

THE HISTORY OF CAMPSEA ASHE

by Reverend F G L Lucas, Rector

begun in 1909

In long past days orthography was an art even less universally acquired than it is at the present day. Every man spelt as seemed right in his own eyes, apparently with no sense of consistency, especially with regard to proper names, for the same name often appears with different spelling, perhaps twice in one line.

Thus it is that the name of our Parish has been spelt in many ways:- Campesse, Capesea, Capsea, Camsey, Casesy, Campes, Campsey, Campsea etc.

Ash, Ashe, Ahys, Ayssch, Asshe etc.

Ayssch next Campsey, Ashe juxta Campessy, Ash by Campsey, Ash next Campsey, Campsey Ashe, Campsea Ashe.

The derivation of the two names (originally they were two separate parishes or villages) is very uncertain. Canon Raven, in his 'History of Suffolk', speaks of the reverence in which the Ash tree was held in olden times. The *yggdrasil*, or maybe mystic Ash, was considered by the ancient Teuton races to be both the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge, with roots reaching down to the abode of the Old Dragon, to the Fountain of Wisdom and to the Seat of Judgment.

The god Odin was walking one day, with Haener and Loden, two other gods, near the sea: they found an ash and an elm, whereof they constructed the first man and the first woman.

The Scandinavian and Teuton invaders of our Island were probably delighted to find these two trees indigenous to the British soil and the words ash and elm were attached by them to various localities: e.g. Campsey Ash, Badwell Ash, Ashfield, Ashbocking, Ashill, Ashmanhaugh, Ashwellthorpe, Bracon Ash, Ashtead etc. Elmham, Elmsett etc.

With regard to Campsey or Campsea there may perhaps be some connection with a CAMP which may once have existed here. Professor Skeat, in his 'Place-Names Of Suffolk', says the suffix – 'ey' means island, and he quotes Rygh as giving a personal name 'KAMPI' as appearing in some place names: thus it may have Kampi's island (Campsey). The term island was often applied to a place wholly or partially surrounded by streams or even marshy land. The river Deben does bifurcate and enclose a large tract of land between Campsey Abbey and Lower Hacheston, thus forming an island.

Probably, Campsey Ash is more correct than Campsea Ashe (the popular form at present) – no maritime allusion being attended.

Campsea Ashe, is a parish and village in the Eastern Division of Suffolk (County Council); in the South East or Woodbridge Parliamentary Division; in the Plomesgate Poor Law Union, in the Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division; in the Hundred & Rural Deanery of Loes; in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk; and in the Diocese of Norwich.

** Note – when the Diocese was altered in 1914, practically the whole of Suffolk became a new Diocese – viz: of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich*

It is 84 miles, 49 chains from London by rail (of figures under the Bridge, on the Down platform of the Railway Station) and 84 by road. These are the figures on the Tithe Appointment Map 1839.

The modern Ordnance Survey map gives 1825 149 acres, i.e. this implies that the water is additional to and not included in the 1813a.

The area of the Parish is 1813 Acres, 1 Rod, 11 Poles of which about 13 Acres are water.

If we wished to beat the bounds of the Parish, we might start from the boundary post by the side of the Wickham Market road, about 300 yards beyond the Ashe Corner and proceed across the fields in a north-easterly direction to a post on the roadside, about 230 yards west of 'Brickfield Cottages', thence north-east to a post by the side of the Marlesford Road; thence along the road to Ivy Farm, (now the occupation of Mr. John Cracknell); - the farm is not in this Parish; the boundary line turns east when opposite Ivy Farm, crosses the railway line and goes round to the south west corner of Blackstock Covert and to the Blaxhall Road, (where there is another post); thence south through Beeden's Whins; south east to the other Blaxhall Road (where post); through Long Grove wood to near west end of the Avenue; thence across a field to a post on the Tunstall Road; thence south across to near Potash Cottages (in Tunstall Parish); then west to (& including), the Cottage (Mrs Newson's) on the edge of Rendlesham Park.

From there by a circuitous route north and west through the West Belt, by the side of the Ashe Green Road, to the Rendlesham Park Lodges (which are in the Parish); along Rogue's Lane to the Eyke Road (post); across to south east end of Copperas Wood; to the post on the road; thence to the further branch of the river Deben; then along the river through the Abbey Mill and thence more or less in a north direction – partly along the river and partly across the marshes – to the post – from which we started.

The POPULATION of the Parish according to the last census of 1911, was 340. That the population has not varied to any great extent since the institution of the Decennial Census may be seen from the official returns:-

1901	345
1891	340
1881	383
1871	374
1861	379
1851	371
1841	374
1831	392
1821	342
1811	326
1801	327

The following figures may afford some rough idea of the population previous to 1801:-

PERIOD	No. of BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES	BURIALS
1600 - 1609	51	23	40
1650 - 1659	62	16	51
1700 - 1709	62	32	35
1750 - 1759	72	14	39
1800 - 1809	98	28	37
1850 - 1859	121	34	65
1900 - 1909	57	19	59

It will be seen that the population apparently was largest about 1831.

The RATEABLE VALUE of the Parish at the present time (1909) is £2,937-15s-0d for buildings etc., and £518 for agricultural land. The present rate is 2/8d in £ each half year on buildings and 1/4d on agricultural lands. The total amount collected, (after certain deductions), is about £400 each half year.

About 1889 to 1892 the rate was only 8d or 9d in the £! From 1840 the Rate generally varied from 6d to 1/- for the Relief of the Poor and from 3d to 6d for the Surveyors Expenses (Highways). Since the Local Government Act of 1894 establishing County, District and Parish Councils came into operation the rates have increased considerably. In 1830 the Rateable Value was £1,124-10s-0d.

I examined a copy of the Domesday Book (alias Domesday or *Domtre*) in the British Museum, but it was in Latin of such abbreviated character and in such bad hand writing that I could make nothing of it. From another source I gather that there were:-

1. Manor of Campsey belonging to Hervey de Berri. It passed into the de Thoes family and was inherited by Margaret de Thoes who married Tho. de Weyland, Lord Chief Justice. In 1319 it was owned by Cecily de Weyland who married Lord Burghese. Later it was owned by the Abbey or Priory until the Dissolution when it passed to Willoughby.
2. Manor of Ash, to which the advowson of Ash Church was attached, owned by Bidford and retained in the Norfolk family till Theophiles Howard – second Earl of Suffolk – sold it to Blaine.
3. Manor of Morehill Hall or Ashmoor – owned in 1592 by Richard Wentworth. There was an auction Court of Chancery – between Glowers and Braumes re. the purchase and division of this Manor (middle of 17th Century)

That Gilbert, Bishop of Evreux, held lands here as under tenant and that Bricmarus was ‘Tenant of the Mill’

Cox says that the Manor and Estate of Ash was held by Richard de Weyland (or Weyland) who left it to his only daughter and heiress Cecily, who married Bartholomew Lord Burghesse, who “by the Courtesy of England enjoyed it for life and then it returned to her heirs”.

Lord Burghesse died in 43rd year of Edward III – 1370. Richard de Weyland lived at the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th Century.

But Maud, Countess of Ulster is also said to have held the Manor of Ash in 1348.

Apparently there were, and still are, several Manors in the Parish. At the present time there are at least four Manors in connection with the High House Estate which seem to refer to this Parish, (besides others in Tunstall, Blaxhall and elsewhere, viz: the Manors of Ash, Ashmoor, Campsey with Haugh and Northlands and Ash Bigotts).

Page says the Park House Estate was the Manor of Ash (but the Park House belongs to the Rendlesham Estate and not to the High House).

At the dissolution of the Campsey Abbey (1536) the Manorial rights then belonging to the Abbey were bestowed on Sir William de Willoughby (of Parham) afterwards Lord Willoughby.

In the middle of the 17th Century John Braham (of what is now called the Park House), was Lord of one of the Manors and William Glover (of the High House) held the Manor of Ashmoor Hall.

The village presents no features of special interest. The houses are scattered over the Parish in small batches or singly. The men are nearly all employed either on the land or on the railway.

There are only three resident tenant farmers:-

Mr. A. Carlyle-Smith – Ashmoor Hall, a breeder of high-class Suffolk horses and cattle;

Mr. S. Orford – who rents Low Farm, Church Farm and Jolly Farm;

Mr. Weller – Ashe Green Farm.

The rest of the land is farmed by Mr. Rackham of Wickham Market, Mr. John Cracknell of Marlesford, Mr. Wardley of Blaxhall, Mr. Fred Smith of Woodbridge, and others.

There are two public houses – ‘The Talbot’ opposite the Station (the name derived from the crest of the Sheppard family – the head of the Talbot dog), and the ‘Buck’s Head’ near the Pit.

There is a blacksmith, a saddler, two grocers, (small general stores), and a non-resident cobbler.

No butcher – baker – tailor and NO policeman!

THE ABBEY

Undoubtedly the most interesting subject in the past history of Campsea Ashe is that which concerns the Abbey or Nunnery, but unfortunately records to be found in the various Histories of Suffolk and local Directories differ from each other in somewhat important details; and some of them contain statements which are very obscure. Even statements which contradict each other.

I have, however, compiled from many sources the following notes which I hope are for the most part accurate:

About 1195 Theobald de Valonies – (a descendant of Peter de Valonies who came over with William the Conqueror) – a large landowner in the neighbourhood, bequeathed all his property in Campesse (as it was then called) to his two sisters, Joan and Agnes “*for the erecting of a Nunnery there to the honour of God and the glorious Virgin*”.

This bequest was confirmed by King John and duly carried out in 1204 – Joan becoming the first Prioress or Abbess.

The Religious Order to which the Nunnery belongs was that of St. Augustine or Austin, not of St. Clare or the Minoreesses as stated in some books. The Order of St. Clare had not yet been founded.

In 1228 a dispute arose about certain tithes between the Prioress of Campsey and the Prioress of Butley Abbey. (This abbey was founded in 1171 by Ralph de Glanville, Chief Judiciary who had married Bertha, daughter of Theobald de Valonies). A Papal Commission was appointed to investigate the matter but the Prioress of Campsey was dissatisfied with their decision, and appealed to the Pope himself, whereupon the Commission pronounced her and all other inmates of the Campsey Nunnery to be excommunicated! The dispute went on until 1230 when it was finally settled in favour of Butley.

While Walter de Suffield (alias Calthorpe, who built and endowed St. Giles Hospital – now ‘The Great Hospital’ in Norwich), was Bishop of Norwich (1245 – 1257) there was a dispute between Sir Robert de Valories, son of the founder, who claimed the patronage of the Nunnery, and the nuns who denied his claim. The matter was adjudicated upon by the Bishop who decreed that the Prioress of Nuns should acknowledge Sir Robert as patron, and that whenever a vacancy in the office of Prioress should occur, Sir Robert should be entitled to ‘*seize the said Nunnery, but without any hurt to their goods, or exercise any authority, till the nuns have chose them a Prioress whom they shall present to the said Robert for his assent, which being obtained, the Bishop of Norwich for the time being shall order her to be confirmed and settled in the government of the Nunnery*”.

In course of time many benefactions were made to the Nunnery and its properties and revenues increased extensively.

The Taxation Roll, called “Pope Nicholas’ valor”, of 1288 shows that the Nunnery owned land in, or drew tithes from, a great number of parishes, in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Lincolnshire.

In 1291 the nunnery estate was valued at £67-3s-3¼d together with tithes in certain parishes, bringing the total to £107-3s-3¾d, which in those days represented a considerable income.

In 1333 John de Framlyngham, Rector of Kelsale, obtained from King Edward III letters patent enabling him to bestow his manor of Karleton (now Carlton) and the advowson of the Church of that place, on the prioress and Nunnery of Campsey, on condition that a Chaplain and two

assistants should be provided to say mass daily in the Church of Karleton, (or according to other accounts) “*as a maintenance for a chaplain & 2 assistants to perform Service daily in their church*”, i.e. the church of the nuns at Campsey”.

“For the soul of Alice de Hainault (aunt of Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III), Countess Marecal his consort, for his own soul and the souls of all the faithful: the patronage of the said Chaplain to be forever with the Prioress of Campsey and her successors”.

In 1348, Maud, Countess of Ulster, founded a Chantry in Campsey Abbey itself. Her father was Henry, Earl of Lancaster, second son of Edmund the second son of Henry III, (i.e. she was Henry III’s great granddaughter). Her mother was Maud, daughter and heiress of Sir Patrick Chaworth.

She married first William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, by whom she had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. The de Burghs were ancestors of the present Claucicasde family. William de Burgh, son of Aldelm, was Governor of Ireland in 1176 & 1181. Sir Hubert de Burgh commanded the English fleet and defeated the French off Calais, May 1217. He became Regent in 1219, but when the King (Henry III) began to reign in person, de Burgh got into bad favour and was imprisoned.

de Burgh family (Maud)

Richard de Burgh (Earl of Ulster) had 11 children
 |
 John de Burgh m. Elizabeth, dau. of Gilbert, Earl of Clare
 |
 William de Burgh m. Maud
 |
 Elizabeth, m. Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III

William de Burgh was murdered at Carrickfergus in 1332 at the age of 20.

Maud married second Sir Ralph de Ufford, Chief Justice of Ireland and had a daughter, Maud, who married Thomas de Vere, eighth Earl of Oxford.

By licence of Edward III she founded a Collegiate Chantry of five priests, (a warden and four secular priests), to perform service and say mass in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary “*for the health of the soul of her first husband, William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, & Ralph de Ufford her second husband, also of Elizabeth de Burgh and Maud de Ufford, her daughters, as also for the good estate of herself, Sir John de Ufford Kt. and Sir Thomas de Hereford Kt. during their lives and for the health of their souls after their death*”.

This Chantry she “endowed with certain lands” in Ash near Rendlesham and with the advowsons of the Churches of Burgh in Suffolk and Harpham in Norfolk.

She directed that rooms were to be built for these Chantry priests near the Chapel with a common dormitory and refectory: also that lights, wax, wine and vestments were to be provided: and that the buildings were to be kept in repair.

The chaplains were to have free ingress and egress though the convent at all suitable times, but they were strictly forbidden to enter that part of the buildings set apart especially for the use of the nuns. The Master (warden) was to be paid 13 marks a year and the other chaplains 10 marks each

(a mark = 13s.4d.). In the ‘Victorian History of Suffolk’ it is stated that these Rules were drawn up in 1390 for the new Chaplains appointed after Maud’s college had been moved to Bruisyard.

The first Master of Warden of this “College” as it is called in some books, was John de Haketon de Jakesle, (January 1349). He was succeeded in September 1352 by John de Aster. In 6 (sic.) Henry 1405, William Worsted is mentioned as Master of the Chantry of Campess.

In 1357 (or 1354) “*it being represented to the King, (i.e. Edward III), that the noble and pious Foundress had found that the Priory of Campsey was too far distant from the village of Ash where she had proposed to fix her residence, permission was granted to remove this Chantry to the Manor of Rokhalle in the town of Brusseyard*” (now Bruisyard).

In 1366 “*upon some complaint and at the instance of Lionel Duke of Clarence*” (the King’s son who married Maud’s daughter, Elizabeth de Burgh) this Chantry and the lands pertaining thereto were surrendered to the use of an Abbess and Sisters of the Nuns Minoresses of the Order of St. Clare, and so continued until the dissolution.

Page says that Maud herself took the veil in the Campsey Nunnery, and afterwards changed to the St. Clare Order at Brusseyard, but this seems inconsistent with the statement that she had “proposed to fix her residence” at Ash. If she had been a nun in the Campsey Priory she would not have moved the “College”.

The following rules were drawn up, in 1354, by the Bishop of Norwich, but whether they refer to the Chantry at Campsey or at Brusseyard depends upon whether the Chantry was moved in 1357 or 1354:-

1. *That the said five priests should all sleep in the same dormitory and eat together in the same refectory;*
2. *That one of the five should be Custos or Master chosen by a majority of voices; and upon a vacancy, if he be not chosen in four months time, then the election to be in the Bishop for that turn: and being elected, that he obtain letters of presentation from the Prioress of Campesse – this implies that the Nunnery was still at Campsey. These rules may have been drawn up for a new Chantry which was formed on the removal of Maud’s to Bruisyard – to the Bishop who thereupon to confirm him in the office.*
3. *That their habits be all alike, agreeable to the Canons;*
4. *That they observe the Salisbury Use in Divine Service;*
5. *That one of them be chosen their Treasurer, whose office it shall be also to take care of all matters relating to the Chapel;*
6. *That there be a Chest with three different keys in which the Common seals and accounts are to be kept.*

Where Maud, the Foundress of the Chantry was buried, I do not know, but Ralph de Ufford, her second husband, is said to have been buried in the Campsey Abbey. Also Robert de Ufford (his brother), the first earl of Suffolk, who died in 1370. He directed in his will that his body should be buried “*a Campasse dessouls l’arche pareutre la chapelle S. Niche: it le haut altier ou le tombe eut etre ordergue*”

Edmund (another brother) also directed in his will dated 1374 that his body should be buried “*in the Chapel of Our Lady*” within this nunnery.

William (Second Earl, son of Robert) made a similar provision. His death was somewhat tragic. He was chosen by the Knights of the Shires to present to the House of Lords a petition in connection with the sufferings and grievances of the poor, which led to the rebellion under Wat Tyler.

“The very day and hour in which he should have done the business, as he went up the stairs towards the Upper House, he suddenly fell down and died, having been merry and well before, to all men’s judgments.”

His widow, Isabella, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, entered the nunnery, as a nun and directed *“mons corps a la terre destre sutevaiz a Campseye joust mon seigneur.”*

Some of the Willoughbys of Parham were also buried there. (Cecily daughter of Robert de Ufford, first Earl of Suffolk, married John, third Lord Willoughby de Eresby).

Among the various benefactions made from time to time to the Campsey Nunnery may be mentioned:-

Simon de Bruna gave a certain messuage and four acres of land between another piece of land, in Tottington (now Juttington in Norfolk) *“in perpetual alms, for the health of his own soul and those of his father and mother and other ancestors”*.

John de Strange (of Hunstanton) also gave *“a certain messuage called Hempbord”* with four acres of land in Tottington and *“a manor called Stranges, with all his homage, revenue and services”*.

These benefactions were made when Mary Felton and Alice Corbett were prioresses:- i.e. about 1390 and 1420 respectively.

It is not clear whether, when the Chantry founded by Maud, Countess of Ulster, was moved to Bruisyard, other chaplains still remained, or whether the nuns had no chaplains for a time; but about 1383 endowments were bestowed towards the support of Chaplains (apparently two in number, but whether these were pre-existing is not certain), and in 1390 the number was increased to five.

Stephen de Ludham, (Loudham) gave *“a piece of meadow in Loudham in pure and perpetual alms and free of all secular services and funds”* and his son, William, gave all his land in Ludham then held by William the Chaplain, called Finchescroft, to the said nuns, *“yet to hold of him and his heirs by the annual rent of 12 pence, 6 pence whereof he paid on the Eve of Epiphany and the other 6 pence upon the feast of St. John Baptist yearly.”*

Later on his son Stephen arranged that the nuns should be released from the payment of 12 pence aforesaid on condition that they should *“for ever first claim all their rights and title to 2 pieces of meadow in Wickham”*.

