

## Volume Twenty Two : 1989-1990

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## RISE AND FALL OF THE GROCERY TRADE

*by Mr. W.J. Goode*

The grocery trade as such was unknown before 1700. Small cargos of spices were brought from the Orient, but butter, cheese, flour and vegetables were mainly sold in the local markets held in the small towns where the produce was sold generally by the growers and tradesmen. We see, therefore, that the grocery trade is not ancient, for it was founded upon tea, sugar and Oriental spices. These exotic commodities were not introduced to this country until Tudor times, but then only in very small quantities. It was not until very much later and the Clipper ships that these spices, tea and coffee were imported on a regular basis, and merchants began to deal with these commodities and break down their bulk into small portions for the general public.

There could not be much expansion of this trade until the mass production of the canister, the sealable can and the glass jar and bottle. Once these were produced, the trade expanded and the true Grocer was born. This would be about the middle of the last century. Then, instead of everyone buying their spices in small quantities for making their own sauces, more necessary in those days because of rancid meats and fish, the grocer could now sell it ready made in the bottle. Local butter, cheese and eggs were brought into the towns and the grocers took over this trade from the dairies to become Grocery and Provision Merchants.

As the population moved ever more towards the towns, it became profitable to set up factories such as Cadbury's at Bournville and many others to pack cocoa, pickles, sauces, and a great many other products including a variety of biscuits. Early in the 19th century, shops devoted entirely to grocery items came into being. Those were family businesses, started more like a village store, but keeping strictly to grocery items. You would never see a birthday card, stationery, electrical goods, meats and sausages, fruit and vegetables sold in a grocery shop. When I started, things were beginning to change. Some fruit and vegetables were beginning to be stocked, but not on a large-scale. Sausages were beginning to be sold in some grocers shops. By the middle of the 1950s, some of the larger grocery shops in large towns, were beginning to sell fresh meat.

In those early days, the grocer was a very skilled person, and his trade depended upon his skills in blending teas and coffee to suit the water of his district, and the palate of his customers. The type of water, hard or soft, plays an important part in the flavour of these beverages. He would generally blend and roast his coffee beans, and grind them fresh for each customer. Deveraux, the Lowestoft Family Grocers, even continued to roast their own coffee until shortly before they closed. Most grocers continued to grind their coffee fresh for each customer until the start of the last war. Before the 1st World War, loaf, (lump) sugar was bought by the grocer in tall cones like dunces caps, and cut by him into lumps for sale. Not the neat cubes we now expect.

The railways speeded up the change in the grocery trade, for now all parts of the country could be supplied on a regular and reliable basis. The single shop of the master grocer began to be bought up by more enterprising merchants, and the family grocer became a small chain of three or four shops. Then these groups merged until large companies were formed. The International Stores for whom I worked, required their young men to serve a three year apprenticeship, but this was not open to the young women who worked there. I started in 1926 at 10/- (50p.) per week for the first year, rising to

15/- for the second year and £1. for the third and last year. We were not paid for overtime, often many hours after closing, but considered ourselves lucky that we were paid for holidays and sick pay.

At the height of the grocery trade, there were a number of large companies, such as International Stores, Liptons, Home & Colonial, Kays (a cut price grocer), Maypole, Perks, both mainly provisions, i.e. butter, margarine, tea and eggs and cheese. Liptons is about the only one left. Sainsburys started as a provision dealer from Norwich between the two wars, and grew, gradually extending the range of goods sold. They are now one of the big groups of Superstores. Some of the old grocery chains controlled 1,000 shops at their height, but now all but Liptons and Sainsburys have been swallowed up by the giant superstores.

In my younger days, the grocery trade was considered a good and regular job, with qualified apprentices in regular demand outside the rural conditions of East Anglia where the supply of young apprentices was more than ample to meet the employers' needs. When I started in the grocery trade, many articles were still sold loose. Bacon was on show in a number of large pieces, with a selection for customers' choice. After selection, it was sliced, to the thickness requested by the customer. Some years earlier, it would have been sliced by hand. All cooked meats were sliced by hand until the end of the last war. Butter and margarine were knocked up, (patted into shape) with butter pats, and weighed and wrapped as required. Teas, before my time were blended by the local grocer and weighed out as required. Even in my early days, we still weighed and packed one type of tea, Pekee Points, in the shop, as it had been done in this way for many years. In 1926, coffee came in as roasted beans, and was sold both as beans or ground as required. Eggs from Denmark would come in large crates of 720 eggs packed in straw or wood shavings. The many cereals, rice, dried peas, haricot beans, (before the days of tinned beans), butter beans, split peas, and lentils, would all arrive in sacks to be weighed up and packed in bags for sale. Dried fruits came in wooden boxes and these were weighed onto a sheet of stiff paper, and (flat wrapped) that is the paper was folded over the fruit, and each end was tucked in as you would a bag. This method did not need any string to remain a firm container for the fruit. Baking powder, ground almonds, etc. were also flat wrapped and tied with string.

Orders could be phoned in and they would be delivered free. Any reliable family could have a week's free credit, paying last week's bill when placing this week's order; or even a monthly account if you were paid monthly. Well before the last war, the larger grocery companies, covered the entire country with their free deliveries. Each shop would deliver up to the area covered by the next shop. Another service that could be obtained from these firms, were orders delivered to a holiday site, such as boats on, the broads. This was a great help to people going on holiday who were catering for themselves. You could place an order with your regular branch, and say where you wanted it to be delivered, and on what date, and this order would be delivered on time. We, in Lowestoft, used to get a lot of such orders during the summer. You would pay your bill at your own branch on your return.

Then, we stocked at least six different brands of washing soap, many brands of cocoa, and far more brands of jellies and custard powder than can be seen today. Jams were in great demand. The two pound size sold far more than the one pound size. Bread and jam was the normal tea of the working class. It was said that we stocked over 1,000 lines, and we were expected to know the prices of every one. About 1932, a few lines in biscuits started to be packed in airtight packets and so did not require the tins to keep them crisp. They sold for about 1d. (old penny) per ½ lb. packet extra. Most biscuits were sold loose from large tins holding about 51bs. to 71bs. This led to a general sale of broken biscuits, caused by this method of sale, but which was of benefit to the poorer families.

This packaging of biscuits was quite probably the beginning of the present entirely packaged groceries. This had to come before Self Service shops could be made to work. The new style Self Service is a tremendous change from the old style of shopping. Self Service brought great changes to the grocery trade. New Giants, in merchandising came to the fore. They could not be called grocers, for none of the staff had any technical skills or understood how the commodities they sold were produced. They certainly could not pack ½ lb. of biscuits into a bag which would then stand the weight of a man without breaking. Nor could they pack and tie a parcel keeping highly smelling or flavoured items apart, yet holding together with just paper and string as if packed in a box. These supermarket workers were now merely packing shelves with tins and packets, that could contain anything, and they certainly could not discuss the merits of one brand against another.

The many great grocery names and brands, now began to dwindle as they fell by the wayside to this new marketing, or were bought up by larger companies. Some of the big names may be remembered

by more elderly readers. The International Stores had four branches in Lowestoft. Now the new big names dominate the shipping centres, and have large stores on the outskirts of our large towns. All our groceries must now be paid for in cash, or by the new cash cards now becoming popular. They must also be carried home by the purchaser, who unless they are fit, or have a car, may find shopping a burden instead of a pleasure.

### H.M.S. MANTIS –Part 1

*by Mr. A.M Turner*

The Shore Base in Lowestoft for Coastal Forces during World War II.

Following a visit made by J.P. Perkins D.S.C. (an ex. H.M.S. Mantis Officer) to the Museum he wrote to me and as a result of this correspondence he managed to fire lay enthusiastic and I promised to try to put an article together so that at least something of the history of H.M.S. Mantis should be permanently recorded locally.

With his assistance I was able to make contact with a number of ex. Coastal Forces officers and ratings and the Coastal Forces Veterans Association (C.F.V.A.). Also, as a result of this correspondence the Museum has been given the H.M.S. Mantis War Diary (which started life as the War Diary of 7th Flotilla M.G.B.'s and 4th Flotilla M.T.B.'s). This 'semi-official' Log-Book (written up by various officers over the years) is an extremely important document and I am absolutely delighted that it has come back to Lowestoft. It records the normal humdrum aspect of service life between actions, it contains humour, reports of actions and, of course, the sadness and sorrow that war brings. I was also loaned a number of photos which I was able to copy. These, together with the War Diary will be on display in the Museum this year. (I would be very grateful if anyone has any other photos that they would be prepared to give to the Museum or lend to me for copying.)

This article will mainly consist of the memoirs of these men who served in H.M.S. Mantis 45-50 years ago, together with extracts from the war diary. Due to the amount of material I have been sent it will be in at least two parts.

Finally, may I offer my apologies to all my ex-naval friends if I have "dropped any clangers" over naval etiquette or terminology. Having done my own service after the war in the R.A.D.C. I am rather ignorant in matters concerning the Senior Service !

During the Second World War there were three R.N. Shore Bases in Lowestoft, H.M.S. Minos, H.M.S. Mantis and H.M.S. Europa.

