



Colchester Archaeological Group

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Once again we must thank Ida McMaster for an excellent list of speakers, everyone who helped with the projector and Harry Palmer for his weekly lecture summaries.

I must also thank Margaret Hill for entering this Bulletin onto a word- processor, and Andrew Roper for producing the layout.

The Red Hills of Essex

The Groups's publication was launched at Hatchard's on 2nd October 1990. Several complimentary and encouraging reviews have now appeared in local papers but few in archaeological journals so far. Sales are going well and we have now paid our debts: this happy situation is largely due to the generous grants towards publication which we received from Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council, Essex Heritage Trust, The Salters Company, The Robert Kiln Charitable Trust and the Lloyds Bank Fund for Independent Archaeologists.

All Group members are entitled to a copy at the reduced price of £5.00, please enquire if you have not had your copy. Otherwise, the selling price is £6.95 (including postage). A few copies of the Group's previous publication, *Salt: the Study of Ancient Industry*, are also available, price £5.80 (including postage).

Orders welcomed by Mrs. K.A. Evans, 43 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester C05 8AJ.
Telephone (0206) 384714.

Summer Outings 1990

Monday 14th May: Langham and Boxted Churches.

About 20 people went on the visit. We were guided by the Vicar, who is the incumbent at both churches. After the visit, John and Alfreda Knowles invited everyone back for coffee.

Saturday 9th June: Norwich.

A coach party of about 40 people went on the all day visit to Norwich. In the morning we were shown round the castle mall excavations next to the castle. This is a huge area excavation which we were able to view from a special viewing platform and interpretation centre. In the afternoon, we visited the Dragon Hall in King Street. This is a merchant's house which was rebuilt as a merchant's showroom and warehouse. It has a very impressive first floor room which was used for displaying the merchant's goods.

Monday 2nd July: Mill Farm, Gestingthorpe.

Mr and Mrs Harold Cooper kindly invited members to see the farm and inspect their private museum of Roman finds. This important Roman rural settlement was excavated by the Coopers over many years. The well laid out museum is particularly valuable for the amateur archaeologist, as one is allowed to handle many of the finds.

Friday 7th September: Esplanade House, Harwich.

Mr and Mrs Gordon-Jones kindly allowed members to visit their home, Esplanade House. It is a packet master's house built about 1812. Members were much interested by the fine details of the architecture and the furnishings.

ROMAN ROAD AT TEYBROOK FARM, GREAT TEY **(TL 89102474)**

by James Fawn

The Group's current excavation of a section of a Roman road, which can be seen as a 'tram-line' crop-mark on aerial photographs, has been hampered by the winter weather but is approaching completion. Although little of the flint metalling remains, the four ditches are well defined and signify a three-track road with an over-all width of about 18m, which would correspond to Margary's second category.

It follows the alignment of the initial straight length of the modern road from Stane Street (A120) to Great Tey. It continues slightly west of north near Little Tey House, whereas the modern road takes a more northerly direction to Great Tey.

The road's projected alignment passes about 100m south-west of the Great Tey Roman villa (SMR 8709), but its construction seems too elaborate to be an estate road serving the villa only. If it continues further, it must meet the Colchester-Cambridge road at some point, but its ultimate destination is not obvious.

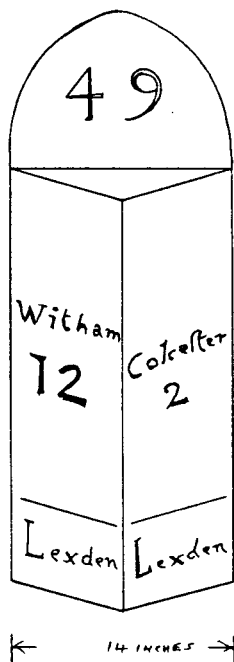
A full report will be published in the next Annual Bulletin.

A MILESTONE AT LEXDEN (TL96722512)

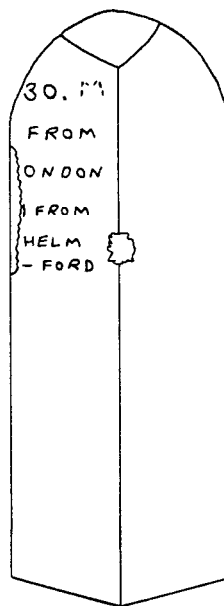
by Richard Shackle

In the summer of 1990, the Lexden Evangelical Church rebuilt their front steps. During the construction work, they uncovered a large worked stone about four feet long. It was a stone milestone which had been buried during the war to prevent the German spies knowing where they were.

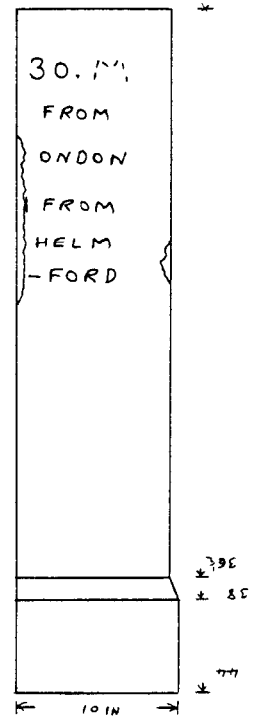
It is made of limestone and would have projected above the ground three feet. It may have been re-used as the lettering on the back seems to relate to a different location. The lettering on the front is beautifully carved in a classic roman script. The 'S' in the word Colchester is a long 'S', as seen in eighteenth century books, which suggests that the stone may be of that date.



A) The front view, which shows distances to Colchester, Witham and London. The name Lexden at the bottom shows the parish in which the stone is situated.



B) The rear view, which shows markings from a previous location, and some damaged areas.



C) A side view, which shows the full length of the stone, including the part normally hidden in the ground.

Fig 1. Three Views of the Milestone

Figure two (overleaf) shows details of the lettering. These drawings are based on rough tracings of the actual letters. I have tried to convey the beauty of the lettering.

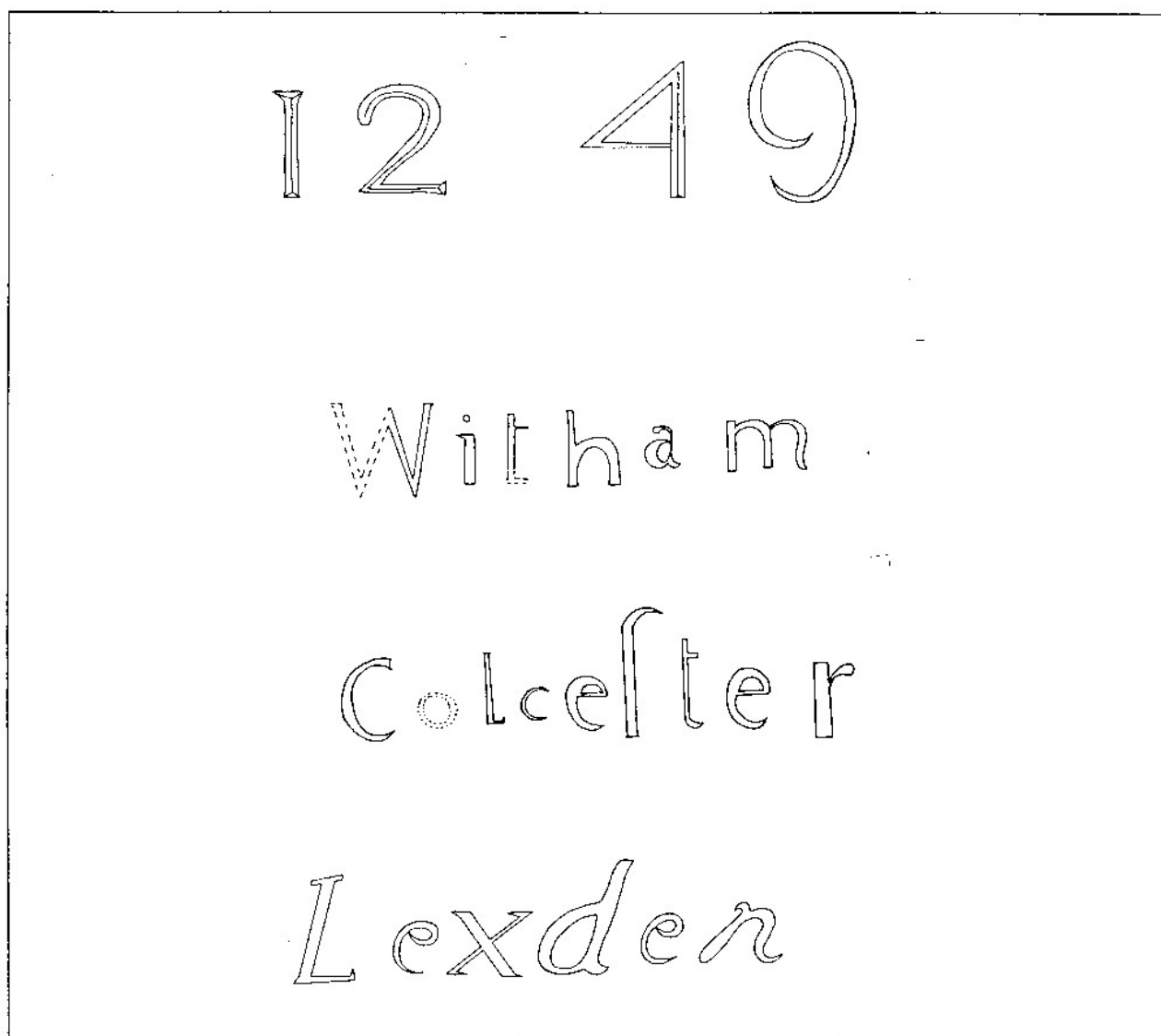


Fig. 2 Detail of lettering on Lexden Milestone

LOVELESS' PIT, ELMSTEAD 1933-38

by P M Barford

Between 1933 and 1938, gravel extraction at the pit of the Wivenhoe Sand and Ballast Company revealed a number of finds which indicated an important site had been or was being destroyed. Colchester Museum (COLEM) was extremely busy with its excavations at Sheepen, and unfortunately it seems that the site was not visited during the discovery of these remains, and much was lost. The only records that were made are unpublished manuscript material by M R Hull in preparation for his Victoria County History volume (1963; manuscript in Colchester Museum, page 104B), and brief notes in the *Colchester Museum Annual Reports* (CM R) (1934-5, 10, 12, 26; and 1936-7, 11).

In these sources the location of the site is given as "half a mile from Wivenhoe Cross" and "just NE of Gravelpit Grove", it seems that the large pit at TM 055225 is meant, this pit is in fact in Elmstead (not Wivenhoe) parish.

The first finds appear to have been a skeleton found during gravel digging in 1933. It lay "at a depth of five feet with the head to the east" but appears to have been unaccompanied. No other burials were reported. The date of this burial is uncertain, but could be prehistoric (COLEM 260.33; CMR 1935, 26).

A little later, and further into the quarried area, a large feature variously described as "a rubbish pit" and "a pit, possibly a dwelling pit" was found. This contained 'corky' brown-black pottery with much coarse flint grit in it. Unfortunately the vessel forms were not distinguishable, but such fabrics occur in Later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age assemblages in the area (COLEM 264.33; CMR 1935, 10).

In 'the area round', the feature just described, a number of other potsherds of the same type were found, but also a Later Bronze Age cylindrical clay loom weight. It seems likely that these came from other features, such as small pits etc., but these were not recorded (COLEM 1035.36; CMR 1937, 11; it is not clear whether the accession number reflects the date of discovery, or a backlog of finds in the museum).

Fragments of 'Belgic' pottery were also found in the same pit, but again no context is recorded (COLEM 405.34; CMR 1935, 12). It is not clear if the 'Belgic' pottery COLEM 235.39; (CMR 1944, 15) also came from this site.

There is thus a certain amount of evidence indicating that at Wivenhoe a potential Later Bronze Age settlement site was destroyed by pre-War gravel extraction without record. The pottery from this site seems likely to have been of Deverel-Rimbury type, though the writer has seen only a few body sherds; the cylindrical loom weight would not contradict such a date. Indeed the site may well have been contemporary with the Ardleigh cemetery, just 6km to the north. Such sites are relatively uncommon in the county, and the area around the gravel pit could perhaps profitably be examined, in case the Bronze Age site extends outside the quarried area.

RED HILLS AT COPT HALL

A J Fawn.

A Change for the Estate

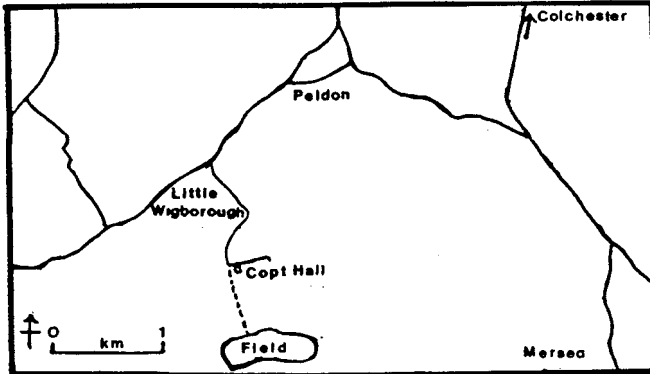


Fig 1 Copt Hall area

In June 1989 the National Trust bought the Copt Hall estate at Little Wigborough (Fig 1). Although much of it is still a working farm, the Trust has introduced a sign-posted circular walk so that the public may enjoy the marshland scenery and observe its flora and faunae. The walk encompasses one of the larger fields adjacent to the sea-wall, which has been put to grass under Set-aside Premium in order to attract geese and other migratory birds.

The field contains several Red Hill sites. Knowing the Group's interest, Mr Keith Turner, the Head Warden for Essex and Suffolk Estuaries, East Anglian Region of the National Trust, wrote to AJF in July 1990 to ask whether any surveying and recording should be carried out before the grass was sown and while the earth was still exposed. Kath Evans and I met Mr Turner on site and, after kindly introducing us to Mr L Sampson who farms the estate, he described the Trust's plan whilst showing us round the area concerned and lending a hand with the angering which formed part of the immediate investigation. As *The Red Hills of Essex* was then in the hands of the printers, Kath and I had time to spend a few days in the hot summer sun on the marshes carrying out further work.

The Red Hills

At least 39 Red Hill sites have been reported on the marshland promontory on which the estate and the neighbouring farms lie (Fawn, Evans *et al* 1990, 51; Eddy 1989, 172-3) indicating that this sheltered marshland behind Mersea Island was a favoured area for salt-making in antiquity. The Red Hills gazetteer (Fawn, Evans *et al* 1990, 58-9) lists six sites in the field concerned (Figure 2) numbered 137, 140, 142, 143, 144 and 145. Colchester and Essex Museum map records indicate two more on the north side, adjacent to the sea-wall at NGR 98681368 and 98461375, which are not entered in the gazetteer. Examination of the two areas revealed no evidence of red earth or briquetage, unlike the six gazetteer sites, and therefore, their omission from the gazetteer is justified until firm evidence is found. Another site in the museum records on the saltings outside the sea-wall at 98321350 was not examined and therefore does not yet justify a gazetteer entry. On the other hand, Mr Turner pointed out a definite Red Hill at the western corner of the

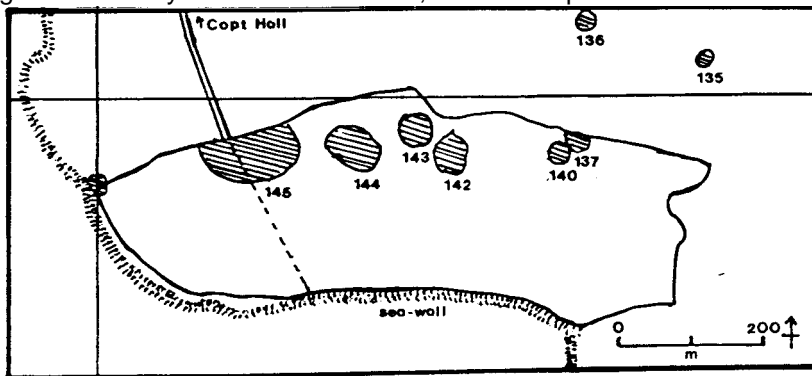


Fig 2 Field with Red Hills

field at 98001386, which exhibited red earth and briquetage on the surface and in the wall of the ditch behind the sea-wall. This site therefore requires an entry.

The six gazetted sites include three, 143, 144 and 145, which are shown on Ordnance Survey maps as possessing banks and ditches. In the 1970s the field was levelled for ease of cultivation and the surface features were removed. Thus the extant surface

evidence for the six sites consists only of slight rises in height instead of mounds, reddening of the soil and the occurrence of ploughed-up fragments of briquetage.

The auger was used to obtain sub-surface samples, but only a limited number were taken, mainly at site 145, as the summer heat and the hard-baked soil made the work exhausting. The samples indicated that the red earth was probably confined to the area shown as the Red Hill on the OS map but for the most part was attenuated, being mixed with ordinary soil. The field levelling had evidently dispersed the contents of the mound locally but not widely.

Some of the auger samples from about 40-60cm depth were redder than those nearer the surface and may indicate that part of the original mound still exists at this depth. Below about 60cm, the reddish earth changed to grey clay which may represent the pre-Red Hill ground surface. If so, any useful archaeological deposit can have survived only in the 30cm thickness of soil between 30cm depth and the clay.

A Level Survey

The ground slopes down perceptibly from the north boundary of the field, where there is evidence of an old sea-wall, to the south side adjacent to the present sea-wall. In view of the interest of the relative levels of the Red Hills and the sea, the opportunity was taken to survey the levels of the present field surface and sea-wall using an instrument and staff kindly lent by the Colchester Archaeological Trust. The results are shown in Figure 3 which gives heights above OD (Ordnance Datum, Newlyn) plotted against horizontal distance along a traverse of the field as indicated by the dashed line on Fig 2. The vertical scale is twenty times the horizontal in order to emphasise the changes in height.