Among the annual charges upon the endowments of the Nunnery were:- *“For 3 wax candles of the weight of 3 lbs, on the anniversary of Lady Anne Wayland in the Church of Ash and the Mass of the Blessed Virgin in the Church of Campsey – 3s.6d; for 7 flagons of oil, for burning in the lamps in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin & St. Nicholas, 5s.10d; and 3 flagons of wine for celebrating masses in the Chantry 2s.8d per annum.”*

For annual alms to poor persons on certain days 19 shillings. The sum of £10 was annually divided between the Prioress, almoner, cellarer and infirmarer.

A glimpse into the domestic life of the Nunnery is obtained from certain records of Episcopal Visitations:-

On 24th January 1492 Archdeacon Goldwell, acting on behalf of his brother James, Bishop of Norwich, (consecrated 1472, died 1498, buried in Norwich Cathedral; his monumental effigy is on the south side of the chancel), paid a visit of inspection to the Nunnery. There were then present Katherine, the Prioress; Katherine Babington, sub-Prioress and 18 nuns. Everything was reported as quite satisfactory.

Bishop Nikke (or Nix – consecrated 1501: died 1535-36: buried in the Cathedral, south side of the nave), made a visitation in 1514, when Elizabeth Gueraud was Prioress, Petronalla Fulerston sub-Prioress. Also 18 nuns at that time. All satisfactory.

In 1520 there were 21 inmates. No complaints,

In 1526, however, a complaint was made! Margaret Harman the precentrix while stating that for the past 85 years she had never known anything worthy of correction or reformation, was constrained to add that now some of the office books in the choir were in need of repair!

This must indeed have been a model little community but - alas! - a few years later, when Elizabeth Buttry was Prioress, there had come a change in the domestic atmosphere. When Bishop Nikke paid a visit in 1532, only six of the 18 nuns expressed themselves satisfied. The rest had many grievous complaints to make of the undue severity of the discipline to which they were subjected; of the austerity and the stinginess of the Prioress; and of the insufficient quantity and unpalatable quality of the food provided for them.

Even Margaret Harman who had been there 41 years was obliged to confess that the food was not always wholesome. One nun declared that they had been obliged to eat a bullock which certainly would have died of disease, had it not been killed. Another complained of the unpunctuality of the cook. Dinner was supposed to be at 6 o'clock, but it was often so late that it was 8 o'clock before they had finished!... and so on.

Happily, there were no complaints of any moral delinquencies on this or on any other occasion, and so the Bishop managed to smooth things over; he rejoined the Prioress to provide more liberal and wholesome fare; bade the cook be more punctual; gave them all his blessing and took his departure.

The Nunnery was dissolved in 1536, when Henry VIII carried out his iniquitous campaign against the religious houses. The Act of 1536 authorised the suppression of religious houses of under £200 a year value.

Consequently many houses were deliberately under valued by the Commissions to bring them within the scope of the Act. Thus the value of Campsey Abbey was put at £182-9s-5d. The richer houses were dealt with later on.

The nuns and the chaplains were turned out and this little community of pious, inoffensive persons was broken up after an existence of 340 years.

Note: a local tradition at Marlesford says that the woodwork in the ceiling of the church there was taken from the Abbey Church when it was pulled down.

An inventory of property was made dated 29th August 1536, "*between Sir Anthony Wynkefield, Sir Humphrey Wynkefield, Sir Thomas Russyhe, Kinghts, Rycharde Southwell Esquire and Thomas Thyldemaye, Commissioners to the King our Souayne Lorde on the ptie [i.e. one part], and Elz. Buttery, poresse [prioress] then on the other ptie Wytnesseth that the said Commissioners have delude [delivered] to the said prioress all the goodes catall hereafter pticularly mencioued savelly to be kept to the King's use.*"

In the Church at the High Altar:-

- *p R.S. ffirste a pyxe of silu' & gurylte pond;*
- *Itm on altar cloth of white syek hangyng before the High Altar;*
- *Itm on branche of latten before the image of Our Lady;*
- *Itm a lamp of latten lytell worthe.*

In the Chapel of Our Lady:-

- *Itm a Table of alabaster;*
- *Itm on Altar cloth another hanging to the same;*

In the Vestery:-

- *(5 copes of crymson velvett, olde golde, green sylke with Byrdes of Coper golde, violet sylke & bleue with anngells and stars respectively);*
- *Also other copes, vestements, altar cloths etc.;*
- *Also a Carved wooden Reredos in one Chapel and an alabaster Reredos in another; 4 great candlesticks of latten; a silver cross valued at £5; a silver censer £4-13s-4d; a silver chalice £2-7s-8d*

The Contents of the Dwelling House were included:-

- *Itm a ffether bedde, a bolster, a payer of blankettes, a payer of shets, a nolde coveryng, a seler, a testor and cortetbs of lynen cloth;*
- *Itm a noldechayre with coshens.;*
- *Itm lytell tabells, a payer of tressells;*
- *Itm great platters, saltes of pewter.*

In The Ketchen:-

- *Itm a veyelyng leade, lytell Brasse potts, lytell Brasse panes, lytell kettles, platters, dyshes, sawsers, a porenger;*

Other articles are catalogued in the PLOR [parlour], the pantery, the Bakehouse and Bruhouse, the Auditor Chamber etc.

CATTELL:-

- *10 Mylche cows and a Bull at 6/8d each;*
- *10 horses for the ploughe and carte – very olde and lytell worthe – at 6/8d each;*
- *2 draught oxen at 13/4d each. Swyne, null [no pigs];*
- *26 lodes of hey at 2d a lode = 52/- [sic.];*
- *Whete 24 quarters;*
- *Barley 50 quarters.*

The total inventory including livestock etc. was valued at £56-13s-0d and the total income of the Nunnery at £182-9s-5d. The present day [1911] equivalent of this sum may be estimated by comparing the above prices (say) of hay and cows with present prices:-

	in 1536	in 1911
Hay	2/- a load	~ £5 a load
Wheat	6/8 per quarter	~ 35/- per quarter
Barley	3/4 per quarter	~ 27/- per quarter

Also silver at 3/4d per ounce; a cow or bull for 6/8d and two great platters with salters of pewter for 6d! Jumble sale prices!

The following is a list of the Prioresses as far as can be ascertained:-

Prioress	Dates
Joan de Valories – first Prioress	1195 / 1204 ?
Agnes de Valories, her sister	mentioned in documents 1229 & 1234
Basilia de Wachisham	mentioned in documents 1258
Margery	mentioned in documents 1318
Mary de Wingfield	appointed 1334
Mary Felton	died 1394
Margaret de Brusseyard	appointed 1394
Alise Corbett	about 1411
Katherine Ancel	1416
Margery de Rendlesham	1446
Margaret Henham	1476
Katherine	1492
Anna	1502
Elizabeth Guerard	1513
Elizabeth Blenherhasset	1517
Elizabeth Buttery – last Prioress	1526 -1536 Elizabeth de Buttery died at Norwich on 24th October 1543, and was buried in St. Stephen's Church in that city

The Chaplains appear to have received a pension:-

Galfridi Grisp	magistri cantarice ibidem £8-13s-4d
Petri White	clerici ibidem
Francis Woodhouse	} 10 marks each = £6-13s-4d [1mark = 13/4d, or 160d]
Thomas Bakeler	
Thomas Parker	

The buildings, lands, manors, tithes and other property of the Nunnery were seized by Henry VIII; the buildings and some of the lands were granted to Sir William Willoughby Kt. to hold of the King in Capite (sic.). An annuity of £30-6s-8d was granted to one John Euer “out of sundry manors” which formerly belonged to the Nunnery. The rest of the property was probably divided between the King and his friends.

In 1551 part of the Estate, including the site of the Nunnery, passed from Willoughby to John Lane and later, through several hands (Frederick Scot, Sir H. Wood, Robert Ourby, William Chapman – afterwards Sir William – High Sheriff in 1767, died 1785 – Thomas Breton) and in 1788 it was purchased by Jacob Whitbread, an ancestor of the present owner. Another part of the Estate, including land in Ash, was sold by Willoughby to John Some and from him a portion of it came into the possession of Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk.

What the Old Abbey was like (as it is called now) we cannot tell except that some idea may be formed from a Ground Plan. Traces of what is marked on the Plan as the Refectory or Dormitory may still be seen in the walls of the barn on the north west side of the present farm buildings.

The present farmhouse is no doubt part of the original dwelling house of the Nuns or was build on the site of it. On the hall ceiling there are some large black oak beams, 14 inches square and there is an old staircase. There is also a good deal of old oak – arches and rafters, some whitewashed – in the bedrooms upstairs.

Kirby, in his *Suffolk Traveller*, published in the middle of the 18th Century, says “in the window of the parlour in the Abbey house is now a piece of glass stained with the arms of the Uffords. And in the window of the chamber over it is the figure of a lady stained in glass with the words ‘GOVERNESS GRACE’”. This glass has now disappeared.

Another writer, at the end of the 18th Century, says that the inner arch of the west porch contained many mouldings, and on the sides were demiquatrefoil arches, and that on the wooden part of the gable next to the Mill was “1648 I:L”. These are now not to be seen.

In 1843 six stone coffins were dug up near farm buildings but nobody seems to know what became of them.

The house which was until quite recently occupied by a farm bailiff has now been done up and occupied by Mr. Whitbread the owner.

The Abbey is described as “*seated in a fruitful and pleasant valley on the east side of the River Deben, and on the north it had a large lake of water more than 20 feet deep and about 14 acres in extent* [NB. this is incorrect, the area being only four or five acres] *which still abounds with immense quantities of pike, carp, tench and eel. While the water supplied this House with fish and wild fowl, the land furnished the other necessities of life.*”

The Mill, close to the Abbey, is worked by a branch of the Deben which runs through the lake. The buildings are very old but I can find no history of it.

The Seal of the Priory in the 14th Century consisted of a pointed oval bearing the figure of the Virgin, crowned and seated on a throne, the Holy Child standing on her right knee, within a triple-arched canopied niche. In the base, between two flowering branches, was a shield bearing per pale a cross lozengey, diapered, a chief dencetty, with the legend “[PR]ORESSE ET CONVENANUS ... [MAR]IA DE CAMPESSÉ”.

LIST OF HOUSES IN CAMPSEA ASHE – December 1914

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | RECTORY | - Lucas , Rev. F.G.L., wife & sons |
| 2. | LARK HOUSE LODGE | - Fulcher (farm bailiff) & wife (near railway bridge) |
| 3. | HOUSE IN STATION YARD | - Coppin (signalman), wife & child |
| 4. | STATION MASTER'S HOUSE | - Gibbs (widower), mother, sister & two daughters |
| 5. | TALBOT HOTEL | - Lankester , wife & children |
| 6. | RAILWAY COTTAGES | - Everett (signalman) & children |
| 7. | - ditto - | - Clarke (labourer) wife & children |
| 8. | - ditto - | - Whymark (railway van driver), wife & children |
| 9. | - ditto - | - Sawyer (signalman), wife & children |
| 10. | THE ROW | - Warner , wife & children |
| 11. | - ditto - | - Culpeck , Fred (gardener), wife & children |
| 12. | - ditto - | - Kemp (gardener) |
| 13. | - ditto - | - Baffle , H. (gardener) |
| 14. | - ditto - | - Hall (carter) |
| 15. | - ditto - & POST OFFICE | - Cable , man & wife |
| 16. | - ditto - | - Bradstreet (bricklayer) |
| 17. | - ditto - | - <i>empty</i> |
| 18. | - ditto - | - Paternoster (widow) |
| 19. | - ditto - | - Cook (labourer) |
| 20. | - ditto - | - Knights . Widow & married daughter |
| 21. | - ditto - | - Culpeck (roadman), wife & children |
| 22. | - ditto - | - Glanfield . Widow & son (labourer) |
| 23. | - ditto - | - Hammond (farm bailiff at Ashmoor), wife & children |
| 24. | THE CORNER | - Orford (farmer 'Low Farm'), son & daughter |
| 25. | - ditto - | - Eagle (retired railwayman), wife & adopted children |
| 26. | - ditto - | - Benham (railwayman), wife & children |
| 27. | - ditto - | - Battle , A. (labourer), wife & children |
| 28. | - ditto - | - <i>empty</i> |
| 29. | - ditto - | - Osbourne (shepherd) & wife |
| 30. | - ditto - | - May . Widow & children |
| 31. | - ditto - | - Coates (labourer), wife & children |
| 32. | - ditto - | - Kerridge . Widow |
| 33. | - ditto - | - Goodall . Miss, retired schoolteacher |
| 34. | - ditto - | - Ling . Mrs James. Widow |
| 35. | 'OLD WINDMILL COTTAGE' | - Culling (police pensioner), wife & Children |
| 36. | ASHMOOR HALL | - Mallet (farmer) & wife |
| 37. | ASHMOOR COTTAGE | - <i>empty</i> |
| 38. | QUILL FARM COTTAGES | - Fenton (stockman) |
| 39. | - ditto - | - Sharpe (stockman) |

40. LOUDHAM COTTAGES - **Easter** (works at the Mill), wife & child
41. - ditto - - **Sharp**, A. (works at the Mill), wife & child
42. - ditto - - **Sharp**, Snr. (stockman), widower & children
43. - ditto - - **Pipe** (bailiff at Abbey Farm), wife & children
44. THE ABBEY - **Whitbread**, C.A. & sister
45. ABBEY MILL - **Edwards** & wife
46. MILLVILLE COTTAGES - **Taylor** (gardener), wife & children
47. - ditto - - **Ling**, Miss. & 'boarded out' children
48. - ditto - - **Palmer** (sanitary inspector), wife & son
49. - ditto - - **Etheridge** (railway booking clerk), wife & children
50. PARK HOUSE - **Papillon**, H.G. (Rendlesham Estate Agent), wife & children
51. THE FORGE - **Fairhead** (blacksmith)
52. CHURCH FARM - **Wordley** (Mr. Lowther's chauffeur), wife & children
53. CHURCH FARM - **Farrow** (farm horseman) & wife
54. WHITE HOUSE - **Walker**, Mrs. Widow & daughter
55. SCHOOL HOUSE - **Kiddell** & wife (schoolmistress)
56. THE PIT - **Mattin** (widow & school caretaker) & children
57. - ditto - - **Woolnough** (labourer)
and wife (keeps small shop) & children
58. - ditto - - **Bloomfield** (saddler) & wife
59. - ditto - - **Catchpole** (railway porter), wife & children
60. BUCK'S HEAD INN - **Norfolk** (widow) and son
61. JOLLY'S FARM - **Read** (farmer) & wife
62. PIGSTED LANE - **Buxton** (farm horseman), wife & children
63. PIGSTED LANE - **Mattin** - three brothers (labourers) & sister
64. CAMPSEY HAME - **Read** - three sisters
65. FIELD COTTAGES - **Finch** (labourer), wife 7 children
66. FIELD COTTAGES - **Newson** (labourer), wife & children
67. BLACKSTOCK LEVEL CROSSING - **Greystone** (signalman), wife & children
68. WELLHOUSE COTTAGES - **Sanders** (old man), wife & daughter
69. WELLHOUSE COTTAGES - **Ling** (shepherd) & wife
70. BRICKFIELD COTTAGES - **Hatcher** (labourer), wife & children
71. BRICKFIELD COTTAGES - **Farrow** (labourer), wife & children
72. ASHGREEN ROAD - part of FORGE - **Doswell** (groom), wife & child
73. ASHGREEN ROAD - **Last** (chauffeur) & wife
74. ASHGREEN ROAD - **Ling** (gardener) & wife

-
75. HIGH HOUSE LODGE - **Mowson** (gardener), wife & children
76. SHRUBBERY COTTAGES - **Cooper** & wife
77. - ditto - - **Gibbs** (widow) son & daughter
78. - ditto - - **Carins** (dairyman), wife & children
79. - ditto - - **Latter** (gardener), wife & child
80. HIGH HOUSE - Rt. Hon. J.W. **Lowther**, wife & daughter
81. HIGH HOUSE GARDENS - **Andrews** (head gardener), wife & children
82. ASH GREEN FARM - **Waller** & wife
83. ASH GREEN COTTAGE - **Whiteman** (forester), wife & children
84. RUSHGROUND COTTAGES - **Herring** (gasman at Rendlesham Park), wife & daughter
85. - ditto - - **Ling**. Widow
86. - ditto - - **Luddeman** (labourer), wife & child
87. RENDLESHAM PARK LODGE - **Reeve** (old man) & wife
88. RENDLESHAM PARK LODGE - **Ling** (old man) & wife
89. THE PIT (omitted) - **Bradley** (labourer), wife & child
90. RENDLESHAM PARK (cottage on Butley Road) - **Newson**, Widow & son

THE CHURCH

The Parish Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and was probably built about 1312, the date of the institution of the first recorded rector.

Externally the church has a very pleasing appearance with its embattled **Tower**, 76 feet high from the top of the battlements to the ground, surmounted by a **Wooden Spire**.

The Church is unduly long in proportion to its width, the **Nave** being 61 feet 6 inches long (internally), by only 18 feet 8 inches wide. The **Chancel** is 34 feet 6 inches long by 20 feet wide; the space within the Tower at the west end is 17 feet by 8 feet 10 inches, the total internal length being 113 feet.

The Church will accommodate about 200 persons including about 40 in the Chancel, which is overcrowded with pews. (Some pews are now removed).

There are **Four Bells** in the Tower, inscribed thus:-

North side	<i>Ricardus Bowler me fecit 1601</i>
East side	<i>I. B. Anno Domini 1615</i>
South side	Thos. Gardner me fecit 1714 [this bell is chipped]
West side	Thos. Gardner, Sudbury, fecit 1729 [bell also has impressions of coins on it]

On the four corners of the battlements are figures of an animal not known in natural history; and on the outside of the battlements are some ciphers worked in flint - two on each side.

The most interesting object in the church from an antiquarian point of view is the **Brass** on the floor of the Nave, close to the Chancel step. Though the surrounding brasswork, the canopy, is missing, yet the centre and principal part is in an excellent state of preservation. It represents a priest in full canonicals holding a chalice of water in his hands.

The brass plate is 16 inches by 4¼ inches. He was apparently rector between 1447 and 1505 although there is no date on the brass which now remains. There is a **Piscina** on the south side of the Sanctuary.

The Church underwent considerable restoration between 1789 and 1792, when the Rev. Samuel Kilderbee was rector. The vane on the spire is stamped "S.K. 1789". On the old porch was a stone inscribed "S.K. 1792", and on a stone slab on the outside of the south wall of the Nave is the inscription "King & Sutton, Churchwardens - 1792".

From a grand plan made in 1842 and now kept in the iron chest in the vestry it is seen that, at the period, there were two pews [I am informed that they were of the old fashioned high 'loose box' type] on either side of the Chancel, extending from the west wall of the church, 9th Eastwards and about 7th North to South. The floor space between these pews and the communion rails was open, and a stove stood where the organ blower now stands. (There was no organ-chamber then).

The **Pulpit** and Reading Desk occupied the North east corner of the Nave, where the pulpit still is, as far as to the window.