H.M.S. Europa has been well documented elsewhere, but was the Lowestoft Shore Base for the Patrol Service.

H.M.S. Minos was apparently 'The Port of Lowestoft' with a comparatively small H.Q. staff based in a building in the Marina and responsible for the overall running of the port.

H.M.S. Mantis was the Lowestoft base for the East Anglian Coastal Forces and the 'Sister Ship' of H.M.S. Midge (Great Yarmouth) and H.M.S. Beehive (Felixstowe). See appendix 'A' for chain of command.

The remaining Coastal Forces shore stations were as follows :-

H.M.S. Wasp (Dover), H.M.S. Aggressive (Newhaven), H.M.S. Hornet (Gosport) and H.M.S. Bee Weymouth)

The Headquarters buildings for Mantis were on the Hamilton Dock (buildings taken over after the war by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), and the vessels attached to Mantis (i.e. the M.G.B's, M.T.B's and M.L.'s) used Hamilton Dock itself. Some of the buildings on the dock became the Hamilton Dock Torpedo workshops - i.e. electrical and armoury workshops. There were further torpedo workshops near the Old Ice Works, which at that time stood at the end of Riverside Road, (Site at present occupied by the Excelsior Trust). (N.B. At that time in the Navy torpedo workshops also covered all electrical works.). The local shipyards were used when it was necessary to 'slip' any of the vessels.

The old Royal Hotel (now demolished) which stood immediately south of Royal Plain was used as the Officers Mess and the crews were mainly billeted in requisitioned houses in the Grove Road area.

The first mention of Lowestoft in the diary (which starts on Saturday 26th July, 1941) is on Sunday 10th August, 1941 when it just states "S.O. to Lowestoft". Then Thursday, 14th and Friday 15th August, 89 and 91 (7th M.G.B. Flotilla) sailed for Lowestoft at 11.00 hrs . . . . (from Dover). Entered harbour 16.40 and docked north side of Hamilton Dock.

Sat. 16th August - Day spent settling in crews and maintenance staff living in Grove Road. Officers at Royal Hotel. Boats unloading crews' gear, mess traps etc.

Mon. 18th August - Two railway truck's from Portland unloaded by spare crew and contents stored at Walkers Store, C.O. arrived from Dover in evening.

The role of Coastal Forces was convoy protection down the East Anglian coast, known as E. Boat Alley, as they were better suited to protect the seaward flank against E. Boats than the armed trawlers and destroyers that escorted the virtually daily convoy along the coast. They also had an important offensive role in seeking out and attacking enemy convoys along the Dutch coast. Being small, high speed vessels, they were not suitable for use in very heavy weather and did not normally put to sea in those conditions, but then, presumably, neither did the E. Boats. However, they were very seaworthy and superbly handled by their skippers and crew if caught at sea in fowl conditions. This is nicely illustrated by Harry Young (M.T.B. 772 Skipper Lt. Wright D.S.C., R.N.Z.V.R, 53rd M.T.B. Flotilla). He writes, "It was while on another routine patrol the weather rapidly deteriorated and we had to return to harbour due to severe gales. When we arrived outside Lowestoft the choice was to wait at sea until daybreak or enter harbour. Skipper decided and we negotiated the harbour entrance safely due to the C.O.'s expert seamanship, and, of course, not forgetting the coxswain. The outcome was that a good night's "kip" was had by all! One can understand his appreciation of the "good night's kip". A night spent in a small boat (approx. 70-80ft. overall) just off shore in a howling gale would not be pleasant.

As a defensive measure for convoy protection the C.in C. The Nore set up what was known as the Z - line, an imaginary line down the coast about 20 miles off shore, stretching from a position off Harwich to about Cromer (approx. 100 miles). Every night when conditions were such that a 'visit' from E. Boats was likely, or at least possible, up to a dozen M.L.'s plus some M.T.B.'s left Midge, Mantis and Beehive and took up position on the Z - line. "This was the first line of defence for the inshore convoy route. It was quite a thin line, despite some reinforcement by armed trawlers or a destroyer", writes R. Perrot (M.L.116). Though it could not always deter E. Boats getting through the wide gaps between the Z - line boats, it generally worked well as an early-warning system. Once on station the M.L.'s cut engines and prepared for the night's rock-and-roll. The hydrophone is lowered over the side. This is a simple listening device able to pick up enemy propeller noises at a distance - just a twelve foot steel pole with a receiver down in the water and a pair of headphones at the inboard end. The deck watch take turns to listen while look-outs scan the horizon.

One unusual incident occurred to one vessel while 'listening in' on Z - line watch. The hydrophone picked up the noise of propellers. An even sharper look-out was kept with eyes and night glasses scanning the sea for E. Boats. The hydrophone operator kept reporting 'propellers getting closer', but nothing could be seen on the surface. Eventually 'propellers very close sir' was followed by a crash and violent rocking of the boat, which had been hit by a German mini-submarine. The crew of the submarine managed to go astern and scuttle their vessel before being taken prisoner themselves !

I understand from J.P. Perkins D.S.C., that the first Officer-in-Charge of H.M.S. Minos was Captain Stoker R.N. retired, but recalled or 'dug out' at the outbreak of war. He goes on -"Originally there were only M.L. flotillas {6th & 11th M.L. flotillas presumably, A.M.T.} (B type Fairmile 117 ft. overall twin Hall Scott engines) max. speed about 20 knots and very poorly gunned - forward an old three pounder semi-automatic (firing about ten rounds a minute) some had been dug out of museums and barracks, a machine gun or two, and aft a most awful gun - meant to be a two pounder automatic - but it never worked without jamming and most ships never bothered to uncover it at sea.

There were approximately eight boats in each flotilla, {to date my records do not show as many as this, but I understand that the records are at fault A.M.T.} and a crew of about 15. Their main role at this time (autumn 1940) was to take up station almost each night at the rear of northbound convoys, or sometimes alongside, mainly to pick up survivors from any ship sunk by either air, or E. Boat action. I think they played a useful role and heard it said that some Merchant Navy skippers would not proceed up E. Boat Alley without them. On arrival at the Humber, usually the following morning, the M.L.'s proceeded to Immingham to fuel and prepare to join the next south bound convoy. Tiring work in long winter nights and station keeping in the dark in rough weather was difficult.

During about Feb. - March 1941 the first of the M.T.B.'s were coming into service. The Short Vasper Type, 70ft. long, 3 Pachard engines, 40 knots, 2 x 21" torpedoes etc., (1 twin Oerlikon aft (20 mm) 1 single Oerlikon forward (20 mm) and possibly twin machine-guns on stand). "I was posted to one of the first of these and arrived in Lowestoft with Peter Dickens, D.S.O., D.S.C., about August 4th and joined 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla. We started offensive work off the Dutch Coast and round to the East of Berkums Riff, Friesian Islands. This took the Germans by surprise and some successful operations took place between the two of us. Gradually, 22nd Flotilla filled up (8 boats) and Peter Dickens took his flotilla (21st M.T.B.) down to Felixstowe. Lt. Denis Long became S.O. of the 22nd. At this time the C.O. of Mantis was Commander K.L.M. Barnard R.N. (retired but recalled). He had one eye, (was said to have lost the other during the first world war) and was affectionately known as 'One fixed - one flashing', a reference to his one 'good' eye and light buoy descriptions. He was very efficient.

The Officers' Mess in the Royal Hotel was manned by W.R.N.S. and was extremely comfortable. We were all honorary members of the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club and we used this a lot. It had its good times. A comfortable mess - W.R.N.S. - "(!!)" not too long at sea each time. However, when at sea doing high speeds, at times in rough weather, very uncomfortable and wet. For a young man to be C.O. of his own boat at 21-23 compared with being a non-entity in a battleship was a satisfactory and rewarding way to fight the war. There was a lot of social life ashore at dance-halls and many cinemas. But we suffered casualties, some of my great friends, but the bodies seemed to be hurried ashore and buried at some remote Lowestoft cemetery. I must find out whence they were all buried and go back there, before it's too late, in remembrance."

I think that John Perkins last paragraphs express so well the light-hearted humour of the young servicemen during the war, (it was probably part of their own personal self-defence) and also the great sadness and loss that they felt at the death of colleagues; a sadness, as he expresses so well, that they still feel today.

This article will be continued in next year's Annual Report. I still have a good deal of material to use but I am also 'hungry' for even more information. If any ex-member of Coastal Forces feels that anything I have written needs correcting, do please write to me.

Refs:- Night Action - P. Dickens D.S.O., M.B.E., D.S.C.

Battle of the Narrow Seas - Sir Peter Scott M.B.E., D.S.C.

