

TROSTON
GLIMPSSES OF
THE PAST



JANET BARNARD

TROSTON

GLIMPSSES OF THE PAST

FROM THE ANGLO-SAXONS TO THE 20TH CENTURY



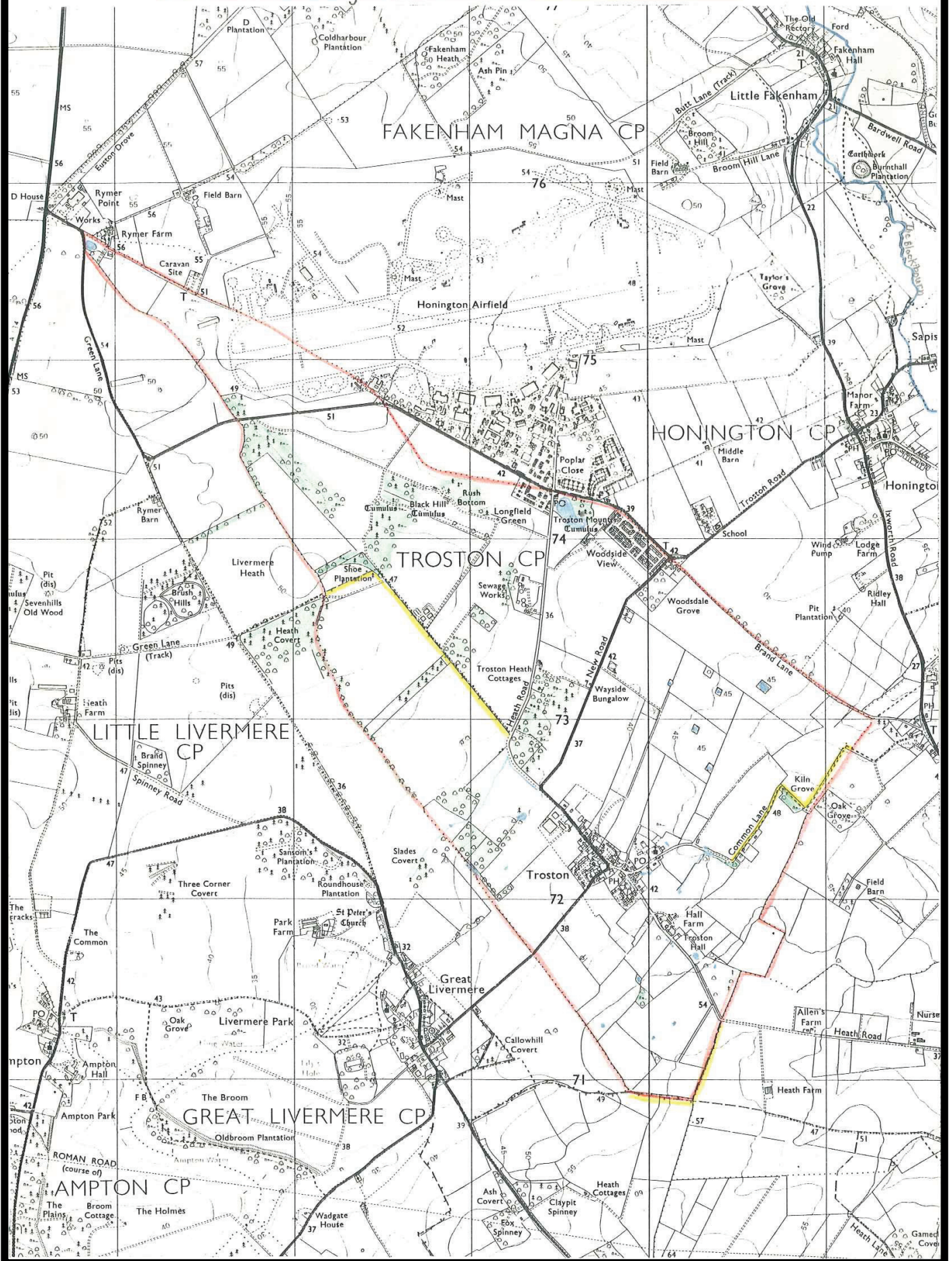
Wesleyan Chapel and Post Office - Early 20th Century

RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY
JANET BARNARD

TYPEWRITTEN BY
VERA GAUGHT

TROSTON - GLIMPSSES OF THE PAST

The Parish of Troston and its Environs.



FOREWORD

Not many villages can boast a local history book as splendid as this one. Travel around Suffolk and most of the people you meet will never have heard of Troston. What this wonderful volume does, however, is to place Troston firmly on the map of Britain, covering life in the village over a period of more than 3,500 years from the early Bronze Age to the late 20th century.

Troston has, indeed, had a colourful history – reflecting the transformation of English society in the day-to-day life of its inhabitants.

We see the drama of changing land holdings following the Norman invasion, evidenced by the dramatic reduction in the number of people living in the village who have Anglo-Saxon names. We learn of the life and times of the local gentry, with benevolent landowners who took an active part in local cultural life, and of the social disruption that followed the land enclosures of the early 19th century. Then there's the collapse of home-grown commerce in the village in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; it is hard to imagine the streets filled with butchers and bakers! We read of the sale of the Troston Estate after World War I, with land being sold off and property ownership once again becoming more diversified.

There's plenty of fascinating personal history in these well-researched pages: find out about the local postman who could neither read nor write; the murderer whose body was hung in an iron gibbet not far from the village; the headmistress at the village school who couldn't control the older boys; and the owner of Troston Hall who fell on hard times and died in a workman's cottage.

Troston is so lucky to have had one resident who took such an active interest in local history.



Janet Barnard

Janet Barnard, a retired history teacher, moved to a house in Garden Fields with her husband Jack in 1980. She rapidly became extremely interested in Troston's past and soon decided to compile a local history, a task which took her around four years of hard, patient and sometimes frustrating work. The book was completed, if a history book can ever be completed, in 1990. Jack tells how Janet practically took up residence at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds and came home weighed down with copious notes and photocopies. Then the evenings were filled up as she meticulously hand wrote the text, and Jack remembers emptying many waste paper baskets full of crumpled-up bits of paper. Her most frustrating times were spent carefully drawing the many maps and charts that so beautifully illustrate this volume, but then having to redraw whenever she made a mistake.

Sadly Janet died in 1995 aged just 62, but Jack has continued to live in Troston for many years, although at the time of going to print he is preparing to move to Bury St Edmunds to be closer to his daughter's family. During his latter years in the village Jack has been living in the Paddock Way bungalow previously occupied by Bill Jaggard, who lived in Troston for 91 years and had been a great source of local anecdotes and other invaluable information for Janet.

Special mention must also be made of Vera Gaught, who transcribed Janet's hand-written

text on to a BBC Microcomputer word processor. The loose-leaf version of this history, which Vera maintained over many years, served its purpose well until the current volume was produced, thanks to a kind donation by someone who wishes to remain anonymous. This book, compiled by Lynne Fugle and Sue Rankin (editors of the Troston Magazine), is a facsimile of the loose-leaf version produced by Janet in 1990. Like its predecessor, which was looked after by a succession of volunteer “keepers of the book”, it is hoped that this edition will continue to be made available to any Troston resident who wants to read it.

To some extent, the volume reflects the time at which it was written. In places, Janet uses phrases like “the present owners of the house” or “this land now belongs to” – and obviously things have changed since those words were penned. Nevertheless, such references only add to the book’s character and charm.

The village has certainly changed since the early nineties and Janet would have had plenty to say about its recent evolution. Hopefully, at some point in the future, somebody will come along to write a small supplement – incorporating the cuttings and notes put together by villagers after Janet’s work was completed – which will take Troston’s history into the 21st century.

Roger Anderson
Troston Lodge
November 2010

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
PART ONE: BRONZE AGE - THE NORMAN CONQUEST	
Earliest Habitation	3
Early Settlement (400 AD - 1086 AD)	3
Aelfhelm Polga	4
Battle of Ringmere	7
PART TWO: THE MIDDLE AGES (1066 - 1500)	
Domesday Book and the Abbey of St Edmund	9
The Charter of Abbot Anselm	11
Abbot Sampson (Lord of the Manor, 1182 - 1211)	11
Tax of 1283	13
Families, Population and the Black Death (1300 - 1500)	14
St Mary's Church in Mediaeval Times	20
Extracts from Troston Wills (1448 - 1478)	21
PART THREE: CHANGING TIMES (1500 - 1700)	
A New Lord of the Manor	25
Descendants of Thomas Bacon	25
Other Families and Places (1500 - 1700)	26
The Glebe Documents	27
The Mid Seventeenth Century	28
The Civil War	28
The Great Plague	33
The 1666 Charity	33
The Hearth Tax	33
The Church (1500 - 1700)	35
A New Family at Troston Hall	35
PART FOUR: THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY	
Poverty	39
Apprentices' Indentures	47
Illegitimate Children	47
The Accounts Books of the Overseers of the Poor	48
Lords of the Manor (1763 - 1900)	49
PART FIVE: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY	
Population	53
Farming: Exchanges of Land	53
Farming: Enclosures of Land	54
The Poor's Estate and Coal Charity	58
Conclusion to the Enclosures	64
The Exchange of the Rectory	64

Glebes and Tithes (1791 and 1820)	68
Glebe Document 1820	69
The Methodist Chapel	69
The Village in the Mid-Nineteenth Century	70
The Vestry Accounts	78
Robert Emlyn Lofft, Lord of the Manor (1866 - 1900)	80
The End of the Nineteenth Century (1881 - 1900)	81

PART SIX: THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The Lofft-Bevan Family (1900 - 1919)	87
The Village before the First World War	87
Troston in Edwardian Times, by Mrs C Rampley	95
Mr Albert Steward, born 1898	95
Mrs Kathleen Mabel Grimwood, born 1905	101
The Late Mr Herbert Arnold, born 1906	102
Mr William Jaggard (brother of Mrs Grimwood), born 1903	102
Troston School	105
Poem about Troston	110
Extract from Workbook	111
The 1919 and 1923 Sales of Troston Estate	113
The 1930s	147
World War Two	147
Post War Troston	148
The Last Thirty Five Years, 1955 - 1990	155
Farms and Farming in the 1980s	159
Troston Farms Ltd 1985 - 1986	160
Community Life	163
Listed Buildings	164
The Family Tree of the Greengrasses 1440 - 1990	171

PART SEVEN: THE GREENGRASS FAMILY

Their Story	173
Conclusion	183
Acknowledgements	183
Bibliography	184

MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Meeting of Parishes at Rymer	2
Pond at Rymer	2
Outline Map of Troston Parish in 1990	5
The Slade	6
Troston Mount and Broadmere	8
St Mary's Church, circa 1980s	18
St Mary's Church Tower and Porch, circa 1980s	18
St Mary's Church Mediaeval Pews	24
St Mary's Church Mediaeval Wall Painting of St Christopher	24
Extract from 1613 Glebe Document	29
Extracts from the Troston Glebe Document 1632	30
Sites in Troston in the 1600s	31
Tablet in Troston Church showing the 1666 Charity	32
Sunray Cottage, circa 1980s	32
Portrait of a Gentleman, circa 1690	36
Settlement Order for Thomas Lilley and Family, 1718	41
Settlement Order for Eli Smith and Family, 1750	42
Removal Order, Mary Cotton and Son, 1782	43
Removal Order, John Spooner, 1859	45
Edward Capel, Lord of the Manor, 1763 - 1788	51
Capel Lofft, Lord of the Manor, 1788 - 1824	51
Census, 1811	55
Payments to the Church in Tithes and Glebe Rents, 1817	56
Enclosure Map of Troston Roads, 1807	59
Map of Troston (Enclosures and Exchanges), 1807	60
The Coal House	61
Bill for Carpentry Work, 1806 - 1807	62
Landowners' Enclosure Bills	65A
Bill for the Enclosures, 1807	65B
Exchange of the Ancient Parsonage with Edward Hoy's Property, 1813	66
Troston Cottage, 1989	67
Iron Gibbet Cage	71
Land Enclosures on The Heath, 1842	72
Troston Field Pattern, 1842	73
Main Buildings in Troston, 1840 - 1850	74
Hall Farm, circa 1980s	75
The Old Beddingfield, circa 1989	75
The Old Rectory, circa 1989	76
The Brickworkers' Cottages, circa 1989	76
Businesses and Main Buildings, end of the 19th Century	83
Troston Hall Before the Alterations	84
Troston Hall, from Croquet Lawn	84
Troston Hall, circa 1989	85
The Sun Dial, Troston Hall, circa 1989	85

Troston Parish, showing Land Owned by Robert Lofft	86
The Common, House Nos 14 and 15, circa 1989	89
Tanglewood, Ixworth Road, circa 1989	89
The Heath, 1903	90
Farms, Smallholdings and Fields, 1903	91
Lower Farm, circa 1900s	92
Lower Farm, circa 1989	93
Centre of Village, circa 1903/04	93
1919 Peace Celebrations	94
John Deere Tractor, circa 1935	94
Mr Albert Steward, circa 1989	94
Mr & Mrs Robert Steward, Outside the Red House	97
Mrs Steward in Field Behind Red House	97
Mr & Mrs Mayes, 1909	98
Houses Built by Robert Lofft on The Heath, Turn of the 20th Century	98
Silver Band Outside Chapel, 1904	99
Troston & Honington Methodists, circa 1944	99
View of Ixworth Road, circa 1910	100
Ixworth Road, circa 1988	100
Mr H Jaggard, beginning of the 20th Century	103
Mr & Mrs A Jaggard at their Golden Wedding Celebration	103
Mrs Mable Grimwood and Mr William Jaggard, 1989	104
Mr Malcolm Grimwood and Son	104
The School House, circa 1989	107
The Old School Building, circa 1989	107
Troston School, 1905	108
The "Pinafore Dance", circa 1913	108
Village Centre, circa 1920s	115
Church Lane, circa 1920s	115
The Bull Inn, late 1920s	115
Map of Sale, Troston Hall Sale Lots	116
Troston Hall, 1923	119
Troston Hall Interiors, 1914	120
Street Farm, 1923	127
Street Farm, 1989	127
Red House, 1934	128
Red House and Red House Bungalow, 1989	128
Troston Lodge, circa 1920	133
Troston Lodge, circa 1989	133
Weathervane Cottage, circa 1989	134
The Village Slaughterhouse, circa 1989	143
Troston and Livermere Free and Easy Society	144
The Village Centre, early 20th Century	145
Flint Cottages, after Demolition of Coal House, 1959	145
Sale of Fish & Chip Shop, 1931	145
The Street, circa 1930	146
Forge Corner, circa 1930	146

Cottages being demolished, 1959	149
View towards Church Lane, 1960	149
Old Glebe Cottage, circa 1960s	149
The Garage, circa 1948	150
Troston, 1950	151
Troston, 1980	152
Capel Close, circa 1989	153
Paddock Way, circa 1989	153
Garden Fields, circa 1989	154
Ixworth Road, circa 1989	154
Lawrence Emlyn Bevan	155B
Article from Bury Free Press, 1971	157
Smithies' Cottage, 1990	158
Houses on 'The Square', 1990	158
Troston 1990	161
The Reverend Sally Fogden, 1989	162
Kneelers in St Mary's Church, circa 1989	162
The Heath from The Street, 1989	164
The Street, 1989	165
Corner by The Bull, showing Village Sign, 1989	166
Denver Autos, 1989	166
The Village Shop and Post Office, 1989	167
Glebe Cottage and Hairdressing Salon, 1989	167
Activities in the Village Hall, 1990	168
New Ventures of the 1980s	170
The Townend, circa 1989	182
Ronald and Dennis Greengrass, circa 1980s	182

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

1.

INTRODUCTION

The village of Troston lies in North Suffolk, close to Breckland. It is seven miles north-east of Bury St. Edmunds and eight miles south-west of Thetford.

It has a population of 780 (1986 census) which includes RAF personnel in Air Ministry housing. The parish covers 1,779 acres, and is triangular in shape, with the apex reaching Rymer Point about three miles from the village centre. This place is probably alone in the whole country, in that nine parishes converge in an area three hundred yards long. Rymer is the modern name for Ringmere (round mere), and when the parish boundaries were drawn up, probably in the ninth or tenth centuries, this was a large watering-place for flocks and herds on the surrounding heathland. Each of the nine parishes was given access. All that remains today is an overgrown pond situated between the Bury-Thetford road and the Honington turn off. The part of Troston closest to Breckland has always, until the nineteenth century, been heathland supporting sheep rearing. The heavier soil of the rest of the area gave rise to arable farming.

Thought to be of Anglo-Saxon origin, the nucleus of the village is probably situated in exactly the same position as it was over a thousand years ago. The Street was most likely the main thoroughfare then as now. A church, not the present one, is mentioned in a charter relating to 1098.

In Mediaeval times, much of Troston belonged to Bury Abbey and the abbots were lords of the manor. From their records glimpses of village life in the Middle Ages can be seen.

In 1539 after the Reformation, the Crown granted the manor to the Bacon family, later members of which were responsible for building Troston Hall in the early sixteen hundreds.

Throughout the next few centuries Troston continued as a self sufficient agricultural village, with its heyday in the middle of the nineteenth century. Now, although farming is still the main pursuit, it has become a dormitory village, with the majority of its inhabitants engaged in other occupations, working elsewhere.

From the West Suffolk Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds valuable information for this project has been obtained from:- Bury Abbey records, charters, wills, Troston Church records, glebe terriers, (records of church land) The Overseers of the Poor's Accounts Book 1710-1738, The Enclosure Act for Troston 1806, census records, Poores' Estate records, and vestry accounts of the nineteenth century. Reference has been made to various books* by local historians, and much oral history has been supplied by senior residents*.

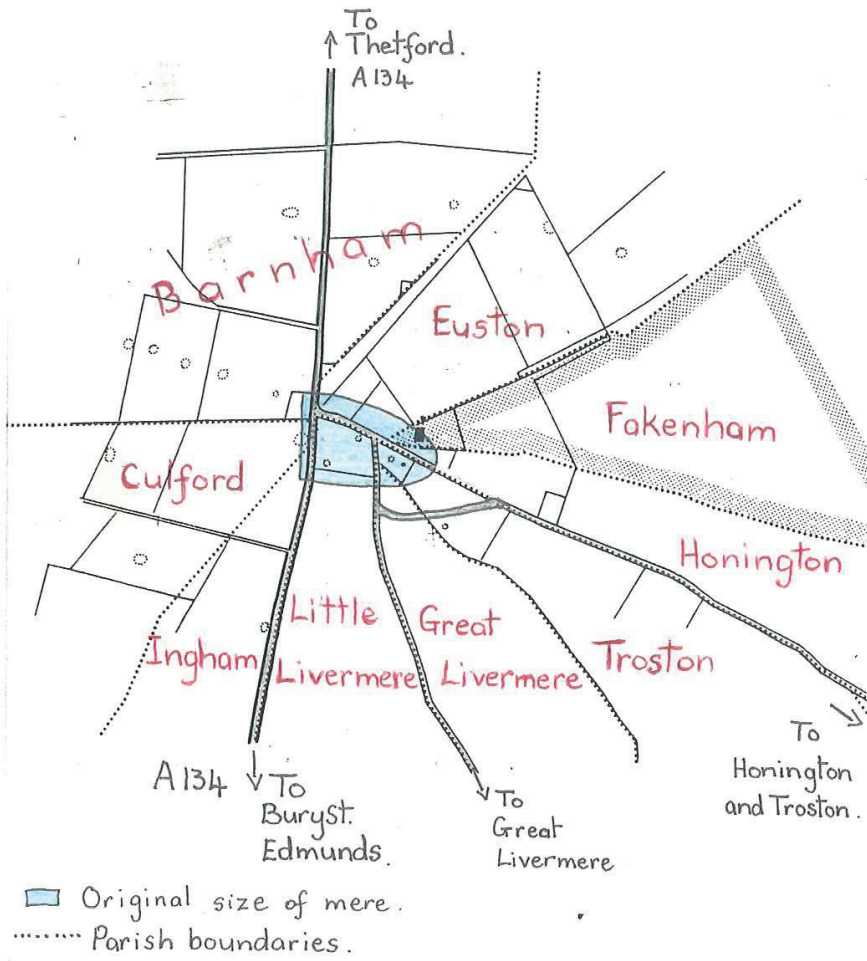
All these sources have helped me to produce this book. My assistants* and I have enjoyed researching it. I hope it makes interesting reading.

Janet Bamard.

* Please see acknowledgements and bibliography.

2.

Meeting of Parishes at Rymer, Originally Ringmere.



A Pond at Rymer - Remains of Former Ringmere



PART ONE BRONZE AGE - THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Earliest Habitation

The earliest evidence of habitation in Troston is the tumuli, or round burial mounds on The Heath, now part of Troston Farms Limited. These tumuli are believed by archaeologists of the West Suffolk Archaeology Department to be from the Early Bronze Age 2100-1500 BC, three and a half to four thousand years ago.

There would not have been a village at that time, only heath and woodland. Bronze Age men were nomad farmers, who roamed with herds and flocks, pausing to cultivate the light soil of the heathland, using bronze tools. They buried their dead in mounds which could contain one to fifteen burials. They were either inhumations, often with personal goods, cremations, in pottery urns, or both. Remains of Bronze Age pottery has been found at Honington, and a Middle Bronze Age (1500-1200 BC) spear head was dug up near Hall Farm, Troston, about twenty years ago. It is now on display in Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.

There were originally four tumuli on Troston Heath (see map), but only three remain as one was destroyed in the Second World War. Of the three, one is rather low and spread. It measures 28 metres in diameter and is 0.93 metres high. There is another known as Black Hill which is 35.5 metres in diameter, and 2.78 metres high. It is now protected as an ancient monument. The last and most interesting one is called Troston Mount, also a scheduled ancient monument. It is situated by Broadmere, near Honington Camp Stores. It is 35 metres in diameter and 3.03 metres high - one of the largest tumuli in Suffolk. A slight hole in the centre suggests that treasure hunters could have attacked it at sometime. Archaeologists think that there may have been another use for this mound in Anglo-Saxon times. This will be discussed later.

Early Settlement 400 AD - 1086 AD

By 400 AD the Anglo-Saxons, from what is now Northern Germany, crossed the North Sea and began raiding the eastern coasts of Britain in search of new land. When the Romans left these shores in 410 AD, the indigenous Britons were left virtually defenceless against these marauders. From then on the Anglo-Saxons began to settle areas of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. From the coast they explored inland via the rivers. The majority of Suffolk villages are of Anglo-Saxon origin, settled between 400 and 700 AD.

Early Anglo-Saxon pagan burial grounds (450-500 AD) have been found in the valley of the River Blackborne, and it is possible that the people who first settled Troston came that way. Place names often give clues to origins. Professor Ekwall in his book, "Oxford Dictionary of Place Names", gives Troston as an Anglo-Saxon settlement, as were most surrounding villages. An old will of 989 AD shows that the early name was Trostingtun, 'tun' being the Anglo-Saxon word for farmstead or settlement, 'ing' from 'inga' meaning 'of the people', and Trost (or Trosta) the name of the head man. Thus Trostingtun becomes 'the settlement of the people of Trost'(a). Some historians think that places with 'ing' in the name denotes early Anglo-Saxon occupation. If this is so, Troston could have

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

4

been established as early as 500 AD.

W.Skeat however, gives Troston as Throstringtun with Thostr or Throstring being a Norse personal name for Thrush. Norsemen began to raid Eastern England in the middle of the ninth century which would make it a very late settlement, and Norse endings of villages were 'by' or 'thorpe' not 'tun'. The only explanation of Skeat's derivation would be if a Norse raider overran an Anglo-Saxon village, and gave it his own name, but kept the original ending. Taking all the evidence into consideration the former explanation is more likely.

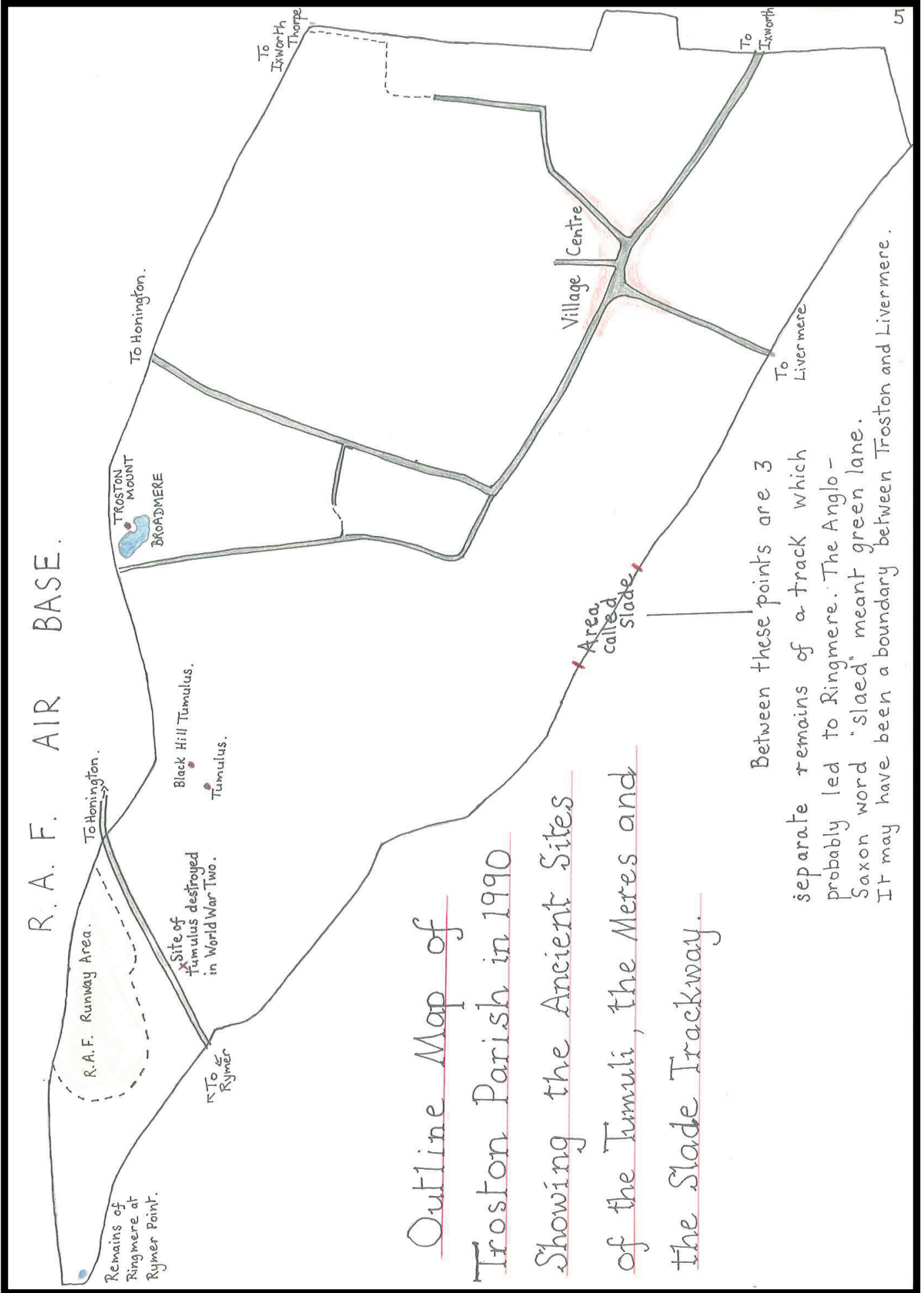
Early settlers found heathland for grazing animals, and on the heavier soil, woodland for building purposes. Some woodland must have been cleared for a village site, and for arable farming. Clay, from the heavier soil, would have been utilised for pottery, and there was water in underground springs for wells. Ringmere (Rymer) and Broadmere were useful watering places for animals on the heathland. Thus the early settlers of Troston found enough resources to establish a village.

The Anglo-Saxon word 'slaed', meaning a green road, survives today in Slade's Covert, and earlier Slade Wood and Slade Common. Slade's Covert is situated on part of the border between Great Livermere and Troston, and three sections of a green lane with banks and ditches on either side are still evident here. It was probably a drove road which led to Rymer and the heathland, while acting as the boundary between the two parishes. The name gives another clue to the likely Anglo-Saxon origin of Troston. However the green lane itself could be a much older track.

By 550 AD East Anglia had come into existence ruled over by the Wuffinga family, and Suffolk, the South Folk of the East Angles, was established. By late Anglo-Saxon times 700-800 AD, Suffolk was divided into areas called Hundreds, for administration purposes. These remained in existence until they were replaced by Rural Districts in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Each Hundred was roughly 100 hides of land, (one hide was 120 acres), so one hundred hides was approximately 12,000 acres. Troston was in the double Hundred of Blackborne and Bradmere. Local historians believe that the name Bradmere originated from the mere at Troston now called Broadmere; Brad being Anglo-Saxon for Broad. Adjacent to Broadmere is Troston Mount, already mentioned in the preceding section. According to Mr. Martin of the West Suffolk Archaeology Department, this could have been the ancient meeting place of Bradmere Hundred, where the Hundred Court would have convened. These meeting places were often marked by mounds; the court being held in the open with participants sitting on the mound. Troston Mount is now covered with brambles and trees. (See photographs and map).

Aelfhelm Polga

The earliest documentary evidence of Troston is in the will of Aelfhelm Polga, of Anglo-Saxon descent, 989 AD. He was a thane - a warrior who held land from the king in return for military service. He was mentioned by King Edgar as "my faithful thane", and he probably fought raiding Norsemen. Aelfhelm was a wealthy man; besides owning land in East Anglia, he had a goldsmith and a longship. It is known that he owned an



6

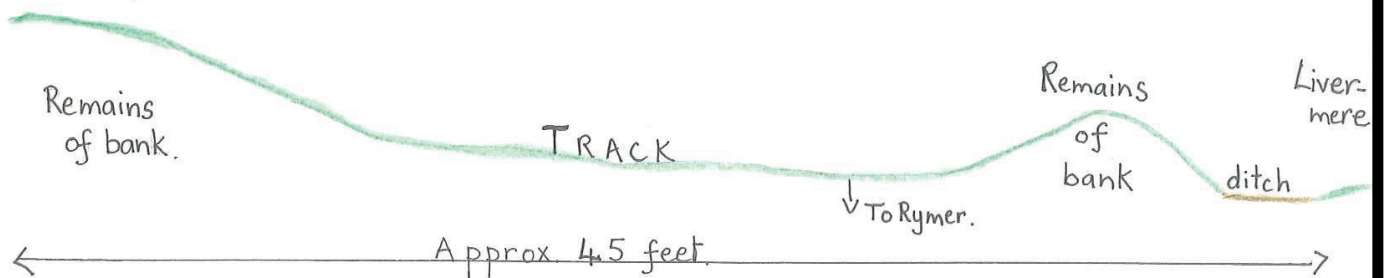
THE SLADE.



Above. Part of Green Lane (Slaed-Slade)

Below. CROSS SECTION OF WHOLE GREEN LANE.

Trees now grow on banks and track.



Remains of three small sections of track are found in the Slade area, on the borders of Troston and Livermere. It is likely that the track was used for taking animals onto the heathland, and as a boundary between the parishes.

estate with woodland, and a riding stud at Troston. Here is an extract from his will:-

"My estate at Trostingtun to be divided between my three brothers Aelfwold, Aethelric, and Aelfhelm (same name). Half my woodland to go to Aeffa, my wife, and half to my daughter. Half my riding stud to my wife, and half to my riding companions".

So a thousand years ago it appears that Troston was a well established village. Aelfhelm would have employed a blacksmith and men to look after his stud. Land would have been rented from him by the village community. As Suffolk had been converted to Christianity in the early seventh century, it is likely that a church existed in Troston in the time of Aelfhelm Polga. He also left land and goods to Ramsey and Ely Cathedrals, and there was a special bequest for the construction of the original Westminster Abbey - one of the earliest references to that building.

The Battle of Ringmere

Danes and Norsemen (Vikings) from Scandinavia raided this country and many settled in East Anglia. The raids started about 840 AD and continued for two hundred years.

In 1010 Thorkel the tall, a Viking warrior, landed with a large force at Ipswich. After much plundering they made their way towards Thetford, an important town at that time. Ulfketel, the Earl of East Anglia, was waiting with an army to do battle on Ringmere Heath. This much is known from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles and other sources, but they did not site the particular heath. There were two of this name near Thetford - one to the north, and one to the south. The latter, now known as Rymer, is part of the parish of Troston. The battle could have taken place here. The enemy was coming from Ipswich and as Ulfketel was trying to defend Thetford, it would be reasonable to suppose that he would place his forces south of Thetford, rather than north.

The battle was very fierce. Unfortunately Ulfketel and the East Anglians were defeated and the Vikings sacked Thetford. This was followed by three months of pillaging and burning; many men and cattle were slain in the surrounding districts.

The Viking poets wrote epic poems about their great warriors. One such poem was written about Thorkel and the Battle of Ringmere. Here is an extract:-

From Ringmere field
The chime of war,
Sword striking shield
Rings from afar;
The living fly.
The dead piled high
The moor enrich.
Red runs the ditch.

Did that battle take place at Rymer ???

TROSTON MOUNT and BROADMERE



It is possible that the mound was the ancient meeting place of the Court of the Bradmere Hundred before the Norman Conquest. The origins of the mound are thought by archaeologists to be of the Early Bronze Age.

PART TWO THE MIDDLE AGES 1066-1500

After the conquest of 1066, and the subduing of the country by the Normans under William the Conqueror, a survey and valuation of the land was carried out. This was written down in Domesday Book, completed in 1086.

The entry for Troston, then called Trostun, was not very detailed. It gave the main landowners, as the Abbey of St. Edmunds, under Abbot Baldwin, and Frodo his brother. The abbey had acquired land from the king and from private endowments, and held one and a half carucates here (180 acres), with three ploughs. The total value was thirty shillings. Frodo held one carucate of land (120 acres) with two ploughs, the total value being twenty shillings. On his death Frodo's land went to the Abbey.

There were twenty four freemen in the village who held land from the Abbot and Frodo. These men could grant and sell their tenancies, with permission from the owners. Domesday Book also recorded that 'others held here', which meant that there were other landowners and tenants besides the aforementioned. The tenants were probably villeins, who were un-free men, unable to sell their tenancies, and after paying their rents, still owed obligations to the lord of the manor. These consisted of work service on their lord's land, one or two days a week, and more at busy times, and payments, very often in kind, for privileges; for example if a villein wished to keep hens he would be obliged to give one to his lord at stipulated times.

Soon after the Domesday Survey Abbot Baldwin became Lord of the Manor of Troston. Successive Abbots of the Abbey of St. Edmund remained in this office until 1539.

A mediaeval village was self-sufficient. The lord of the manor had a farm and would own a mill and a forge. It is likely that the abbot had a house (possibly tenanted) in Troston even though he lived in Bury St. Edmunds. His officials would travel around using the accommodation, making sure that the estate was run properly by the bailiff and his men. Peasants, both freemen and villeins, rented land from the lord and other landowners. Large open fields were divided into strips for ploughing. One peasant's strips could be dispersed in various parts of the village. There would have been common land for grazing, meadows for haymaking, woodland for timber, and also in Troston, heathland for sheep rearing. A peasant's dwelling was a thatched wooden hut surrounded by a small enclosed piece of land, used for keeping hens and growing a few vegetables. In the Troston Enclosure document of 1807 ancient rights of villagers such as common pasture and the cutting of brushwood from the heath, are described. These ancient rights probably began in the Middle Ages.

Sometime between 1086 and his death in 1098 Abbot Baldwin took an inventory of his lands, showing the names of the tenants, how much land was rented and the amount paid.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

10

The following list shows his Troston tenants. No distinction is shown between freemen and villeins.

Name	Land in Acres	Payment in pence
Godwin of Troston	11	11½
Hunting	5	5
Sparhawk & AEdric	3	4
Godwin, Son of Hulnod	8	12
AElfsi	1½	2
Aluard	1½	2½
AEdric	½	1
AEluric	8	12
Aluard Rufus (redhead)	18	21
Leuric	5	8½
Osmund the blacksmith	3	4
Uluric	1	1
Hared	5	7
Osgot	5	7
Alfah	2	2
Sigar	1	1
Brihtric	2	2
Turstan	½	1
Oldstan	6	8
Godric	3	4
Uluard	7	11
Eilric	1½	1
AElfsi	5	6
Edric	½	½
Godric	½	½
Gode Cild (Goodchild)	8	9
Sedemaiden	4	5
Lefui	½	1
Turstan	½	½
Walter	½	1
Ulfah	½	½
Sparhawk of Ashfield	½	1
Alstan, son of Brune, & AElmar	5	2
Total	124	159

The above tenants renting a small acreage, could possibly have held more land from other owners.

It is interesting to note that most of the aforementioned names were of Anglo-Saxon origin. (Turstan was an anglised version of a Danish name, while Walter was Norman). This adds weight to the belief that Troston's roots were Anglo-Saxon.

The Charter of Abbot Anselm

In the next century Abbot Anselm became Lord of the Manor of Troston and the following charter was granted by him.

This was written sometime between 1121 & 1148 and can be found in the British Museum. It is a confirmation by Abbot Anselm to Richer of Troston and his heirs, of land which their ancestors held in Troston on the day of Abbot Baldwin's death in 1098.

" I have granted and confirmed by this charter that Richer of Troston and his heirs may have and hold in fee (rent), and by inheritance, all that his father and ancestors held on the day that Abbot Baldwin was both dead and alive (died) and by the same tenant service (rent) the whole of his land and all things which belong to that land and by name, the advowson of the Church in the township of Troston..... and he and his heirs may hold in peace and quiet and perpetuity, just as free as his ancestors had held in the time of Baldwin, the Abbot, and further his other liberties by name of "bull & boar".

This charter is interesting for several reasons. Firstly it shows that Richer was a free man and had inherited his ancestors tenanted land with confirmation from the Abbey of St. Edmunds. It also describes that with his land went certain liberties. The right of "bull & boar" meant that Richer did not have to pay a fee to the lord of the manor for grazing his animals. His other liberty, "the advowson of the church in the township of Troston", meant that he had the right to appoint the clergy. Although this charter is written sometime between 1121 & 1148, it refers back to land and liberties held at the time of Abbot Baldwin's death in 1098. The 'right of advowson' shows that without doubt there was a church in Troston in 1098 prior to the present one, which dates from the late twelfth century.

Abbot Sampson Lord of the Manor 1182-1211

At the end of the twelfth century, Sampson, Abbot of St. Edmunds, 1182-1211, granted Troston a 'Court Leet'. Troston was in the Hundred of Blackborne (the former name of Bradmere had been dropped by this time), and the Hundred held its own court every three weeks at Stanton. The villagers of Troston did not wish to travel so far to have petty cases heard, so they acquired the boon of 'Court Leet'. This meant that they paid the reeves of the Hundred of Blackborne an annual fee of eleven shillings so that, "the men of Troston would not have to travel long distances to have minute cases heard, but the reeve would travel to Troston that the lawsuit may be terminated in the neighbourhood, before the reeve and in the same vill". It is likely that the court was held at the lord's manor house. Four shillings had to be paid at Easter, three shillings at the Festival of St. Mary in September, and four shillings at the Festival of St. Andrew in November.

Abbot Sampson also drew up an inventory of Abbey lands and revenues. This was called the Kalendar, and was completed between 1186-1191.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

12.

The following shows the Abbot's tenants in Troston.

Name	Land	Payment
Walter Rufus	12 acres	13d. Oats to value of 1d. Reeves 3d.
William, son of Flynthard	12 acres	13d. " "
Walter, son of Turmod	12 acres	13d. " "
Brictric & John, son of Hugo	12 acres	13d. " "
Walter, son of Ulric	24 acres	26d. Oats to value of 3d. Reeves 6d.
Gocelin & Uluard, son of Hord		
William Turmod		
Thomas, son of Ulketel	24 acres	26d. Oats to value of 3d. Reeves 6d.
Nicholas, son of Baldman		
Nicholas	16 acres	16d. - -
Walter Kebe & Nicholas	8 acres	8d. - -
Walter Kebe & Nicholas & William, son of Cecil	8 acres	8½d. Oats to value of 1d. Reeves 2d.
Robert of Stowlangtoft	24 acres	Not recorded Reeves 5d.
Matthew of Thelnetham	48 acres	Not recorded Reeves 10d.

Comparing this inventory with that of Abbot Baldwin one hundred years earlier, it is interesting to note that fewer tenants are mentioned, but they each have a larger acreage, and besides paying a rent there is an added payment in kind, and also money to the reeves for the 'Court Leet'. Two hundred acres were rented out by Abbot Sampson as against one hundred and twenty four acres by Abbot Baldwin. It was mentioned that Walter Kebe also had land on the heath, the earliest written record that can be found of this part of Troston. It is known that Matthew of Thelnetham and Alexander of Barrow owned land in Troston in the 12th century as they both made gifts of land to the Abbey of St. Edmund.

At this time surnames had not come into general use. There were only two in the above list, Walter Kebe and William Turmod. Most of the peasant's names were now of Norman origin, but some Anglo-Saxon names (Brictric, Uluric) and Danish names (Turmod & Ulketel) still remained.

Two of Abbot Sampson's charters concerning land tenure in the village are still in existence. One gave a grant to William and Ailmer his brother of land in the fields of Troston, which was given to the Abbey of St. Edmunds by Matthew of Thelnetham. The amount of land was not specified but the annual rent was three shillings; eighteen pence to be paid at the Feast of St. Michael and the same at Easter. The charter says, "And by holding this territory from us, (the monastic community of St. Edmunds) by this payment, they (William and Ailmer) have done homage to us, and have sworn by touching the Holy Gospels that they will render faithfully to us, at the said periods the stated payment. And we have granted to them and their heirs, this holding (land) as long as they lawfully pay the

aforesaid rent".

This charter shows the form of contract undertaken when land was granted to new tenants. Abbot Sampson's other existing charter for Troston confirms land to William, son of John, all tenements held by his predecessors in the village.

The Tax of 1283

In 1283 Edward I levied a tax on moveable goods to finance his wars in Wales. No levy was imposed upon treasure, riding horses, bedding, vessels, tools, geese, capons, hens, bread, wine, cider and other kinds of food providing it was ready for use, but crops and farm animals were included, and subject to tax at one thirtieth of their value. Nobles, men of religion and people whose goods totalled less than half a mark (6s.8d) were exempt.

The collectors for Suffolk were John of Mettingham and William of Pakenham with their bailiffs and clerks. Apart from a few towns, no similar assessments for this tax exist in the Public Records Office for any other English County or Hundred, except for the Hundred of Blackborne in Suffolk, of which Troston was part.

The tax list shows that thirty three people in the village were liable to pay the tax. About fifteen people were too poor to pay. William of Thelnetham's goods totalled £12.11.0d. and he was charged 7s.0½d.- a mistake in calculations. He was the richest man taxed. Nicholas Robyn, whose goods amounted to £11.3.9d, paid 7s.5½d. the correct amount. The poorest of the inhabitants, who were taxed, was William the merchant. He paid 5½d. on goods valued at 13s.9d. The table on page 15 shows the list in detail.

The following analysis gives the quantities of crops assessed and the numbers of animals owned by the thirty three people listed in the year 1283. The crop totals were given in quarters and bushels, but have been transposed into tons and hundredweights with guidance from the book, "A Suffolk Hundred in 1283", by Edgar Powell.

Crop	Grown by	Total Amount		Value
Wheat	7 people	1 ton	9.4 cwts	£ 2. 6s. 6d.
Rye	25 people	9 tons	16.6 cwts	£11. 16s. 2d.
Barley*	33 people	25 tons	5.4 cwts	£27. 8s. 6d.
Oats	7 people	4 tons	6.0 cwts	£ 1. 10s. 4d.
Peas	14 people	2 tons	16.7 cwts	£ 2. 5s. 0d.
Beans	1 person		1.4 cwts	1s. 8d.

*Barley was used for making malt for ale

Animal	Owned by	Total Number	Value
Working horses and foals	23 people	32	£ 8. 5s. 6d.
Cows	32 people	75	£17. 17s. 9d.
Oxen	10 people	25	£ 3. 18s. 5d.
Calves	6 people	9	7s.10d.
Pigs	2 people	19	18s. 6d.
Sheep and lambs	14 people	612	£28. 1s.10d.

The total value of these moveable goods was £103. 14s. 1d; tax paid was £3. 8s. 1½d.

A comparison with other villages in the Hundred of Blackborne can be seen on page 16. This tax list of 1283 gives us a unique insight into farming in this area of Suffolk.

Records show that by this time in Troston Abbot Thomas of St. Edmunds held 290½ acres of arable land, 20 acres of heathland and 60 acres of glebe land (1). The latter belonged to the church, and its revenues were used for church purposes. Amongst the tenants of Abbot Thomas were William Le Sire (2), Reginald Pecche (2), William of Willingham, Geoffrey the Marshall and Nicholas Robyn who in turn sub-let to other people.

Peter of Thelnetham held 43 acres of land in the village which he rented out to his villeins with their dwellings. He also had 38 acres of arable and 30 acres of heathland in Troston, but this belonged to his manor at Livermere. William of Thelnetham rented 32 acres of arable, 3 acres of pasture, 6½ acres of heath and one dwelling house from Peter at 6s. 8d. per annum. With this land went the right to graze animals without paying a fee.

The manor of Hinderclay held 12 acres in Troston which was rented out to five sub-tenants. The payment for this was 3s. 0d. annually, but the rent was a gift of the late Matthew of Thelnetham to be paid "in unconditional and everlasting charity".

- (1) See section on the church.
- (2) These people were not inhabitants of Troston.

A diagram on page 17 details the above tenancies.