On the South side of the Nave was one very large 'family pew' with seats all round it - doubtless appropriated to the High House family - and six other pews of various sizes. Then came the Porch

(where there is now a window) with the **Font** near the door; then eight pews marked on the plan “*Free Sittings for women*”.

On the North side, beyond the pulpit, were seven pews; then a space occupied by the stove (opposite the door), then another small pew; then seven pews marked “*Free Sittings for men*” and one marked “*Parish Officers*”.

There were then only two windows on the North side of the nave. There was a Gallery in the Tower, reached by a wooden staircase and occupied by the school children and a “finger-organ with six stops”.

On the inside of the cover of one of the Baptismal Registers (marked 6.A Period 1813 - 1880) there is a note:-

“The Rector has a pew in the church under the following circumstances - Dr. Kilderbee having allowed Lord Rendlesham, the Patron of the Living of Campsea Ashe (or Ashe by Campsea) to occupy by sufferance a Pew on the south side of the chancel on condition that one of the pews appropriated to his Lordship’s property was given up to the Rector for his servants. Every succeeding Rector’s servants by this arrangement have occupied the pew till the present Rector consented to allow by sufferance the Rectorial Pew in the Church to be occupied by the Choir, being more convenient, being in the centre of the church, to promote congregational singing. J.P. Campsea Ashe, August 27th 1842.” [Note. J.P - Jermyn Pratt]

It is possible that some restorations or alterations were carried out just previous to 1842.

In 1869-70 the then Rector, The Rev. H.E. Knatchbull, made some considerable alterations.

In the Churchwardens’ Account Book is the following:-

“Entry made by the Rector at the request of the Churchwardens, setting forth the accounts attendant upon the service of the church and the Restoration of the Fabric owing 1869 & 1870 - ‘Gentlemen - In pursuance of my undertaking in my letter to you dated April 2nd 1869, which was in substance that I would undertake the whole management of the churchwardens’ accounts for two years, on receiving the rental of the church lands and a Parochial payment of £221; and further that I would carry out the church restoration &c. in full, according to the plans and agreements then laid before the meeting’ - I have now to report that the whole of the church works are completed and the accounts duly balanced & discharged as per statement annexed. There remains still to be restored 4 windows to match the new one in the nave, & provision is made whereby a sixth window can be inserted in the north wall to complete the design without interfering with the north central buttress. These I commend to the good taste and care of my Parishioners. A proper Reredos is also required, which should I believe, D.V. will be supplied by your sincere friend & Rector - H.E. Knatchbull”.

Amongst the alterations at that time were:-

1. The old **Porch** which formerly stood where the window nearest the door now is (the “new one” referred to above) was pulled down and the present porch was built. Apparently the rector utilised the stones of the old porch to build himself some “rockeries” in the Rectory garden, and I lately discovered amongst these stones the head of a female and also the stone bearing the inscription “S.K. 1792”. These are now placed in the Vestry.
2. The old high pews were cleared away, and new deal seats provided. There are a few oak pews in the Chancel and one at the East end of the Nave (reserved for Churchwardens) with carved poppy heads.

3. The schoolchildren's seats were moved from the Gallery to the Chancel, as was also the organ. The Gallery was then allotted to the households of Lord Rendlesham and Mr. Sheppard.
4. The Font was moved to the S.W. corner of the Nave. The N.W. corner was occupied by a stove - see plan made in 1871 pasted into the Churchwardens' Book. The exterior of the Chancel was resurfaced with flints.

The accounts show that the Rector paid all the church expenses for the two years out of the rent of the church lands (£24) and the £21 contributed "in lieu of church rates", and had a balance of £5-13s-2d which was added to the Restoration Fund.

The restoration and sundries cost £852-7s-5d towards which the rector contributed £481-11s-3d, Lord Rendlesham £200, Mr. Sheppard £100, the Rector's private friends £26-11s-0d etc.

Mr. Knatchbull, in fulfillment of his intention expressed in the above letter provided a Reredos in 1873, at a cost of £55-16s-0d.

In 1878 further alterations were made:-

1. The Gallery in the West Tower was removed. [Note. On the front of the Gallery were the Arms of Jermyn Pratt (Rector), Sheppard, Lord Rendlesham, Wilson, Arcedeckne (of Glevering, Landowner in Campsea Ashe). This implies the Gallery was erected about 1842.]
2. The Font was shifted to its present position on the North side of the Nave.
3. A hot water heating apparatus was installed.
4. The Pulpit was slightly reduced in height; the Reading Desk moved to its present position.
5. The old organ was sold and a new one presented by Lord Rendlesham, and an organ chamber built to accommodate it.
6. The present pews were placed in the Chancel in lieu of the seats formerly used by the schoolchildren.

In 1882-83 a new window was made in the centre of the North side of the Nave, with coloured glass: "To the Glory of God - in memory of Egidia Baroness Rendlesham, by the Household and those employed on the Estate".

In 1885 new **Communion Rails** of serpentine marble were presented by Lord Rendlesham in memory of Lady Rendlesham who died in 1880.

In 1907 new lamps were provided by subscriptions. Before that time Evensong had generally been in the afternoon and the church possessed only a few small single wick oil lamps hanging at wide intervals round the wall!

Several gifts were made to the Church in 1907, and since then - including a brass altar cross & candlesticks, an oak credence table, new altar linen, coloured hangings for the Reading Desk, a Pulpit lectern, new books etc. The deal doors of the S.W. Porch were cased with oak on the outside, and the Churchyard was put into respectable order, with a number of trees, shrubs and flowers planted.

In 1909 the roof of the Tower was repaired - all new lead on the top, decayed wood removed and new provided, a steel joist inserted, and the spire partly renewed etc.

In that year a surpliced Choir (boys) was started and the space under the Tower screened off to form a Choir Vestry.

The inside of the Church is *not* beautiful! As already stated, the Nave is very long and narrow. It has a whitewashed ceiling, three ugly big windows with plain glass, cheap and nasty stained deal seats.

The East Window has only "Cathedral" glass in it. There are too many pews in the Chancel, leaving a very narrow gangway and hiding most of the Sanctuary. The present altar is of deal covered with an altar cloth, but most of the altar cloths are extremely shabby. It is much to be hoped that some of these aspects may in course of time be amended.

The floor of the sanctuary is covered with a carpet worked by the late Lady Rendlesham and presented by her in 1878.

The Pulpit is of oak, of no great artistic merit, covered with nail marks - the work of the zealous decorator.

There is a curious old money box standing near the S.W. Porch for which three keys were provided (one of the three keys is now broken) - one each for the Rector and the two Churchwardens. There is also another money box with a solid oak pedestal fixed to the wall near the Chancel door.

Beneath the carpet in the Sanctuary are two tombstones. That on the North side is inscribed:-

*"Here lyeth interred the Body of William Glover Esquire
Who was unhappily slain July 1641
Behold in me the life of man
Compared by David to a Span
Let friends & kindred weepe no more
Here's all the odds - I went afore"*

[Note. Glover of the High House was attacked and killed by two persons at the White Hart, Wickham Market. In the register his burial is entered as on June 23rd.]

The stone on the South side is inscribed:-

*"Here lyeth interred the Body of Edwin Blenerhayset, the youngest son of
Samuel Blenerhayset of Loudham Esquire, June 1641.
Not that he needeth the monument of ston
For his well gotten fame to rest uppon
But this was laid to testifie that hee
Lives in their love yet great survyving bee
For unto virtue who first raised his name
He left the preservation of the Saine
And to posterity remaine it shall
When brasse and marble monuments shall fail"*

The window on the East side of the Chancel door (South side of the Church) contains three armorial shields. The one at the top are the Arms of Bishop Goldwell, Bishop of Norwich from 1472 to 1498-99. The Arms on the left hand side are those of Thomas de Brotherton, and those on the right are the Mowbray Arms.

Thomas de Brotherton was the son of Edward I, eldest of his second wife, and brother of Edward II. He was born on June 1st 1300 and was created Earl of Norfolk in 1312. He died in 1338 and was buried at Bury St. Edmunds. His eldest daughter Margaret married John, Lord Segrave. She was afterwards created Duchess of Norfolk. Their daughter Elizabeth married John, 4th Lord Mowbray.

Thomas de Brotherton's next daughter, Alice, married Edward Montagu (or de Montecule). Their daughter, Joan, married William de Ufford, 2nd Earl of Suffolk.

The Brotherton and the Mowbray Arms are borne by the present Duke of Norfolk, and also the present Earl of Suffolk.

It is stated in the Bibl;Iop;Brit; that these Arms were formerly in the East Window.

The window on the West side of the door was put in by Mrs. Jermyn Pratt in 1870, to the memory of her husband who was Rector from 1836 to 1867. There is also coloured glass - but of no interest - in a window on the North side of the Chancel.

On the Chancel floor, opposite the altar, is a tombstone with the inscription:-

“Here lyrth buried the Body of Mary the wife of John Braham Gent. Daughter of Ralph Darmell Esq, who died the seventh day of February Ano Dom. 1660”

From the Register we find she died in childbirth.

On the North side of the Nave the centre window alone has coloured glass. On the South side the window nearest the Chancel has coloured glass with figures of “Faith” and “Hope”, and beneath, in a brass plate, is inscribed:-

“To the beloved memory of John George Sheppard of Ashe House, born 30th January, 1824. Departed this life on Whit Sunday 28th May, 1882. Tenderly loved and deeply mourned. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, & their works do follow them. This window is given by his sorrowing widow”.

On the wall below this is another brass plate:-

“To the dear Memory of Corinne du Jongard who died 6th August 1899, aged 80, for many years the devoted Assistant and Friend of Lord & Lady Wensleydale: the loving and talented instructress of their daughter Alice Lowther & of her children, who erect this Tablet as a memorial of their gratitude & affection. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

On the South side of the Chancel is a marble tablet:-

“In loving memory of Emily Mair, the devoted nurse & friend for more than XXX years of the family of Frederick 5th Baron Rendlesham, by whom this tablet is erected. MDCCCXCV”.

In the Nave, South side:-

“To the memory of John Wilson Sheppard Esq., late of this Parish, who departed this life April 2nd 1830 in the 32nd year of his age. This tablet is erected as a tribute of affection by his afflicted widow, who with four children lament their irreparable loss.

*‘Mark the perfect man, & behold the upright,
For the end of that man is peace’”*

Others:-

“Sacred to the memory of Frederick Sheppard, Lieutenant in the 4th or King's Own Regiment of Foot, and 5th Son of John Sheppard of Campsey Ash in the County of Suffolk Esquire. His career was short but glorious. In 1806 he entered into the Army and was present the following year at the siege and capture of Copenhagen. He afterwards sailed with Sir John Moore to Gothenburg and from thence to Portugal: he traversed that kingdom and Spain as far as

Salamanca; endured the hardships of the retreat with greatest fortitude: & carried the King's colours at the memorable Battle of Communa. He went on the expedition to Zealand where he beheld the fall of Flushing: Was in Garrison at Gibraltar, and thence removed to Centra, where anxious to distinguish himself in the field of honour he hastened to join the army serving under Lord Wellington before Badojuz, in storming which Fortress April 6th 1812 he received a musquet ball through his thigh, of which wound to the universal regret he died six days after, in the 22nd year of his life, and his remains were honourably interred on the Ramparts where he so gloriously fell.

*'What tho' thy bones, lamented Frederick, lie,
beneath the aspect of a foreign sky
Mid Badojuz's ramparts with no stone to tell
Or mark the spot where youthful valour fell
Yet to high Heav'n our own thanks we still return
For shelter nobler than the scripted urn''.*

"In affectionate remembrance of Letitia, relict of John Sheppard Esq. of the High House in this Parish. She died February 17th 1846 aged 73 years. She delivered the poor that cried often fatherless & him had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon her. Job xxix 12.13"

"In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of John Sheppard Esq. late of this Parish, who died January 31st, 1824 aged 56. His life, although principally passed in retirement, yet was marked by the exercise of those social & domestic virtues which endear man to society & ensure him respect. His manners were mild and conciliating. His principles loyal & steady. His piety pure and unaffected, & his death tranquil & resigned. His loss will be long & deeply felt by his numerous friends, but most of all by his afflicted widow & son, who have caused this tablet to be erected to his memory as a small token of their affection."

On the West wall:-

"To the memory of Francis Tomblin, who died at Leamington May 1st, aged 54 years. This Tablet is erected in grateful remembrance of her faithful services by the family to whom for the period of nineteen years was a tender & affectionate nurse. The memory of the just is blessed. Prov.x7."

GRAVES IN THE CHURCHYARD - from MSS in Ipswich Free Library

In the churchyard outside the Chancel door is a stone slab:-

“Here lies the Body of John Sheppard of Ash in the Co. of Suffolk, Gent, who departed this life February 14 1669. Here also lies the Body of John Sheppard, son of the above named John, who departed this life, June 11 1671.”

Much of this inscription is obliterated now.

In Bibliography of: Brit: it is stated that on a stone in the churchyard is the following inscription, (but I have not been able to trace it):-

“In memory of Sarah, the wife of Philip Wade, who departed this life March 26, aged 69 years. She was honest in her time, a loving mother to her seven children. John, Samuel, Sarah & Mary she see die. Also soon after they five by her lie.”

In the same book there is a statement:-

“On 2 large flat stones there have been brasses, now gone: on one of them the figure of a man & his wife, 3 sons and 6 daughters.”

(This would refer to the inside of the church, but are there no traces of such stones now).

*“In memory of Thomas Beeden, who died Feb. 10 1815, aged 65 years.
Thomas had talents for a wider sphere
Wherein his genius to employ
But fate fixed here his liberal mind’s career
Perhaps life better to enjoy
His brotherly kindness, his unwearied care
And dealings proved his morals honest were.”*

*In memory of Jonathan Beeden, who died Jan. 17 1816, aged 50 years.
Beneath the verdure of this earthen chest
Are laid the garments of a soul undressed
But t’is decreed that they awhile must lie
Till times shall end, & death itself shall die -
Then will the Saviour model them afresh
And change this tattered raiment of the flesh
Like to his own: for that’s a heavenly mode
Fit to enrobe a favourite of God.”*

THE COMMUNION PLATE

The Church possesses a very handsome and valuable set of Communion Vessels, the oldest piece being the Chalice with a cover, which when inserted would serve as a paten.

- FLAGON** - silver, height 11½ inches; weight 1lb.6½ ounces
 - engraved with the Arms & Crest of the Blenerhaysets, and the inscription:-
“The gift of Edwin Blenerhayset Esquire Anno Do 1641.”
- PATENS** - silver, height 1⁹/₁₆ inches; weight 5¾ ounces
 - with the Blenerhayset Arms on the bottom, & the inscription round the under side.
- CHALICE** - silver (gilt inside); height 6½ inches; weight 8¾ ounces
- COVER** - to ditto, silver (gilt inside); height 1⅛ inches; weight 5 ounces
 - with “1569” inscribed on the top
- SPOON** - silver, with figure of Apostle at the end of the handle (modern)

The Blenerhaysets (or Blennerhassets) originally came from Norfolk. One Ralph Blenerhayset married Joan, daughter & heiress of Sir John Lowdham, of Lowdham, & widow of Thomas Heveningham. This was about the middle of the 15th Century. The Lowdham property passed to the Blenerhaysets by right of that marriage. The aforesaid Joan survived her second husband, Ralph Blenerhayset, dying in 1501 at the age of 97. Her son, John, who succeeded, was 77 years old when his mother died.

The donor of the Communion Plate died in the same year in which he gave the plate. In the Register the entry is:-

“Mr Edward Haysett was buried June the 10th 1641” (Haysett instead of Blenerhayset is curious).

There are two brass Alms Dishes - one bearing the words *“God loveth a cheerful giver”* & the other *“Give Alms of thy goods”*. On the bottom of each is engraved:-

Campsea Ashe, & dono Jermyn Pratt. Rector 1843”

The Church Sittings at the end of 1914

Chancel - 1 Clergy desk. Seats for 18 adult Choir men & woman (& girls), & 13 Choir Boys.

Nave (North Side)	<u>Pew No.</u>	<u>No. of Sittings</u>	
	1	4	Free (under Pulpit)
	2	4	H.G. Papillon
	3	2	I. Fulcher
	3	2	Free
	4	4	Free
	5	4	Rectory
	6	4	Churchwardens
	7	4	Free
	8	2	A. Andrews
	9	2	Mr. Norfolk
	9	4	Mr. Lowther's Household
	10	4	- ditto -
	11-18	32	Free
	19	2	Churchwardens
		= 74	

Nave (South Side)	1	4	Lord Rendlesham
	2	4	The Speaker (Mr. J.W. Lowther)
	3	4	- ditto -
	4	4	The Misses Reade
	5-8	16	Free
	9	4	Miss Ling
	10	4	Free
	11	4	Rectory Household
	12-20	36	Free (caretaker has one of these)
	21	2	Free
		= 82	

In The Nave Appropriated 52; Free 104; Total 156

THE CLERGY

Probably 1312, the date of the institution of the first Rector on the following list, marks the time when the present Church was built

It is quite possible that the list is incomplete. It seems hardly likely that there would only be three rectors between 1312 & 1447 (135 years).

Galfridus de Castre	instituted	1312
John de Shaftsbury	- ditto -	1361
William Tyken	- ditto -	1395
Thomas Brown	- ditto -	1447
* Alexander Inglysh	- ditto -	?
Edmund Briggett	- ditto -	?
** John Leycester	- ditto -	1505
John Bredlaughe (or Bradlaughe)	- ditto -	1506
John Hecker	- ditto -	1510
John Shery (or Shrery)	- ditto -	1533
* John Hoode	- ditto -	1534
* Thomas Borough	- ditto -	1554
John Aldham	- ditto -	1561
Henry Townrowe	- ditto -	1584
William Farrer	- ditto -	1607
Robert Camborne	- ditto -	1637
* Samuel Stubbinge	- ditto -	1671
Edmund French	- ditto -	1677
Samuel Fenn	- ditto -	1692
Isaac Carew	- ditto -	1719
Thomas Bishop	- ditto -	1751
* William Stewart	- ditto -	1778
* Samuel Kilderbee	- ditto -	1784
* George Frederick Tavel	- ditto -	1817
Joseph Parson	- ditto -	1829
Jermyn Pratt	- ditto -	1836
* Henry Edward Knatchbull	- ditto -	1867
* Godwyn Alfred Archer	- ditto -	1876
* Christopher Hodgson	- ditto -	1891
* Francis Granville Lewis Lucas	- ditto -	1906
* Charles Page Cory (Archdeacon)	- ditto -	1915
William Robert Park	- ditto -	1937

* see notes below

** from records in Norwich Diocese Registry, I find that John Leycester was instituted "on death of Edmund Briggett". Therefore Inglysh must have preceded him.

Notes on the Rectors

John Hoode – No record of him to be found in the Diocesan Registry at Norwich. John Hoode was deprived of his living in 1554, for what cause I do not know.

Samuel Stubbinge – Stubbinge or Stubbin Samuel. Son of Samuel Stubbin of Naughton, Suffolk & grandson of Edmund S. who was also Rector & Patron of Naughton.

Kilderbee – was also Rector of Trimley St. Martin while Rector of Campsea Ashe, but he apparently did little or no duty there except by a curate whom he kept there.