## Appendix A

## CHAIN OF COMMAND (EAST ANGLIA COASTAL FORCES)

H.Q. C. in C. The Nore (Chatham)

Captain Coastal Forces (Nore)  
(from February 1943)

I		
I	I	I
C.O.	C.O.	C.O.
H.M.S. Midge (Gt. Yarmouth)	H.M.S. Mantis (Lowestoft)	H.M.S. Beehive (Felixstowe)
I		
I	I	I
S.O. (Flotilla Leader) of each flotilla M.G.B's. 5th 7th	S.O. (Flotilla Leader) of each flotilla M.T.B's. 4th 11th 21st 22nd 30th 31st 58th	S.O. (Flotilla Leader) of each flotilla M.L's. 6th 11th 13th

**THE LOWESTOFT SCENE 1989 TO 1990***by Jon Reed*

The effect of this year's storms could well have been as catastrophic as the October 1987 one. However, Lowestoft has, with a few exceptions, escaped more lightly. The number of trees lost or damaged has been much lower than in 1987, possibly because the deciduous trees were bare. There have been the expected roof, fence and greenhouse problems and one tragic accident when a man in Gorleston Road was killed by his garden wall falling on him. The bell tower of St. Mark's Church in Oulton Road had to be taken down after it was seen to be rocking about 6" out of the vertical in the late February gales. The main road was closed between Victoria Road and Cotmer Road for twenty four hours while mobile cranes were used to make it safe.

The north pier of Southwold harbour suffered damage in the storms and is at the moment in danger of collapse if there are any more gales. During the storms the Lowestoft to Norwich railway line was closed for some time while fallen trees were cleared from the tracks. The Ipswich line has had its problems, though not so much due to the weather. Two fatal accidents, have occurred, one apparently due to faulty signals. Signal problems have caused trains to have to stop at ungated crossings and then crawl over.

A block of flats is rising on the old Watsons Engineering site in St. Peter's Street. Watsons closed down in 1985. In general, new building is beginning to improve after a very lean period for the builders (although they were very busy after the storms). Another good sign is that houses are starting to sell again, albeit at lower or prices (sometimes as low as 75%) than before the bottom fell out of the market some two years ago. The Maltings at Oulton Broad are now virtually completely developed as a residential area. The final stage, the conversion of the eastern maltings building, is well on the way

to completion. A new scheme has started on the Esplanade with the conversion of bedsits into flats. The co-operation between Waveney and the owners will extend to 44 homes. Although it will not change the facades of the buildings, life will be much more comfortable for the occupants,

In the London Road North precinct, the situation has been fairly stable. One new store has opened on the site of the old Eastern Counties bus office, next to Woolworths. Some shops have changed hands or ceased trading. Movement of shoppers has been hampered in recent weeks by some extensive work on the paving.

The saga of the Sparrow's Nest Theatre continues, with various proposals for its use - or to demolish it. Claims and counter-claims as to its safety are being bandied about. At the moment Waveney Council appear to be set on taking it down but are keeping an open ear to any offers to buy it for development. Meanwhile the Marina continues to offer a wide variety of entertainment, although the attendance at some of the events is in line with Lowestoft's reputation for not bothering. The Hollywood Cinema, which opened on London Road South about a year ago, is offering a good programme of films.

There is no firm news yet on the future of Mortons in Belvedere Road, although that corner is undergoing some changes. The pub at the Mortons gates has re-opened, as the Glue Pot. Readifreeze has had to vacate its premises, which are currently covered in scaffolding, and Jewsons have demolished the building on the corner, which now appears to be used for timber storage. A.R. Motorcycles at the junction of Katwijk Way and St. Peter's Street is having a two-storey extension built.

It is reported that Shell U.K. have acquired South Lodge in Pakefield and are converting it into seven apartments for employees on oil and gas rigs, with some accommodation for visitors. At least the facade of the building will be preserved.

The convent in South Lowestoft is closing down, the building having been bought by a developer. The sisters are dispersing to other Houses.

On the roads the big news is that firm Government proposals have been announced for the third crossing and the north and south relief roads. With a budget of £60M, the scheme will now go to public consultation, with local residents in the affected areas already voicing their opposition. Work should start in five years time, though it is not explained why it should take so long. North of the harbour the road will join the one currently being built through the wooded area of Normanston Park. A new traffic light is being put in at Lowestoft Station as part of the new road system continues into Denmark Road. It appears that the new road will be dual carriageway from the Pakefield roundabout (or even the north end of the Kessingland bypass?) all the way to join the existing dual carriageway at Corton.

No work has yet been done on the revision of the A146 through Oulton Broad, although various affected parties are making plans. The club opposite Hayden's Chemists has bought the King Alfred pub at Burnt Hill and is well on the way with conversion. The Ellough relief road further west along the A146 is in full use. The Barnby bends have claimed some more victims, but the unofficial "black spot" sign seems to be having some effect on the behaviour of today's impatient motorists. Another proposal is on the table for a Wrentham bypass, which will be dual carriageway and may link up with the Kessingland bypass. It seems that Lowestoft will at last be easier to approach from the south - though most of the proposals do not appear to be scheduled for completion before the end of the century.

The gipsy transit camp site dispute was settled during the year. It will now be sited at the northern roundabout of the Kessingland bypass, which is very close to the Council tipping site opposite Pontins. This site is now an eyesore with rubbish and rough soil over thirty feet high, attended by thousands of seagulls. It is due to be sealed in the near future.

Finally, the sad story of the old net store on the Beach. This was so neglected by the owner, in spite of Council orders to maintain it, that it fell down. This was one of the few remaining pieces of Lowestoft's past, and its demise is more than just a matter for regret. The neglect verges on the criminal, particularly since it appears to have been allowed to happen in order to develop the site to make money.

I have probably missed some of the events and changes in the past year, for which I apologise. However, I can only work on information received, which has been rather sparse in the last twelve months.

**EVENTS SOUNDING THE POLL TAX OF 1381***by Ms. Hazel Golder***RICHARD II (OP BORDEAUX) 1377-1399**

King Richard was the son of the Black Prince and his character has always been something of a puzzle to historians. He was handsome but effeminate, fond of the arts and personal display ("his dress was stiff with gold and gems"), hot tempered and capable of great cruelty, but there were occasions, such as that when he sent back the peasants who rose under Watt Tyler, whom he showed great courage.

**THE PEASANTS REVOLT 1381**

In May 1381 a tax collector called John Bampton was sent by the King to Fobbing in Essex to check on people who had refused to pay the King's poll tax. The townspeople told Bampton that they would have nothing to do with him, nor give him one penny, and expelled him from the town.

The King then sent some soldiers in but, by the time they arrived on 2nd June, the men of Fobbing had been joined by other men of East Anglia and the soldiers were successfully driven out.

Kent and Essex now became alive with revolt. The Kent rebels attacked Dartford on 4th June, Rochester fell on the 6th and Maidstone on the 7th. Here they chose as their leader Watt Tyler, a capable General who was called by one writer, 'The greatest robber in Kent'. Under his leadership they pillaged the Archbishop's Palace at Canterbury and then marched towards London, to Blackheath. At the same time the Essex rebels reached Mile End.

Meanwhile, in London, the fourteen year old King Richard II and Archbishop Sudbury of Canterbury, had taken no defensive measures. On 13th June some London citizens who supported the rebels, allowed Tyler's army to enter the City by London Bridge; the Essex army entered similarly by Aldgate. Both armies converged on the Palace of John of Gaunt and ransacked it.

It is interesting to note here that it should have been a simple matter to keep them from joining up: London Bridge was the only way by which the Kent contingent could cross the Thames, and of its twenty arches one carried a drawbridge which could be raised to allow boats through - or, at a time like this, to bar the approach to the City. Whether this was not done through negligence or the surreptitious help of local sympathisers we can only surmise.

Tyler insisted that there should be no looting. One man who stole a silver goblet was hung by the rebels.

The King fled to the Tower to defend himself and there agreed to go the following day to Mile End to meet the Essex rebels. At this meeting they asked him for the abolition of serfdom and the King agreed (this promise was not kept) so the men of Essex then began to go home.

However, while the King was at Mile End, Watt Tyler's men broke into the Tower, dragged out Sudbury, beheaded him and placed his head on London Bridge. This started a whole series of massacres in the Capital, particularly of foreign merchants and workers.

The King could only hide for the night amid this terrible slaughter. On the next day he agreed to meet Watt Tyler at Smithfields to hear the grievances of the men of Kent. During the discussions (so the story goes) Tyler asked for a drink and when he had drunk it his hand fell back and touched his sword. The Mayor of London, thinking that the rebel leader had intended to kill the King, cut him down immediately. As soon as they saw this the rebels took up their arms but, again, as the story goes, Richard bravely spurred his horse towards them and cried, 'Sirs, will you shoot your King? I shall be your Chief and Captain, and you shall have from me what you seek. Only, follow me to the fields outside the City.'

The King's bravery ended the revolt and by nightfall most of the rebels were making their way home under royal escort. Gradually, other riots that had occurred all over the south of England died out. In December 1387 the King published a pardon from which only a few individuals were excluded.

The only real benefit that the rebels gained from the King was the ending of the poll tax that started the revolt.



