the circuit and land. When I subsequently announced my arrival "on three" I was given priority to continue to approach and also approval to be the first to land. Bennett, who was on long finals, was told to "go round again". I continued my approach, turning left onto finals, as normal, with all navigation and identity lights on. When I looked forward to satisfy myself that Bennett was in fact overshooting and was not in my way, I saw his port, starboard and white lights quite clearly, but at the same time I saw the flash of tracer from an unseen aircraft hit the Fortress in the port wing root and the wing start to burn. I looked away then to better concentrate on landing my own aircraft, on the still fully illuminated runway.

At about the same time I heard the tower call "Bandits Bandits" and the runway lights went out just as I came to a quick stop, thus better able to switch off my own lights. I thought my flight engineer and I did this in double quick time, only to be contradicted by the tail gunner who said that a white light still burnt brightly high above him on the aircraft's vertical fin, By this time I felt very, very exposed, and I am sure the

remainder of the 9 crew felt the same but, despite checking with my Flt Engineer from left to right in the cockpit we still heard the rear gunner entreating us to turn that \*\*\* light off.

I must admit I can still remember the feeling of utter panic, expecting to be shot up at any time. Trying to compose myself and in desperation I very reluctantly used my torch (feeling quite naked as the beam went on) to search the entire cockpit for that final elusive key to our survival. After what seemed an eternity I found what I was looking for, a small unmarked switch that controlled, of all things, a lone white light at the very top of the fin, fitted not for operational use but as an aid for "night formation flying". With this switch in the off position, and in the glow of Bennett's burning aircraft I was able to clear the runway, and taxi back to our normal dispersal.

We were all very relieved to be safely on the ground, especially so when we realised we were the last aircraft to make it back to Oulton, the remaining Fortresses and Liberators having the dubious privilege of having to face an extra two hours flying to their diversion at Brawdy and Haverford West in West Wales; some of them with only just enough fuel to reach their destinations.

After getting out of the aircraft and seeing my crew off in the crew bus, Fitzsimmonds and I drove in my Hillman Utility to the site of the still burning Fortress, not very far from Station Sick Quarters. There, wonder of wonders we saw the two apparently uninjured waist gunners, who had miraculously walked out of the half shell of the rear fuselage, the only sizable part of the wreck which looked as if it had once been part of an aeroplane.

We did not hang around the still burning wreck. The point five shells and pyrotechnics, and what remained of the 110/120 octane fuel still resembling what I remembered of (but not the smell of) a pre-war Guy Fawkes night. At the time little realising that, as we returned for de-briefing, our good luck would be put to the test once more in the space of an hour.

After crew debriefing and coffee, liberally laced with Navy rum (which when mixed with dehydrated milk, turned into something near



solid which looked like penicillin mould), my crew went their separate ways to the airmen's mess for their traditional fried egg and beans. Fitzsimmonds and I left the hut to return to the squadron office to meet the Squadron Adjutant to arrange for the post-crash procedure to be put in hand.

As we made our way to the door, outside which I had parked the Hillman, we passed the Station Commander Grp. Capt Dickins, who was coming in. Nothing unusual about this but nothing warned us of the scene we experienced when we stepped out of the building into what we expected to be darkness. The stupid old fool had driven up in his Humber Hawk staff car, parked it in front of the door from which we two had just stepped, switched off the lights but had forgotten that at some time he had switched on the car's two, powerful fog lamps, which with blackness all around, illuminated the tower and briefing room as if in broad daylight. Fitz and I each opened a door of the car to find the switches which controlled the offending lights. However as we searched with our backsides high in the air, we both became aware of the sound of aircraft engines at very high revs, approaching us at speed. We quickly dropped on to the unfriendly concrete in the lee of the staff car as the Ju88 (yes, the same one) opened up on the Humber. How he missed I don't know, the cannon shells bounced on the tarmac all around us, some unfortunately finding the corner of the briefing room which fortunately was fairly empty by then. However, if I remember rightly, the panic inside was considerable but only one or two WAAF Intelligence staff were slightly injured. And, the spotlights, no, we did not go back to find the elusive switches, Jock Fitzsimmonds had a more simple remedy; he quickly and expertly kicked both lights into darkness. And no, the Group Captain did not complain, but he was promoted to Air Commodore a few months after the end of the war!