The following are a few more particulars of some of the Rectors:-

Inglysh, Alexander – Brass on the floor of the Nave. How long he was Rector is not known.

Leycester, John – appears to have been Rector here for only one year – 1505. He was L.L.B.; Commissary General of Suffolk, Vicar of Stoke Nayland & Rector of Stoke Aspal.

Burgh (or Borough), Thomas – he was Rector of Marlesford in 1519.

Stewart, William – was Curate here from 1775 before becoming Rector in 1778.

Kilderbee, Samuel – His parents lived at Great (then called North) Glemham. There is a tablet in the Church of that place to mark the memory of his father (Samuel) and mother (Mary) both of whom died at the age of 87. S.K. restored our Church. He had the degree of D.D. & became Rector at Easton in 1817.

Tavel, G.F. – Was a fellow of Trinity College Cambridge & many years tutor of that College. In 1811 he became Vicar of Kellington (York). At the same time married Lady Augusta Fitzroy, fourth daughter of the third Duke of Grafton. He became Rector of Campsea Ashe in 1817. The following year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1828 he became Rector of Euston and died the following year.

Knatchbull, H.E. – before coming to Campsea Ashe in 1867 he was Vicar of North Elmham. He was in the Oxford Cricket XI, 1827-29. Knatchbull died at Campsea Ashe on August 31st 1876 but was buried elsewhere.

Archer, G.A. – Was educated at Charterhouse School & Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon 1864, Priest 1865. Was Curate of Hilgay (1864-66), Freethorpe (1866-70), Sutton, Suffolk (1870-72), Vicar of Butley (1872-76), Rector of Campsea Ashe (1876-91), Chaplain of Brockwood Necropolis (1895-1904). Now retired.

Hodgson, C. – Ordained Deacon 1855, Priest 1856. Curate of Burgh (1855-58), Vicar of Playford (1858-71), PC of Culph (1860-71), Rector of Braithwell (1871-91), Rector of Campsea Ashe (1891-1906). Died here.

Lucas, F.G.L. – Educated at Harrow (1876-80) & Trinity College Cambridge (1880-83). Ordained Deacon 1885, Priest 1886. Curate of St. Margaret's Westminster (1885-87), Rector of Ashted, Surrey (1887-1906), Rector of Campsea Ashe 1906. Resigned owing to deafness in September 1915.

Cory, C.P. – St. John's College Cambridge, B.A. 1882. M.A. 1892. Ordained Deacon 1883, Priest 1885. Curate of Bexley (1884), Vice Principal of St. Paul's College, Madagascar (1884-90). Held various posts in Burmah from 1892. Archdeacon of Rangoon from 1906. Rector of Campsea Ashe 1915.

The following Curates are mentioned in the Registers:-

Richard Houseden	1628
John Simpson	1629
Edmund Sugden	1673
Thomas Chilton	1749-51
Edward Williams	1754-75
Richard Taylor	1775
William Stewart	1776
George Denison	1779-81
Peter Lattbury	1783
Jacob Chilton	1813
Arthur Hanbury	1856-57
William R. Villiers	1858-59
H. Harper Green	1860
Augustus Legge	1860-67

Some of the above were possibly Curates-in-Charge during a vacancy; some may have been employed owing to the Rector holding more than one living.

Mr. Jermyn Pratt appears to have 'kept a Curate' during the last eleven years of his incumbency.

A. Hanbury – Trinity College Cambridge. Deacon 1855, Priest 1856. On leaving Campsea Ashe he went as Curate to Bures where he remained until 1873. According to 'Crockford' he has held no 'cure' since then, but is still alive.

Augustus Legge – Ch:Ch: Oxford – Deacon 1858, Priest 1859. Curate of Honing, Norfolk 1858-60, Curate of Campsea Ashe 1860-67, Vicar of North Glemham 1867-94. (NB. H.E. Knatchbull resigned the Vicarage of North Glemham to come to Campsea Ashe). Legge retired into private life in 1894. His uncle, Rev. William Legge (nephew of the third Earl of Dartmouth) was Rector of my former parish, Ashted, Surrey, from 1826-72.

The following Rectors are known to have been buried in our churchyard:-

Henry Townrowe	December 10th 1607
Robert Camborne	June 2nd 1674
Samuel Stubbinge	September 21st 1677
Edmund French	December 23rd 1692
Samuel Fenn	December 1718

Apparently no other Rector was buried here until Christopher Hodgson in July 1906.

PATRONS OF THE LIVING

- 1312 Alice, Countess of Norfolk** – widow of Roger Bigod, the seventh and last Earl of Norfolk of the Bigod family. He died 1305-06
- 1361 Mary, Countess of Norfolk** – widow of Thomas de Brotherton, second son of Edward I, who was created Earl of Norfolk. Their grand-daughter Joan married William de Ufford, second Earl of Suffolk.
- 1391 Margaret, Countess of Norfolk** – eldest daughter of Thomas de Brotherton. She was created Duchess of Norfolk for life in 1397. She married first John, Lord Seagrave, and second Sir Walter Manny. Her daughter Elizabeth (Segrave) married John, fourth Lord Mowbray. The Duchess died March 24th 1399.
- 1447 John, Viscount Beaumont** – in right of Catherine his wife, widow of John Mowbray, second Duke of Norfolk.
- 1505 Thomas Howard, Second Duke of Norfolk** – of the Howard line, and Earl of Surrey. He died at Framlingham Castle, May 21st 1514, aged 80, and was buried at Thetford Abbey.
- 1533 Thomas Howard, Third Duke of Norfolk** – whose first wife was Anne, third daughter of Edward IV.
- 1561 William, Lord Willoughby of Parham** – created Baron in 1547. He obtained the Abbey Estate when the dissolution took place, and the Manor of Ash.
- 1581 Viscountess Hereford**
- 1607 Thomas Howard** – elder son of Thomas, Fourth Duke of Norfolk – created Earl of Suffolk; died 1626.
- 1637 Theophilus Howard**, Second Earl of Suffolk
- 1671 John Brame** (or Braham) of Park House
- 1672 Deborah Brame** – widow of John Brame
- 1751 Elizabeth & Jane Brame**. At the end of the 18th Century, on the death of these two sisters, the Patronage passed by purchase of their estate to **Peter Thelluson**, and thus to his descendent **Lord Rendlesham**, the present Patron.

The above list is incomplete, containing only the Patrons at dates corresponding to the appointments of Rectors. Page says that the advowson was always appendent to the Manor of Ash and that the present Park House is the old Manor House.

THE RECTORY

When I was presented to the living in 1906, the Rectory House was in a very bad state of repair. The thatched roof was in a very dilapidated condition and freely let the rain in. The best part of the house was very inconveniently arranged and in very bad repair. All the outside walls, except those of the Drawing Room and the rooms above it were of lathe and plaster.

It was decided to pull down all the fabric west of the front door and rebuild with brick walls, cemented on the outside. The thatched roof was replaced with red tiles and various other alterations were made including new drainage, pumping apparatus, acetylene gas etc.

The result is a very charming and comfortable house, with a delightful garden and other amenities.

The Glebe consists of 9 acres, 3 rods, including the churchyard!

1.	Rectory & Garden	2A	2R	34P	No.163 on Tithe Map
2.	Churchyard	1A	1A	0P	No.164
3.	Longfield or Pightle (north side of road, opposite front gates)		1R	31P	No.162
3	ditto			34P	No.165
4.	First Pound Piece (or blacksmith's meadow)	1A	2R	0P	No.244
5.	Second Pound Piece	3A	0R	37P	No.245

A meadow of about 4A adjoining the Rectory Garden on the south and west sides has apparently for many years been rented by the successive Rectors for Lord Rendlesham. In this meadow I have laid down lawn tennis courts, planted apple trees, roses, etc.

The Tithe Rent Charge of the Living was commuted at £432, under the Act of 1836. The Act did not come into operation in this parish until 1841. The value of that Tithe Rent this year (1911) is only £307-12s-3½d. Rates, taxes etc. reduce the value to £236.

There is a charge of £14-5s-0d payable on institution, to Queen Anne's Bounty as 'First Fruits' and an annual charge, one each Christmas, of £1-9s-0d, also payable to Q.A.B. as 'Tenths'.

The land tax on the Rectory (£11-12s-0d) is payable to Admiral Sir Algenon de Horsey (of Cowes, Isle of Wight) each Michaelmas.

The Tithe Map and apportionment, made in 1838, are kept at the Rectory. Some interesting particulars about the old moduses (or compositions agreed upon between the Rector and the tithe payers previous to the Tithe Commutation Act, 1836), are set forth later on.

In addition to the Tithes, there is a sum of 30/- due to the Rector each Michaelmas in lieu of certain 'Mowing Rights' in a field belonging to the Abbey Estate.

Admiral Sir Algenon Frederick Rous de Horsey KEB was Spenser de Horsey of Great Glemham; his mother was the daughter of the first Lord Stradbroke. He was born in 1827. The said Spenser de Horsey was son of the Rev. Samuel Kilderbee, Rector of Campsea Ashe (1784-1817) and he was born in 1790. In 1808 he took the name of Horsey in addition to and preceding that of Kilderbee, Horsey being his mother's name. The name was later changed to de Horsey and the Kilderbee was dropped.

About 111 acres of land, including most of the cottage in the parish and some land on the Abbey Estate are Tithe free. When the railway was made in 1858 the amount of land taken by the Company was estimated at 30A 2R 7P on which a commuted Tithe rent charge of £9-9s-10d was payable. But in 1910 the Company obtained a revision of the Apportionment whereby the amount of land occupied by them was entered as 27A 0R 15P and the Tithe rent charge at £7-10s – the balance of the Tithe Rent Charge being divided between the adjoining landowners.

THE CHURCHWARDENS

No complete list of the Churchwardens is available, but the following names have been collected from the Registers, Vestry Books and Churchwardens' Account Books.

1598	Robert Reynolds & Jeffery Wright
1599	William Glover & Edward Colman
1601	John Lane & Lawrence Pellor
1603	John Lane & Nicholas Edgar
1693	Henry Clark & Robert Jolly
1754	John Nunn & ?
1792	John King & ? Sutton
1794	John King & N.H. Chandler
1801	Thomas Woodward & ?
1806	Thomas Woodward & ?
1827	John Goodwyn & George Wincup
1829-32	Philip Rackham & Cornelius Green
1833	John Goodwyn & Cornelius Green
1834	John Goodwyn & George Wincup
1835-36	John Goodwyn & Edward Scofield
1837-38	Lewis Fish & Henry Jeffries
1839-40	Lewis Fish & Edward Scofield
1841-42	Lewis Fish & Henry Jeffries
1843	Lewis Fish & Robert Rackham
1844	Lewis Fish & Edward Self
1845	John George Sheppard & Edward Self
1846-47	Robert Rackham & Henry Jeffries
1848	John George Sheppard & George Fish
1849-50	John Sawyer & William Newson
1851	?
1854	George Smith & Samuel Jaye
1855	John Sawyer & Samuel Jaye
1856	Walter Burch*

[NB. *the Rector, Jermyn Pratt, did not appoint his Warden as he proposed to resign the living. However, he did not resign until 1860*].

1857-62	Walter Burch
1863-68	John George Sheppard & Samuel Jaye
1869-77	John George Sheppard & James Buxton
1878-79	Lord Rendlesham & James Buxton
1880-81	Arthur Forbes & James Buxton
1882-83	J.B. Kingscote & James Buxton
1884-85	J.B. Kingscote & James Buxton
1886-88	Hon. W. Lowther & W. Minter
1889-1903	Hon. W. Lowther & James Buxton
1904-05	Reuben Rackham & James Buxton

1906	Reuben Rackham & William Ling
1907	A. Carlyle Smith & William Ling
1908	William Paston Girling & William Ling
1909	William Paston Girling & William Ling [NB. <i>William Ling died in May 1909 and Lord Rendlesham was appointed</i>]
1910	Lord Rendlesham & William Paston Girling
1911	Lord Rendlesham & William Paston Girling [NB. H. Rogers appointed Dec. 1911 in the place of Lord Rendlesham, who died in November.]
1912	William Paston Girling (Rector's) & Henry Rogers (Parish)
1913-14	William Paston Girling (Rector's) & Henry Rogers (Parish)
1915	William Paston Girling (Rector's) & Henry Rogers (Parish)

THE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT BOOKS

No book has been preserved earlier than that of 1829, and no entries of any great interest are to be found, but the following may be noted:-

In the earliest book there are the Answers supplied to Questions put by the Archdeacon for the purposes of his Visitation, amongst which are:-

Q. *"How often has the Lord's Supper been celebrated in your Church since Easter 1829?"*

A. *"Four Times."*

Q. *"How often is Divine Service performed in your Church?"*

A. *"Every Sunday."*

A contribution of 10/- a year was made out of the Church Funds towards the maintenance of a Fire-Engine kept at Wickham Market. From the Vestry Minute Book (meeting on April 18 1844) we learn that the Parishioners of Campsea Ashe *"were parties to the purchase of the Engine, now kept at Wickham Market, and have for several years sent a man to work the same on Easter Monday and have also for several years contributed to repair the same."*

There are various bills:-

"for killing sparrows"

"for ringing bells"

"for 'Harvest Hours 7s.6d."

"for the King's Funeral 5s." [In 1830 – George IV]

"for 3 Prayers & a Proclamation - 4s." [1830]

"for 2 Prayers for the Cholera - 2s." [1831]

"for 2 Prayers for the Prince of Wales - 2s." [1842]

"for postage of a letter to the Churchwardens – 10d."

"for cleaning the Churchyard – 1s.4d. for a day's work"

In the 'seventies' there is a charge of 3s.6d *"for attending to the children."*

In 1859-60 *"We the undersigned do agree that £66-18s be borrowed for Mr. Crabtree's claim for taking up land and cottages & that the land & cottages be transformed to the party who advances the money at five per cent per annum – signed Mr. J. Burch, Churchwarden, Samuel Jaye & Jermyn Pratt, in right of property not belonging to Churchland."*

In 1860 there is an item in the payments:-

"J.G. Sheppard Esq. – Interest on £98-18s. at 5 percent."

In 1862 a rate of 4d. in the £ was made, & Mr. Sheppard was paid off by sums of £10 or £15 each year until 1868.

Money was spent on the Tower in 1845 & 1868.

The Rent of the Church cottages and field, known as 'Town Lands' or 'Town House' figures amongst the receipts. The Church expenses were defrayed by this Rent, which varied from £10 to £12 a year, and a Church Rate, varying from 1d. to 4d. in the £, which was made when required. The Ratable Value of the Parish in 1830 was £1124-10s-0d.

NB. Compulsory Church Rates were abolished by law in 1860.

Any balance in hand at the end of the financial year (Easter) was called 'Town Stock'.

When the Parishioners were no longer willing to raise a voluntary rate the Churchwardens were generally out of pocket and in 1874 subscriptions were collected to clear the debt.

The first entry of a Collection in Church for the Church and expenses occurs in 1878 when a Quarterly Collection was made, averaging in that year about £3 per quarter.

A collection at each Sunday Service was begun in 1906.

THE VESTRY MINUTES BOOK

There are only three Vestry Books to be found:-

1. dating from 1839 to 1855
2. dating from 1855 to 1906
3. dating from 1906, still in use.

In the 1st Book: The earliest Vestry meeting recorded is that of March 27 1839 when six Parishioners were present. They appointed 2 Churchwardens, 2 Overseers, 1 Guardian, 2 Surveyors, 2 Assessors and 2 Constables.

They *“ordered that a Church Rate be laid not exceeding 1 penny-halfpenny in the pound.”*

And *“Resolved that Samuel Paternoster be paid his bill amounting to 13/- for his expenses as Constable of the Parish”* and *“that Mr. Reeve be paid for 2 stone of flour – 5s-10d. – had by James Fitch when his wife was confirmed.”*

At a meeting April 13 1841 a letter was read from the Clerk of the Union *“inquiring what was paid for taking the Census in 1831.”* No account could be found of any money paid for the purpose.

“Ordered that £3 per annum be paid to the Organist of the Parish.”

There are several entries re. the School, which will be referred to later on.

In the previous year (1840) an iron Parish Chest was purchased, and *“ordered to be placed near the stone in the Church.”*

In 1843 a “Churchwardens’ Rate” at one penny in the pound was allowed for the repairs of the Church.

In 1845 a sum of money, not exceeding £24 was ordered to be raised by rate for the purpose of sending to America a family of the name of Last. A few days later another meeting was held and it was resolved to increase the amount to £36, and eventually Henry & Harriet Last and their three children, and James & Susan Last and their child, and William Last, single man, were sent off to Montreal.

Other entries occur of money raised to emigrate persons to America.

In 1846 it was resolved *“that no person be allowed to glean before 8 in the morning or after 6 in the evening, at which times the bell will be tolled to give warning of the above hours.”*

At the same meeting *“that a new Surplice be forthwith provided at the expense of the Parish.”*

In 1847 *“a receipt for £12-15s-6d. was exhibited from the Bank of England being the subscription in the Parish Church of St. John in Campsea Ashe for the Famine in Ireland.”*

In the same year a Collection, amounting to £3-0s-11d. was made in Church *“for the Fire at St. John’s, Newfoundland.”*

Most of the entries refer to the appointment of Churchwardens and Parish Officials (Overseers etc.) and laying of Poor Rates.

In the 2nd Book there is an entry re-estimating the amount of land taken by the 'East Suffolk Railway Co.' – 30A 2R 7P (1858).

1860: *“Resolved that the Churchwardens be empowered to find sittings for the inhabitants of the Station House and also for the inhabitants of the Talbot Inn, and that no alteration in the Pews could be made till Patron Lord Rendlesham comes of age.”*

Other entries, i.e. repairs and alterations to the Church, and in the School are referred to elsewhere.

In the 3rd Book (still in use) it was resolved on the motion of the Rector that the list of fees for erection of tombstones etc. be revised, as some of the fees were considered too high (1907).

In 1910 three Communicant Lay members of the Church of England were elected to serve during the three years next ensuing as Parochial Representatives at Ruridecanal Conferences. Their names were Mr. P Girling (Churchwarden), H. Rogers (Head Gardener, Rendlesham) and E. Taylor (Head Gardener at rectory).

THE CHURCH TERRIERS

A Bishop was once upon a time paying a visit of inspection to a parish where a young clergyman had recently been appointed Rector, and in the course of his enquiries he asked "*Have you any terriers, Mr?*" To which he received the reply "*No, my Lord, but I have got a couple of spaniels.*"

The Terriers to which the Bishop was referring were not of the canine nature, but the Documents in which the lands (Latin: terra) and other property of the Church are described.

Whenever a Bishop holds a formal Visitation, the Churchwardens are supposed to prepare and present to him a *Terrier*.

In the Iron Chest in our Church are 10 Terriers, the earliest is:-

1st Terrier dated 1794.