1300-1500 Families, Population and The Black Death

Between 1300 & 1500 the Abbey of St. Edmund still had the largest holding of land in Troston, with the abbots as lords of the manor. In the mid fourteenth century a certain Edmund Comyn owned land in the village, and the Wyneve family both bought and rented land from him. This family survived in Troston until the early eighteenth century, their name undergoing seven changes of spelling:- 1283 Wynthive, 1327 Wyneve, 1356 & 1458 Wynyeve, 1478 Weneve, 1568 Wenyffe, 1613-1714 Winniffe. The tax record on page 19 gives the names of the wealthier inhabitants of the parish. The De Saxham family were mentioned in the list, and in 1361 Thomas de Saxham inherited land in Troston from his brother Hugh. Thomas, who was parson of Troston, and who had been married before taking Holy Orders, left land, in his will of 1365, to his grandson John and to Robert de Wikes, clerk. The Wikes family were still in Troston three and a half centuries later. Also in Thomas's will was a clause stating that every poor person in Troston who attended his funeral should be given a penny loaf. His grandson John died without issue and gave the land he had inherited to the Priory of Ingham in Norfolk in 1384.

In the mid fourteenth century a small manor called Rougetonnes was situated in Troston. It was held from the Abbot of St. Edmunds by the Roughton family, and valued at six pounds. It passed to the Felton family

TAX ON MOVEABLE GOODS. TROSTON 1283

NAME	WHEAT.	RYE.	BARLEY.	OATS.	PEAS.	BEANS.	HORSES.	CATTLE.	PIGS.	SHEEP.	TOTAL		30 TAX				
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.					s	d					
William of Thelneham.	15.0	18.8	37.5	15.0	11.3		3	17	16	62	12	11	0	7	0 1/4		
Robert the Marshall.			3.8					2			14		0		5 1/2		
Nicholas Robin.	3.8	39.4	41.3	7.5	3.8		1	8		100	11	3	9	7	5 1/2		
Geoffrey the Marshall.		15.0	33.8	39.4	11.3		2	4		11	5	11	3	3	8 1/2		
Humphrey Dusing			5.6				1	1			14		0		5 1/2		
Peter Wynthive.		16.9	37.5	3.8	3.8		2	3		100	9	0	6		6.1		
..... Balve.			12.3		3.8			1			1	1	3		8 1/2		
Michael, son of Walter.	2.9	16.4	33.8	3.8	3.8		2	8		70	8	3	2		5.6		
..... son of Walter.		3.8	8.9				1	2			1	5	0		10		
..... wife of Michael.		1.9	8.9					3			1	4	8		10		
..... or			11.3		1.9			2			1	1	8		9		
..... olidur.		3.8	15.0	4.7			1	2			3	10	0		2	4	
..... Holmere.		1.9	12.6				1	3			1	16	3		1	2 1/2	
..... of the Grene.		2.8	5.1				1	1			17		10 1/2		7 1/2		
..... Bolt.			7.0								1	2	2		9		
..... Bolt.		3.8	12.2				1	3			1	17	6		1	3	
..... Bolt.		2.3	5.1				1	2			1	2	3 1/2		9		
..... reys.			8.9			1.4		2			20		2		9		
John le Belchamp.		1.9	8.9				1	1			1	11	2		1	0 1/2	
Ralph(?) Linguin.		3.8	12.6				1	2			4	10	11		3	0 1/2	
Eustace Suter			12.4				1	2			1	13	0		1	1 1/2	
..... le Suter (shoemaker)	1.0	7.5	15.0		1.9		1	3		11	2	15	0		1	10	
..... eneswold.		3.8	12.4				1	2			1	11	3		1	0 1/2	
Walter Richer.	1.0	3.8	15.0				1	3			2	2	6		1	5	
..... nica Champilin.		3.8	7.5					2			1	2	6		9		
Walter Gasselin.		3.8	7.0				1	2			1	8	0		11 1/2		
John Gasselin.	1.0	3.8	16.9		1.9		2	3		16	3	4	10		2	2	
William of Willingham.	4.7	15.0	22.5	11.3	3.8		3	6	3		4	8	6		3	0 1/2	
Nicholas Chaplain.		7.5	20.6		3.8			5		75	6	7	6		4	3	
Peter Attetunsend.			16.4		1.9		2	3			1	17	6		1	3	
Thomas Holemar		3.8	16.9		1.9		1	4			2	5	0		1	6	
Adam Flynthard.		9.4	16.9				1	4		30	3	18	1		2	7 1/2	
Walter the Merchant.		1.9	3.8		1.9			3									
TOTALS.	17ton 9.4cwts.	9 tons 16.6cwts.	25 tons 5.4cwts.	4 tons 6cwts.	2 tons 16.7cwts.	1.4cwts.	32.	109.	19.	612.	£103	14	1.		£3	8	1 1/2

..... Names indecipherable because of damage to manuscript. * Incorrect calculation.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

16

MOVEABLE GOODS. HUNDRED OF BLACKBOURN. 1283.

	NUMBER OF OWNERS	TOTAL CROPS IN TONS.				
			HORSES	CATTLE	PIGS	SHEEP.
Ashfield Magna	31	70.	46	166	102	383
Ashfield Parva.	33	46	25	149	78	192
Bardwell.	128	177	89	456	202	1313
Barnham.	47	67	66	196	26	2525
Barningham.	55	68	29	185	101	254
Culford.	21.	38	26	67	-	599
Elmswell.	26	46	31	104	85	207
Euston.	34	67	44	138	4	1103
Fakenham.	19	16	18	62	20	932
Hepworth.	55	59	68	224	234	256
Hinderclay.	41	89	57	177	100	232
Honington.	38	36	40	97	25	197
Hopton.	75	64	72	243	45	305
Hunston.	19	31	22	71	45	99
Ingham.	28	55	35	134	-	1019
Ixworth.	56	77	39	171	2	340
Knettishall.	28	36	35	151	40	345
Langham.	24	43	36	118	74	121
Livermere Parva.	27	23	14	54	17	649
Market Weston	40	42	41	158	121	215
Norton.	37	73	50	195	122	573
Rickingham Inferior.	59	89	52	191	49	446
Rushford.	10	14	12	43	-	191
Sapiston.	29	38	27	110	74	650
Stanton	99	97	72	244	112	395
Stowlangtoft.	32	32	31	168	59	251
Thelnetham.	53	77	60	202	132	213
Thorpe (Ixworth).	40	49	44	176	106	372
Troston.	33	43	32	109	19	612
Walsham.	90	70	95	238	52	337
Wattisfield.	45	50	55	162	75	239
West Stowe.	21.	42	23	76	-	1097
Wordwell.	20.	20	25	53	-	466
TOTALS.	1393.	1844.	1408.	5098.	2121.	17,128.



Above. St. Mary's Church.

Chancel. Late 1100s to early 1200s. Early English.

Tower. 1300.

Nave. Early 1300s. Decorated.

Porch 1400s. Perpendicular.

The roof was thatched until the restoration by Robert Lofft in the 1860s.

Left. The Tower and Porch.

The three niches above the door would have housed statues before the Reformation. Above the middle niche there was once a sundial.

and when William Felton died in 1493, he left it to his son. After that nothing more is heard of it. The name Rougetonnes is interesting suggesting "Redton" (from the french rouge). The family name of Rounton, or Rungton, derived from the name of the manor, but there is no indication of its whereabouts. The will of the last survivor of this family, Matilda Rounton, can be seen at the end of this chapter.

The population of Troston in the Middle Ages can only be estimated from inventories or tax lists of the time. From 1086 to 1340 the inhabitants possibly numbered between two hundred and two hundred and forty. In 1348 & 1349 when the Black Death struck the country, it is thought that one third of the population died of this virulent plague, and if this approximation is applied to Troston, as many as eighty people could have perished. Unfortunately we do not have records for this village. However it is known that in Walsham le Willows one hundred and two people died in one month. The only indication we have that this catastrophe did ravage Troston's population is that the tax records following the Black Death show fewer taxpayers, and in 1449 the villagers' tax was reduced by 22 per cent because of poverty. In 1327 the total tax paid was two pounds fourteen shillings and two pence, but by 1449 it was only seven shillings and ninepence.

With the decrease in population there was more land available for sale or rent, and in the early fourteen hundreds new people including the Greengrass and Drury families, moved into Troston. The Greengrass family came from Fakenham Magna, and from the records were Troston's longest-residing inhabitants, remaining in the village for five hundred years. Mr. James Greengrass, now resident in Maidenhead, and Ronald and Denis Greengrass of London are direct descendants of this family, whose story can be read further on in this book.

The Drurys were a wealthy Suffolk family with land in many villages. Thomas Drury married into the Rounton family, and died without issue in 1475. An extract from his will is given later.

Troston Tax List. 1327.

From	s " d.	From	s " d
De Emma Wyneue (Wyneve)	vi vi	De Adam de Belchamp	vi
„ Roberto Wyneue	ii	„ Roberto de Belchamp	xii
„ Rogero Wyneue	xviii	„ Roberto le Whyte	vi
„ Adam Isebel	ix	„ Nicholao le Fullere	x
„ Waltero Isebel	vi	„ Johanne Richer	vi
„ Roberto Nichole	xii	„ Willo Selone junior	iii
„ Johanne le Monek	xii	„ Willo Nichole	ii
„ Willmo le Monek	xii	„ Rogero Nichole	xii
„ Petro Schille	iii	„ Henrico capellano	ii
„ Thoma le Lamhifode	xii	„ Willo de Thelnitham	ii
„ Roberto Scherewynd	xvi	„ Thoma de Saxham	ii
„ Isabella Maheu	viii	„ Matheo de Thelnitham	xv
„ Nicholao atte Grene	xvi	„ Willmo Gostelyne	xv
„ Bartho le Copper	xii		
Prob.		Summa [etc.]	liiii ii

Total - 54s " 2d. = £2 " 14s " 2d.

St. Mary's Church in Mediaeval Times

A pamphlet about Troston Church can be seen at the back of this book, so only a short description will be included here.

The Charter of Richer of Troston on page 11 shows that there was a church in the village before the present one. A mention was made in a charter of 1182 of Thomas, the priest of Troston, and it was probably about this time that St. Mary's Church was begun; the Early English architecture of the chancel is of this period. The chancel and nave were built first. In 1248 Abbot Henry of Bury Abbey, Lord of the Manor of Troston, bought the advowson of St. Mary's from William of Barrow, whose ancestors had owned land in Troston, and had endowed the church with sixty acres. This land was known as glebe, and was rented out and the proceeds used for ecclesiastical purposes.

About 1300 the present tower was built, and after its completion the nave walls appear to have been partially reconstructed, and decorated windows, dated approximately 1310 to 1320, were inserted. The north and south doorways of the nave are also of this time. The flint porch was added in the fifteenth century. Statues would have stood in the now empty niches. At one time there was a sundial above the middle niche. The roof was probably thatched. (It is known to have been thatched as late as 1855).

In Mediaeval times the church adhered to the Roman Catholic faith, and the interior of St. Mary's would have been much more colourful than it is today. It is likely that all the nave walls were covered with paintings, and that the windows were filled with stained glass. Fortunately some of the paintings still survive, but only small pieces of the original Mediaeval stained glass remain in the tracery of the windows. The rood screen now stands between the chancel arch. Roy Tricker gives a description of how it must have looked in the Middle Ages; "this screen probably stretched across the nave from wall to wall, with paintings of the apostles and other saints in the base, and with an altar on each side of it. Above the screen was a vaulted rood-loft; the upper and lower entrances can be seen in the north east corner of the nave. It was possible to walk along the loft, and candles were placed there to burn before the great Rood, (Our Lord on the Cross, flanked by His Mother, The Blessed Mary, and St. John) which once stood above the loft". This pictorial imagery was presented to the ordinary, mostly illiterate, people, as a text book of their faith. However in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries great changes were to come about.

When Troston Church was first built there would have been no pews, only benches around the walls for the infirm. (hence the saying, 'the weakest to the wall') The rest of the congregation stood or sometimes sat on rushes. In later Mediaeval times wooden decorated pews were introduced, and some still remain today in the chancel and near the organ.

The font is in the Early English style, and is probably the original one. The pulpit dates from the seventeenth century.

It is known from the will of Thomas Drury, 1475, that Troston had two religious guilds, named after St. Peter and St. John the Baptist. These guilds were for the promotion of worship, charity and sociability. The more prosperous villagers were likely to have been members, and they

donated and bequeathed money, for the good of their souls, to help the aged, sick and poor, and to keep the village and church in good repair. The church would have contained statues of the two saints, and altars dedicated to them.

Mediaeval Roman Catholicism had a profound influence on the life of the people. All local wills of the fifteenth century included bequests in money or kind (or both) to Troston Church. Some examples can be seen in the following testaments. These were originally written in Mediaeval Latin, and were translated by Mr. & Mrs. Carcas of Honington.

Extracts from Troston Wills 1448-1478

Bequests of Richard Clare alias Abthorp 1448

"To the high altar of Troston church for my tithes (1) and oblations underpaid 3s. 4d. To the reparation of the ornaments of the same church 3s. 4d. To the parish clerk 4d. To the Friars of Babwell (2) half a quarter (3) of barley. To the Friar Preachers of Thetford half a quarter of barley. To the Friars of the Order of St. Augustine of the same town, half a quarter of barley. To the Nuns of Thetford half a quarter of wheat and half a quarter of malt. All the parishioners of Troston to be refreshed with food and drink, at one and the same time. To Isabel my wife all my household stuff and utensils, and half my other goods and chattels. The other half to go to my executors to sell and dispose for the health of my soul and the souls of my parents, kinsmen and friends, and all the faithful departed, in deeds of piety.

Executors:- Isabel my wife, Robert Flynthard and John Wynyeve".

- (1) Church tax of one tenth of annual production of agriculture.
- (2) Situated outside Northgate, Bury St Edmunds
- (3) 4 bushels

Bequests of Matilda Rounton 1460

"To the high altar of Troston Church 6s.8d. To each of the other altars (1) in the aforesaid church 12d. For the rebuilding of the rood loft (1) 6s.8d.

To my son George Wolpoll (2) 2s.0d, one coomb (3) of malt, and one stone of wool. I bequeath to the light of the Blessed Mary three ewes with their lambs and a pound of wax. And to the lamp of the aforesaid church two gallons of oil. To Thomas Grenegres two ewes. And to John Deye Junior, clerk, three lengths of cloth for a gown. And I bequeath to William Beston one coomb of malt, and to John Gerard one coomb of malt, and to Walter Wyggmour 12d and two coombs of malt. And to my daughter Constance (Drury) my silver spoon and one goblet, and two hooded gowns and one tester (4) with curtain, and my bed and appurtenant bed linen"....
Executor Thomas Drury (5).

- (1) Probably to St. Peter and St. John the Baptist. It is interesting to note that the rood loft was being rebuilt at this time.
- (2) Son by former marriage
- (3) 4 bushels. One coomb = 2¼ hundredweights.
- (4) Canopy over a four poster
- (5) Her son-in-law

Will of Robert Flynthard Died 1472

"In the name of God, Amen. On the first day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand, four hundred and seventy two, I Robert Flyntard of Troston in the County of Suffolk and the diocese of Norwich, being of sound memory, do make my will in the following manner. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints, and my body for church burial. I bequeath to the high altar of the said church in Troston for my tithes forgotten or underpaid 20d.... Also I bequeath to the Austin Friars of Thetford for one trental (1) 10s.0d. Also for one sangred (2) in the aforesaid church 4s.4d.

Also I bequeath for the repair of the churchyard walls of the said church 6s.8d. Also for the repair and maintenance of the light in honour of the Blessed Mary in the aforesaid church, half an acre of land lying at Baronstowey in the town of Troston.

Also I bequeath to Matilda my wife two pieces of land and a pightle (3) lying in the fields and town of Troston, the first piece containing one acre lying next to the mill between the King's highway leading towards Troston and Great Livermere, the second piece of land containing one acre next to Sapston path called 'Dedefurlong' and the said pightle lying next to Shortlyngwell (4), and after the death of the said Matilda the land should be sold for the salvation of my soul, and the souls of the said Matilda, father, brother, benefactors and all the faithful departed. Also I bequeath to William Gilbert and his wife Margaret, my tenement with a croft.... Also I give to my daughter Rose, and to my daughter Margaret eight acres of arable land in the fields and town of Troston, which land I hold by the gift of John Flynthard my father.....

Also I bequeath to the said Matilda one cow, ten ewes and ten rams. Also I bequeath to each of my godsons 4d and to my god-daughter 4d.

The remainder of my goods not bequeathed I give to my executors to dispose of for the payment of my debts, and in works of charity as it shall appear to the said executors to be pleasing to God for the benefit of my soul.

Executors. William and Margaret Gilbert, Robert Prins

I bequeath to each of them for their trouble 20d.

Witnesses. Geoffrey Drake rector of Little Livermere, Robert Rastals of Troston".

- (1) Service of thirty masses
- (2) Deceased name to be mentioned in weekly prayers
- (3) Small piece of land
- (4) Shortlyngwell - possibly a well near the heathland. Later called Shotlingwell.

Robert Flynthard died without sons, and thus the Flynthard family who had been in Troston for at least three hundred years came to an end. William, son of Flynthard was mentioned in 1182, and Adam Flynthard in 1283.

Extracts from the Will of Thomas Drury. Died 1475

".....I, Thomas Drury of Troston, gentleman, bequeath to the high altar of Troston Church 6s.8d, and to the high altar of Little Livermere 3s.4d for tithes forgotten. To the rebuilding and repair of Troston church 6s.8d. For the light of the Blessed Mary one pound of wax. To the Gild of St. John the Baptist in the same town 20d, and to the Gild of St. Peter in the same town 20d (1). And I bequeath and bestow for the repair of the King's highway past my dwelling house 6s.8d. To the Franciscan

Friars of Babwell 3s.9d. And I bequeath to the Austin Friars of Thetford 2s.0d. I give, bequeath and bestow to my wife Constance, all my lands and tenement in Troston called Caldewell, my lands in Hepworth and Stanton and my land and tenement in Tostock, for her natural life, and after her decease they shall remain in the possession of the lawful heirs of my father Roger Drury. And I stipulate that all my other lands and tenements should be sold and disposed of for the salvation of my soul. The residue of all my possessions I give at the disposal of my wife Constance.

Executors: Constance my wife, Robert Prynse, Thomas Bryan, each to receive 6s.8d.

Supervisors. Roger Drury of Hallsted, Roger Robwood of Euston, Esquires.

Witnesses. John Colet of Ampton senior, John Appylthorpe of Troston".

(1) Evidence that there were religious guilds in Troston at this time.

Extracts from the Will of John Weneve. Died 1478

"I bequeath to the high altar in Troston church 40d. To the friars of Babwell for a trental 10s.0d. I bequeath and assign a suitable priest to celebrate ? (1) after the death of Margaret my wife in Troston Church aforesaid throughout a whole year for my souls and souls of my ancestors, 8 marks (2).

I bequeath and assign to the aforesaid Margaret, my tenement situated in Troston aforesaid, called Rychers (3) I bequeath to the same Margaret my tenement called Colby's yard with all lands belonging to the same tenement. Three pieces of land to be sold for the salvation of my soul and the souls of my ancestors, one and a half acres which lie at Gunsowe, and five roods which lie at Melland (4), and one and a half acres at Gunsowefield in Troston aforesaid. I bequeath to John Herry's four coombs of barley, two ewes and a blanket. I bequeath and assign to Margaret my wife, all my furnishings and utensils.

Executor. Robert Prynse 40d for his work.

Supervisor. Reginald Asshefield, gentleman

Witnesses. Joan Man, William Weneve".

(1) Undecipherable in the will. Some rite of the R.C. Church

(2) 8 marks = £5.6s.8d. Marks and half marks were coins; 13s.4d and 6s.8d respectively.

(3) Land was often named after its former owners. Here Rychers could have been land belonging to Richer of Troston, mentioned in a charter of Abbot Anselm and described earlier in this chapter.

(4) Possibly Mill Land

These wills give an interesting insight into the lives of the testators, their families and background. They appear as real people, not just names on old records.

Throughout the Middle Ages the amount of documentation increased. Manorial and court records and tax lists were kept. This was one reason for the emergence of surnames which were in common use by the end of the fourteenth century. Unfortunately with the dissolution of the monasteries, in the late 1530s, by Henry VIII, a great number of interesting documents were destroyed, including many from Bury St. Edmunds Abbey. Thus much of Troston's history was lost.

24



Above. Mediaeval pews
in the chancel.



The Mediaeval wall-
painting of St. Christopher,
near the north door.

The Mediaeval Rectory.

1254	valued at	£ 8
1291	" "	£ 11 " 7s " 0d
1341	" "	£ 10 " 4s " 7½d

PART THREE CHANGING TIMES 1500-1700

Valuable sources of information about Troston and its families of this period came from the church registers, which were begun in 1558, glebe documents of 1613, 1634, 1662 & 1691, and contemporary wills.

A New Lord of the Manor

One of the biggest changes that took place in the country in the mid fifteen hundreds was the advent of Protestantism. Henry VIII began the process when in 1534, by the Act of Supremacy, he made himself head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, thus supplanting the Pope. Within a few years of taking this action Henry suppressed all abbeys, monasteries, friaries and nunneries because of their continuing allegiance to the Papacy. It was also a way of obtaining their land and wealth. This land was sold off, or occasionally given, to Henry's supporters, and it was in 1539 that Thomas Bacon of Hesselton, already a wealthy man, acquired the Manor of Troston, after the last Abbot of St. Edmunds had been dismissed. It is interesting to note that Thomas was a cousin of Nicholas Bacon, a solicitor, who dealt with the disposal of land formerly owned by religious houses. Descendants of Thomas were related to Francis Bacon, the Elizabethan writer.

Descendants of Thomas Bacon (1)

Thomas's son Edward had lived in Troston since 1524 as a tenant of the Abbot of St. Edmunds. It is quite likely that he lived in the abbot's manor house. With the dismissal of the abbot, Edward continued to live in Troston, as Thomas remained at Hesselton. Edward became Lord of the Manor of Troston on his father's death in 1547. It is likely that the Bacon family would have had the manor house rebuilt, or at least extended, on taking possession.

Edward's son John succeeded him from 1553-1568. In the tax of 1568 his second wife Katherine is assessed. John's son, and her stepson, Edmund, became lord of the manor at the age of 21, in 1569, and it was he who had the present Troston Hall built at the beginning of the sixteen hundreds (2). Edmund lived some of his life at Hesselton, as did his son Henry who succeeded him in 1624. Troston Hall was then rented out. The Gilly family from Livermere lived there in the 1630s, and the Dandie family were tenants in the 1640s.

Henry Bacon died in 1651, and the Troston Estate passed to Thomas Fitznoone Lambe, a descendant of the Bacon family through the female line. His son, of the same name, inherited the manor in 1672, but sold it to Robert Maddocks from London in 1680.

(1) See The Bacon family tree on page 37.

(2) See Troston Hall before alterations on page 84.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

26.

Other Families and Places 1500-1700

In the fifteen hundreds Troston was still a fairly poor village. The tax on land and moveables in 1568 shows that only nine people were liable to pay.

	Taxed on	£. s. d.
Katheryn Bacon	£10 in land	13. 4.
John Greengrass	£ 5 in land	6. 8.
Willian Wykes	£ 1 in land	1. 4.
Robert Wykes	£ 1 in land	1. 4.
John Anmer	£ 4 in land	5. 4.
Henry Fuller	£ 1 in land	1. 4.
John Wykes	£ 6 in moveables	5. 0.
Edmund Wykes	£ 3 in moveables	2. 6.
Robert Wenyffe	£ 3 in moveables	2. 6.
Total		£1. 19. 4.

The above tax list of 1568 shows that the old Mediaeval families of Wenyffe, Wickes and Greengrass still resided in Troston. Only John Greengrass and John Anmer were described as yeomen (a person who owned freehold land over the value of forty shillings). The others on the list were husbandmen (owners of land under forty shillings).

The fifteen and sixteen hundreds were the heyday of the two Greengrass families (1). Only one John Greengrass was mentioned in the 1568 tax. He was a yeoman farmer and quite wealthy. He is described in the church registers as John Greengrass 'at the Townend', to distinguish him from his cousin, the less wealthy John Greengrass, who lived, 'at the Crosse', and later 'at the Pound'.

Every Mediaeval village had a cross, placed at its centre or at one entrance. As Protestantism gained strength in the country, the crosses were removed, as relics of Catholicism. The last reference to Troston's cross was 1569 (2). On a later map 'the Pound' is shown to be situated where Smithies' Cottage now stands. The 'Townend' was by the heath. (See map on page 31). From various wills of the Greengrass family 'at the Townend', it is clear that they owned a substantial farmhouse with a bakehouse, stables, barns and outhouses. They also owned arable, pasture and meadowland, which was scattered around the village, part of a sheepwalk and gravel pits on the heathland. These pits can still be located. They are the wooded depressions behind the seat on 'The Heath'. Both Greengrass families prospered until the end of the seventeenth century when their fortunes changed.

(1) See the story of the Greengrass family on page 173

(2) An article about Troston in the East Anglian in 1924 states that the stone stem on the sundial on the front lawn of Troston Hall is said to have been part of the village cross. This cannot be confirmed.

All the aforementioned families were respected villagers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Some were churchwardens or 'chief inhabitants', who surveyed glebe land. Their marks, and later their signatures, can be seen on glebe documents, 1613, 1634 & 1662. (See pages 29 and 30).

The Glebe Documents

The glebe documents are descriptions of pieces of land owned by Troston Church. Details are given of the type of land, pasture or arable, where it was sited, and the acreage. Information about the rectory is also included.

The following are extracts from Troston Glebes of the Seventeenth Century.

1613

" A terrier or field book containing all the glebe lands, arable and pasture, belonging to the Church and Rectory of Troston, in the County of Suffolk and the Hundred of Blackborne, undertaken on the one and twentieth day of March 1613, by the view, knowledge and estimation of certain of the ancient inhabitants of the said parish of Troston, who in witness whereof, have hereunto subscribed their hands and marks as follows:-

First the situation (site) of the rectory, with a yard and a pond, a little hopyard, with a little orchard, and a little garden, containeth by estimation one acre and a half, more or less, one side thereof siding by the close of Edmund Bacon, gent, called 'ffrancis' to the north-east, the other side, siding by the churchyard towards the south-west, and one side abutting upon the king's highway leading from Troston to Ixworth Thorpe".

The rectory itself is described thus. "On the said situation is first a hall with a parlour, with their convenient houses of office (rooms) adjoining, and a bakehouse, a stable, a barn and a hayhouse".

This building stood where Troston Cottage is now. The above rectory is detailed in various glebes up to the nineteenth century when it was called, 'the Ancient Parsonage'. Eventually it was completely reconstructed. It must have been quite a big house as in the 1674 Hearth Tax it is described as having eight hearths (fireplaces).

In the 1634 & 1662 glebe documents sixty two pieces of glebe land are shown. There are eight pieces of pasture, the rest being arable. In 1613 the pasture called 'ffrancis' belonged to Edmund Bacon. He must have left it to the church as by 1634 it is glebeland. Here are the eight pastures mentioned:-

1. Pasture called	ffrancis	-	1½ acres
2. Pasture called	May Nicholls	-	1½ acres
3. Pasture called	Four Acres	-	4 acres
4. Pasture called	Bradwell Pightle	-	1½ acres
5. Pasture called	Clint Close	-	1½ acres
6. Pasture called	Middle Clint	-	½ acre
7. Pasture called	Slade Pightle	-	1½ acres
8. Pasture called	Walnutree Croft	-	1½ acres

Bradwell Pightle and Clint Close are described as being near the common pasture which was called Bradwell Green and Clintgrene. Here villagers would be allowed to tether their cattle and horses. The heathland

provided pasture for sheep and goats, and some common pasture was available there also. The pasture was sited at either end of the village with arable land in between.

In the aforementioned glebe documents fifty four small pieces of glebe arable were recorded, some as small as an eighth of an acre. The following are names of arable land - Shedbarrow, Shortland, Longland, Polding Field, Beddingfield, Millhill, Harpe Piece, and Shotlingwell Pightle. Paths mentioned at this time were Perambulation Way, Sapston Millway, Burie Way, Driftway, and Woodsdale Way. (See map of Troston 1500-1700 on page 31).

Although much of the farming was still carried out on Mediaeval lines, with large open fields containing small pieces of land tenanted by poorer people, the wealthier landowners such as the Bacons and the Greengrasses were beginning to enclose various pieces of ground with hedges or fences. Several references were made to the pasture closes of Edmund Bacon and Roger and Francis Greengrass in 1634.

The Mid Seventeenth Century

By about 1640 Troston had become a more prosperous village. Several people had bought land, and between 1640 and 1666 ten yeomen are recorded, including the Wickes family who had graduated from husbandmen. Roger Greengrass who inherited 'the Townend' was formerly a merchant tailor in London. Thomas Bradstreet, brother of Samuel Bradstreet, the rector, was a clothier. There were at least three tailors in the village in 1660, including the appropriately named Richard Button, whose father had earlier been a shepherd. William Gaught, yeoman, was also a shepherd in the 1650s & 60s.

By the end of the century however, many family fortunes had been reversed, and the old families of Greengrass, Wickes and Winniffe, with more recent yeomen, were forced to sell their land to wealthier newcomers to the village.

The Civil War

Apart from the Ship Tax, there is no evidence that the Civil War (1642-1648) disturbed Troston. Most of East Anglia supported Cromwell and Parliament. The Ship Tax was imposed by Charles I in 1634 to replenish his treasury when he tried to rule without a Parliament. It was a very onerous tax, and one of the causes leading to the outbreak of the war. There are records of this tax for Troston in 1639. Twenty one people had to pay individually, and there were taxes on two common lands. The total paid by the village was £9. 3s. 9d. The Chief contributors were Clement Gilly, tenant of Troston Hall who paid £3. 19s. 2d, the rector, Mr. Bradstreet, £1. 19s. 2d, John West 11s. 0d, Roger Greengrass 10s. 10d, Francis Greengrass 10s. 5d, and John Francis (constable) 9s. 2d.

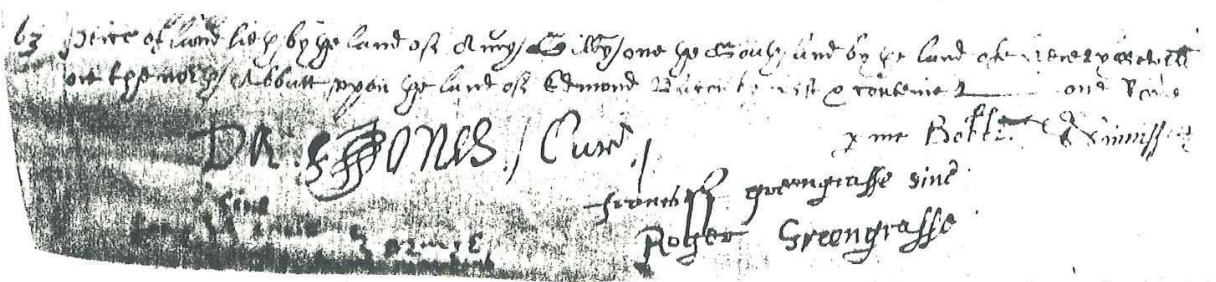
The Puritan despoilers of churches must have visited Troston in the time of the Commonwealth, 1648-1660, but this will be more fully discussed under the section on the church.

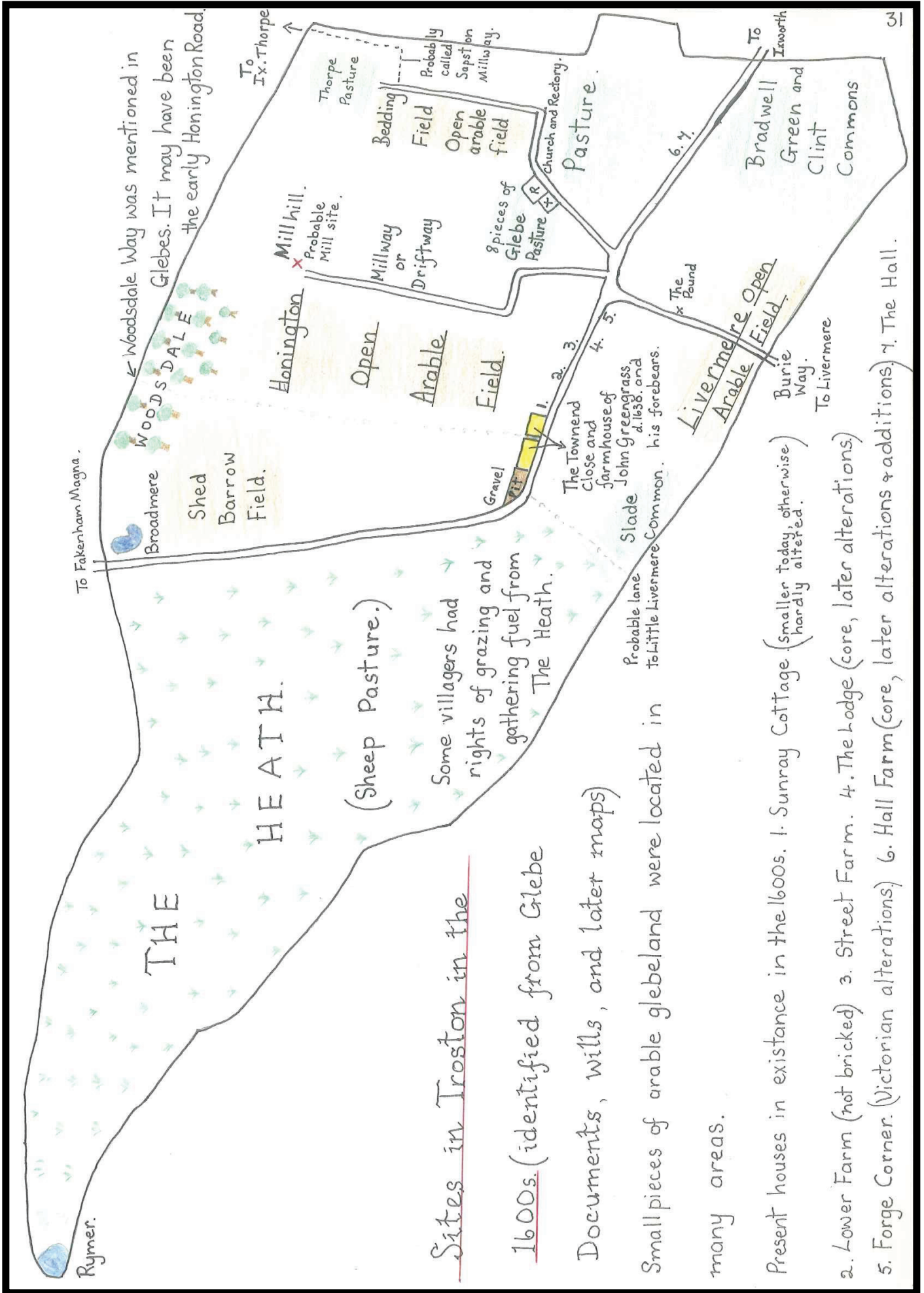
Extracts From The Troston Glebe Document 1632.

The Rectory Site of present Troston Cottage.	Glebe Pastures "Francis"	May Nicholls. (1613. Madge Nicholls)	"Four Acres"	Bradwell Pightle	"Clint"	"Middle Clint"	"Slade Pightle"	Walnut tree "Croft"	10-63 Arable Glebe
Troston Rectorie									
1	The Rectory site of present Troston Cottage.								
2	Glebe Pastures "Francis"								
3	May Nicholls. (1613. Madge Nicholls)								
4	"Four Acres"								
5	Bradwell Pightle								
6	"Clint"								
7	"Middle Clint"								
8	"Slade Pightle"								
9	Walnut tree "Croft"								
10-63	Arable Glebe								

Items 10-63 were arable glebe.

Below. Signatures of Dr. Jones, Curate, Francis & Roger Greengrass, Robt. Winniffe.

63 Site of land lying by the land of Amye & others...


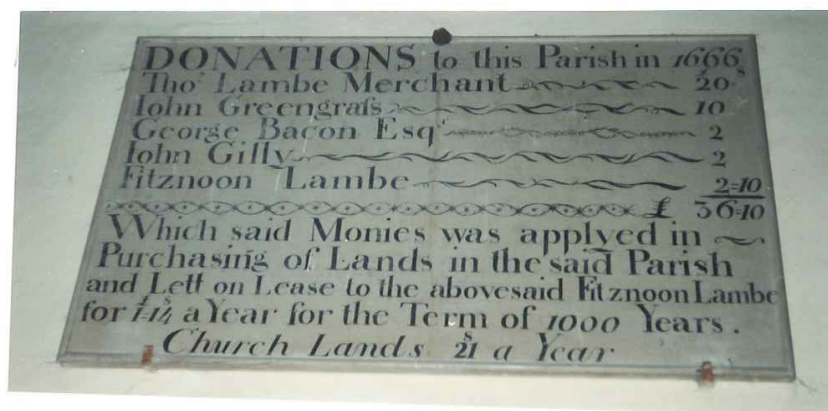


Sites in Troston in the 1600s (identified from Glebe Documents, wills, and later maps)

Small pieces of arable glebeland were located in many areas.

Present houses in existence in the 1600s. 1. Sunray Cottage (smaller today, otherwise hardly altered.)

- 2. Lower Farm (not bricked)
- 3. Street Farm.
- 4. The Lodge (core, later alterations)
- 5. Forge Corner (Victorian alterations)
- 6. Hall Farm (core, later alterations & additions)
- 7. The Hall.



Tablet in Troston Church showing the 1666 Charity.

Below. Sunray Cottage. Built about 1600, it was then a larger house. Last century it was made into two



cottages, and was still the same at the time of the 1923 Sale. Now one house, owned by Troston Farms.

The Great Plague

Fortunately the Great Plague of 1665 passed by Troston. Only five people are recorded as being buried in that year and none died of the disease. Death caused by the plague was signified in the church registers by a red mark against the victim's name.

The 1666 Charity

On a plaque over the north door of the church can be seen the names of Thomas Lambe, John Greengrass, George Bacon, John Gilly and Fitznoon Lambe who contributed to the 1666 Charity.

Thomas Lambe, merchant, father of Thomas Fitznoon Lambe, Lord of the Manor of Troston 1652-1672, left £20 in his will for the poor. Earlier John Greengrass had left £10, George Bacon £2 and John Gilly £2 for the same purpose. Thomas Fitznoon Lambe, added £2. 10s. 0d and with the total donated sum of thirty six pounds, various pieces of pasture and arable land scattered around Troston were bought from John Hodgson, gentleman, and Thomas Frost. Roger Greengrass, Edmund Greengrass (of Ixworth Thorpe), Richard Peake, Henry Sewell and Robert Baker were made trustees of these lands, which were leased to Fitznoon Lambe and his heirs for a thousand years. The yearly rent paid was thirty four shillings. The churchwardens received the rent and bought suitable commodities to distribute to the poor of Troston each year on Christmas Day. Whatever was bought had to meet with the approval of Fitznoon Lambe and Roger Greengrass and their heirs being resident in Troston. This charity continued until after the death of Robert Emlyn Lofft in 1900. He was still paying £1. 14s. 0d, although he owned the land. In his time blankets were purchased for the poor. When the Troston Estate was sold in 1923 one of the outgoing was called, "The Valentine's Gift", which was a donation to the village of £1. 14s. 0d. This was probably a continuation of the 1666 Charity.

The Hearth Tax

After the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Charles I entreated Parliament for more money. They granted him and his successors two shillings a year on every hearth (fireplace) in England and Wales. The tax was to be paid by the occupiers, unless they were certified as too poor to pay.

At first the tax was collected by local constables, but "they being slack about it, officers appointed by the king, were put in their place". This was a universally hated tax, and in 1689 it was repealed. The occupiers who paid the tax in Troston in 1674 were as follows.

Name	Number of Hearths	£.	s.
Mr. Lambe (Troston Hall)	15	1.	10
Mr. Bradfield (Rectory, described earlier)	8		16
Mr. Bradfield's bakehouse	1		2
Roger Greengrass (Townend)	5		10

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

34

Richard Peake *	4	8
Mr. Owen	4	8
Mr. Downinge	3	6
Robert Youngs	3	6
Mr. Smart	3	6
Thomas Freeman	3	6
Richard Gifford	2	4
John Haylocke	2	4
Thomas Coe	2	4
Joseph Tawny	2	4
Michael Knock	1	2
Joseph Waters	1	2
Robert Winniffe	1	2
An empty house	3	-

Those certified too poor to pay were:-

Widow Gosling	2
Widow Wix (Wickes)	2
Luke Lowes }	
Thomas Wix }	2
Francis Carver }	
Joseph Marsh }	2
Christopher Willett }	
- Cramwell }	3

The total paid was £6. 4s. 0d. In this tax every occupier was mentioned, even if they were exempt, so every house in the village is noted. The names bracketed together meant that two families shared one house. The total number of houses was twenty four; twenty were occupied by one household, three, by two families sharing, and there was one empty house. The population of the village in 1674 can be estimated at about one hundred and fifty.

Apart from Troston Hall, it is likely that at least five other houses in the tax list are still standing in the village today. They are Street Farm, Sunray Cottage (Mr.Kaye's house), Forge Corner, a Victorian restoration, Lower Farm, and Troston Lodge, which was probably a farmhouse. The Georgian restoration took place about 1800.

* Richard Peake was a fortunate, and probably hard-working man. John Greengrass left him some money in his will in 1630. Richard is described as a servant, but as John died aged seventy, and didn't have any children, Richard Peake probably ran his estate. After John's death Richard may have worked for Francis Greengrass, yeoman, John's brother. Richard married Elizabeth, daughter of Francis, and through her he inherited his father-in-law's farm, and become a yeoman himself. He was a churchwarden for a decade. Elizabeth Peake died in 1643 after giving birth to six children in six years. Richard eventually remarried and produced two more children. He died in 1674. The Peake family remained in Troston until 1806. See the Greengrass Family Tree on Page 171.

The Church 1500-1700

With the beginnings of Protestantism in the middle of the sixteenth century, the villagers of Troston would have seen changes to their church, with the removal of any vestiges of Roman Catholicism. In 1547 religious guilds were banned. Troston had two guilds, and they were probably missed for their secular as well as their spiritual work. By order, in 1561, the rood screen and rood loft had to be removed, and the great rood itself, statues of Our Lord on the Cross, flanked by the Virgin Mary and St. John, was destroyed. Remains of the screen are now to be seen in the arch between the nave and the chancel. It is likely that the panelling behind the altar was also once part of the rood screen. The altars to the Troston Gild Saints were destroyed, and statues, including those in the niches of the porch, were despoiled. The Common Prayer Book replaced the Mass Book and services were held in English instead of Latin.

Priests were now allowed to marry, and following the death in 1566 of Troston's parson, Sir John Coke, (Sir was an honorary title given to the clergy up to this time) Thomas Bradstreet, the new parson, and his wife Dorothy took up residence in the rectory described in the glebe documents. The living was kept in the family for just over one hundred years. On Thomas's death in 1600, he was succeeded by his son William, and in 1619, his grandson Samuel became rector. Samuel remained as incumbent until his death in 1667. Unlike many other rectors of his time Samuel Bradstreet survived the Puritan upheavals of the Commonwealth under Oliver and Richard Cromwell, 1648-1660.

These upheavals included more desecration of churches. William Dowsing, the scourge of Suffolk churches, did not visit Troston, but it is likely that some of his henchmen did. Their job was to destroy what they believed to be 'superstitious images'. Much beautiful Mediaeval stained glass was smashed by them. This could have happened at Troston; only small pieces in the nave windows remain today. The original paintings on the screen were probably defaced at the same time. Like most churches St. Mary's lost many of its former treasures in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

A New Family at Troston Hall

In 1680 Robert Maddocks* from London bought Troston Estate from Fitznoon Lambe. A sort of "Dick Whittington" story is told about how Robert's father came upon his wealth. It was claimed that the family descended from the ancient Princes of Wales, but this cannot be verified. Nouveau riche families often tried to claim noble birth.

Robert Maddocks' father, "left Wales at the age of thirteen, on foot, friendless and alone, and arrived in London. He repaired to Cheapside, where observing a merchant soil his shoe, he immediately ran and brushed off the dirt. The merchant, struck by the boy's attention, enquired into his situation, and having heard his story took him into his service. After sometime he was employed in the counting-house, and in the sequel became a partner in the firm, and acquired a considerable fortune".

Robert Maddocks became Lord of the Manor of Troston, and was succeeded in turn by his son Robert, who married his cousin Dorothy Rushbrook. He died childless in 1735, and Dorothy took over the estate, which passed, on her death in 1763, to Edward Capel, cousin of Robert and Dorothy.

* See the Maddocks family tree on page 38.

Portrait of a Gentleman about 1690.

This was one of ten portraits owned by Letitia Holden (née Lofft) depicting her ancestors*. One painting dated 1700 was believed to be of the Maddocks family. In the complete picture below there is a ship flying the British flag. The Maddocks' wealth originated in trade so it is possible that this gentleman could have been Robert Maddocks, lord of the manor of Troston, 1680-1700. The portraits were hung in Troston Lodge which was owned by Mrs. Holden at the beginning of this century.

* See the Lofft Family Tree on page 38.



A GENTLEMAN c. 1690

TROSTON LODGE No. 5

The Family Tree of the Bacon and Lambe Families. Lords of the Manor of Troston. 1539-1680.

The Bacon Family descended from the Bacons of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk.