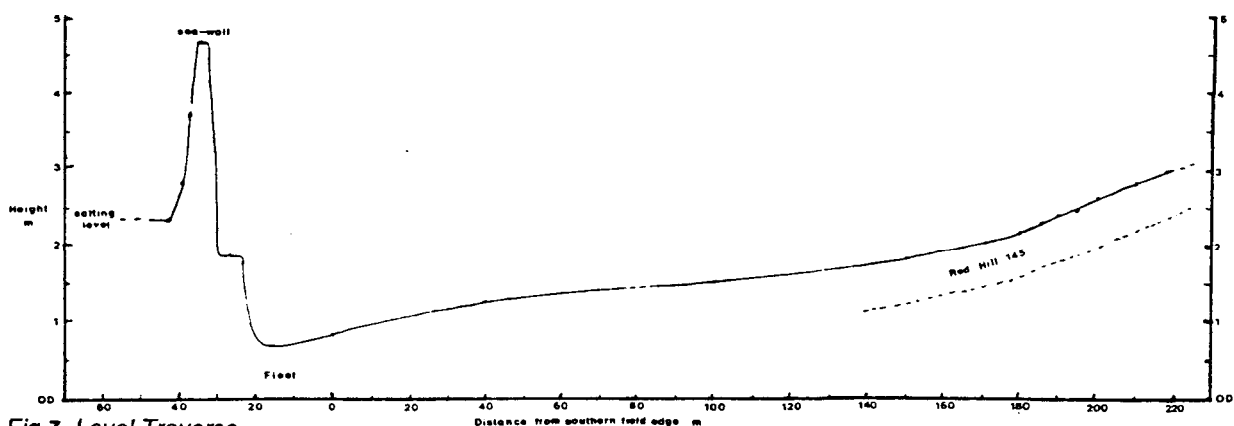


Fig 3 Level Traverse

Some consideration of sea-level is necessary before the relationship to the Red Hills can be appreciated. The tides vary with the lunar and solar cycles, thus varying through the month and the year. The tidal range varies with geological location and such factors as wind, barometric pressure, embankments, presence of mud flats and riverine flow. Predictions of high and low water levels are given in tide tables, but they are only predictions and the actual tides will vary from them to some degree. The nearest available tables from West Mersea indicate that the normal range of high water is between 1.5 and 3.0m OD, and this is consistent with the results of the survey, as will be seen. The low water range has no relevance to this discussion, but as a matter of interest, lies between -1.0 and -2.0m OD.

The first reading at the south end of the survey was taken on the marsh surface adjacent to the sea-wall. Sea marshes normally grow until they reach a level somewhat below Mean High Water Spring and the measured level of 2.4m OD. is therefore about right compared with the tide table value of 3.0m OD. Higher up the sea-wall at 3.7m OD. and about 1 m from the top, a tide-mark of flotsam probably resulted from the combined efforts of the highest tides and waves, and therefore represented the maximum sea-level in normal weather.

The ledge drawn on the inner surface of the sea-wall in Fig 3 represents a track running along the wall, which forms part of the National Trust path. The lowest point in the survey was at a bridge across the

fleet between the sea-wall and the field boundary and from this point the field slopes upwards at a gradient of about 1 in 110 to the area of the Red Hills, specifically number 145, near the north boundary. The south boundary of the field was taken as zero for the horizontal measurements and so the Red Hill number 145 occupied the distance between 140 and 220m with its present surface increasing from 1.8 to 3.0 m above OD.

The latter figures correspond approximately to Mean High Water Neaps and Mean High Water Springs respectively and so, not surprisingly, without the sea-wall the field and the Red Hill site would now be under water at most high tides. If the grey clay found at about 60m below the present ground level (indicated by the dashed curve) across the site represents the old ground surface, the lowest part would be at about 1.3m OD. The Mean High Water Springs during the period of operation about 2000 years ago would have been below that height and therefore relatively the sea must have risen at least 1.7m to its present corresponding level of 3.0m OD. and more than 2.4m if the present flotsam level of 3.7m is taken into account. These estimates are consistent with other evidence quoted in the literature.¹

No allowance has been made for shrinkage of the reclaimed marshland. The shrinkage consideration also applies to the difference in height of the marsh on either side of the sea-wall. The marsh on the seaward side is about 1.6m higher at the point measured, but the difference will vary considerably with location, depending on such factors as the age of the sea-walls, the tidal range, currents and topography.

Further Work

In view of the state of the Red Hills in the field the chances are that a more elaborate investigation would not produce much useful information and now the remains are perfectly safe under the grass. Archaeological observation would be desirable if the field is disturbed in future, particularly at the new site, 98001386, which is close to the sea-wall and may therefore be affected if the wall is repaired or raised in height.

As a minimal effort causing negligible disturbance further augering is intended when ground conditions are suitable, to determine whether the core of number 145 and possibly one or two other sites can be located. The work should at least demonstrate further the usefulness of the auger for investigating Red Hill sites.

Note:

¹ A recent paper (Waddelove and Waddelove 1990) published since the above was written suggests that ancient shoreline occupation sites must be considered as being situated above the highest tides, HAT (ie. High Astronomical Tide) at a level MOL (Minimum Occupational Level) which includes a safety margin. Figures given in the paper indicate that the HAT may be about 0.7m higher than Mean High Water Springs on the Essex coast and that a suitable MOL would be about 0.4m above the HAT, making the local MOL a total of 1.1 m above Mean High Water Springs. If the lowest level of Red Hill 145, 1.3m OD, is taken as the contemporary MOL, the contemporary Mean High Water Springs would therefore have been 0.2m OD.

A comparison of like with like gives the difference between modern and ancient Mean High Water Springs as $3.0 - 0.2\text{m} = 2.8\text{m}$, which represents a minimum estimate of the change in relative sea level. The proviso concerning marsh shrinkage still applies, however, and there are others such as changes in shoreline configuration.

References

- Eddy M R, 1989** 'Red Hills at New Hall Farm, Little Wigborough', *Essex Archaeol Hist* **20**, 172-3.
Fawn A J, Evans K A, McMaster I, Davies G M R, 1990 *The Red Hills of Essex* (Colchester Archaeological Group).
Waddelove A C & Waddelove E, 1990 'Research into Sea level during the Roman Era: Towards a Methodology based on Highest Astronomical Tide', *Britannia* **21**, 253-266.

THE COCK AND PIE

by Richard Shackle

The newcomer to Colchester would be puzzled if he were asked where the Cock and Pie is, as there is no public house of that name. However, older residents know number 56 North Hill as the Cock and Pie even though it has not been a public house since 1939.

In May 1990, when the building was renovated, I had the chance to examine the building. On the upper floor, stacked in a corner, was a pile of boards with fragments of printed paper attached to them. When I examined these pieces of paper closely, they turned out to be eighteenth century playbills and other printed matter. This article is in two parts: 1) the building, and 2) the playbills.

1) THE BUILDING

The building is in four parts:

- a) the Georgian front range
- b) a seventeenth century wing
- c) a late medieval wing
- d) a nineteenth century brick extension behind the seventeenth century wing which I did not record.

a) The Georgian Front Range

This is a timber framed building with a brick front. Figure 1 shows the upper floor of the whole building as it was in May 1990, and you can see how the front range relates to the older wings. The ground floor had an open passage going through it to the yard and garden behind. This passage is clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:1500 scale map of 1876 and on the deed plan of 1873 (Fig 2). The wooden part of the Georgian range contains many reused timbers.

b) The Seventeenth Century Wing

This timber framed wing is built into an earth bank on the south side, the earth being restrained by a brick wall. On the north side, the building is jettied. There may have been large moulded brackets below the jetty, at the bay divisions, there are no signs of brackets now. This wing has four bays, three wide bays and narrow one at the end. I think this narrow bay may have held a brick chimney stack. In figure 3, I have tried to reconstruct the original layout of this wing. In truss E-F, there may have been a fully framed wall with a door in it, but the surviving remains suggest just a short partition on south side as shown. The windows on the upper floor are in two parts: the main windows are original, the smaller side windows were put in later. This can be seen because the peg holes and mortices for the sawn off studs can still be seen in the top plate above the windows. Figure 4 shows jettied wall, A-I. The studwork on the ground floor in this wall has been replaced by a brick wall. Figure 5 shows three sections through the buildings; section G-H probably only had studs in the space not filled by the brick chimney stack. Figure 6 shows a reconstruction of the outside of the wing, as it might have looked about 1650 AD. The walls would have been plastered except for the windows. There may have been some simple pargetting. The small window with leaded lights now removed was probably a later addition to illuminate a low table or chair.

c) Late Medieval Wing

This small timber framed building was originally jettied on both sides, but it is now under-built on the south side (Fig 7). It was originally divided into two rooms on both floors by truss, O-P. If the building was always this size, this would give two very small rooms on each floor, as the building was probably longer originally. The building may have been a new extension to a medieval building; whether that was on this site or somewhere else is not clear. It appears to have been rebuilt at sometime as it incorporates several newer timbers, particularly later joists in the floor.

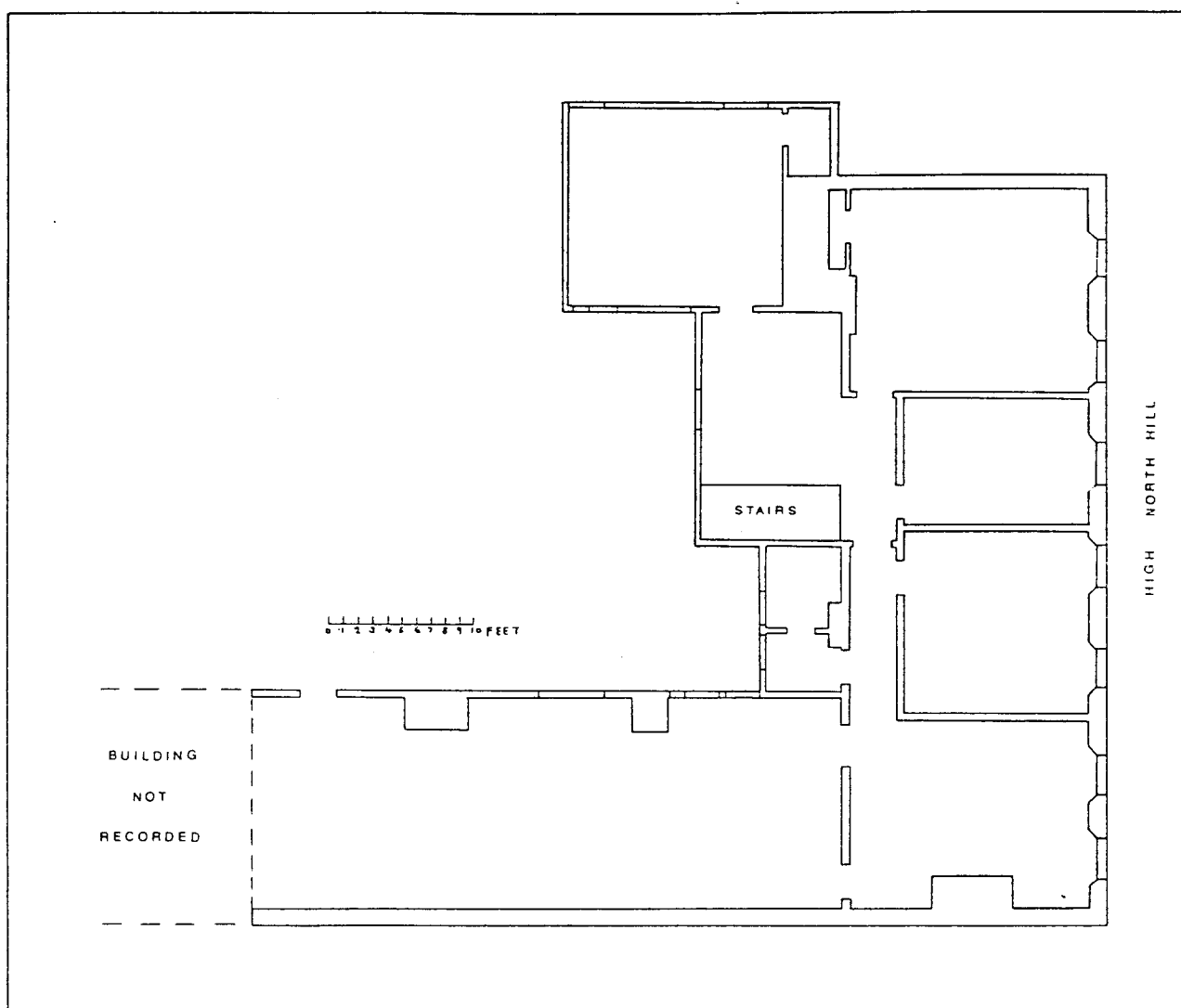


Fig 1. Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester.

History of the Cock and Pie

At the Colchester Branch of the Essex Record Office, the earliest documentary reference I have been able to find is in the Colchester Borough Alehouse Recognizances Book 1764-1819. In the Michaelmas session of 1764, it was held by Henry Mason with sureties by Robert Jones and Thomas Gonner. It continued to be held by Henry Mason until 1781 when it was held by Robert Wright with sureties by Thomas Holden (Victualler) and John Nunn (Innholder). Robert Wright held it until 1814 when James Mason and Thomas Collin were the persons licensed. They continued to be the licencees until the end of the book in 1819. The later Ale Recognizance Books are missing so we have to turn to other sources.

In Pigot's Directory of 1823 we find: Mason and Collins, Cock and Pie, North Hill. In the nineteenth century notebooks for St. Peter's Parish, the Cock and Pie is not mentioned; it must have been noted as a house and not named as the Cock and Pie.

In the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford are some deeds relating to the building. There is a lease dated 3rd July 1852 for a Spirit Shop and premises on North Hill, Colchester, from Mr James W Mason to Charrington Nicol Esq. (Merchant).

"...All that SPIRIT SHOP situated on the West side of North Hill in the Parish of St. Peter in Colchester, aforesaid with two WAREHOUSES standing immediately behind the same and another warehouse on the opposite side of the yard together with an outhouse near the same now used as a TUB and WOODHOUSE and also all that room situated and being over the first named warehouse and also all that small room situated on the north side of the passage leading to the aforesaid premises which has lately been taken from the residence of the said JAMES WILLIAM MASON and an entrance made there from the aforesaid passage together with the use of the said passage... "

There is an indenture (CTE/710) dated 7th April 1865 part of which states "...between Elizabeth Chaplin of Dartford, Kent and John Chaplin of London, Hotel Keeper on the one part and Henry Tayler of Colchester, Wine and Spirit merchant on the other part 21st November 1859 between Henry Tayler and said Elizabeth Chaplin, John Chaplin and George Cornwall Philcox.... All that freehold messuage or tenement etc. ... known by the name 'Cock and Magpie' or otherwise formerly in the occupation of Henry Mason afterwards Robert Wright, since James William Mason and the said Henry Tayler and Miss Allen.... And also all that parcel of ground whereon a messuage (divided into 5 tenements) formerly stood, which tenements were sometime since in the occupation of the said Henry Mason, Robert Wright and Samuel Love.....Together with several tenements, warehouses and buildings."

Among the deeds is a plan (Fig 2) dated June 1873. It is a plan of property on North Hill, Colchester of Mrs Tayler and Messrs Page and Lee. The plan was prepared by G. Gard-Pye, Architect. It gives a very good idea of the layout of the grounds of the Cock and Pie before the Essex County Council Educational Buildings of 1907.

From the above records, it would appear that the Cock and Pie ceased being an ordinary public house about 1823 and became mainly a spirit shop and warehouse. It continued to be a public house even after it was bought by Essex County Council in 1907, and finally closed in 1939. There is a photograph in the *Essex County Standard* (February 27th 1987) showing the publican, Mr Walter Bird, and friends standing in the back yard of the pub in 1919. Since 1939, the County Council has put it to various uses. During the Second World War, it became a centre for the Colchester Air Training Corps and there was a three bladed propeller hung on the outside of the building. Later it became the sixth form common room for the Gilbert School. At this stage it was said to have had a mural by the artist Richard Stone, but this was later painted over.

When the Sixth Form College was created, the Cock and Pie block on North Hill was sold off and has been redeveloped as offices with a new building in the yard at the rear.