As it is a somewhat curious document I give it in full:-

"A true Terrier of all the Glebelands and Messuages, Tenements, Tithes, Portions of Tithes, and other Rights belonging to the Rectory and Parish Church of Campsea Ashe, otherwise Ash next Campsey in the county of Suffolk and diocese of Norwich, and now in the Use and Possession of the reverend James Kilderbee (Master of Arts) Rector there or his Tenants - Taken made and renewed according to the old evidences and the knowledge of the ancient inhabitants at a Vestry holds this Second day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Four, pursuant to due and legal notice given in Church on Sunday last for that Purpose and Exhibited in the primary Visitation of the Right Reverend Father in God, Charles Lord Bishop of Norwich, holden at Woodbridge in the county and Diocese aforesaid on Thursday the Nineteenth day of June in the year aforesaid:-

1st ITEM - One Parsonage house with appurtenances partly built with brick and partly with Lathe and Plaster with the yards and gardens adjoining to the same, containing by a late admeasurement, One Acre, Three Roods and Fourteen Perches. The Parsonage House is thatched with Reed. One Barn with two stables adjoining partly boarded and partly daubed with clay, and thatched in part with Reed and in Part with Straw. A Chaise House near the Barn with a Cowhouse and another small Outhouse under the same roof, all of them boarded on the sides and ends, partly thatched with Reed and partly covered with Tiles, which said Parsonage and Buildings with the yards and buildings do abut part upon the King's Highway leading from the Church of Ash towards Wickham Market on the part of the North, and in Part upon the Piece of Land hereafter mentioned called the Orchard or Hempland on the part of the South, and upon the Churchyard of Ash aforesaid in part on the Parts of the East and North and upon the Road leading from the Church of Ash aforesaid towards Rendlesham in part on the part of the South East and upon the land of John Revett Esquire called Ash Park in part on the part of the South and upon the piece of land hereinafter mentioned called the Orchard or Hempland on the part of the West.

One piece of Land called the Orchard or Hempland containing three Roods abutting upon a part of the Yards and Gardens aforesaid on the parts of the North and East and upon the Lands of John Revett Esquire called Ash Park on the parts of the South and West. One other Piece of Land called the Pightle otherwise the Long Field containing three Roods, two Perches, lying opposite to the North End of the Barn aforesaid and abutting upon the King's Highway aforesaid leading from the

Church of Ash aforesaid towards Wickham Market on the part of the South and on all other parts of Lands of John Sheppard Esquire.

One Piece of Land called the Great Field otherwise the Pound Piece containing five acres and eight perches, abutting upon the lands late of the aforesaid John Revett Esquire on the parts of the North and South, and upon the Highway leading from Ash Church to Ash Green on the parts of the North East and east and upon the Highway leading from Ash Green to Rendlesham on the part of the South West. And also the Mowing Rights of two acres Meadowland lying within a certain meadow of Jacob Whitbread Esquire called Great Meadow and doled out from the same meadow and are bounded thereby on the parts of the North and South and on the East End by a River near Campsey Meer and on the West End by the old River there.

2nd ITEM - All Tithes of Corn and Grain in their proper kinds within the said Parish are paid to the Rector save and except six acres of land being part of a Field called Peascroft belonging to the said Jacob Whitbread Esquire which are Tithe Free.

3rd ITEM - Customs within the said Parish are said to be as follows: for every Dairy Cow having calf that year, three pence. Also in lieu of every tenth calf in one year, two shillings. Also for every calf that falls under the number of ten (being sold), two pence, but for so many of them as are killed or weaned, one penny. Also for every gast Beast and Heifer gast ware and Bud (sic.), one Penny-halfpenny a piece. Also for a Hearth Hen at Christmas in full Discharge of Fuel, a Hen. Also at Easter every Communicant pays for an offering two pence. Also for Fruit two pence. Also a Pig and Goose the custom is thus - The Parson to have the seventh Pig or Goose in kind allowing to the Parishioner a Halfpenny apiece to make up the number of Ten and the Parishioner to allow the Parson a Halfpenny a piece for all under seven.

Mortuaries payable to the said Town according to the Statute. Also for a Marriage one shilling and sixpence. For a Burial one shilling. For a Churching sixpence. For every Hen on Good Friday Custom Eggs. The Out Townsmen to have no benefit of these Customs. The Out Townsmen to pay two shillings in the pound for their Herbage and all the rest in kind as Bloom, Whins, Wood, Corn, Hay etc.

And there are no exemptions claimed from the payment of Tithes that we know of except out of a farm called Campsey Abbey, a farm belonging to Jacob Whitbread Esquire who claims to be exempt from the Payment of Small Tithes for the same who now renders or delivers a Wax Mould Candle to the Rector at Christmas in lieu of Small Tithes thereof.

4th ITEM - Houses of Lands belonging to the Parish and Parish Church of Campsey Ash aforesaid, and Rents whereof (of such as are paid) are yearly received by the Churchwardens and expended about the repairs or ornaments of the said Church and other Charges belonging to their office are as follows:-

5th ITEM - One Town House in two Tenements with a small yard thereunto belonging situate upon the land belonging to the said Parish adjoining to a certain Land called Pigsted Lane towards the West.

6th ITEM - Also One piece of Town Land containing by situation two acres abutting upon the Lands of John Sheppard Esquire on the South and upon the Lands of John Revett Esquire towards the North and East and upon the said Town House and Lane called Pigsted Lane towards the West which said Town House and Town Land are now in occupation of William Beeden and Seven Pounds, seven shillings and six pence per annum.

7th ITEM - Also one piece of Barren Town land with a Sandpit therein containing by estimation one acre more or less abutting upon the road leading from Ash Church to Marlesford towards the North West and upon the Road leading from Ash Green to Wickham Market towards the North East and upon the Lands of the said John Sheppard towards the South upon which piece of Land a Messuage has been built and is now standing called the Bucks Head and in the occupation of Samuel Beeden.

8th ITEM - The Rector keeps in Repair the Parsonage House and the Buildings on the Glebe Lands and also the Chancel of the church, but the Parish repair the Body of the Church, the Vestry and the Steeple. The North and East fences of the Churchyard have been constantly repaired and kept up by the Parish, the South and West fences have been kept in repair by the Rector but under what particular Right the Rector had repaired and kept in upon the South and West fences of the Churchyard is not known.

9th ITEM - The Wages of the Parish Clerk and Sexton (which offices are in one) are not by Custom, they are paid by the Parishioners. The Appointment is in the Rector. In Testimony of the Tenth of the before mentioned Particulars the Churchwardens and certain of the Chief Inhabitants have hereunder set their hands the Day and Year above within.

The Rector saves and reserves to himself and his successors a Right to object to such Customs and Exceptions as are herein before set forth and named as may not be good and valid in Law, and such he does not by signing this Terrier intend in any manners to establish or confirm.

Sam Kilderbee	Rector
N.H Chandler	Churchwarden
John King	Churchwarden
John Sheppard	
Jacob Whitbread	
The mark of + John Balls	
John Rackham	CHIEF INHABITANTS
William Linstead	
Philip Wade	
Richard Smith	

A true note or account of all and singular the goods, Books, Ornaments and Utensils belonging to the Parish and Parish Church of Ash, otherwise Ash next Campsey, in the County of Suffolk and Diocese of Norwich.

First – One large Silver Tankard with name Edward Blenerhayset, Esq. Anno Domini 1641 being the Donor engraven upon it - Also one small Silver Cup and Cover , the Cover has the date 1569 upon it – Also one Carpet for the Communion Table of green cloth – Also one Pulpit Cloth and Cushion of Purple Cloth – Also one large fine linnen cloth for the Communion Table – Also one large Surplice of Holland – Also one Common Prayer Book – Also one large Bible of the last Translation – Also one Buriel Cloth – Also one Table of Marriage Degrees – Also one Book of Homilies – Also four Bells with their frames – the least thought to weigh about three hundred, the second about five hundred, the third about seven hundred and the largest about nine hundred weight.

N.H. Chandler – Churchwarden

[Note by F.G.L.L.: "*Charles, Bishop of Norwich*" was Charles Manners Sutton; Consecrated Bishop in 1792, and translated to Canterbury in 1805.]

The Orchard or Hempland, 1dt Item, is now part of the Rectory garden, some old apple and pear trees are still standing near the pond behind the Coachhouse. The situation of the Pit, 7th Item, seems to be inaccurately described, e.g. "*road leading from Ash Green to Wickham Market towards the N. E.*"

No mention is made of the Silver Paten in the list of Communion Plate. This was also presented by Blenerhayset. It is interesting to note that the 'Pit' was then regarded as Townland, belonging to the Parish. Subsequent Terriers show that the claim was disputed and eventually the Parish was enabled to retain only the part now occupied by the School.

With reference to the 'Mowing Rights', 1st Item, and the Wax Candle, there was a Lawsuit in 1786 about the payment of Tithes on the Abbey Farm Lands. In the course of the evidence it was shown that in the Great Meadow there was formerly a patch of land containing 2 acres, which was considered to belong to the Rector and as given in lieu of tithes on the whole meadow. This patch the Rector sometimes mowed for his own use and sometimes he sold the standing hay crop.

'The old poles or landmarks that formerly marked out this patch the Rector has destroyed all but one. Whenever the 20 acres was pastured, the tenant always paid the Rector 40s. a year for the 2 acres.'

When I became Rector I found the custom was for the Tenant to pay the Rector 30/- a year at Michaelmas in settlement of these 'Mowing Rights' – but since 1910 that sum has been paid by the Landlord (Mr. Whitbread) instead of by the tenant as the payment is clearly intended to be 'in lieu of tithes', and tithes are now payable by the landlord.

It was also shown that the Wax Candle had not been presented during the last few years. "*Mr. Stewart, when Rector (1778 to 1784) refused the tender when made to him in the usual form by Mr. Lord (tenant of the Abbey Farm) and flung the candle into the road, after which time Mr. Lord paid full tithes for all his pasture land.*" Apparently the Wax Candle was paid in lieu of tithes after this lawsuit, as it is included in the Terrier of 1794.

'The mould in which the candle was made was of Great Antiquity. The candle, a large one of green wax, valued at 1/- was usually burnt at the Rector's Tithe Feast which was held on Plough Tuesday.'

The 2nd Terrier was drawn up in 1801. There were then 2 messuages in the Pit, the 'Buck's Head' being still occupied by Sam Beeden, and the new house by Nathaniel Gray.

The 3rd Terrier in 1806; The 4th Terrier in 1827. (Then 4 houses in the Pit. Sarah Beeden, widow, kept the Inn). On a brick on the Westside of the house in the middle of the Pit now occupied by Fred Bloomfield, there is cut:-

**N.G. + C 1708
Oct RD**

This probably was 1788 originally and would be the house of N. Gray mentioned in the 2nd Terrier.

On the East Front of the next house (now occupied by Catchpole) two bricks bear these inscriptions:-

“William Gray laid this brick. July 11 1806.”

“James Larrett laid this brick July 11 1806.”

The 5th Terrier in 1834. The Pigsted Lane ‘Town Houses’ and land were then rented to, and sub-let by, the Reverend Robert Wilson, uncle and guardian of John Sheppard who was still under age. Wilson lived at the High House. There were then seven houses in ‘The Pit’. Amongst the ‘Items’ is also one School Room.

The 6th Terrier, 1845. The payment of tithes in kind had been altered by Law in 1836 to a yearly Tithe Rent Charge. The amount payable in this Parish being commuted at £432. There were then eight houses in ‘The Pit’. The Terrier states that “*The Right of this Town Pit is now disputed by John Cobbold Esq., of Ipswich.*”

The 7th Terrier, 1865; The 8th in 1872. This contains the entry “The Parishioners no longer claim any Right over the Barren Landpit a set forth in former Terriers. The greater part of the said Pit having become alienated by long adverse occupation, the Parishioners in Vestry assembled on July 1st, one thousand eight hundred and seventy one granted a portion thereof about half an acre to which their Tithe was unquestioned to the Guardians of the Poor of the Plomesgate Union who by a Deed dated September twenty fifth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy one, transferred the same to the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being of the Parish of Campsey Ash as perpetual Trustees of the School and Premises thereon erected and added to in 1871 for the Instruction of Children of labouring classes according to the Doctrines of the Church of England.”

The 9th Terrier in 1894. A footnote was added to this Terrier in 1901 confirming the particulars contained therein to avoid the necessity of drawing up a new Terrier.

The 10th was in 1908.

A new Terrier was drawn up in 1912 for Primary Visitation of Bishop Pollock, Norwich.

THE CHURCH REGISTERS

In 1538 orders were issued at the instigation of Thomas Cromwell, Vicar General of Henry VIII that in every Parish all Baptisms, Marriages and Burials should be duly registered; but this order was not by any means generally obeyed and very few parishes possess Registers of that date.

The order was repeated in more rigorous terms on the accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1558, but even then some parsons appear to have disregarded the order.

The parson at Campsea Ashe, however, rendered due obedience and our earliest Registers date from 1559. It consists of a volume, about 12½ inches by 10 inches, of parchment leaves bound in brown leather. There are 69 pages, half of the last page being torn away and missing, and there is a hole in the middle of the adjoining 4 pages. The Register is in fairly good condition but some of the ink is faded and some of the writing very difficult to decipher.

This book, as a matter of fact, was not the first Register used. In 1597 it was ordered that parchment Register books should be purchased at the expense of each parish and that all the entries in the original books which were of paper should be hand-scripted into the new parchment books. It is evident that this took place in our parish because all the entries from 1559 to 1598 are in the same handwriting and are entered with regularity, and the names of the Churchwardens who signed on the bottom are not in their own handwriting.

All the Registers have been numbered on the outside after the cover to facilitate reference.

No.1 Register contains baptisms, marriages and burials from 1559 to 1697. The writing is not easy to read as many of the letters are similar to the present German written characters and many of the words are strangely spelt and abbreviated.

The entries are headed with:-

1559 *“The Register of the Church of Ashe next Campessey for Marryings, Chrysnings and Burryages from the yeare of our Lord God 1559 and the first year of the Raigne of our Sovaryne Ladye Elizabeth the Queens Matie that nowe is.”*

The first entry is that of the marriage of one William Porter to Joan Smalleye:-

1559 *“William Porter was married to Joan Smalleye the VII daye of August 9 1559”*

Poor Porter's married life seems to have been sadly brief for the very next entry is that of the burial of William Porter, presumably the same man, 7 days later.

From August to the following February inclusive [NB. At that period the Civil year began on March 25th, Lady Day and not on Jan. 1st.], there were 2 baptisms, 4 marriages and 3 burials.

Joan, or Jone, was a favourite name in those days as it appears 15 times in the first 10 years' entries. Amongst the unusual Christian names may be mentioned – seven Thomasinge or Tomyson, Kinborowe, Prysilla or Priscilla, Raphe, Elisabeth, Ophly, Mathewe (a girl), Eusebins, Nutta, Reason, Ewphan, Golther, Abie, Alce, Garvice or Gervace, Pleasance, Finet, Gosian, Gisp, Happy, Delf, Ebbygel, Bytrasse, Josedeck and various Old Testament names.

Until towards the end of the 17th Century a capital F was written ff.

On the first page is recorded the burial, on the 16th April 1560 of John Lane, the then owner of the Abbey.

The word 'baptised' instead of christened first appears in 1575.

Sundry entries:-

1571 *"Mother Rendlesome was buried the 16 daye of Januarie."*

1607 *"Henry Townsome pson [parson] of Ashe was buried the Tenth daye of December."*

1607 *"William Harrer, Clarke of psone of Ashe did reed ye articles of Religion the tenth daye of January 1607 being Sunday in ye time of Divine Service at Morning Prayer."*

1612 *"Old father Quintyne was buried the tenth day of March."*

1625 *"Katheryne and Dorothe the daughters of Thomas Townsome being tweens were baptised the xx of Februarie anno supradicto."*

"Margaret and Elizabeth the daughters of John Baldrie beinge tweens were baptised the xx of Februarie anno supradicto."

"Marie the daughter of John Baldrey was buried the xxi day of Februarie anno supradicto."

"Elizabeth the daughter of John Baldrey was buried the xxxi day of Februarie anno supradicto."

1632 *"March 10th. 'Whereas ffrancys Bristow gent and Mth Colt his daughter living in our town of Ashe have requested of me to graunt them a lycence for ye eatinge of flesh upon fasting daies and being parson of the said town of Ashe have granted their request and given them a lycence quantum in me est according to ye statute in ye case provided. Divers good causes wiging me thereunto partly set down in the lycence and partly well known unto my selfe. In witnesse whereof I have subscribed my name this day and yeare above written. William Harrer."*

1637 *" 'Robert Cambourne Clarke and parson of Ash did reade the Articles of Religion the eighth day of October one thousand and sixe hundred thirtie seavan being Sunday in the time of Divine Service at Morning Prayer. Witness John Brame. The Mark Of Edward Skinner."*

1641 *"Mr. William Glover was buried June the 23. (He was murdered)."*

1670 *"Robert Cambourne, clerke, departed this life the 19th day of ffebruary and was buried the 20th day who Rector of this Parish three and thirty yeares and 5 months as approved by this Register."*

Later on is this entry:-

1674 *"Robert Cambourne was buried June 2nd 1674."* [This was probably his son.]

1638 *"William White a waygoing man or vagrant was buried October ..."*

1653 *"February ye 24th 1653, John Green chossen and elected by the Inhabitants of the said town to be Register there was approved and allowed of by me on the day and yeare above said and sworne according to the stature. John Sheppard. William Goodwyn."*

1678 *"John Farrar ye son of Mr. Thomas Farrar late of Ormschurch in ye county of Lancaster and Elizabeth his wife was buried September 17th 1678."*

[In the margin is written]: *"John Farrar was buried in woolen according to an Act of Parliament as ... by a testimonial under ye hand of Mr. ... and it was brought within 8 days."*

Page 53 of the Register is headed "*Marriages performed according to the late Act of Parliament from February the 7 1653.*"

The 3rd Entry on the page is:-

1654 "*The agreement of marriage between William Linwell and Christian Robinson being published three tymes in fframlingham market made the marriage between them was solemnized this 24th of November 1654.*"

The next entry is:-

1654 "*Mr Thomas Smythe and Mrs Margaret Lemaur were married by Justice Sheppard the first daye of January 1654 then agreement of marriage being formally published in Ashe Church the 17, 25 & 31st dayes of December 1654 according to the Act.*"

About this period there are many entries of children being 'born' and their being baptised. This was during the Commonwealth when the Dissenters were in power.

In 1682 the then Rector enters into domestic details.

1682 "*Mary ye daughter of Edmund ffrench Rector of this Parish and Elizabeth his wife, was baptised April ye 11th and borne April ye 2nd betwixte one and two in ye morning 1682.*"

It is remarkable how the number of marriages per year varied say from 1660 to 1685.

There is no entry of any marriage in 1668, 1669, 1672, 1677 or 1680.

Only one marriage in 1661, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1670, 1671 & 1678.

Two entries in 1662, 1674 & 1679;

Three in 1673, 1674, 1676;

Five in 1660 and 1685;

Six in 1675;

Seven in 1682;

Eleven in 1681;

and Twelve in 1683.

In some cases both parties were from other parishes. No marriages are recorded between 1685 and 1693. The last part of the register seems to have been irregularly kept and the leaves inaccurately bound, e.g. the entries of 1670 to 1682, March, are found on p.57 to 60, those from 1682 to 1687 on p.55 and 56. On page 60 is one baptism which took place in 1685, followed by entries of 1689 to 1697.

The burials from 1678 to 1697 are entered on p.65 to 66, and on the last page of the book, numbered 69 and 70.