## THE POLL TAX

In the year 1379 King Richard II hold his Parliament in London. It began on the Wednesday after Easter and it granted the King a tax so wonderful that no one had ever seen or heard of it's like before. This is the way that it was to be paid :-

Each Earl of England	£4.
Each Baron or Knight	40s.
Each Squire of Lesser Estate	6s. 8d.
Each Justice on the Bench	100s.
The Mayor of London	£4.
All Merchants	13s .4d. or 6s. 8d. or 3s. 4d.
Each Archbishop	£6. 15s. 4d.
Each married man for himself and his wife, if they do not belong to the people above mentioned, and are over the age of sixteen, genuine beggars excepted, is to pay	4d.

Many people, however, evaded the Poll Tax and only about £22,000 was gained from it. Two other Poll Tax's were approved in 1380 and 1381, and the last one charged one shilling per head and appointed tax collectors called Commissioners with very wide powers.

Principle Sources - The Medieval World by J. Jones

## MEMORIES OF OLD LOWESTOFT

*by Mrs Molly Pincott*

Coming along Corton Road towards Lowestoft in the 1920's there was a rough path to the left at the bottom of the hill, and this was always known as Tramps Alley. On the right was Morse's farm and farmhouse. At the top of the hill there was a golf links, and this continued up to another rough path which led to the Warren Houses. These houses had a well outside - the water coming from a spring which came down the cliff. The North Denes led on to the swimming pool where there was a tuck-shop, and next door was a children's playground with see-saws, slides, swings and a paddling pool. One paid a shilling at the start of the summer and this entitled the child to visit the playground whenever they liked for the season. A Mr. & Mrs. Bull kept the playground.

On the other side of the Denes were the rails where the fishermen hung their nets to dry. Children used to swing about in these nets. On the other side of the road was the Ravine Score which also had a spring leading into an iron pedestal which held a fountain. This had chains hanging from it with iron cups and anyone could use these to get a drink of spring water.

In the Sparrow's Nest was an old house where a Mr. & Mrs. Smith lived. He was the head gardener. There were also a lot of sheds inside the cobbled wall.

Further along the Whapload Road were the Gasworks with pile's and piles of coke outside, also huge gasometers.

The sea wall was quite wide and one could get a bus from outside the South Pier for a ride right along the sea wall. There were the ruins of another sea wall several yards out to sea and children played on them when the tide was out. The sea wall at the north end, is another new one - the third to be built.

In the High Street on the left was an old house which Mr. & Mrs. Jo Harris occupied. This, like the old Warren Houses, never had proper foundations, with brick floors.

The Vicarage was next to Arnold House. It was a bay-windowed house with steps at the front. Then there were a row of flat windowed houses, the Misses Bevan living in one.

On the other side of the High Street was the Belle Vue Public House where Mr. & Mrs. Houghton were mine host.

Next door to this was the Ness Garage managed by Mr. Bowler. At the corner of Camden Street was the Jubilee public house. This was bombed beyond repair in the war.

There was a large garage and repair workshop owned by Watsons between Camden Street and Osborne Street.

Around St. Margaret's Church were the church fields, with footpaths leading to Oulton Road, Yarmouth Road, and all directions. A spring went into a pond in front of an old cottage belonging to a Mr. & Mrs. Allen. This spring was still there when houses were put up at the end of Europa Road, and tenants had to move out for the council workers to pump concrete under them.

Bertram Mills circus had a large circus on the church fields, and during the 1939-45 war a prisoner-of-war camp was there. The prisoners built the roads on what is now the Gunton Estate.

On the other side of Yarmouth Road was a rough path, we used to call it Hubbards Loke. On the left of the Loke were two large iron gates. These led to the driveway of Gunton Old Hall owned by the Fowler family. The drive was lined with bamboo, and when dried the canes were used for the flowers and staking the vegetables. The hall was a lovely house holding a lot of pottery and china ware. Miss Georgina Fowler lived there, and in her latter time she had a huge black car which looked like an old London taxi. Her driver was a man called Bemment. There was a large walnut tree in the grounds, with a kitchen and a flower garden. The hall also had a conservatory with many exotic plants there. A footpath led to the back of Gunton Church, and there was a row of cottages belonging to the Fowlers used by the hall workers.

The cottage nearest to the Church was occupied by the Doggett family, who were Hall workers.

The railway ran from the Central station, though Lowestoft North and via Great Yarmouth all the way to Melton Constable in Norfolk. At times the train came close to toppling over the cliff due to coast erosion.

St. Margaret's Institute was in Alexandra Road, where Girl Guides, Brownies etc. had their meetings. The Sunday school was held there by Sister Stonehewer.

In the High Street was a cinema known as the Regent, but local people called it the flea pit, as it was said that for a penny you came out with more than you went in. One of the last films to be shown there was 'The Mill on the Floss'.

There was a millionaire named Hollingsworth lived on the North Parade where Briar Cliffe School is now. He was a tubby little man with auburn hair, brown tweed suit, and light tan shoes, and could be seen walking up and down the North Parade several times daily with his cane walking stick in his hand. Hollingsworth Road is named after him.

The trams ran from Pakefield straight through the town to the Belle Vue Park. They had wooden seats, and the conductors issued long thin tickets which children folded and made into concertinas.

The fair came to Lowestoft twice a year. In April, and again in late September/October. Huge vans, trucks, and lorries came loaded up with swing boats, side shows, and stalls. One could pay a penny and see the headless man, fattest woman in the world, and go on countless roundabouts. The fair was held in Norwich Road, on land belonging to the Thurston family. Children thought it was lovely to go home clutching a piece of newspaper containing a pennyworth of fair rock.

There were several places for children to go in Lowestoft. One of the favourites was a large piece of land between the North Parade and Corton Road known as 'the common'. It was full of pathways between blackberry bushes and gorse bushes, and children could safely play hide and seek there.

Normanston Park was another favourite play area. There was a sunken garden to the right of the entrance to the park. At the south end of the town was Kirkley Gardens where they had a small zoo with rabbits, monkeys and small animals in.

Every Autumn the fisher girls came from Scotland to gut the herrings. This was done on the beach area of Lowestoft on the Pickling plots. The girls threw the fish over their shoulders after they gutted them, and it was very rare for one to land on the ground instead of in the fish barrels. On the other side of Whapload Road were the Kipper houses. A large bag of kippers could be had from the smoke houses for a few pennies.

The Park Mansion houses at the corner of North Parade and Corton Road were known as the High houses, and the house at the top of the Ravine Score was owned by a Dr. Thyssen.

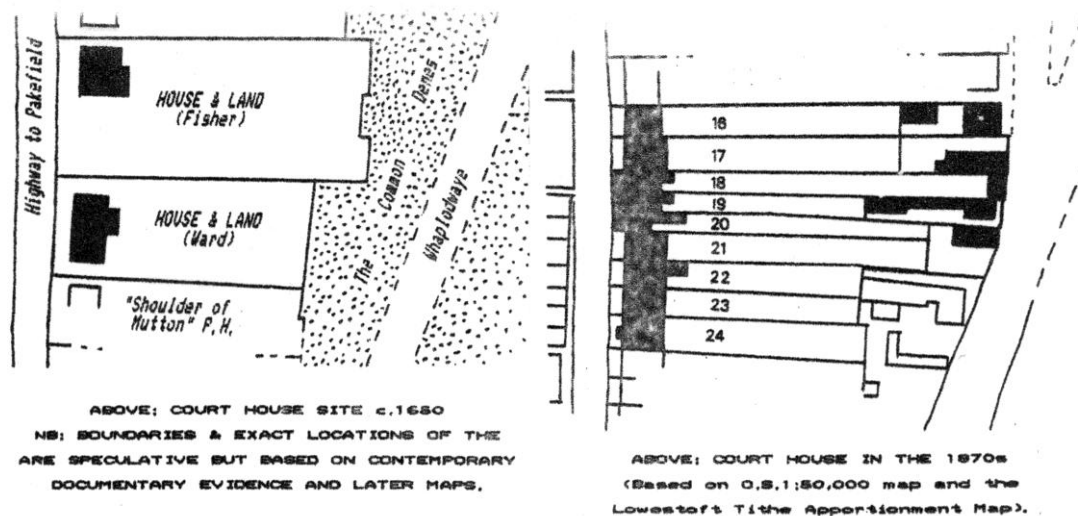
## LOWESTOFT'S NEW COURT HOUSE A POTTED HISTORY OF THE SITE

*by Ivan Bunn*

It is possible to trace the history of the site back to the 16th Century. It is situated at the southern extremity of the ancient town known as 'The South End'. Until the building of the new police station and the Court House this had always been a residential area.

Until the early 19th Century, when the "new" Turnpike Road (now London Road North) was built, Old Nelson Street was the 'Highway to Pakefield', a continuation of the main thoroughfare of Lowestoft. A role which it has again assumed in recent years!

In early Victorian times the road was simply 'Nelson Street' after Lord Nelson. During the massive growth of Lowestoft in the mid-19th Century a newly-laid out road was named 'New Nelson Street' (it was later changed to 'Trafalgar Street') and it seems that, to avoid confusion, the prefix 'old' was added to the original Nelson Street. According to local tradition it was so called because Lord Nelson himself passed this way en route to Barsham Rectory to visit his uncle.