**Postscript:** I later discovered that on Bennett's previous operation, about four days before his last, he was returning from the target when they were attacked by a Junkers 88 night fighter. Although the rear gunner shot it down, its cannon fire severely damaged Bennett's aircraft, and wounded their navigator so badly that he was not able to carry on with his duties. These were taken over by the bomb aimer, who



got them back to Manston in Kent, where the navigator died in station sick-quarters. Bennett was awarded an immediate D.F.C. and his bomb aimer the D.F.M.

As Bennett was now short of a navigator for his next op. he took with him the navigator of a brand new crew who had just arrived on the squadron, and who had not, as yet, flown on operations. This unfortunate person flew his very first operational sortie which proved to be his last!!

—ooOoo—

## HUMPHRY REPTON

In recent issues of the *Journal* we have included several items on the Repton family and their Aylsham connections. We have included Humphry's will, and his grave in Aylsham churchyard. We have also looked at the work of William, his fourth son who was also a gardener whose activities in the town have been examined in the Aylsham Gardens Survey.

Now, thanks to our member, Ron Fiske, we can include an item on Humphry's work as an artist. There are several good watercolours which many of us have seen, showing the Market Place in Aylsham in the early years of the nineteenth century. There are also other works which we have never seen. Thanks to Ron Fiske we can reprint a list of some of his drawings. This is a list which first appeared in *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica. Vol. VIII*, published in 1843. It says in the list that the book containing the drawings "remains in the possession of his son, John Adey Repton". Where the book is now, (if it still exists) I do not know. However the list does indicate the titles of other books which the drawings were originally made to illustrate which may be helpful.:-

## HUMPHRY REPTON

"The following is a list of the contents of an oblong volume of drawings in India ink, made by Humphry Repton, Esq. who became some years afterwards

the celebrated Landscape Gardener. This book remains in the possession of his son, John Adey Repton, Esq. F.S.A.”

*Drawings of the most remarkable Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats, Antiquities and other striking Views in the County of Norfolk, taken on the several spots in the years 1779 and 1780, by H. Repton, of Sustead.*

1. A view of Sustead grazing lands from a spot near the footpath to Felbrigg. Showing from a distance the old hall in which Mr. Repton resided, and the round tower of Sustead church.
2. Town-Barningham church in Norfolk, taken July 1779, the spot very near the south porch. The tower and church in ruins, the chancel still roofed.
3. Bayfield, the seat of . . . Jodderel, Esq. taken Sept. 1779, the spot near the road from Holt to Langham.
4. Beeston Priory. Taken October 1779, from the south-west, in Mr. Woodrow's yard. The ruins of the Priory church
5. Wolterton, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Walpole, taken October 1779, from the pleasure ground facing the library.  
Engraved by J. Royce, in Booth's History of Norfolk, Vol iii, p.325 of South Erpingham Hundred. (Published by M. Booth at Norwich, in weekly numbers, and forming ten volumes, 8vo. 1781. See Upcott's Catalogue of English Topography, p.957)
6. Heydon, the seat of William Wigget Bulwer, Esq. taken in November 1779, from the south-west.  
Engraved by William Ellis, in Booth's History of Norfolk, Vol iii, p.210 of South Erpingham Hundred.
7. Blickling, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Buckinghamshire, Sept. 1779, from the Aylsham road.
8. Sall, the seat of Edward Hase, Esq. Dec. 1779, from the great road betwixt Cawston and Reepham.
9. Hanworth, the seat of Robert Lee Doughty, Esq. May 1779, from the lawn very near the house.  
Engraved by J. Royce, in Booth's History of Norfolk, Vol iii, p.72 of North Erpingham Hundred.
10. Sall church, in Norfolk, Dec, 1779, from the north-east
11. Gunton Church, in the park of Sir Harbord Harbord, Bart. May 1779. A modern temple of Doric architecture; Booth's History of Norfolk, Vol iii, p.66 of North Erpingham Hundred.