In 1666 with a view to encouraging the woollen trade, an '*Act for burying in Woollen only*' was passed but proved ineffectual. It was re-enacted with more stringent regulations in 1678.

It was then ordered that '*an affidavit in writing under the hands and seals of two or more credible witnesses and under the hand of the Magistrate or officer before whom the same was sworn*'

should be brought to the Ministers or parson within 8 days after the burial, certifying that the body had been buried *'in sheeps wool only'*. The penalty for disobeying this regulation was £5.00.

Against each burial in the Register is entered the note that the Affidavit had been duly delivered, except in one case, - *"John Davis was buried Oct ye 21 1680. There was no Affidavit brought."*

Once or twice on each page the entries are certified by some Magistrates, e.g. *"Allowed by John Brame"* or *"Allowed by John Spencer, Jo:Leman."* or *"Seen by us Ar.Jenny. Dudley North."*

This Act was not popular. Nance Oldfield the famous actress, gave directions that she should be buried in her best dress. Pope refers to this in his Moral Essays:-

*"Odious! In woolen! 'twould a saint provoke'
(Were the last words that poor Narcissa spoke)
No, let the charming chintz & Brussels lace
Wrap my cold limbs, & shade my lifeless face;
One would not, sure, be frightful when one's dead,-
And Betty, give this cheek a little red!*

The Act was repealed in 1814.

In the margin of p.59 of the Register are the following notes:-

"This year died Edward Reynolds, Bishop of Norwich, and Doctor Sparrow, Bishop of Exeter succeeded him."

"Doctor Sancroft, Dean of St. Paul's, made Archbishop of Canterbury."

[Reynolds – formerly Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, was Bishop of Norwich 1661 to 1676. Sparrow was Bishop 1676 to 1685].

Sancroft was born at Freshingfield, Suffolk, 1616. Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Ejected for refusing to sign the 'Solemn League & Covenant', went abroad and returned at the Restoration; became Master of his College 1662; Dean of York, 1663; Dean of St. Paul's 1664; Archbishop of Canterbury 1677; committed, with 6 other bishops, to the Tower in 1687 for refusing to read the Declaration of Indulgence but they were acquitted. He declined to swear allegiance to William III and was deprived of his office. He then retired to Freshingfield where he died in 1693.

On page 68 is a long list of 'Briefs' or collections made for various purposes. The page is in bad repair, having a hole in the middle of it, frayed edges and several blots; in parts the ink has quite faded away.

There is some writing at the top of the page but it is illegible except "London ... May 4th 1658."

Below comes:-

"... collected then the summe of two shillings and ninepence towards the relief of the poore inhabitants of Desford in the county of Leicester who by a lamentable fire which happende April 3 1657, as was mentioned in their brief, sustained loss to the value of 2159p.3s.6p. Robert Cambourne Rector ib."

Table of Briefs:-

Collected for a burning at Cowden in Kent the summe of	0.1.8
for the relief of the inhabitants of the parish of South Okenden in Essex	0.2.7
For a burning in ... in London	0.2.2
Collected ... South Burlingham ... 5 July in tenth yeare of ... sovereigne	0.1.0
Lord Charles ye Second	
Collected for the repairing of Condower Church in Salop the summe of	0.2.9
Collected for a burning at ... Kenham in Norfolk	0.3.1
Collected towards repairing Pomfrit Chur.	0.3.3
Collected for ...	0.3.0
Collected for ...	0.2.11
... the Collegiate Church of Rippon in Yorkshire	0.2.4
... Worcestershire	0.2.4
Collected ... Oxford	0.2.0
Collected for a burning in East Haybourne in Berks	0.1.0
Collected for Milton Abbas in County of Dorset	0.2.3
Collected for John Symms of Watingbury in Kent	0.1.1
Collected for Scarburrough Church in Yorkshire	0.2.6
Collected for John de Krains de Kraimskie	0.3.4
Collected for Dartford in Kent	0.1.10
Collected for Drayton in Salop	0.2.00
Collected for Anne Walter in the parish of Red ...? [Redhill?] in Surrey	0.1.5
Collected for Grawsford Church in Kent	0.2.01
Collected for Easing in Sussex	0.1.08
Collected for Mewhaven in Sussex	0.1.0

‘Briefs’ – so called on account of their brevity compared with the longer and more important documents known as ‘Bulls’ (from ‘bulla’ the Pope’s great leaden seal which authenticated them), were originally documents issued by the Pope and signed with the ‘Fisherman’s Seal’ (so called from the design – St. Peter drawing his net to land), and dealing with sundry matters.

In Post Reformation times, briefs were issued nominally with the authority of the Sovereign and were practically letters patent under the Privy Seal issued by the Court of Chancery, directed to the Clergy, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor requesting them to collect their alms in Church or subscriptions towards some ofenial object duly set forth in their brief, e.g. the repair of some church, compensation for loss by fire, shipwreck, cattle disease, the ransom of travellers captured by brigands etc.

The Brief was read out in Church and the Rubric which enjoins this publication still remains in our Prayer Book immediately after the Nicene Creed.

Sometimes large amounts were collected, but if the object did not appeal to the sympathies of the congregation very little was forthcoming. In one case, in 1636, out of 1476 parishes, 62 subscribed nothing; 428 gave sums varying from 1d to 11d; 480 from 1s to 2s, only 4 raised 10/- and upwards, the highest sum being 16s.6d. and the total of £135.

The system became very unpopular and was much abused. Some of the money collected stuck to the fingers of those who had the administration of it. ‘Expenses’ in connection therewith assumed

undue proportions. For the repair of St Mary's Church, Colchester, destroyed in the siege of 1648 and rebuilt in 1713, £1595-13s-6d was collected from nearly 10,000 parishes, and the expenses amounted to £330-16s-6d!

A statute to regulate the system was passed in Queen Anne's reign, but abuses still continued, until Briefs were finally abolished in 1828, although the rights of the Crown to grant 'King's Letter' were not interfered with and these rights were sometimes exercised to raise funds for religion or benevolent purposes as recently as 1842.

In 1854 an attempt to revive the system was made, but Lord Palmerston, then Home Secretary, declined to sanction it.

No.2 Register. This book – consisting of 50 parchment pages, with parchment cover, 15 inches long by only 6¾ inches wide – contains entries of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from 1698 to 1774. Half of p.15 and of p.49 is cut away.

It is noticeable what a large number of children died in infancy during the period by courses by this Register (sic.).

In the earlier years no mention is made of age, but by comparing the entries of Baptisms and Burials it is seen that many children died soon after they were baptised.

On account of this serious infant mortality it was the custom for children to be baptised very soon after their birth. Some entries contain the date of birth and of baptism on the same or following day.

Later on, 'an infant' often follows the name in the Burial entry.

From 1767 to 1769 inclusive (3 years) there were 16 burials, 8 of which were those of children. In 1770 out of 7 burials 5 were infants, in 1772, 4 out of 8, and so on. In 1765 and 1766, 6 out of 13 burials were those on 'non parishioners'.

From 1767 the age of the person buried is frequently, though not always, entered. Such entries as 'married man', 'married woman', 'widow', without any age stated are common.

1706 *"John Brane was killed by Captain Tyrrel, April ye 5th and buried April ye 8th."*

1748 *"Sir Samuel Prime Kte. One of the King's Sergeants at Law, singleman, and Mrs. Hannah Sheppard of this Parish, widow, were married August ye 21."*

1749 *"Oct ye 9th. A person unknown found dead in ye parish was buried."*

No.3 Register. Only 6½ parchment leaves, bound in brown leather – 13 inches by 8¼ inches. Several leaves have been cut out and half of page 5 is missing.

It contains Burials from 1775 to 1783, and Baptisms from 1776 to 1782.

The Burials from 1781 to 1783 and Baptisms from December 1780 to February 1782 are all copied out again on pages 11 and 13, and at the bottom of the latter page is the note:-

1785 *"These are copied from Folio 6 by me Sam Kilderbee, Rector. April 17th 1785."*

On the first page, November 1775 to June 1777, there are 10 Burials recorded – 6 being infants.

From May 1782 to August 1783, there are 12 Burials – 2 of adults (aged 38 and 32 respectively), a boy of 11, 4 children between 1 and 4 years of age and 5 ‘infants’.

1782. Amongst what are described as the ‘Burials’ of this year is that of “*Mary Niceuls, supposed to Bee an hundred years old, Buried March ye 10th 1782.*”

No.4 Register. Bound in thick white parchment cover, 11³/₄” x 9¹/₂”, in good repair, with entries neatly made.

On the first page is printed:-

“A Register for Births, Christenings & Burials, agreeable to an Act of Parliament of the twenty third year of King George III intituled ‘An Act for Granting to His Majesty a Stamp Duty of threepence on the Registry of each Burial, Marriage, Birth or Christening, from and after the first Day of October 1783.’”

On the next page are set forth the provisions of the said Act enjoining the payment of the aforesaid threepence “*under a penalty of five pounds for every entry*” ... and that “*every Parson, Vicar, Curate or other person having authority to make the entry ... is hereby vested with full Power of Authority, previous to the making thereof in the Register, to demand and receive ... the sum of threepence and upon Refusal to pay the said Duty on Demand to forfeit five pounds.*”

The Churchwarden or Overseer of the Parish is to procure the necessary stamps, to be paid for out of the Rates and to recover the money from the clergyman.

Paupers were exempt. “*The provision of this Act to extend to Quakers.*”

The Parson, or other people receiving this Duty, was “*allowed two shillings in the pound for his trouble.*”

“*No person for receiving or accounting for the Duties of this Act to be disqualified from voting at any Election of Members notwithstanding.*”

Then follow two pages of *Observations upon Register Books.* “*In accordance with Canon 70, a Parchment Book is to be provided in every church, at the charge of the Parish; and for the safe keeping of such book the Churchwardens shall provide one sure coffer with three locks and keys, whereof one to remain with the Minister and the other two with the Churchwardens severally; and upon every Sabbath Day the Minister shall write in the said Book the names of all Persons christened, married and buried; and the Minister & Churchwardens upon every page of that Book when filled shall subscribe their name.*”

By 26th Geo:II it is decreed that “*if any Person shall make any false entry or forge any entry, or destroy any such Register, he shall suffer Death as a Felon.*”!

Directions are given that the Christian & Surname of the Father, and also the maiden name of the mother of every infant that is born and baptised as to how such entries might serve to little disputes about pedigree or chains to property.

“*Some gentlemen, by way of shortness of their entries of Baptisms, say only, on 1st March, Ann of John and Mary Bond, was Baptised, without describing whether the child baptised was a son or daughter; and such gentlemen will tell you that Ann is the name of a female, consequently the child must be a daughter; but they should consider that Lord Ann Hamilton is a man, and that the Rev. Caroline H...t, and Lucy Knightly Esq., Member for Nothamptonshire are not women. Many such instances may be found.*”

The Act, imposing the Threepenny Duty was very unpopular.

In the Register of a certain church in Cambridgeshire the Parson made the following entry:-

“1783 – Oct. In the beginning of this month the nasty Threepenny Tax took place, and I expect from the great number of poor and the Rebellious Humour of the parishioners to collect but few threepences, I shall mark those that pay with a V in the Baptisms & Burials. N.B. As people are most frequently open hearted on the day of Marriage, I expect most of my Parishioners will pay the 3d on that occasion. I shall therefore mark those that do not pay with a V.”

This Act was repealed in 1794.

The entries from October 1783 to March 1785 were signed by ‘Peter Lathbury, Curate’ (presumably Curate in Charge). Subsequently the name of ‘Samuel Kilderbee – Rector’ appears. He was appointed Rector in 1784.

1790 *“Spencer, son of Samuel Kilderbee, Clk. M.A. Rector of this Parish, and Caroline his wife, (late Caroline Waddington, widow and formerly Caroline Horsey, spinster) was born September 2nd 1790, privately baptised September 2nd 1790. Received into Church November 11th 1790.”*

Above and at the side of this entry is the following:-

1808 *“Memorandum. July 8th 1808. I, Spencer Kilderbee, of the Parish of Ash next Campsey in the County of Suffolk, did take and use the name of Horsey in addition to and preceding that of Kilderbee. (signed) Spencer Kilderbee – Witness to this Memorandum July 8th 1808 – Rendlesham*, Rd. Frank D.D. of Alderton – William Browne, Clk of Framlingham. Geo: Thellusson of Rendlesham** Exd. S.K.”*

* This was Peter Isaac, first Baron, created 1806. He died in September 1808, aged 47;

** Brother of Peter Isaac Lord Rendlesham.

1794. June 16th. *“Mary Anne, infant daughter of Kilderbee, to the Rector, was buried, but the body was ‘removed to Family Vault in North Glemham Church’, June 20th 1795.”*

This is, I think, the first occasion when a double Christian name appears. The Squire and Parson seem to have started the innovation in this parish. In 1798 John Sheppard’s child was given the names of John Wilson and another child of the Rectory was called Georgianna Elizabeth.

1785 *“Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Smith, (late Elizabeth Guttridge, spinster) aged 59 years was buried May 6th 1785. Drowned herself in a fit of lunacy.”*

1793 On one page containing 6 burials, there are 2 of the Sheppard family, viz. John Sheppard Esq., married man aged 56 years, June 25th, and 2 of his daughters – Mary aged 31, March 2nd, and Elizabeth aged 34, September 14th.

1810 Jennings – *William a Private in the 48th Regt. of Foot, aged 18 years, was buried March 1st 1810.*

1810 Clarke – *John, married man from the Melton House of Industry, aged 64 years was buried March 18th.”*

Infant mortality is still very serious.

No.5 Register. A new book became necessary before No.4 was filled up, owing to the passing of an Act, the 26th of George II, entitled ‘An Act for the preventing of Clandestine Marriages.’

Four examples of how to fill up the Register are given for the guidance of the clergyman:-

1. When the Marriage is by Banns, and both parties are of age;
2. For the Marriage of a minor, by Licence, with the consent of parents or guardians;
3. By Banns when one of the parties lives in another parish;
4. By Licence and by Order of the High Court of Chancery.

The Book contains Marriages from 1754 to 1812; Banns of Marriage from 1754 to 1907.

The contracting parties are now required to sign their names to the Marriage Entry, or ‘make their mark’ and a very large proportion of the parties were obliged to accept the latter alternative. There are no entries of interest in this Register.

No. VI A Register. Baptisms from January 1813 to September 1880. A different form of entry was adopted (that which is still in use) in accordance with an Act passed in the previous year – 1812 – the 52nd of Geo:III. The penalty for willfully making false entries etc. was reduced from Death to Transportation for the term of fourteen years. No entries of special interest.

No. VI B Register. Marriages from 1813 to 1866. The form of entry is different from that now in use, no mention being then made of the age, or father’s name, or the occupation of the contracting parties, or of their respective fathers.

No. VI C Register. Burials from 1813. Still in use. There is only one entry of a centenarian: William Last, Nov. 25 1884 aged 100 years.

Infant mortality is still very prevalent, but persons managing to get through the perils and dangers of childhood generally lived to a good old age, 4 score years and upwards being frequently attained.

The following attained 90 years or more:-

1816	Harriett Kemp	aged 90
1819	Robert Kemp	aged 90
1838	Mary Sheppard	aged 90
1841	Joseph Downing	aged 90
1849	Elizabeth Beeden	aged 90
1849	Mary Berber	aged 93
1865	Esther Wasling	aged 95
1865	Sarah Barham	aged 91
1874	Mary Goodwin	aged 97
1884	William Last	aged 100
1891	Thomas Pitt	aged 90
1900	Lucy Battle	aged 93
1901	Rachel Wade	aged 92

Nine of the 13 were women.

In August of 1863 two tragedies were recorded:-

- (i) Philip Kerridge, buried Aug. 1st, aged 84 years. Note in margin – *“Run over and killed by a train near the railway station.”*
- (ii) * Ephraim Battle, buried Aug. 25th, aged 14 years. *“Killed by the bursting of a steam engine used for threshing corn.”*

No. VII Register. Duplicate books of Marriages from 1837 and still in use. A new form of entry was introduced in 1837 by Act 6 & 7 William IV. The entries in these two books, from 1837 to 1866, were either copied from No. VI B Register or else all three books were in use during that period.

No. VIII Register. Baptisms from Sept. 1880; still in use.

No. IX. Banns book from Sept. 1907; still in use.

*** Supplementary Notes from 1862-1863 Bury and Norwich Post newspaper archive*****August 25th 1863***

A frightful accident occurred on Thursday afternoon at the little village of Charsfield near Wickham Market owing to the explosion of the boiler of a portable steam engine which was engaged at work on a offhand farm in the occupation of Mr. Walter Burch of Campsea Ashe, it was followed by a destructive fire on the farm premises.

It seems Mr Burch had engaged the steam threshing machine which belongs to Mr Whitmore of Pettistree to thresh wheat. It was working well through Wednesday and Thursday until the accident, Threshing was being carried out in a small meadow close to a big meadow which was divided from the highroad by a narrow strip of garden ground.

Shortly before five in the afternoon the men got back to work after "fours" when the boiler burst with a tremendous report, the engine was carried forward with tremendous force, a distance of 14 yards and came in contact with the threshing machine, setting fire to the machine, the straw stack and the unthreshed wheat by burning coals being scattered.

Unfortunately the driver, Nathaniel Licence and a 14 year old lad named Ephraim Battle were carried with the engine which stopped by the threshing machine and fell upon the bodies of both who were probably killed instantly, a labourer named Samuel Denny was knocked down and was immediately surrounded by flames, he was pulled out at once but was found quite dead.

It is stated the poor fellow Licence leaves a wife and nine children, Denny leaves a wife and three children, Battle was only 14 years old. The inquest was held at Horse Shoes, Charsfield but adjourned.

September 1st 1863

The inquest was resumed in the schoolroom at Charsfield on the bodies of three men killed by the explosion of a boiler at Charsfield. Verdict--- the deaths were by an explosion which originated from over pressure of steam owing to the neglect of the driver.

The body of Samuel Denny was buried on Sunday afternoon in Charsfield churchyard, the burial was attended by nearly the entire population of the village. The boy Battle was buried at Campsea Ashe on Tuesday and the remains of driver Licence were buried at Wickham Market.

Walter Burch who was severely injured is much better, the injuries to Mr Ephraim Battle, father of the boy killed, are also recovering.

NB. Copied from <http://www.foxearth.org.uk/1862-1863BuryNorwichPost.html>

THE SCHOOL

The first mention of a School in our Parish archives is in the Terrier of 1834 wherein 'Also One Schoolroom' is included.

In 1839 or 1840 there was a litigation with respect to the ownership or occupation of the house attached to the school room. A Minute, in the Vestry Book, of a meeting held of Feb. 25th 1841 says:-

"Resolved that Mr. Melton, of Wickham Market, be appointed to apportion the sum expended in Court of Chancery for the recovery of the House attached to the School among the Landowners and Occupiers according to the several interest of the Persons concerned.

That notice be given to Betsy Mags to leave her cottage at Michaelmas next, which notice to be delivered duly previous to the 5th April."