Thomas Bacon

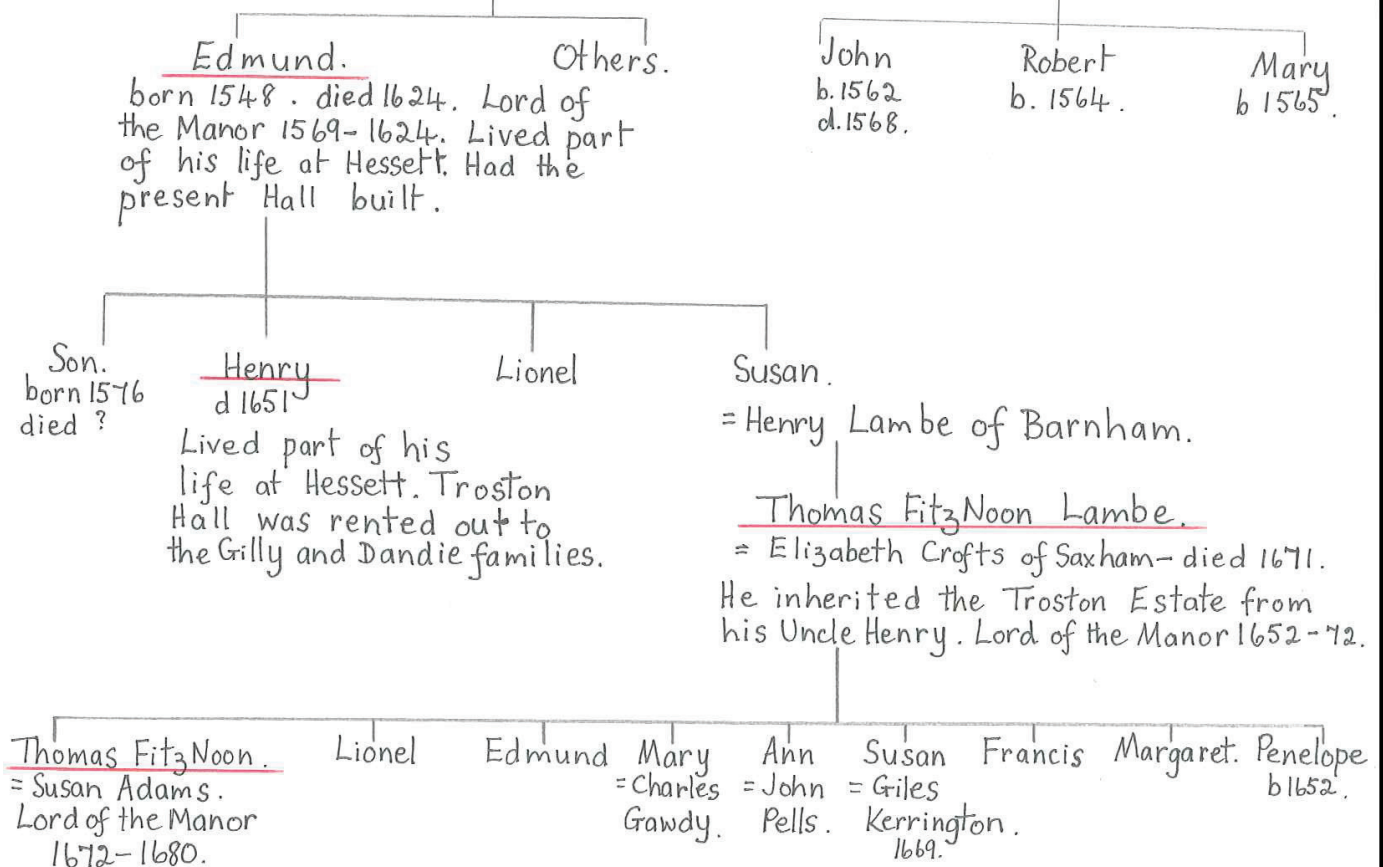
Lord of the Manors of Hesselst and Troston 1539-1547.

Edward Bacon.

Lived in Troston from 1524 as a tenant of the Abbot of St. Edmunds.
Lord of the Manor 1547-1553

John Bacon. Lord of the Manor. 1553-1568.

= ① Barbara Jermyn died 1559 = ② Katherine Perient. Lady of the Manor 1568-1569 when her stepson came of age.



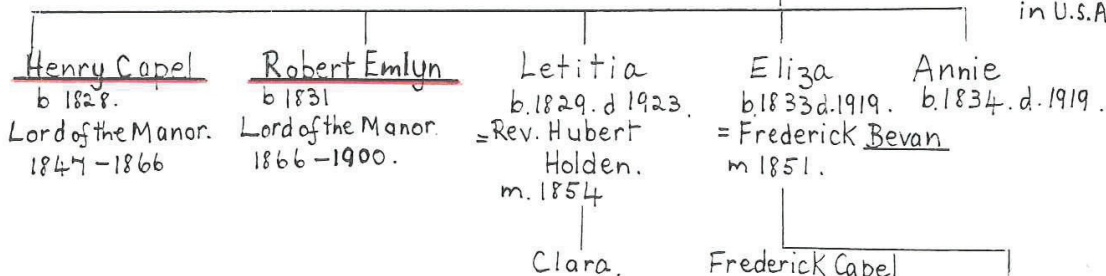
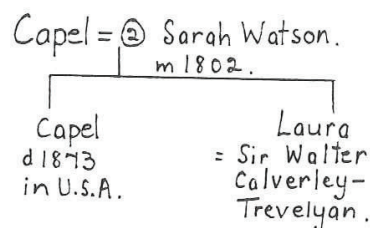
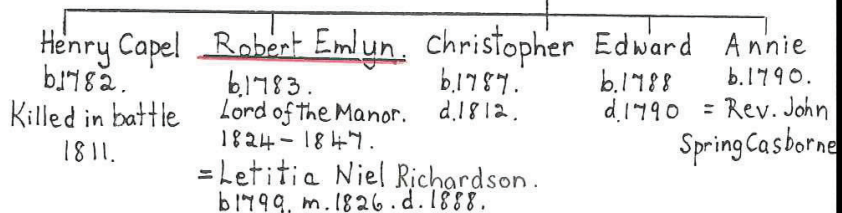
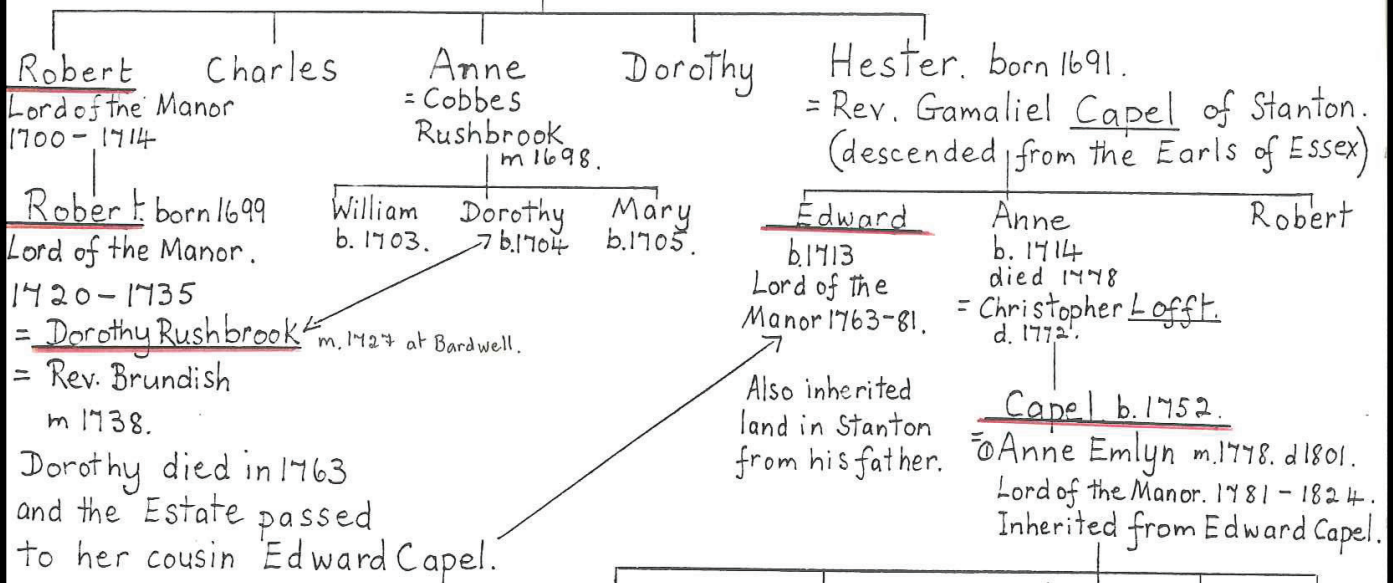
1680 Estate Sold to Robert Maddocks.

Family Tree of the Maddocks, Capel, Lofft and Bevan Families.
Lords of the Manor of Troston. 1680-1919.

Robert Maddocks

Lord of the Manor 1680-1700.

= Anne Bysse. (Lady of the manor. 1714-1720.)



Letitia, Eliza & Annie were Trustees of the Estate from 1900-1919 when both Eliza and Annie died. In 1919 the Estate was sold to Mr. F. W. Wateridge by Mrs. Letitia Holden, only surviving sister of Robert Lofft.

Lawrence Emlyn. 1948 Troston Cottage. Bought back part of the Estate. Died 1972. His heir, Timothy Bevan (distant cousin) sold most of it again.

PART FOUR THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

By the beginning of the seventeen hundreds there was an increase of poverty in the countryside. The woollen industry had declined, and bad harvests forced many small farmers to sell out to their richer neighbours or newcomers.

At this time the Maddocks family added to its estate in Troston at the expense of several yeoman farmers including the Greengrasses and Peakes. The Wickes family had disappeared from the records by 1700, and no trace of the Winniffes can be found after 1717 when Goodwife Winniffe was mentioned in the Poor's Accounts Book.

Throughout this century there seems to have been much movement of population in and out of the village, and some people stayed only a short while. In 1777 a list of inhabitants over sixteen years of age gives thirty families, six widowers, seven widows, seventeen single men, and fifteen single women. Some of the last two categories had different surnames from the families so they may have come to work in Troston. However it does look as if the population had increased to a possible total of two hundred. Eight families who lived in Troston in 1700 were still there in 1800. They were the Greengrasses, Peakes, Buckles, Coes, Popes, Reeves, Cattons and Rosiers. The Coes were first mentioned in 1585 when Richard Coe married Elizabeth Winniffe. Their descendants remained in the village until 1914. The name A. Coe can be seen in the church porch. He was a soldier in the First World War. The Reeves (1) also survived well into this century. They kept a grocer's shop and Post Office at the present Glebe Cottage from 1900 till 1941.

(1) See pictures of Robert Reeve, and Glebe Cottage, as shop and post office, on pages 100 and 115.

Poverty

To deal with poverty each village levied rates on its wealthier residents. The Rector, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor set the rate. In Troston it was usually a penny in the pound on property values, but it could vary, and in 1736 it went up to seven pence halfpenny in the pound to pay off a debt. The Overseers tackled the problems of the poor and decided how the money was spent.

It was necessary for all persons to have a legal settlement order. If people wished to move to another town or village, they had to acquire one for their new location, otherwise they could be denied parish relief, and sent back to their last place of legal settlement. To obtain the order any one of the following qualifications were needed; firstly by birth, secondly by land rented to the value of ten pounds and above, or payment of ten pounds and above in rates, thirdly by hired work for a full year, and lastly by working a full term of seven years as an apprentice. Women gained from their husbands, and children from their fathers.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

40

The following are a few examples of settlement orders pertaining to Troston.

Eli Smith moved from Troston to Woodford in Essex, where he was found to have no settlement order when he required parish relief. Consequently after questioning by J.Ps, he and his wife and children were returned to Troston in 1750. This particular order is shown on page 42.

There is another interesting example of Mary Catton, widow, and her son Isaac aged fourteen. They went to live at Ixworth, without legal settlement. The following is an account of her examination by J.Ps in 1782.

"upon her oath she said that she was married to Francis Catton, then of the parish of Troston, butcher, about thirty seven years ago, and that he rented for more than twenty years a tenement of eight pounds a year at Troston, and in the same year another tenement from Thomas Wright in Troston at one guinea a year. And also a piece of land called Hall Lane Pightle, at fourteen shillings a year; and also another piece of land called Rickwoods at five shillings a year, and kept these lands for more than twenty years, and that all the aforesaid occupations (lands) were hired in the same year. And also further said that she had heard her husband declare he hired to the amount of ten pounds a year with a view to gain a settlement in Troston". (He originally came from Fornham All Saints).

On this evidence it was decided that Francis Catton, deceased, had in his lifetime gained legal settlement in Troston. As Mary Catton and her son gained settlement from him, they were removed from Ixworth and returned to Troston.

There were many other instances like that of William Heyhoe, his wife and child who did not qualify for settlement in Troston and were returned to their original village, in this case, Culford.

Often people did qualify for legal settlement and were granted certificates. The Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Great Livermere accepted Thomas Lilley his wife and child from Troston in 1718. He was a husbandman, and qualified under the hiring of land regulation. The acceptance is shown on page 41.

Legal settlement was required well into the next century. In 1859 John Spooner was returned from Bury St. Edmunds to Troston. His is a sad story. From 1809-1816 John, a poor boy, had been apprenticed to John Reeve of Troston to learn the trade of a tailor. His indenture premium was paid from church charity funds. Having finished his apprenticeship, John Spooner moved to the Parish of St. James in Bury St. Edmunds, but never did anything to gain a legal settlement. By 1859 he became ill with, "a sickness of permanent disability", and was on parish relief in Bury Workhouse, when it was discovered that his last place of legal settlement was Troston, because of his apprenticeship there. So after forty three years he was returned, aged 63, to the village where he soon died.



Thomas Lilley and family legally settled in Great Livermere 1718.
from Troston.

Livermere
magna suoth

God the great Churchwardens and Overseers of the
parish of Livermere magna in the County of
for the time being at the instance and Request of
Thomas Lilley of the same parish husbandman on the
behalf of himself with Martha his wife and Martha
his daughter and pursuant to a late act of parliament
in that behalf made and provided do hereby certify to the
Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish of Troston
in the County of Dorset to which place the
said Thomas Lilley is desirous to remove himself
and family with an intention to make their Residence
there for the great that may be done and acknowledge
the said Thomas Lilley and ^{family} to be lawfully and
legally settled in this our parish of Livermere magna
and that they shall be there received and owned by us
suppose if there shall be occasion for their Return and
that their Removal shall not be deemed a settlement
in the parish of Troston aforesaid without our hands
and seals Dated the twenty first day of November in the
year of our Lord 1718

attested by us Inhabitants
of the parish of Livermere
aforesaid

Joseph Munn

John Lilley

John Hedden

Thomas ...

Benjamin King

John Houghton
his wife

Church
wardens
Overseers
Scholes

Allowed and subscribed by us being Two of his
majesties Justices of the peace for the County
aforesaid

Ham: Strange

C. Coroner

Essex

Eli Smith and family
returned to Troston
from Woodford, Essex. 1750.

To the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of
the Parish of Woodford — — — in
the County of Essex — and to the Church-
Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the
Parish of Troston in the
County of Suffolk — — —



HEREAS Complaint hath been made unto
Us, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
for the County of Essex — aforesaid
(One whereof being of the Quorum) by the

Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said
Parish of Woodford That Eli Smith
with Elizabeth his wife and their
two Children Elizabeth aged
five years and Thomas aged
three years have lately intruded, and
came into the said Parish of Woodford
and are like to become Chargeable to the same; We
the said Justices, upon Examination of the Premises
upon Oath, and other Circumstances, do adjudge the
same to be true, and do also adjudge the Place of the
last legal Settlement of the said Eli Smith and
Elizabeth his wife and their
Children Elizabeth aged five
years and Thomas aged three years
to be in the Parish of Troston in the
County of Suffolk — — —

THESE are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to
require you, on Sight hereof, to remove and
convey the said Eli Smith with Eliza-
beth his wife and their Children
Elizabeth and Thomas —

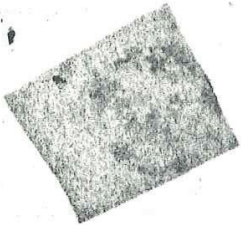
from and out of your said Parish of Wood-
ford — to the said Parish of Tro-
ston — — —

and them deliver unto the Church-Wardens and
Overseers of the Poor there, or to some, or one of them,
together with this our Order, or a true Copy hereof,
who are hereby required to receive and provide for
them — according to Law. Given under our
Hands and Seals this 21st Day of January
1750.

Worlston



James Altham



Suffolk } The Examination of Mary Catton of the Parish 43
 (Stowitz) of Trosworth in the said County, Widow, touching
 the place of her last legal Settlement, taken
 before us Framingham Thruston, Esquire,
 and William Hoste, Clerke, two of his Majesty's
 Justices of the Peace, and for the said County,
 this 15th day of July 1782.

Who upon her Oath saith, that she was Married to
 Francis Catton, then of the Parish of Troston, in the said
 County, Butcher, about thirty seven years ago, who
 resided there under a Certificate from the Parish of
 Fernham All Saints, in the said County, that he rented
 upwards of twenty years since, a Tenement of Eight
 Pounds a Year, at Troston, and in the same Year
 another Tenement, of Thomas Wright, in Troston at
 one Guinea a Year, And also a piece of Land called
 Hall Lane Dightle, at fourteen shillings a Year, and
 also another piece of Land of one Dickwage, at five
 shillings a Year, ^{and resided thereon the whole of the said year.} and that all the aforesaid Occupations
 were hired in one Year; And also further saith that
 she hath heard her said Husband declare he hired to
 the Amount of Ten Pounds a Year with a View to
 gain a Settlement; And also declare that he hired to
 the amount of twelve Pounds a Year; but cannot set
 forth the Particulars of the further different
 Occupations.

Taken and signed the day
 and Year above written
 before us

The mark of
 Mary X Catton

Framingham Thruston
 William Hoste

44

[No. 38.]

To the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Ixworth in the said County and to the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Troston in the County of

R. B.

The Removal of Mary Catton and her son Isaac from Ixworth to Troston

1782.

Suffolk and to each and every of them.

Framingham Troston

UPON the Complaint of the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Ixworth in the County of Suffolk unto us whose Names are hereunto set, and Seals affixed, being two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Suffolk and one of us of the Quorum, that Mary Catton, Widow and Isaac her son aged fourteen Years

did lately come to inhabit in the said parish of Ixworth not having gained a legal Settlement there, nor produced any Certificate owning them or either of them to be settled elsewhere, and that the said Mary Catton, and Isaac her son

Will Roste

are likely to be chargeable to the said parish of Ixworth We the said Justices upon due Proof made thereof, as well upon the Examination of the said Mary Catton upon Oath; as otherwise, and likewise upon due Consideration had of the Premises, do adjudge the same to be true; and we do likewise adjudge, that the lawful Settlement of her the said Mary Catton, and Isaac her son

is in the said parish of Troston in the said County of Suffolk We do therefore require you the said Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said parish of Ixworth or some or one of you, to convey the said Mary Catton and Isaac her son

from and out of your said Parish of Ixworth to the said parish of Troston and them to deliver to the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or to some or one of them, together with this our Order, or a true Copy thereof. And we do also hereby require you the said Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said parish of Troston to receive and provide for them as Inhabitants of your parish Given under our Hand, and Seals the sixth Day of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and eighty two.

Whereas Complaint hath been made unto us, whose Names are hereunto set and Seals affixed, being Two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said *Borough* and Overseers of the Poor of the said ^{(one whereof being of the Quorum),} *Parish* of *Saint James* That *John Spooner*

The Removal of John Spooner from Bury St. Edmunds to Troston

1859.

had come to inhabit, and *is* now inhabiting in the said ^(*a*) *parish* of *Saint James* * not having resided in the said ^(*a*) *parish* for five years next before the said Application and Complaint, and * not having gained a legal settlement there, nor having produced any Certificate acknowledging *him* to be settled elsewhere, and that he *is* now actually chargeable to the same ^(*a*) *parish* in *respect of relief* made necessary by *sickness of the said John Spooner* and *is* now receiving Relief therefrom, ^(*a*) *And that the said sickness is such as will produce permanent disability* and that the ^(*a*) *parish* of *Troston* is the place of *his* last legal Settlement: *That*, the said Justices, upon due proof thereof as well by Examination of Witnesses, to wit, of *George Hubbard, James Clarke and the said John Spooner*

upon *Sh*, as otherwise, and upon due consideration of ~~the~~ Premises, do adjudge the same to be true, and that the place of the last legal Settlement of the said *John Spooner*

is in the said ^(*a*) *parish* of *Troston* in the said *County* of ^(*a*) *Suffolk* And we the said Justices do hereby further state that we are satisfied by the evidence aforesaid that the said sickness of the said *John Spooner* will produce permanent disability in the said *John Spooner*.

These are therefore, in Her Majesty's Name, to require and Order you the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said ^(*a*) *parish* of *Saint James* or some or one of you, or some proper person or persons to be employed by you, at such time and in such manner as by Law is provided and directed in that behalf, to remove and convey the said *John Spooner*

from and out of your said ^(*a*) *parish* of *Saint James* to the said ^(*a*) *parish* of *Troston* and *him* deliver, together with this our Order, or a Duplicate or true Copy thereof, unto the Overseers of the Poor there, or one of them, who are hereby required to receive and provide for *him* according to Law.

Given under our Hands and Seals, at *Bury Saint Edmunds* in the said *County* of *Suffolk* the *second* Day of *February* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty *nine*

46 and that an Order of Justices, has been obtained for his Removal to your (*) Parish of Troston

as his last place of legal Settlement (a duplicate of which Order is herewith sent). **And Take Notice**, that the following are the grounds of the said Removal, including the Particulars of the Settlement relied upon by us in support thereof:

For that (*) by an Indenture dated the third day of May one thousand eight hundred and nine, the said John Spooner whom of the age of fourteen years or thereabouts was legally bound apprentice to John Deave of the said Parish of Troston for seven years to learn the Trade of a Tailor - That the said John Spooner inhabited the said Parish of Troston living with and serving his said master as an Indoor apprentice during the whole term of the said apprenticeship to wit, from the third day of May one thousand eight hundred and nine to the third day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixteen. The said apprenticeship was procured by, and on the said Indenture the premium thereon is expressed to be paid by the then Trustees of the Lands and Tenements ^{conveyed} conveyed and sold by Sir John Sudbury late Dean of Durham for binding and putting forth apprentices within the Town of Burg Saint Edmunds and other charitable uses.

That the said John Spooner never did any act whereby to gain a subsequent settlement

And also for that the said John Spooner with had come to inhabit and is now inhabiting in the said (*) Parish of Troston in the Borough of Burg Saint Edmunds and before and at the time of the making of the said Order was and still is chargeable to the said (*) same Parish and receiving relief therefrom.

And Take Notice, That unless Notice of Appeal against the said Order be received by us within Twenty-one Days from the sending hereof, or (in case of your application for a Copy of the Depositions on which such Order has been made) within a further period of Fourteen Days after the sending of such Copy, the said Pauper will be removed to your said (*) Parish of Troston in pursuance of the said Order, and no Appeal against such Order shall afterwards be allowed.

Given under our Hands this fifth Day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and ninety nine

J. T. Blinvis
 W. W. Wooters
 George William Pearson
 Secy. of the Poor

(*) Overseers and
 of the Poor of the said
 of

Apprentices Indentures

Many boys were apprenticed to learn a trade. The fee for the indenture was often paid out of a church charity or by a patron if the boy's family were poor. The following is an extract from an indenture of 1732 between William Prick of Great Livermere, who was to take John Copsey of Troston as an apprentice butcher. The indenture sets out the terms between the two, beginning with the extent of the apprenticeship as seven years:-

"during which term, the said apprentice, his master faithfully shall and will serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commandments everywhere gladly do. He shall do no damage to his master, nor see to be done of others.... The goods of his master he shall not waste nor lend them unlawfully to any hurt to his master.... He shall neither buy nor sell without his master's leave. Taverns, inns or ale-houses he shall not haunt. At cards, dice, tables or any other unlawful games he shall not play. Matrimony he shall not contract. Nor from service from his master, day or night, shall he absent himself; but as an honest and faithful apprentice shall and will demean himself towards his master and all during the said term".

It is then mentioned that William Steggall, yeoman of Troston, paid the indenture fee of four pounds, and goes on to list the master's responsibilities thus:-

"he shall teach and instruct the best way and manner that he can; finding all and allowing unto his apprentice sufficient meat, drink, clothing, washing, lodging and all other necessities, during the said term. Following his apprenticeship, two suits of clothes at the completion of his term.....

It was signed by William Prick and witnesses were Abi Cocksedge and Matthew Cocksedge, 1732.

Illegitimate Children

Women with illegitimate children often asked for parish relief. Here is part of a maintenance order for the child of Ann Drake:-

"The said Ann Drake was lately delivered of a male bastard child at the house of John Game in Troston, and the said bastard child is now chargeable to the Parish of Troston, and likely so to continue, and that Edward Gaylett of Steeple Bumpstead in the County of Essex, butcher, did beget the said bastard child on the body of Ann Drake. And the said Edward Gaylett hath appeared before us, (two J.Ps) and has not showed sufficient cause why he shall not be the reputed father..... and upon the oath of Ann Drake we do adjudge him the reputed father of the said bastard child".

Edward Gaylett was then ordered to pay the Overseers of the Poor of Troston twenty four shillings for the maintenance and lying in of Ann Drake up to the time of making the order, and from then on, 2s. 6d per week for the maintenance of the child for the whole time that it was chargeable to Troston. Also Ann Drake had to pay sixpence per week to the parish in case she should not nurse or take care of the child herself.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

48

The Accounts Book of the Overseers of the Poor

In the Records Office at Bury St. Edmunds is the Troston Accounts Book of the Overseers of the Poor, from 1708-1738. It gives a fascinating insight into the life of those depending on parish relief.

At this time there was a poor house in the village, which was referred to as 'The Town House'. Elderly poor people lived here, rent free. There is no indication of where it was situated, and it was not mentioned in the Hearth Tax of 1674, but was in existence by 1710. It must have been fairly dilapidated as there are constant bills for its repair. Here are a few examples:-

1710	For the Town House			
	303 of brick		6s.	0d
	Fetching brick		4s.	0d
	Lime		2s.	1d
	Fetching sand			6d
	Paid to mason		7s.	3d
	Total		19s.	10d
1729	Fetching clay for the Town House		1s.	0d
	4 days work at the Town House		4s.	0d
	Timber		3s.	6d
	Halm (straw for thatching)		6s.	0d
	Total		14s.	6d
1736	For the Town House	f.	s.	d
	3 bushells lime		1.	3
	2½ loads dry stone	1.	7.	10
	Timber	2.	5.	1
	Bits of woods	2.	4.	0
	Mason's bill	1.	2.	1
	Thatching	1.	4.	4
	Total	8.	4.	7

For an iron for the oven's mouth in the Town House
weight 5lbs.2ozs. 1. 10

The last entry is not explained more fully. Perhaps it was an oven door.

Widows were especially vulnerable, and many were forced onto parish relief. The following amounts were paid out to Widow Walters in the last month of her life, and for her funeral in 1710.

June 5th	Paid to Widow Walters	1s.	6d
June 12th	Paid to Widow Walters	1s.	6d
June 19th	Paid to Widow Walters	1s.	6d
June 21st	For a load of firs (1) for Widow Walters	2s.	6d
June 25th	Paid to Widow Walters	1s.	6d
July 3rd	Paid to Widow Walters	1s.	6d
July 5th	Paid to Daubers for cleaning Widow Walter's house		6d
July 10th	Paid to Widow Walters	1s.	6d
July 14th	Paid to Thomas Marth for a coffin for Widow Walters	4s.	6d
July 14th	Paid to Thomas Coe for ringing the bell and making a grave for Widow Walters	1s.	6d
July 14th	Paid for carrying her to her grave	1s.	0d

July 14th Paid to Goody Greengrass for nursing and winding (2) Widow Walters 4s. 6d

- (1) Furze and brushwood for a fire
 (2) Winding - putting her in a winding sheet after death.

Luke Lowes who had been too poor to pay the Hearth Tax in 1674 is mentioned in 1710.

April 1710 Paid to Robert Sudbury Luke Lowes rent 9s. 9d
 September 1710 Paid to Robert Sudbury Luke Lowes rent 6s. 6d
 His funeral expenses are also mentioned in 1711.

Other entries include:-

September 30th 1710 For the beer to the Townsmen (Overseers) when they met about John Sexton's rent. 3s. 0d
 July 1710 To Mr. Paston for 'physick' for John Greengrass, his wife. 3s. 6d
 To the midwife 2s. 6d
 Victuals and drink for the midwife. 2s. 0d
 For writing the accounts. 6d
 1708 Wood for the poor 12s. 0d
 1736 2 pairs of stockings 1s. 2d
 1738 For making a jacket for the girl Greengrass 9d
 1729 For a thousand brooches & badges £2. 2s. 4d

At first sight the last entry seems rather strange, but in that era each person on parish relief was required to wear a badge to proclaim the fact to the world.

The above are just a few examples in the book. Every year the contributors to the tax for the poor were listed, and in April the accounts were signed by the Rector, the Churchwardens, the Overseers, and the auditors.

At the end of the book is a page of doodles, including an amateur drawing of the King (George I) in his coronation robes, with crown, orb and septre. There are also flowery signatures of William Steggall 1718 and John Greengrass, both Overseers of the Poor in the early years of the book. Written in the same hand is, "Serve God and Keep his Commandments".

The accounts were written by different people over the years, some with much better spelling and handwriting than others. All this helps to make the book a unique and personal record of the village poor at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Lords of the Manor 1763-1900 (1)

Edward Capel inherited Troston estate in 1763 from his cousin, Dorothy Brundish (formerly Dorothy Maddocks, wife of Robert). Edward was born in 1713 to Hester and Gamaliel Capel. Hester, nee Maddocks, was the youngest child of Robert Maddocks, who died in 1700. Gamaliel Capel was cousin to Lord Capel. Their family, who had descended from the Royal Plantagenets and Dukes of Suffolk, owned an estate at Stanton. Gamaliel became rector there in 1720.

Edward Capel (2) was an erudite gentleman who held the office of Deputy Inspector of Plays at two hundred pounds per annum. He spent thirty years preparing an edition of Shakespeare's work. Two years after his death the book was published and achieved a wide circulation. He was described as, "a personable, well made man of middle stature.... had much the carriage, manners and sentiments of a gentleman..... was possessed of no little vanity, was somewhat unsociable, but his temper had been soured by neglect". He died a bachelor in 1781, when the Troston estate was passed to his nephew Capel Lofft.

Capel Lofft was probably the most colourful character ever to have owned Troston Hall. His father, Christopher Lofft had been private secretary to the famous Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. Capel was a native of London. He was educated at Eton & Peterhouse College, Cambridge, where he studied law. He was twenty nine when he came into his inheritance, and already married to Ann Emlyn. Their twin sons, Henry Capel, (died in the battle of Albuhera 1811) and Robert Emlyn, who succeeded him, were born at Troston in 1782. Capel and Ann Lofft had four other children. She died in 1801. He remarried and had a son and a daughter. Of his eight children only four survived him.

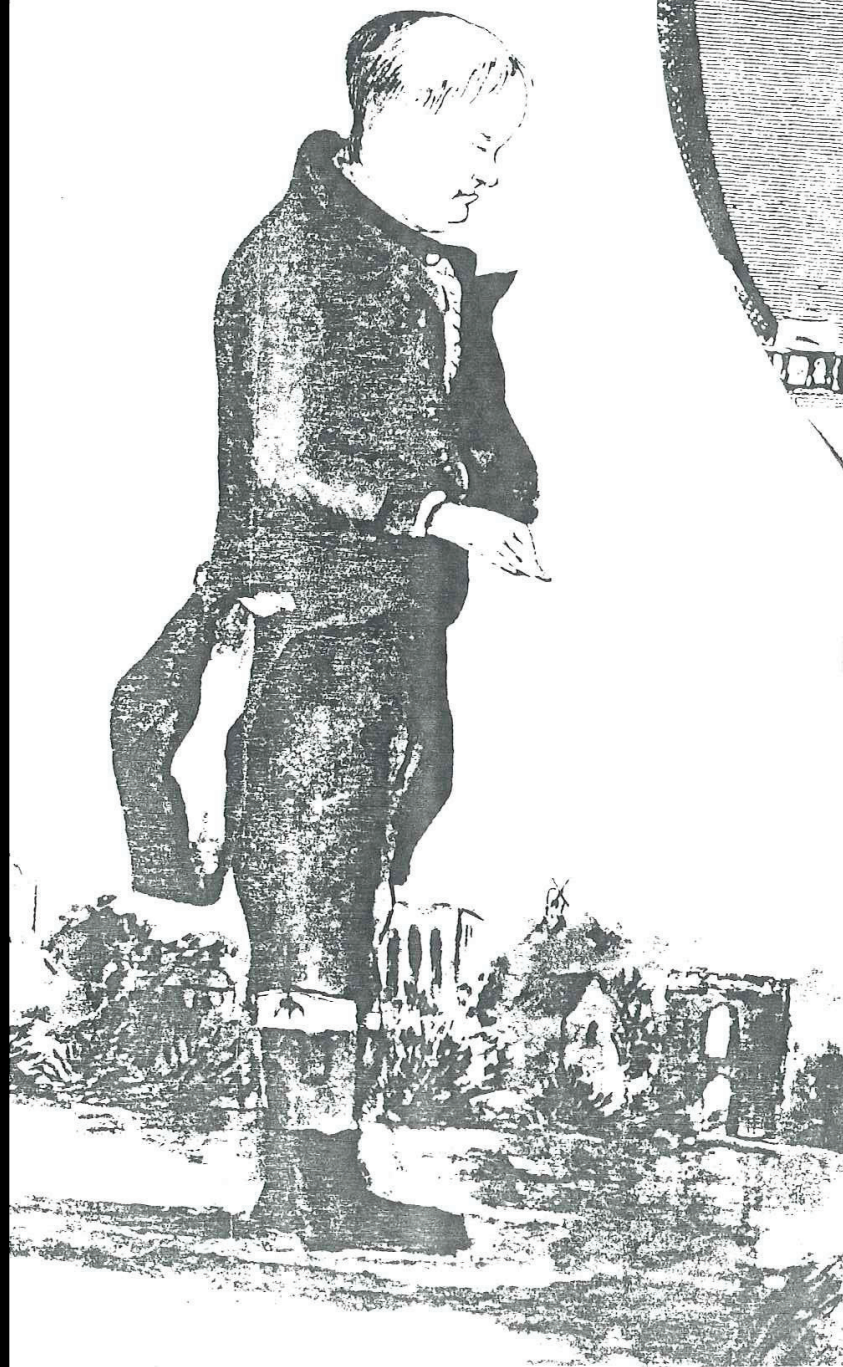
Capel Lofft was described as small, upright, boyish, careless in his dress and never in fashion (3). He began his career as a Whig barrister at Lincolns Inn Fields. Later he was a magistrate at Bury St. Edmunds, but in 1802 his name was struck off the Roll of Magistrates because of his, 'improper interference', in trying to save from hanging a servant girl called Sarah Lloyd. She stole forty shillings from her mistress in Bury St. Edmunds and was condemned to death. Capel Lofft got up a petition against her sentence. It was signed by many people, including his friend, the Duke of Grafton. Lofft did not save the girl, but walked by the tumbrel, carrying her to Tayfen Meadows where she was hanged.

Capel Lofft was also a classical scholar, a skilled astronomer, an authority on botany, a lover of literature, and the author of eighteen miscellaneous works including prose, poetry, and translations of Virgil and Petrarch. He had enormous correspondence with most literary notables of his time. He was also a patron of Robert Bloomfield, the Suffolk poet from Honington. He read the manuscript of Bloomfield's work, 'The Farmer's Boy', wrote the preface to the book and arranged for publication. From then on he became a great friend and admirer of the poet, and through Lofft many influential people, including the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Grafton and Captain Bunbury of Livermere, showed interest in Bloomfield and became his patrons. Bloomfield often visited Troston Hall and the two took many walks together. Lofft was at times somewhat eccentric and he invited the poet to plant two chestnut and two oak trees in the gardens of the Hall. These trees were given the classical names of Homer, Demothenes, Virgil and Theocritus. In fact most trees in the garden bore such names given by the owner.

From 1816 onwards Lofft travelled extensively on the continent, until his death in 1824. He is buried in the Protestant cemetery at St. Germano near Pinerolo, Italy.

Capel Lofft wrote three epitaphs. The one to his wife can be seen in the

Right. Edward Capel,
lord of the manor 1763-1788.



Left. Capel Lofft,
lord of the manor 1788-1824.

Church. Another was for Edward Ward who died in 1802, aged ninety two. He had been a gardener at the hall for seventy years. The third epitaph was for Robert Bannock, aged sixteen, a village boy, who was drowned in a river. It is worth reproducing here.

Think ye who trust in youth and vigorous health,
 Death seizes us by unsuspected stealth.
 Thus fell this youth; with manly beauty blest;
 For disposition prized amongst the best;
 Industrious, sober, mild! To bathe he went:
 Bright was the day and warm, and he in heart's content.
 His foot betray'd him on the shelvy bank,
 In vain he struggled: overwhelmed he sank.
 When found no efforts could life's spark restore.
 Nor saw he brothers, sisters, parents more.
 Warn'd by his fate youths shunned the fatal spot.
 Or swim amongst such dangers venture not;
 And live like him; that as your moments fly
 You may be so prepared to live or die.
 Him, Heaven we trust, has snatched from life's frail bloom,
 To life secure of bliss beyond the tomb.
 Doubtful and short the space to mortals lent,
 But life to win eternity is meant.

On Capel Lofft's death Robert Emlyn, his son, became Lord of the Manor of Troston in 1824, and he was succeeded by his son, Henry Capel Lofft, in 1847. For some of the time Henry was an absentee landlord, and the hall was rented out. In the 1850s a Major Moss was the tenant.

By 1860 Henry was back home with the idea of turning Troston into a garden village. He started a brickworks which was situated near the mill (5). He had Hall Farm refronted with brick, one of which bears his initials, and four flint cottages built in Church Lane (4). (They were pulled down in 1973 to make way for the new council houses). However he died in 1866 before his plan was completed.

His brother, and heir Robert Emlyn then took over Troston Estate, and remained lord of the manor until his death in 1900. He was a great benefactor to the village and his work will be described in context in the following chapter.

- (1) See the family tree of the Maddocks, Capels and Loffts, page 38.
- (2) See picture of Edward Capel on page 51.
- (3) See picture of Capel Lofft on page 51.
- (4) See photos on page 145.
- (5) See map on page 60.

PART FIVE THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Population

At the beginning of the nineteenth century census records were started, and for the first time there is an accurate count of the population of Troston. With changes in farming, more labour was needed, and there was an influx of people into the village. Also there began to be an excess of births over deaths.

In 1801, 247 inhabitants were recorded. By 1811 there was a marked increase. The following table shows the Troston Census for that year:-

Inhabited houses	32
By how many families occupied	58
Uninhabited houses	1
Families chiefly employed in agriculture	39
Families employed in trade, manufacture and handicraft	13
Other families not in preceding classes	6
Males	142
Females	151
Total persons	293

On the form was a comparison with 1801 which showed an increase of 46 persons, and 7 families, but only 2 extra houses. So in 1811 there is evidence of overcrowding, with one house being occupied by two or even three families. This situation had eased by 1841 with a population of 409 inhabiting 87 houses. The peak was reached in 1851 with a total of 427 persons. However, by the latter part of the century people were beginning to move away from the village due to the depression in agriculture. In 1871 the figures show 356 persons and 77 houses. This downward trend continued and in 1881 there were 309 residents and 63 houses. Ten years later 268 persons remained, only 21 more than in 1801.

Farming
Exchanges of Land

By the end of the seventeen hundreds farming was still reminiscent of the Middle Ages. There were large open fields, parts of which were owned by different farmers. This meant that farms were fragmented and scattered around the parish. It was realised that it would be more economic if each farm consisted of larger blocks of land, as near to the farmhouse and outbuildings as possible. To this end owners began exchanging land with their neighbours. In 1788 Capel Lofft, lord of the manor, called a meeting of landowners Messrs Borders, Pack, Peake, Johnson, Hustler and Rosier. They eventually agreed to exchange pieces of land with Capel Lofft and each other, to gain consolidated blocks. It was done legally, and sometimes money was paid if there was a variance in the acreage of land exchanged. It was a complicated procedure in some cases, as, with many small pieces of land, went rights which dated back to Mediaeval times. For instance Capel Lofft, had the ancient right whereby he could pasture his flock for nine days and nights on one enclosed piece of land owned by Mr. Johnson. When Lofft and Johnson exchanged some other land Johnson had this right reduced to five nights per year, and the flock had to be folded.

Enclosures of Land

Although some land in Troston had been enclosed piecemeal by owners from as early as the sixteenth century, there still remained many open spaces including heath and common land. Enclosure was the process of hedging, fencing or walling land which had previously been either open arable fields, or some form of common land such as greens or heaths. It was an advantage to landowners to be able to enclose and plough up such land. They argued that more agriculture workers would be needed to till the extra acreage, and indeed after the Troston enclosures this was true, and the population increased by 45%. Enclosures had to come about through an Act of Parliament.

At a meeting at the Angel Inn, Bury St. Edmunds, of Troston landowners in 1805 it was proposed, resolved and agreed as follows:- Firstly, "that it is the opinion of this meeting that it would be to the general benefit of the proprietors and owners of land in the Parish of Troston to divide, allot and enclose the open and common fields, meadows, pastures, commons, heaths and waste grounds in the said parish". It was decided that these lands should be divided and allotted to each landowner in direct proportion to the amount of land he already owned, which meant that Capel Lofft would receive the most.

A number of people in the village had ancient rights, which were connected with the land and cottages they owned or rented. These rights consisted mainly of grazing animals on commons or heaths and cutting furze for fuel. But as these lands would be in private hands and could be ploughed up after the enclosures, villagers' rights would disappear, so at the meeting at the Angel Inn it was decided to give five acres of land to anyone who had to forego the above privileges.

The landowners at the meeting then resolved to make an application to Parliament for the enclosure of lands in Troston, "as soon as the orders and rules of the House of Commons would permit". It was also proposed that a clause be inserted whereby some land could be rented out and the money used to purchase coals for the poor of the parish. This was to be known as 'The Poor's Estate'. Formerly, the Overseers of the Poor had been allowed to distribute to the needy, furze for fuel, from the heath and commons. The Coal Charity would compensate for this after the enclosures. Another clause was inserted whereby sand, gravel and clay allotments were to be set out for parish use. The Act of Parliament for the enclosing of lands in the Parish of Troston was passed in 1806, and John Le Grice, John Ward and Mr. Adams were appointed commissioners to put it into practice.

The first action of the commissioners and surveyors was to perambulate the boundaries of Troston to ascertain the same. They met at the Pickernel Inn, Ixworth at ten o'clock in the morning on 9th June 1806, and then set off on their long walk. They also mapped out the public and private roads and footpaths running through Troston at that time, and ordered them to be repaired where necessary. See map on page 59.

The commissioners met again at the same venue on Wednesday 11th June 1806, and a record was made of all landowners with their acreage of land, and

CENSUS 1811 (Compared with that of 1801)

Name and Description of Parish or Place.	QUESTION 1st.		QUESTION 2d.	QUESTION 3rd.	QUESTION 4th. OCCUPATIONS.			QUESTION 5th. Persons, including Children of whatever Age.		
	Inhabited Houses.	By how many Families occupied.	Houses now building.	Other Houses uninhabited.	Families chiefly employed in agriculture.	Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, and Handicraft.	All other Families not comprized in the two preceding Clauses.	Males.	Females.	Total of Persons.
Troston	32	50 59		1	39	13	6	142	151	293

3. If any Family occupies two or more Houses in different Parishes, Townships, or Places, the latter are to be numbered only in those Parishes, Townships, or Places, where they severally happen to be at the time of taking the Account.

6th QUESTION.—Referring to the Number of Persons in 1801. To what do you attribute any remarkable Difference in the Number at present?

1801
 The Population of this Parish taken 27th May 1811 - of Males 122 - Females 125 - Total of Persons 247
 Increase since the account 27th May 1811 - of Males 26 - Females 26 - Total of Persons - 46 -
 Increase of Families 7 -
 Increase of Inhabited Houses 2 -

7th QUESTION.—Are there any other Matters which you may think proper to remark, in Explanation of your Answers to any of the preceding Questions?

This Dec^r of the Population of the parish of Troston was taken the 27th of May 1811. by Robert Rose and John Flatman Overseers of the said Parish -
 (Robert Rose & John Flatman)

Copy of Document Showing Amounts Paid
to the Church in Tithes and Glebe Rents
in 1817.

Troston November 25th 1817

Total amount of Tithes and Glebes	£	s.	d.
Mr Rose with Capel Lofft Esq and Rymer House and Thorpe Lands }	120	0	0
Mr. Borders	28	0	0
Mr. Worthedge . (late Boyce)	22	0	0
George Moon Esq. (late Fison)	21	0	0
Mr. Pack	9	0	0
Thos Rosyer	2	0	0
James Hustler	1	4	0
Thos. Dearisley (late Hustler)	0	18	0
Jon. Flatman	1	15	0
Rob. Blake	0	19	0
Rob Bannock (late Dearisley Bannock's)	1	3	0
Edwd Hoy for Glebe Land	47	0	0
Tithe of my own Land	2	0	0
Total	£ 256	19	0

J. Borders
Edwd. Hoy.

In 1842 tithes were discontinued. The Rectory was given £332 per annum in lieu. Glebeland continued until 1950 when it was bought by Laurence Bevan.

any ancient rights they had or thought they had. A banker was appointed to deal with finances, and solicitors to attend to legal matters.

A further meeting was held to hear any disagreements about land or rights. Some landowners claimed 'ancients rights', which other landowners disputed. For instance Capel Lofft, and his tenant at Hall Farm, said that Lofft's flock, known as "The Troston Flock", had a right to feed in and over the pastures called, Thorpe Pasture, the Clipping Grounds, the Great and Little Bush, Town's End Close, Pasture Pightle, Furze Close, and Shotmer Lane Pightle, for three months of the year. These lands were owned by Jonathan Borders, who lived at what is now Lower Farm, and James Fison of Street Farm. Both these gentlemen objected to Capel Lofft's claim, but they eventually agreed that this right could apply to Thorpe Pasture, the Clipping Grounds, Shotmer Lane Pightle and Furze Close, but Capel Lofft had to give up the right to the other four lands.

There were many other such disputes, and James Fison was involved in many of them. However the commissioners managed to settle the problems. There seems to have been give and take by most owners.