The area now occupied by the Court House covers the sites of two large houses and their extensive grounds, both of which date back to the 16th Century, and whose foundations probable date from an even earlier period.

The northern property stood at the top of the cliff with over an acre of land reaching eastwards to waste land which at that time separated it from Whaplode Road, an ancient trackway giving access to the denes and known 400 years ago as "Whaplode way".

In August 1593, a prosperous Lowestoft Yeoman, Simon Fisher, purchased this messuage from one Alice Money and it subsequently became his main residence. After Simon's death, the property passed to his son, Richard (a fisherman), who built a second house to the south of the old one. In turn, Richard's son, Mark (a cordwainer), inherited the two houses and built yet another between them. By the early 1700's, the land with its buildings had passed to Mark Fisher's two daughters. In 1720 the site was described as "five tenements".

The southern property was another substantial dwelling-house with land, which had come into the hands of the famous Arnold family of Lowestoft when it was purchased in 1590 by John and Margaret Therneton, alias Arnold.

During the next eighty years or so the property changed hands a number of times. In 1669 it was acquired by Henry Ward, a wealthy merchant, brewer and non-conformist of Lowestoft. Henry owned many properties and small estates in the town, amongst which were his brewery (which stood on the site of the present Triangle Market), and a farmstead where today the Marina and Gateway Supermarket stand, only a stones-throw from the Court House. The property continued in his family well into the 18th Century, by which time it too had been divided into (if not replaced by) several tenements.

To the south of the present Court House site, in the early 1700's, was a public house at the sign of

'The Shoulder of Mutton' which was established around 1618. Because of the difficulties in identifying the boundaries of those old properties, it is possible that part of the land belonging to this old 'pub' has also been incorporated into the Court House site.

In these early days, the prospect from the houses here was considerably different from that of today. Before the construction of Lowestoft Harbour (1830-1860), the sea came much closer to the rear of site than it does today, and the houses standing high on the cliff-top commanded panoramic views of the denes and the sea to the east. To the west, until Victorian times, the houses overlooked farm land stretching away to Oulton Broad. The once fine terrace of Victorian houses opposite the Court House was constructed in the 1850's.

Between the years 1600 and 1700 there was change of usage in the properties on the site. From being substantial "up-market" houses, (with equally substantial owners) they became divided into smaller, lower-class tenements. At the same time there was considerable "in-filling" between the original properties. This pattern was repeated the whole length of the street during this period.



ABOVE: THE SOUTHERN END OF OLD NELSON STREET IN THE 1870's  
THE SITE OF THE COURT HOUSE IS MARKED BY THE TALL  
HOUSES IN THE MIDDLE BACKGROUND.

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## VICTORIAN TIMES

Having looked at the early background of the site and established its pattern of development; a pattern that moulded the layout of the whole street for over 200 years, we now come forward in time to the 19th Century.

In the 1850's there were more than 35 properties, forming a continuous row, on the east side of Old Nelson Street (there were only 9 properties here in 1650). There is evidence that some of these properties contained the remains of the ancient houses, as can still be seen today in the shops and houses further north in Lowestoft High Street.

By this date the grounds of Fisher's property had encroached onto the waste to the east and reached as far as Whaplode Road. Quite early on most of this piece of land, fronting Whaplode Road, had been separated from the original and sold; workshops being erected there.

The original eastern boundary of Henry Ward's property remained unchanged. The waste to the east had been enclosed by someone else. Today this former piece of waste is occupied by the garage and workshops below the Court House and accounts for the 'L' shape of the overall site.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the houses in Old Nelson Street provided homes for a cross-section of Lowestoftians, but in particular they seemed to be favoured by the artisans and semi-professionals of the town.

In 1871 the properties on the Court House site were numbered 16 to 24 Old Nelson Street. Those on the site of Fisher's house were Nos. 16 to 20; the rest were on the site of Ward's house. What part, if any, of the original houses remained is uncertain, but there is evidence that not all of them had been demolished and rebuilt. No. 16 Old Nelson Street was occupied in 1861 by a local "Solicitor & Notary Public", William Rix Seago. In the 1880's his son, Frank (also a Solicitor), occupied the house and he grandly named it 'The Mansion'; possibly because it was the house which Simon Fisher had purchased back in 1590 (the location would be right).

The two southern-most properties on the site were part of a row which, in the 1850's and 60's was called "Old Terrace" (there were five properties in this terrace) and at this time they were numbered

separately from the rest of the houses in the street. Later the row was renamed "South Terrace" but by the 1870's it had lost its separate identity and had become incorporated into the consecutive numbering of the street. In the 1920's and 30's it was still known locally as "Ancient Terrace" and it seems likely that it dates back to the early housing on the site.

Space does not permit more than a brief mention of the people who occupied Nos. 16 to 24 at this time, but the following, extracted from the Census of 1881, gives a good picture of the cross-section of people who inhabited these houses at this times :-

No. 16 'The Mansion'

Frank Seago (Solicitor) his wife Mary, 3 children and 3 servants.

No. 17 'Strowan House'

John Robertson (Collector of H.M. Customs) his wife, 2 daughters and a servant

No. 18 George Yallop (Master Mariner) wife and 4 children

No. 19 Hannah Peachman (Mangling Woman) a 42 year old widow with 3 children and 2 lodgers

No. 20. Margaret Matthews (Costume Maker's Assistant) a 51 year old widow; 3 adult children

No. 21 Emma Barnes (Commercial Agents Wife)

No. 22 William Burroughs - aged 34 (Fish Merchant) his wife Ann and 6 children

No. 23 'Pelham House'

Joseph Foyster aged 56 (retired Bank Manager) wife, 2 children and a 'general servant'.

No. 24, James Nash aged 62 (Fish Merchant) 2 grown-up daughters and 1 servant

Two years later, No. 17 'Strowan House' had become a "Young Ladies School", run by a Miss Robertson who, presumably, was one of the daughters of John Robertson, the Customs Officer. There is an interesting tale, still current in the 1930's, concerning 'Strowan House'. It was said that carved into a beam in a bedroom here were the words 'Lady Hamilton Slept Here'. Nobody seems to remember having seen this, but perhaps Lord Nelson did more than simply pass through Old Nelson Street. It might be, however, that there is some connection here with the Lady Hamilton, who had an early Lowestoft lifeboat dedicated to her name. Her husband, Lord Claud Hamilton (Chairman of the Great Eastern Railway Co.) gave his name to the nearby Hamilton Dock in the early 1900s.

Reflecting the rapid growth of Lowestoft at this time, many of the houses took in lodgers to provide accommodation for all the labourers and seamen (together with their families) who were flocking into town.

One house here in 1851 (it is uncertain which, but was possibly No. 21) was occupied by one John Kerrick, a "Magistrate and landed Proprietor". He lived with his 46 year old wife Mary, 8 sons and daughters (whose ages ranged from three months to 22 years) and a bevy of servants. There was his cook, footman, nurse, lady's maid, nursemaid and housemaid - a regular little "Upstairs, Downstairs"!!

END OF AN ERA

From the early 18th century until the Second World War, Old Nelson Street was a bustling, lively community - a far cry from the soulless, contrived atmosphere which pervades its environs today. It was in effect a microcosm of it's period; a community which simply grew and evolved.

Change, when it came, was relatively abrupt. During the 2nd World War, being close to the Harbour, Old Nelson Street was heavily bombed, and within a very short period most of the houses were destroyed or damaged beyond repair - the bulk of the destruction being done in 1941.

An aerial photograph taken in 1947 shows only two houses standing on the eastern side of the street between the southern boundary of the Court House site and Herring Fishery Score to the north. Seven years earlier there had been over 20 houses here. On the Court House site itself, all but one of the houses had gone; the remaining one was Mr. Seago's 'Mansion' (No. 16).

After the war, there was only a half-hearted attempt at rebuilding in Old Nelson Street. In total only seven houses were replaced (two of which were the original houses refurbished). No. 16 was rebuilt and a new house was built just to the south of it. Both of these were on the site of Simon Fisher's old house. The site of Henry Ward's house remained vacant until the erection of the Court House.

That really, is the end of the story. The new police station has obliterated the northern end of the street. The Court House now fills the middle portion and the last few ancient houses at the southern end (all of which escaped devastation by German bombs) were demolished a few years ago to provide

car parking facilities.

This article is dedicated to the generations of Lowestoftians who, in the past, made the Court House site their home.

Special thanks to the following who helped with material :-

Jack Rose, David Butcher, Staff of the Lowestoft Branch of the Suffolk Record Office, Site Staff of R.G. Carter Ltd.