Meeting, Oct. 9th 1841:- *"Resolved that the Minister and Churchwardens do on the 11th October (Michaelmas Day) take possession of the house now occupied by Elizabeth, the wife of Jonathan Mags, according to a notice duly served at Lady Day last upon the said wife of Jonathan Mags."*

Later on is a Memorandum:- *"That on the 11th of Oct. 1841 we the Minister & Churchwardens & Edward Self the Constable as a witness did on the above named day legally take possession of the cottage lately in occupation of Elizabeth the wife of Jonathan Mags, in this Parish of Campsey Ashe situated near the school and school house of the said Parish in that Part of the Property belonging to the Parish & Parish Church of the said Parish of Campsey Ashe known by the name of the Town Pit."*

*signed Jermyn Pratt - Rector
 Henry Jeffries - Churchwarden
 Lewis Fish - Churchwarden
 Edward Self - Churchwarden*

From another entry at the Vestry Meeting of Feb. 25th 1841, viz. *"That Mr. Jermyn Pratt be paid the sum he advanced for the fixtures in the School House lately occupied by William Hart and also Mr. Cotton's bill for painting the house."*

It would seem that the cottage which Betsy Mags refused to vacate was not the 'House attached to the School' or the 'School House' but a cottage 'situated near the school & school house'. That cottage was evidently the property of the 'Minister & Churchwardens'. Why is it not so now? Local tradition says this one-storeyed cottage, to the West of the School, was built with bricks that were over when the school was finished.

The ownership of this cottage having been established, it appears that Mrs. Mags was allowed to continue as occupier, for at a Vestry Meeting held Oct. 1st 1842, we find *"The Churchwardens to repair the cottage belonging to the Church inhabited by Betsy wife of Jonathan Mags."*

From the Terrier of 1845 we learn that the school had then been transferred to the Trustee of the Ipswich School Society.

In 1867 the Rev. H. E. Knatchbull, Rector, reported at a Vestry Meeting that the school was not in a satisfactory state and he promised to report further in a short time.

In 1868 the Vestry determined to take steps to “set aside the ‘Back Lane’ leading from the Buck Inn to the School Room corner.

The order for stopping up this road was made at the Midsummer Quarter Sessions held at Ipswich 1868.

At the Easter Vestry, 1870, *“the state of the school being brought before the Meeting, it was agreed that the Churchwardens should apply to the Parishioners to discharge the deficit of £3-16s-6d and call a Meeting previous to Midsummerday to determine the best course for the future.”*

At the next meeting, May 31st 1870:- *“it was determined to continue the school on its present footing”*, and to try to collect further subscriptions.

In the autumn a Sermon was preached, in the Parish Church, by Rev. J.W. Reeve of Portman Chapel London, on behalf of the school funds and £6-16s-0d was collected.

In 1870 a new Education Act was passed introducing Board Schools and compulsory attendance and at a Meeting held on Nov. 21st 1870 it was resolved *“That the present National School in connection with the Church of England be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the new Education Act and in as efficient a manner as possible under our own Parochial Superintendence”*, i.e. the school was to continue to be a Church School and not to be handed over to the School Board.

At the Easter Vestry of 1871 it was decided that the school premises and about half an acre of land on which they stand, should be formally conveyed by the Guardians of the Plomesgate Union (to whom the Parishioners delegated their rights), to the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being, and a Resolution was passed in which the Ratepayers (assessed at £20 and upwards) pledged themselves to support and efficiently maintain the school by subscribing to a Voluntary Rate not exceeding 3d in the £ on the ratable value of their several occupations. (A 2nd rate was found to be sufficient for the next few years.)

The Trust Deed, dated Sept. 25th 1871, states:-

“Whereas the Parishioners of Campsey Ash in the County of Suffolk have for many years claimed and exercised a Freehold Right over a piece of Land in the said Parish called ‘The Pit’ and have appropriated a part of the same as hereinafter described to the purposes of a Church of England School, and have built thereon from time to time certain School premises which Freehold Right has so far never been disputed. And whereas it is desirable that such a Piece of Land and buildings now and hereinafter to be erected should be vested in the hands of the Trustees. And whereas under the directions of the Poor Law Board the Parishioners in the vestry assembled after due notice given have delegated their rights over the said Property to the Guardians of the Plomesgate Union in order that the said Land and its appurtenances may be duly conveyed to the Trustees. Now we the said Guardians ... grant and convey unto the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being of the Parish of Campsey Ash and their successors all that Piece of Land ... for the Education of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing of the poorer classes ... and for no other purposes. And it is hereby declared that such school shall always be in union with and conducted according to the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the established Church ... etc. The Principal Officiating Minister for the time being of the Parish is to have the superintendence of the Religion and moral instruction of all scholars and he may use or direct the premises to be used for the purpose of a Sunday School under his exclusive control and management. But in other respects the Management is to be vested in a committee consisting of the

‘Principal Officiating Minister’, his licensed Curate or Curates if the Minister chooses to appoint him or them, and four other persons.’

In the first instance the following were appointed:-

John George Sheppard;
W. J. Alliz;
James Buxton, and
George Thurlow.

Provision is made for filling vacancies – Members of the Committee must subscribe not less than £1 a year to School funds and must have certain property qualifications in the parish. The electors must also be church people, subscribers of not less than 10/- a year.

The Master or Mistress of the School must likewise be a member of the Church of England.

Any disputes between the Rector and the rest of the Committee with regard to the Religious instruction might be deferred to the Bishop of the Diocese or any dispute connected with the secular instructions etc. to the decision of certain specified Arbitrators.

In April each year the Committee might appoint not more than 3 ladies, members of the Church of England, to *“assist them in the visitation and management of the Girls & Infants Schools”*.

In 1894 the Education Department, as it was then called, pronounced the school buildings and their situation to be unsatisfactory and requested that a new school should be rebuilt on some other site. But the Managers replied denying the allegations and declared that they could not afford to comply with the Department’s requests.

Though no further particulars are recorded, it appears that certain structural alterations were made which evidently satisfied the Department. From the old Logbook it will be seen that considerable alterations were made in the spring of 1896 and summer of 1897.

Under the Act of 1902 the School was placed under the control of the County Council with six local managers, four of whom were ‘Foundation Managers’, one was appointed by the Parish Council and one by the County Council.

The only Minute Book of the School Managers meetings dates from July 1903, when the Managers held their first meeting.

When I came to the Parish there was a Head Master, Mr. Grieg, and two female assistants, and about 86 children, several from Marlesford. But W. Grieg left in 19089 and the County Council would sanction the appointment only of a Headmistress. Several of the bigger boys and all the Marlesford contingent then left our school to attend Wickham Market or Hacheston, where the schools are under a Master and the number of our Scholars was considerably reduced. At present there are 56 children on the books, the staff consisting of a Head Mistress, Miss Goldsmith and two supplement teachers. The present Managers are:-

Rev. F. G. L. Lucas	- Correspondent
Miss Lowther;	
Mr. W. P. Girling;	
Mr. R Rackham;	
Mr. A Andrews	- appointed by the Parish Council;
Mr. G Warne	- appointed by the County Council.

From an old School Logbook in 1866 December to 1899 February, I've gathered the following list of Head Teachers:-

1866 – 1869	Miss Caroline Hemsley
1869 – 1870	Mrs. Worsley
1871 – 1878	Mrs. Algar
1878 – 1882	Mrs. Downing
1883 – 1889	Miss Soulsby
1889 – 1891	Mr. Bixby
1891 – 1893	Mr. G. H. Harrison
1893 – 1897	Mr. C. S. Anthony
1897 – 1908	Mr. W. Grieg
1908 – 1913	Miss Goldsmith
1914 – 1915	Mrs. Kiddel
1916	Miss Gaiter

THE HIGH HOUSE

The 'big house' of the Parish in Campsea Ashe High House, so called because the original house was four storeys high and was therefore no doubt at least one storey higher than any other house in the Parish.

At the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign, one John Glover purchased an estate from Thomas Goodwyn and others in this Parish. What house he lived in, history does not relate. He died and was buried here June 28th 1568. His wife Jane was buried here July 5th 1573.

Their son William who inherited the estate was 'servant' (in what capacity he served I don't know) to Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk. This William built the original 'High House' on his estate about the year 1600. He had three sons and three daughters who were baptised in our Church, and four of them were also buried here.

William Glover was evidently a man of some position; he was one of the Members of Parliament for Oxford in 1623, the other Member being Sir Robert Hitcham the well known owner of Framlingham Castle.

Glover died in 1628, having divided the Manor of Ashmoor Hall to his wife Elizabeth, for her life, and then to his son William. This son was murdered - 'unhappily slain' - at the White Hart Inn, Wickham Market by two persons in 1641. He was buried on the North Side of the altar in our Church.

His mother died in 1632. The entry in the Register is curious:-

"Elizabeth Glover - Gent. - was buried ye ninth day of March."

The estate was sold by his successor, also named William (who moved to Frostenden) about 1652, to John Sheppard, the son of John Sheppard whose family had for a very long time resided at Mendlesham. His mother was Elizabeth, daughter of John Lane of Campsey Abbey, another of whose daughters, Ann, married Edmund Sheppard, brother of the above John Sheppard, i.e. two sisters married two brothers. This Edmund Sheppard died in 1660.

[NB. The particulars of the Sheppard family are derived mainly from 'The Gentleman's Magazines' of 1830.]

John Sheppard, the purchaser of the High House, died in 1669 and was succeeded by his son, also John, who died unmarried in 1671. He left the property to his kinsman (cousin?) Edmund Sheppard Jnr. who thereupon sold it to his father Edmund Sheppard Snr., of Rendlesham, who died in 1676.

The estate then passed to Edmund Sheppard of Mendlesham who moved to the High House. His wife was Ann, daughter of Sir John Coell Kt. (one of the Masters in Chancery in Charles II's reign). They had several children. He was High Sheriff of the County in 1689 and died in 1706.

He was succeeded by his son John, who made various additions and improvements to the House. His first wife was Anne, Countess of Leicester, widow of Philip Sydney, 5th Earl, and one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Robert Reeve Bt. of Thwaite, in Suffolk.

His second wife was Hannah Wilmot. He was also High Sheriff (in 1709 & 1714). He died in 1747, leaving no issue. His widow married, in our Church, in the following year, Sir Samuel Prime, Kt. one of the Kings Sergeants-at-Law.

The property passed to a relation also named John, of Wetheringsett, who married first Elizabeth Whincopp of Bredfield, who died in 1722 at the age of 36, and second Mary Revett of Brandeston Hall. There were several children born. The father died in 1793 aged 56.

His son, another John, who succeeded, died in 1824, also at the age of 56. His wife was Letitia Wilson of Didlington, Norfolk, who died in 1846 aged 73.

Their son, John Wilson Sheppard, who succeeded, died suddenly in 1830, at Bury St. Edmunds during his attendance, as High Sheriff, at the Assizes there. He was only 31 years of age.

His son and heir, John George, was then only a child and therefore his uncle, Reverend R. Wilson, came to live at the High House and acted as his guardian until he came of age in 1844.

About 1865 the house was partly burnt down and Sheppard rebuilt it on the old site and much in the style of the previous building, the architect being the elder Salvin.

The ceilings of the double-front hall were retained, being supported by scaffolding during the rebuilding. One of the ceilings is very fine. The mahogany doors of the hall inside are said to have been washed ashore from a wreck near Bawdsey and claimed by Sheppard as Lord of the Manor there. J. G. Sheppard died in 1882* at the age of 58, leaving a widow but no children and the property was sold in the following year to the Hon. William Lowther, the present owner, in 1911.

* J.G. Sheppard was foreman of the jury of the famous Tichborne trial which lasted for several months and the mental and physical strain of that trial is said to have broken his health down.

The Tichborne Trial. Born to a wealthy family in Hampshire in 1829, Roger Charles Tichborne was the son of Sir James and Lady Henrietta Felicite Seymour Tichborne. After spending most of his youth in France and several years at a Jesuit boarding school, he served in the army 1849-52, then left for a world tour. His ship was presumed lost in 1854, and eventually all on board were declared dead. His mother never gave up hope of his return and after she placed advertisements in Australian newspapers in 1865, was informed that her son had been alive all this time. She arranged for his return, and although most other family members were convinced he was an imposter, she and a number of other individuals believed his story. In 1868 an issue was directed to be tried in the Court of Common Pleas as to whether the claimant was the heir of Sir James, who had died in 1862. He brought an ejectment action against the Tichborne trustees before a judge and special jury. The trial lasted 102 days (May 1871-March 1872), and the claimant was cross examined for 22 days by the Solicitor General, Sir John Coleridge. A large number of witnesses swore to his identity, but the final cross-examination proved that he was ignorant of many facts which Sir Roger must have known, e.g. how to speak French. The Defence case rested on proving the existence and parallel travels of one Arthur Orton, a Wapping man who eventually wound up in Australia, and whose path may even have crossed that of Sir Roger's. The jury found for the defendants. After the trial Orton was arrested for perjury and tried at the Bar in 1873. Even more witnesses were called this time, but on the 188th day the jury found that he was guilty, and he was sentenced to 14 years in prison. He was released in 1884 and in 1895 published a signed confession. The case was a great source of class strife at the time of the trials, and even today some authors maintain that the government railroaded the claimant.

PARK HOUSE

The Estate on which the present house stands originally belonged to the Earls of Norfolk and Suffolk.

White, in his History of Suffolk, says that the house was formerly 'attached to the Nunnery' and was perhaps the old Chantry House. This seems most improbable if not impossible, as the Chantry priests resided within the Nunnery precincts. The connection between the house and the Nunnery may be that at one time the house belonged to Maud, Countess of Ulster, who founded a Chantry in the Nunnery, which she endowed with certain lands in Ash. Page, in his history, says this property was the Manor of Ash and the advowson of the Church was always appendant to the Manor.

It appears from some histories of Suffolk that John Brame (or Braham) bought the Estate about the end of the 16th Century from Theophilus Howard, 2nd earl of Suffolk.

(John Brame was Patron of the Living in 1671. The advowson may have passed to the Brames on the death of Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk in 1640.)

But Thomas Howard, the first Earl, was Patron of the Living at that time and therefore presumably owner of the Park House Estate. He died in 1626 and his son Theophilus, who succeeded as 2nd Earl and as Patron of the Living, did not die until 1640.

Yet on the chimney stack on the East Side of the front door (facing south) there is an inscription:-

"Brame – John & Rose" [his wife]

Possibly John Brame may have bought or rented the estate without the advowson in 1597, and either built a new house or rebuilt or altered the old one.

It seems evident that the Brames were living there before the end of the 16th century. John Brame was Patron of the Living in 1671. The advowson may have passed to the Brames on the death of Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk in 1640.

John Brame was the grandson of Sir John Brame, of Braham Hall. His wife's name was Rose (née Armique) and they had several children. There is no entry in our Register of the burial of the father, but the mother was buried here in 1643.

John Brame was followed by his son, also John, who died in 1670, aged 80 and was succeeded by his son, also John.

This John married Mary, daughter of Ralph Darnell, who died in childbirth on February 7th 1660 and was buried in the Chancel of our Church. He married, secondly, one Deborah Jacobs, by whom he had several children. He died in 1568, the widow survived him till 1729.

Another John Brame, probably the son of the last, a Barrister, held property later on, dying in 1706. He was killed by a Captain Tyrell.

By his wife Jane, daughter of Sir John Duke, Bart. of Benhall, he had two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane, who inherited the property as co-heiresses. They lived there together, unmarried, and died within six months of each other. Jane – or Jenny as she is called in the Register – died in October 1787 aged 81, and Elizabeth six months afterwards at the age of 83.

The property then seems to have passed into the possession of John Revett, and later on into that of Peter Thelluson, father of the first Lord Rendlesham; and it is at the present time part of the Rendlesham estate.

On the chimney stack on the West side of the front door is the inscription "*W.R. – 1803*" but I do not know to whom this refers. (probably W. Revett.)

The house was at one time occupied by successive Agents of the Rendlesham Estate, Mr. Alix, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Kingscote, but in 1886 it was rented by Mr. William Reade, whose three daughters are now tenants.

It is a very charming old house. In the Drawing Room there is a very fine inlaid over-mantle: White says it "was executed in the reign of King John". On the oak staircase is carved the date 1664. The farm attached to the house is at present rented by Mr. Reuben Rackham of the Deben Mills, Wickham Market, many of whose ancestors formerly lived and died in Campsey Ashe.

In 1913 Mr. Harold G. Papillon, Lord Rendlesham's agent, went into the Park House – a new house being built by the Speaker for the Misses Reade on the Tunstall Road.

Sundry Notes.

Will of Thomas Barry of Ashe, died 1547 – Will proved at Snape.

His body was to be buried in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist at Ashe. To the High Altar of the same Church for his tithes and oblations neglected and unpaid 2s. To the reparation and most profit of the Church of Ashe, aforesaid 26s-8d. To Sir Henry Wallen to sing for him and his friends for one year in the Church of Ashe £6 of lawful money of England.

[Note. 'Sve' = Dominus – clerical title. To 'sing' – i.e. Masses).

THE LAND TAX ON THE CAMPSEA ASHE RECTORY

As stated earlier, Land Tax charged on the Rectory is payable not to the State through the ordinary Tax Collector, but to Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey KCB of Malcomb House, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

The amount is £11-12s-0d less Income Tax, at present 1/5d in the £.

The following explanation of this somewhat unusual custom was supplied by Sir A. de Horsey himself by letter, in reply to my request for information on the subject:-

“The Rev. Samuel Kilderbee DD, Rector of Campsea Ashe from 1784 to 1817 and afterwards Rector of Easton, redeemed the Land tax on the Livings of Campsea Ashe, Easton and Trimley St. Martin, i.e. the Crown, probably in order to raise cash, sold to Dr. Kilderbee for a sum of money (the amount is not stated) the right to receive Land Tax of those three livings each year which right devolved upon his heirs in perpetuity.

Dr. Kilderbee bequeathed this right to his daughter, Miss Kilderbee, who enjoyed it until her death in 1884, at the age of 92, when it devolved to her nephew, the above Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey, as her residuary legatee. Sir Algernon's father was Spencer Kilderbee, son of the Rector who, in 1832, took the name of Horsey, afterwards de Horsey, which was his mother's maiden name.

The Admiral is now – in 1911 – 84 years of age, having been born in 1827. His father was born in 1790 (Spencer Kilderbee de Horsey) died in 1860 aged 70. His grandfather, Dr. Samuel Kilderbee – born in 1759 – died in 1847, aged 88 years. His great grandfather in 1726, died aged 87 years.

Thus four generations cover 185 years and the Admiral is still alive!

Samuel Kilderbee – of Ipswich married Mary Waugh of Great or North Glemham House; born in 1726, died in 1813 aged 87 years.

Samuel Kilderbee – son of the above. DD, born 1759. Married Caroline Waddington, widow of George Waddington, and daughter of Samuel Horsey; died in 1847, buried at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight. Rector of Campsea Ashe and Trimley St. Martin and afterwards of Easton. Died aged 88 years.

Spencer Kilderbee de Horsey – son of the preceding. Born 1790. Married Louisa Maria Judith Rous, youngest daughter of the first Earl of Stradbroke; died 1860 aged 70 years.

Algernon Fred. Rouse de Horsey – son of the preceding. Born 1827. Died October 22nd 1922 in his 96th year.