One difficulty which occurred was the allotting of five acres of land to individuals who had to abandon common grazing rights, and rights of cutting furze for fuel. The owners had decided at their inaugural meeting in 1805 that five acres should be given in lieu, if either one, or both, of the aforementioned rights had to be relinquished. But the commissioners could not determine whether five acres should be given for the loss of only one right. They sought legal opinion, and George Wood of the Middle Temple, pronounced in 1807, that those losing only both rights or right of grazing should be given five acres, but those losing only the right to cut furze for fuel should be compensated in some other way. It is possible that they were given money instead, but this cannot be verified from the accounts.

Meanwhile the whole parish was surveyed, and in 1807 after all disputes were resolved, the common land, wasteland and heathland was divided up amongst the landowners as agreed, in proportion to the land they already owned. Capel Lofft now had much of the heathland, and his sheep, "The Troston Flock", were based at Rymer Farm. Lofft left some heathland in tact for grazing his sheep, but, about half, (300 acres) was enclosed and ploughed up. The commons and wasteland were dealt with in the same way by their new owners.

Instructions were given to the proprietors from the commissioners regarding the making of hedges and ditches, thus:- "ditches, not less than four and a half feet wide at the top, eighteen inches width at the bottom, and three feet deep, and to such banks adjoining to such ditches to be formed of earth taken from the same. And that the banks shall be planted with white thorn layer, and that stakes, thorns or other sufficient fencing stuff shall be set out on the summit of such banks".

Although some land exchanges had been completed earlier, there was further need for this to ensure each farm was consolidated into an economic unit. So more small pieces of land were exchanged between Capel Lofft of Troston Estate and Hall Farm, Jonathan Borders, who lived at the present Lower Farm, (but who did not own the same area of land as today) James Fison of Street Farm, and several smaller landowners including William Pack of "The

Bull Farm** , and Thomas Rosier of Red House Farm. Glebe land was also exchanged with the above to make a more compact area near the church.

The commissioners then allotted to the Surveyors of the Highways of Troston, (not professionals but local men who acted in this capacity) sand, gravel, clay and marl pits for the use of the parishioners. The ancient sand and gravel pits were on the Heath, in the same area where William Greengrass had owned gravel pits in 1558. The clay pits were in Common Lane past the church. A piece of land near Ixworth Thorpe was allotted to the Churchwardens of Troston to be rented out and the money used for Church expenses.

For the above locations see map on page 60.

* The Bull Public House was built about 1800. It was part of a small farm known as 'The Bull Farm'. The licensed premises may have been built on the site of a former farmhouse. The playing field and a field by Smithies' Cottage are still part of 'The Bull' today.

The Poor's Estate and Coal Charity

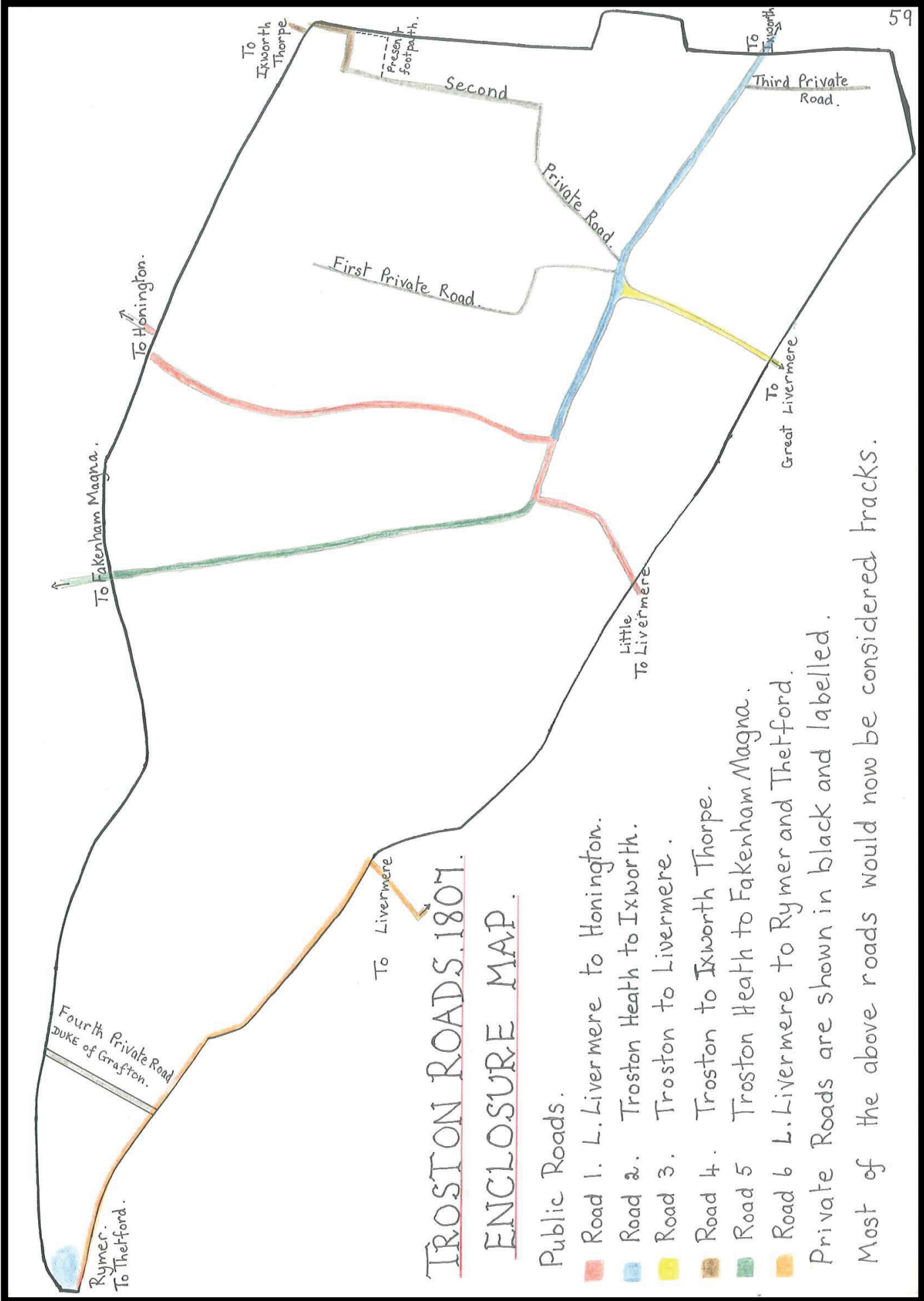
Now that the Overseers of the Poor were unable to distribute furze for fuel to the needy, as agreed at the inaugural meeting of landowners in 1805, the commissioners instituted the Coal Charity. Fourteen acres of Clint Green Common were designated to be enclosed and rented out to the highest bidder, and the rent to be used to buy coal for the poor. No tithes, parochial rates or taxes were to be paid on the land. The Lord of the Manor of Troston, the Rector, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor were to act as trustees of the charity. The land was to be known as, 'The Poor's Estate'.

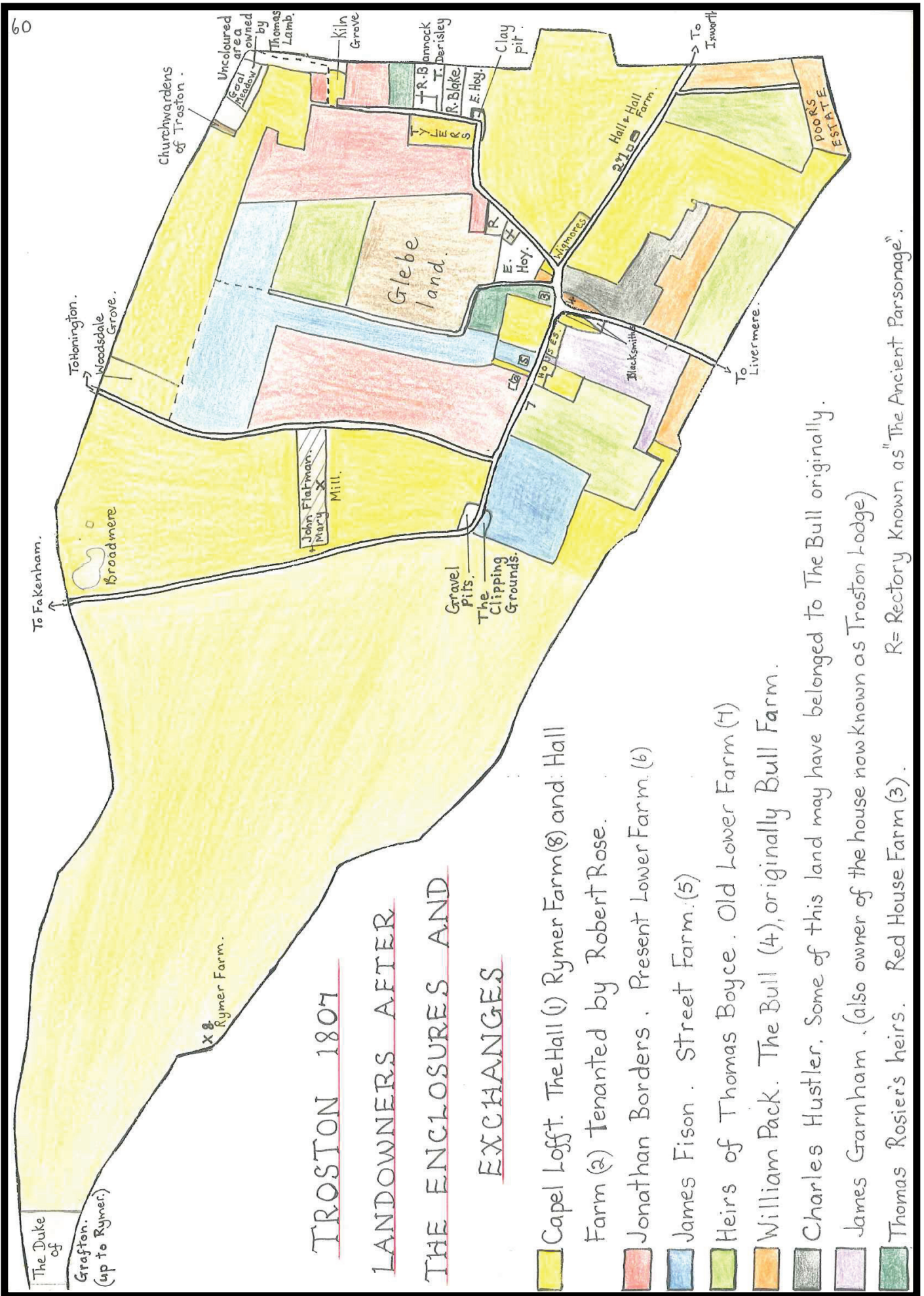
The conditions for letting were that the land was to be hedged or fenced where necessary, and these enclosures to be kept in good order. Ditches were to be kept clean, and crops to be grown in rotation. Fifty loads of 'good rotten muck' were to be used annually, and an out-going tenant had to leave a 'heap of muck' for his successor. The tenant was forbidden to take wood from the hedgerows.

On April 21st 1807 at ten past two, 'The Poor's Estate' was put up for auction at the Pickerell Inn, with a reserve price of £25 per annum. By twenty two minutes past two the land was hired by Mr. William Pack of the Bull Inn, Troston. He was the best bidder at £38 per annum. He paid £25.6s.8d deposit, and signed the agreement with the commissioners.

The trustees then put an advertisement in the Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds newspapers for a coal supplier. J. Byles & Co., coalmerchants of Stowmarket, got the contract at a price of forty two shillings per chaldron, (36 bushells) including carriage.

26th June 1807. The trustees decided to order, "a good oaken box (chest) with proper lock and key for keeping papers and the Book of the Trustees". The chest was delivered in July and inscribed, "The Box of the Poor's Estate, Troston, Suffolk, 9th July 1807". It cost £1.12s. 6d, including the lettering and still stands in the vestry of St. Mary's Church.







The Coal House built 1808 to
store coal which was distributed
to the poor. It was demolished
in 1959.

Below. Minute detailing an interim
payment to Mr. Cocksedge, the builder.

Recd at this Meeting M^r Cocksedge's Bill for ^(13.5)
Building the Poor's Coal House for the Poor's Estate;
being 46 F. round at 10 1/2 F. High at 2 p^r foot
The Amount of the said Bill for sand, include carting from
Woolpit White Bricks, Red Bricks &c, being £. s. d
Seven Pound, fifteen Shillings & Seven-pence 7^{..} 15^{..} 7
Carried Over 7^{..} 6^{..} 5 1/2
Ball: in hand 17^{..} 15^{..} 7
£. s. d 15^{..} 9^{..} 0 1/2
17^{..} 7^{..} 7 17^{..} 7^{..} 5 1/2
32^{..} 9^{..} 6

Adjourned, to the 22^d of this present Dec:
at Noon, then to settle the List and Day of
Distribution of the Coals.

Capel Sofft.
J. Borders.
Edw^d Stoye
Robt Rose.

Bill for Carpentry Work done by William Blake for Mr. Fison
of Street Farm. Oct 1806 - Jan 1807.

	order
Abill of Carpenter's work done by William Blake by the order	£ 5 0
of Mr Fison October 17. to altering senter nails and labor	0-7-6
Oct 20 24 feet of plank for the well curb at 4 pr feet.	0-8-0
1 pound of nails to the same	0-0-5
labor to making well curb	0-2-6
28. for making senter 10 feet of board at 3 pr feet.	0-2-6
6 feet of plank for ribs to senter at 4 pr feet.	0-2-0
labor to making senter.	0-1-6
1 pound of nails	0-0-6
November 1. to altering well Curb	0-0-6
to removing pound and repairing pals and setting down	
pound. labor and nails	1-10-0
to taking of arms of the direction post and mortisin	0-1-0
15 th 32 feet of splins for tumberils	0-0-6
half a hundred of 4 penny nails to the same	0-0-2
21. 58 feet of splins for tumberils	0-0-8
half a hundred of 4 penny nails to the same	0-0-2
25. 9 days labor of my self and sun setting down posts	
and nails against mashes Close. (Marshes Close)	1-7-0
Dec 3. 14 1/2 Days labor of my self and sun ^{cross} Crofs cutting	
hewing and sawing and setting down posts and nails	
and cantos to arches.	2-3-6
Jan 26. 1807. to making 2 new well Barrows	1-10-0
Allowance for beer for 14 1/2 work.	0-6-5

Settled William Blake Cash £. s. d. 7-7-6 £. s. d. 7-18-10

Nothing happened for a year, then there was a meeting at the Rectory, (the one mentioned in the 1613 glebe document) of the Trustees of The Poor's Estate, to report on the expense of building a coal-house. Mr. Borders delivered a plan from Mr. Cocksedge, builder of Bury St. Edmunds. The estimated cost was £46, but this was deemed too expensive. At a subsequent meeting at Mr. Rose's house, (Hall Farm) Mr. Cocksedge attended, and it was resolved to build a circular coal-house of rough flints; the house to measure ten feet in diameter, forty six feet round, ten feet high, and with a reed thatch. There were to be two arched windows, and an arched wooden door to measure nine feet from the top of the arch. The trustees were to find the materials and pay for carting. Mr. Cocksedge would provide the labour estimated to be £4.6s.8d. The revised estimate was £28. It was built in 1808 at the eventual cost of £32.9s.6d.

In 1897 a plaque was attached to the coal house, recording the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It is possible that renovation took place then. The original house had only one door, but photographs taken in the 1920s* show two doors, one above the other. The whole building, which stood on the corner of Church Lane and Ixworth Road, was demolished about 1959. *See page 61.

While the coal house was being erected, a list was drawn up of people who were eligible to receive coal each week, between the end of December and the end of March. On 31st December 1808 the first distribution was made to thirty nine families. By 1861, with the rise in population, fifty seven families were in receipt of the charity. The amount of coal received weekly by each family varied from between a half to one hundredweight. One week in 1809 there was no distribution because bad weather prevented delivery from Stowmarket.

How much each family received depended on its circumstances. More was given to those with large families, to anyone who was ill or handicapped, and to widows with children. Various families were mentioned over the years as having extra allowances:-

John Pope and Isaac Bray - both very infirm
 Widow Coe and Sarah - deaf and dumb. The widow in very bad health.
 John Coe and wife, 2 dumb daughters - Lucy & Hannah
 John Sexton - wife near lying in. (1809 only)
 James Greengrass and six young children - family ill. (1811 only)
 Widow Polly and son James with great infirmities. Later Widow Polly died and James, described as, 'an idiot', went to live with Robert Polly and his wife, who were then given extra coal.

For a short time families who moved away to a village nearby were sent coal from Troston. John Bannock, went to live at Barnham and received a coal allowance as did Widow Pope, when she became a resident of Ampton Almshouse. However this munificence proved impossible to maintain and was soon stopped.

The Poor's Estate and Coal Charity is still in existence today. Its Chairman is Mr. John Raleigh. The land is rented by Troston Farms Ltd. Some senior citizens still receive coal; money is given if they have an alternative form of heating.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

64

Conclusion to the Enclosures

The Commissioners for the Act of Enclosure of Troston finished their work in 1808. From then on the village took on a new look. In a few years the face of Troston changed from a landscape of large open fields, commons and heathland, to a patchwork of small hedged fields, the majority of which contained crops of wheat, barley, oats, turnips and swedes.

With their work at an end the commissioners presented the landowners with a bill. Some of the expenses included:-

	£.	s.	d.
Road repairs	434.	1.	11.
Fencing	34.	7.	0.
Solicitors' first bill	186.	13.	2.
Solicitors' second bill	301.	15.	4.
Commissioners' bill	252.	0.	0.
Surveyors' bills	230.	0.	0.

The total bill came to £1,726. 16s. 4d, and was shared out in proportion by the landowners, according to the amount of land each received.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Lofft	889.	19.	6.
Heirs of Mr. Boyce	169.	7.	6.
Mr. Borders	238.	1.	6.
Mr. Fison	144.	12.	6.
Mr. Garnham	27.	19.	6.
Mr. Hustler	31.	18.	6.
Mr. Pack	92.	9.	4.
Mr. Rosier	21.	13.	0.
Duke of Grafton (heathland)	34.	15.	0.

The rest of the bill was paid by owners of smallholdings.
See page 65 for a copy of the bill.

The Exchange of the Rectory

In 1813 Henry, Bishop of Norwich appointed John Spring Casborne* as Curate of Troston. Troston was in the diocese of Norwich as it had been since the Middle Ages. John Casborne's stipend was £50 per annum, but he lived in his own property at Pakenham, as the 'Ancient Parsonage House' at Troston was 'unfit for the residence of a clergyman'. This house was the rectory mentioned in the earlier glebe documents, and was situated where Troston Cottage now stands. It is not clear where the Rector, the Rev. Andrew Grant was living at the time, possibly in a rented house.

It was agreed with Edward Hoy, a churchwarden, to exchange his house, which was on the site of the present Old Rectory, for the Ancient Parsonage. The exchange was an unusual occurrence and could only happen through an Act of Parliament, and with the permission of the Bishop of Norwich. These formalities were concluded and the exchange of houses took place. However Edward Hoy's house had four acres of land with it, and was worth more than the Ancient Parsonage, which only had two acres. To make up for this deficiency he received ten acres of glebe land on moving. One

Landowners Individual Enclosure Bills

Shares of the Total Bill of £1726 " 16s " 4d

	£ 1726
By shes. of <u>Land</u>	889 " 19 " 6
Duke of Grafton	34 " 15 " -
Boyce	169 " 7 " 6 delivered to Mr. Boyce
Borders	230 " 1 " 6 deliv. to Mr. Borders at his Dwelling House
Blake	13 " 12 " - deliv. to his wife at the Dwelling House
Bannock	+ 3 " 3 " 6 deliv. to himself at the Dwelling House
Derisley	13 " 12 " - deliv. to his wife at De
Downs	+ 5 " 6 deliv. to him Dec. 5/6 17
Fison	144 " 12 " 6 delivered to himself Mr. J. Fison Jun.
Flatman	+ 14 " 0 " - delivered personally
Gerrham	27 " 19 " 6
Hustler	31 " 18 " 6 delivered to Mr. Hustler at the Dw. H.
Hoy	14 " 11 " 6 delivered to himself. I gave him
Lambe	4 " 15 " 6 deliv. at the House of Mr. Debenham
Pack	92 " 9 " 4 delivered to himself
Rosger paid Oct. 1/7	+ 21 " 13 " - delivered to Mrs. Rosger
Tans	6 " -
Troston Churchwds.	2 " 11 " - delivered to Mr. Borders at Mr. B's Dwelling House
Trees of Town Land	0 " 15 " - deliv. to Mr. Day the Tenant

The Bill For The Enclosures 1807

Troston

Roads	434. 1. 11	}
Fencing	34. 7. 0	
Salvory	25. 0. 0	
Solrs 1 st acct. Solicitors	186. 13. 2	
Solrs 2 ^d Surveyors	230. 1. 4	
Comrs Bills Commissioners	252. . . .	
House bills	102. 3. 0	
Solrs 2 ^d bill Solicitors and bill	301. 15. 4	
Clerk pass ^d	211. 9. 8	
House	17. 11. 0	
	<u>1795. 3. 1</u>	
Cash - Auction	50. 0. 0	
	<u>1745. 3. 1</u>	

<u>1745.</u>	
Expended by Fison	468. 8. 11
Salary	35
	<u>493. 8. 11</u>
Rec ^d ?	462. 1. 10
Due to Fison	<u>31. 7. 1</u>
<u>Solrs charge?</u>	
Payments to him	430. 0. 0
rest	12. 1. 10
	<u>462. 1. 10</u>
<u>Salary</u>	
Am ^t of Expend ^{tu}	468. 8. 11

Money to be paid for Exchanges	20. 0. 0
	<u>1725. 3. 1</u>
	+ 7. 13. 3
	<u>1726. 16. 4</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	

Lofft Land

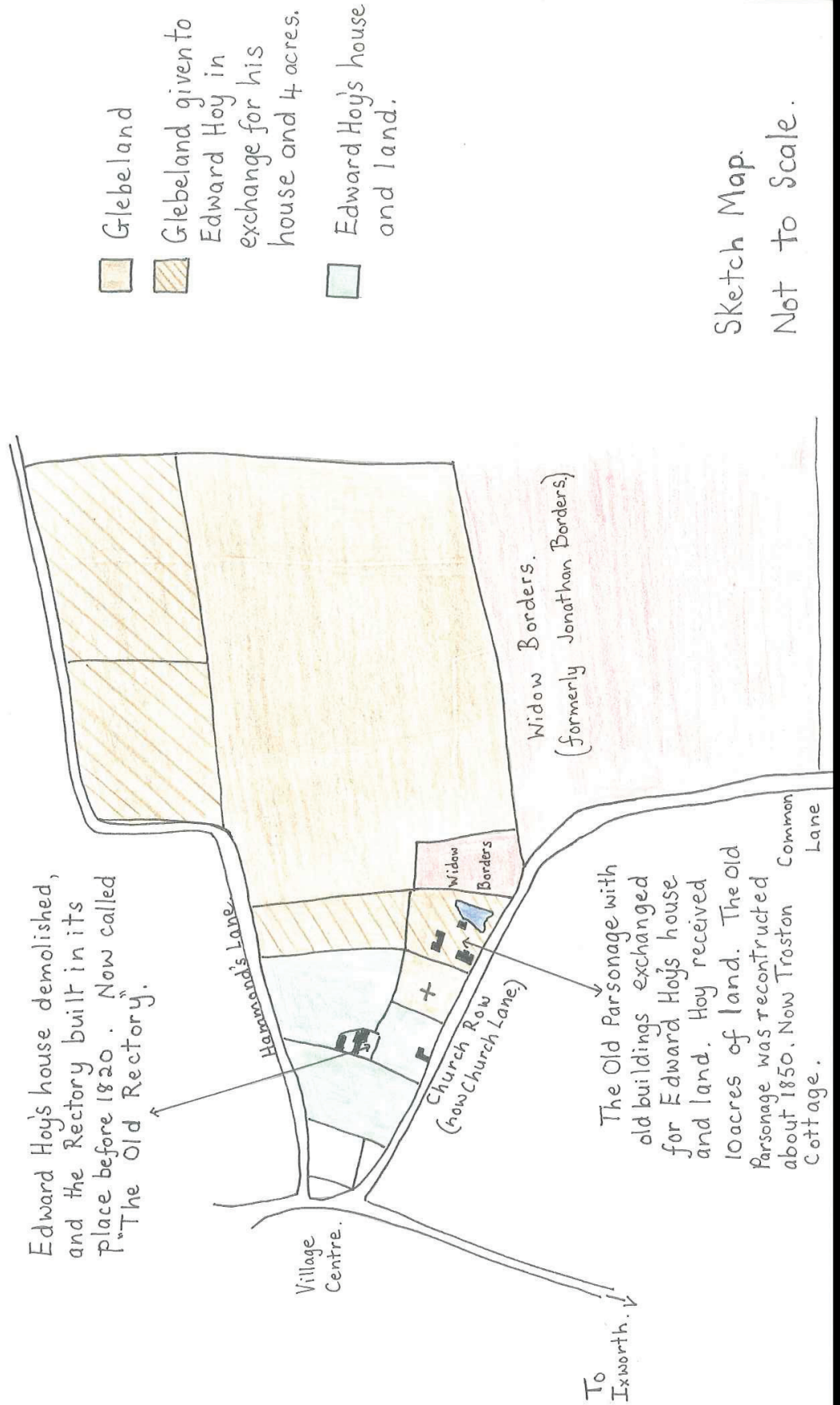
Signatures.

Capel Lofft, Lord of the Manor or reputed
Manor of Troston

James Fison
Edw^d Hoyle

The Exchange of The Ancient Parsonage (former Rectory)
with Edward Hoy's House and Land. 1813.

Edward Hoy's house demolished, and the Rectory built in its place before 1820. Now called "The Old Rectory".



Sketch Map.
 Not to Scale.

field he received was called, 'The Meadow', and this still belongs to Troston Cottage today.

Edward Hoy lived in the Ancient Parsonage until his death in 1824. It never went to his children. In 1841 it was left to the heirs of the Rev. Humphrey Cholmely, and was eventually bought by the Lofft family, and added to their estate. Sometime after the exchange the house was reconstructed. Part of the Ancient Parsonage must have been retained, as Troston Cottage still contains walls of wattle and daub. There are also some flint walls but these may have been part of the reconstruction. The building was encased in brick, possibly about 1850, by the Loffts who named it Troston Cottage. This name was first mentioned in 1855 when John Cook was the tenant. Over the years it has been altered and extended. In 1914 the front entrance faced the road. The house was sold in 1923 when the Troston Estate was broken up. Lawrence Bevan, a descendant of the Lofft family purchased it in 1948 and lived there until 1972. Sir John Alan and Lady Noble were the owners until 1984, and the present owners are Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hay.

After the exchange of the two houses in 1813, Edward Hoy's house was demolished and a new rectory was built on the same site. It was completed before 1820. It remained a rectory until just after the Second World War. Today it is known as, "The Old Rectory", and is owned by Herr Claas, proprietor of Troston Farms Ltd.

See plan on page 66.

* John Spring Casborne was married to Annie Lofft, daughter of Capel Lofft

Troston Cottage 1989.



Glebes and Tithes 1791 and 1820

In 1662 there were sixty three pieces of glebe land. By 1791 these had increased, probably by bequests, to eighty seven; many were very small, pieces of half an acre and less, and all were scattered around the village. The names of the glebe pastures were the same as in 1662. They were mentioned in chapter three. However apart from Coldhams Pightle, (given to the church in 1472 by Robert Flynthard) glebe arable land was not named. It was identified as being near well known village landmarks of the time such as Thorpe Bottom, Bennifield (Beddingfield in 1634), Church Corner, Bucks End, The Dirty Hole, Oakentree Stubbs, and Snailsmere*. These sites were to the north and north east of the village, between the church and Ixworth Thorpe. To the north and north west towards Honington, the 1791 document also mentions the following sites:- Twelve Acre field, Honington Gap, Long Borough, Short Borough, Barrow Shed, Rowland Went (1), Croft's Gate, Cowle's Corner, Warnifield, Shortland and Woodsdale*. Towards Livermere were Rye Croft, Lingham Went (1), Procession Meere, and Love Lane. In the village centre old names still remained. There was Madge Nicholls Corner, (Madge Nicholls pasture was glebeland in 1613) and Wigmores, situated between No.1 Hall Lane and Tanglewood. A man named Walter Wyggmore was mentioned in the will of Matilda Rounton in 1459. Did he once own this land?.

The Glebe Document of 1791 shows that the church also owned two small adjoining cottages opposite the churchyard, one was occupied by Thomas Steward and the other by Widow Catton, who was sent back to Troston from Ixworth in 1782.

The Churchwardens were still receiving the sum of thirty four shillings for the land let for the 1666 Charity. Capel Lofft paid this money which was spent on the poor. He had purchased the land, but still donated the same amount as the original rent.

Besides rent from glebeland, the church also received tithes. These dated back hundreds of years, and were originally one tenth of farm produce, often given in kind. There are still in existence, in some parts of England, tithe barns where tithe grain was stored. In the Troston 1791 Glebe Document, before the enclosures tithes are stated thus:-

"Item. All tithes within the parish of Troston are paid to the Rector in their proper kind. There are in the parish only these customs following;

3d for every cow grazed on common lands, instead of tithe milk.

For a cow that is barren or farrow 2d.

Item. For pigs under seven, 1d for each pig.

Item. For every cow sold with calf 6d.

Item. For a pasture cow 1/- instead of tithe milk

Item. For every weaned calf 1½d.

Item. For every fatted calf, the tenth penny.

Item. For every fatted beast 1/-.

There is paid yearly to the Rector from the 'Troston Flock' at Rymer Farm six fleeces of wool.

* Names still in use today.

(1) Went - path.

Glebe Document 1820

The 1791 document was very long. By contrast the 1820 document was very short. By 1820 the enclosures and exchanges of land had taken place and there were now only six pieces of glebeland, but in much larger blocks than previously, and it was all situated near the church. The total amount of glebeland was given as 32 acres 2 rods 29 poles. This document also described the new rectory (now called the 'Old Rectory') which had just been built, "It extended from east to west fifty feet. On the east front thirty six feet, and on the west end twenty eight feet. There was a barn, a stable, a small orchard and garden all situated in a paddock of four acres". It also gave the boundaries of the rectory which included the Churchyard, Church Lane and Hammonds Lane (now called Hammers Lane). A family called Hammond lived in Troston in the 1700s.

The tithes in 1820 were changed slightly: a barren cow was now charged at 2½d, and a pig under seven at 1½d. The 3d for common grazing of cows was no longer relevant as the commons had disappeared with the enclosures. Also the Rector lost his right to six fleeces from the Troston Flock. There is a record of the amount paid in glebe rents and tithes in Troston in 1817. It totalled £256.19s.0d. £120 of this was paid by Capel Lofft and Mr. Rose, Lofft's tenant at Hall Farm. In 1842 tithes were replaced with a local Church Tax levied on property.

Both the 1791 and 1820 Glebe Documents included a list of church books, ornaments and utensils as follows:-

Three chests.

One silver flagon weighing about sixteen ounces*.

One silver paten (plate) weighing about eleven ounces. 1715

One silver cup weighing about twelve ounces*.

One pewter flagon.

One fine linen cloth for the Communion Table.

One fine napkin.

One carpet for the Communion Table.

One pulpit cloth and cushion.

One large surplice of Holland.

One large Bible newly bound (1820).

One new Common Prayer Book for the desk (1820) and one for the Communion Table.

Three bells with their frames weighing eight hundredweight, fourteen hundredweight and eighteen hundredweight.

signed Thomas Talbot. Rector

Robt. Rose, Edward Hoy Churchwardens

John Flatman, Thomas Rosier. Chief Inhabitants

1820

* These items were donated by Mrs. Susanna Edwards in 1778.

The Methodist Chapel

The first mention of an alternative form of Christianity in Troston was in 1801, when an authorized meeting place for Methodists was certified for worship by John Mulley, thatcher, of Livermere. He was connected with Methodists in Bury St. Edmunds. Their first meeting place in Troston was

a barn belonging to Charles Hustler. He owned land and a building opposite Hammers Lane so the barn may have been there. In 1807 a more comfortable venue was sought, and a cottage owned and occupied by Thomas Derisley, shoemaker, was certified as an authorized place for Methodist worship. Three years later another house owned by Derisley, but unoccupied, was certified. Plans were now afoot for building a Wesleyan Chapel in Troston, and it was completed, and ready for occupation in 1811. The membership fluctuated for a while, but after 1841 the numbers increased, (as did the population) and the chapel became quite active, receiving preachers on the Thetford circuit. In 1891 a new chapel* was built, and in 1902 it had a silver band*. But gradually the size of the congregation dwindled. In 1934 Troston joined the Bury St. Edmunds circuit, but it was not a great gain, as Troston came in with only nine members and no local preacher, only one exhorter, Mr. Charles Steward of Red House. By 1963 there were only five members and one Sunday service at 6.30pm. The chapel was closed towards the end of the 1960s, and converted into a Post Office and shop.

* See photographs on page 99.

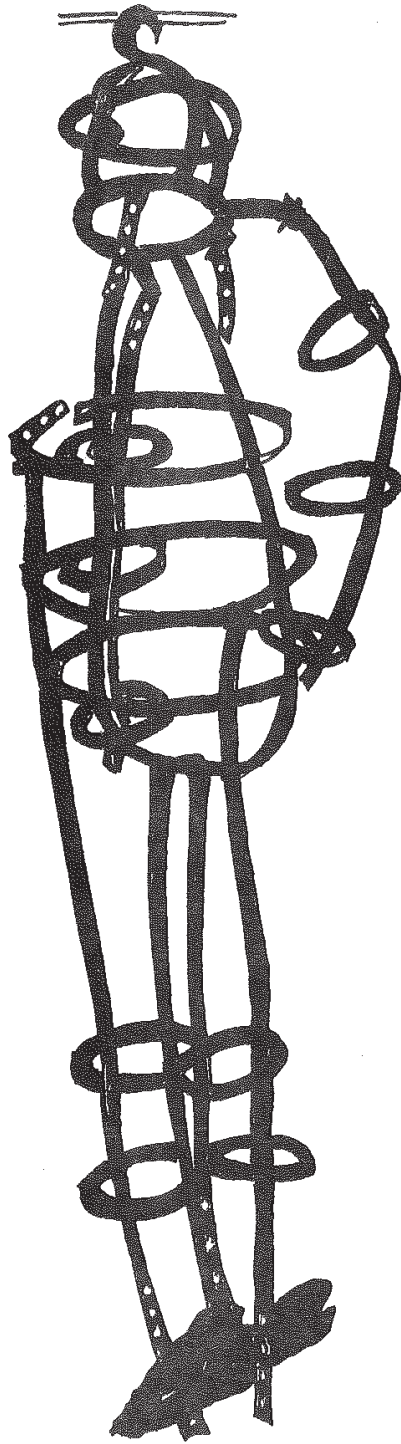
The Village in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

The population of Troston was nearing its peak in the mid nineteenth century. The census of 1841 records four hundred and nine inhabitants. After the enclosures of 1807, hedges had grown up, and the Tithe Map of 1842 shows that the parish was a patchwork of named fields, small in comparison with today. Gone were the open spaces of the commons, and only about half of the original heathland remained as rough pasture. All was now in private hands.

The field names are interesting. Where the common, called Clintgrene, had been divided, enclosed and ploughed up, the resulting fields were called, Clint Close, Little Clint Close, Further Clint Close, Upper Clint Close and Great Clint Close. The old open field called Bennifield had been divided into six smaller fields. Gibbet Pightle was the name of the small field which borders the road near Troston Mount and Honington Camp Stores. A gibbet was found in the vicinity when the camp was being built. It consisted of a cage of iron bands where murderers' bodies were left to rot, and was usually erected near the scene of the crime, or near boundaries of parishes. The story here concerns John Nicholls and his son Nathan of Fakenham Magna, who waylaid Sarah Nicholls, (daughter and sister) beat her with a hedge stake, strangled her and threw the body in a ditch. They were both hanged at Bury St. Edmunds in 1794. Nathan was anatomised by scientists, but John was gibbeted. The actual gibbet can be seen in Moyses Hall Museum. A drawing of it is on page 71.

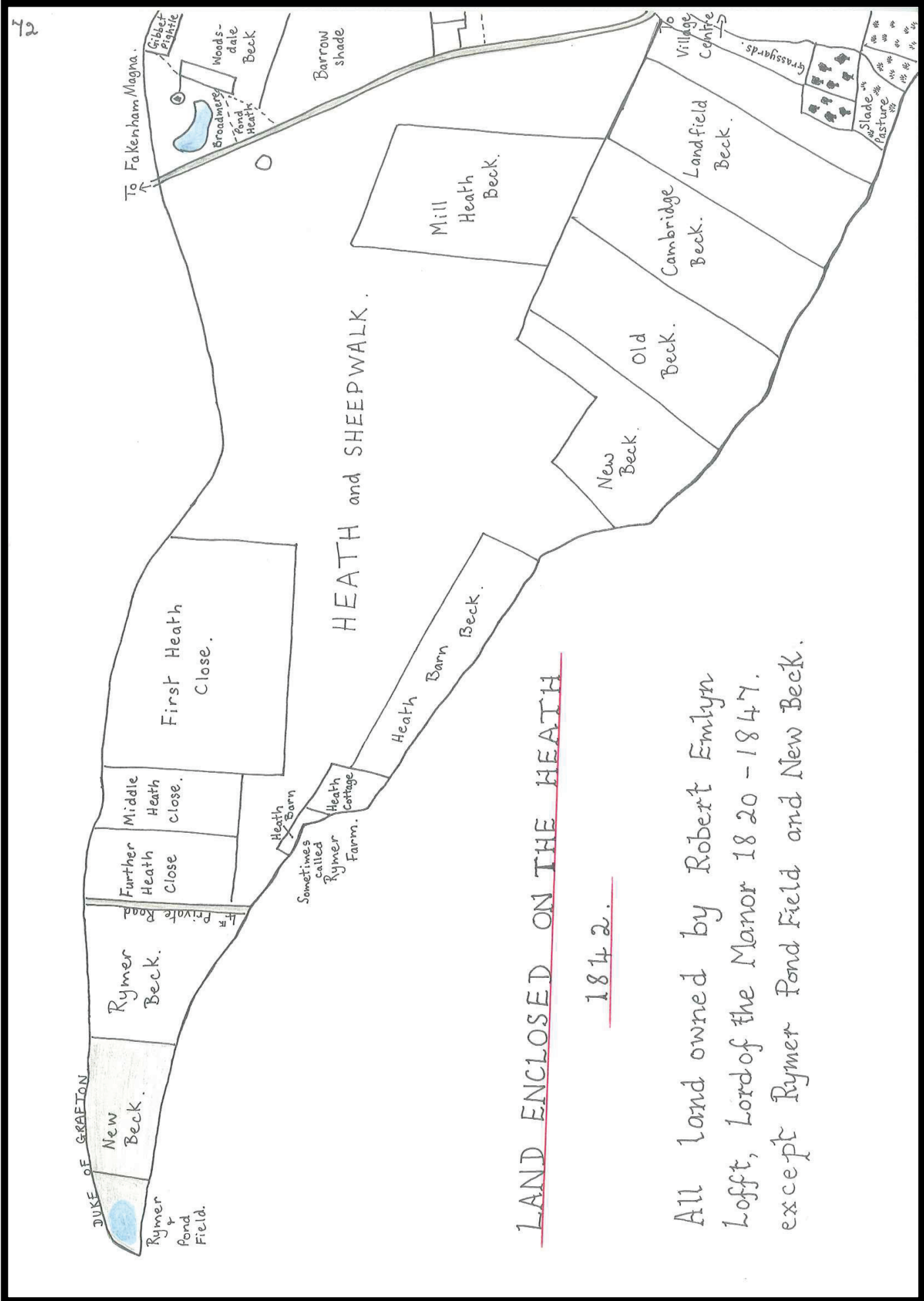
There was a pasture near Ixworth Thorpe called Gaol Meadow, but no evidence of a lock-up gaol can be found. Also near Kiln Wood (where there is still the remains of a kiln) and the claypit was a piece of land called Tylers. Does this indicate that tiles were once made there?. Only very small areas of woodland were marked on the 1842 Tithe Map. Those remaining today are Woodsdale Grove, Slade's Covert, and Kiln Wood.

See map on page 73 for above locations.



IRON GIBBET CAGE

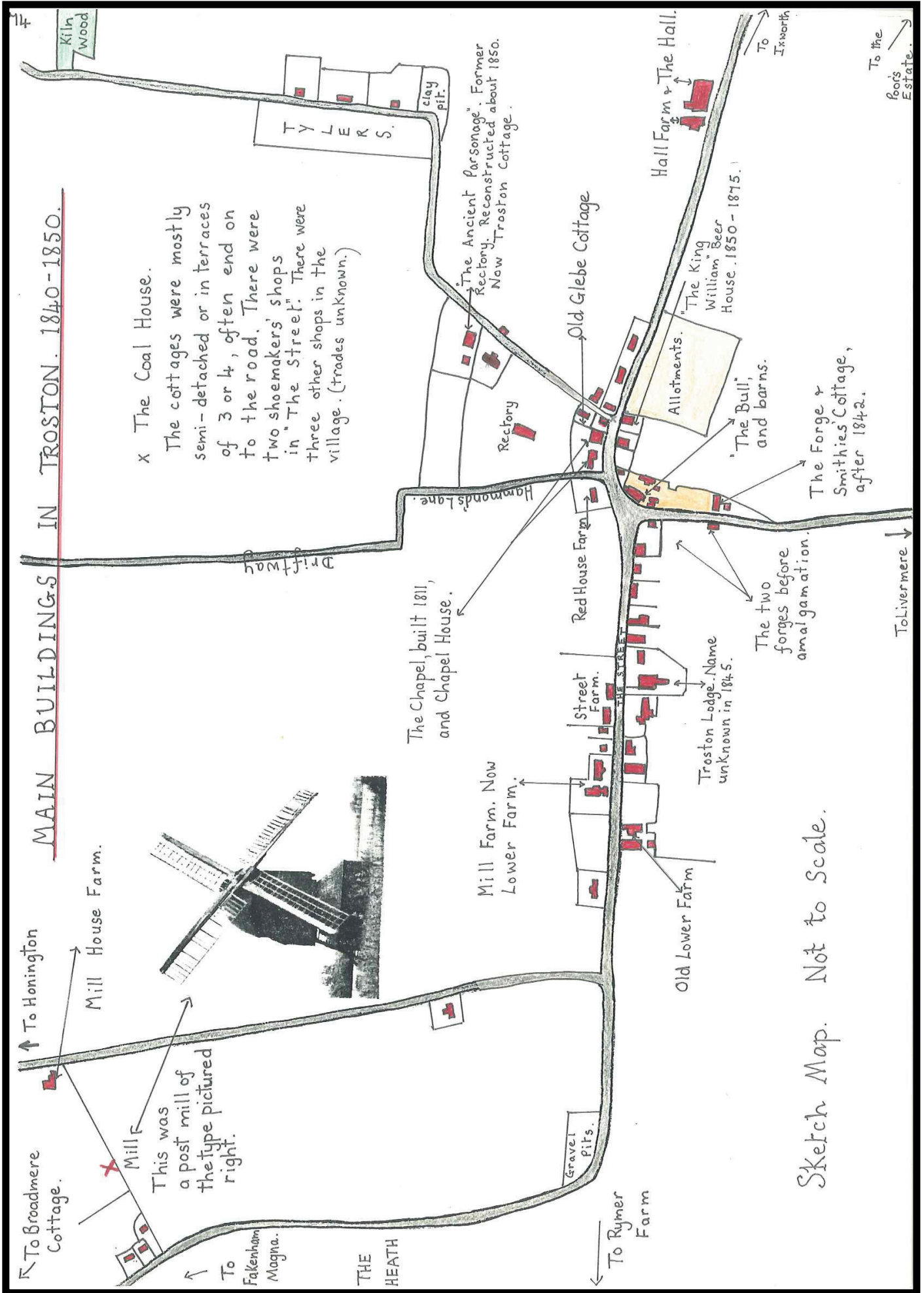
John Nichols was executed for murder in 1794 and his body hung in this cage at Honington as a warning to others. Its probable site was near Gibbet Pightle, close to Honington Camp P.O. Stores. See map on Page 73.



LAND ENCLOSED ON THE HEATH

1842.

All land owned by Robert Emlyn Lofft, Lord of the Manor 1820 - 1847. except Rymer Pond Field and New Beck.



Sketch Map. Not to Scale.



Above. Hall Farm. The core is probably 17th century, with extentions and alterations in the early 19th century. It was refronted with brick about 1864.

Below. The old Beddingfield. In 1842 the far part of this field was called Tylers, with the claypit and Kiln Wood nearby. (see map on page 74) Was there a tile works here earlier?



Kiln Wood. ↙

↘ Claypit.



Above. The Old Rectory, built about 1814/1815. It
functioned as a rectory until 1945. It is now
owned by Herr Claas.



The brickworkers' cottages of the last century.
There was another one on the left which was burnt down.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

77.

In the mid-nineteenth century Troston was a self sufficient village. The following occupations were listed in the 1841 Census:-

Farmers	3	Wayman, Matthews, Sparkham(1)
Farm Bailiffs	2	W.Bishop, John Southgate
Smallholders	8	Rosier, Bannock, Blake, Mays, John Fuller, Mary Fuller, White & Warren
Warrener	1	Henry Pleasants
Gamekeeper	1	William Pleasants
Gardeners	2	John Bannock, Charles Wills
Carpenters	2	Robert Yeomans, Isaac Bray
Painters & Glaziers	2	Richard Vincent & son
Thatcher	1	Robert Blake junior
Blacksmiths	2	Francis Downs, Charles Howard(2)
Tailor	1	John Blake
Dressmakers	2	Emma Blake, Mary Goddard
Shoemakers	5	Will & Robt.Girkin, John & Robert Blizzard(3) Samuel Death(4)
Farm Labourers	57	
Live-in Servants	19	
Miller	1	John Fuller (5)
Baker	1	John Markham
Carter	1	James Catton
Army	1	Fred. Richardson
Innkeeper	1	George Jacob, The Bull
Shopkeepers	3	George Gladwell, Henry Leach, William Collins

(1) Charles Wayman owned the present Street Farm.