#### SOURCES

Lowestoft Manor Court Rolls (Suffolk Record Office)

Lowestoft Parish Registers

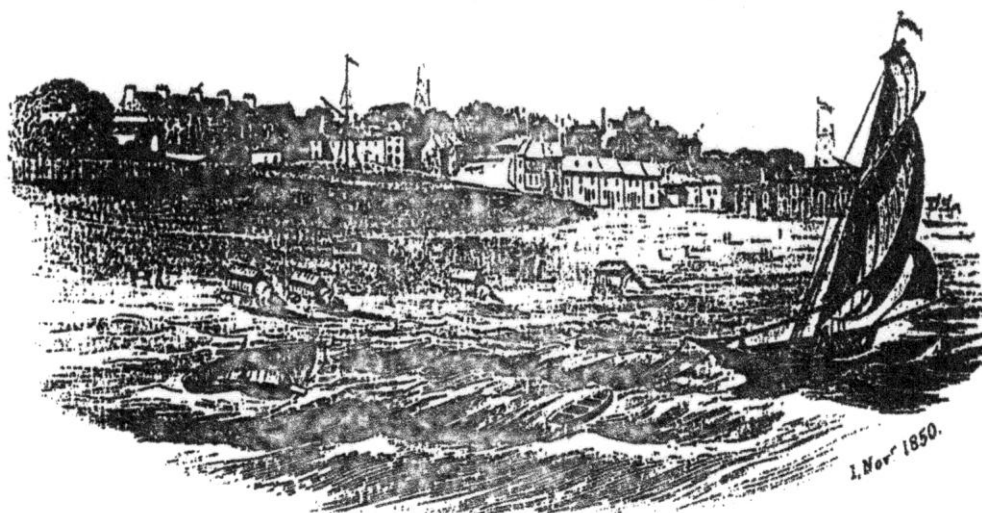
Census Returns (1841-1881)

Lowestoft Directories (1837 to date)

Court House site plans (courtesy of R.G. Carter Ltd.)

OS 1: 50,000 Maps (1836 to date)

Miscellaneous prints and photographs of Old Nelson Street



## PAKEFIELD WINDMILL

*by Mary Goffin*

A Mill was in existence at Pakefield in 1514, but we only know this from a Will of William Orwyn, of that date in the Record Office at Ipswich. A Mill was also mentioned in a Conveyance dated 1719, but the position was not given. In 1981, Miss Claxton, of Florence Road kindly loaned her old deeds dated 1714-1907, to the Society for transcription. These deeds referred to the windmill which stood near the present Pakefield Skoda Garage in London Road, Pakefield. Mill Villa and a row of houses known as Windmill Villas are still there, but the windmill itself was blown down in 1881, and the whole structure pulled down in 1888. Reports of the progress of transcribing these documents were published in the monthly newsletter of the Society in February, March and October 1981 and February 1982. A copy of the complete transcription was presented to Miss Claxton in the winter of 1981. Here I want to record the most interesting points in each document, but, as in all legal documents, there is a lot of repetition. {Note: some of the spelling is quoted verbatim - Editor }

Our first document states it is, "a copy Indenture made 13 June 1714 and in the 30th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne by ths Grace of God, Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc." In it are named 22 of the Principal Inhabitants of the. parish of Pakefield and mention of road names like, 'Saltgate Way leading from Rothinghall Heath to Bucks Heath and Stork Green' - Gleab Lands – a town peice. It also mentions that, "as the parish adjoins the sea and frequent high tides and tempestuous weather carried away parts of the Cliff and Land and many dwelling houses causing decay and disuse of the fishery by which many families had subsisted." This

being the reason for the principal inhabitants to agree to the Inclosure of the Town Lands to enable further houses to be built. The Annual Rent of the Town Lands was 30/- and if a ¼ part was leased for 5/- for each p.a. for 999 years, "the said Inclosure of Land is a great improvement in Rent" so John Fowler and William Manthorpe were granted the Leases, the money to be paid to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Pakefield on the Feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel or within 40 days.

4th & 5th Nov., 1766 Lease and Release. In the 7th year of reign of our Sovereign Lord George III by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith etc. In this document William Page of Pakefield, miller, who purchased the windmill from Francis Stamford on 17 August, 1719, sells it to Francis Thornton of Lowestoft, carpenter, for £40.

9th & 10th October 1768 Lease and Release. In the 8th year of the reign of George III, Francis Thornton sells the windmill to John Crouching of Somerleyton, miller, for £90. Both Francis Thornton and John Crouching were unable to write and 'signed' the deeds by marking a X.

12th October, 1768 Mortgage of windmill - John Crouching to Francis Thornton to secure £50 and for 1000 years, but if John Crouching pays £52.10s. to Francis Thornton before 12 October 1769, then the mortgage is cancelled. There is a Covenant that if the Windmill be blown or broken down and the money not paid then Francis Thornton can re-possess it.

16th April, 1771 Bill of Sale - John Crouching to Francis Thornton. John Crouching acknowledges that he is in debt for £53.2s.5d. - mortgage money and interest on security of the windmill being on the common called Bucks Heath. As the windmill in December 1770 was "blown down and greatly injured and now lyes near the place it was lately standing" Francis Thornton will discharge the debt and the mill reverts to Francis Thornton.

27th & 28th May, 1772 in 12th year of the reign of George III. Francis Thornton and John Crouching sell the windmill to Robert Winson, miller, of Somerleyton for £35. Francis Thornton is still designated 'of Lowestoft Carpenter' but John Crouching is now 'of Corton Yeoman'. The mill is described as standing at Bucks Heath, Pakefield.

26th & 27th October, 1780 in 21st year of the reign of George III. Robert Winson of Pakefield, miller, sells the windmill to John Ostler of Great Yarmouth, miller, for £100.

1st March, 1786 Grant to John Ostler to inclose three roods of common surrounding his mill at Pakefield. Nine copyhold tenants, owners and occupiers of Lands in the Manor of Mutford consent. Request made to Thomas Glover Ewen, gentleman 'as Committee of Estate of Sir Thomas Allin, Baronet, a Lunatic Lord of the said Manor' to grant his permission. It was granted subject to a yearly rent to the Lord or Lady of the Manor of 1/- payable on the Feastday of St. Michael the Archangel for ever. Entered in the Court held 17th December, 1787.

3rd December, 1789 in 30th year of the reign of George III. Conveyance of a Leasehold Messuage and Bakehouse in Pakefield, James Nichols of Great Yarmouth, mariner and his wife, Ann, to John Bales, Innkeeper of Kirtly. Details are given of the inheritance by Ann from her father Thomas Ayers deceased, baker. Details given of Indenture of Inclosure of Town Lands of Pakefield 1714 - size of land and named owners/occupiers of adjoining land - Indenture of 1749 between Thomas Munds of Lowestoft, merchant, and Susannah, his wife, late Susannah Fowler, Jeffery Killot of Gorleston, brewer and Elizabeth his wife and Anne Fowler of Kirtly, spinster, joint Executrix' of John Fowler late of Kirtly deceased and John Ayers of Pakefield, baker. John Fowler the Elder deceased built the messuage and bakery occupied by John Ayers and by Will John Fowler the Younger inherited. 1754 John Ayers willed the land and bakery to his wife, Sarah, and after her decease to his son, Thomas. 1760 Sarah Ayers and Thomas Ayers let to Susan Jolly of Beccles, widow, for 500 years for £31.10s. 1763 Susan Jelly, Sarah Ayers, James Nichols assigned to James Nichols for 500 years. Details given of the death of Sarah Ayers - the Will of Thomas Ayers and his death - his daughter Ann Nicholls' inheritance. £31.10s. and interest still unpaid and exceeds the value of the premises and John Bales purchases from James Nichols and his wife, Ann, the residue of the term of 999 years for £48. i.e. 995 years subject to an annual rent of 5/- to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in Pakefield. Neither James nor Ann Nichols could write.

January 1792 Mortgage of Windmill three roods of land and a new cowhouse for £130 and interest at 5% to be insured for £130 against fire, John Ostler to Avice Moore of Great Yarmouth, spinster. In 32nd year of the reign of George III John Ostler of Pakefield, miller, mortgages the windmill late in the occupation of John Crouching, Robert Winson and now of John Ostler. Details given of

owners/occupiers of land abutting the windmill.

8th July, 1792 six months later a Memorandum and Agreement shows that John Ostler sold his windmill and land adjoining also his dwelling house to Thomas Rockhill for £255. Mr. Ostler to tar the windmill and fence at his expense and the remaining tar to go to Mr. Rockhill.

7th & 8th October, 1792 Lease & Release John Ostler to Thomas Rockhill - In 32nd year of the reign of George III. Thomas Rockhill stated to be of Uggeshall, miller. In this document the name of John Crouching given as being a previous owner is now spelt Crouchon - details given of owners/occupiers of adjoining land as John Ostler owed Avice Moore £130 plus interest but only paid interest so the Mill etc. belongs in law to Avice Moore so Thomas Rockhill pays Avice Moore £150 and John Ostler £125. Edward Bullock of Halesworth, Gentleman as Trustee of John Ostler gets 5/- and Edmund Barber of Uggeshall, Merchant as Trustee of Avice Moore gets 5/-.

2nd August, 1799 Three copies of Gisleham and Pakefield Inclosures - three separate extracts from awards to John Farr, Thomas Rockhill and Samuel Rous. Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament passed in 38th year of the reign of George III entitled "An Act for awarding and inclosing the heaths fen grounds commons and waste lands within the Parishes of Gisleham and Pakefield in the County of Suffolk" The Land is numbered and inclosures have to be fenced and payment made to the Rector of Pakefield. The proportion of Costs and carrying out the Act of Inclosure according to the size of the plot and the computed charges to be paid within one month to Jeremiah Smith of Beccles, Gentleman.