Dr. Samuel Kilderbee became owner of Great Glemham House which, as seen above, formerly belonged to his grandfather, Daniel Wayth. It afterwards passed by sale to Mrs. Mosley and then to the Duke of Hamilton, thence to Lady Graham, his daughter by whom it was sold in 1912. The present owner – or tenant – is Lord Cranbrook.

TITHES AND TITHE RENT CHARGE

The custom of paying Tithes dates back at least as far as the time of the Patriarchs; ref. Gen:XIV 17 (Abram & Melchizedek) & XXVIII 22 (Jacob).

With the Jews their payment was a sacred obligation ref. Levit:XXVII 30 & Num:XVIII 21 & Mal:III 5. The dedication of the tenth part of property or income for the maintenance of the Ministry & Divine Service was a Divine institution, and payment represented payment to God himself.

As might be expected the Tithe system was adopted by the Christian Church, and was regarded as a solemn duty. Apparently at first their payment was regarded as voluntary – not enforced by law, though the moral obligation of paying them was emphasised.

When the Parochial system was introduced into this country at the end of the 7th Century, it became the custom or the Church's rule that the tithes in each parish should be paid to the Parson of the parish; and later on it became part of the general law of the land that the Parson could enforce the payment to himself of the tithes arising in his parish. What was originally a voluntary and pious custom became, probably under Ecclesiastical pressure, a solemn duty, and as such became recognised by the civil power, and the payment enforced by the law of the land.

The original principle of the payment of one tenth of every man's income was mortified in so far that only such income became titheable as was derived from things which 'yield a yearly increase by the act of God' – such as grain, fruit, cattle, underwood.

Tithes were classified as:-

- (i) ***Praedial*** (latin praedium, an estate) – on such things as arise directly from the ground, e.g. corn, hay, wood, fruit etc.
- (ii) ***Mixed*** – from things immediately nourished by the ground, e.g. calves, lambs, chickens, eggs, milk etc.
- (iii) ***Personal*** – i.e. profits arriving from labour and industry 'being the tenth part of the clean grain, after charges deducted.' But the only industries that were titheable were those connected with mills and fishing.

The greatest inconvenience and difficulty of assessing and collecting tithes often led to a voluntary system whereby, under the name of 'modus' or 'modus decimandi', i.e. a special mode or manner of paying the tithe, a fixed annual payment, in kind or money, was made to the incumbent instead of the actual tenth, or a capital sum was sometimes paid in lieu of the annual payment.

The collection of tithes in kind often led to much bad feeling and to litigation between the parson and his tithe paying parishioners; and the parson had to provide big barns wherein to store his share of the produce, including livestock, until he could turn them into money.

In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed, whereby the payment of tithes was altered to a Tithe Rent Charge.

Tithe Commissioners were appointed and an 'apportionment' of rent charge was made upon every tithe payer in every parish in the country, or rather upon every field, meadow, wood etc. in the parish – the amount of the rent charge depending upon the size of the field and upon its quality, whether arable, pasture, woodlands etc.

The Tithe Commissioners together with the Copyhold and Enclosure Commissioners became in 1882 the Land Commissioners and in 1889 their number was added to and they were organised into the Board of Agriculture.

When the amount of the Rent Charge had thus been fixed, that amount was made the basis for arriving at the annual value in the following manner:-

It was estimated that the average value of corn for the seven years ending at Christmas 1835 was:-

Wheat	7s-0¼d per bushel	56s-2d per quarter
Barley	3s-11½d per bushel	31s-8d per quarter
Oats	2s-9d per bushel	22/- per quarter

The total Rent Charge was then presumed to be divided into three equal parts and invested in corn at the above prices and the number of imperial bushels (and decimal parts of a bushel) which the money would purchase of each kind of grain was then entered on the official 'apportionments'. This sounds very complicated but an example will make it clearer:-

Suppose the Rent Charge is £100;

£33-6s-8d would purchase 94.96 bushels of wheat at 7s-0¼d per bushel;

£33-6s-8d would purchase 168.42 bushels of barley at 3s-11½d per bushel;

£33-6s-8d would purchase 242.42 bushels of oats at 2s-9d per bushel;

The Campsea Ashe Tithe rent was fixed at the commuted sum of £432 and that would have purchased:-

410.21 bushels of wheat at 7s-0¼d per bushel;

727.58 bushels of barley at 3s-11½d per bushel;

1047.27 bushels of oats at 2s-9d per bushel.

But the price of corn varies and consequently the value of the Tithe Rent charge varies proportionately.

The average price of English corn sold in the markets of 196 different towns in England and Wales is sent up each week to the Board of Agriculture. These averages are again averaged by the Board and the average for the seven preceding years calculated up to the Thursday before each Christmas; then published in the following January. This is the official value of wheat, barley and oats for the purposes during the current year.

The value of the Tithe Rent Charge for that year can then be calculated by multiplying the official number of bushels of wheat, barley and oats by the official price of each of them. If the official price exceeds 7s-0¼d, 3s-11½d and 2s-9d respectively, the value of the Tithe Rent Charge will exceed the commuted sum and *vice versa*.

Since 1846 the price of corn was above the price on which the Commutation was arranged on 26 occasions, the highest prices being in 1875 when £100 of Tithe Rent Charge was worth £112-15s-6¾d; but it has been below on 40 occasions, the lowest being in 1901 when £100 was only worth £71-4s-1¾d. (I do not know the prices from 1836 to 1845 but they were probably not below par. The average for the 75 years is £92-10s-11½d.)

The present value of the Campsea Ashe Tithe Rent Charge of £432 (commuted sum) is £307-12s-3½d – a very considerable difference – and Rates & Taxes reduce this sum to £236!

THE GOLDWELL ARMS

A drawing of the top shield in the window on the East Side of the Chancel door was submitted to an expert, who wrote:-

*“The shield itself has, I imagine, been placed into the window the reverse way * as the Lion should not be looking to the sinister side – so reversing the shield we get:-*

Goldwell – Azure, a chief or, over all a lion rampant argent, guttee [gouty] de poix – Sable drops of pitch.

*Impaling (1) Azure (three gold wells) three wells adorned (?) or
(2) On six Columbines Azure*

These were devices borne by Bishop Goldwell who held the seat of Norwich from 1472 to 1498-99. They are shown on the Boxes on the roof of the Choir in the Cathedral.

... these arms and devices are in the East end of the outside of St. Andrew’s Church, Norwich.”

* Note: in 1912 I had the shield reversed do that it is now correct - F.G.L.L.

THE EAST WINDOW

Erected August 1912, to the memory of the late Hon. William and Mrs. Lowther, by their sons and daughters. Designed and carried out by James Powell & Sons., Whitefriars Glassworks, London.

From the Campsea Ashe Parish Magazine:-

The new East Window recently erected to the memory of the late Hon. William and Mrs Lowther, by their sons and daughters, will be solemnly dedicated by the Archdeacon of Suffolk at the morning service on Sunday October 20th.

The window, which is a very beautiful one, is the work of Messrs. James Powell & Sons, of Whitefriars Glassworks, London.

In the centre light is a figure of our Lord, with outstretched hands. In the left hand light are seen St. John the Baptist (patron saint of the church), the Virgin Mary, and St. Peter; while in the right hand light are St. Hilda, St. Edmund, and St. Oswald, representing Yorkshire, Suffolk and Cumberland respectively, the Counties with which Mr. and Mrs. Lowther were so closely connected.

The Coats of Arms are those of the Lowther family on the left, and the Wensleydale family (Mrs. Lowther's) on the right.

St. Hilda was the daughter of the Heretic nephew of Edwin, King of Northumbria. She was born in 614 in Yorkshire, and when about 30 years of age adopted the monastic life and became Abbess of a small convent at Hartlepool, and later on of the famous Monastery of Whitby (Yorkshire). She died November 17th 680.

St. Edmund was born in 841. He was the son of the King of Saxony, but was appointed by King Offa to succeed him as King of East Anglia in 865. After a peaceful reign of 15 years, his kingdom was invaded by the Danes and many fierce battles took place.

King Edmund was eventually defeated and taken prisoner near Hoxne, and on refusing to renounce his Christian Religion, he was cruelly beaten with clubs and then bound to a tree and shot to death with bows and arrows. His head was then cut off and thrown into the wood, guarded between the paws of a wolf which gave up its treasure and then retreated with pitiful howls. He was martyred in 689.

In 1849 a very ancient oak tree at Hoxne, which tradition said was the tree to which St. Edmund was fastened, was blown down and an arrow head was found embedded in its trunk.

The King's body was buried at Hoxne, but 33 years afterwards it was moved to Beadsricesworth (Bedric's worth) where Sibert (Sigeberht), the founder of Westminster Abbey, had built a very beautiful Church.

In 919, during another Danish invasion, the body was conveyed for safety to London, but 3 years later it was carried back to Beadsricesworth and buried in the Church of St. Mary where it still remains, and the name of the place was changed to Bury St. Edmunds.

St. Oswald [born about 605] was the son of Ethelfrith, King of Northumbria. His father was slain in battle by Raedwald, King of East Anglia, who is said to have lived at Rendlesham [and believed to have been buried at Sutton Hoo?]. After very troublesome times, Oswald obtained the throne of

Northumbria (which included Cumberland) and through energy and good influence his kingdom was converted to Christianity. He founded many Churches and Monasteries, and was renowned for his works of beneficence and charity. He was killed in battle in 642.

NB. A mistake will be noticed in the next at the bottom of the window 'Oh death ... Oh grave ...' instead of 'Oh death etc.'

LORD RENDLESHAM

The **Thelluson** family, of which Lord Rendlesham is the head, is closely connected with Campsea Ashe, his Lordship being Patron of the Living, and largest landowner in the parish.

Theophilus de Thelluson (a descendant of **Frederick de Thelluson**, Seigneur de Hesehires, Baron St. Saphorin, 1328) who lived in the 16th Century, held a high command in the French army and distinguished himself at the siege of Cassel. He escaped from the massacre of St. Bartholomew (August 22nd 1572) by fleeing to Geneva, where his family settled down and prospered.

His great-grandson, **Isaac de Thelluson**, was for sixteen years ambassador from Geneva to the French court.

His second son, **George de Thelluson**, became a famous baulken (?) in Paris.

His third son, **Peter de Thelluson**, became still more famous. He was born June 27th 1737. He came to England in 1762 and became a naturalised subject, and in the sphere of finance and commerce soon made himself a name and a fortune.

For further details and an account of his famous Will, see newspaper cuttings.

Peter de Thelluson married in 1760, Anne, second daughter of Matthew Woodford. She died in 1805. They had three sons and three daughters. The father died July 27th 1797.

The sons were:-

1. **Peter Isaac**, born 1761. Married Elizabeth Eleanor, daughter of John Cornwall of Hendon, Middlesex. They had several children. He was created Baron Rendlesham in the Peerage of Ireland in 1806. He was M.P. for Midhurst 1795-96, Malmesbury 1796-1802, Bossiney 1807-08. He died in September 1808.
2. **George Woodford**, born 1764; died 1811. In Parliament several years.
3. **Charles**, born 1770; died 1815. In Parliament also.

Peter Isaac, the first Baron, was succeeded by his eldest son John, born 1785, twice married, died 1832, leaving two daughters. The second son, William, then became the third Baron; he was born in June 1798; died September 1839, leaving no children. Frederick, who was a twin with William, then succeeded as fourth Baron. He married Eliza Charlotte, daughter of Sir George Prescott Bt., and widow of James * son of General Sir J. Duff. The fourth Baron died in 1852.

They had one son and one daughter:-

1. **Frederick William Brooke**, who succeeded as fifth Baron. Married Egidia Montgomerie
2. **Hon. Anne Blance**, born 1839; died 1886, unmarried.

** Minnie, daughter of James Duff and thus half-sister to the Lord Rendlesham, married John, first Lord Tollemache, as his second wife. Another half-sister married Brooke of Ufford.*

The fifth Baron had three sons and five daughters:-

1. **Hon. Frederick Archibald Charles**, Sixth and present Baron, born 8 June 1868. Married a daughter of Mr. Manly of Kingston, Jamaica.
2. **Hon. Percy Edward**, born 1874.
3. **Hon. Hugh Edmund**, born 1876. Captain in R.A.
4. **Hon. Adeline Egidia**, born 1862. Married L.K. Jarvis. Their only son was killed in the war.
5. **Hon. Miriam Isabel**, born 1864. Married G. Williams.
6. **Hon. Cecilia Blanche**, born 1866.
7. **Hon. Ruby Alexandria Elizabeth**, born 1870. Married Bernard James Petre (Col.) formerly Duff.
8. **Hon. Mariota**, born 1873. Married Lord Wilton.

Additional Notes on RENDLESHAM

The Estate was the property of the Spencers in Edward VI's reign descending later to the fifth and sixth Dukes of Hamilton. The last named sold it to Sir George Wombwell from where the first Baron Rendlesham bought it. The old house was destroyed by fire in 1830; the house built to take its place was burnt down in the year ? [end of the 19th Century]. The present house was then built.

The Estate was put up for sale by the sixth Lord Rendlesham (In consequence of the heavy taxation and enormously increased cost of living resulting from the war) in June 1920, but only a certain number of lots were sold (farms etc.) The remainder, including the mansion, park etc. will be sold if possible by private treaty.

Footnote

The Estate was sold in 1951 to Major Richard Schreiber from Marlesford where his family had lived for 100 years. The house was in need of restoration which proved to be too expensive and sadly it was demolished by a firm called Lawrence. The men who did the work came from Lancashire. The valuable lead was removed from the roof and further deterioration took place. The ceilings were extensively damaged and destroyed. The rubble was carted away by Carter's of Melton to provide a base for their lorries to stand on.

The remains filled in the extensive cellars below the house. Part of the kitchen remains standing today (1987). Also remaining is the canal but the boat has long gone.

The stable block to the left of the courtyard was converted to a house in 1950 as was the squash court. The Coach House had an archway which was filled in and converted to a house. The stable blocks on the right of the courtyard are used as garages. The large game larder behind these garages now houses gardening equipment.

THE DOMESDAY BOOK

From an English translation in the Ipswich Public Library:-

Lands of Earl Alan.

(In Campsea 3 integros et 3 dimidii liberi homines commendati Edrici Grim. 32 acras terrace. 1 acra et dimidia prati. Semper 1 carruca)

In Campsea Ashe 3 whole and one half freeman under commendation of Edric the Grim (held) 32 acres of land, an acre and a half of meadow. Always one plough team.

Lands of Robert Malet.

In Ash [Latin – *Esce*] 12 freemen under Edric's commendation in King Edward's time (held) a carrucate of land. Then 2 plough teams and a half, now one team and a half. Always valued at 20 shillings.

In Campsea [*Campeseia*] a freeman under Edric's commendation (held) 10 acres and they are included in the valuation of Keletima [Kenton?, formerly a parish near Marlesford].

In Ash a freeman under Edric's commendation (held) 17 acres and 3 borders and half a plough team, valued at 3 shillings.

This Norman the Sheriff holds of Robert Malet.

In *Brodertuna* a freewoman under the said (Edric's) commendation (held) 3 acres valued at 8d and in Campsey 4 acres valued at 8d.

Lands of Hervey de Berri.

In Campsey 2 freemen, Swanting and Edric, under commendation of Edric of Laxfield held 60 acres of land as a Manor. Always 3 villeins. Always 2 plough teams and half a plough team belonging to the men. 8 acres of meadow. 1 mill and 2 councies [Latin *runcini*], and 8 hogs and 20 sheep, now at 30. And 12 freemen under commendation of the said (Edric) held 38 acres of land. Then 2 plough teams, now 1. Then valued at 8 shillings, now at 10. It is 6 quarentenes long and 4 broad and in a gelt pays 7d. William Malet was seized of it on the day on which he died.

THE REVEREND JERMYN PRATT

Born February 6th 1798. Educated at Eton 1811-1815 and Trinity College, Cambridge. Ordained 1824. Was formerly Vicar of Fordham, Norfolk. Rector of Campsea Ashe 1836-67; died May 15th of that year. Buried at Ryston. Was named Jermyn after his ancestor Harry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, ambassador to France, who died 1683 and whose grand-daughter Henrietta, fourth daughter of Sir Robert Davens and Mary Jermyn, married Roger Pratt of Ryston Hall; died 1771. Their son was the Reverend Jermyn Pratt – Rector of Worthington and his son is pictured below.

The Jermyn Pratt Window

This window, on the South Side of the Chancel, behind choir seats, contains the arms of Reverend Jermyn Pratt (on the left hand side) and of his wife (on the right hand side).

Jermyn Pratt. Rector here 1836-67. Was owner of Ryston Hall, Downham Market, Norfolk, now held by his eldest son. He had three sons and four daughters. He was born 1798; died 1867.

Mrs. Pratt – to whom he was married in 1847 was Mary Louisa, fourth daughter of the Rt. Reverend George Murray, Bishop of Rochester, second son of Lord George Murray who was the second son of John, third Duke of Athol. Her arms, in the window, contain the Quarterings of Murray, Stewart & Athol, Stanley (Lord Derby) and Strange, Isle of Man. (The Dukes were formerly Kings of the Isle). Lions of England and Fleur de Lys of France (perhaps through descent from Edward I), and Lathour.

Mrs. Pratt died in 1878.

Later Notes

1914. In January the County of Suffolk, with the exception of the Rural Deanery of Lothingland, became a separate Diocese, with the title of ‘St Edmundsbury & Ipswich’. East Suffolk had previously been part of the Diocese of Norwich, and West Suffolk of the Diocese of Ely. In the following month, Archdeacon Henry Bernard Hodgson, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne & Vicar of Berwick on Tweed was appointed first Bishop of the new See being consecrated on St. Matthias’ Day, February 24th, in St. Paul’s Cathedral. He was enthroned in St. James’ Church, Bury St. Edmunds, which was chosen to be the Cathedral, on March 26th.

1914. In April the central window on the South Side of the Nave was altered to match the other two, stone tracery being substituted for the old and decaying wooden frame. Stained glass, representing the Presentation in the Temple, was also put in, to the memory of the late Lord Rendlesham, at the cost of friends and employees. This window was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Suffolk, the Venerable C. D. Lawrence, on Sunday May 10th.

Stone tracery was at the same time put into two windows on the North Side of the Nave, this making all alike.

A Sale of Work to defray the cost of the two North Side windows was organised to be held at the High House on August 6th, but owing to the outbreak of war on August 4th, it had to be put off.

- 1914.** This year a creamery was built, close to the Station, to which farmers in the neighbourhood send their milk to be forwarded to London. A list of Campsea Ashe men who served their country in the Army and Navy during the Great European War will be found later on.
- 1915.** Owing to the War there is not much to record as regards parish matters except that with reference to the War. A Sale of Work, postponed from August 6th 1914, was held in the Rectory garden on September 6th to clear the debt on the church windows. The required amount was obtained. Owing to serious increasing deafness, I resigned the living at Campsea Ashe on September 30th and was succeeded by the Venerable Archdeacon Cory – Archdeacon of Rangoon.
- 1916.** The Rural Deaneries were rearranged this year, Campsea Ashe being placed in the Wilford Deanery, instead of the Loes.