Robert Matthews was tenant of the present Lower Farm, not known by this name in 1841. The house and land belonged to William Borders, son of Jonathan Borders, mentioned at the time of the enclosures. There is an interesting note in the Church Marriage Register that Robert Matthews' daughter married Robert Capes, in the household of Queen Victoria at Windsor.

John Sparkham was tenant of Hall Farm, but also bought the old Lower Farm. This was situated on the opposite side of the road to the present one, where the piggeries are now.

(2) In 1842 there are two blacksmith's shops shown on The Tithe Map. One was at Forge Corner, the other in Livermere Road, opposite where Denver Autos now stands. About 1850 the blacksmiths probably amalgamated. Smithies' Cottage - then two adjoining cottages - was built, with the forge next door on the site of Farriers' Lodge. There were two blacksmiths in the village until 1900.

(3) John Blizzard's descendants continued in the same trade in Troston until the First World War.

(4) By 1855 Samuel Death owned a beerhouse called, 'The King William'. It was situated on the now empty land next to 'Siesta', and was in use until 1871. By 1881 it had been converted into two private houses (and

half the old stable into a third). They were pulled down in the late 1970s.

(5) Maps of 1807 and 1842 show a mill situated half way down the lane leading to The Heath from the left hand side of the Honington Road. The maps also show a field called Millhill, further along on the right hand side of the Honington Road. This may have been a site of an earlier mill. Mr. Arthur Challis remembers, as a boy playing among ruins of an old mill in this area.

See map on page 73.

The Vestry Accounts

The vestry accounts of the mid-nineteenth century show how the village was run in both religious and secular matters. The Rector, Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, the Guardian of the Parish, Surveyors of Troston, Highways Assessors and Collectors of Parish Taxes and two constables were all local worthies involved in parish matters.

These were the officials in 1850.

Rector	Reginald Buller*	
Churchwardens	N. Matthews	Tenant farmer.
	Richard Stennet	Smallholder
Guardian of the Parish	Henry Wayman	Farmer - Street Farm
Overseers of the Poor	Richard Stennet	Above
	Isaac Fiske	Tenant farmer of Hall Farm
Surveyors of the Highway	John Cook	Farmer. 1855 Lived at Troston Cottage.
	Isaac Fiske	Above
Assessor & Collectors of Taxes	George Wayman	Farmer - Street Farm
	N. Matthews	Above
Constables	John Bannock	Smallholder
	Robert Blake	Smallholder

In 1834 by the Poor Laws Amendment Act there was a change from the old parochial system of poor relief. Unions were created. The Hundred of Blackborne was split up into three divisions, called Thingoe, Stow & Thetford. Large workhouses were built in these Unions. Troston was in Thingoe Union, and now had to pay a rate for the Union Poor Relief, as well as for their own parish. There was also a Highways Tax for Troston roads, and after 1842 a Church Tax to help with upkeep. Rates were levied on the value of property and had to be paid by occupiers. In 1850 the rate was eight pence in the pound for poor relief, threepence in the pound for the highways, and in 1853 fourpence in the pound for the church. The rates varied throughout the proceeding years. They seem to have been reviewed, but not always changed, every quarter. In 1855 the poor rate was tenpence in the pound in March, but went up to one shilling in October. In 1857 it was eightpence in March, but went down to sixpence in

October. In 1860 the old Lower Farm, then tenanted by a Mr. Wainwright, was valued at three hundred and eighty five pounds, fifteen shillings, and Hall Farm at one hundred and ninety pounds. The road and church rates also varied, depending on the amount of upkeep. In 1860 a bill totalling seven pounds, fifteen shillings for a new belfry floor, new bell wheels and repairs to the thatch necessitated a rise of a penny in the pound to make fourpence for the church rate.

However, rates were not the only concern of the parish officers, and the following shortened extracts from the Vestry Accounts Book shows the variety of their work and problems.

1852 Meeting at the Rectory for taking into consideration the best means of sending some families to Australia, as some persons were desirous of emigrating to that country. Mr. Wayman to make an application for twenty five pounds to enable the said fourteen families to emigrate. (Unfortunately nothing more can be found on this subject).

1853 The arch across the road by the Coal House to be repaired, as it is unable to convey all the water across the road, and flooding results.

1855 Mr. Easlea will pay parishioners one half pence for old sparrows, a farthing for young ones and two pence per dozen for eggs.

1858 James Catton to be given £2 to help him buy a horse. He is to make monthly repayments of ten shillings. (James Catton was the carrier).

1858 Two settlement orders made, one for Skipper Bishop, and one for James King - both said to belong to Troston.

1859 Mr. Blake's new improved Beer House, 'The King William' to be assessed for rates. (Mr. Blake had taken over from Samuel Death who owned the premises in 1855).

1860 Mr. Sheldrake threatens to take the parish to law regarding the repair of the gate call Ludgate, on the bridleway leading to Ixworth Thorpe. It was agreed that Mr. Jacobs of the Bull Inn should repair the gate, and litigation be avoided.

1862 Mrs. Blake, who hired the claypit in Common Lane, had not paid any rent for seven years. She was to pay the arrears.

1864 Mr. Rosier to be paid two guineas for the quarterly accounts, and for collecting the rate for the poor.

Such was the everyday business of the parish officials in the mid nineteenth century.

* Reginald Buller, Rector 1841-1881, entertained his former tutor, the writer Thomas Carlyle, at his home (now The Old Rectory). Carlyle complained that he was unable to sleep, "owing to the crowing of fowls, and the braying of asses".

Robert Emlyn Lofft. Lord of the Manor. 1866-1900

Robert Emlyn Lofft became Lord of the Manor of Troston on the death of his brother Henry Capel who had the idea of turning Troston into a garden village, but died before he could achieve his ambition. Robert Emlyn, carried on improving the village and there are lasting legacies to his work.

He owned a brickworks* on The Heath, and bricks and tiles were made to his own design. He re-roofed Troston Hall and substituted highly ornate chimneys for plain ones. He added curved wooden barge boards decorated with rosettes, and covered the south and east walls with red bricks stamped with his own elaborate patterns. He blocked up the window above the front door and built a small porch. A brick wall was erected between the garden and the road. The pictures on page 84 show Troston Hall "before and after".

Robert Emlyn Lofft began restoring Troston Church in 1869. In 1832 D.E.Davy visited St. Mary's and wrote that the ceiling was boarded in, and on the panels were painted large stars and moons. By 1855 it was reputed to be in a bad state of repair and in 1869 Lofft had it removed to reveal the original scissor beam roof. In 1832 the nave contained a few carved mediaeval benches, but was mostly furnished with box pews. Lofft designed and crafted new pews which are still in the nave today. He also made the wainscoting which lines the nave walls, and probably used the wood from the old box-pews to panel the north and south walls of the chancel. The cost to Mr. Lofft for his restoration work was nine hundred and eighty pounds.

He also had several houses built with Troston brick for his employees. Today they are identified as 3 & 4 The Heath, 14 & 15 The Common, Broadmere Cottages and Tanglewood, originally two houses. These were very spacious homes for the times, when many cottages were two up and two down with a connecting ladder. Pictures of the above houses can be seen on pages 89 and 98.

Before 1871 there were no facilities for education in Troston. In 1818 a letter was sent to every parish from the 'Select Committee for Education for Suffolk', asking about schooling. Rev Casborne, Curate at that time, replied that there were no endowments for education and no instruction in the village. An extract from his letter states, "the poor has no means of education, and in general are not desirous of possessing them". Whether this was the general opinion or just his own sentiments cannot be gauged. But his reply was the least enthusiastic of all those received. In 1870 the Education Act was passed and by 1871 Robert Lofft had provided the village with a school, and a house for the teacher. Again he used the local brick. The supposed capacity of the building was for eighty children aged 5 - 14 years. In 1881 seventy scholars were recorded. In the twentieth century the roll was between thirty and forty*. The school closed in 1945. In the following chapter are some accounts of school life in Troston between 1903 and 1945.

*See photo on page 108.

Although Robert Emlyn Lofft was a benefactor to the village, he was also able to benefit himself. He added to his estate by buying any farms or land that came onto the market. With the agricultural depressions of the latter part of the nineteenth century he was able to acquire much property at low prices. By 1880 he owned most of the village. However he was unable to sustain his increased estate which totalled 1,580 acres, and he overstretched himself financially. In 1881 he was farming the whole estate with a steward, but by 1896 he had been forced to rent out land to new tenant farmers. These were Messrs. Sayer, Newdick and Jeavons. The latter was his own steward. The Lodge was let to Mr. Charles Sugden, who had shooting rights over the whole estate.

At the end of the nineteenth century Lofft ventured into cattle breeding which was not successful and he lost a lot of money. He had to leave Troston Hall, which was tenanted by a Mrs. Clarkson. He went to live at 4, The Heath - one of the cottages he had previously built for his employees. However his stay there was short as he died in 1900.

* The brickworks was started in the time of Henry Capel Lofft on part of his estate near the present 5, The Heath. Brickworkers were mentioned in the Census Records of 1861, 1871 & 1881. There were never more than two men employed at any one time, and they lived in cottages near their work. By the end of the nineteenth century the brickworks was no longer in use.

The End of the Nineteenth Century 1881-1900

A Late Victorian Village

In the 1881 Census Records there were 309 inhabitants and 63 houses. The following details are given about the inhabitants.

Farmers	3	Robert Emlyn Lofft. Troston Hall. Gentleman farmer, Magistrate & High Sheriff. 1580 acres. Employed 45 men and 14 boys. William Fordham & son. Also the miller. (1) See over Employed 3 men & 1 boy. Farmed near the mill John Hunt & son, 84 acres. Employed 4 men & 1 boy. (2)
Farm Steward	1	James Jeavons. Steward to Lofft. (3)
Independent	1	Lucy Taylor. Lived in 'The Street'. Possibly 'The Lodge'.
Carpenters	2	Thomas Hustler, Gregory Faux.
Brickmakers	2	William Goymer, George Barker.
Bricklayer	1	J. Smith.
Thatcher	1	Thomas Blake. (4)
Wheelwright	1	John Catton, assisted by his son Arthur, aged 16. (5)
Blacksmiths	3	Frederick Hubbard, John Hunt & son (probably worked part time as they had several jobs). (6)
Shoemakers	5	John Blizzard & two sons. William Meadows & son. (7)
Builders	2	John Hunt & son
Butcher	1	Elizabeth Hunt. Two of her sisters were assistants. (8)
P.O. Grocer	1	Thomas Cawley. Wife Lucy, and sister-in-law were assistants. (9)
Draper		
Milliner	1	Lucy Cawley (above)
Laundresses	2	Susan Daizley, Hannah Buckle. Both over 70 years old.
Nurse	1	Maryann Grimwood.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

82

Teachers	2	Mr & Mrs Josiah Sibley (10)
Scholars	70	Mostly 5-14 years, but a few were 4 years old.
General dealer & carrier	1	Robert Steward
Live-in servants	8	Included a cook and two housekeepers. (11)
Gardeners	2	W.Smith (Hall) (12) James Armstrong.
Shepherds	2	Robert Reeve, Charles Wilson
Horsekeepers	5	They usually did other labouring jobs as well.
Grooms	3	Henry Armstrong (Hall) (12) Charles Askey (Rectory) W. Allingham (Lodge)
Gamekeepers	2	John and Benjamin Mayes.
Farm Labourers	52	Herdsman 1 Stockmen 2.
General Labourers	2	

(1) There is no mention of a miller in Troston after William Fordham who died in 1885. The mill was demolished before 1900.

(2) John Hunt had several businesses. He was the owner of 'The Bull', which still had land attached to it, so he was recorded as a farmer as well. He also worked as a blacksmith and a builder. He had owned 'The Bull' since 1873. Before that he was the licensee of 'The King William', which by 1881 had been converted into private houses. Mr. Hunt was probably helped in his enterprises by his son John, and when his father died in 1892 John junior, took over 'The Bull', and the other businesses. He married Miss Barker, a teacher, who taught at the village school for a while. But in 1896 he sold 'The Bull' to Greene King.

(3) James Jeavons lived at Hall Farm. By 1896 he was listed as a tenant farmer at Rymer Farm.

(4) Thomas Blake lived at Chapel House (now Glebe Cottage).

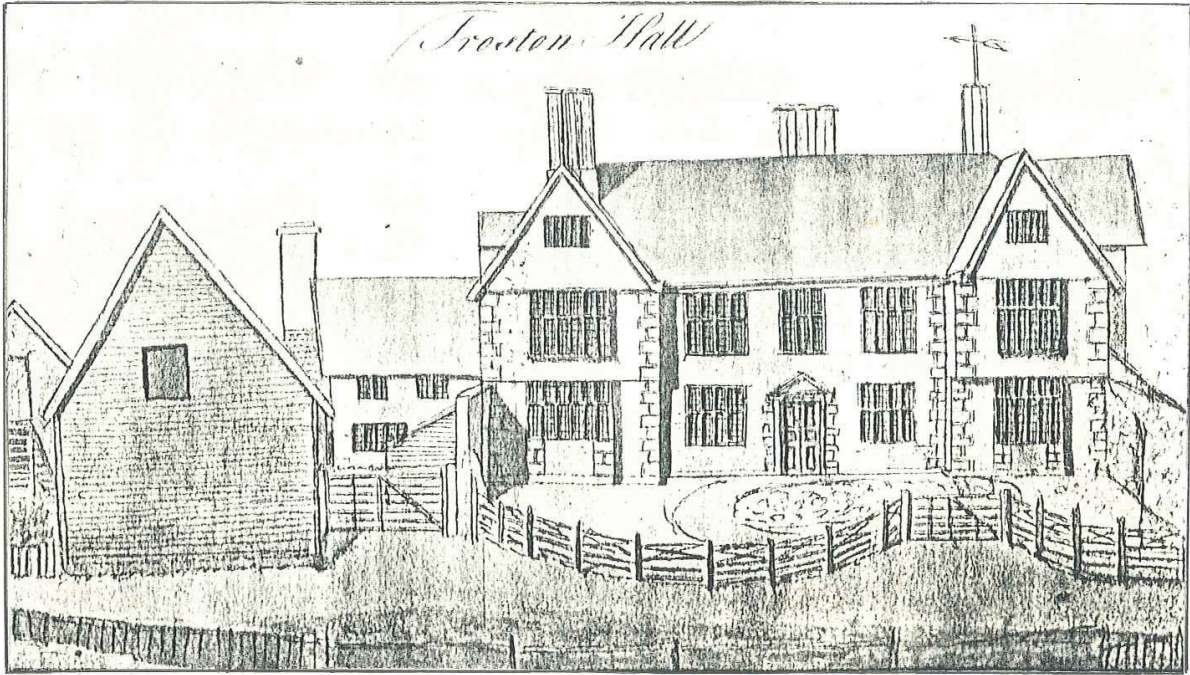
(5) John Catton lived at Mill House (now Lower Farm). He may have carried on his wheelwrights' business there for a while, but established a timber yard on land belonging to 'The Bull'. It was situated where Denver Autos now stands. The land was originally rented from Mr. John Hunt senior (above). After Greene King had purchased 'The Bull', John Catton's son Arthur became the publican. He also inherited the wheelwright trade and the timber yard on his father's death.

(6) In 1881 Smithies' Cottage, a smaller building than today, was still two adjoining cottages. Frederick Hubbard a blacksmith lived in one with his wife, seven children and mother-in-law. John Hunt and son from 'The Bull' were also blacksmiths. All three shared a forge where Farriers' Lodge now stands.

(7) The other half of Smithies' Cottage was occupied by John Blizzard, and sons, shoemakers. Perhaps they used part of the forge or an outbuilding to carry on their trade. William Meadows and son lived in 'The Street' where they worked in a shop.

(8) Elizabeth Hunt was the eldest of seven children. They lived at Red House (no longer a farm) where they had a butcher's shop. Presumably the father had been in the trade, but by 1881 both parents were dead, and Elizabeth, aged 24, with help from two sisters, Susan 21 and Laura 16, ran the business and looked after the younger children. In the 1896 Directory, Elizabeth was still listed as a pork butcher. One of the youngest boys Alfred Hunt, became the village blacksmith in 1900.

(9) Thomas Cawley's shop was at Forge Corner. The Post Office was only



Above. Troston Hall before the alterations by Robert Lofft about 1875. It was refaced with Troston brick, a porch was added and the chimneys were embellished.
Below. 1914.



Troston Hall from Croquet Lawn.



Troston Hall, 1989, built in the late 16th and early 17th Centuries, by Edmund Bacon. It was bricked in by Robert Lofft about 1870 using Troston brick.

Left: The sun dial. It has been written that the base may have been part of the Troston Cross, but this cannot be verified.

for sending and receiving letters and parcels. It was mentioned in 1871 when it was owned by Adam Richardson, who was also a grocer and a butcher. Troston did not have a proper sub-post office until after 1900. Before that villagers had to go to Ixworth for transactions other than the sending of mail. Thomas Cawley ran his business until the beginning of the twentieth century.

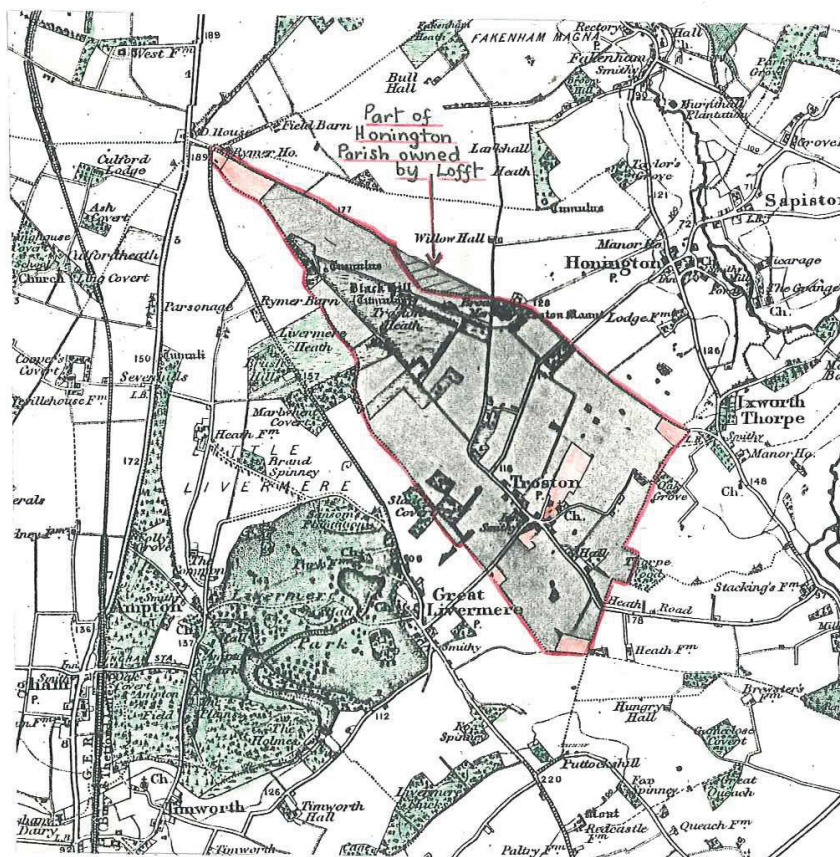
(10) The school and school house were built in 1871, and the first teachers were Mr & Mrs Woods. By 1881 Mr & Mrs Josiah Sibley had replaced them. There seems to have been a small school in Chapel House (Glebe Cottage) at the end of the nineteenth century. It cost twopence a week to attend, but unfortunately not much is known about it. Possibly it was for under fives.

(11) There were probably several part-time domestics who did not live in.

(12) These men worked for Squire Lofft and lived in two adjoining cottages now known as Tanglewood.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century the inhabitants of Troston, like all agricultural communities, began to feel the effects of the depression in farming; more and more people left the village to work in towns. Landowners sold out cheaply to Robert Lofft, and the Troston Estate swallowed up most of the parish. By the 1890s even Lofft was heading for financial disaster and had to rent out the farms he had bought earlier.

The building of the school in 1871, with compulsory education for the first time, was an important feature of this period. One hundred years ago there were still enough crafts and trades in Troston for the village to support itself substantially.



Troston Parish.

The area shaded grey shows the extent of land owned by Robert Lofft at the end of the 19th Century. This Estate was divided into lots and sold in 1923.

PART SIX THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

With the coming of the twentieth century the population of Troston was still on the decline. The figures for 1901 and 1911 were 235 and 205 respectively, and after the First World War there was a further decrease to 198. This figure remained much the same until after the Second World War. The 1951 Census shows 223 inhabitants. The 1950s saw the extension of Honington Camp, and houses for RAF personnel were built opposite the airfield, but within the boundaries of Troston. By 1961 the population of the village had swelled to 1,071, but in two different centres.

In the sixties and seventies the new developments of Capel Close, Paddock Way and Garden Fields made a significant impact on the numbers in the village itself, but this was counteracted by dwindling numbers in RAF accommodation, and the overall total in 1971 had gone down to 970. In the present decade the downward trend continues, and this is again due to the service population. The latest available figures are 860 inhabitants (1988) and 277 households. (1981 Census)

The Lofft-Bevan Family 1900-1919

With the death of Robert Lofft in 1900, the estate was put in the hands of Trustees, who included Lofft's sisters and his nephew Frederick Bevan*, whose family was connected with Barclays Bank. The Bevan family did not live at Troston Hall, which was rented out. The property, which by this time included most of Troston, was put up for sale in 1903, and in 1914, but was withdrawn both times. Frederick Bevan died in 1916, and the estate remained with the other Trustees his mother, Eliza Bevan, and his two aunts, Mrs. Holden and Miss Lofft. Frederick's son, Lawrence Bevan, was born in 1900 and was therefore still a minor. In 1919 both Mrs. Bevan and Miss Lofft died, and Mrs. Holden sold the whole estate to Mr. F.W. Wateridge of Shropshire.

* See the Lofft-Bevan family tree on page 38.

The Village Before The First World War

The map and summary of the Troston Estate, in the inventories of the 1903 & 1914 proposed sales, show the extent of the property. Only the Poor's Estate, the Glebeland, the land belonging to The Bull and the Duke of Grafton, (a total of one hundred and sixteen acres) the Smithy, the shops and The Bull were independently owned. From details of these inventories and from memories of past and present senior residents a picture emerges of the village before the First World War.

Between 1903 & 1914 the farms remained the same. Mr. A.W. Catton's rented smallholding, "Sandfield" on The Heath was taken over by Mr. H. Middleditch in 1914. He added to that by renting another forty acres, sublet from Mr. Sugden. See maps on pages 90 and 91.

The brickworks was not in use, and the mill had gone by 1900. The butcher's shop at Red House was discontinued when Robert Steward, the carrier, moved in. About 1903/4 the Post Office transferred from Forge Corner, although the grocer's shop remained. Robert and Rebecca Reeve moved into Chapel House, (now Glebe Cottage) and it became the Post Office

and general store. It was a thatched building then. Attached to 'The Bull' on the left hand side was a baker's shop run by Mr. Walter Matthews. Behind it was his house and bakehouse, both of which burnt down about 1904. Mr. Matthews moved over the road to Forge Corner, and a building in the garden was converted into a bakehouse. Mr. Matthews took over the grocer's shop as well, and ran it until 1925.

The tenant of 'The Bull' was Mr. A.W.Catton who had inherited his father's wheelwright's business. In directories Mr. Catton was listed as hotel proprietor, builder, carpenter, wheelwright and undertaker. The Bull was described as a, "family and commercial hotel, accommodation for tourists, commercials and cyclists, catering for pleasure parties". There was a large barn where The Bull car park is now, and next to that was a timber yard where the rest of Mr. Catton's activities were carried on. Originally all the timber was cut by labourers, but in the latter days Mr. Catton invested in a steam saw. Today Denver Autos stands on the site of the Timber Yard. Mr. Catton also rented the Poor's Estate and a seventy acre field called Sandfield on the Heath. He seems to have been a very enterprising person. He died in 1914. His son James Catton still lives at Great Livermere.

In Church Lane, formerly known as Church Row, was Glebe Cottage, (now 'Avalon' and 'Lime Tree House') This was occupied by Mr. George Grimwood who rented the Glebeland. Opposite his house, where No. 11 Church Lane now stands, were three cottages, endways on to the road; one of these contained a Reading Room in 1903.

The house now known as 'Tanglewood' was then two cottages, occupied by Troston Hall servants, the gardener and groom. There were four thatched cottages near 'The Lodge'; two faced the road and two were endways on to the road. The Lodge itself was rented out to Mr. Charles Sugden from 1896 until 1919. He had shooting rights over the Troston Estate, and The Lodge was used to entertain parties of sportsmen. The present Weathervane Cottage was part of The Lodge. It was a building consisting of a coach-house, harness room, loose box and two stalls with a large hayloft.

There were allotments where houses on The Square are now situated, and a piece of land called Garden Ground between Paddock Way and Forge Corner (including part of Forge Corner garden) was rented out, and used at times as a cattle pound.

In 1903 Messers. Meadows and Blizzard were still in the shoe-making business, but by 1914 only Mr. Blizzard remained. In the early 1900s Robert Steward of Red House was the village carrier, and his son Samuel the thatcher. In the twentieth century there was only one blacksmith in Troston. This was Mr. Alfred Hunt. Smithies' Cottage was converted into one house and he lived there, plying his trade at the forge next door until after the Second World War. He died in 1948. Max Pemberton J.P. was the tenant of Troston Hall from about 1904-1916. He moved in literary circles, and entertained noteables of the day including Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Northcliff and Lily Langtry. There are more memories of him in the following extracts.



Above 14 & 15 The Common. Houses built by Robert Lofft about 1870 for his estate workers, Troston brick was used.

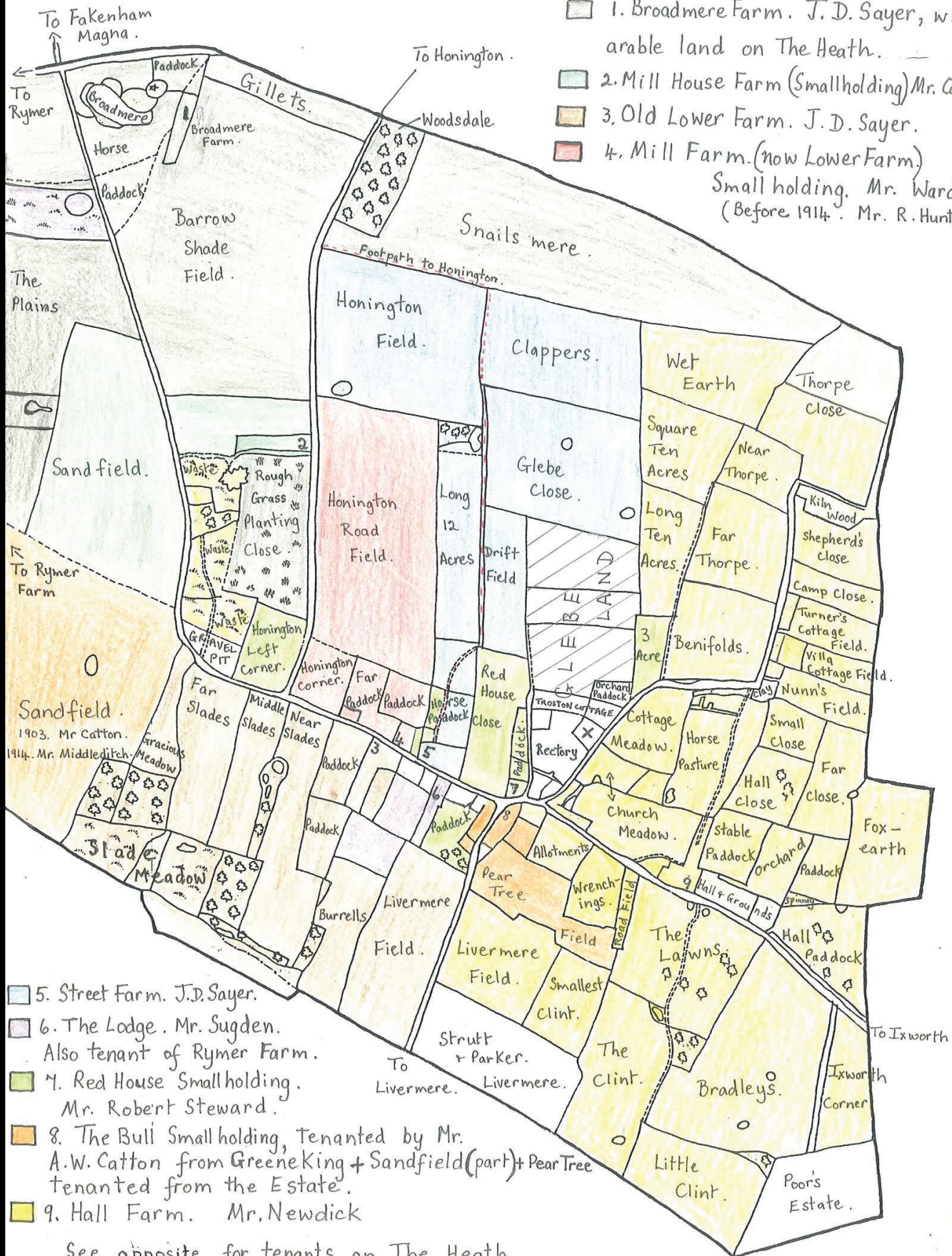
Below. Tanglewood. Ixworth Rd. Originally it was two houses, built as above.



FARMS, SMALL HOLDINGS and FIELDS. 1903.

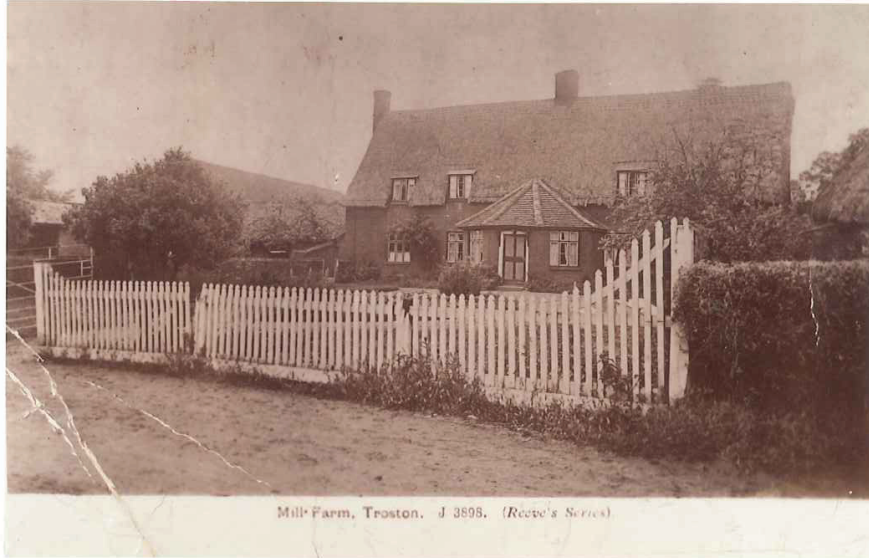
Tenants of Troston Estate.

- 1. Broadmere Farm. J. D. Sayer, with arable land on The Heath.
- 2. Mill House Farm (Smallholding) Mr. Carman
- 3. Old Lower Farm. J. D. Sayer.
- 4. Mill Farm. (now Lower Farm) Small holding. Mr. Ward. 1903. (Before 1914. Mr. R. Hunt).



- 5. Street Farm. J. D. Sayer.
- 6. The Lodge. Mr. Sugden. Also tenant of Rymer Farm.
- 7. Red House Smallholding. Mr. Robert Steward.
- 8. The Bull Smallholding, Tenanted by Mr. A. W. Catton from Greene King + Sandfield (part) + Pear Tree tenanted from the Estate.
- 9. Hall Farm. Mr. Newdick

See opposite for tenants on The Heath.

Lower Farm.

Mill Farm, Troston. J 3898. (Reeve's Series)

The farmhouse dates from the 17th century. For part of the 19th century it belonged to the Borders family farm (see map on page 60.) Sometime towards the end of the 1800s it became part of the Troston Estate. At the beginning of this century it was rented out as a smallholding called Mill Farm (see map on page 91). By 1923, when it was sold, it had amalgamated with Lower Farm opposite, and had taken this name. It is now the base of Troston Farms Ltd.





Centre of the Village about 1903/4.

Mr. Matthews baker's shop was attached to The Bull. He moved to Forge Corner after his bakehouse burned down. The flint cottages, coal house, cottages where 'Siesta' now stands, and the Methodist Chapel are in the background.



L. P. & Co (2)

THE VILLAGE, TROSTON, SUFFOLK.

315

94.



1919 Peace Celebrations.

These were held at Troston Hall. Mr. Wateridge is seated in the middle of the centre row.

The first tractor in Troston was an International in 1935.

The photo on the right shows the John Deere tractor with 'spud' wheels. It came to the village between 1935 and 1938.



Mr. Albert Steward, aged 91. 1989.

He is the grandson of Robert Steward (see page 97). Albert lived in the village as a child and contributed his and his grandfather's memories, (opposite).

Several of the older residents of Troston have kindly contributed some recollections of life in the village.

Troston in Edwardian Times by Mrs. C. Rampley

Mrs. Rampley, a former resident, is now deceased.

"Mr. Creaton, the Rector lived at the Rectory. He was a kindly old gentleman. When we met him we made a curtesy. He said, "Good Afternoon, little ones", and would roll a penny for us.

We went to Sunday School where there were four teachers, a Miss Clarkson from the Hall, Miss Creaton, the Rector's daughter, a lady from Ixworth Heath Road, and the gardener who worked at the Hall.

Miss Clarkson, with the gardener's help, also held temperance meetings, called, 'The Band of Hope'. We had blue ribbons put on our coats and cards of membership. We had nice entertainments, including magic lantern slides.

Families in the village were poor. Farm labourers' wages before the First World War were twelve shillings weekly. They worked from 6am to 6pm in summer. However we were kept clean and respectable. We had Sunday clothes and everyday ones, but there was no money for luxuries.

The Chapel held a service on Sunday afternoons, the band marching down the street beforehand. There was another service in the evening. At Harvest Festival there was a tea meeting with entertainments including solos and recitations. The same thing was done on Good Friday.

All the water in the village was supplied from wells or pumps, and the lighting was by paraffin lamps and candles. The villagers had to go to the farms for milk, taking tins with lids on and upright handles. We could only travel to Bury in carriers' carts".

Mr. Albert Steward born 1898

Mr. Steward lived in Troston as a boy, and kept in contact with the village through relatives. His memories are from about 1905 to the First World War.

"At this time the average wages per week for farm bailiffs and qualified tradesmen was about £1, forestry workers and general tradesmen, 15/-, farm labourers, horsemen, stockmen, and shepherds 12/-, and an agreed sum for living lambs. The latter group lived in tied cottages, rent free. The average for harvest was £7 for the month. Starting wages for boys were 3/- per week, rising according to ability until the age of 21.

Mr. Max Pemberton was the tenant of Troston Hall. I think he was a poet and an artist. He painted a picture of Windsor Castle on one of the walls of the barn next to The Bull. He had the first car in Troston. The chauffeur had to understand all the workings of the car and do running repairs.

At the turn of the century most seeds were sown by hand or by a hopper operated by hand. Mr. George Steward used to plant a twenty acre field on the left hand side of Hall Road using a dibber in each hand to make the holes. His younger brother and sister followed behind dropping two kernels of corn into each hole.

Near the centre of the village was the thatched round house. (former coal house) It was used by Mr. S. Mayes the village roadman for storing council property. The holding known as Red House was occupied by my grandfather, Robert Steward, Parish Overseer, carrier and market gardener. Opposite was the village bakehouse and shop and house owned by Mr. Matthews. About 1904 the house and bakehouse were burnt out. Mr. Bird took two horses to Ixworth to fetch the firepump. This was operated by four men each side lifting and dropping an iron bar, by which water was sucked from a pond through webbing pipes and hoses. The shop which was attached to The Bull was saved, but the house and bakehouse were burnt out.

The Methodist Chapel was served by three village preachers, Messers. Corble, Bird and G. Steward. It provided two services on Sunday, a Sunday School, Band of Hope and bible classes. Its brass band would march around the village playing hymn tunes. Mr. C. Mayes who lived on The Heath was a popular reciter at the chapel.

The Post Office and shop next door was run by Mr & Mrs Reeve. He could be seen every evening with his pony and trap going to Ixworth to meet the Royal Mail.

Troston Cottage was occupied by the Wade family, who would entertain the school children once a year with tea and cakes. At the house now known as 16 The Common lived Mr. S. Warby, sheep shearer and warrener. He owned a horse and cart which he would leave outside 'The Bull', while he partook of a few jars of ale. One night some jokers turned the horse round in the shafts with its head in the cart. When Sam came out a little worse for drink he found the horse's tail, but couldn't find the cart.

Along Livermere Lane was a timber yard where men sawed tree trunks down the middle. One man stood in a pit and one on top to do this job. Next door was the blacksmith Mr. Alfred Hunt. He kept company with the village teacher for many years. When getting married the parson asked him three times, "Mr. Hunt will you take this woman to be your lawful wedded wife"? He replied, "Don't rush me parson for this is a question I must carefully consider". There was a grocer's shop at Forge Corner which Mr. Matthews took over about 1904. Mr. Robinson, the schoolmaster occupied School House. He had a daughter, who was desired by a certain parishioner. Seeing a window open he climbed in and hid under Miss Robinson's bed. When the daughter retired she screamed and her father rushed in, apprehended the man, who was taken to court and jailed.

The Lodge was used for shooting parties, tenanted by Mr. Sugden. Gentlemen would stay during the shooting season and many a poor family were given a jug of soup made from left overs from the table. In one of the thatched cottages next door a Mrs. Lane sold sweets which she made herself. (The old) Lower Farm, Street Farm, and Broadmere Farms were tenanted by J.D. Sayer. Animals fattened on his farms often took first prize in the Christmas market and were slaughtered by a butcher in St. John's Street. Mr. Rampley the shepherd lived at the old Lower Farm. He tended to a large flock and was allowed a donkey and cart for moving hurdles. By the road to The Heath was a small holding farmed by Mr. Middleditch and on the heathland was Rymer Farm. This was unoccupied when I knew it. Nearby were some large rabbit burrows from which the warrener



Mrs. & Mrs. Robert Steward
outside the door of
Red House. He was a
smallholder and the
village carrier.

Below. Mrs. Steward in
the field behind Red House.

"Hawthorns" now stands on
this part of the smallholding.



98.



Mr. & Mrs. Mayes 1909,
outside their home, now
3 The Heath.
He was a former
gamekeeper and well-
known reciter at the
Methodist Chapel.



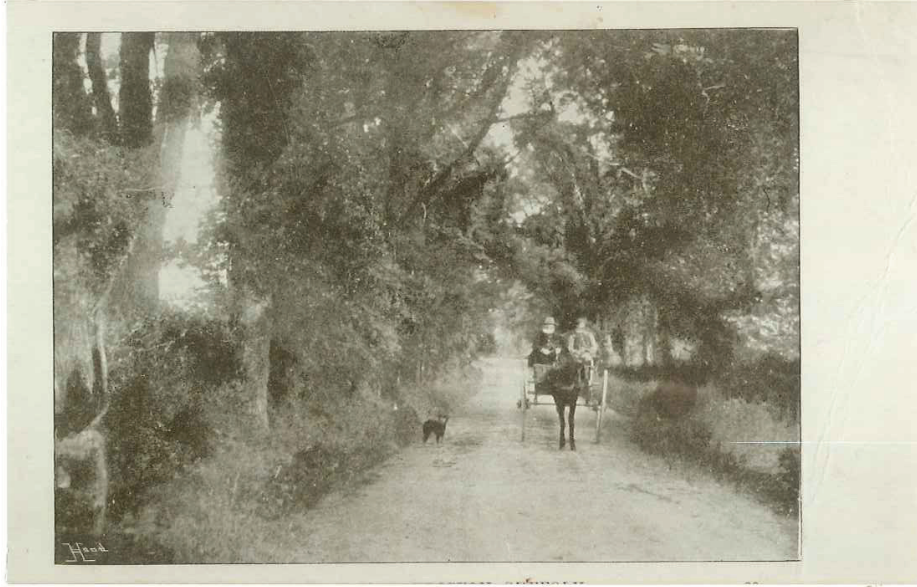
Houses built by Robert Lofft on The Heath.
He died in the one on the left.



The Silver Band outside the Chapel 1904.
 Left to right. Richard Hubbard*, Arthur Steward*,
 Charles Barker(?), Arthur Harper*, Samuel Steward*,
 W. Turner, Charles Steward*, William Bruming,
 George Steward* and Harry Bird. * See the Greengrass
 Family Tree on page 172. * Relatives of Robert and Albert Steward.



Troston and Honington Methodists about 1944.



Two views of the Ixworth Rd. Above. Before the First World War when it was known as The Avenue. Robert Reeve, postmaster, returning to Troston with the Royal Mail. Below. 1988.



would take up to a hundred rabbits at a time.

The Mill Farm (now Lower Farm) was occupied by Mr. R. Hunt who supplied the village milk. There wasn't a delivery, people had to fetch it. The Mill House Farm (now Wayside Cottage) supplied milk to people who lived on The Heath. If you walked down the path beside Mill House Farm towards The Heath you would pass the old brickworks, midway on the left. At the bottom of this lane on the right were several cottages. The last one (towards Honington Post Office Stores) was burnt down when the son of the house was leaning out of the bedroom window playing with matches and the thatch caught fire. (Another version of this story by Herbert Arnold was that the son of the house was angry because his mother would not get out of bed and cook his dinner, so he set the bedroom alight. Unfortunately the whole house burnt down). At Broadmere Cottages lived the head gamekeeper, Mr. Baker who was always very kind to me. During the shooting season he would engage me, a small seven year old to stand as 'block'. This would entail walking back and forth beside a wood near his home, shouting and rattling a tin to stop the game from escaping. For this I would be given 6d, a pint of hot coffee and a huge lump of bread and cheese for being 'on block' from around dawn to about 10am".

Mr. Steward lived in what is now No.4 The Heath, where Robert Lofft resided when he vacated Troston Hall. He remembers that he and his sister used to pump water into a portable toilet left by Lofft. His mother died while he was young and his father had to bring up the children.

Although the family moved away from the village before the First World War, Mr. Steward kept in touch with Troston through relatives. As an adult he worked in transport and was an official of the Transport and General Workers Union. He also served as a magistrate for thirty years. He attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, and was awarded Maundy Money at Ely Cathedral. He still lives at Colne, Huntingdon.

Mrs. Kathleen Mabel Grimwood born 1905

"I went to school in what is now the Village Hall. There were about thirty to forty children in two classes. The hall was divided into two rooms by a curtain. One teacher, a Miss Warren, married the village blacksmith, Mr. Alfred Hunt, an unusual mixing of the classes in those days. We used to embarrass her in music lessons by asking if we could sing, "The Village Blacksmith". We had to go to church every Sunday with our teachers. Each summer there was an outing to Felixstowe, starting from Troston at 5am, when waggons took us, in our Sunday best, to Thurston station, and thence to our destination by train. Every May Day there was a celebration, with maypole dancing, a May Queen, and children singing around the village armed with flowers tied to a stick. Fancy dress cricket matches were popular when the men dressed up in maids' caps and aprons. The Wesleyan Chapel had a brass band, and concerts were given on a small piece of land nearby called 'The Green'. We paraded through Troston following the band and singing. Christmas parties were held at Troston Hall, Troston Lodge and The Rectory.

In 1912 Max Pemberton, a tenant of Troston Hall bought a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, the wonder of Troston; my father drove it. Mr. Pemberton's wife, the sister of Sir John Tussauds was an actress from London. When

her friends came to stay they gave entertainments for the villagers in the old barn at The Bull Inn. Mr. Pemberton offered money to the first recruit from the village to enlist in the 1914-1918 war. Mr. Grimwood (no relation) received it. Twenty seven men went to the war, seven did not return. In 1919 there was a 'Peace Celebration' at Troston Hall with games and refreshments. (See photo on page 94).

There were two shops in the village, a post office and store and a grocer's and baker's combined. The landlord of The Bull was also the undertaker and he had a carriage and pair. From Red House Farm there was a waggon carrier service to Bury St Edmunds - price 6d. return before the First World War.

I left school, aged fourteen, and went to work at the Rectory for 2s.6d per week".

The Late Mr. Herbert Arnold born 1906

"Every Saturday I used to walk to Ixworth to collect medicines for the old people of the village, and perhaps on return I would be lucky enough to receive a halfpenny. The surgery was then straight over the High Street and up the lane.

Many a time I went to bed hungry, and sometimes I ate raw turnips and swedes off the fields. My father used to kill pigs for some farmers and was occasionally given a bacon joint. Pear Tree Field (opposite Paddock Way) was lovely for scrumping, but if the keeper caught you he took the fruit and kept it for himself.

At school the cane was kept in a cupboard beside the old black stove. It was often used. Another punishment was to clean the school house kitchen. Sometimes the teacher put a coin on the floor to see if the offenders were honest.

There was a slaughter house between the present Lower Farm barns and Sunray Cottage. Pigs and bullocks were killed there. It was still in use in the 1920s and 1930s".

Mr. William Jaggard. (brother of Mrs. Grimwood) born 1903

"The first schoolmaster and mistress I can remember were Mr. & Mrs. Robinson. Mrs. Robinson was a thin, grey-haired lady who unfortunately had only one eye, but invariably made use of two pairs of spectacles. One pair rested on her nose and the other was pushed high on her forehead. It was usually the latter pair she was looking for.