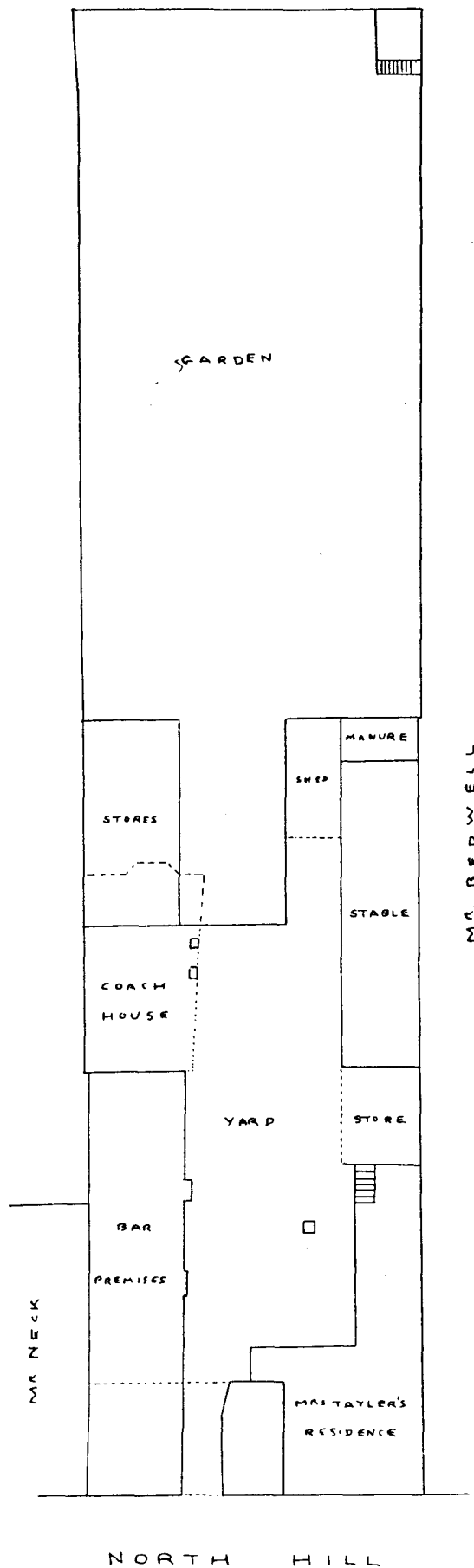


Fig 2. Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester

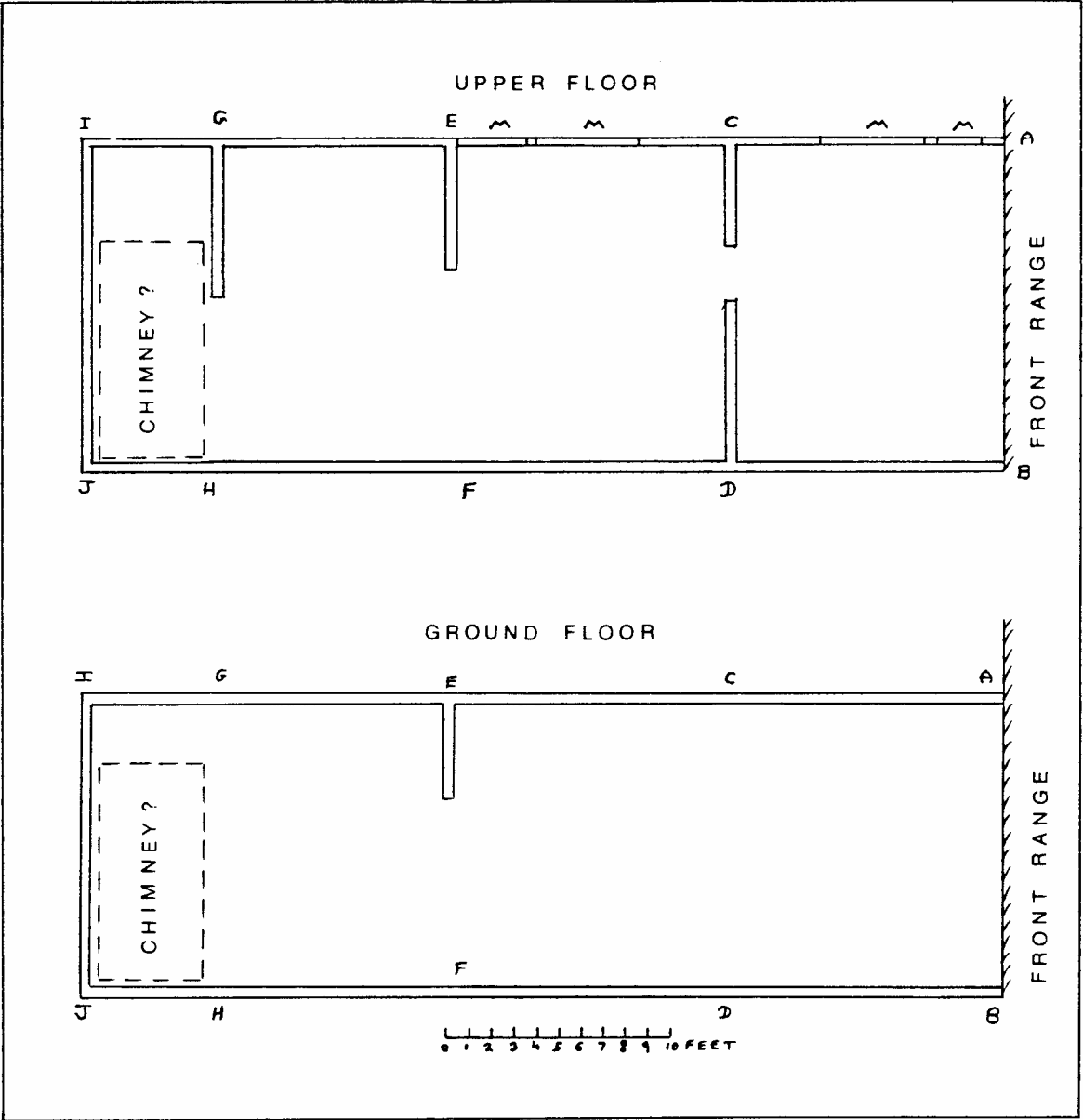


Fig 3. Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester

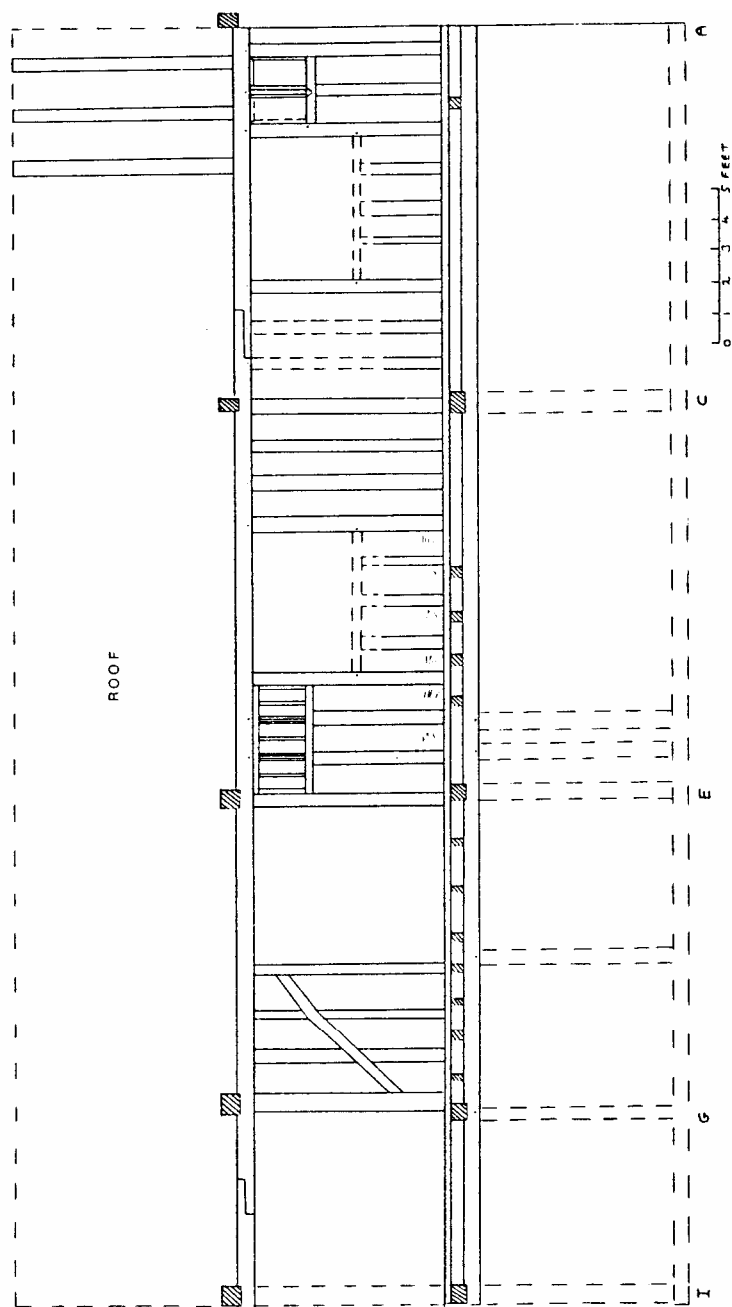


Fig 4. Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester

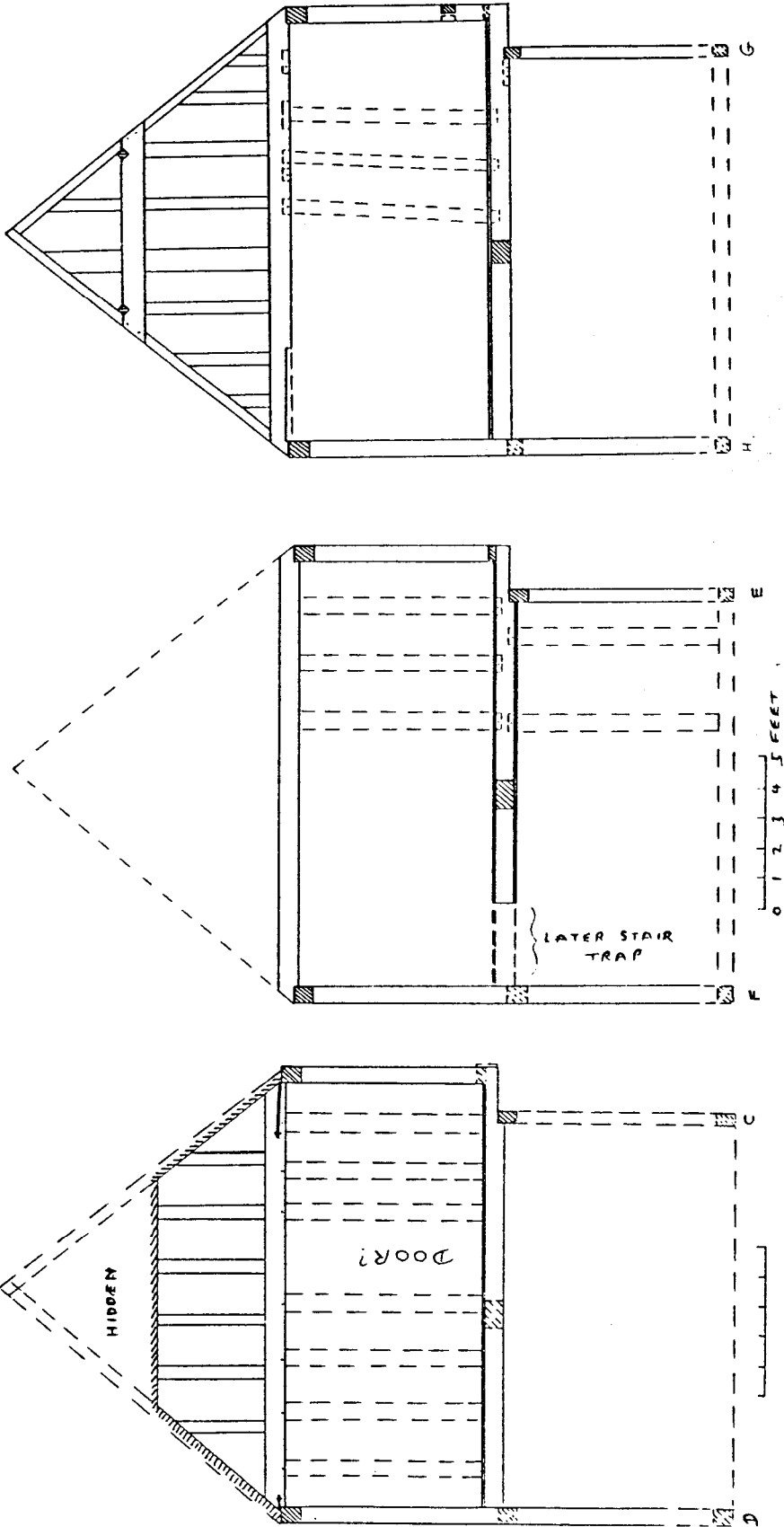


Fig 5. Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester

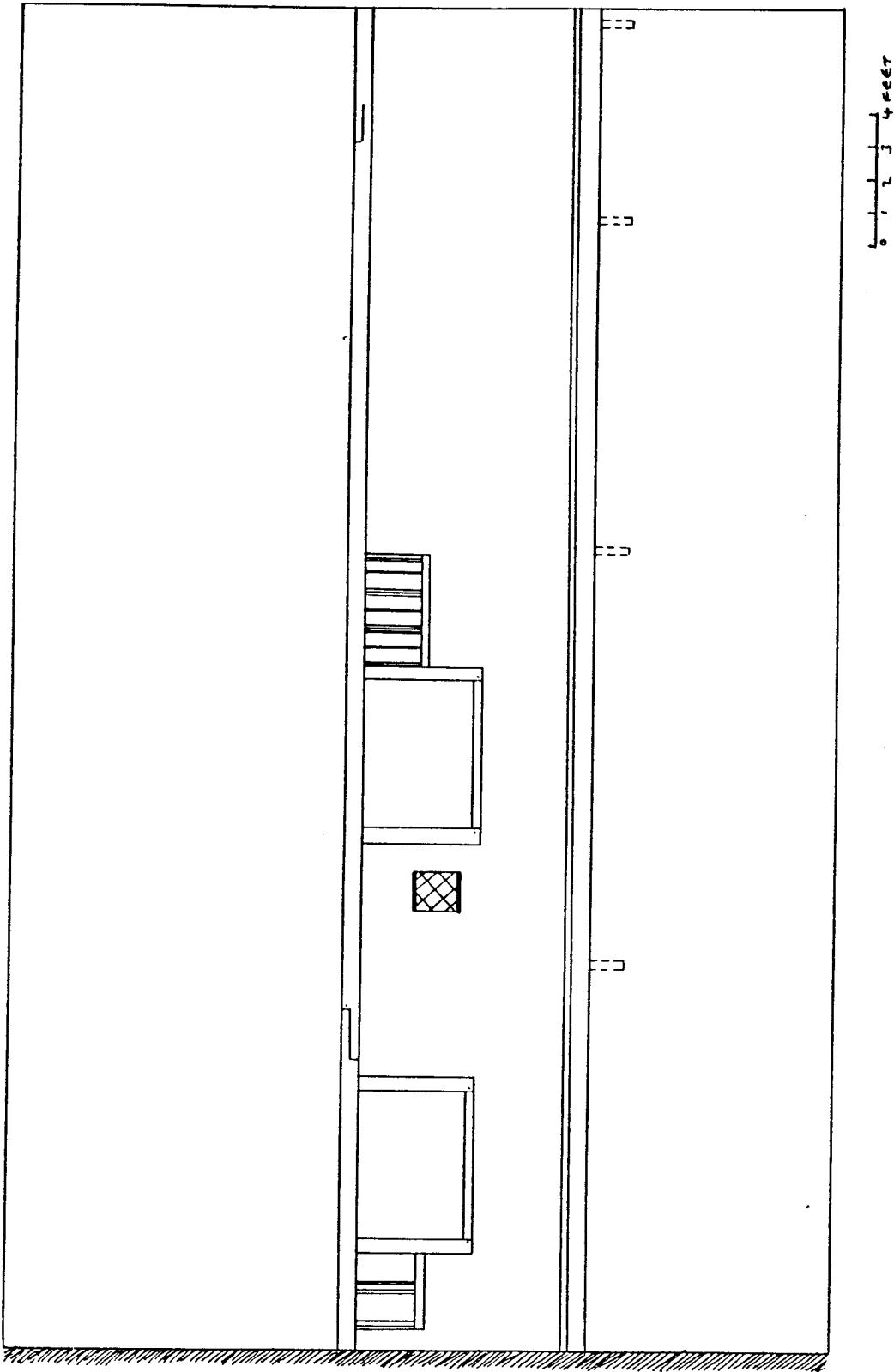


Fig. 6 Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester

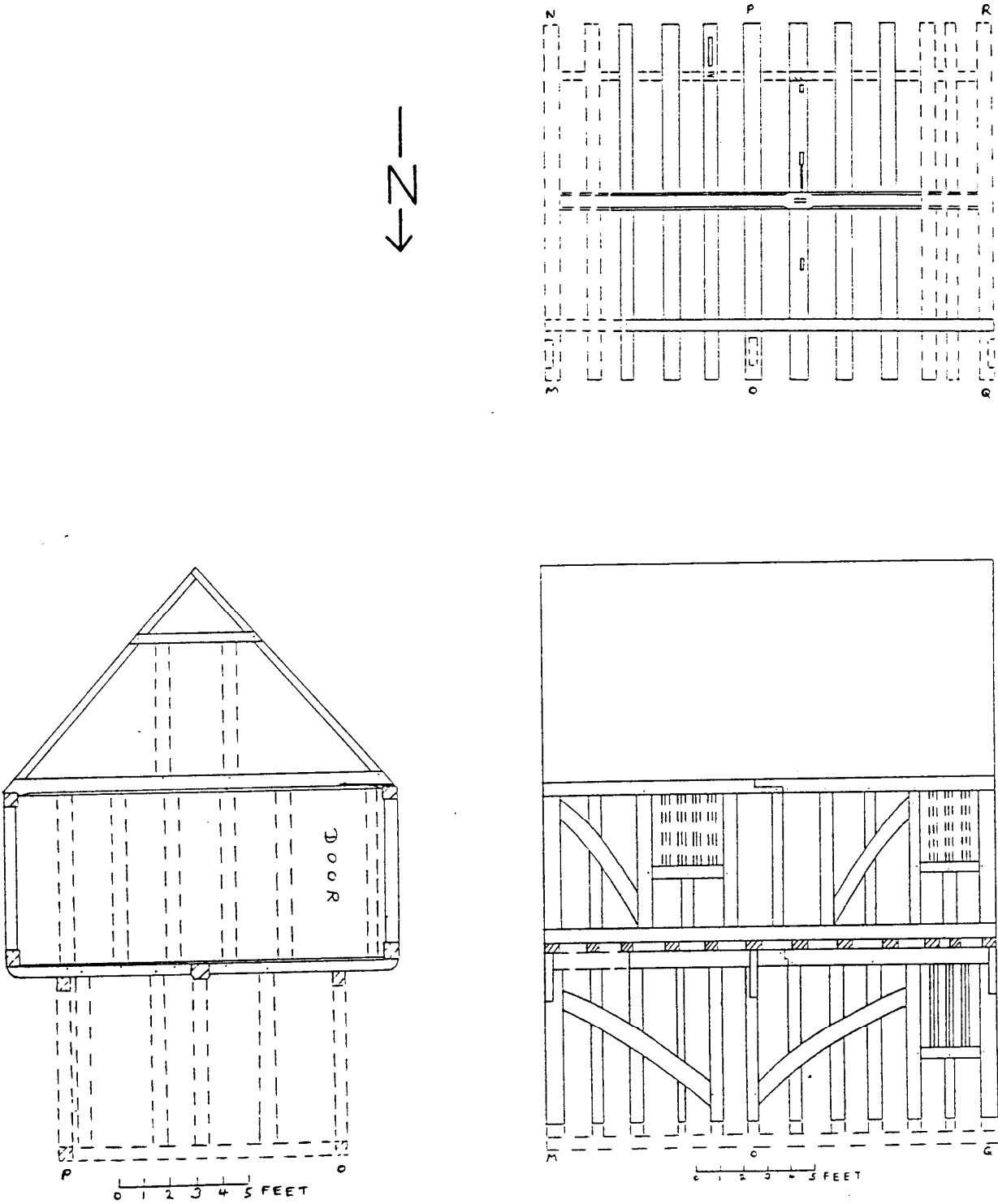


Fig 7. Cock & Pie, North Hill, Colchester

2) THE PLAYBILLS

At the time of the playbills etc. in the 1790's, the Cock and Pie was held by Robert Wright who presumably displayed the playbills in his public house, then reused them in the staircase.

These fragments of printed ephemera were found glued to boards which surrounded the staircase. It would seem that they were glued to the fairly rough pine boards to give a smooth surface for wallpaper to go over. I am grateful to Mr. John Bensusan Butt for notes on the plays and performances. The plays were put on by a touring company based at Norwich. There are fifteen items as follows:

Playbill 1) THE PAD(LOCK)
Days of playing Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

By desire of LADY POMFRET on Saturday
The School for Scandal
THE PRIZE

The Padlock was by Bickerstaff, music by Dubin, 1768 and School for Scandal by Sheridan, 1779. Lady Pomfret may be from the Irish Peerage and may have been the wife of an officer at the garrison.