John Farr granted one piece No. 9 of 28 perches - another No. 10 of one rood 28 perches and one piece No. 11 of 8 acres 2 roods 29 perches - To keep in repair the house in his allotment also as certain lands are copyhold of the Manors of Kirkley and Gisleham with Pyes a yearly quit rent of 1 penny per acre plus £51. 1s. plus stamp duty to be paid to the Steward of the Lords of the Manors. 2/- per acre for two years to be paid to the Rector of Pakefield in lieu of tithe and for the next four years 2/- per acre for land used as pasture and 3/6d. per acre for land converted into village. Computed charges for all this land £49. 1s. 3d.

Thomas Rockhill granted a piece of land No. 23 of 2 roods - 1/6d. p.a. to be paid to the Rector of Pakefield in lieu of tithes for six years. Computed charges £2. 4s. 6d.

Samual Rous granted a piece of land No. 33 of 1 rood 2 perches. 1/- p.a. to be paid to the Rector of Pakefield in lieu of tithes for six years. Computed charges £1. 3s. 10d.

6<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1800 John Farr of North Cove, Esquire, oldest son and heir of John Parr late Beccles, Esquire, deceased sells 28 perches of land part of the Award to John Parr Senior in 1799 to Thomas Rockhill of Uggeshall, Miller, for £5. 5s. Jabas Aldred being the occupier. By his Will John Parr Senior appointed Robert Reeve the Younger of Lowestoft, Gentleman and Samuel Smith of Pakefield, Schoolmaster, as his attorneys.

1802 Schedule of Deeds. John Bale's Title Deeds to an estate in Pakefield of an Allotment of 2 roods 2 perches of the Commons of Pakefield and sold to Thomas Rockhill of Uggeshall.



7th July, 1804 Extract from Thomas Rockhill's Will showing his son John, as heir to windmills at Pakefield and Wenhaston but rents etc. to be paid to Thomas' wife, Mary, until son is 21 unless she remarries then monies to be paid for son's education, etc.

22nd & 23rd February, 1814 Lease and Release of land at Pakefield. Samuel Rous to Thomas Rockhill. Samuel Rous of Lowestoft, Fisherman, son and heir of the late Samuel Rous of Pakefield, Yeoman, sells land awarded to Samuel Rous Senior in 1799 for £5. 15s. 6d. to Thomas Rockhill of Uggeshall, Miller and John Hollingsworth of Pakefield, Miller, occupier. Neither Samuel Rous nor John Hollingsworth could write.

No date given – but approx. 1792 A Bill for £3. 9s. 7d. undated from J. Sayers to Thomas Rockhill for legal work including examining the Title to the windmill bought from John Ostler.

30th March, 1814 Particulars of Sale by Auction of Windmill in Pakefield - details given of a Post Windmill comprising two pairs of French Stones one 4 ft. 9 ins. and the other 3 ft. 8 ins. high with a flour mill and going gears complete and a piece of arable land whereon the Mill is erected approximately 3 acres with Stable and Cart Shed. Brick and tile dwelling house used as a double cottage Windmill and promises in occupation of Mr. & Mrs. Hollingsworth who are under notice to quit by Michaelmas - Land tax 12s. - free rent to Lord of the Manor of Mutford 2/- p. a. - free rent to Lord of the Manor of Kessingland 4d. p.a. All freehold except 2 roods 2 perches which leasehold unexpired 898 years.

16th April, 1814 Purchase Article of Agreement and copy. John Rockhill of Stoven, Miller, sells windmill to Benjamin King of Wangford, Schoolmaster, for £682. 10s.

22nd April, 1814 Receipt for Duty on agreement 16s. Purchase to be completed by 11th October, 1814.



WINDMILL.

10th October, 1814 in 55th year of the reign of George III - Bond for security Benjamin King late of Wangford, Schoolmaster, and now of Beccles and Francis Beane of Beccles, Confectioner, borrow £500. at 5% interest from William Woodthorpe of Carlton Colville.

17th & 18th October, 1814 Lease & Release Thomas and John Rockhill to Benjamin King (4 documents) John Rockhill of Stoven, Miller and Thomas Rockhill of Uggeshall, Miller, sell to Benjamin King late of Wangford, Schoolmaster, and now of Beccles land of 1 rood 2 perches for £20. Robert Fiske of Beccles, Gentleman, is involved as Trustee. Details of owners/occupiers of land abutting given.

18<sup>th</sup> October, 1814. in 55th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc. (note France no longer included). John Rockhill to Benjamin King for £662. 10s. Sale of Windmill. In this document John

Rockhill has inherited the Mill via the Will of his late father Thomas Rockhill (see 1804 Will extract - Widow and John to receive rents etc. so long as widow does not re-marry) so there are four parts to the transaction. We find John Rockhill has married Eliza = 1st part, Nathaniel Branson of Brampton, Blacksmith and Mary his wife (late Mary Rockhill widow of John) = 2nd part, Benjamin King late of Wangford, Schoolmaster but now of Beccles = 3rd part, Robert Fiske of Beccles, Gentleman (Trustee named and appointed by and on behalf of B. King) = 4th part. Mary, wife of Nathaniel Branson being entitled to claim Dower on part of the land Covenants with John Rockhill to bar such claim of Dower and Nathaniel and Mary Branson agree to do. This documents repeats names of previous owners/occupiers of adjoining land, some of which is numbered.

One complete page of the original document is missing but further information was taken from the Abstract of 1853 included in the Deeds but not transcribed.

The Covenant above to be made before the Court of Common Pleas at the cost of John Rockhill within the space of 12 months. Land Tax on the mill property now 12/- p.a. Rents suits and services due to the Lords of the Manors of Mutford and Kessingland now 2s. 4d. p.a.

18th October, 1814 Mortgage and Assignment - Benjamin King to William Woodthorpe of Carlton Colville, Farmer, Rev. Thomas Sheriffe of Uggeshall and Rev. George Turner of Kettleburgh and James Cuddon of Beccles, Gentleman. £500. paid to Benjamin King by William Woodthorpe with Windmill as security interest at 5%. Residue of term of 1000 years Lease granted in 1792 assigned to James Cudden in Trust for Willian Woodthorpe "for securing the repayment of £500 and interest".

On the back of this document is 'A Further charge by Indorsement' 17<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1821 i.e. 7 years later - the Mortgage and Interest is still owed by Benjamin King to William Woodthorpe who has now agreed to advance a further £80 at 5% = £580 now owed by Benjamin King. The Windmill etc. to be kept insured for loss or damage by fire in the sum of £600.

1815 a document marked PUGH - A final Agreement re. Covenant to bar claim of Dower etc. made before the Court of Common Pleas - 4 Justices are named as being present who also signed the document. For acknowledgement of the Covenant Benjamin King gives to John and Eliza Rockhill and Nathaniel and Mary Branson £60. The land is now described as 'one message one Windmill two stables one orchard one garden and three acres of land with appurtenances' !

3rd Dec., 1821 Lease - Benjamin King (new described as 'of Pakefield, Miller') John Garrod the Younger of Beccles Currier (i.e. dealer in animal skins - his father was a tanner) and John Machet of Pakefield Farmer - occupiers of cottages near the Church named as Mayes and Muffit but owned by Benjamin King.

4th Dec., 1821 - Release - Conveyance of his real and personal estate in Trust for his Creditors - Benjamin King to Trustees. So six months after adding to his Mortgage Benjamin King is in financial trouble.

John Garrod the Younger of Beccles Currier and John Machet of Pakefield Farmer and "all the creditors of Benjamin King who execute those presents within 2 calendar months. Benjamin King indebted to several creditors in divers sums of money the whole of which he is unable to pay, John Garrod and John Machet to act as Trustees for creditors in the sale of the Windmill etc. In addition to usual "mill stones going gears sails binns etc. books of Account Bills Bonds specialities notes papers and writings of Benjamin King (except wearing apparel of himself and family)" are mentioned to be sold including household furniture.

"Benjamin King at request of Trustees will within six months swear a Corporal Oath before a Master Extra in Chancery and relate a true account and disclose any transactions with Creditors". The Trustees to sell and dispose of the Mill at best price and account to the creditors and pay and distribute to them according to the proportion of their respective debts. If Creditors do not sign within two months they lose their dividend which then passes to other creditors. 16 Creditors signed and all but one could write.