Mr. Robinson* I remember as a smallish man in a dark suit, and long white starched cuffs. These cuffs seemed more troublesome than we were. At times when wishing to stress something, he would throw out his arm, and the wretched cuff would go into orbit. The pupils had slates and slate pencils, with a piece of rag under the desk for cleaning purposes. There was an old pot-bellied stove, which when the wind was high and gusty, belched smoke like some fearsome dragon.

Five Generations of Trostonions.



Above. @ Mr. H. Jaggard at the beginning of the 20th century. He worked on the Estate for Robert Lofft.

Below @ Mr. and Mrs. A. Jaggard at their Golden Wedding celebration. Mr. Jaggard also worked on the Estate, and drove Max Pemberton's Silver Ghost.





1989.

③ Mrs. Mabel Grimwood (née Jaggard) and Mr. William Jaggard. Their memories and knowledge were very valuable in compiling this book
Below ④ Mr. Malcolm Grimwood
and ⑤ his son Kevin.



The summer holidays were closely linked to the harvest, since most children from nine to fourteen would be helping in some way with the work. The boys would be riding the binder horses that worked the elevator, which was known then as "hold gee". The girls, too, would be busy taking dinners and 'fourses' out to the men in the fields. At harvest time in the old days the whole village responded in some way, mainly because about 95 per cent of people were employed on the village estate. The fields in those days seemed to have a glorious smell. I especially remember the wild mint in the stubble. Rabbits were killed and eaten at harvest time.

When the last waggon had creaked and lumbered its way to the stockyard, the harvest was completed; then came the Harvest Horkey with beer, beef, and singing and dancing in the barn. The men received five sovereigns, and the boys a half sovereign to see the harvest in. Finally came the Harvest Thanksgiving service at Church. I am sure that when the congregation sang "Come Ye Thankful People Come", they were sincere and truly thankful.

There are a number of things we have lost which I should like to see back. I miss the Chapel band on Sunday afternoons, and the sounds of children in the playground, the avenue of stately elms which once formed a leafy archway from the Old King William public house to Hall Farm, and the crab apple trees with their pink and white blossoms which graced the Honington Road. In fact the older Trostonions called it Crab Apple Row. One of the things that grieved me most was the loss of the heather that once spread its purple cloak over sixty acres of our heathland. At the beginning of World War Two came fire and the plough. It was gone and when my generation goes it will be forgotten for all time".

*see photo on page 108.

Troston School

Troston School was owned by the Church of England, but aided by the local education authority. "The Minute Book of Troston School Managers 1903-1945", is deposited in the Bury St. Edmunds Records Office, and it is from this book that the following information was gathered.

1903. The managers were Mrs. Clarkson of Troston Hall, The Rev. Creaton, Rector, Miss Rew of Troston Cottage, Mr. Catton of "The Bull", Mr. Mayes, gamekeeper, and Mr. G. Grimwood, smallholder of the Glebeland. The managers always consisted of the Rector, and two or three wealthy people who often gave money to help school funds. Mrs. Cave, a manager from 1925-1938 was a noted benefactor.

Two or three trades people usually served as managers and they often assisted when repairs to the school and schoolhouse were needed (which they were continuously). For instance Mr. Catton, above, had a building business and was often called upon.

In 1903 Mrs. Teesdale was headmistress and Miss Allen assistant mistress. The latter received thirty pounds per annum. Mrs. Teesdale lived in the school house. Her salary was not stated but she received two shillings per week for cleaning the school, until the autumn term of 1903 when a villager, Mrs. Shel Drake, was appointed to the job.

The managers set the school holidays. In 1903 there was a week at Easter, two weeks at Christmas and a month in the summer. They also had the task

of appointing teachers and deciding their salaries.

1904. A report by an Education Inspector was received. It was unsatisfactory. Mrs. Teesdale was inefficient and unable to manage the big boys, so it was decided to appoint a headmaster.

1905. Mr & Mrs Robinson took up their posts as headmaster and assistant in January. In the spring there was internal decorating, and external repairs to the building. This was the result of a visit from the Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Catton was employed to do the work, and in 1906 a rod and curtain was put up inside the schoolroom to screen off the smaller children.

Jan 1907. The first of many repairs to the harmonium.

1908. In February a letter was read to the managers from the Attendance Officer advising the closing of the school due to sickness. Mr. Robinson was reported to have objected to any delay, and used "inflammatory words", such as "I won't teach". Mr. Robinson was brought before the Board and asked to apologise, which he refused to do. The school was closed for a week, and a week taken off the Easter holidays. Mr. Robinson was asked to apologise or resign. In March he sent a letter of apology which was accepted, and the following month he was brought before the managers and told to be most careful about his conduct in future. Mr. Robinson promised that he would.

In May Mrs. Robinson had an operation for the benefit of her eyesight. In September the school was closed for two days when the Robinson's daughter got married, and the reception was held in the school. Two days were taken off the Christmas holidays.

In November the Robinsons were in trouble again. Mrs. Robinson had absented herself when she should have been in school. Both teachers were interviewed by the managers and warned as to their future conduct.

1909. The schoolroom was let out for various concerts by Mr. Pemberton's wife and friends. Mr. Pemberton was a manager at this time. The charge for hiring the school, including heat and light, was 2s 6d.

1910. There was more decorating, and repairing, and new closets were installed by Mr. Catton. Mrs Lane was appointed to clean them twice a week at a salary of £2 per annum.

1911. The Diocesan Inspector of religious education gave a very satisfactory report. However, after a report by an Education Inspector, it was decided to order Mr. Robinson to draw up a fuller scheme of work, and submit it to the inspector and the Board of Management, and to teach in more subdued tones.

1912. Another report from the inspector was received and also a letter from Mr. Hughes, the Education Officer. The managers realized the seriousness of the report and Mr. Robinson was called in for an explanation. He promised to draw up a new timetable for the approval of the inspector and Mr. Hughes. He promised "to follow in every detail the timetable, and also to carry out the wishes of the inspector in every way to the best of his ability". Under these circumstances he was allowed to carry on for a further period.

In June 1912 Mr. Hughes sent two more letters to the managers, and Mr. Robinson said he would consider taking his pension, and was advised to do so by the managers. In October he resigned and both he and Mrs. Robinson left the school at the end of the year.

1913. Miss Warren and Miss Nunn both of Higham School were appointed headmistress and assistant mistress respectively. The Diocesan Inspectors report was very satisfactory that year. On October 13th the managers examined the Log Book, Registers, Sales Accounts, Stock and Store Book and the Punishment Book. They approved a new bigger stove for heating.



The School House above, was built in 1871 by Robert Lofft, using Troston brick.

Below. The School, (built as above). In 1946 it became the Church Hall, and is now the Village Hall.





Above. Troston School 1905.

Mr. Robinson is on the extreme right and Albert Steward aged seven is on the far left of the second row.

School Entertainment (about 1913) 'The Pinafore Dance'.

Mrs. Grimwood is third from the left.



1915. There was a meeting to consider the closing of the school for the duration of the war. (This never came to anything).

1917. Miss Warren resigned and Miss Burk was appointed as headmistress.

1919. There was an application for the use of the school, free of charge, for the W.I. This was refused. Between 1917 and 1919, three consecutive assistant teachers were appointed.

Mr. Wateridge became a manager.

1923. No wishes were expressed by parents that any children should go to the Secondary School in Bury St. Edmunds. (No one had taken any secondary examinations over the past four years).

Willie Harper, aged 12 years, weighed only 4 stones 1 lb. Miss Burk wrote to the Medical Officer, who suggested that he should be sent to a sanatorium for treatment for (presumed) consumption. (T.B.). The school cleaner was paid a shilling a day.

1925. Unsatisfactory state of school building - the walls were damp, repairs were needed to the cloakroom and the playground. There should be a covered receptacle for drinking water.

In October there was an unsatisfactory school report but this was due to the inspection taking place just after the holidays, and the closure of the school because of chicken pox. Captain Beauford became a manager.

1926. Miss Burk was called in to see the managers because she had sent a policeman to some children's parents. Miss Burk reported that there had been three acts of cruelty to birds, despite her warnings. The managers decided that in future any such matters should be reported to them first.

1927. There was an exhibition of handicrafts for the parents to see at the end of the summer term.

1929. Miss Burk resigned, and was given a presentation.

In May the Education Authorities proposed to close the school and transfer the children to Honington. Mr. Hughes explained the scheme in great detail. A meeting with the parents followed and a Sub-Committee was elected to sit with the Managers "to make suitable arrangements for the health and comfort of the children".

The members were Mesdames. Challis, Hayward, Langford and Turner with Messers, Grimwood, Howard and Steward. (There is no further reference in the book to this Sub-Committee).

Miss Hilders the assistant teacher also resigned and received a presentation.

1930. Mrs. Barker became headmistress and lived in the school house. She took charge of a branch library.

1931. Miss Barker was appointed assistant teacher. Mrs. Barker was commended on the excellent results of the scripture examination. It was reported that the wallpaper was coming off the walls because of dampness. The boys repaired the playground with loose rubbish and a roller.

1932. A new maypole was bought.

1933. The school put on an entertainment to raise funds for a school trip to London Zoo. This took place in May 1934.

1934. Again the local authorities proposed closing the school. There was another meeting of parents, and the proposal was rejected by 12-2. No-one was entered for the secondary examination in 1934.

1935. The education authorities were determined to close the school. The managers decided to agree but to get the best terms possible. The Medical Officer sent a letter to say that hot milk or cocoa should be provided in the middle of the day. On July 6th the children went to an Air Force Demonstration at Beck Row.

Troston School continued until 1945 when Mrs. Barker resigned. There was no supply teacher available to fill the gap, and this at last gave the

local authorities enough reason to close the school and send the children to Honington. At first it was said to be a temporary measure only, but by 1946 it was permanent and the school building became The Church Hall.

Poem About Troston

This poem was written by Mr. D. Wade, a relation by marriage of the Lofft family, who lived at Troston Cottage 1904-1916 (approx). It describes a walk over The Heath, past the tumuli, along Heath Road, through the village to his home; a compilation of sights and sounds he had experienced throughout the year.

When o'er the limitless expanse of heaven
 The sun its daily toilsome course had plied,
 Upon the glorious purple heath at even
 I chanced to take a stroll, and often spied
 The scurrying rabbit to his burrow fly,
 Thither frightened in its playful gambol.
 And o'er the still calm air a piercing cry
 I hear - as from the thorn clad bramble,
 Joyful and careless I do slowly gather
 And eat that wholesome and refreshing fruit-
 It is the golden plover, faltering ever
 To rest upon some bush or upturn root,
 And then to start its graceful flight once more,
 Crying again its sharp and shrill alarm,
 Thence, as further on I roamed, before
 Mine eyes there rose that lonely red-brick farm*,
 All battered, and by nettles overgrown,
 Where now the darting swallow reigns supreme.
 And where it yearly builds its summer home,
 So finely plastered to the wooden beam.
 When through the unkempt yard I softly trod
 The scarce - approached pigeon loudly rose,
 Disturbed while feasting on the ear and pod
 Of corn and pea, which Giles, the farmer, grows,
 Then on I strolled across the purple sea,
 Whilst in the cooling bracken at my side
 The startled rabbits ever quickly flee,
 Some amidst warrior's bones themselves to hide,
 Deep burrowed in those ancient tumuli.
 Enclosed within that mossy ditch and mound;
 Where formerly, so some think, as do I,
 There stood an ancient Roman camping ground,
 Now but the hunting ground of jay and crow.
 Then passing down along that lane, quite near
 A nightjar sped with stately flight, and low,
 In search of food with which its young to rear.
 I saw while wandering down that grassy way
 The children playing at the cottage door,
 And many a labourer humming tunes so gay,
 Bound for his home and supper, e'en so poor;
 The whistling keeper spreading with his hands
 The welcome meal, from bowls, upon the ground,
 Where chirping pheasants, grouped in clustering bands,

Devoured it greedily with merry sound.
 And on the dusty road I chanced to pass
 The shepherd with his faithful dog at heel
 Driving his sheep which nibbled at the grass,
 Anticipating thus their evening meal.
 On past the village inn my way then bore
 Where many a thirst is quenched by flowing ale,
 And merry sounds came through the open door,
 As some old sire did tell a welcome tale,
 So that with sound still ringing in my ear,
 The few remaining steps I briskly sped,
 And with the lichen - covered church quite near
 I lay at length in rest upon my bed.

* The 'lonely red brick farm' was Rymer Farm farmhouse which was vacated, and fell into disrepair after the tenancy of Teddy Mothersole before the First World War. There is still a piece of land called 'Teddies', near to where Rymer farmhouse stood.

The following extract is from a work book which possibly belonged to the Glebeland.

The following shows work, purchases and prices for the year 1908.

January

	Plough counter laid			
4th	Hay	£5.	5s.	0d.
	Rabbits		17s.	3d.
14th	Cutting pigs		2s.	0d.
21st	9 pigs to Hitche (?)	£6.	15s.	0d.
	Tom shod			
22nd	Grains		8s.	0d.
27th	Rates		16s.	11d.

February

10th	Tup.(ram) for service	£1.	11s.	0d.
15th	Drilling oats			
19th	Grains		8s.	0d.

March

11th	3 pigs	£9.	14s.	6d.
	4 combs barley	£3.	6s.	0d.
	1 cwt cake		9s.	0d.
12th	Drilling peas			
18th	Grains		8s.	0d.
19th	Captain 2 new shoes			
23rd/ 24th	Drilling barley			

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

112

April

15th	2 pigs	£6. 12s. 0d.
	1 peck clover	
	2 bushels barley	
	1 cwt cake	
	Beet seed	5s. 0d.
	Manure	8s. 9d.

May

9th	Drilling beet labour	5s. 6d
16th	Hoeing peas	4s. 0d.
	Cutting pigs	4s. 0d.
20th	Store pigs	£5. 1s. 6d.
23rd	labour	11s. 6d.
27th	Swede seed	2s. 4d.

June

5th	Drilling swedes	
10th	Store pigs	£5. 1s. 6d
20th	Sows served	2s. 6d.
24th	1 cwt cake & grains	16s. 0d

July

9th	Wool	£4. 9s. 3d.
10th	Drilling turnips	
14th	Tom shod	
24th	Sheep dipped Horsehouse laid	
29th	Sheep and lambs	£39. 2s. 6d
	Horse hair	2s. 0d.
	1 cwt meal	7s. 6d.

August

4th	Hook to reaper & labour	8s. 6d.
5th	2 fat pigs	£6. 4s. 9d.
7th	2 new shoes for Captain	
12th	1 peck mustard	2s. 9d.
19th	1 tar rope	2s. 3d.

September

2nd	beans	2s. 8d.
	2 bushells taires*	13s. 0d.
12th	Drilling taires	

23rd	1 comb rye		
28th	Drilling rye		
30th	Beans and meal		11s. 0d

October

6th	6 bushells wheat	£1.	4s. 0d
7th	Drilling wheat		
14th	Bran and meal		9s. 3d.
16th	6 bushells oats		14s. 0d.
20th	Drilling oats		
24th	Tom shod		
26th	2 shoes for Captain		
28th	Threshing corn		
30th	19 combs of wheat	£15.	4s. 0d.
	1 comb ground barley	£40.	6s. 0d.

November

20th	Grist (corn) ground		3s. 9d.
23rd	Carting coal		18s. 0d.
	Rates		16s. 11d.

December

1st	Colt	£16.	5s. 6d.
21st	1 bag blades		12s. 0d.
	Grains		8s. 0d.

*Taires (tares) - a kind of vetch used for feeding.

The 1919 and 1923 Sales of Troston Estate

The last remaining sister of Robert Emlyn Lofft, Mrs Holden sold the entire Troston Estate to Mr. F.W. Wateridge from Shropshire in 1919. He only stayed in the village for a few years. He lived at Troston Hall, and seems to be best remembered for an experiment into so-called co-operative farming. Some of his employees agreed to take part, and a percentage of their wages was put into the estate, the idea being to take a share of the profits. However after four years Mr. Wateridge put the entire estate up for sale, and the participants never saw any returns on their money.

In the 1919 sale, 1,663 acres were put on the market and in 1923, 1,694 acres were offered. The estate was divided into thirty lots which are described on the following pages. The photocopies are from the original sale catalogue.

Comparing the 1903/1914 proposed sale inventories with the 1923 schedules, a few changes are noticeable. By 1923 the old Lower Farm and Mill Farm smallholding, had amalgamated. The base was at Mill Farm which was renamed Lower Farm, and remains so today. Also arable and pasture land on The Heath which had formerly been tenanted separately, was amalgamated with Rymer Farm and put up for sale as Rymer-Heath Farm,

comprising 754 acres. Mr. Middleditch's smallholding had been absorbed into this. The acreages of some of the other farms and smallholdings had been changed slightly. In 1923 it was proposed to sell Troston Hall with 30 acres instead of 3 acres as in 1903/1914. This land must have been taken from Hall Farm, which had been reduced in size.

Between 1919 & 1923 Troston Lodge was occupied by Mr. Wateridge's estate manager. By 1923 the village had gained a playing field, which was situated where Capel Close is now. A flint stable had been converted to a Reading Room. This was a social centre with a billiard table and other amenities. It was demolished after the 1939-45 war, but the foundations can still be seen on the present playing field, alongside the road near the gate.

After the 1923 sale the Troston Estate was split up. In 1924 Major Frank Beauford bought Troston Hall, Hall Farm and the Lordship of Troston Manor. Hall Farm was rented out to a succession of people. Messrs. Clark, and Edwards bought Rymer - Heath Farm, the new Lower Farm, Broadmere Farm and The Mill House Farm smallholding on Honington Road. Rymer-Heath Farm was tenanted by Mr. Philip Crookes. He did not live at the farmhouse, which was derelict. By 1933 all these farms were integrated, and became known as Troston Farms, based at the present Lower Farm. Mr. Hayward, the farm manager lived there. In 1923 Street Farm was purchased by the Challis Brothers, and a man from Thetford bought Red House Smallholding, but Mr. Arthur Steward remained the tenant. Troston Cottage and Troston Lodge both had new owners - Mrs. Cave & Mr. Charles Russell respectively. The Lodge with seven acres of land cost £1,400. Troston Cottage still had a stable and coach house. The coach house at The Lodge was converted into Weathervane Cottage, by Mr. Russell. It is thought that the staircase and some window frames came from Livermere Hall. In 1930 Mrs. Alefounder bought The Lodge.

In 1923 there were three shops in the village. Mr. Matthews at Forge Corner was still the baker, with the bakehouse in the garden. He also sold groceries in his shop there. This shop was taken over by the Westbrookes (about 1925) and then by the Webbs (about 1929) as a general store. See photo on page 146. The shop in the small cottage adjoining The Bull, originally Mr. Matthews baker's shop at the beginning of the century, became in turn, a harness maker's, a cycle shop and a fish and chip shop. It was sold as such in 1930*, but soon reverted to a private residence only. It was pulled down about 1938/9. In 1923 Miss Celia Reeve ran the Post Office and grocer's shop at Chapel House, now Glebe Cottage. It is interesting to note that a Mr. Ted Reeve, who could neither read nor write, was the village postman. Literacy would have seemed the minimum qualification for the job, but letters were always put in the same order by his sister the postmistress.

In the 1920s Mr. Hunt, the blacksmith, still plied his trade, but the timber yard had gone. The ground was let out and cultivated. The Methodist Chapel continued to hold services, but its congregation was dwindling. There was no electricity or running water in the village. Wells and pumps were still in use. The first bus service to Bury St. Edmunds began in 1921. The fare was 1s. 2d return.

*See the advertisement of the sale of this premises on page 145.

THE 1920s.



(1)

Village Centre.
 Left. The Post Office and store owned by the Reeve family.
 Centre. The Methodist Chapel.
 Right. The Coal House and the old flint cottages.

Church Lane

Left. Old Glebe Cottage.
 Right. The Coal House and flint cottages
 Right background. The black and white cottage housed the Reading Room at the end of the last century and the beginning of this century.



The Bull Inn. Late 1920s.
 It was originally the Bull Farm, converted into an inn by the early eighteen hundreds. Notice the old sign, the two entrances, and the rails to tether the horses. There was no green at the front at this time.



1923 SALE LOTS

- The Hall.
- Hall Farm. (2)
- Lower Farm. (including Mill Farm farmhouse) (5)
- Street farm. (4)
- Broadmere Farm. (1)
- Rymer and Heath Farm. (8)
- Mill House Smallholding (6)
- Red House Smallholding (3)
- Troston Lodge. (10)
- Individual fields, grounds and houses, for sale separately.
- Land not belonging to the Estate.

Summary of Lots.

Lot No.	Description.	Acreage.
1	Troston Hall	30.632
2	The Hall Farm	299.621
3	The Red House (Small Holding)	20.110
4	Street Farm	134.022
5	Lower Farm	109.946
6	The Mill House (Small Holding)	35.171
7	Broadmere Farm	231.189
8	Rymer and Heath Farm	754.394
9	Pair of Superior Cottages and Gardens	.601
10	Troston Lodge (Residence)	7.765
11	School and Mistress's House	.315
12	Village Playing Field	1.370
13	Double Cottage	.405
14	Troston Cottage (Residence)	2.283
15	Villa Cottage and Garden	.390
16	Villa Cottage with Garden and Paddock	1.399
17	Pair of Cottages (opposite Church)	.060
18	Glebe Cottage	.280
19	Pair of Superior Cottages and Gardens	.264
20	Field of Allotments	4.016
21	Shop and Garden	.255
22	Garden Ground	.358
23	Garden Ground	.985
24	Field of Arable Land (Ixworth Road)	5.209
25	Two Fields of Arable Land	22.821
26	Field of Arable Land (Livermere Road)	19.548
27	Pear Tree Field (Arable)	11.010
28	Shop and Residence with Gardens	.133
29	Pair of Cottages and Garden	.177
30	Pair of Cottages and Gardens	.143
	Total	1694.872

Present Site

Included 14 & 15 The Common

New Troston Farms Ltd.

3 & 4 The Heath

Capel Close
'Sunray Cottage'

Site of 14 The Common
16 The Common

"Avalon" & "Lime Tree House"

"Tangle wood"

Houses on The Square and Garden fields.
adjoined The Bull Denver Autos.

Paddock Way to Forge Corner

Opposite Gardenfields
See map on Page 116

" " " " "

Next to Smithies Cottage

'Forge Corner'

'White gates'

Cottages, once on the site next to "Siesta".

Particulars and Conditions of Sale
of the
Residential, Agricultural and Sporting
Property
known as
THE
Troston Hall Estate
Nr. BURY ST. EDMUNDS,
SUFFOLK.

Situate in an excellent social and sporting neighbourhood about 6 miles to the North-East of Bury St. Edmunds, but within 3 miles of Ingham, at which Village is a Railway Station on a Branch Line. From here, or from Bury St. Edmunds, whence there is a more frequent service of Trains, London may be reached in a little over two and a half hours. Newmarket, Ipswich, Cambridge and Norwich are approximately 14, 25, 30 and 38 miles distant respectively.

LOT 1 (in hand).
(Coloured Red on the Plan).

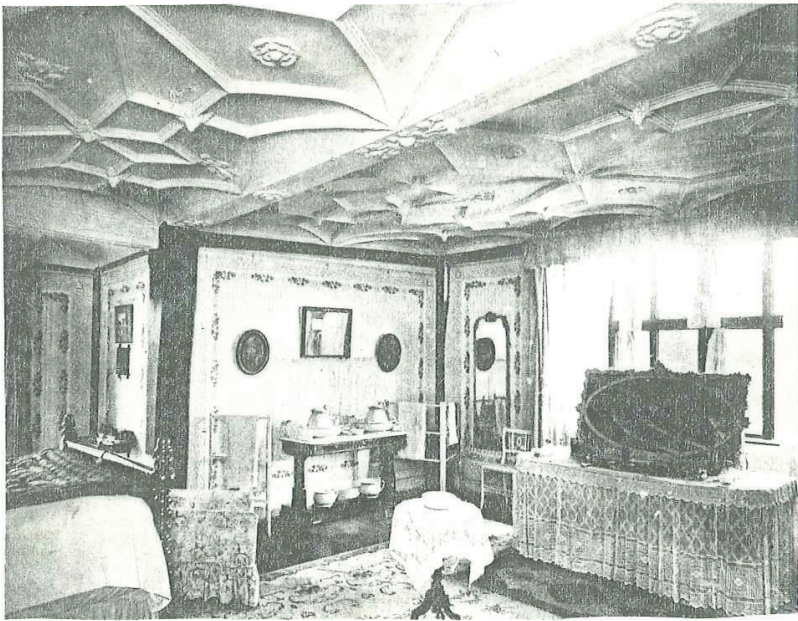
THE HALL

Stands about a quarter of a mile to the South-East of the Village on the Road to Ixworth, whence it is approached through double iron gates giving access to the Court Yard, with circular gravel drive, central lawn and sundial and deep herbaceous borders, the whole being flanked by ancient brick and flint walls.

This Charming Jacobean Manor House

is constructed of brick, whilst the South-East and South-West fronts (at considerable expense about 60 years ago) were re-faced with diamond shaped embossed bricks, made on the Estate; the oak mullioned and transomed windows add charm to the partially creeper-clad elevation which is broken by angular bays and other projections. The roof is laid with plain and ornamental tiles, and is surmounted by three groups of trellised pattern chimneys.

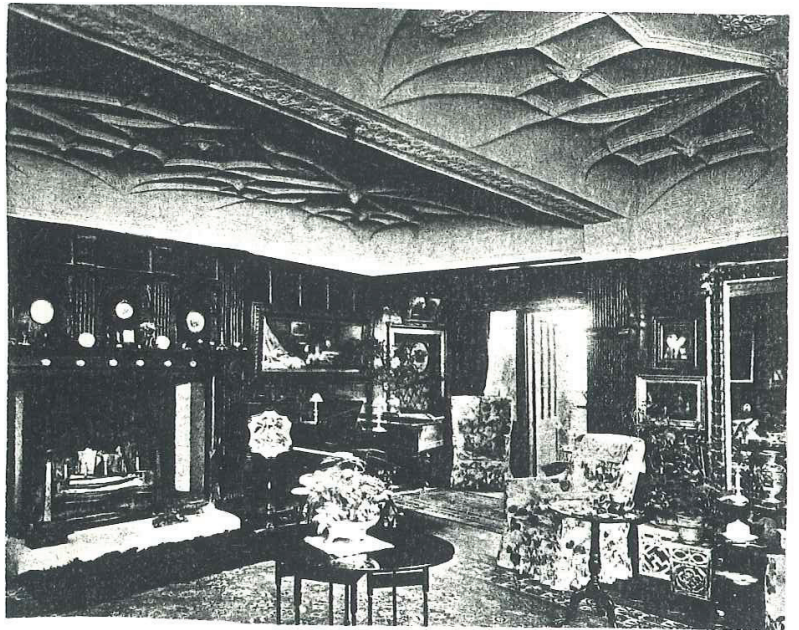
Internally there is a wealth of oak panelling, beautiful plaster ceilings and friezes, typical of the period, handsome carved oak and walnut chimney pieces, open fireplaces and many other interesting features.



THE PRINCIPAL BEDROOM

Troston Hall

1923.

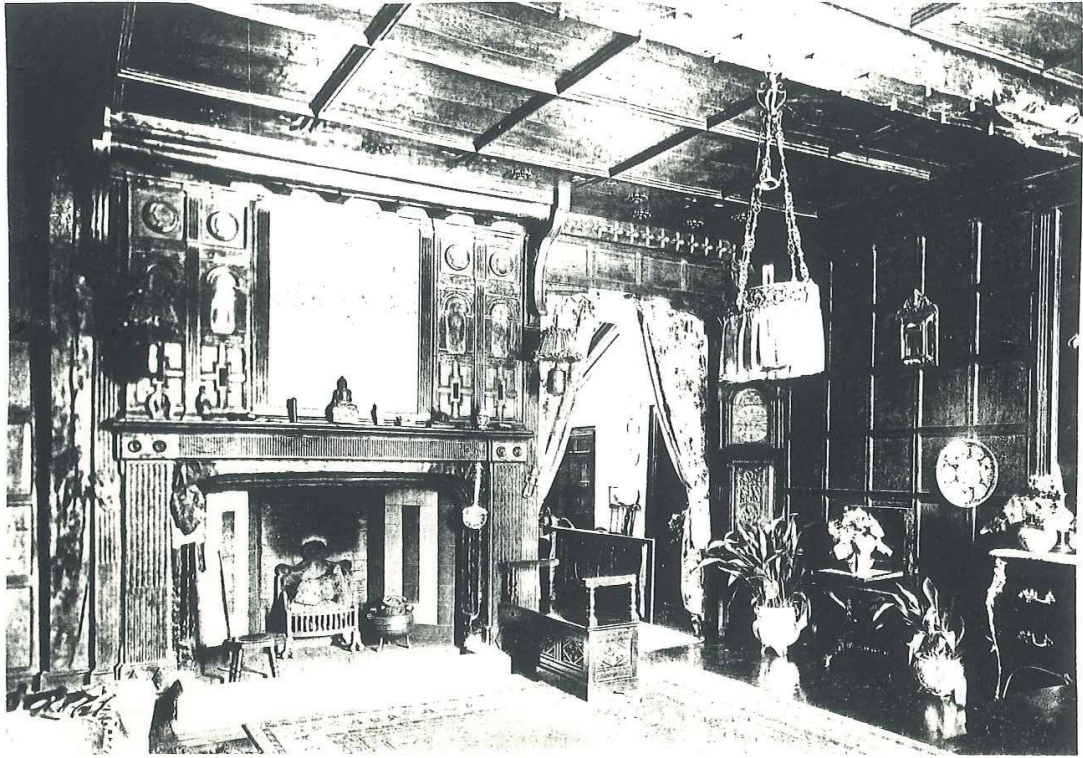


THE DRAWING ROOM.

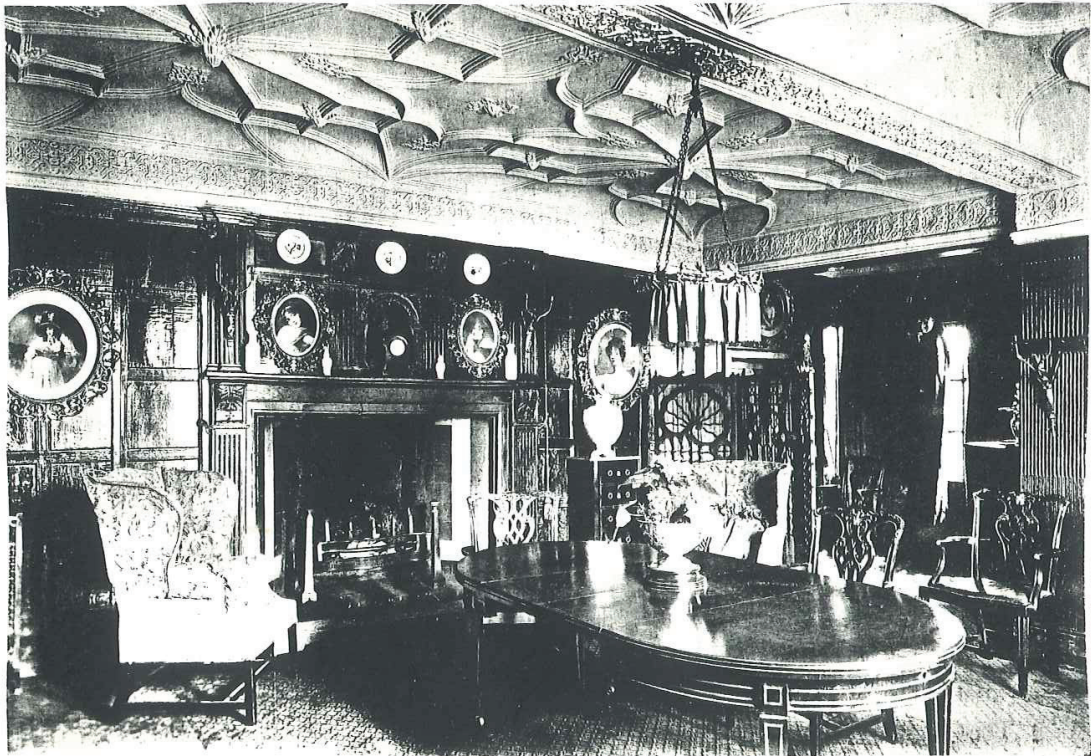


THE TENNIS LAWN AND BOWLING ALLEY

Troston Hall. Interiors. 1914.



The Hall.



Dining Room.

THE ACCOMMODATION

comprises

ON THE GROUND FLOOR

A Gabled Porch

with tiled floor and main Entrance Door, giving access to

The Handsome Lounge Hall

(used as a Dining Room)

which measures 21ft. 1in. by 19ft. 5in., and is 11ft. high. The ceiling is of walnut, ornamented by "patra" and other decorations of unusual design, divided into panels by moulded oak ribs, and has massive structural beams exposed. The walls are lined to their full height with figured oak panelling, which is broken at intervals by fluted and reeded pilasters, whilst the cornice is of moulded oak. The beautifully carved oak and walnut chimney piece has a portrait in oils, reputed to be Charles II., by Sir Peter Lely, forming the central panel, and on either side are six small richly carved and arcaded panels typical of the seventeenth century. Surmounting the whole, supported by nine carved oak brackets, is a massive beam forming a cornice. There is a 6ft. 6in. open fireplace with a dog grate.

The Drawing Room

the dimensions of which are 19ft. 7in. by 19ft. 10in., with annexe 9ft. 7in. by 6ft. 3in., is a particularly pleasant and interesting apartment. The coved and ribbed plaster ceiling is enriched by terminals and pendants of floral design, whilst the soffit of the plaster-encased central beam is ornamented by a beautifully fashioned strapwork decoration in the same style as the frieze. The panelling of the walls is similar to that in the Lounge Hall, whilst the oak and walnut chimney piece has fluted and reeded jambs, and the overmantel formed by three richly carved and arcaded panels divided by fluted pilasters; the open fireplace is framed in moulded stone, has a stone curb and a handsome dog grate. Entered by means of a door cut in the panelling, is a spacious cupboard, or small room. A door gives access to the Gardens, through a Vestibule with tiled floor and another communicates with

The Writing Room

This is 16ft. 1in. in length and 10ft. 9in. in breadth, and has a modern fireplace; it may also be entered from the Inner-Hall and Coat Lobby.

The Breakfast Room

measures 15ft. 11in. by 13ft. 7in., and has a modern fireplace. Entrance is gained from the Lounge Hall, but doorways communicate with the serving Passage and Butler's Pantry. (It is believed that, should the ceiling plaster be removed, beams similar to those in the Lounge Hall would be revealed.)

FROM THE INNER HALL,

whence Lobby and Wine Cellar are approached, rises

The Beautiful 17th Century Staircase

which is 5ft. in width, and which has twisted balusters, a broad moulded oak handrail and similar newels; the walls have a dado of walnut framed oak panelling.

ON THE HALF-LANDING is a

Lavatory

with basin (h. and c.) and W.C.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR is the following Accommodation :—

Spacious Landing

(also Corridor, and Secondary Staircase).

The Principal Bedroom

(formerly the Drawing Room).

(soft. by 12ft. 3in., with annexe 9ft. 10in. by 5ft. 10in.), the coved and ribbed plaster ceiling of which, in many respects, is similar to that of the Drawing Room, but the soffits of the central beam is adorned only in places with embossed fleurs-de-lys. There is a moulded oak cornice and the massive wall beams are exposed at intervals. The fireplace is modern (set in the broad original opening) and has a marble mantel. French casements open on to a Balcony, which overlooks the Tennis Lawn.

The Guest's Bedroom

(Formerly the Library).

(soft. 3in. by 17ft. 3in.), also with ribbed plaster ceiling, having floriated enrichments and pendants, and a beautifully executed plaster frieze ornamented by mythological figures. The walls on three sides are lined with oak panelling interspersed by fluted and reeded pilasters; the panelled door also is of oak. The early mantel of moulded stone, which now has a Victorian fireplace inset, is surmounted by a beautifully wrought three-panel oak overmantel.

Four Other Bedrooms

measuring respectively 17ft. 9in. by 12ft. 4in.; 19ft. 9in. by 11ft. 11in.; 19ft. 3in. by 11ft. 3in.; and 12ft. 5in. by 11ft. 5in.

Large Bath Room

fitted with a porcelain enamelled bath (h. and c.).

Also a separate W.C. and Tank-room with housemaid's sink (h. and c.).

ON THE SECOND FLOOR (which may be approached by two Staircases)

Landing with Hanging Cupboard

Six Bedrooms

and a

Box Room

The Excellent Domestic Offices

are on the Ground Floor, and comprise :—

Large Kitchen, with tiled floor, modern range with side boiler and two dressers.

Butler's Pantry, with sink (h. and c.) and china cupboards.

Scullery, with sink (h. and c.).

Pump Room, with side entrance from Yard.

Spacious Larder with North aspect. **Lamp Room**. **Wood Store**. **Man's Room**.

W.C. **Coal Cellar** below.

The Outbuildings

To the rear of the Residence and within about twenty feet is a

17th Century Brick, Plaster and Tiled Cottage

(might be used as Servants' Quarters.)

containing a Recreation Room (about 21ft. by 18ft.), with massive structural beams exposed and open fireplace with side seats. A good workshop adjoins, which above, approached by an outside Staircase, are Two Store Rooms.

Garage for Two Cars Brick, Flint and Tiled Stabling

comprising Three Stalls, Three Loose Boxes and a long Loft over.

Brick and Tiled Laundry

A Pair of Substantially Built Cottages (14 + 15 The Common)

with large gardens, each containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Attic.

In the Gardens are the following:—

IRON-FRAMED VINERY.

TOMATO HOUSE.

GREENHOUSE.

BRICK AND TILED TOOL HOUSE AND POTTING SHED.

The Old World Gardens

are well timbered and inexpensive in upkeep. They are almost entirely encircled by a gravelled walk bordered by Box edging, whilst at right angles to the beautiful Lawn, which affords ample room for a Tennis Court, lies the Old Bowling Alley, on either side of which is a broad Flower Bed and a Pergola; at its further extremity lies the ornamental fish-pond. The Kitchen Garden, which is intersected by grass walks and privet hedges, is well stocked with old-established Fruit Trees, whilst apricots, peaches and nectarines line the wall surrounding the Gardens, the area of which is approximately three and a half acres. These, together with

The Grounds

which include three enclosures of Pasture Land, two Spinneys and an Orchard-Paddock of over four and a half acres, bring the total area to about

30a. 2r. 21p.

The Manor or Reputed Manor of Troston is included in this Lot.

POSSESSION

will be given upon completion of the purchase.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Acreage.
171	Hall and Grounds	2.669
173	Pool	.491
172	Spinney next Pool	.276
174	Spinney with Vinery	.301
164	Stable Paddock	5.544
176	Orchard	4.757
178	Paddock next Orchard	3.954
177	Spinney	.651
180	Hall Paddock	10.460
181	Road Spinney	.664
Pt. 169	Gateway	.132 abt.
Pt. 165	Shrubbery	.104 abt.
133	Two Cottages and Gardens	.629
		30.632

Value of Timber to be paid for in addition to the purchase price: £238 : 15 : 0.

124

LOT 2.
(Coloured Yellow on the Plan).

The Hall Farm

(in hand).

A Valuable Mixed Dairy Farm

extending to approximately

299a. 2r. 19p. (1903 - 346 acres)

The Superior Old-fashioned Red Brick and Tiled Residence

contains Entrance Hall, Two Sitting Rooms, Six Bedrooms, Bath Room and W.C., Two Attics, Kitchen with apparatus, large Back Kitchen, specially designed Dairy (16ft. by 16ft.), with separate approach, Store Room, Lamp Room and Cellarage. Walled Garden.

The Substantial Homestead

comprises in the Front Yard, Two Trap Houses and Cattle Shed (with Store Room over), Brick-built and Tiled Cake Store with Granary over, Lean-to Implement Sheds, Three Horse or Cattle Yards, and Seven Loose Boxes. Brick, Timber and Tiled Stable for Sixteen Horses, with extensive Chaff Store and Granary over. Eight Loose Boxes; large Barn and Mixing House; excellent well arranged Granary with three annexe bays, concrete floor and sides (practically rat proof); large covered Bullock Yard, iron roofed and tiled, with three Loose Boxes; Dutch Barn (iron roofed) 30ft. by 18ft.; Timber-built, thatched Cart Shed. In the Yards are long Cart and Waggon House with six-divisions and Loose Box or Trap House. Brick and Tiled Workshop; Two large Concrete Soft Water Tanks, and there is a deep Well and a good supply of Water. Attached to the Farm are

Seven Cottages with Good Gardens.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
Pt. 165	Farm House and Premises		2.163 abt.
89	Thorpe Close	Wheat	23.696
93	Near Thorpe	Wheat	6.635
94	Far Thorpe	Wheat	12.788
91	Shepherds Close	S. Oats	7.133
134	Camp Close	Fallow	4.684
135	Turners Cottage Field	W. Oats	5.217
136	Villa Cottage Field	W. Oats	3.190
140	Nunns Field	W. Barley	5.231
141	Small Close	Wheat	4.369
162	Hall Close	Mangolds	6.800
163	Far Close	Pt. Barley	8.326
179	Fox Earth	Wheat	14.046
131	Benifolds	Wheat	13.327
83	Wet Earth	W. Barley	15.411
82	Square Ten Acres	W. Oats	10.522
95	Long Ten Acres	W. Oats	10.762
130	Three Acre Field next Benifolds	W. Oats	3.492
183	Ixworth Corner	Wheat	9.141
187	Little Clint	W. Oats	15.436
189	Bradleys	Pt. Fallow and Seeds	36.015
193	The Clint	Mangolds and Swedes	19.255
	Carried forward		227.439

Hall Farm (cont.)

Ord No	Name of field	Cultivation	Acreage
	Brought forward		227.439
148	Cottage Meadow	Pasture	7.653
142	Water		.135
145	Horse Paddock	Pasture	13.841
150 & 161	Church Meadow	"	12.568
147	Yard		.516
166	Road Meadow	"	1.483
Part of 169	The Lawns	"	21.387
191	Water		.128
190	Spinney		1.618
192	Spinney		.172
181	Spinney		.559
Part 151	7 cottages & gardens (2 cottages, now Tanglewood, and old flint cottages on the corner of Church Lane.)		1.539
182	Road		
	Total		299.621

LOT 3.

(Coloured Green on the Plan).

The Red House

A Capital Small Holding

adjoining the Village and extending to approximately

20a. or. 17p. (1903 - 31 acres.)

having

A Brick-built and Tiled Cottage

containing Two Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Shop (now used as Store) and Three Bed-rooms.

The Farmery

comprises Brick built and Tiled Piggeries, Two Loose Boxes, Implement Shed, Mixing Place, Timber and Tiled Two-bay Open Shed, Coal and Fowl Houses, etc.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
118	House and Premises		.477
119	Stackyard Paddock	Pasture	.542
117	Paddock	Pasture	1.040
Pt. 116	Red House Close	Arable	8.641 abt.
98	Drift Field	Arable	9.410
			20.110

Let to Mr. Arthur Steward.

LOT 4.

(Coloured Blue on the Plan).

Street Farm

(in hand)

abutting upon the Main Village Street and extending to about

134a. or. 3p. (1903 - 119 acres)

having 15 acres of Mill Farm had been added by 1923.

A Brick-built and Tiled Farmhouse

containing Entrance Hall with fireplace, Two Reception Rooms, Good Offices and Dairy, Five Bedrooms, Boxroom, usual Outbuildings and excellent Garden,

The Homestead

is mostly constructed of Brick, Flint and Timber with Tiled Roofs, and comprises Large Barn with concrete floor, and Lean-to Open Shed adjoining; Trap House; Two Cattle Yards with Open Sheds; Four Loose Boxes; Root and Mixing House; Two-bay Open Cart Shed with Granary over; Four Loose Boxes; Stabling for Ten and Cow House with concrete and chanelled floor, also

Three Good Cottages

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
111	House and Premises and Stackyard		1.391
115	Horse Paddock		2.460
99	Second Horse Pasture	Pasture	3.246
114	Cottage Paddock	Pasture	.771
100	Paddock	Pasture	3.036
Pt. 101	Far Paddock	Pasture	2.277 abt.
75a	Honington Corner	Arable	5.211
75	Honington Road Field	Arable	47.042
76	Long Twelve Acres	Arable	11.834
78	Pond and Spinney		.711
79	Pond and Spinney		.972
77	Drift Lane		1.499
80	Glebe Close	Wheat	27.920
80a	Pit and Spinney		.387
80b	Pit and Spinney		.432
81	Clappers	Fallow	23.335
81a	Spinney		.557
81b	Pit and Spinney		.306
Cottages.			
Pt. 107	Two Cottages and Gardens occupied by W. Lane and J. Reeve (Farm Hands)		.405 abt.
113	Cottage, Garden and Paddock, occupied by C. Steward		.230
			134.022

Thatched cottages next to Troston Lodge (Photo on page 133.) Cottage on site of the present White House

Value of Timber to be paid for in addition to the purchase price: £224 : 5 : 1.

POSSESSION

of the Farm Premises and Lands will be given upon completion of the purchase.



Above Street Farm, 1923. Mrs. Challis, mother of the present owner is at the gate. Below. 1989.

Street Farm dates from the 17th century. In the 1800s it was owned by Mr. James Fison and later by the Wayman family. It was bought by Robert Lofft and rented out. In the 1923 sale, it was sold to the Challis family. From 1941-1971 the Post Office was here. The land now belongs to



Troston Farms



1934. Mrs Elsie Arnold (then Steward) with her
mother outside Red House.

Below. Red House (home of Mrs. Grimwood) and Red House Bungalow, 1989.



LOT 5.

(Coloured Brown on the Plan).

Lower Farm

(Old Lower Farm with 10 acres of Mill Farm)

(in hand)

situate abutting upon the Main Village Street, and extending to about

109a. 3r. 31p.