Playbill 2) TIPPY BOB and FAL, RAL, TIT by Mr. J?
To which will be added a musical farce called
THE FARMER

For the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Powell
To-morrow
The Way to get Married and the High(land Reel)
Being the last night of performance

The Farmer is a comic opera by O'Keefe, first produced in 1787

Playbill 3) REGIMENT
(MID)NIGHT HOUR
ORCHESTRA
..... LEY MR (H)
TH(IS) WEEK (ARLESS) (WITH A)
..... and CHARLES S()

Playbill 4) (COM)IC SONG BY MR JACK(SON)
(TO) WHICH WILL BE ADDED A FARCE CALLED
A MISS IN HER TEENS
(PLAY)NG MONDAYS TUESDAYS WEDNESDAYS
THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS (THE) THEATRE,
COLCHESTER
MAI SERVANTS, FROM THE THEATRE-P

Miss in Her Teens was first produced by Garrick in 1746/7.

Playbill 5) to which will be added
DEAD AND ALIVE
WEDNESDAY, A BOLD STROKE FOR A HUSBAND
WITH THE TWO MISERS
..... FOR THE BENEFIT (OF)

.Playbill 6) The last night of performance
On Monday, Macbeth with The Devil to Pay.

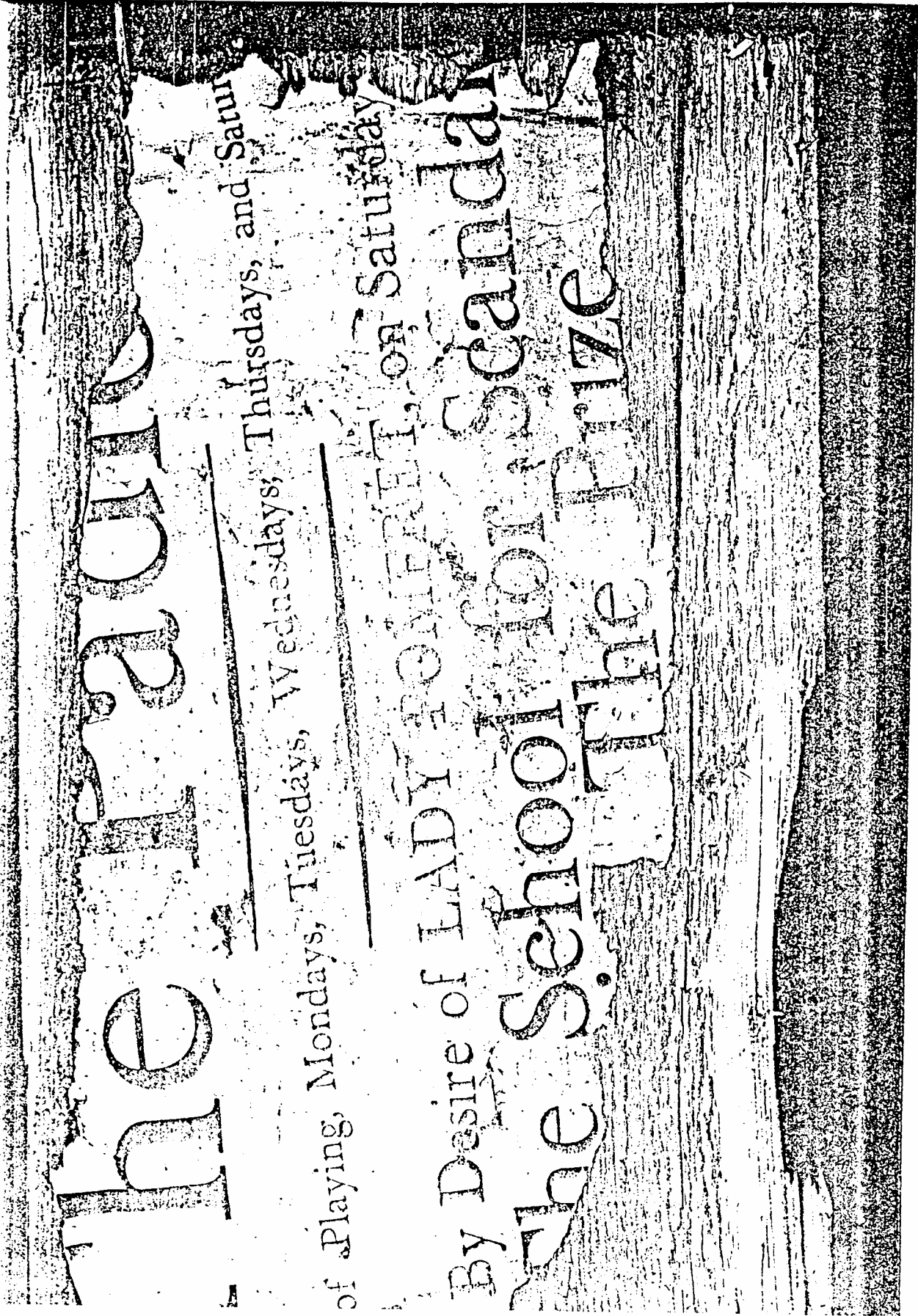


Fig. 8 Playbill 1

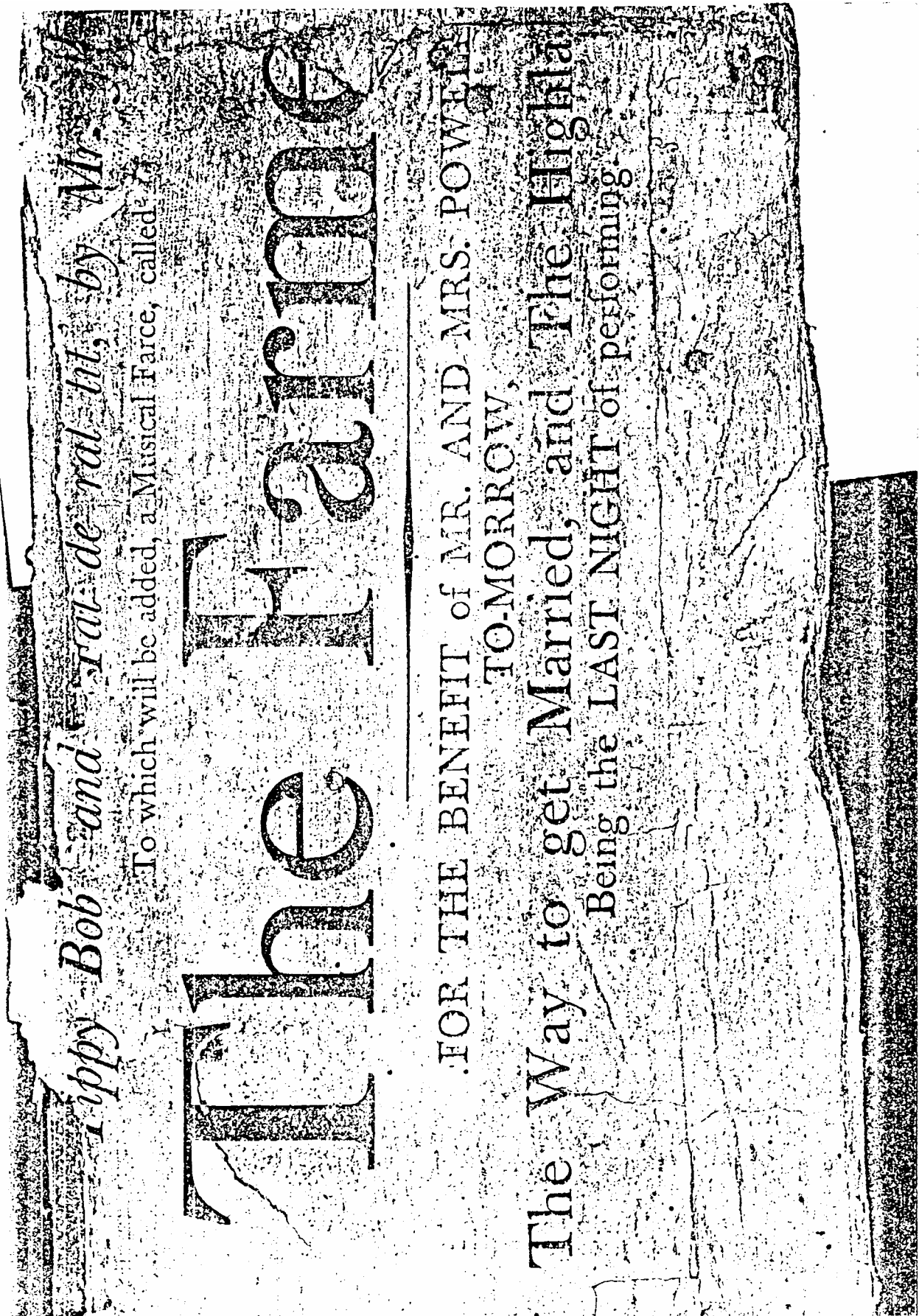


Fig. 9 Playbill 2

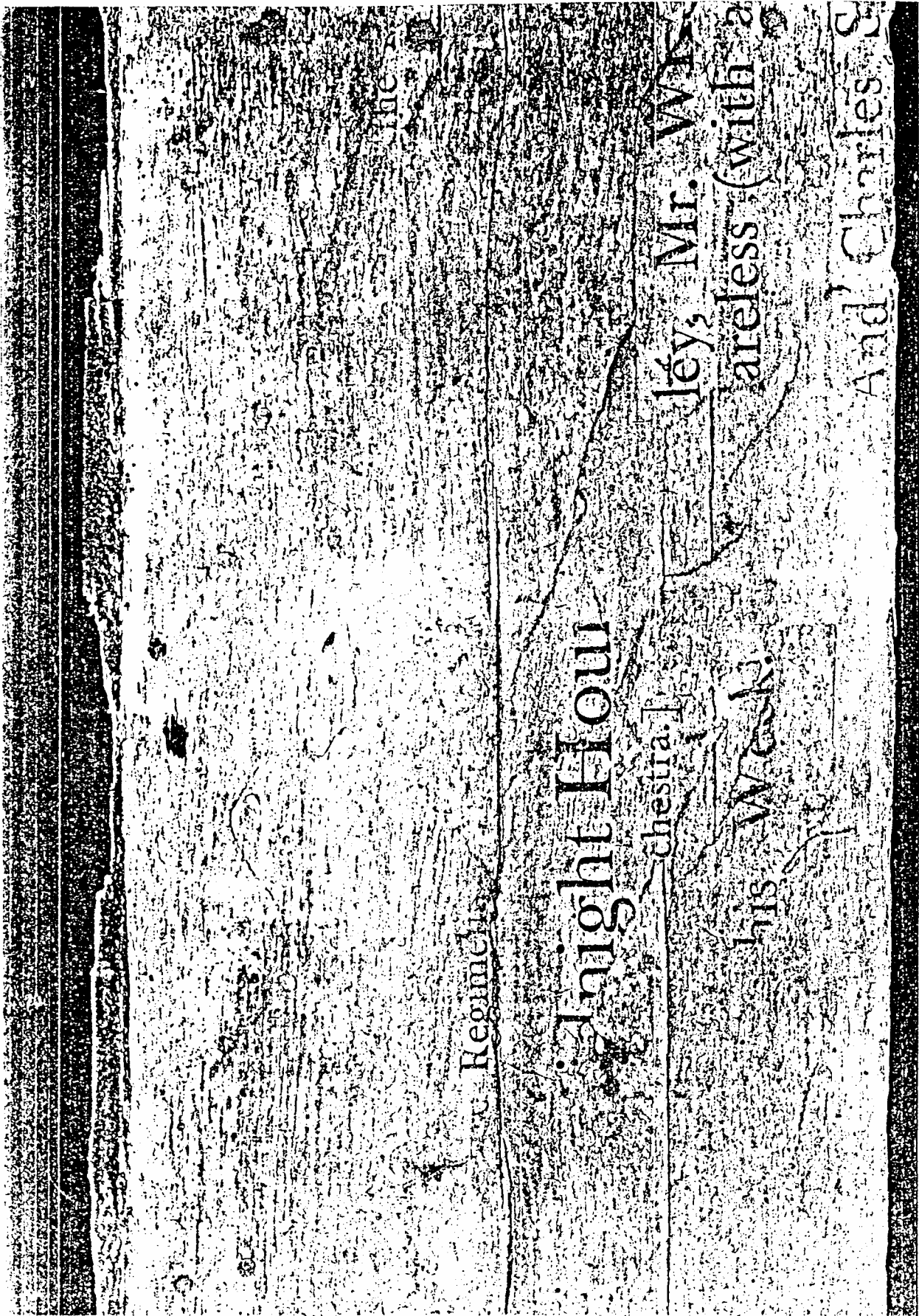


Fig. 10 Playbill 3

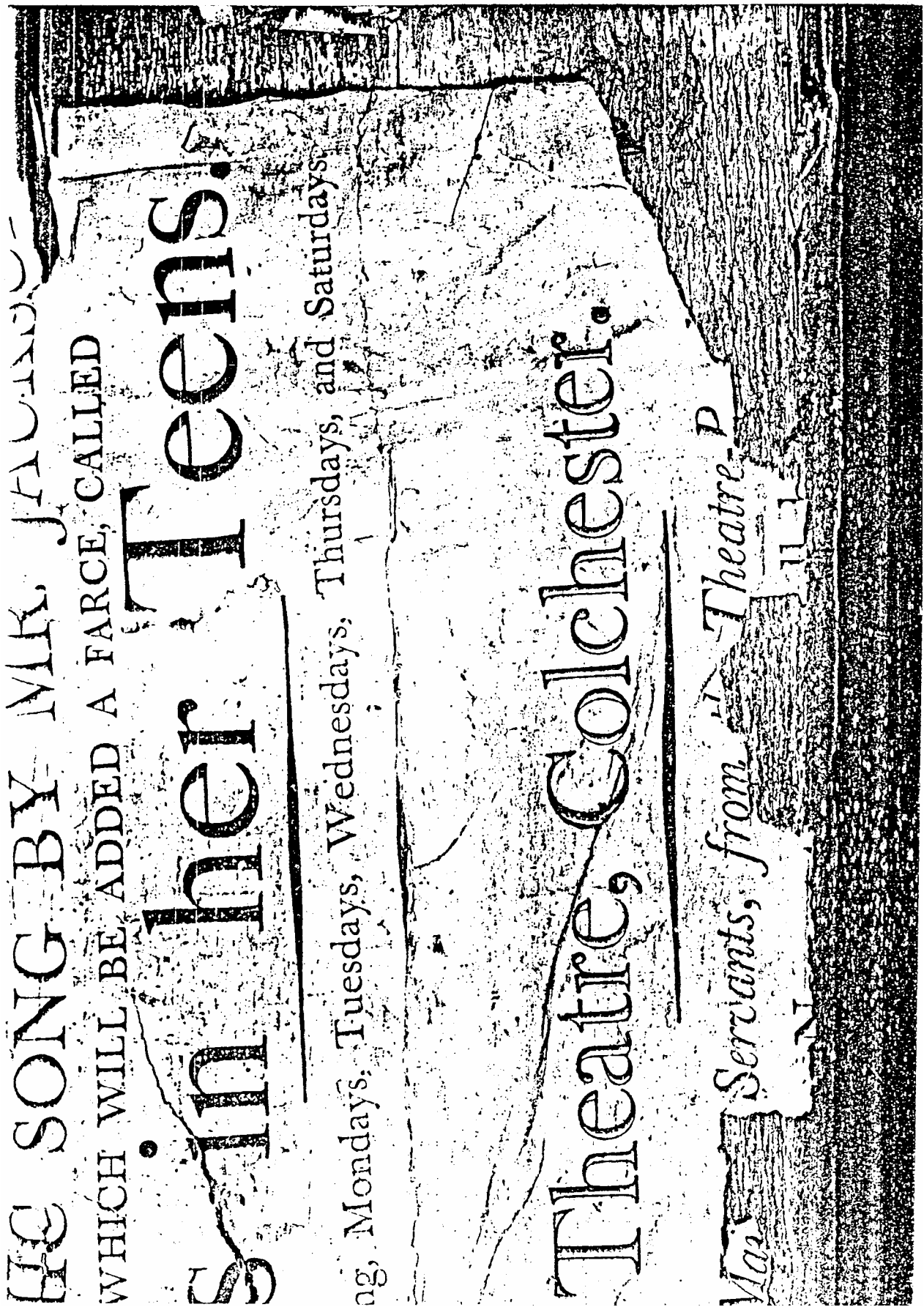


Fig. 11 Playbill 4

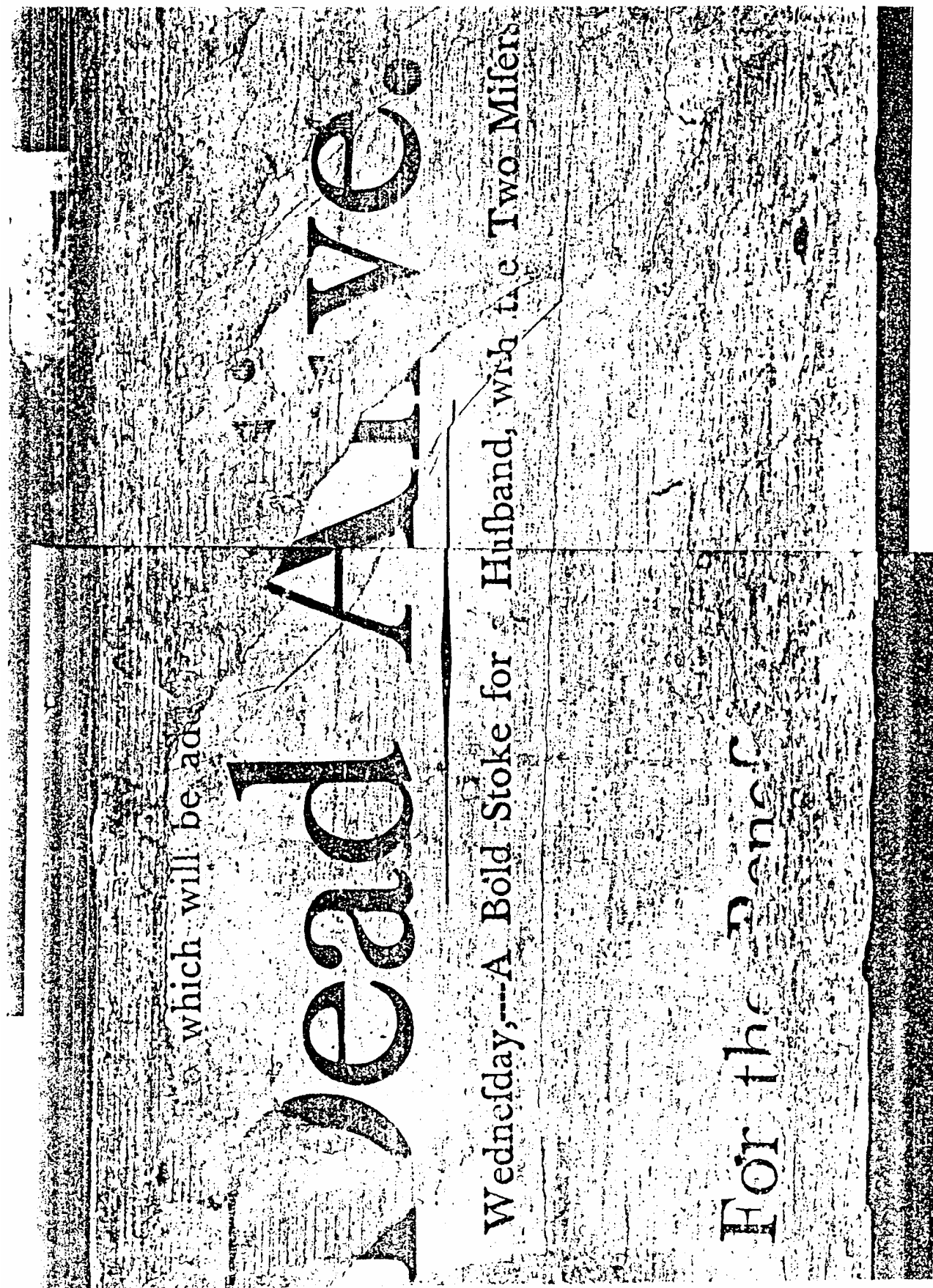


Fig. 12 Playbill 5

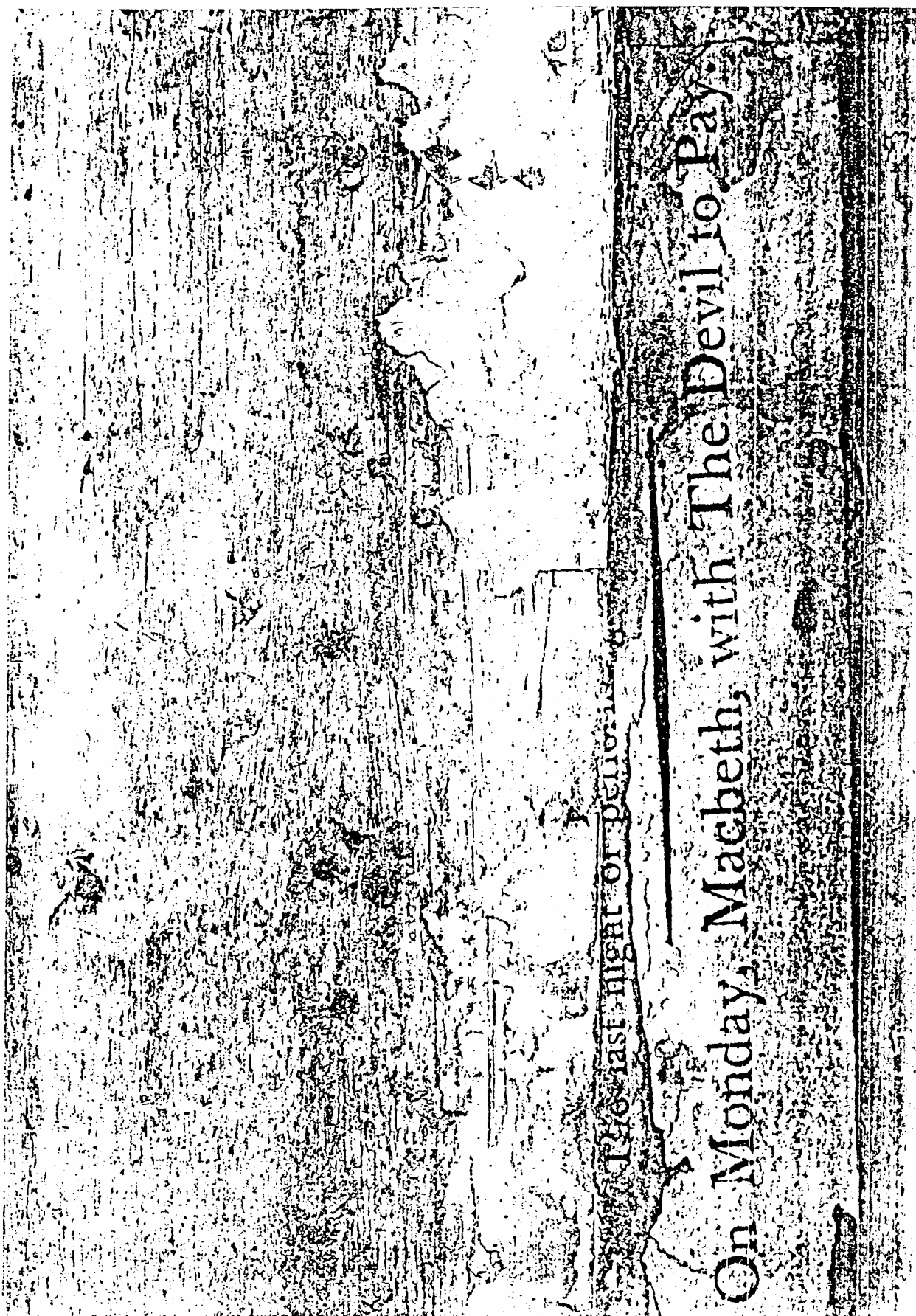


Fig. 13 Playbill 6

Playbill 7) Dancing by Mrs. Chesnut, and a comic song by M....
THE HIGHLAND REEL

The Highland Reel was written by O'Keefe in 1788.

Playbill 8) TENNIS MARKERS, &. BY OTH(ER)....
And MR GOLDFINCH, by Mr. BI.....
The Widow Warren, by M...
Jenny, Mrs Powell, Mrs. Ledger....
And Sophia by Miss BR
End of play, "How merrily we live" by Mr
.....and Mrs. J. Brunton
and "How s ans?" by Mr. Word.....
.....Concerts

Playbill 9)J BENNET(T)
ROBERT, MR MORETON
AND FREDERICK, by MR POWELL
()ABINA ROSNY, by MRS BRUNTON
MR WRANGLE, MRS POWELL
...s, AECEY, WAITING WOMAN, MRS LINDOE
...(a)nd LADY RUBY, by MISS EDMEAD
(E)nd of play, Dancing by Mrs Chesnut

Playbill 10) (a)nd MRS DARNLEY, by MI(SS)
END OF THE.....
....ING BY M...
To which will be added a farc(e)
...not acted here these four)
R
or The Tars of

Playbill 11) Sir OLIVER SURFACE, Mr
Joseph Surface, Mr. SEYMOUR
Crabtree, Mr. LINDOE
Sir Benjaminn Backbite, Mr. WEBBER
Moses, Mr. BLANCHARD

This is from the cast list of School for Scandal?

Playbill 12) ...ZAR (WITH A SONG) MR WO
ANTONIO, MR WHITMORE
DON JOHN, MR BLANCHARD
MR J BENNETT,... SEXTON, MR CHESNU(T)
LEONATO, BY MR LINDOE
(H)ERO, BY MRS J BRUNTON BLANCHARD, URSULA, MRS CHESN(UT)
BEATRICE, BY MISS EDMEAD

END OF PLAY
(CO)MIC SONG BY MR JACKSON
...TE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE.....