3rd & 4th May, 1822 Lease and Release of Windmill etc. including newly erected roundhouse Benjamin King and his Trustees (John Machet of Pakefield Farmer and John Garrod the Younger of Beccles Currier) to John Lee Farr of North Cove Gentleman. This document shows that Benjamin King Mortgaged the mill for £500 at 5% interest and later in 1821 a further advance of £80 total £580 owed to William Woodthorpe and that £580 and interest still outstanding = £629. 15s. We do not have a notice of it but the document reveals that the Mill etc., was put up for Sale by Public Auction at the Ship Inn Pakefield on 14th January, 1822 and William Woodthorpe was declared the highest bidder at

£610 subject to valuation that 'is to say - two stoves and a gallon copper in the house - 2 iron crows - a corn screen - a sack rope and chain stone ropes - sack barrow - 2 flooring staffs and splines - a new shed - and 4 new sail cloths to be paid in addition' as valuation of these items amounted to £10. 9s. 9d. the total purchase money is £620. 9d. 9d. The Mortgage of £580 plus interest amounting together to £629. 15s. The sum of £620. 9s. 9d. to be retained by William Woodthorpe in part satisfaction and discharge of the Mortgage debt.

31st Dec., 1835 Conveyance Mrs. Mary Woodthorpe and others to Emanuel Foreman. 31 years later - 8 people involved in selling the Windmill etc. 1st part Mary Woodthorpe of Carlton Colville widow (of John), 2nd part Mary Woodthorpe John Woodthorpe of Gisleham Farmer William Woodthorpe of Carlton Colville Gentleman, 3rd John Jex Wood of Oulton Corn Merchant, 4th John King Garrod of Beccles Tanner, 5th John King Garrod and William King Garrod of Beccles Currier (sons of William Henry Garrod), 6th Samuel Morton Peto of Somerleyton Esquire, 7th Emanuel Foreman of Pakefield Miller, 8th Richard Henry Reeve of Lowestoft Gentleman. William Woodthorpe died July 1825 - no issue and Intestate as to Freehold hereditaments mentioned in Lease and Release of May 1822 but his Last Will and Testament of 29th May, 1821 appointed as Executors 1. John Lee Farr of North Cove Esquire, 2. his nephew John Woodthorpe of Carlton Colville Farmer since deceased, 3. John Jex Wood. Freehold hereditaments at Pakefield descended to John Woodthorpe the nephew - eldest son and Heir at Law of John Woodthorpe late of Carlton Colville Farmer deceased eldest brother and Heir at Law of William Woodthorpe - Testator. Will of William Woodthorpe proved by John Woodthorpe the nephew and John Jex Wood in Archdeanery Court of Suffolk 28th December, 1825 power being reserved to John Lee Farr to prove Will but he did not, nor acted as Executor. John Woodthorpe the nephew took possession of Freehold and Leasehold promises as conveyed in May 1827 for his own use and benefit. John Woodthorpe the nephew died 23rd July, 1846. His Will dated 6th June, 1846 'devised all these cottages Mill and hereditaments at Pakefield in the occupation of Emanuel Foreman and others to his son Charles West Woodthorpe with as executors 1. wife Mary Woodthorpe, 2. son John Woodthorpe, 3. son William Woodthorpe. The Will was proved in the Archdeanery Court of Suffolk 7th September, 1846.

Charles West Woodthorpe died 26th January, 1847. His Will dated 1st January, 1847 devised these cottages Mill etc., in occupation of Emanuel Foreman and others to his mother Mary Woodthorpe and appointed his brother John as sole executer. Will proved 22nd July, 1847 in Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Mary Woodthorpe agreed to sell to Emanuel Foreman the Freehold and Leasehold Mill round house etc. for £625. But Indentures of Lease and Release of 3rd May, 1822 not executed by John Garrod so there were doubts as to Legality. John Garrod died at date not known Intestate as to the Estates vested in him as a Trustee but leaving a Will 29th January, 1845 appointing his sons John King Garrod and William Garrod and Thomas Norton since deceased as Executors. Will was proved in 1852 by sons at Episcopal Consistorial Court of Norwich. John King Garrod and William Henry Garrod at request of Mary Woodthorpe have agreed to concur in these presents. Samuel Morton Peto Lord of the Manor of Mutford also agreed to concur in these presents at the request of Mary Woodthorpe for purpose of confirming and establishing the Title John Jex Wood as legal representative of William Woodthorpe also concurs. (All the above explains why 8 peoples were involved in the sale of the Mill to Emanuel Foreman.)

The Freehold and Leasehold of the Mill roundhouse etc. conveyed to Emanuel Foreman who paid £625 to Mary Woodthorpe (but annual rent of 1/- to be paid to Lord or Lady of the Manor of Mutford on Feast day of St. Michael the Archangel) Richard Henry Reeve as Trustee of Emanuel Foreman. Emanuel Foreman declares that if he dies leaving a Widow she shall not be entitled to Dower in the said hereditaments 5/- a piece to William Woodthorpe John Woodthorpe John Jex Wood John King Garrod William Henry Garrod paid by Emanuel Foreman in addition to £625 to Mary Woodthorpe.

1st Feb., 1854 Mortgage Emanuel Foreman of Pakefield Miller agrees with Mary Woodthorpe to borrow £400 and interest at 4½% on the security of the Freehold and Leasehold Mill and hereditaments etc. at Pakefield. If £400 plus interest and no deductions repaid to Mary Woodthorpe by 1st August, 1855 then at the expense of Emanuel Foreman all will be reconveyed to Emanuel Foreman. In default Mary Woodthorpe shall give Emanuel Foreman three months notice demanding payment - at the expiry of notice Mary Woodthorpe may sell by Auction or otherwise to satisfy the principal sum of £400 and interest surplus to be paid to Emanuel Foreman who must keep the premises insured from fire.

21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 1865 Repayment Demand - Mary Woodthorpe gives to Emanuel Foreman three months

Notice of Repayment Demand for £400 and interest.

29<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1866 Reconveyance - Mary Woodthorpe 1st. part - Emanuel Foreman 2nd. part - William Chater of Lowestoft Gentleman 3rd. part. £400 still in Mortgage to Mary Woodthorpe but all interest has been paid. For Consideration of £400 paid to Mary Woodthorpe she conveys the Mill etc. to Emanuel Foreman upon Trust to the use of William Chater.

(The Mortgage document of 1st February 1854 has the Reconveyance of 29th January, 1866 written on the reverse).

29th Jan., 1866 Receipt - Payment of £403. 11 s. 10d. to Emanuel Foreman by James Mickleburgh of Pakefield Bootmaker - Emanuel Foreman pays it to R.H. Reeve (solicitor or trustee for Mary Woodthorpe) to secure discharge of Mortgage.

3rd March, 1866 Conveyance - Emanuel Foreman to James Mickleburgh. Emanuel Foreman of Pakefield Miller sells to James Mickleburgh (who was not married on 1st Jan. 1834) for £400 the Mill etc. James Mickleburgh agrees that his widow if any shall not be entitled to Dower. Schedule gives details of items used or belonging to the Mill.

22nd May, 1907 Alfred James Beane of Lowestoft Carter and Frederick Ernest Beane of Lowestoft Fish Salesman. Alfred sells to Fredkerick for £400 land and buildings known as Rugby Villa Pakefield occupied by Walter B. Thompson which formed part of the premises conveyed to James Mickleburgh by Emanuel Foreman in 1866.

The above are the details from the documents but we also researched in the Record Office at Ipswich and at the Lowestoft Journal for any other snippets of information concerning the Windmill.

1854 from Lowestoft Journal, "A young lady was knocked down and injured by the sails of Mr. Emanuel Foreman's Mill at Pakefield".

1858 from E.E. News, 100 years ago column 1953 (Lowestoft Reference Library) "Mill itself suffered 2 of the sails being torn off by a March gale which damaged many another Windmill in Suffolk".

Directories - Lowestoft Reference Library - by 1879 no miller was listed in that year nor later.

Documents reveal the mill started as a trestle post mill by 1822 a round house had been added. 1866 it is described as 'a working Post Mill with coupon sails; and sail cloths'. In 1879 it was a Smock Tower Mill with three floors of brick, three floors of wood, with Patent sails and it also had an auxiliary engine. It was blown down in 1881/2 and in 1888 the whole structure was pulled down. In two different histories of Pakefield and its Church the Mill is illustrated and in Jack Rose's book 'Lowestoft Album' photograph 38 is said to be the Old Pakefield Post Mill although there is some doubt about it.

The illustration from "Flinton History, the Story of Pakefield and its Church" by B.P.W. Stather-Hunt Rector of Pakefield 1927-1953, was from a drawing by Mrs. Cunningham, wife of the Rector of Pakefield 1814-1856, who before her marriage was Richenda Gurney, sister of Elizabeth Fry.

We have copies of several maps and tithe maps of the area taken from maps in the possession of the Record Offices of both Suffolk and Norfolk. Norfolk is involved because church records from this area are in the Diocese of Norwich. Now that we have a Record Office in Lowestoft some of the documents and maps we found at Ipswich may well have been transferred.

From these deeds we have extracted all the names of people mentioned, the names of all known millers, old names often used in the Pakefield area.

The "we" refers to the 17 members of our Society and other interested friends who transcribed the 37 documents and 6 typists, of whom only two were members, who typed almost 200 A4 pages in triplicate! One copy was given to the owner of the Deeds, one copy will go to the Record Office in Lowestoft and the third copy will be held in the Library of our Museum in Nicholas Everett Park, where members will be able to use it for further study of Pakefield and district.