Having Picturesque Farm House (Brick-built and Thatched, with bay entrance) containing Hall, Two Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Dairy, etc., and Five Bedrooms. *In 1903 this was Mill Farm farmhouse. By 1923 it had been amalgamated with old Lower Farm and took its name.*

The Homestead

Includes Two Sets of Buildings, Three large Double Barns, Stable, Nine Loose Boxes and Pig Yards; Two Cattle Yards with Open Sheds, etc., also a roomy COTTAGE adjoining Farm-yard, and

A Pair of Picturesque Cottages

with Outbuildings.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
112	Farm House and Premises, and Garden		1.366
Pl. 101	Paddock with Barn, Yard and Sheds		1.268 abt.
Pl. 106	Buildings and Stackyard		.344 abt.
103	Paddock adjoining Buildings	Pasture	4.235
104, 104 & 105	Roadway Paddock	Pasture	2.528
158	Livermere Field	Roots	21.469
Pl. 107	Burrells	S. Barley	15.548 abt.
203	Middle Slades	Lucerne	
		{ S. Oats	22.094
208	Near Slades	Seeds	9.110
211	Far Slades	Roots	14.030
217	Gracious Meadow	Pasture	5.706
220	Wood Meadow	Pasture	7.193
204	Spinney		.272
207	Spinney		.334
206	Spinney		.911
205	Pond in Wood		.445
202	Pit		.275
198	Spinney		1.000
201	Spinney		.750
Cottages.			
Pl. 106	Roomy Cottage or Dwelling House adjoining Farm Yard, with walled-in Garden (in hand)		.528 abt.
Pl. 107	Two Picturesque Cottages with Outbuildings, occupied by T. Hustler and C. Harper (Farm Hands)		.540 abt.
			109.946

*1903. Old Lower Farm farmhouse.
Two thatched cottages, now demolished (site opposite present Lower Farm)*

Value of Timber to be paid for in addition to the purchase price: £354 : 14 : 6.

POSSESSION

of the Farm Premises and Lands will be given upon completion of the purchase.

LOT 6.
(Coloured Green on the Plan).

The Mill House
A Compact Small Holding

extending to approximately

35a. or. 27p. (1903 - 50 acres)

with Brick-built and Slated House, containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, Usual Offices, Five Bedrooms, Wood and Coal Lodges, etc. Brick, Flint and Tiled Gig House ; Three-bay Open Shed ; Implement Shed and Fowl House. Brick and Tiled Barn ; Loose Box, Implement Shed with Granary over and Four Timber-built Piggeries ; also

The top storey of this house was burned down. It is now Wayside Bungalow on the left hand side of the road to Honington.

Good Cottage and Garden

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
59	Dwelling House and Garden		.302
62	Farm Buildings and Stackyard		.252
61	Paddock	Pasture	1.023
63	Mill Close	Arable	9.248
73	Planting Close	Arable	17.846
72	Honington Left Corner	Arable	5.966
Pt. 65	Cottage and Garden, occupied by F. Arnold and Brothers (Farm Hands)		.238 abt.
60	Road		.296
			<u>35.171</u>

Now 5 The Heath.

Let to Mr. E. R. Smith.

LOT 7.
(Coloured Grey on the Plan).

Broadmere Farm

(in hand)

situate on the Thetford and Ixworth Road, and extending to approximately

231a. or. 30p. (1903 - 178 acres)

The Farmhouse comprises :-

A Pair of Red Brick and Tiled Cottages

each containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Four Bedrooms and a detached Wash-house with brick floor.

The Homestead is mostly constructed of Brick, Flint and Timber with Slated Roofs, and comprises Five-bay Cart Shed with Granary over ; Eleven Loose Boxes ; Double Barn with brick floor ; Stabling for ten ; Barn with concrete floor, Piggeries, and Three Fowl Houses. Dutch barn in Field.

N.B.—There are numerous concreted tanks affording ample water storage accommodation, and the Mere Pond adjoins the Horse Paddock.

Broadmere Farm (cont.)			
Ord No	Name of Field	Cultivation	Acreage
50	Pair of well built dwelling houses to form farm house & garden		.808
51	Farm yard & buildings		.638
49	Paddock	Pasture	2.697
41	Horse Paddock	Pasture	10.965
45	Broadmere Pond	Water	2.267
42,44,46, 47,48	Spinneys round pond		4.640
55	Woodsdale Grove	Wood	8,675
53	Gillets	Roots	7.979
52	Barn Beck (Breck)	Arable	74.460
56	Snailsmere & Woodbreck		79.354
84	Snailsmere water		.290
84a	Spinney round pool		.561
75	Honington Road Field	Arable	36.415
58	Pit and spinney		.535
78	" " "		.180
	Cottages		
Part 65	Three cottages & gardens (now two cottages) adjoining Heath Road, occupied by farm hands		.725
	Total		231.189

POSSESSION

of the Farm Premises and Lands will be given on completion of the purchase.

LOT 8 (in hand).
(Coloured Blue on the Plan).

Rymer and Heath Farm (Shaded on the plan)

Suitable for Sheep Farming on a large scale, extending to about

754a. Ir. 23p. (1903-616 acres)

Over 200 acres

over 200 acres being put down to permanent Down Pasture for sheep and training course, **THE WHOLE PROVIDING EXCELLENT SPORTING FACILITIES.** The premises comprise a Brick and Slated Farmhouse, containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry and Four Bedrooms, with detached **Bathhouse.**

The Agricultural Buildings at Rymer

comprise Timber-built and Tiled Five-bay Open Shed, Six Piggeries and Yards, Large Loose Box, Three-bay Cart Shed; Barn with cement floor; Three Boxes, each holding two horses; Lean-to Four-bay Cart Shed and Timber-built and Iron Fowl House; extra large concrete Rainwater Tanks.

Farm Buildings on the Heath

Large Double Barn with boarded loft over the whole; Two Large Open Sheds and enclosed Yard with Shedding and Lean-to for Implements.

Keeper's House with Garden and Plantation

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
17	House and Farm Buildings, etc. ....		.644
19	Garden ....		.585
18	Paddock	Pasture	1.398
7	Further Breck	Arable	37.092
8	Second Pin	Arable	22.267
10	First Pin	Arable	25.355
9a	Rough ....		.588
12 & 13	Black Hill	Arable	113.979
20	New Breck	Arable	36.449
38 & 38a	Sandfield	Arable	142.109
216	Pit ....		.725
37	The Plains	Arable	92.113
38b	Rough Ground		33.207
23	Ditto		12.257
15	Heath and Gorse	Heath	71.091
27	Ditto	Heath	60.525
29	Ditto	Heath	12.300
32	Ditto	Heath	6.645
39a	Ditto	Heath	2.060
39	Ditto	Heath	.502
25	Ditto	Heath	4.631
15a	Chalk Pit		1.305
9	Wood Spinney		3.404
16	Ditto		1.162
13	Ditto		5.333
14	Ditto		3.876
74	Ditto		3.276
21	Ditto		2.406
22	Ditto		2.102
26	Ditto ....		.979
33-34-35	Ditto ....		.904
28	Ditto		2.357
30	Ditto Rush Bottom		2.440
30a	Spinney adjoining ....		.295
31	Ditto ....		.905
36	Ditto		2.752
37a	Ditto		6.638
219	Sandfield Wood		2.659
218	Ditto		4.446
210	Slades Wood		5.461
209	Ditto		4.941
21 & 199	Livermere Slang Field below Wood	Arable	6.430
200	Water ....		.150
201	Spinney ....		.897
24	Heath Buildings and Stackyard		1.190
214	Keeper's House and Garden occupied by Keeper ....		.482
67	Spinney		1.347
69	Spinney and Preserve Ground		1.063
70	Ditto		2.988
71	Ditto		4.656
213	Ditto		3.625
			754.394

(Over 500 acres comprise Arable Land under full cultivation).

Value of Timber to be paid for in addition to the purchase price: £755 : 15 : 3.

POSSESSION will be given upon the completion of the purchase.

LOT 9.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Pair of Well-built Cottages ^{3 & 4 The Heath}

situate on the Heath Road, near Keeper's Lodge, each containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, etc.

Good Gardens

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
68	Two Cottages and Gardens ....	.601

Let to Mr. Arthur Jaggard at £13 and Mr. Amos Foreman, at £7 16 0 per annum inclusive.



Above. Troston Lodge and thatched cottages about 1920. Below. The Lodge 1989.

The house was probably a farmhouse dating from the 17th century. It was altered during the 1800s when it was bricked in, and added to the Troston Estate. A London business man, Charles Sugden was the tenant from 1896-1919. He used it as a shooting lodge. It was sold in 1923 and has had many owners since then.



134



Weathervane Cottage.

Originally the coach-house
of The Lodge.

Left. The arch of bricks
over the door was the
original entrance for the
coaches.

Right. A capped well,
discovered when the grass
in the top picture was
removed during building.



LOT 10.
Coloured Orange on the Plan.
Troston Lodge

(in hand)

will admit the Private Residence to a buyer of either of the Farms, especially to the buyer of the Rymer sheep and sporting area (Lot 8).

The Detached, Brick-built and Tiled Residence

stands well back from the Village Road, and contains:—

ON THE GROUND FLOOR :—Entrance Hall 15ft. 10in. by 9ft. 9in., with staircase and cupboard under stairs.

Dining Room, 19ft. 10in. by 15ft. 10in., with white marble mantel and serving door from Kitchen.

Drawing Room, 16ft. 11in. by 15ft. 10in., with pair of glass folding doors to Breakfast Room, leading through to Garden entrance. Slow combustion hearth grate, tiled and decorated, grey marble mantel-piece.

Breakfast Room, 20ft. 8in. by 12ft. 1in., serving door from Kitchen, and half glazed door to Garden, Adam grate.

Domestic Offices :—

Conveniently Placed and Well Lighted Kitchen, with patent range. Pantry, Larder, Store Room and Wine Cellar.

Large Back Kitchen, with range, boiler, shelves, etc.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR :—Seven Bed and Dressing Rooms, measuring 14ft. 3in. by 14ft. 6in.; 16ft. 2in. by 11ft. 2in.; 12ft. 9in. by 8ft.; 20ft. 6in. by 12ft.; 16ft. 3in. by 12ft.; 12ft. 2in. by 8ft.; and 16ft. 2in. by 8ft. 6in.

Landing, with back stairs.

Store or Box Room, 12ft. 2in. by 12ft., with stove.

Bath Room with lavatory basin (h. and c.). Heated linen cupboard. W.C.

Glass Shelter on roof, 21ft. 6in. by 8ft. 6in.

Water is pumped from a Well to cisterns in the roof.

Drainage is to Cesspool.

IN YARD, with folding doors leading to main road :—Dairy, Wash-house and Coal House.

The Stabling with Walled Yard

comprises Coach House or Garage, Harness Room, Loose Box, Two Stalls and large Hay Loft.

The Grounds

are well timbered and comprise attractive Pleasure Gardens, Kitchen Garden, a Paddock and an Arable Field.

7a. 3r. 2p.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Name of Field.	Cultivation.	Acreage.
109	Residence, Garden and Grounds	.....	1.475
156	Paddock	Pasture	3.022
Pt. 197	Arable	Potatoes	3.268 abt.
			7.765

POSSESSION

will be given upon the completion of the purchase.

LOT 11.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

The Well-built School

with Play Yard and Mistress's House.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
108	School .....	.315

School let to the Local Educational Authorities. House let to Mistress.

LOT 12.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Field at present lent to

The Village as a Playing Field

about 400 ft. Frontage to the Village Street. *Site of Capel Close.*

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 116	Grass	1.370

LOT 13.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Picturesque Double Cottage

each containing Kitchen, Sitting Room, Pantries and 3 Bedrooms. Suitable for converting into a small Residence. *Now Sunray Cottage*

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
102	Two Cottages and Garden .....	.405

Let to Messrs. Harry Bird and William Turner, at £7:16:0 per annum, each inclusive (Farm hands).

LOT 14.
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

Troston Cottage
(In hand)

A Pretty Brick-built and Slated Country Residence

containing

ON THE GROUND FLOOR :—Entrance Porch and Lobby. Dining Room, with French windows opening to Conservatory. Double Drawing Room, also Small Servants' Sitting Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry, Lamp Room, Larder and Small Box Room. Also detached Coal and Wood Sheds and Servants' Closets.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR :—Five Bedrooms and Two Dressing Rooms. W.C. Front and Back Staircase.

Water is pumped from a Well to cisterns in the roof. Drainage is to Cesspool.

The Stable

Brick, Timber-built and Tiled, contains Loose Box, Stall and Coach House, with Loft over.

The Delightful and Well-timbered Gardens

of about an Acre, are laid out with a Lawn, Flower and Kitchen Garden, with Ornamental Pond. Adjoining is an Orchard-Paddock of about 1 Acre.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
126	Residence, Garden and Grounds	1.052
129	Orchard Paddock	1.231
		<u>2.283</u>

POSSESSION

will be given upon completion of the purchase.

LOT 15.
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Villa Cottage with Excellent Garden

containing Sitting Room, Kitchen and Three Bedrooms.

Site of 17 The Common.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 138	Cottage and Garden ....	.390

Let to Sergeant Nunn at £8 per annum (Tenant paying Rates).

LOT 16.
(In hand)
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Villa Cottage with Garden and Paddock

containing 2 Sitting Rooms, Kitchen and Back Kitchen and Three Bedrooms.
Out-house, etc.

Now 16 The Common

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 138	Cottage and Garden ....	.285
137	Paddock	1.114
		<hr/> 1.399

POSSESSION

will be given upon completion of the purchase.

LOT 17.
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Pair of Small Cottages

in Church Road, suitable for conversion into one roomy Cottage.

Now Church Cottage

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
149	Cottages and Gardens ....	.060

One let to Mr. George Clarke at £2 12s. per annum (Tenant paying Rates); the other is in hand (same value)

LOT 18.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

"Glebe Cottage"

A Double Cottage and Garden, containing Sitting Room, Front and Back Kitchens and Three Bedrooms. *Former cottage on site of 'Avalon' and 'Lime Tree House'*

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 120	Cottage and Garden .....	.280

Let to Mr. G. Grimwood at £9 2s. per annum (Tenant paying Rates).

LOT 19.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Pair of Substantially Built Cottages *Now Tanglewood*

with Gardens, each containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms and Attic.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 151	Cottages and Gardens .....	.264

Let to Messrs. George Marsh and Percy Haywood at £13 per annum each inclusive.

LOT 20.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Field of 32 Allotments

Now houses on The Square built 1949 and Gardenfields built 1943/4.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
152	Gardens	4.016

Let to Mr. C. Steward and others at inclusive rentals of 5s. per annum per allotment and producing £8 per annum.

1140

LOT 21.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan)

Small Shop with Room and Garden
 (Demolished 1938/9.)
 (adjoining "The Bull Inn")

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 154	Shop and Garden ....	.255

Let to Mr. G. Brand at £6 per annum inclusive.

LOT 22.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

Garden Ground

Known as Timber Yard. *Now Denver Autos*
 (adjoining "The Bull Inn" and Blacksmith's Shop).

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 154	Garden (partly walled) ....	.358

Let to Mr. G. Brand at £3 per annum inclusive.

LOT 23.

(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

Garden Ground *1990.*
 (opposite "The Bull Inn") *Land in Livermere Rd from Paddock Way to Forge Corner.*

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
155	Garden ....	.985

Let to Mr. W. Matthews at £2 per annum inclusive.

LOT 24 (in hand).
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

“Wrenchings” (Name in 1842, Rentshalls)
An Excellent Field of Arable Land

situate on the Ixworth Road, *Opposite 3-9 Gardenfields.*
(Cultivation:—Winter Barley now sown with Lucerne)

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
160	Arable	5.209

POSSESSION

will be given on completion of the purchase.

LOT 25 (in hand).
(Coloured Orange on the Plan)

Two Fields of Good Arable Land

LIVERMERE FIELD (with long frontage to Bury St. Edmunds Road)
(Cultivation: Sugar Beet)

and
SMALLEST CLINT (adjoining). (Cultivation: Winter Oats).

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
167	Arable	14.410
168	Arable	8.411
		<hr/> 22.821

POSSESSION

will be given upon completion of the purchase.

LOT 26.
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Field of Excellent Arable Land

Livermere Field - opposite the field above.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
194	Arable	19.548

Let to Mr. Shephard at £25 per annum (Tenant paying Rates).

142

LOT 27 (in hand).
(Coloured orange on the Plan).

Pear Tree Field

An excellent Arable Field adjoining "The Bull Inn" and the Blacksmith's Shop, and with frontage to Livermere Road.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
159	Arable	11.010

POSSESSION

will be given on completion of the purchase.

LOT 28.
(Coloured Orange on the Plan).

A Double Fronted Shop and Residence *Now Forge Corner* with Garden

containing Large Shop, with bay window, Sitting Room, Front and Back Kitchens, Four Bedrooms, Bakehouse, Warehouse, etc., at rear.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 155a	Shop and Garden ....	.133

Let to Mr. W. Matthews at a nominal rent.

LOT 29.
(Coloured orange on the Plan).

A Pair of Cottages and Gardens *Now Whitegates* adjoining Shop and School Playground.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 155a	Two Cottages and Gardens ....	.177

In the occupation of Mr. W. Wood (farm-hand) and Mr. Semper. Mr. Semper is under no tenancy and has paid no rent for 3 years. The mother was the tenant but died last year.

LOT 30.(Coloured Orange on the Plan).**A Pair of Cottages and Gardens**

opposite Church Road.

*Formerly 'The King William' Pub
Now waste ground next to 'Siesta'.***SCHEDULE.**

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
Pt. 154	Two Cottages and Gardens.... ..	.143

Let to Messrs. W. Sheldrake at £3 13s. and G. Turner at £3 18s. per annum (Tenants paying Rates).

Tenure

The Whole Estate is Freehold, with the exception of approximately $22\frac{1}{4}$ acres, which are Copyhold of the Manor of Great Livermere, with Bromhall and Uphall and subject to a quit rent of 13s. and a customary fine of two years annual value on death or alienation.

Outgoings

The Tithe Rent Charge and Land Tax is being informally apportioned and the amount to be paid in respect of each Lot will be announced at the time of sale.



Next to Lower Farm stands this barn which was the village slaughterhouse. It was still in use in the 1930s.

Troston and Livermere Free and Easy Society.

To receive the Benefits set out below all Members must observe the following Rules :

Contributions, 1/- every four weeks, paid in advance, 1d. per quarter for officials; failing to pay when due to be fined 1d. per month.

All Contributions, Levies, and Fines to be paid up on quarter night or be expelled.

Sick Benefit to be paid for the date on calling-on certificate, but not for calling-off date.

No Benefits for Sickness, etc., caused by intoxication or fighting.

Members imposing on the Club, gaming, or working (other than writing) during sickness, to be expelled.

The Books to be audited every year and 2/- to be left back, per member, the remainder shared out.

Members 14 years of age to 55 years to pay 1/6 entrance fee, 55 years to 60 years to pay 2/-.

Sick Benefit, 8/- per week for 6 weeks, and 4/- per week for 6 weeks, in one year.

Maternity Benefit, 16/- in each case.

Funeral Benefit: each member to pay 1/- levy for a member, and 6d. for a member's wife (or husband), and 1/6 if husband and wife are both members.

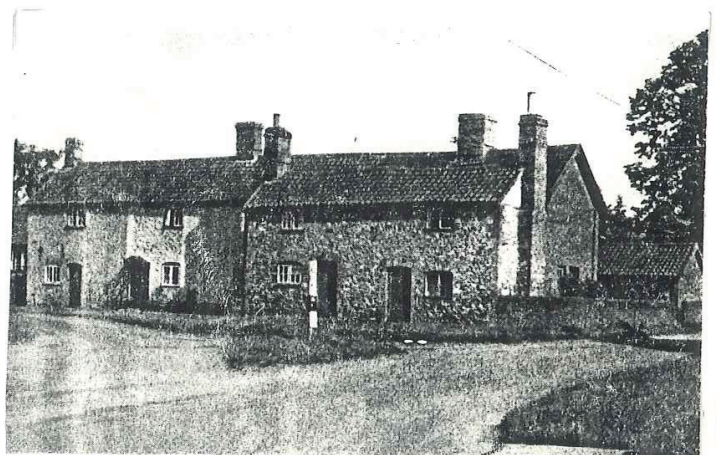


J & S 8346

WESLEYAN CHAPEL AND POST OFFICE, TROSTON.

Left. The village earlier this century.
(exact date unknown)
The coal house in need of a new thatch.

Right. The flint cottages in detail after the coal house had been demolished in 1959.



Left. Notice of the sale of the cottage and fish and chip shop adjoining The Bull. It was bought by Mr Bird for £180.

TROSTON,
7 and 8 miles from Bury and Thetford.

THE **Freehold Cottage**

Situate in the Village Street, adjoining the Bull Inn, has a frontage of about 110 feet. It is Brick, Lath and Plaster and Tiled, containing Room 13 feet square, fitted and used as a fish and chip shop, 3 other Rooms, Pantry, &c. Acetylene Lighting.
Good Well of Water and Garden $\frac{1}{4}$ acre.
Vacant Possession, 15th January, 1931.

ARTHUR RUTTER SONS & Co.

Will Sell by Auction, at the Bull Inn, Troston,
On **FRIDAY, 19th December, 1930,**
AT 6 O'CLOCK
(Unless previously sold).
Conditions of Sale as exhibited.

Solicitors: Messrs. Greene & Greene,
Bury St. Edmund's.

Auction Offices: 30 Abbeygate, Bury St. Edmund's,
And at Cambridge.

PRINTED AT THE "FREE PRESS" WORKS, BURY.

146



Above. The Street about 1930 showing the shop, now Forge Corner. Notice the building at the back which housed a bakery. The two cottages are now one house - "Whitegates". The thatched cottages in the distance were pulled down in the 1960s.

Below. Detail of above. Forge Corner was a shop for over 80 years.



THE 1930s

The mid-thirties saw several changes; a garage was opened by Mr. James Catton, where his father had rented the timber yard earlier, five council houses were built in Church Lane, and electricity came to the village. The construction of Honington Air Base in 1936 had its effect on Troston later on.

The Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary was celebrated in 1935. Mrs. Elsie Arnold, née Steward, who lived at Red House, describes the 'goings on' at the time.

"Major Beauford wanted to have a seat erected in the village, but the people did not want it. A gentleman called Mr. Crookes, did not agree with it, and called a village meeting, which Major Beauford attended. After much argument the major left. Many suggestions were made, and the outcome was a sit-down meal at the school, each person taking a plate, knife and fork to avoid washing up. After the meal we had sports on the playing field opposite the school, and a good time was had by all. Major Beauford may have thought he was a little unpopular after the jubilee dissensions. However, with the event of the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, he arranged a sit-down meal for the villagers. It was held in Hall Farm barn, and everyone enjoyed it".

A timber bus shelter was built in 1935 on Council land, but with money given by Mrs. Alefounder. This was also to commemorate the Jubilee. Mons Sparkes, a villager, put a halfpenny (1935) in the top joist joint as a souvenir. The shelter was burnt down in 1989.

World War Two

Mr. Jaggard, Mrs Elsie Arnold and Mr. Herbert Arnold have contributed their memories of Troston at war. Firstly Mr. Jaggard's account:-

"Troston was much smaller than now, (the population in 1941 was 198). In my opinion the things that worried people most were the blackout and rationing. However, living in the country, we were able to get a rabbit or a pigeon, so the meat shortage didn't worry us unduly. Twelve men were called up for armed service; all but one came home. Most of the women worked part time on the farms. Also there were six land army girls, who, considering that they previously worked in stores or factories, did very well with horses and tractors. Seven families came from London and were billeted in 'The Lodge'. They thought that Troston was too quiet, and wanted to go back.

Honington Air Base was a prime target, and about three hundred and fifty bombs fell on and around it. In Troston one stick of bombs fell alongside The Lodge, one down the Livermere Road, and one by Woodsdale Grove. Fortunately not much damage was done.

Like other villages we had our 'Dad's Army', (Home Guard). If we had been called upon I think we would have given a good account of ourselves, mainly because most of us were poachers and naturally good marksmen. During the first part of the war, I was a central heating stoker at the base. After a raid by our planes, damaged parachutes were brought to be disposed of in the furnace. I rescued quite a lot of sections that were

whole. The material was white silk. At least three ladies in the village were proud owners of silk knickers that had been on a bombing raid to Germany.

Later on, the Americans were stationed at Honington, with Mustang fighters. Quite a lot of the G.I.s came to the Bull Inn, and played darts matches with us. We got on very well together, no rows or arguments".

Mrs. Elsie Arnold recalls a frightening experience:-

"Troston had one alarming night when a British plane left Honington Air Base around midnight. It circled around the village, then crashed in a field close to the Livermere Road. Many people from Troston and Livermere rushed down the road. A large crowd had gathered to watch a fire tender pass through the gateway. Suddenly someone shouted, "Get down!" Seconds after there were loud explosions and the ground trembled. A German plane had spotted the fire and dropped nine bombs. Luckily for us they landed on the far side of the plane, in fields and paddock. Had they dropped on the near side, many villagers could have been killed. People got up quickly and made for home; some had rolled into a ditch and had been stung by nettles. The incident was the talking point of Troston the next day".

Mr. Herbert Arnold remembered the German prisoners of war dressed in brown trousers and shirts with red patches. Some worked at old Lower Farm, and lived in the farmhouse there. (Now demolished, situated near to where Troston Farms piggeries stand).

He also recalled that the remaining heathland, about sixty acres, which had been used for sheep grazing since earliest times, was ploughed up, at the beginning of the war. The Reading Room, which had been used as a social centre, became the Home Guard headquarters. It was pulled down just after the war. A Mr. Wyer had tried to start a mushroom business there, but it was unsuccessful. There were still two shops in the village, a grocer's at Forge Corner, and the Post Office, at Street Farm (1941-1971). The former Post Office at the present Glebe Cottage, run by the Reeve family closed in 1941.

Post War Troston

The early post war years saw the closure of the village school. The children were taught at Honington. The school became the Church Hall, taking the place of the Reading Room as the social centre of Troston.

In 1949/50 six council houses were built in Hall Lane on part of the allotments. At that time piped water was only just being brought to the village, and the first inhabitants of these houses remember, at the top of the steps, a galvanised tank which held drinking water. Five of the houses are now privately owned.

In 1951 Honington Air Base was extended, and many new houses were built for personnel, within the boundaries of Troston Parish. On completion, the population of Troston was boosted from 223 in 1951 to 1,071 in 1961. Amenities for this community included a fish and chip shop and a cafe' called, 'The Jackdaw', to be replaced eventually by the present garage and shop. In 1959 temporary permission was given for ten mobile homes on land behind the garage. At that time it was related to the established development at the base. In 1973 a permanent site was approved for fifteen dwellings, and this remains today. Honington Camp Stores was also



Left. The old cottages,
where 'Siesta' now stands,
being demolished in 1959.

View Towards Church
Lane, 1960. (from the
foundations of Siesta)

Old Glebe Cottage is
in the centre of the
picture.



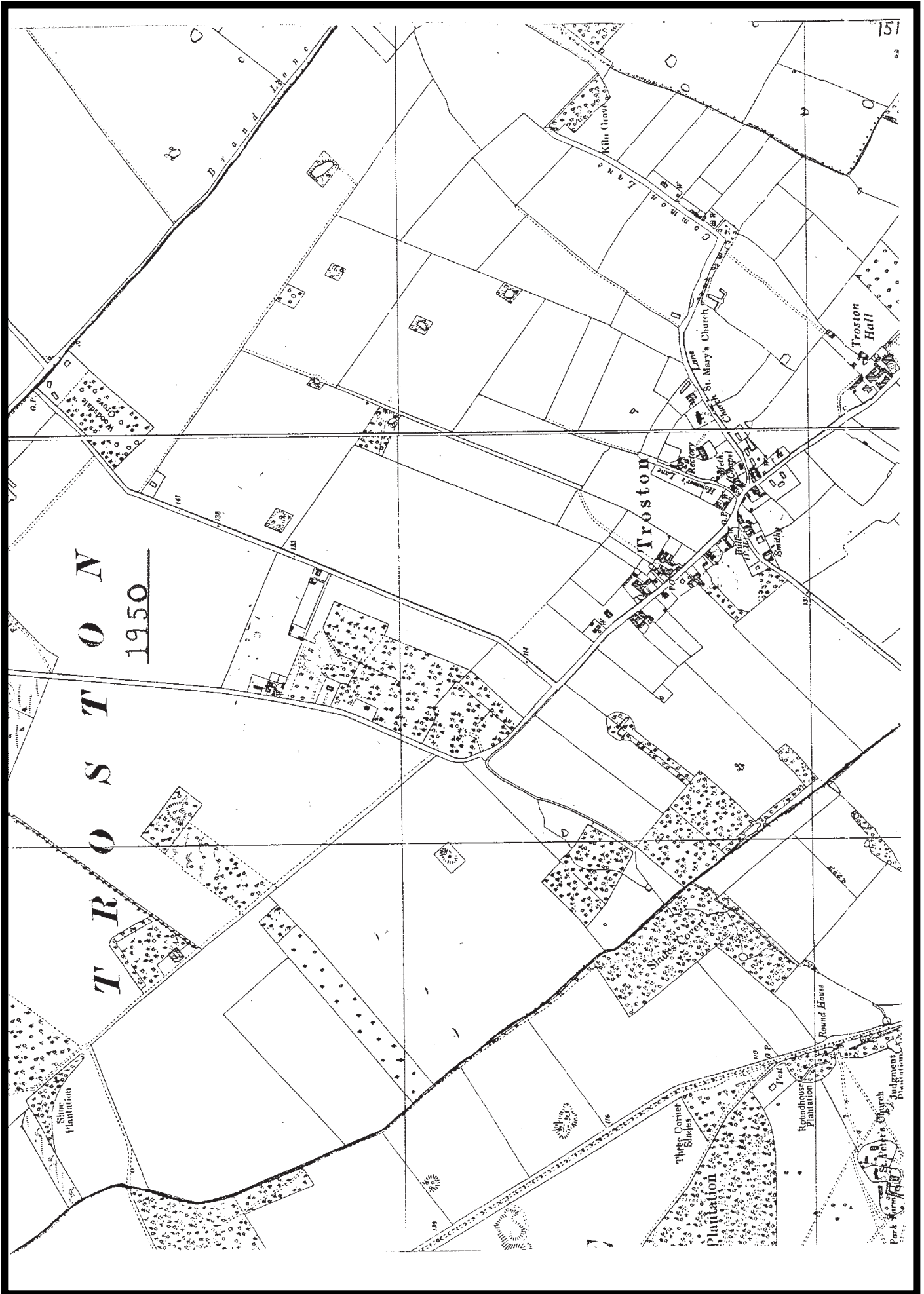
Left. Front view of
old Glebe Cottage. It
was knocked down in
the early 1970s to make
way for 'Avalon' and
'Lime Tree House.'

↓ Part of old houses where "Siesta" now stands.



The Garage owned by Mr. J. Catton (Photo about 1948) In the above picture the old barn on the left belonged to The Bull, and was situated where the car park is now. Below on the right part of the old forge can be seen.

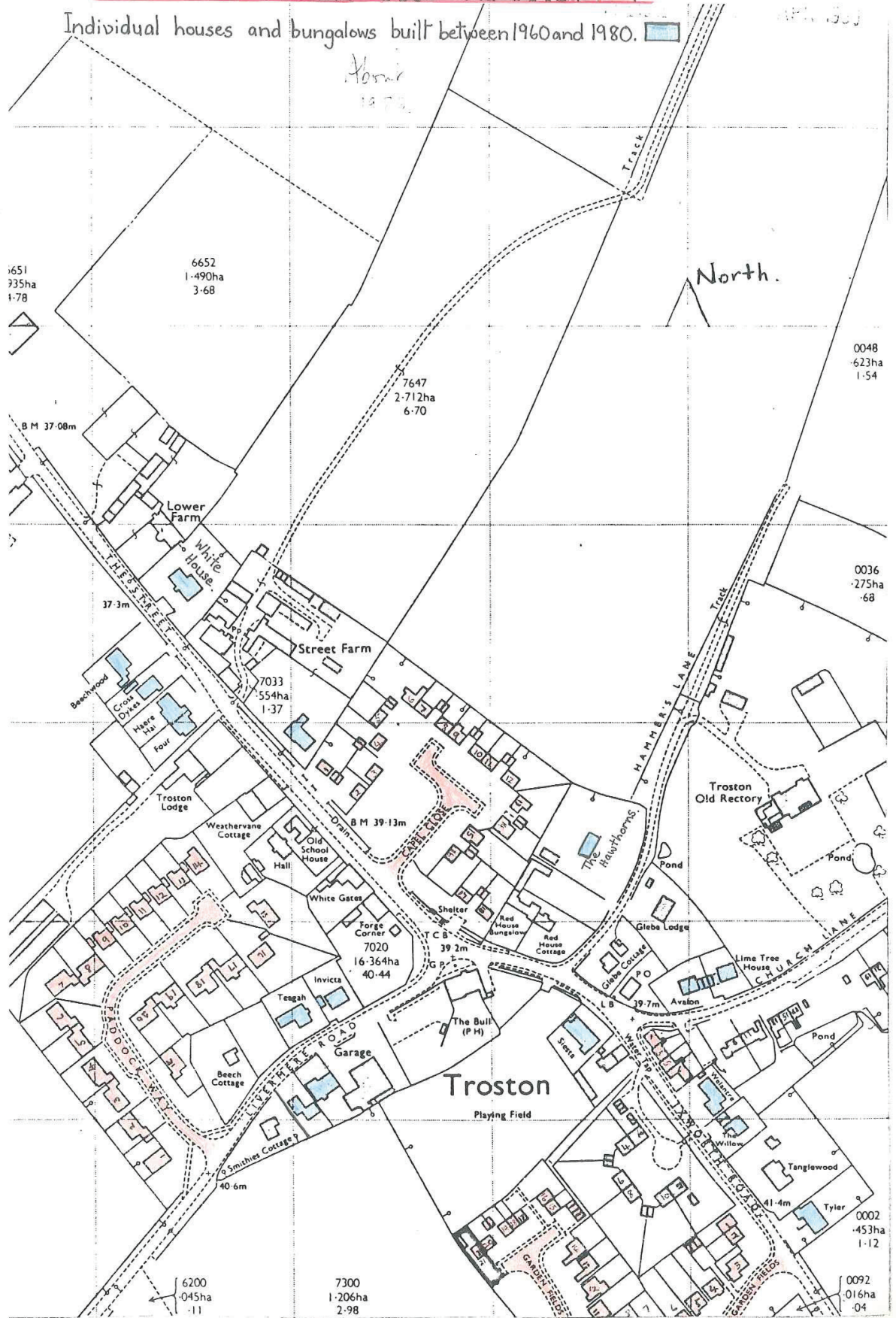




TROSTON 1980, SHOWING THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS,

BUILT BETWEEN 1965 and 1975. [Red box]

Individual houses and bungalows built between 1960 and 1980. [Blue box]





Above. Capel Close built 1965. The village playing field was here earlier this century.
Below. Paddock Way built 1969/70.



154



Above. Garden Fields, built on allotments in 1974.

Below. Council houses. (some now privately owned) built in 1974 after the old flint cottages were demolished.



opened. These premises are situated within the boundaries of Troston. The bungalows on the right hand side of the Honington Road were built in 1954.

With the death of the Reverend Hall, in 1944 the rectory was no longer in use, and was sold soon after the war to Captain Stephenson. Between 1944 and 1972 Troston and Great Livermere joined together to become one benefice, with the cleric living in the Rectory at Livermere. In 1972 the two Benefices of Great Livermere with Troston, and Honington with Sapiston were dissolved, and the "Benefice of Honington with Sapiston and Troston" was created in the diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The Rev. Owen was the first incumbent of this new benefice, and he lived at Honington Rectory which had been built in 1966. Troston Rectory became known as 'The Old Rectory', and had various owners. It was bought in 1983 by Herr Helmut Claas, owner of Troston Farms Ltd.

In 1948 Lawrence Emlyn Bevan, a descendant of the Lofft-Bevan family*, came to live at Troston Cottage. He gradually bought other property including Red House, the present Glebe Cottage, The Old Rectory, and 25 acres of Glebeland from Troston Church, for £900. He died in 1972 and his distant cousin and heir Timothy Bevan of Barclays Bank, sold everything except half of Red House and Glebe Lodge, where Mrs. Mabel Grimwood and Mrs. Kate Arnold, former employees of Lawrence Bevan, now enjoy their retirement. About 1955 Troston Lodge became a home for mentally handicapped people, but after a few years, it reverted to a private residence.

*See Lofft-Bevan family tree on page

The Last Thirty Five Years 1955-1990

This period has seen big changes in the village. Many old links with the past have been broken. Farming methods changed, and fewer agricultural workers were needed. New houses replaced old ones, and small developments were built. So, Troston, although still an agricultural village, also became a dormitory village, with most of its population working elsewhere.

In 1959, the shop, run by Mrs. Carmen Jaggard, at Forge Corner; closed, and the premises which had been two flats were converted into one residence. Also at this time the old Coal House was pulled down. It had not contained coal since about 1900, when people were given money instead of fuel, but it was an unusual building of historic interest.

In the 1960s several old cottages were demolished to make way for modern bungalows. Chapel Close was built, followed in 1969/70 by Paddock Way. The Chapel closed in 1964 and a few years later it became a general store and post office. The latter was transferred in 1971 from Street Farm where it had been for thirty years.

The Parish Council rented the field by The Bull from Greene King, for use as a playing area, and in 1970 the activity equipment was installed; much effort had gone into fund raising for this project. Also at this time Denver Autos came into being. The old garage, started in 1935 by Mr. Jim Catton, was modernised by Mr. Skid Parish, a former speedway rider. Today it sells Japanese cars.



Lawrence Emlyn Bevan died 1972 - see page 155 and family tree on page 38

The 1970s saw more building in the village. Avalon and Lime Tree House replaced the former Glebe Cottage in Church Lane, Garden Fields was built on the remaining village allotments and the flint cottages, on the corner of Church Lane and Ixworth Road, were demolished and council houses put in their place in 1974. A few more private individual houses were built in the mid 1970s. The old cottages which had originally been the King William Public House, in Hall Lane, were knocked down in 1978.

The village newsletter was begun, and the following are just a few of the events recorded in the early 1970s; the Sunday bus service was axed, the Church Hall was improved by the addition of a sink unit and flush toilets, the green outside The Bull was laid, and the pub itself was modernised; the bill totalling £10,000. It was re-opened after the work, on 28th May 1971, by Miss Ivy Catton, who was born at the pub when her father was landlord. She pulled the first pint for Mr. Arthur Reeve. In 1972 a competition for a village sign was won by Mr & Mrs Allaby of 18 Capel Close. It was erected the following year. This was part of a feature on Troston by the Bury Free Press. The article and pictures appear on page

Early in the 1980s the weekly surgery came to an end. It had taken place in the Church Hall for many years, but had formerly been held in the sitting room at Forge Corner and the kitchen of The Bull. Patients now attend the Health Centre at Ixworth.

With the exception of Wesley Cottage, no other houses have been built in the 1980s. Instead, many residences have been up-dated, and, or, extended. These include Troston Cottage, Troston Lodge, 16 The Common, Church Cottage, School House, Tanglewood, Gardener's Cottage and Smithies' Cottage. At the latter Mr. Stephen Gumbrell began a wood-working business, specializing in furniture. In 1980 Mr. Richard Walker of Weathervane Cottage formed Conservation Engineering (see page 170). In 1988 Mrs. Watt of Glebe Cottage converted a garage premises, to a hairdressing salon, giving the village another amenity. Mr. & Mrs. Fugle of The White House specialize in crafts - Mr. Fugle in wooden toys (see page 170) and Mrs. Fugle in dried flower arrangements.

As there is no school in the village the children are taken by bus to Honington, Ixworth and Thurston. Honington First School caters for five to nine year olds, Ixworth Middle School's pupils are aged from nine to thirteen, and Thurston Upper School has students from thirteen to eighteen years. Culford is the nearest private school. Further education is provided at the West Suffolk College.

With the death of Mrs Beauford, aged 99, in 1983, (Major Beauford had died in 1959), Troston Hall was left to the Browning family. Mr. John Browning, farmer, owner of Hall Farm, became Lord of the Manor of Troston. The Hall was sold to Mr. Paul Hewes of Troston Lodge in 1984, when an extensive programme of renovation and refurbishment was undertaken.

Over the past twenty years many service families from RAF Honington and the American Air Force from Mildenhall and Lakenheath have come and gone. They bought or rented houses in the village rather than live in service accommodation.

BURY FREE PRESS, Friday, March 5, 1971.

Troston used to be a dead little village until a few years ago when its newcomers brought it to life.

That statement is unfair and inaccurate—but it might be the first impression of a casual visitor.

Let me explain. A few years ago Troston's population was mostly retired and elderly but then came development and into the 40 or so new houses in Paddock Way and Chapel Close moved young couples with small children.

CHILDREN

"If they didn't have children with them when they came they had 'em soon after they arrived," chuckled Mr. Frank Ambrose, at 91 the village's oldest and much loved resident.

He and his old friend Mr. Arthur Reeve, a 'youngster' of 76, still put in a full day's work at Lower Farm doing the garden and any other odd jobs.

Mr. Ambrose is a native of Kent although he has lived in the village since the end of the last war. Mr. Reeve, on the other hand, was born on Troston Common.

"It's nice to see the youngsters moving in. It's true we were all getting on a bit and it's good to see children about the place again," he admitted.

Although the two new developments have been welcomed, a third was turned down by the parish council because it was felt it would not be a good thing for the village to get too big too soon.

Make haste slowly. That has been the motto of the chairman of the reactivated parish council for seven years, Mr. Charles Mead.



The oldest inhabitant, 91-year-old Mr. Frank Ambrose, shares a joke with Mr. Arthur Reeve (76). The pair of them do the garden and any odd job that needs doing at Lower Farm, Troston.

For it is the council that has steered Troston happily through what might otherwise have been a painful few years as the newcomers settled down among the Trostonians.

And the newcomers certainly have settled down, though there's no impression that they have taken over.

"You can't say the new young couples have turned a dead village into a thriving place.

"Troston always had a good community spirit, it's just that now the emphasis has shifted and because there are so many young couples with young children we realised we had got to cater for them," explained Mr. Mead.

In little over a year, a group under the chairmanship of Mr. Vic Simmonds, raised over £400 to equip a playing field with swings, a sand pit, climbing frame and football goalposts.

Last autumn Troston and Livermere combined to start a youth club which meets every Wednesday at Troston Church Hall.

A Young Wives' group, which started last May, now has a membership of 41 and a junior church group has had similar success.

Now two young mothers who live in Paddock Way, Mrs. Mavis Bucknell and Mrs. Sandra Hindley, are waiting for the official go-ahead to start a play group.

Article from
the Bury Free
Press. 1971.



These children can claim to be true Trostonians for most of them were born on the two new estates in the village. Their parents come from all parts of the country, but many of them now think of Troston as home.



Above . Smithies' Cottage 1990. Right. The extension completed in 1988. Left. The workshop where Mr. Stephen Gumbrell has a woodwork business, specializing in furniture. The original building (centre, approx 1850) was two joined cottages where the two blacksmiths lived. The forge was where "Farriers" now stands.



The houses on 'The Square', built by the Council in 1948/9. Five are privately owned in 1990.

Farms and Farming in the 1980s

Four thousand years ago men of the Bronze Age farmed in this area, and Troston has continued to support farming communities over the centuries. Although most of its inhabitants are not now employed in agriculture, the village is still producing food as it has done throughout its history. After the Second World War farming became more mechanised, and as a result fewer agricultural workers were needed. Also intensive farming not only produced more food, but changed the scenery. With hedges being uprooted and fields made larger, Troston took on a different look as more distant aspects of the parish were opened up. However it should be remembered that this was not new. Generations of people before the enclosures last century were able to view the landscape over open fields and heathland.

Troston Farms, Street Farm and Hall Farm were still in operation in the 1960s. In 1961 Troston Farms was bought by Herr Helmut Class, a West German Industrialist, and Mr. Victor Simmonds became farm manager. Street Farm was still owned and run by the Challis family who bought it in the 1923 sale. Hall Farm, bought by Major Beauford in 1923, was tenanted until 1970, when Mr. John Browning took over. Mr. Browning's father was a cousin of Major Beauford.

In 1984 Mr. Challis retired, and Troston Farms Ltd. added 160 acres of Street Farm to its holding; the whole enterprise totalling 1,193 acres. (15 acres of this are rented from 'The Poor's Estate').

Mr. Browning of Hall Farm owns 329 acres of land, and another 11 are rented from Greene King making 340 acres in all. In 1987 Mr. Browning left Troston to live on his farm at Icklingham, but he still retains Hall Farm. An American service family lives in the farmhouse.

Mrs. D. Clarke of Fornham St. Martin owns 18 acres of arable land, behind Capel Close and rents 22 acres, all of which are cultivated on a commercial basis.

A survey taken for the modern Domesday Book in 1986 showed the following numbers of animals.

20 beef cattle	-	Hall Farm
Poultry Unit	-	Troston Lodge (Mr. Paul Hewes)
Pig Unit	-	Troston Farms. 3,500 pigs. Unit produces 10,000 fat bacon pigs each year
Sheep	-	Troston Farms. 250 breeding ewes. 400 fat lambs produced each year.

The following report dated 1985/6, is by Mr. Victor Simmonds manager of Troston Farms Ltd. It shows the policy over the previous years, and sets out the aims for the future.

Troston Farms Ltd 1985/1986

Herr Helmut Claas purchased Lower Farm in 1961 and 160 acres (65 hectares) of Street Farm were added to the enterprise in 1984, making a total of 1,178 acres (477 hectares). 15 acres are rented, making a grand total of 1,193 acres (483 hectares).