Fig. 14 Playbill 7

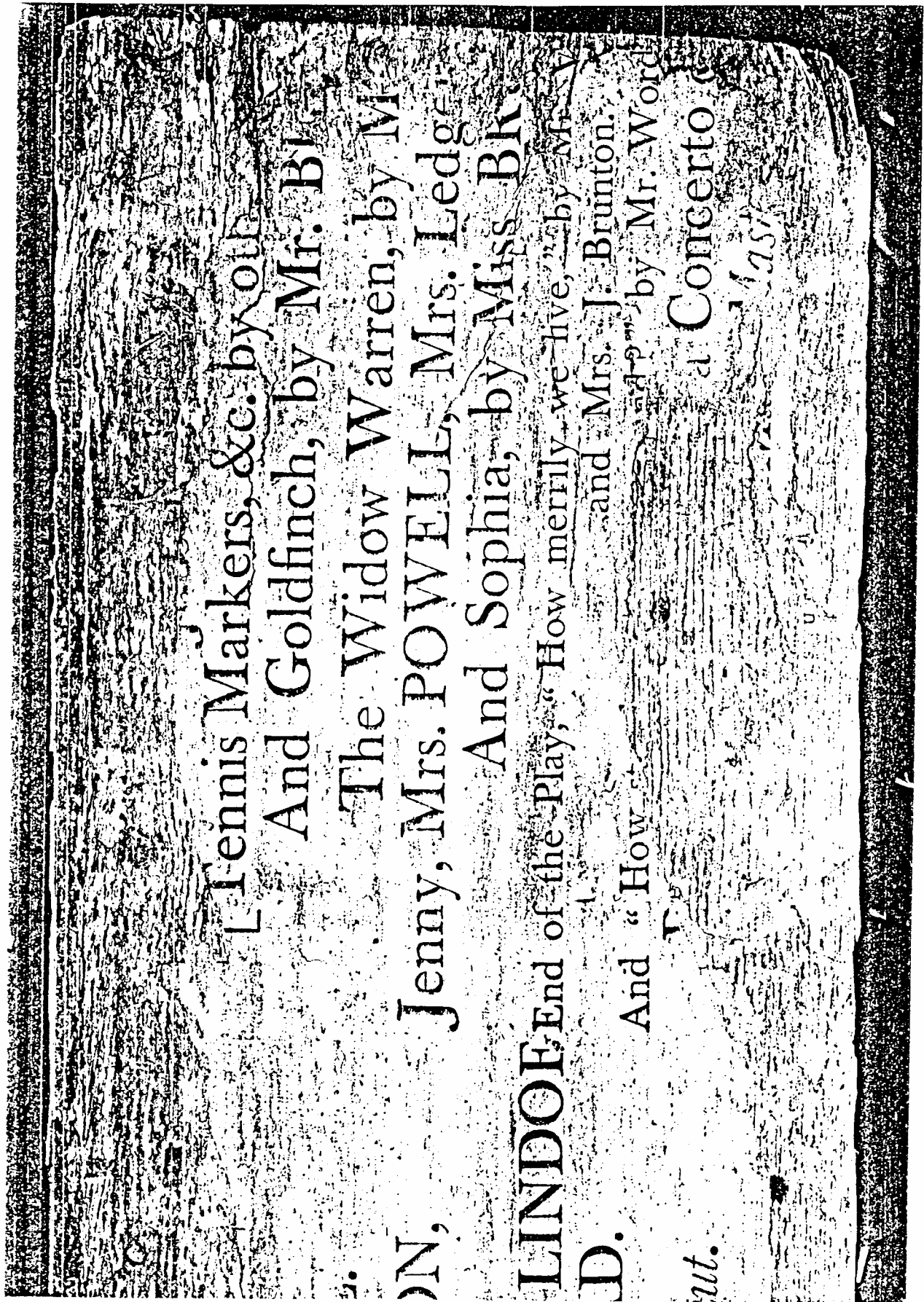


Fig. 15 Playbill 8

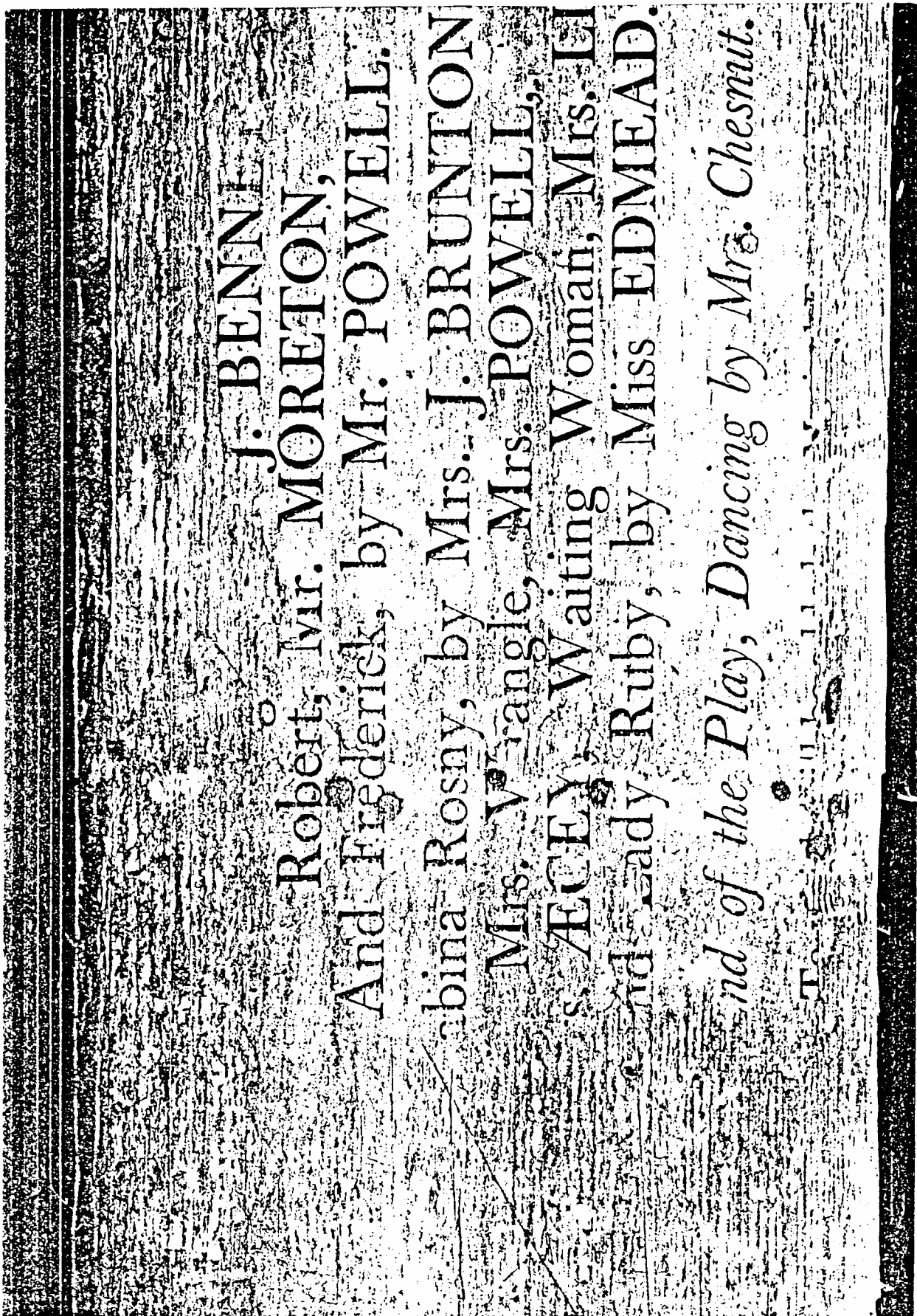


Fig. 16 Playbill 9

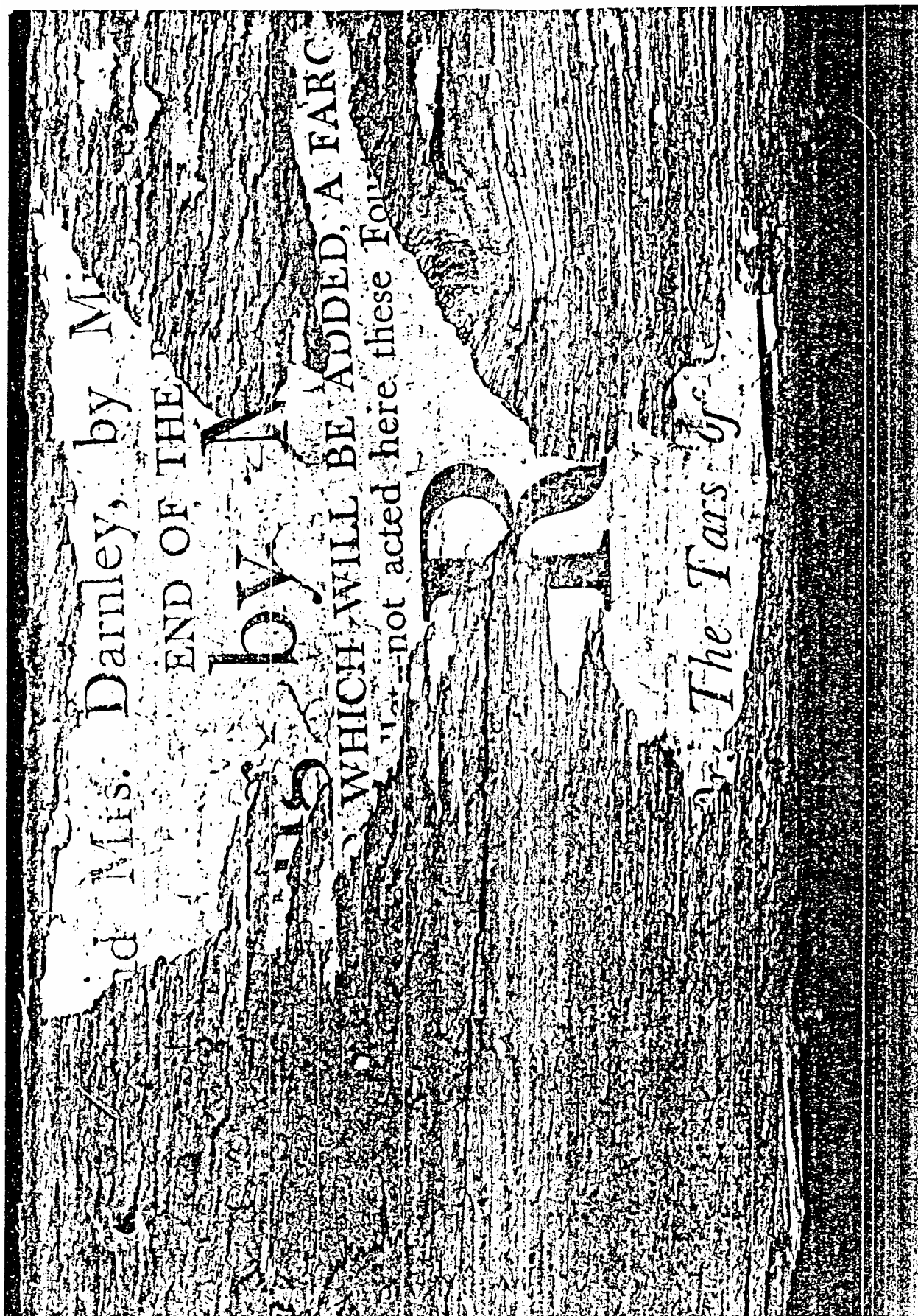


Fig. 17 Playbill 10

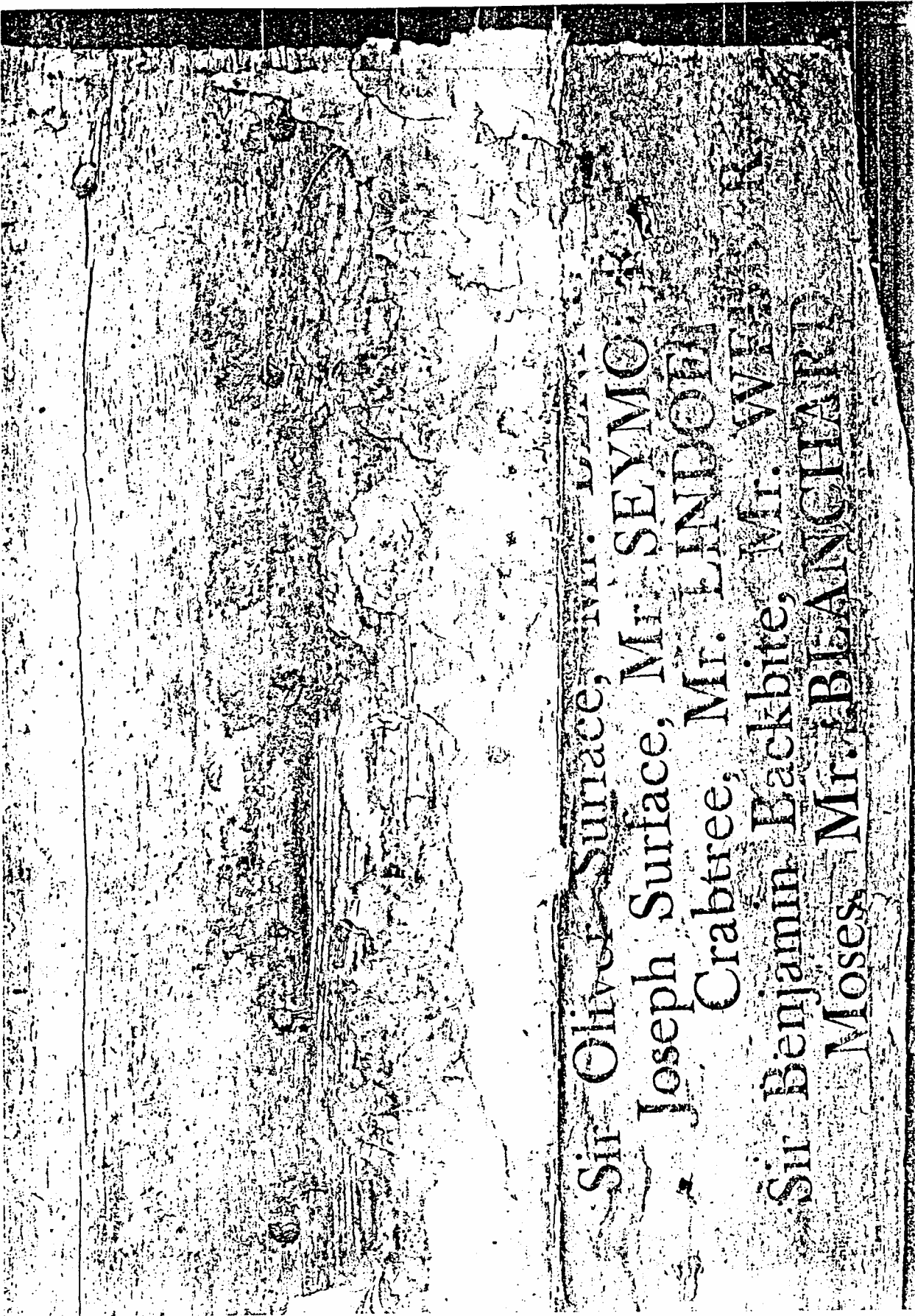


Fig. 18 Playbill 11

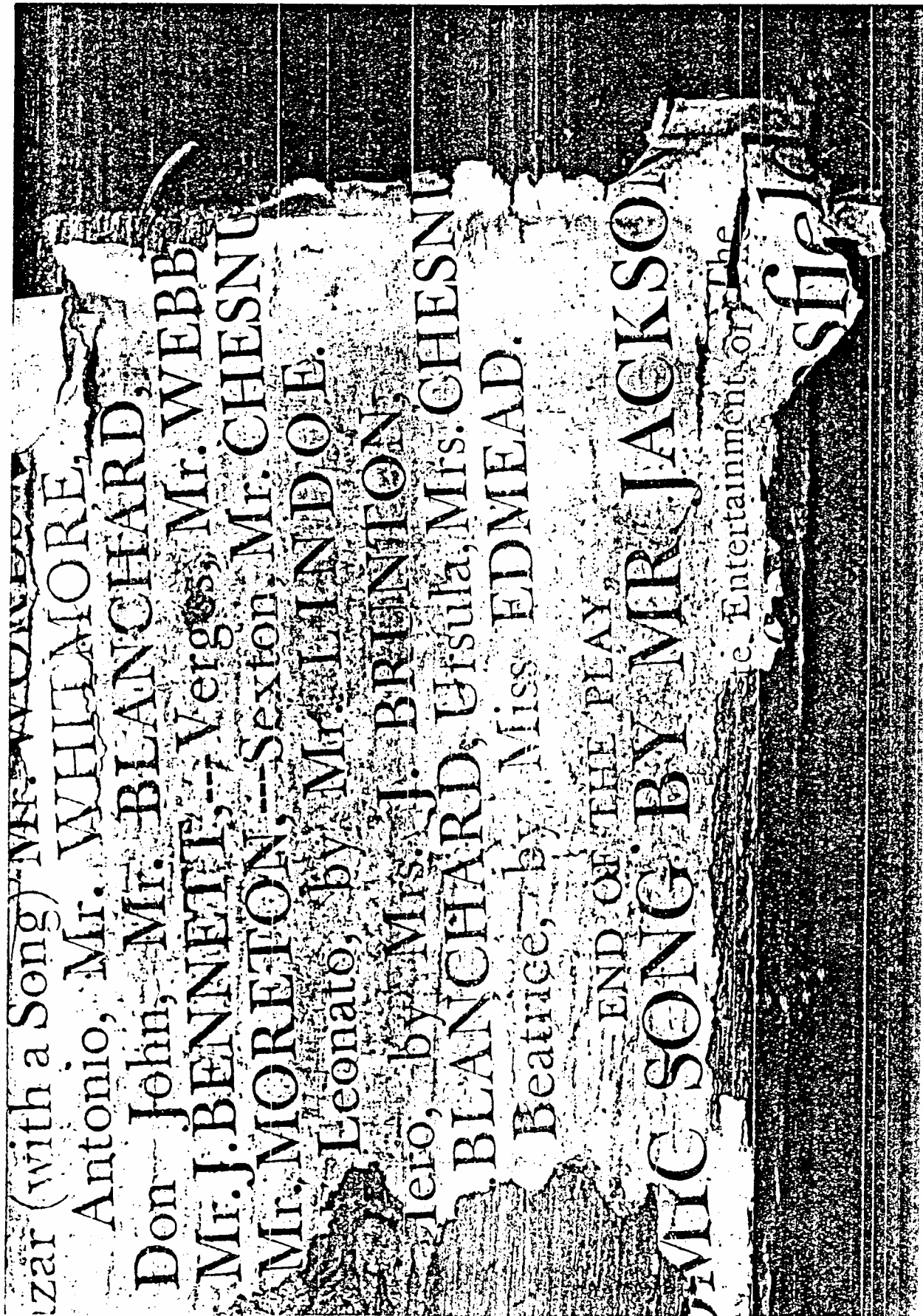


Fig. 19 Playbill 12

Playbill 13) ...WHE ...
 Diamond Fox of Fir
 A Battery of R ...
 Scr Wheel
 ... un ... Horiz(ontal)
 A Globe
 A Doub(le) ...
 Two
 6 Fo(ur)

This obviously a fragment of an auction list of personal and household goods. The words Diamond and Globe suggest high quality goods.

Playbill 14) ...genes of the
 ...Colchester
 The double S...
 is late(r)
 (Ea)rnestly request(ed) fo(r)
 FRICHOT
 GLEE
 “HARK THE LARK”
 GRAND CONCERTO, on the double serpent, by Mons. FRICHOT
 ACT II
 Concerto Violin, Mr. Richards
 SONG, Mr. Bennett, "Love f(i)nds the ..."
 GLEE, "Sigh no more, Ladie(s)"
 (SE)PTUOR OBLIGATO, for T(w)o violins
 SONG, Mr. TOWNSEND, acc(ompanied)

 Tickets, T....
 A..

This notice was for a grand concert for the benefit of Mr. Richards, with Mons. Frichot on the double serpent (lately arrived from Paris), which was held on 17th November 1792.



Fig. 20 Playbill 13

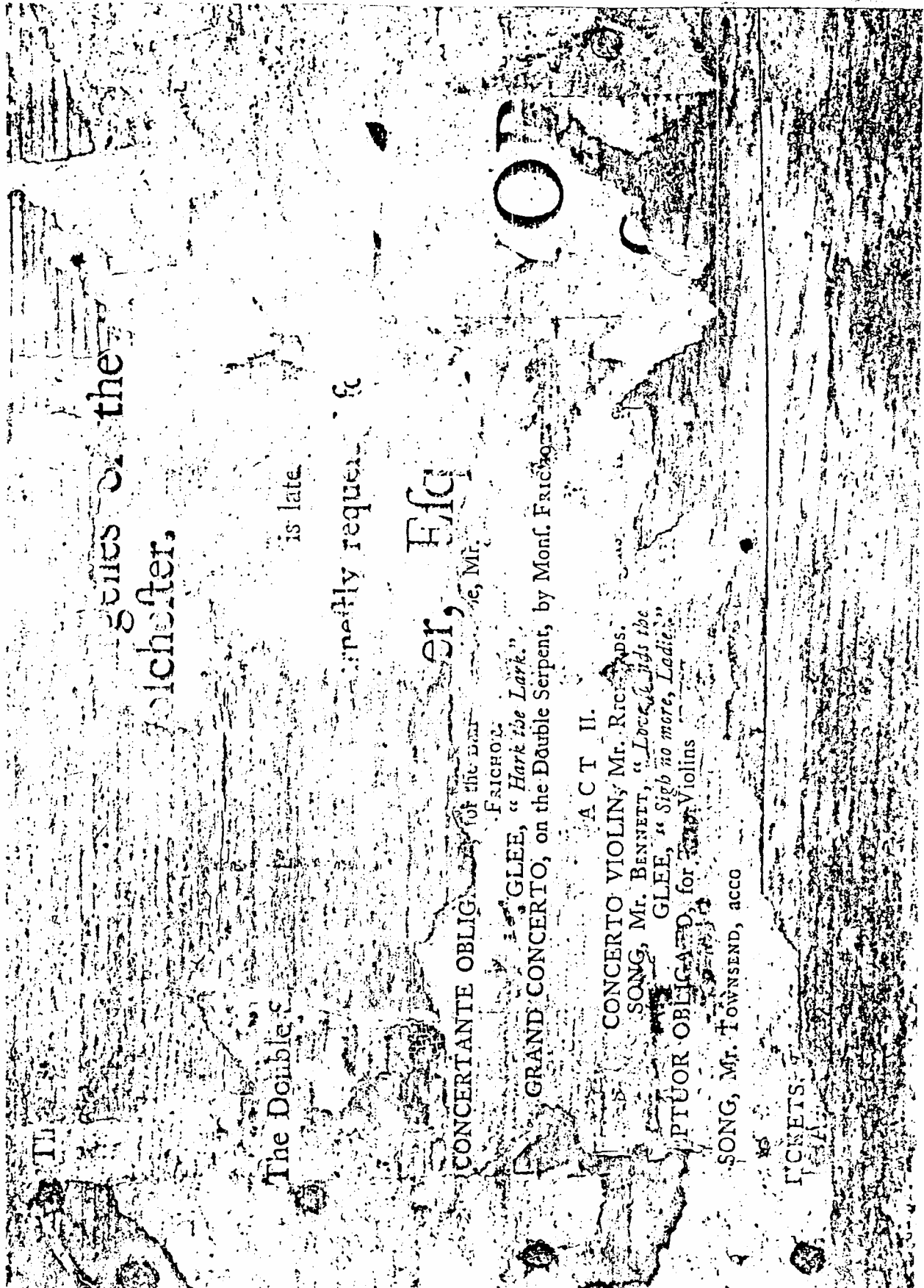


Fig. 21 Playbill 14

Playbill 15) (SAT)URDAY
... WILL BE PERFO(RMED)

(These words at the top of the fragment may not be related to the rest of the printing, which is a subscription list, arranged by Parish).

St Mary Magdalene				N Corselius Esq	1	1	0	St Runwalds			
	£	s	d	Mrs W Kestermann	1	1	0	Rev James Round	5	5	0
Rev John Smythies	1	1	0	Mrs Patmore	1	1	0	Mr C Key...	2	2	0
St Nicholas				Mr (l)illey	0	10	6	Mr W Key...	1	1	0
J Collins Tabor Esq	10	0	0	Mr Cole	0	10	6	Mr W...jnr	1	1	0
Mr John Kendall	5	5	0	Mr A....in	0	10	6	Mr Jam(es)	(1)	(1)	0
Rev John Smithies	4	4	0	Mr Gos(n)all	0	10	6				
Mr James Lovell	4	4	0	Mr P... N	0	10	6	(Unknown Parish)			
Mr Charles Great	3	3	0	0	10	6		£	s	d