12. Walsingham Abbey, in the garden of Henry Lee Warner, Esq.  
September 1779  
A view of the ruined window-arch of Great Walsingham Priory (not Abbey) church. It is drawn in an upright oval, and engraved in the same shape, "by I. Page, from a drawing taken in the camera by Mr. H. Repton" and "published November 18 1779, by Mr. Booth, Norwich." in his volume vi, p88 of North Greenhoe Hundred.
13. Wilton, the seat of the late [John] Norris, Esq. [since of the Hon. Col. Wodehouse] May 1779.  
A modern edifice of Grecian architecture.
14. Warham, the seat of Sir John Turner, Bart. September 1779, from the Danish Camp.
15. South-west view of Cromer, in Norfolk, April 1779, near the road to Runcton.  
A general view, "published as the Act directs, Aug. 17th. 1779, by M. Booth, Norwich" vol.iii. p.36 of North Erpingham Hundred
16. Irmingland Hall in Norfolk, Sept. 1779, from the road to Corpusty from Heydon  
A very ruinous ancient mansion, now more than half pulled down. This is the back front; the garrets were subsequently destroyed, and a modern roof erected. The principal front occurs afterwards, No.21.
17. Barningham, the seat of Thomas Lane, Esq. April 1779, at the entrance of the avenue.  
Engraved by J. Thompson, and published Aug. 13, 1779, in Booth's History of Norfolk, Vol iii, p.24 of North Erpingham Hundred. - this mansion is now in the possession of John Thurston Mott, Esq. who made several improvements from designs of H. and J.A.Repton. See Fragments on Landscape Gardening, 1816.
18. Spixworth, the seat of Francis Long, Esq. October 1779, from the Norwich Road which leads to the church.
19. Easton Lodge, the seat of Leonard Buxton, Esq.
20. Felbrigg, the seat of William Windham, Esq. March 1779.  
N.B. The stables and barns now standing are here supposed to be removed. Published March 10th. 1779, by M. Booth, Norwich, "Page sculp." who took the liberty of inserting a great ugly tree which conceals the side of the house, shown in the drawing. Booth's Norfolk, vol iii, p.55 of North Erpingham Hundred.  
(A view of Felbrigg, drawn by H. Repton, and engraved by Walker, was published March 1st. 1787, in Harrison's *Views of Seats*. 4to.)
21. Irmingland Hall.  
A house belonging to Edm<sup>d</sup>. Craddock Hartopp, of Pines, in the county of Devon, to whom this plate is inscribed". Engraved by J. Page, in Booth's Norfolk, vol iii p.224 of South Erpingham Hundred.

22. Wood Dalling, a seat of Wigget Bulwer, Esq.  
A house about the reign of Charles; I or II, now pulled down. Engraved in Booth's Norfolk, vol iii p.135 of Eynsford Hundred.
23. Stiffkey, als Stukey Hall  
A very ancient castellated mansion, with the ruins of several round towers. Engraved in Booth, vol. vi, p.66 of North Greenhoe Hundred
24. South-west view of the Convent of Grey Friars at Walsingham.  
Published Feb. 21st.1780, by M. Booth, Norwich. I. Page sculpt. vol iii p.94 of North Greenhoe Hundred.
25. A view from Sherringham Heath.  
Looking to the sea. Booth, vol iii p.100 of North Erpingham Hundred.
26. Westwick - A modern mansion, park and church.
27. Baconsthorpe. An old gatehouse, formed into a residence, viewed from behind.  
An engraving with this memorandum: "N.B. The original drawing of this was given to the Rev. Mr.Hewitt of Baconsthorpe." Booth's Norfolk, vol. iii, p.49 of South Erpingham Hundred.
28. [Kimberly, the seat of Lord Wodehouse]  
In vol. vii. of Booth, p.83 of Holt Hundred, is a view of Melton Constable drawn by Mr. Repton.\*

\* Mr. Repton, for eleven or twelve years, supplied the drawings for the views inserted in the pocket-book called *Peacock's Repository*, which were excellently engraved by John Peltro. Peltro died in 1809, after which Mr. Repton discontinued his contributions, not being satisfied with the style of his successor. J. G. N. [i.e. John Gough Nichols]

—ooOoo—

## And finally

A boat crashed on to the rocks and began to sink. "*Does anybody know how to pray?*" shouted the skipper.  
*"Yes, I do"* shouted a zealous Christian, leaping to his feet.  
*"Good."* replied the skipper. *"you pray; the rest of us will put on life-jackets, we are one short."*