Within this total there are 980 effective acres (397 hectares) the balance being roads, waste land and woodland, which makes up 20% of the total holding. 30% of land on Lower Farm is reclaimed heathland or heathland type soil which is inherently low in fertility, liable to wind erosion and prone to drought. In dry years these factors severely upset the economy of the farm business.

The policy 24 years ago was to increase the fertility of the whole farm by the introduction of major livestock enterprises and convert approximately 1,000 tonnes of straw a year into farm yard manure to help build up the organic content.

At the peak of livestock production, the following numbers were produced:-

10,000	fat bacon pigs	per year
400	fat cattle	per year
800	breeding ewes producing 1,400 fat lambs	per year

In 1978 a programme of recycling sewage sludge to land started at Lower Farm. The organic matter from the sludge was far greater than that produced by the cattle and sheep and consequently both these enterprises were reduced in size and 1985 was the first year since 1961 that cattle were not kept.

Present (1986) livestock numbers are:-

10,000	fat bacon pigs per year including 1,500 breeding gilts exported to Holland
250	breeding ewes producing 400 fat lambs per year*

There are approximately 3,500 pigs on the farm at any one time. It is hoped that a gilt rearing unit for export pigs will replace the cattle enterprise and use the existing buildings.

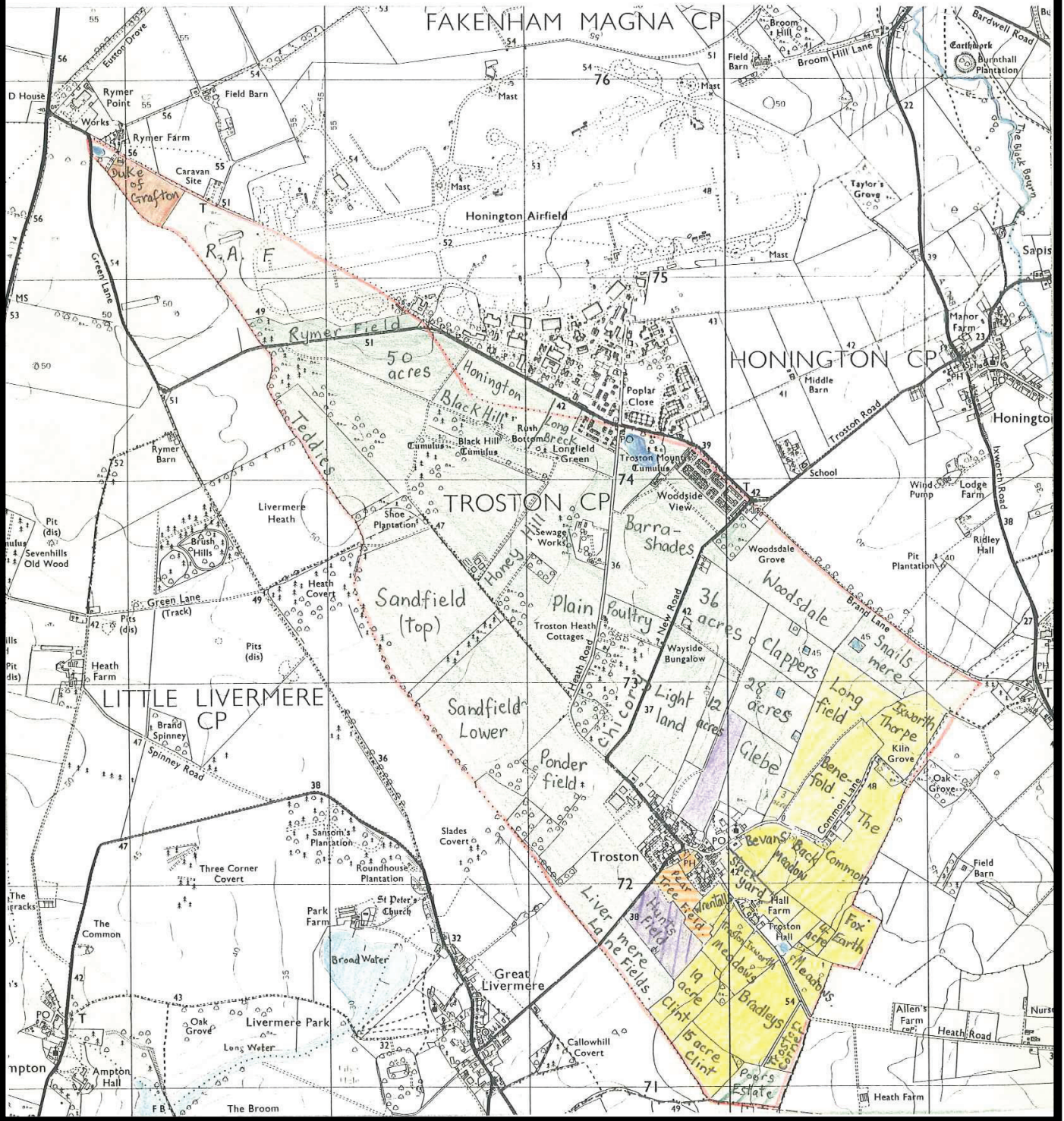
Cropping

During the past 24 years, three basic rotations have been followed:-

1. The lightest land	Lucerne	3 years
	Sugar beet	2 years
	Barley	2 years
		7 year rotation

TROSTON 1990

- Troston Farms Ltd. with Poor's Estate rented.
- Hall Farm with Pear Tree Field rented from Greene King.
- The Bull, Playing Field and Pear Tree Field owned by Greene King.
- Land owned by Mrs. Clarke of Bury with Hunt's Field rented from Mr. Catton



162



Left. Rev. Sally Fogden. 1989.

Below. Kneelers in St. Mary's Church. They were made by members of the congregation. The pews and wainscoting were part of Robert Lofft's restoration.



2. Medium land	Rye grass seed and production	1 year
	Sugar beet	1 or 2 years
	Barley	2 years
		3 or 4 year rotation
3. Better land	Sugar beet	1 year
	Barley or wheat	2 year
		3 year rotation

When there were 800 ewes, a two year ley was added to rotation 3.

The build up in soil fertility has meant we are now able to consider growing wheat. The aim is to grow 100% of the barley for seed production. Any barley not grown for seed and all wheat is kept for feeding pigs. As we no longer have cattle, the lucerne has been taken out of the cropping and any silage requirements are made from sugar beet tops.

The cropping is as follows:-

	1985		1986			
Wheat	47	hectares	116	acres	46.3	hectares
Barley	149.7	"	370	"	144.5	"
Sugar beet	166.1	"	410	"	171.0	"
Grass seed	15.6	"	38.5	"	16.6	"
Permanent pasture	10.0	"	27	"	10.0	"
Maize	7.6	"	18.5	"	7.6	"
Total	396		980		396	

Labour

There are 6 full time employees. we still hand hoe a large proportion of the sugar beet, which involves 20-30 casual helpers for six weeks during May and June.

Forestry

If funds are available, felling maintenance and replanting of the wood land and waste ground is planned. Over the past three years, 10,000 trees and 600 metres of new hedge line have been planted. In 1986 a further 7,000 trees were replanted at Rymer Wood and Rush Bottom Wood.

* In 1989 Troston Farms discontinued sheep-rearing. The grazing is rented out.

Community Life

In 1989 there are nine active groups in the village. These are, The Diamond Club, for the over sixties, The Women's Institute, The Playgroup for pre-school children, The Youth Club, The Junior Red Cross, Keep Fit, The Wine Club, The 200 Club which raises money for village needs, and the Sunday School at St. Mary's Church. In 1983 Troston welcomed Deaconess (later Deacon) Sally Fogden, one of a small band of women priests. The above organisations are flourishing at the time of writing. Sadly, The Mother's Union, The British Legion and The Young Wives, all once part of village life, have been disbanded. The Parish Council consists of seven

parishioners. In 1986 the Church Hall was leased to the Parish Council and is now known as the Village Hall. Ten representatives from groups which use the hall form a management committee. Over the past three years much work has been done to improve the building, with financial help from the Borough and Parish Councils, the 200 Club and many public spirited parishioners. Troston Church has a dedicated band of people who are producing beautiful embroidered kneelers, with the proceeds from monthly Whist Drives. The church has also undergone renovation, including restoration of wall-paintings and re-roofing in the last decade to allow it to continue as a place of worship, and as a memorial to parishioners of Troston over the past eight hundred years.

Listed Buildings 1989

The Church	Sunray Cottage
Troston Cottage	Lower Farm
The Old Rectory	The Old School House
Troston Hall and outbuildings	The Village Hall
Hall Farm	Troston Lodge
Street Farm and barn	3 & 4 The Heath





Two views of The Street 1989. The above picture shows the bus shelter. (1935-1989).



166



Above. The corner by The Bull 1989, showing the village sign.

Below. Denver Autos. 1989. Site of the earlier timber-yard/wheelwrights. A garage was started here in 1935 by Mr. James Catton of Livermere.





Above. The Village Shop and P.O. 1989. Formerly the Methodist Chapel.

Below. Glebe Cottage and Hairdressing Salon 1989.
The house was originally larger and thatched and was called Chapel House. For about 40 years it was the village P.O. and store.



Activities in the Village Hall in 1990.



Above. The Pre-school Playgroup.

Below. A section of the Junior Red Cross learning how to put a patient into the recovery position.



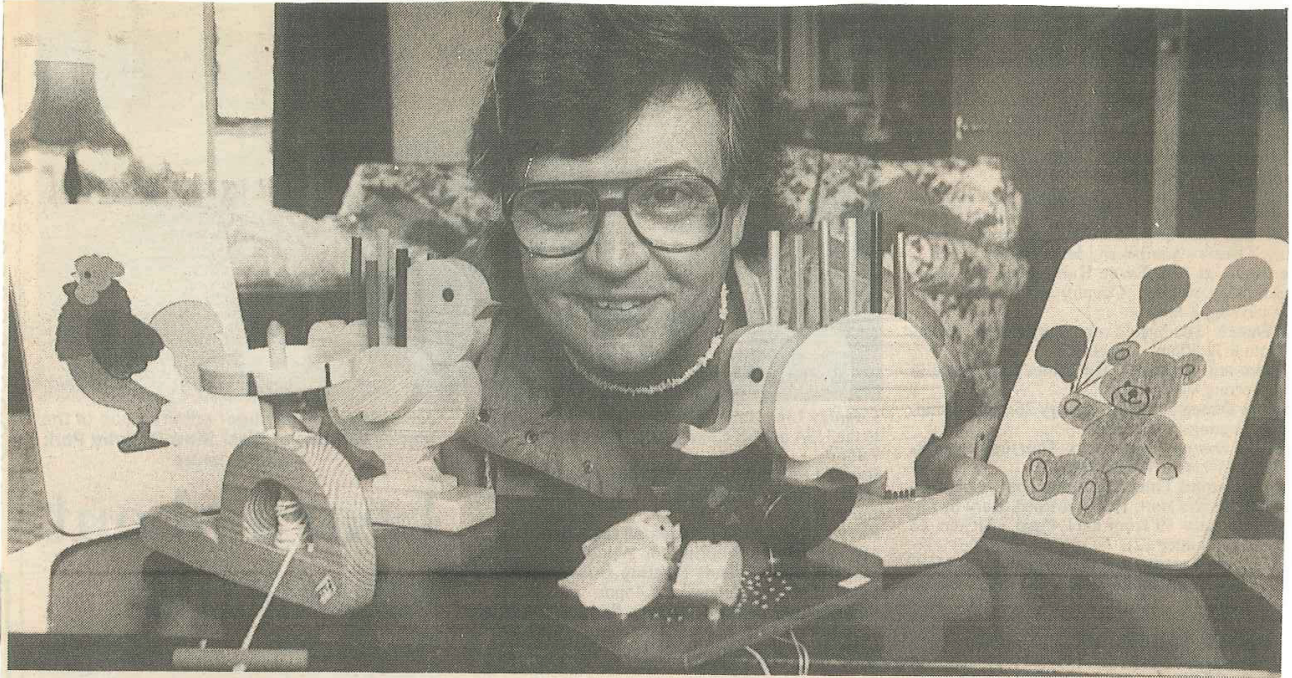


Above. TROSTON W.I. 1990. THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOVEMENT

Left to right. Averill Hay, Rosie Hellam, Janet Barnard, Hester Walden, Vera Gaught (hidden) Liz Watt, Jane Nelson, Susan Staines, Anne Walker, Margaret Smith, Jeanne Neupert, Eileen Mabbutt, Carol Littlewood, Lindsay Gumbrell, Ann Grimwood, Liz Varney, Doreen Newell and Jackie Kershaw.

Below. THE DIAMOND CLUB'S BRING AND BUY. 1990.





Michael Fugle of Troston with a selection of his hand-made wooden toys (Picture: Ian Hulland)

Two New Ventures of the 1980s.

Energy saving starts at home

Conservation couple plan cosy cottage

by Susan Sollohub

A TROSTON couple plan to turn their 19th Century converted coach house into one of the cosiest homes in Britain — and an ideal headquarters for their energy conservation company.

Like many British houses, it is cold in winter, and expert Richard Walker says it can be embarrassing to preach his message from an office in charming Weathervane Cottage at Troston when a visitor might be feeling chilly.

Richard and his wife, Anne, co-directors of their firm, Conservation Engineering Ltd, have decided to turn their large three-bedroom home and office into a "super insulated house," to Mr. Walker's design. It will be the only one of its type in the country.

Apart from becoming a showpiece for his company's energy-saving message, it will provide a much more comfortable environment for the couple and their two sons.

"We have been grumbling about having a cold house for years and have been spartan for too long," said Mr. Walker. The move to declare redundant the existing conventional radiators was also prompted by a wish to improve upstairs accommodation and the appearance of the back of the house. The Walkers have submitted a planning application for constructing a new roof and dormer windows.

Weathervane Cottage, converted in the 1920s, had a kitchen range, open fires and no roof insulation when the couple moved there 17 years ago. There was lath and plaster on the rafters instead of roofing felt and the ceilings used to ice over.

The couple tackled improvements and an oil-fired central heating system themselves. But they believe that the super insulation scheme will make an impressive difference, saving money and inspiring others to follow suit.



Mr. Richard Walker and Weathervane Cottage, Troston, framed in the wrought iron paddock gate that features by the south frontage.

It will also put them among pioneers of the really well-heated and insulated homes in this country, which has the distinction of being only two from bottom of the international league of insulation levels.

Mr. Walker, a graduate chemical engineer, and Anne, also a Leeds University BSc, formed Conser-

vation Engineering in 1980 with the main aim of saving energy in industry, particularly maltings. They are now looking to other fields as well.

A major project of Mr. Walker's was an energy conservation scheme for Langwith Maltings for R. Peach and Co. at Bury.

The couple, who met at Leeds University, are both

expert glider pilots with instructors' licences. Mrs. Walker is assistant quality control manager of Newmarket Microsystems.

Plans for their super insulation and central heating scheme are literally on the drawing-board. There will be under-floor central heating downstairs.

Heated air will circulate between the joists and over 150 millimetres of insulation. Criticism of under-floor heating had arisen mainly because of lack of adequate insulation, said Mr. Walker.

The warm air will be circulated upstairs via a ducted air system, and the roof will be insulated to 300 millimetres, six times the basic level.

Prevention of air leaks will be an important feature — windows will be triple sealed and outside doors will be insulated. There will also be internal insulation.

Provision will be made for windows to open in summer and for fresh air to be ducted to the rooms as an intrinsic part of the system.

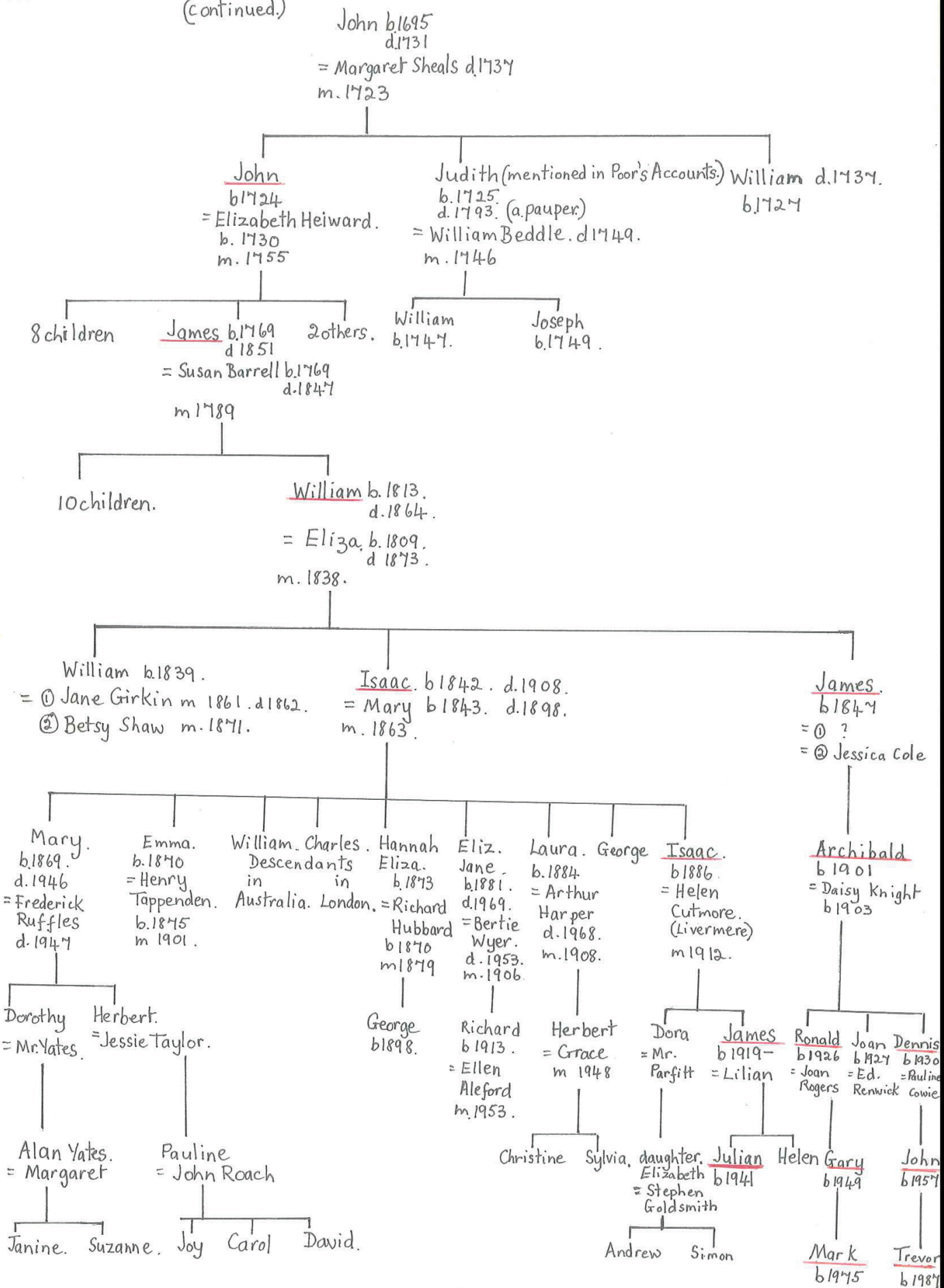
Good insulation will greatly cut down the amount of heating needed, said Mr. Walker.

He estimates the cost of super insulating Weathervane Cottage at about £3,600.

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

172

(continued.)



PART SEVEN

The Greengrass Family - Their Story

According to Reaney in his 'Oxford Dictionary of Surnames', the name Greengrass originated from Grengres - the dweller by the lush green grass; the spelling denoting Norse ancestry. In his book 'Norfolk and Suffolk Surnames of the Middle Ages', Robert McKinley states that, "the earliest written records of this name were Reginald & Alice Grengres in 1275 & 1283 only at Fakenham Magna. No earlier occurrence of the surname outside Suffolk (Fakenham) is known, and this does seem a clear case of a name with a single origin". When the first family settled in the village will never be known, and whether they were called Grengres before they came to Fakenham, or whether the name stemmed from a particularly luscious pasture they selected on arrival, will also remain a mystery.

However by 1327 a Reginald Grengres (probably son of the above) held land in Livermere, and in the early 1400s the Grengres territory had been extended to Troston, where their descendants were still living five hundred years later.

Here is the story of that family as researched from Troston, Livermere, Bury and Ixworth Church Registers, old glebe records and other village documents of the seventeenth century, Greengrass wills, 1537-1757, tax lists, Boyds Register of Marriages, Bishops Transcripts, the Overseers of the Pools Accounts Book, 1708-1738, and the Pools Estate Coal Lists. See the Greengrass family tree on page 141.

In 1440 Ralph Grengres of Fakenham Magna left half a mark (6s.8d) to Ralph Grengres, son of John Grengres of Troston. This is the earliest mention of the Greengrass family in Troston, and connects it with the original Fakenham family. In 1459 Matilda Rounton of Troston left two ewes to Thomas Grengres. His relationship with Ralph and John cannot be established; he could have been a brother or son of Ralph.

Walter (died 1540) was probably the grandson of Thomas, and his descendants can be traced to the present day. It is known from his will that Walter's son William d1558* had a farmhouse with outbuildings, including a bakehouse, arable and pasture land, and some gravel pits. He left, "twenty loads of gravel for the roads of Troston where the most need is". The farmhouse was situated at the Townend, and beyond this were the gravel pits (now wooded ground behind the seat on the Heath). These sites were identified from a later map.

William's eldest son John succeeded to the estate, not on his father's death, when it was held by his mother, but when he attained the age of 26. William must have been fairly wealthy as his son Edmund received £40, and his two daughters £10 each. It is interesting to note in the will that 200 sheep were worth £24. John married in 1559, a Margaret Mountneye, and had six children. (They were identified in the Church records as John and Margaret Grenegrasse at the Townend, to distinguish them from another branch of the family, John and Margaret Grenegrasse, who lived at the Crosse, later the Pound).

In 1568 John at the Townend paid 6s.8d. tax on land valued at £5. There were only 6 other landowners in the village at the time, the wealthiest

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

174.

being Katherine Bacon of the Hall. Probably John also rented land from the Bacon family. He may have added to his estate in his lifetime, as on his death in 1619 he is described as a yeoman and appears quite wealthy. John and his eldest son John, 1560-1630, were considered two of the Chief Inhabitants of Troston. In 1613 their marks appear on the Troston Glebe Document.

In 1619* John, the son, inherited most of his father's estate, although his brother Francis received part, and brother Thomas got £40, amongst several bequests.

When John died in 1630*, although he married, he left no issue, and the Townend estate was left to his nephew, Roger Greengrass. From this estate Roger had to pay many legacies. One of these was £10 for land, the rent from which was to be given to the poor of Troston. Several other people left similar bequests, and in 1666 their names were recorded on a plaque in the church, and can still be seen today. (Mentioned in Part Three)

Roger Greengrass was a Merchant Tailor in London, but after inheriting from his uncle, he married Susan Gilly of Livermere in 1632, and settled in Troston. Whether he carried on his business in London is unknown. He had four children, and became a Churchwarden and respected villager. He and his Uncle Francis (above) both signed the Church Glebe document in 1634 - the first of the family able to write. They were both fairly wealthy, and owned and rented quite alot of land. In the Ship tax of 1640 Roger paid 10s.10d, and Francis 10s.5d, the fourth and fifth highest amount in the village. 23 people were liable to pay. In 1674 Roger had to pay 10s.0d Hearth Tax. His house had five hearths - only the Hall, with fifteen, and the Rectory, with eight, had more. Roger's two sons, John, 1638-1712, and Roger, 1640-1693, married and must have lived with him, as no mention is made in the 1674 Hearth Tax of any other houses belonging to the family, (every house was noted, even if the inhabitants were exempt).

Roger died in 1678, but his will cannot be traced. From then on what happened is a mystery. Between 1678 and early 1700 the family lost their estate and much of their money. By 1708 Roger's grandson John, 1673-1716, is recorded in the Poor's Accounts Book to be paying only seven pence, the lowest amount towards the upkeep of the poor of the parish. By 1709 he was not paying anything at all, although he still had some standing in the village, as he was one of the Overseers of the Poor. A few years before his death John Senior (Roger's son) received assistance from the parish. There are numerous entries in the Poor's Accounts book, including the following:-

1709	To John Greengrass Senior. for goods	6d
	To John Greengrass Senior. Half year's rent	£1. 0s.0d
	To Goody Greengrass - riven blocks	2s.6d
1710	Physick for John Greengrass Sen, his wife	3s.6d

Between this time and 1712 there are many entries of 1/- for upkeep, and 2s.0d for carting firs (furze for fuel) for John Greengrass Senior.

At his death in 1712 there is a note in the book - Paid to Mr. John Crow out of John Greengrass's goods, besides charge of burial - 15s.0d.

His son, John Junior, remained an Overseer of the Poor until his death in 1716. His wife Judith died in 1722 and in the following year their eldest son John, 1695-1730, one of seven children, married Margaret Sheals of Ixworth.

John remained in Troston, and seems to have been a handyman in the village. Bills for shoe and house repairs were paid to him from the Parish funds between 1723 and 1731 when he died.

The Greengrass family now fell upon very hard times. Margaret Greengrass, as a widow with three children to bring up, required Parish assistance. Her rent £1, was paid every year, and she received several loads of furze for fuel each winter. She died in 1737 at the same time as her son William, aged ten, so it is likely they both suffered from the same illness.

In 1737 the following entries are made in the Poor's Accounts Book.

Doctor's bill for the boy Greengrass	£1. 6s. 6d
Doctor's bill for Widow Greengrass	£1. 4s. 6d
To Tuddenham for tending the Wid. Greengrass & boy	7s. 0d
2 coffins for Wid. Greengrass & boy	12s. 0d
To Thomas Coe for making two graves	3s. 0d
For burying them	2s. 0d
For beer and victuals for bearers	2s. 0d
Received from the sale of Widow Greengrass's goods	£3. 2s. 7½d

Margaret Greengrass had two surviving children, John, the eldest son born 1724, and Judith in 1725. John who was aged 13 at the time of his mother's death, must have been sent to work, but Judith, only 12, was probably lodged with another family. According to the Accounts Books, Hart, received 27/- for 27 weeks board for the girl Greengrass. At 1/- per week she would not have lived very well. Another entry shows that in January 1738, 9d was paid for "the making of a jacket for the girl Greengrass". This girl had a very sad life. Aged 21 she married William Beddle in 1746, but after three years he died, leaving her with two small children. In the Church records, there is an entry:- 1793 Burial: Judith Beddle - a pauper. It is probable that she died in the Poor House. No records of the Poor's Accounts Book are available at this time.

In the meantime her brother John married Elizabeth Heiward in 1755, at Ixworth. It seems that they lived there, for a good part of their lives as all their eleven children (eight survived) were baptised there. However the youngest children returned to Troston. Possibly the Greengrasses had to go on parish relief at Ixworth, and it was discovered that they had no legal settlement there, so they were sent back to Troston where their father was born. James, Sarah and grandchild Elizabeth were married in Troston Church. James, 1769-1851, married Susan Barrell in 1789 and lived in a cottage in The Street, where The White House, next to Lower Farm, now stands. Here they brought up eight children on a farm labourer's wages. They are mentioned in the Coal Charity Trustees records, as receiving coal every winter from 1808, as did many other families. James lived to the age of 82 years. William, 1813-1864, his youngest son, also a labourer, married Eliza in 1838, and lived in the same house. They left Troston to live in London with their younger sons,

and another son James was born there. Eliza and her children came back to Troston when her husband died in 1860. As an adult James returned to London, and his descendants Ronald and Denis Greengrass (see photos) live there today. Isaac, Eliza and William's second son, 1842-1908 married Mary Davy in 1863 and had nine surviving children. All these children attended Troston School and the five daughters were married in St. Mary's Church.

Of these children Mary, 1869-1946, the eldest daughter, married Frederick Ruffles of London. Their grandson Alan Yates lives in Uxbridge with his family. He was a teacher, now turned business man, and the instigator of this research.

William, the eldest son, served in the Grenadier Guards in the Boer War. On returning to England he joined the Police Force. He left England again before the First World War to work for the Australian Railway Police when the railway to Perth was being constructed. He settled at Pinjaro, just outside Perth, but returned to Europe to serve in the First World War, and was badly wounded. He went back to Australia, and his descendants still live there.

Charles and George's descendants live in London. Isaac the youngest son married Helen Elizabeth Cutmore from Livermere in 1912, and served in France in the Great War. They lived in Rushbrook where he was a verger for twenty seven years. His son James, born 1919, served in the Second World War, and afterwards became an engineer. He is now retired and lives in Maidenhead. He has two children Julian and Helen. Isaac's daughter, Dora Parfitt lives in Thetford.

Laura Greengrass, 1884-1956, married Arthur Harper. Her family lived in Troston till the 1950's when they moved to Bury St. Edmunds. Laura and her sister Elizabeth Jane, 1881-1969, are the last of a long line of the Greengrass family to be buried in Troston churchyard. The tombstone of Elizabeth Jane and her husband Bertie Wyer can still be seen.

* See the following wills.

Robert Grenegresse

In the name of God, Amen. The 11th December 1537. I Robert Grenegresse of Troston of whole mind and good memory being, make my testament and last will in the manner and form following.

First I bequeathe my soul to Almighty God my maker, to Lady Saint Mary and all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Troston, aforesaid. Also I bequeathe to the high altar of Troston aforesaid for my tythes forgotten or too little paid 12d. I give unto Christ Church of Norwich 2d. Item. I give to John my son, my 3 horses my 2 carts, my plough with all irons and harnesses belonging thereto. Item. I give to Alys Goddard my black (hued) heifers, a latten* basin, next the best, a latten candlestick, a posnet*, a bedstead, and 2 hens. Item. I will that Rose my daughter shall have my calf and one latten candlestick and a posnet with a broken foot. The residue of all my goods not bequeathed I give to John my son to pay with my debts, fulfilling this my will, and to bring me honestly to the earth, whom I constitute and ordain and make my executor. Witnesses Sir John Cooke (parson of Troston) Walter Grenegresse and others. Probate given 1538

Inventory of Moveable Goods of
Robert Grenegrasse d1537

A True Inventory of all such Moveable Goods as were of Robert Grenegrasse of Troston, presented by John Wenyff and Robert Bryan of the same town, 1537.

First 3 horses	33s 4d
Item 2 young oxen and 2 bullocks	33s 4d
a cart and a tumbrill	2s 0d
a plough with a harness	20d
3 pigs	3s 0d
2 brass pots	6s 8d
2 latten* basins	5s 0d
4 candlesticks	3s 4d
10 hens and a cock	20d
8 sheep	13s 4d
3 posnets*	3s 0d
3 bedsteads	12d
2 tables	12d
a spit of iron	8d
a handiron	4d
a salt	2d
a stole and a sak	4d
a fan and a sedelep*	6d
2 ducks	4d
an old gown	12d
a trevitt	2d
2 kettles	2s 0d
3 pewter platters	3s 0d
a tramell*	6d
a gridiron	3d
2 tubs	8d
a tablecloth	6d
a scythe	6d
3 rakes	1d
a pike	2d
a bushell*	4d
a brass pan	8d
Total	£6 0s 6d

latten - a mixed metal like brass.
 posnet - a saucepan with 3 legs and a long handle.
 sedelep - a hopper used for broadcasting seeds.
 tramell - a hook in a fireplace for kettles.
 a bushell - a bushell measure.

Walter Grenegrass d1540.

In the name of God, Amen, the 12th day of the month of August, the year of our Lord God 1540. I Walter Grenegrass of Troston being of perfect remembrance and good memory, make my testament and last will in manner and form following. First I bequeathe my soul to Almighty God and to our Lady and all the Saints, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Troston aforesaid.

Item. I bequeathe to the high altar of Troston aforesaid for my tythes forgotten or too little paid 20d. Item. I give to Christ Church of Norwich 4 pence. Item. I give and bequeathe to the reparation of the Church of Troston aforesaid 13 pence. Item. I give and bequeathe to my son John the younger 10 marks*. I give to Christian my daughter 6 marks. I give to Katherine Peke my daughter 6 marks. I give to Agnes my daughter 4 marks. Item. I give to Margaret my daughter 27s. 8d. I give to John my son the elder 20s. I give to Elizabeth Grenegrass of Barnham my goddaughter 6s 8d. Item. I give to Elizabeth Paman, my goddaughter 6s 8d. Item. I give to Suezy one of my other goddaughters 12d. I give to John Grenegrass, son of John Grenegrass of Barnham 20d. I give to Elizabeth Grenegrass of Barnham the younger 20d. The residue of all my goods not bequeathed I put and commit unto the expression of mine executors for to express all things to the right honest hands and prayers of Almighty God and most comforts and health of my soul, when I constitute and ordain and make William my son and John my son the elder. I give to each of them for their labour 3s 4d apiece. These witnesses John Cooke, parson of Troston, John Wenyf and others.

* a mark was 13s 4d. John my son the younger was his grandson.

WILLIAM GRENEGRASSE (Townend)
1553 d1558
In the name of God. Amen

The 14th February 1553. In the first year of the prosperous reign of our Sovereign Lady Mary, by Grace of God of England, France and Ireland, and new defender of the faith, and in each of the Church of England and Ireland, the Supreme Head. I William Grenegrasse being of good memory and perfect remembrance bring thanks to Almighty God, make this my testament and last will. First I commend my soul to Almighty God, to the Lady Saint Mary, mother of Christ, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Troston aforesaid. I give to the high altar of Troston for my tythes forgotten or underpaid 20d. I bequeathe to the reparations of Troston Church 20s. I bequeath towards a mass book manual for Troston Church 20d. I give to Annie* my wife my tenement and all my lands lying in Troston with their appurtenances to have the said tenement with the premises unto such time as my son John, if God shall grant him life, shall come to the age of 26 years, keeping the said tenement and all the said houses in sufficient reparations. And also paying yearly to the said John, during the time afore rehearsed, three pounds of lawful money of England, and also discharging them against Lord and Kings*, his heirs and sure ..?.. And if it shall fortune the said John to decease before he shall come to the age of 26 years, then I will that my wife shall have the said tenement before expressed, unto such time that Edmund, my son, if God shall give him life, come to the age of 26

years, keeping them in sufficient reparations and discharging them as it aboutsaid. And paying yearly unto the said Edmund £3 of lawful English money unto such time as Edmund shall come to the age of 26 years.

Item. I bequeathe to the said John my son, 6 horses or else 12s. of lawful money, 60 combs of barley, 30 combs of rye, 10 combs of wheat, and 5 combs of peason*, 4 neat*, a shod cart or 40s, 2 tumbrills or else 33s.4d, 2 pairs of harrows, one of iron trims and the other of timber, and ploughs with irons thereto belonging, with an iron trim, with collars and harnesses both for carts and ploughs, 200 sheep, or else £24 of lawful money for the 200 sheep, and a sealed bushell to be delivered to the said John, my son, when he shall come to the age of 26 years. If the said John, my son decease before he come to the said age, then I will that my son Edmund shall have all the use my wife before rehearsed, when he shall come to the age of 26 years before expressed.

Item. I will that Edmund my son, shall have £40 of lawful money of England to be paid to him when he comes to the age of 20 years. And if the said Edmund decease before he comes to the age of 20 years, then I will that the said £40 to be divided between Elizabeth my wife and Elizabeth and Margaret my daughters. I bequeathe to Elizabeth and Margaret, each £10, to be paid on the day of the forthwith marriage or else when they come to the ages of 21 years, and if one of my daughters decease before the said years then I will that they shall have the others £10. And if they both decease before the reryte* of their money, then I will that the said £20 shall remain to Edmund my son and his heirs. And I will that within my tenement there shall remain one counter table, one laber*, one hanging brass in the bake house.

Item. I give to the reparations of the Kings Highway in Troston where most need is 20 loads of ...?... and gravel. The residue of all my goods and debts not before bequeathed, I give and bequeathe to John Grenegrasse, my brother, the elder.

I ordain Annie my executor, to bring up my children, pay my debts, bring me honestly to the earth, to perform and fulfil my will and last testament. And further to do for me as God shall put them in mind.

John Grenegrasse the younger of Fakenham executor to my last will and testamant.

Item. I give to each of mine executors and ...?... for their labour, besides expenses 6s.8d apiece. These witnesses - John Cooke, parson of Troston, Richard Turk, parson of Livermere.

Item. I give to John Grenegrasse of Troston, my brother, 5 combs of malt and a seme* of rye.

Item. I give to Edmund Grenegrasse my godson at the Crosse, a lamb, and one for Richard Turk.

* Annie - apparently the pet name for his wife Elizabeth

Lord and Kings - term neat - cattle laber - trough or
unknown cistern

peason - peas reryte - receiving seme - 8 bushels

TROSTON - GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

180.

JOHN GRENEGRASSE
d 1619 (At the townend)
In the name of God. Amen

20th February AD 1615, and in the thirteenth year of our Sovereign Lord James, King of England and Scotland 49 years. I John Grenegrasse of Troston in the county of Suffolk, Yeoman, being of whole mind and good remembrance, thanks being to God, revoking and disclaiming all former wills, Make this my last will and testament in the form following- First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker and to Jesus Christ, my redeemer, trusting to be saved only by the death and merits of the Son, my Saviour. And my body to be buried in Christian burial when and wheresoever it shall please God to call me.

Item. I give and bequeath towards the reparations of the Church of Troston, the sum of 6s.8d to be paid to the churchwardens at the time being, within 3 months of my death. Item. I give and bequeath unto Margaret my wife to be paid unto her, or her heirs yearly out of my lands, the sum of £13.6s.8d. for the term of her natural life. Also that Margaret, my wife, shall have her abiding and dwelling in the chamber where she now doth lie, with free ingres, egres and regres* into and from the same and all time and times at her will and pleasure during her natural life. Also I give unto Margaret my wife the posted bedstead, and the feather bed and the furniture, the same as now stands in the said chamber, and two pairs of my best sheets, and a little brass pot, a kettle next the best, a skillet and a posnet, and three pewter dishes. Item. My will is that my executors shall yearly during the continuance of my wife's life, deliver and pay unto the said Margaret, my wife, out of the profits of my lands 2 loads of good binded wood, 2 combs of rye, 2 combs of wheat, 3 combs of malt, to be delivered to her or her assignes, at such time of the year, as shall most fit for her use. And although there be already made to the use of my son Francis Grenegrasse, as agreed, part of my estate to him in lands, presently (immediately) after my decease. My meaning and will is that out of the same lands so conveyed to my said son Francis, shall pay the one half of such legacies as are bequeathed unto Margaret my wife, in such and sort as are formerly put down. Item. I give unto Thomas Grenegrasse my son the sum of £40 of lawful English money to be paid unto him by my executors within one year next after my decease, ten pounds thereof and so forth yearly £10 till the said sum of £40 be paid, and if it shall fortune the said Thomas to depart this life before he hath received the said sum of £40 in such manner, then I will that thereof be behind unpaid at the time of his death, shall be paid in the manner before expressed to his child or children living, equally to be divided amongst them when they attain to the age of 21 years. Item. I give and bequeath to Roger Grenegrasse, son of Richard Grenegrasse deceased, the sum of £5 to be paid unto him at his age, and unto the rest of the children of the said Richard, the sum of £5 to be divided equally amongst them, as they shall severally attain the age of 21 years. I give and bequeath to Richard Hill, my son in law one cow, at the discretion of my executors, to be delivered to him within one month of my decease. I give and bequeath to John Townsend my son in law one cow as above. I give and bequeath to all my grandchildren, except the children of my son Richard 12 pence apiece to be paid 3 months after my decease. Also all the crop of corn which shall be in or upon any of my land at the time of my death are conveyed to the use of my said son Francis for the payment of my debts and legacies herein bequeathed, charging both my sons John and

Francis, by authority of a father, as they will answer before God, that they fulfil, this my last will, without jarring suit or contention. All the rest of my goods whatsoever they be, I give to John Grenegrasse and Francis Grenegrasse my sons, whom I do ordain and make my executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have here unto put my hand and seal. These being witnesses Robert Wineth (Winnife) the elder, William Gippes. John Greengrass.

* ingres, egres and regres - access

John Grenegrasse 1630

In the name of God, Amen. The 20th October in the year of our Lord God 1630. I John Grenegrasse of Troston in the county of Suffolk, yeoman. do make this my last will and testament in the manner and form following. First I bequeathe my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body to be buried in Christian burial.

Item. I give unto Roger Grenegrasse, my kinsman, Merchant Tailor of London, my house* wherein I now do dwell, with all the other out houses, barns and stables thereto belonging, and all my lands, meadows, pastures and arable which I have now in occupation, together with the part of the sheepwalk thereto belonging for the payment of these legacies viz to Elizabeth and Bridget Grenegrasse, daughters of my brother Francis Grenegrass, £5 apiece to be paid when they shall attain to the age of 21. And to Thomas Grenegrasse, John Grenegrasse and one daughter, children of my brother Thomas Grenegrasse, deceased, £6.13s 4d apiece at the age of 21 years. And to the children of my sister Bridget Hill £6.13s.4d apiece, at the age of 21 years. And to my sister Elizabeth Townsend's children £6.13s.4d apiece at the age of 21 years. And to Richard Peak which was my servant 20 shillings. And to Margaret Greengrass my servant* 30 shillings. To the benefit of the poor of Troston £10 to be laid out in lands, that they may have the rent thereof yearly, forever. To my kinswoman Bridget Arkininstall £10, and to my kinswoman Myrrable Ezard £5. To Francis Knocke my servant 10 shillings. To John Grenegrasse of Pakenham 20 shillings, and the rest of my god-children 5 shillings apiece at the age of 21 years. And all the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever I give unto Roger Grenegrasse aforesaid for the performance of the legacies aforesaid, and the charges of my burial whom also I make the sole executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal, the day and year above written. The mark of John Grenegrasse. In the presence of James Hodson and Francis Knocke, his mark.

* my house - farmhouse at the Townend.

* Margaret Greengrass, my servant - probably an unmarried relative.



Above. This part of the village was known as the Townend. Here stood the farmstead of the Greengrass family in the 16th and 17th centuries.



Left. Ronald and Dennis Greengrass of London, standing under the 1666 Charity plaque in St. Mary's Church, where their direct ancestor John Greengrass is mentioned.

CONCLUSION

New historical evidence sheds light on former ages, sometimes changing long-held beliefs. This book has no end; it is formulated so that if more clues to Troston's past are discovered they can be added. For instance I expect eventually to complete the reading of all local wills, and as seen from previous pages they are good source material. I hope that people digging gardens or ploughing fields will be on the look out for anything that could add to previous knowledge. Perhaps when you, the reader, next take a stroll through the village, you will be able to visualize a little of its past. One last thought, history is being made now; we shall be judged in the future on how we take care of Troston today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have reason to be grateful to the following people; without them the book would not have been possible.

For their memories; Mrs. Elsie Arnold, the late Mr. Herbert Arnold, Mr. Geoffrey Brand, Mr. Arthur Challis, Mrs. Mabel Grimwood, Mr. & Mrs. William Jaggard, Mrs. Doreen Newell, the late Mrs. Connie Rampley, and Mr. Albert Steward.

General Research: Mrs. Margot Fidler, Mrs. Lin Klump.

Additional Material: Lindsey & Stuart Fidler, Mrs. Averil Hay, Mrs. Jackie Kershaw, Mrs. Jeanne Neupert, Mr. Jeremy Seeley, Mrs. Hester Walden.

For Information on their Houses: Mrs. Mary-Grace Browning, Mrs. Averill Hay & Laura Hay, Mrs. Anne Walker, Mrs. Maria Udall, and Jane Nelson.

Translation of Mediaeval Wills. Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Carcas of Honington.

Cover. Mrs. Jeanne Neupert

General Help and Co-operation: All the people who lent old photographs. Mr. Jack Barnard, Rev. Sally Fogden, Mrs. Eileen Mabbutt, Mr. & Mrs Victor Simmonds, Troston Parish Council, Mr. Edward Martin of the Archaeological Department, and the Staff at the West Suffolk Records Office.

Special thanks to Mrs. Vera Gaught who put the text onto a word processor, and who patiently dealt with my corrections and additions, and also to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Walker for the use of the word processor and printer tapes.

J. M. B.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| East Anglian Studies - "The Suffolk Landscape". | | Dymond |
| Domesday Geography of Eastern England. | | Darby |
| Manors of Suffolk. | | Copinger |
| Antiquity of Man in East Anglia. | | Moir |
| East Anglia. | | Rainbird Clarke |
| In Breckland Wild. | | Rainbird Clarke ? |
| Breckland. | | Cook |
| Bury St. Edmunds Guide Book. | | |
| West Suffolk Illustrated 1907. | | |
| East Anglian Magazine Article. | | Raymer |
| Suffolk in The Middle Ages. | | Scarfe |
| History of Suffolk. | | Dymond & Northeast |
| Domesday Book (Suffolk). | | |
| Kellys and Whites Directories. | | |
| Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church. | | |
| St. Mary's Church, Troston. | | Tricker |
| The Suffolk Green Books. (Tax Returns) | | |
| Early Charters of East Anglia. | | Hart |
| Feudal Documents of Bury Abbey. | | Douglas |
| A Suffolk Hundred in 1283. | | Powell |
| Oxford Dictionary of Surnames. | | Reaney |
| Mediaeval Norfolk and Suffolk Names. | | McKinley |
| A Traveller in Suffolk. | | Kirby |
| Bury St. Edmunds and its Environs 1827. | | Various |
| Historical Atlas of Suffolk. | Editors | Dymond & Martin |
| History of Thetford. | | Crosby |
| Wills of Archdeaconary of Sudbury. | Editor | Evans |
| The Farmer's Boy - Robert Bloomfield. | | Wickett & Duval |
| Population and Wealth of the | | |
| Early 15th Century in Suffolk. | | Dymond |
| A Calendar of Wills 1383-1604. | | Hicks |
| Suffolk Records, Manuscripts. | | Copinger |
| Excursions through the County of Suffolk 1832-1841. | | Davy |
| Kalendar of Abbot Samson. | Editor | Davies |