David Lloyd Esq	3	3	0	...M...	?	?	6	Mr ...D	?	?	?
Messrs Brockway And Son	3	3	0	Mr Bu(d)d	?	?	?	Mr ... On	?	?	?
Mr Thomas Catchpool	(2)	2	0	Mr Peter Smith	0	5	0	Mr (Ma)ple	?	?	?
Mrs Fisher	2	2	0	Mr Smith, Sen	0	3	0	Mr Ward	?	?	?
Mr John Banks	2	2	0	Mr Walton	0	2	6	Mr Cruswell	?	?	?
Mr John Fenno	(1)	1	0	Mr Bragge	0	2	6	Mr Ladbroke	?	?	?
Mr John Rouse	1	1	0	Miss Fisin	0	1	0				
Mr Charles White	1	1	0					Mile End			
Mrs Alice Bumstead	1	1	0	Unknown Parish	36	9	0	Rev & Mrs Cambridge			
Mr Samuel G(i)bbs	1	1	0		£	s	d	Rev Mr Elliott			
Mr Samuel Nockold	1	1	0	?	0	5	0	Mr Posford			
Mr William Bunnell	1	1	0	?	0	5	0	Mr Blomfield			
Mr William ...ave	0	10	6	?	0	5	0	Mr Skinner			
Mr Samuel (ellis)	0	(10)	6	?	0	5	0	Mr Bugg			
Mr John Welham	0	10	6	?	0	5	0	Mr Wincoll			
Mr Rob(ert) D...	?	?	?	?	0	5	0	Messrs Hewes			
Mr T S Kendall	?	?	?	?	0	5	0	Mr Johnson			
M ...s Ath...	?	?	?	Miss Lancaster	0	5	0	Mr Thompson ,			
Mr Henry ...	?	?	?	Mr Giles Nunn	0	5	0	Mr J Nunn			
St Martin				Mr Thomas Augur	0	2	6	Mr Stradling			
John Round Esq	1(0)	0	0	Mr James Brooker	0	2	6	Mr Edward Stradling			
Rev Yorick Smythies	5	5	0	Mr Stanes	0	2	6	Mr Nunn			
Mr John E Wallis	5	5	0	Mr Potter	0	2	0	Mr Beckey			
Rev Joseph Brockwell	3	3	0	Mr Parker	0	2	0	Mr D...			
Mrs Dennis	3	3	0		0	1	0	Total Of Cont(ributions)			
Rev Rees Harris	2	2	0		96	5	6				

This subscription list must have been for a substantial project considering the amounts given. I thought it at first it was for the Handel Festival at St. James' Church, Colchester on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd September 1790, but the day of the week appears to be Saturday.

The list is an interesting record of the better off people in Colchester about 1790. Many of these people are in Mr J Butt's manuscript list of eighteenth century Colchester people.

I should like to thank the Essex Record Office for their help, in particular for allowing me to reproduce the 1873 plan of the Cock and Pie site.

REFERENCES

Butler, Nicholas, 1981

Theatre in Colchester

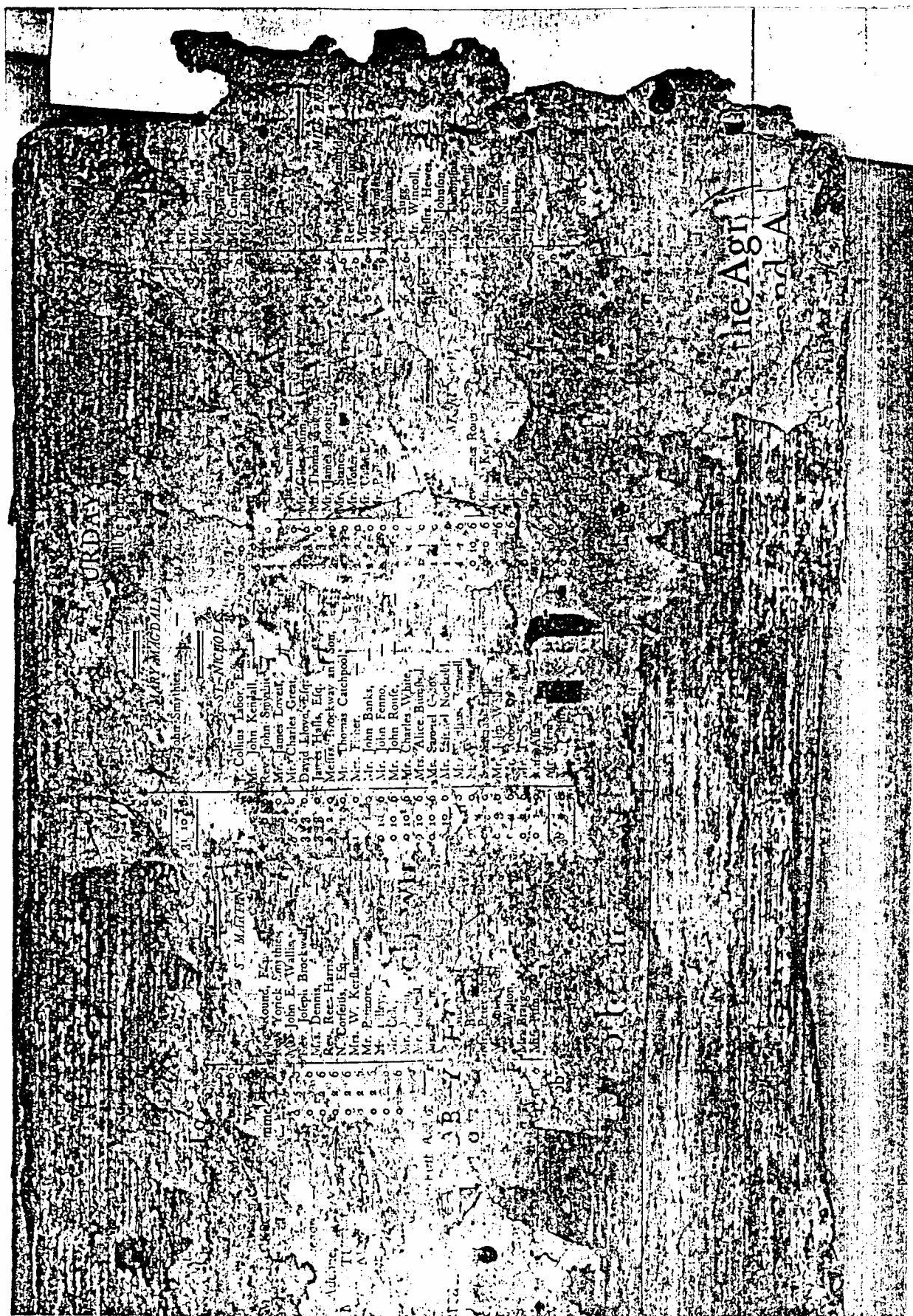


Fig. 22 Playbill 15

WINTER LECTURES (1989/90)

Recent Crop Mark Observations in North Essex and South Suffolk - Monday 9th October 1989

Mrs Ida McMaster & Mr Pat Adkins

Following the A.G.M. Mrs McMaster and Pat Adkins gave talks on the aerial photographs each had taken in 1989. Mrs McMaster showed slides of Court Knoll, Nayland - a strange plateau-like place. She considers that the dry summer had at last shown possible features on the site.

At Parkstead Farm on the Shotley peninsular was a large D-shaped feature, deep pits and other crop marks. She also had pictures of the Henge at Earls Colne and others near Colne Priory and remarked that the Ordnance Survey map had shown the Priory Church in the wrong field. Pat Adkins' slides showed a huge range of crop marks, some of previously known features but mainly fresh discoveries. A particularly striking one showed the Stratford St. Mary's Long Barrow with nearby probable Bronze Age features.

His pictures emphasised the long human occupation and agricultural activity (as well as iron working) in this area from Neolithic times onward. He made the point that some of the early field boundaries appear to reflect early natural landscape features.

Frontier of the Roman Empire (in Germany and Palestine) - Monday 16th October 1989

Mr David T-D Clarke, lately curator, Colchester Museums.

The German frontier ran along the Rhine with a great defensive ditch, palisaded bank and associated forts extending from the Rhine near Koblenz to the Danube at Regensburg. This defence ran through great forests and the landscape on parts looked much as it does today. A major fort (Saalberg) behind the wall has been carefully reconstructed. It had several wells which preserved a range of artefacts.

The speaker emphasised the interest taken in Germany and its archaeology by describing the great expense given to preserve a Roman house (found under a landslip) with walls reaching window high. At Trier a wide range of Roman buildings (of the Constantine period particularly) still remains; the chief ones being the great Porta Negra, the Basilica, amphitheatre and cathedral. Both here and in the region in general are several large scale mosaics of the highest quality. The splendid Museum of Roman finds at Cologne is particularly fortunate in its unparalleled collection of glass objects, triumphs of the glassmakers' art.

Mr Clarke went on to describe the Roman frontier remains in Palestine. Little Roman remains in Jerusalem though fragments of Pontius Pilate's conduit survive. At Massala, little of Roman origin is found though the site is surrounded by camps set up by the besiegers. Jerash - in Jordan - has Hadrian's arch just outside the 6km long walls, a theatre, colonnaded streets (well drained), a water supply with a domed Nymphaeum and a temple to Zeus similar to the Colchester temple to Claudius. There is also the Byzantine cathedral (fifth century) with huge columns. In the desert, an oasis has a Roman fort; part of defences against the east. It has a 12th Legion inscription and was used by T.E. Lawrence. Mr Clarke described some of the other sites in this area and then moved on to Petra - a one time flourishing Nabatians' trading town on the way south. He had splendid slides of the great rock-hewn temples with classical features. One (later a monastery) is a huge building approached by 800 steps. A Byzantine mosaic map of Jerusalem shows some buildings of the Roman period. At Nazareth, the great aisled church with monolithic columns (304 AD) has symbolic mosaics of wild life. The speaker concluded by showing an Arab built bath house in the desert, of Roman type. It is decorated by good wall paintings which badly need cleaning.

The Raunds Project: The Stanwick Villa and its Estates - Monday 23rd October 1989

David Neal FSA, The Central Excavation Unit, English Heritage.

The Project Area covers 50 square miles, much of it along the gravel bearing land along the River Nene where a series of relatively modest villas at intervals of approximately 2 miles have been identified. The most ambitious of these is the Stanwick Villa which revealed its importance by finds made by field walking and metal detecting as well as by mosaics partly uncovered in exploratory trenching, which had to be suspended when gravel working was unexpectedly hastened in an area to the north. However digging is to be renewed at the villa next year.

It is now known that the villa and Roman features near by are improved on a Bronze Age (BA) landscape dating from the clearance of the valley floor, with later Iron Age (IA) circular huts (each with eastern entrances) and Late IA pits which provided some environmental evidence otherwise disappointingly scarce in the area.

One hut had a central hearth and two clay-lined tanks, a fibula, sling shots and six native coins. The site was a cultural backwater until c 100 AD when considerable alterations were made and a system of rectangular ditches dug. The tracks between the fields seem to focus on an enclosure which had huts of wattle and daub with some masonry work. Persisting into Roman times was regard for a Bronze Age mound with a terminus wall, beyond which was a huge number of oyster shells. 500 Roman coins and a bronze frog were found here. In the late Antonine period appears a rectangular enclosure with towers at the corners. Partly of masonry work it had no evidence of floors or of occupation - it sits on a Late IA hut site. Here was also what seems to have been the bailiff's house. To the west, a line of three circular houses, to the East a yard enclosure. There was a water tank fed from springs. There was a large barn which was 70 metres long. At a later stage the ditches were filled and replaced by walls. The whole lay-out is planned.

A bone working industry was carried on where needles, pins, counters etc. were made. A striking feature of this period was an extra large circular building which seems to have had a gallery. Corn drying seems to have been carried on.

The villa complex started in the 2nd century and developed by the 4th century into a luxurious one with mosaic floors. Where the builders were aware of IA ditches and pits they provided masonry filling to support the new walls. In the later phases appears a series of small 'crofts' each with its own well. Land was at a premium so a hard standing was made for cattle near the river. The adjacent house was of daub and wattle however.

Finds include querns, pewter dishes, hundreds of small lead objects (seals, fishing weights, weights for bird netting etc.). Coins show activity into the 5th century but now the villa floors are cut by timber buildings. Burials on the site are very unceremonious, the bodies being flung into ditches etc.

The large number of huts and villas in this area establish the well populated nature of the district in early times in a vivid way.

Excavation at High Lodge, Suffolk - Monday 30th October 1989

Jill Cooke

High Lodge is an occupation site of the stone Age first studied in 1860 when workmen, digging out clay for bridges, found fresh sharp stone implements. At first they were considered (by John Evans) to be of the Mousterian period between 80,000 and 40,000 years ago. These early tools appeared to be of two types: hand axes (bi-faced), some much abraded and others very fresh, and flakes.

The tools were lodged at the British Museum about the turn of the century and, subsequently, experts have thought them older than did John Evans. Looking at them again in the 1950's, it was decided to re-dig the site. As a result, some 2000 artefacts were collected, including many waste flake tools from flint napping. This second excavation was not, in fact, published until some 25 years after digging, chiefly because experts could not agree on dating.

A third excavation was undertaken in 1988 to try and answer the questions of dating by further study of stratigraphy. The speaker explained that three distinct strata are usually recognisable in East Anglia:

- 1) Base layer: chalky and sand containing flints, bones and Jurassic shell;
- 2) A layer above of calcareous sand;
- 3) A top layer: a series of clays always deposited as red and blue layers in still water (i.e. in a lake) always covered with a layer of true silt. It was on these silty clays that the hunter gatherers settled by the lakes and made their tools which are found in the upper red clay.

The fresh tools found in the first excavation were plainly newly made and in their original context and appear to be of a single period of occupation. The climate, temperate at the time, allowed the growth of pine, alder and spruce and some marsh plants. When the temperature cooled and another Ice Age advanced, clays were lifted and dramatically moved (known as ice rafting), being lifted and contorted so that now some of the oldest deposits are on top of the clay and some later artefacts have been sifted downwards. Animal remains from the first excavations were not well preserved, though bone fragments of horse, bovid and deer were recognised. However, one well-preserved rhino tooth, of a species extinct in Europe after the last Anglian glaciation, was found in primary context in the lower red clay.

In the 1988 excavation, fragments of flint were found by sieving and many series of flakes produced from a single striking were recognised indications that the activity was happening on the surface of the clay. Small channels in the red clay produced by earlier melting of ice also contained such series of flakes. The small channels must have increased their flow as the temperature rose and produced the lakes at the same time depositing a silty surface to the uppermost layer.

Final scientific dating of the 1988 work is not yet available. However, of the entire collection of early tools only 10% were of struck flakes, all struck with hard stone, and these are now considered mid-palaeolithic (some 140,000 years ago). In addition, the latest geological evidence indicates that High Lodge is one of the earliest sites in SW Europe.

Burgh - an Iron Age Oppidum in Southeast Suffolk - Monday 6th November 1989

Edward Martin, Archaeological Section, Suffolk County Council

This site has been known from crop marks, as the earthwork surrounding it has been ploughed flat. Part is known as Castle Field and local legend has long told of a spectral hound and a buried golden calf there.

A dig at the turn of the century revealed a circular ditch (probably a mill mound) in the enclosure, one side of which is rectangular, the other much less so, and parts here are missing. St. Botolph's church is in the enclosure, which is crossed by a road. In his dig in the extended churchyard, the speaker found a big hole between the church and the expected ditch, of which no trace could be found at that point. At the pit bottom was a human skull (jawbone missing) part covered by a big stone. The 'fill' of the pit was in two distinct parts. The upper part had successive finds of pottery from hand made Iron Age through wheel made, to Belgic, to Roman, including imports from Gaul. The wheel made late Iron Age ware may have come from Colchester.

The Roman material showed a wide range of types, including rare ones, and for the small area excavated there was a large quantity. Claudian, Samian and other pottery of types often associated with military sites, as well as parts of a ballista bolt and a pilum head, suggest a military connection, but the only feature on the site which supports this is a small rectangular enclosure with a shallow ditch, and as there are well attested Roman camps a few miles away on each side of Burgh, it seems difficult to explain all this without further excavation. In the ditch of the rectangular enclosure, the earlier excavator had found Belgic material dated 30-43 AD. It seems the ditch had been part refilled about the time of Boudicca - it does not appear on air photos. In a later phase, a Roman villa with mosaics, hypocaust, window glass and painted wall plaster was established, with a life extending to the end of the Roman period.

The speaker drew parallels from Clare and Bamham. At the latter earthwork, a horse's skull was found at the bottom of the ditch and in a corner, an isolated large post hole and clay lined trough, also an

articulated human leg. The Clare 'camp' usually described as Iron Age has revealed no Iron Age finds. Gallowshill (Thetford) is also odd. Scarcely defensive, it is near a Roman cult site. Nearer Colchester, the Gosbeck enclosure is also near a cult site. All this suggests that some of the East Anglian ditched enclosures should be regarded primarily as cult sites rather than defensive ones, though they may also, as at Burgh, be the site of an oppidum.

The parish church is in a corner of the parish remote from the village, but quite near the neighbouring parish church, which is also remote from its village.

The speaker concluded by emphasising the odd things in these East Anglian sites which call for further excavations to explain them.

The Lecture of 13th November 1989 was cancelled owing to fog.

Anglo-Saxon Churches Rediscovered - Monday 20th November 1989

D A H Richmond MA, Dip Arch (Cantab), FSA, Architectural Investigator with RCHM (England).

Following St. Augustine's conversion of the Saxons, in due course, a large number of extensive parishes were established in England and these became 'Mother Churches' to the smaller parishes into which the Primary Parishes eventually evolved. Evidence for this can be found sometimes in documents showing the newer parishes still having to pay certain dues to the Mother Church (e.g. Church Scot).

The area the speaker was concerned with was Northamptonshire. Here he had been investigating church buildings, some of which, such as Earls Barton, Nassington, have conspicuous Saxon features, but others needed closer inspection to reveal Saxon origins.

A common feature of the earliest churches was the Tower Nave where the nave was in the tower base with a chancel opening on the east side. Later the nave and chancel lengthened and were of considerable height, often twice the width of the nave. Later, a porticus was often added and chapels at the side. Then clerestories were made by having openings in the tall north and south walls of the Anglo-Saxon nave. By opening up these walls lower down, arcades were produced and aisles for processions provided. These aisles were not usually wide and were roofed with gabled ends so 'gutter valleys' ran along the original north and south nave walls. This is well shown at Kings Sutton, near Banbury, where it can be seen by the beheading of an east window how, at a later stage, the aisle had been lowered so that the gutter valley could be avoided and the new aisle roof sloped away from the nave wall.

Numerous examples were shown: St. Peters (Northampton), Kingsford, Brigstock, Warmington, Nassington, Oundle, Deddington, Rothwell etc. Almost all of these show how the Primary Parishes were sited administratively at centres of local power, the largest ones, such as Northampton, at places of Regional importance. Excavation at Northampton revealed a large secular stone built hall with other structures (built on the site of the large timber hall) by the church, which itself partly covers the site of the original church. The Mother churches nearly all lie by early 'manor' sites with the secular building on the axis of the church or right angles to it. There is also a market (perhaps now infilled with buildings) and an enclosure earthwork, often rectangular. All the sites are at road junctions. Often the original 'manor' building is the site of the existing Big House of the parish. It is notable that, frequently, the siting of the Mother Church is not central to the Primary Parish but near the house of the landowner concerned.

The Archaeological Investigation of a Dinosaur in Gloucestershire - Monday 27th November 1989

Geoffrey Tann, Peripatetic Site Supervisor for the Oxford Archaeological Unit

Chance finds from waste at Hornsleasow Quarry, near Morton-in-Marsh, of parts of a dinosaur fossil resulted in an excavation in 1988 for the Gloucester Museum. The remains were found to come from a moist clay stratum on Jurassic limestone, so it was possible to extract them by a proper archaeological process, instead of chipping out of the rock.

At the time of their deposit in what then was a pond (approximately 105 million years ago) the climate resembled present day Florida. It is estimated that the animal, a Sauropod, would have weighed about nine tons and had a length of fifty feet.

John Darlington, the 'dig' director, had holes drilled in the overlying rock which was then broken up by explosive charges. The area, when cleared, was divided into 1 m. squares and lowered stratum by stratum. The top layer, of a sandy nature, was inspected for footprints, but none was found. It seems the creature died near by and its remains then found their way into the former pond. Eventually all the fossil bones were found except the skull, and the only damage one was to a femur, shattered by the shock of the explosion. The remains of this were carefully recorded and are now in Gloucester Museum store.

All soil was bagged in plastic sacks and labelled. Much was naturally dried, then washed and sieved, so producing a huge amount of environmental material, including thousands of freshwater crocodile teeth and probably more *Stereognathus* (small mole-like, mammal-like reptiles) teeth than anywhere else in the world.

Parts of another dinosaur were also found and there was also evidence for five other species, including flying lizards, seven teeth of a huge carnivorous dinosaur, and seven mammal teeth, the latter being the earliest find in Britain. Pollen from conifers and fresh water plants were found and coprolites from small creatures and many kinds of crocodiles.

The blue-green clay fill of the pond included volcanic ash, thought to have originated in a North Sea volcano. Part of the adjacent area is still unexcavated and will be preserved.

A Century of Land Settlement in Essex - Monday 4th December 1989

Colin Ward: Local author, Kersey Upland

Land Settlement schemes in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were not confined to this country. For example, Mussolini had such a scheme for the Pontine Marshes and Roosevelt had a similar scheme in the USA to settle the unemployed.

Essex was the scene for several non-governmental schemes from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. The county had always supplied food to London from farms and market gardens, and as the city grew, the supplying areas moved further to the east. A facilitating factor was the finely tuned transport system provided by a great number of spirit sail barges. Many schemes were encouraged by people who saw social advantages in stemming the drift from the land and settling the urban poor and unemployed in a better environment.

Land was extremely cheap during the agricultural depression of this period. Ramuz, later mayor of Southend, took the opportunity to become the largest landowner in the county and profited by selling it off as 'plot land' and small-holdings, though generally the land south of Stock was heavy ('three horse land'), unsuitable for the latter use.

The movement was encouraged by Dennis Hardy's book '*Arcadia for All*' and by William Morris and Edward Carpenter. In 1896 Tolstoyans began a colony near Maldon and then another at Ashingdon. They made their own bricks for greenhouse foundations but the schemes failed. A more serious effort by followers of Robert Blatchford led by Thomas Smith at Mayland had more success. Smith reinforced his income by other work and by intensive greenhouse production made good. His book on his career had an introduction by Kropotkin. The Salvation Army, following Booth's book '*Darkest England*' had a well-funded 3000 acre colony at Hadleigh, Essex, for unemployed man and a 'rescuing' section for inebriates. Rider Haggard was impressed by its success. It seems the idea was to train men in landwork so they could go to the Dominions, where many did well. Another Salvation Army colony was at Boxted.

An Act of 1892 allowed county councils to buy land, fence it, divide into smallholdings with access roads, then sell on a long-term repayment basis. However, this scheme did not make much progress. A subsequent Act gave counties power to acquire land compulsorily with the aid of government loans and

grants and then let the smallholdings. To provide a stimulus, a late Act permitted the Board of Agriculture to provide smallholdings where counties held back.

After World War I, death duties and the death of young inheritors brought a vast amount of land on the market and prices fell. The number of county council holdings doubled, but even then was not very great. The settlers were mainly ex-service men, some of whom were mustard gas victims and needed a fresh air job. Life was hard, but so was the life of farm labourers. However, the depression of the thirties in urban areas encouraged Ramsey McDonald in 1933 to set up the Land Settlement Association (LSA), a sort of compulsory co-operative for marketing (and encouraging the miners and other inexperienced settlers) on the 21 new estates which were established (in Essex at Yeldham and Lawford area). In the Second World War, new tenants had to have agricultural experience. The holdings specialised in salad crops under glass. Gradually, the holdings were sold off and often amalgamated as separate ones provided poor livings. Competition from Holland and the rising price of oil brought further difficulties and in 1982, the LSA. was wound up and tenants given the opportunity to buy their holdings at cut prices. The marketing was mainly carried out by a Kent co-operative.

The History of Archaeological Investigation in the Borough of Chelmsford - Monday 22nd January 1990

Nicholas Wickenden MA, SSA, MIFA, Keeper of Archaeology, Chelmsford Museum Service

"Caesaromagus", the name of Roman Chelmsford, is the only such Imperial town-name in Britain, but the town was never of major importance. Perhaps founded to be the capital of the Trinovantes after the Boudiccan revolt, its importance was limited by the unexpected revival of Camulodunum.

William Stukely identified the town with the Roman site but his town plan was wildly misleading and did not help early excavators (French and Chancellor) who explored masonry remains. The latter's collection of pottery - probably made in London - was later given to the town and wrongly implied that the town had a Claudian origin. Subsequent Saxon finds at Springfield reminiscent of Sutton Hoo are in the British Museum. In 1939, ARP trenches revealed masonry remains. Brinson dug these, unaware that he was on Chancellor's site, but his 1961 excavation at the "Prince of Orange" discovered the main side road, leading towards Heybridge. Assistant Curators made a number of Rescue digs and chance finds along Broomfield Road revealed Roman cremations.

The prospect of the new Relief Road prompted more archaeological activity and a committee was formed (later a Trust). Rodwell and Paul Drury and others (including Rosalind Dunnett who dug the Moulsham Street 'Orchard Site') began to reveal the extent and features of the Roman town, along with the church site and burial ground of the Dominican Priory.

In 1970 Paul Drury became Director of Excavations and found that the "Chancellor" site was part of large Mansion with a substantial bath house whose roller stamped wall tiles were of Hadrianic date. He also found a temple (a cellar with ambulatory) of around 325 AD. The river crossing was guarded with a fort which had a smaller annex. Some barrack blocks had been built over Iron Age round houses. At the end of the second century the town defence ditches etc. were massively improved. The finds included many of military origin but Chris Going found no Claudian pottery in the town. Sites in surrounding villages include a Roman cremation cemetery at Little Waltham, a barn and small cemetery (also possible vineyards), by the Villa cropmarks at Chignal St. James, thirteenth century finds at King John's Hunting Lodge (Writtle) and a huge range of earthworks and finds at Springfield, dating back to the Neolithic period. The finest objects discovered are the jet ones of York origin. A splendid building has been provided lately at a cost of £60,000 to house the accumulation of objects from these excavations.

The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic - Monday 29th January 1990

Ralph Merrifield BA, FSA, Deputy Director, Museum of London (retired)

The subject of this lecture is not much thought of by archaeologists, except prehistorians, so the significance of finds is often not appreciated by finders, said Mr Merrifield.

A Cretan sarcophagus of around 1400 BC, showing religious ritual related to the cult of the dead with libations, animal offerings and presentation of model boats, has elements of practices which survived for incredibly long ages, though changing creeds provide fresh reasons for them.

Several instances of ritual animal burial were adduced by the speaker, mainly of foundation deposits at buildings. These generally were placed under the threshold in early times, and later, when chimneys were introduced, in chimney pieces. Celtic temples have been found with an ox interred close by, and two dogs were found at South Cadbury. Gradually, the motive for these burials changed from being a religious rite to the 'magical' one of bringing good luck and, in Saxon times, to a sort of medicinal one. Often, only part of the animal - perhaps the heart - would be buried, but in this case, there would be nothing to find during excavation. The rest of the animal would be eaten at a feast.

Horse skulls and dog skulls were commonly buried. Mr Merrifield quoted instances where they were found under late Roman surfaces. The practice continued under much later circumstances: a mediaeval threshold deposit of four horse skulls has been found, and at Little Belus, Essex, a horse skull in a seventeenth century house (a chimney piece deposit) was found. A Littleport (Cambs.) burial of this kind is on record as being made in the late nineteenth century. The practice of burying horse skulls under floors (Suffolk and elsewhere) is a rationalisation.

Cats, sometimes treated by taxidermy and in lifelike positions, are frequently found, and one Suffolk house had six cat remains, as well as an old shoe - a common type of deposit. June Swan, who is making a special study of old shoes and boots at Northampton Museum, has received 900 specimens from the UK and overseas, the most recent deposits being made in this century.

Votive offerings of model limbs and other parts of the body which seemed to require supernatural aid for curative purposes are commonly found on Roman religious sites. A particularly large number come from the Celtic religious site at the source of the Seine. A fifteenth century woodcut of St. Anthony depicts him under a string of votive offerings, but the practice of making these offerings continues to this day, in Crete etc.

The deposit of ritually bent artefacts, especially coins, continued from Roman times until quite late. An Anglesey bog had a bent sword and scabbard, and model spears (bent) have been found in Oxfordshire. Later, after the Reformation, the bent coins continued to be made for love tokens.

Finally the speaker referred to charms, curses etc. instancing a Roman curse on lead with one side in mirror writing. He also showed a slide of a seventeenth century curse (also on lead) with astrological signs.

The Cirencester Magic Square - thought to be the only possible combination of Latin words to provide one - is also found in other parts of the Roman Empire. A specimen from Pompeii, which cannot be later than 49 AD, is so early that it seems improbable to be Christian.

The 'Three Kings' of the Nativity story appear with their legendary names on brooches of the Middle Ages and later. Their initial letters (C.M.B.) are still chalked on doorways in Southern Germany each year but are now indicating the Latin words meaning 'May Christ bless the House'.

The Bronze Age in S.E. Essex - Monday 5th February 1990

Ken Crowe BA, AMA, Keeper of Human History, Southend on Sea Museum Services

Most of the Bronze Age (BA) finds in the 'Southend Peninsula' until the 1950's or 60's were chance finds from the brickearth areas found mainly in the eastern parts of the area and thus divorced from their context. Until comparatively recent times, few finds remained in the borough, many being deposited in the Colchester Museum or the British Museum.

During the Bronze Age, the coast line was considerably further to the south and east. The flora was similar to today's and the climate was becoming colder and wetter. The original forest had been cleared on the lighter lands, so the Bronze Age forest was secondary. The ridge of gravelly land between Benfleet and Rayleigh was well populated during the Neolithic period, but few signs of Bronze Age occupation are found there.

On the brickearth, the Beaker period (2000-1700 BC) is well represented though the beakers are not altogether like continental types. At Shoebury, beakers have been found with human remains and roe-deer and ox bones. Typical finds of stone mace heads, often with battered ends, are found, along with tanged and barbed arrowheads - typical of the early BA Collared urns have been found at Southchurch and Paglesham. At the latter, a field name of "Urnfield" has been reported and three or four Ring ditches observed. A notable find of a gold covered bead necklace under an inverted urn (with bones) was made by soldiers digging trenches during the First World War at Sutton Hall.

Middle Bronze Age settlement is better preserved than that of the Early Bronze Age. Rapiers and swords occur and axe heads and palstaves, also bucket urns. No known mid-BA sites are located on the heavy London clay areas. Deverel-Rimbury pots have been found. The small ones represented by sherds on occupation sites. The large ones were probably made only for burials. Textiles are witnessed by loom weights and a cloth impression on an urn fragment.

Mid BA and late BA palstaves have been found, but little late BA pottery. Late bronze hoards have been found in considerable numbers, nearly all deposited in pots. The hoards are nearly all of scrap and bronze cake. Perforated clay plaques of unknown use are found in this period, also a pair of bracelets made from solid gold rod - but these maybe mid BA. The late sites are all on the fringe of the original coastal area as by that time, rising sea level had covered so much of the district.

Redcliffe, North Ferriby and the Humber Frontier in the First Century AD - Monday

12th February 1990

Steven Willis BA, MA, University of Durham

The Humber, a mile to two miles wide in the Redcliffe area, formed a natural boundary between the Parisi and the Coritani on the South. Redcliffe, on a cliff (part of a terminal moraine) was occupied c 40-70 AD and known for some time as an Iron Age site. It is being rapidly eroded so an excavation project began in 1986 on the most promising part of the cliff. It was an attractive south facing site, opposite South Ferriby on the Roman occupied south shore, but finds of Roman pottery already made by chance showed contact was made across the water. The pottery assemblages closely resembled Camulodunum ones of the late Iron Age. Previous Bronze Age finds (and Mr Willis' recent prehistoric finds) showed very early settlement but the Late Iron Age one lasted only about 30 years.

The 1986 dig was exploratory and found there was little to be found in the top soil which was deposited from somewhat higher ground since Roman times and moreover had not been deep ploughed so could be machine moved in 1987-1988.

Excavation revealed four phases:

- 1) A linear ditch with a terminal and adjacent pits, the apparently ritual deposit of a horse's skull and a large assembly of finds including Claudian pottery.
- 2) A cutting and a cobbled area.
- 3) Now, the cobbled area was covered and was rich with occupation relics. The pottery was the same type as found in phase 1 so the phases followed rapidly on each other. A new cobbling was made, perhaps to make a hard-standing relating to boats making trans-Humber trips responsible for Roman and south Britain remains being found. There was also a steep revetted cutting.
- 4) A ditch, which respected earlier features - suggesting survival of land boundaries. There were many animal bones in the ditch but very little pottery. Saxon coins had previously been found on the beach from eroded features and a Saxon coin was found in this phase. Was the last phase Saxon?

The Finds:

Samian sherds and Gallo-Roman ones appear very rapidly after their appearance in places of origin. The amphorae of various types included one from the mid-east. Nine Iron Age coins were found. (30 had been found in the previous 15 years on the fore-shore).

One late B.C. Roman coin was found, also a number of brooches and other metal objects. At this period, Redcliffe was a frontier settlement as the finds are not paralleled in its hinterland but a new regime set in when the Romans crossed the Humber, presumably from Old Winteringham, at the end of Ermine Street and established a fort at Brough in 70 AD, and later in other northern parts.

On Being a Labourer in the Sixteenth Century - Monday 19th February 1990

Professor A Hassell-Smith, Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich.

In the Sixteenth century, labourers constituted 95% of the population and three quarters of these were 'the labouring poor'. Of these, little is known though information from will inventories published by Everitt in *"The Farm Labourer"* tells something of them for the period 1560-1660 and showed how there was a change in many districts from part-time to full-time labouring for an employer.

Professor Hassell-Smith's research on a series of daily accounts of a Norfolk landowner (Bacon) at Stiffkey throws light on the way of life of his employees. He had a 500 acre farm with 30 labouring families; he was well connected, occasionally an MP, but preferred to stay at home as much as possible to run his estate. His arable farm had 20-27 farm servants, mostly married, who lived in the village, the rest lived in a dormitory near the House - they were young unmarried men who stayed for three to four years as informal apprentices.

His labourers mostly had a few acres of their own (some as tenants) and worked on his land for a few days each week or less, perhaps 30 days per annum. They eked out a living by cultivating their own land, fishing, eeling, cockling, netting, acting as labourers to craftsmen or even as deck hands to ships trading with Holland. Stocking frame knitting was also practised.

There were also six yeoman farmers in the parish who might (infrequently) require a labourer on their 10-16 acre holdings. The labourers' families brought in money at harvest and haymaking and by other rural pursuits. In the village were also boat owners, rough masons, a weaver and a blacksmith. Some specialists made a round of several villages: the maltster, vermin catcher, mole catcher and slaughterman. Hedging and ditching was done by specialists who would also repair the sea wall and clear out waterways where required.

Seasonal gangs of labourers - perhaps even from as far as Kent - did most of the harvesting. They, like the others, were paid 8d per day. They had food and drink but 4d was stopped from their pay. The local labourers could not afford to work for this reward as the married men needed £10 per annum to keep a family. There was so little paid work available that the other sources of income mentioned already were essential, as was the earnings of un-married children. Having these family members in the cottages caused accommodation problems. The labourer rarely left his village, unlike the craftsmen, so the labourers as a body became suspicious and introverted.

The speaker emphasised that his findings were derived from the Stiffkey evidence, and though likely to resemble conditions in other arable areas, livestock and dairying areas were probably different. Bacon's most important farm worker was his shepherd. He had 1500 sheep and the occupant of this responsible post had to be able to keep accounts etc.

Art in Roman Britain - Monday 26th February 1990

Martin Henig MA, PhD, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

The Iron Age art of Britain in the period preceding the Roman conquest was entirely one of a mobile aristocracy unlike Roman art which included art relating to buildings and urban life. Surviving Iron Age examples are virtually all metal work, such as the Battersea shield and decorated bronze mirrors. Decoration can be derived remotely from the Greek world in the same that Iron Age currency can.

Iron Age bronzes testify to a high degree of skill and this was soon applied to Roman topics. The Southborough (Devizes Museum) find of a range of statuettes of Roman deities show a merging of the two cultures, for example they show the gods carrying the wrong attributes.

East Anglia is the richest part of Britain for Bronze finds, e.g. the Icklingham hoard. The speaker referred to several bronzes in the Castle Museum and also to remarkable ones from elsewhere, such as the Smith god, Vulcan from Catterick (similar to one lately found at Devizes), and the British Museum Mars from Fossdyke with a long dedication giving its cost.

Iron Age art often represented animals, e.g. the fire dogs in Colchester Museum and the remarkably good feeling for this type of work continued into post conquest times, examples being the bronze deer found near Brighton, three-horned bulls (also found in Gaul) etc. an enamelled bronze bowl, originally from Hadrian's wall shows a masterly fusion of Roman and Celtic culture.

Stone sculpture was not practised here pre-conquest but the Romans rapidly exploited British stone, especially from the Bath area. The first sculptors must have come from Gaul but Britons soon worked in this craft and within twenty years were producing skilled work, often showing elements derived from bronze work and of very high quality. The craft spread to the Cotswolds and thence further east, thence over the province. A Romano-British horseman seemed to display some affinity with classical sculptures of war between gods and giants. R G Collingwood denigrated British sculpture but this was because he relied too heavily on inferior northern specimens, but good work can be found even in that area as Carlisle had an accomplished school.

Britons produced good brooches - some thoroughly Roman - and good jet work (medallions etc.), some of which found its way to Rome. The Thetford find of rings etc. is especially notable. Similarly, Britons soon learnt to produce fine mosaics (the Verulamium floors are notable). In the Third century the craft workshops disappeared. a revival with poor work then appeared and by the end of the Roman period, works of great conception and imagination were made often depicting subjects from classical literature, some based on MS's such as the Fourth century Virgilius Romanus in the Vatican museum. The Taunton museum Aeneid mosaics of a lineal provincial Roman style and the Littleworth Orpheus mosaics are only two specimens of many such works.

Aqua Vitae and the Roman Engineer - Monday 5th March 1990

Dr A K Knowles MA, President of the Norfolk Research Committee.

The siting of Roman towns was determined to a great extent by the quality of water available. Vitruvius - a retired military engineer himself - dedicates a book to this subject and later, in Trajan's reign, a writer wrote a book on Rome's water supply. Vitruvius noted the ill effect of sunshine and stagnation on water supplies, all supplies were covered. The conduits supplying towns were 'open' (surface ones) or 'closed' i.e. piped ones. Vitruvius noted that 'open' ones needed a consistent gradient and recommended a much steeper one than was commonly used. 'Closed' conduits are rarely found in Britain. A very ambitious one is to be seen at Ephesus. Some conduits combine both types.

A hill may obstruct the proposed course of an 'open' conduit. In this case, a channel might be engineered round the hill or a tunnel made through it. In the latter case, a line of vertical shafts would be sunk and straight channels dug in the required directions. The sites of the shafts are often marked by piles of extracted rock. In Mauretania, an attempt to tunnel through a hill, starting on opposite sides, went wrong as the two sections failed to meet.

Some supplies involved the building of aqueducts. The supporting pillars were of rubble or concrete in masonry. If this involved a river crossing, the pillars were built on cutwaters. The great aqueducts were only a fraction of the total length of the supply, e.g. the Aqua Claudia for Rome had only five miles of its 35 mile length on arches. The Pont du Gard near Nimes is a splendid example. It is only a small part of the great conduit and is covered with large stones. It could supply 44 million gallons per day and is thickly encrusted with scale. Lyons had four aqueducts. Combinations of pressure pipes and 'open' conduits were used. Amphipolis had a great piped conduit of limestone pipes 11" interior diameter. The name of the second century donor is believed to be known from his sepulchre.

These monumental water supplies are not known in Britain but even here Dorchester had a conduit cut through the chalk for eleven miles, Wroxeter, a 3ft deep channel lined with clay, and Lincoln a sub-ground supply of pipes (each 25" long and 16" square) in concrete jackets. To the source at the north the

pipes are less deep because of the lie of the land, and presumably were continued on arches, thus needing a mechanism to obtain the supply. (The Romans had great treadmills to remove water from mines in Spain). York had several wells but running water was needed too. Pipes have been found and the sediment in them suggests the supply came from 15 miles away. The large sewer at Colchester shows that a good water supply was available. The town end of a supply normally finished with a settling tank and arrangements to divide the supply among the different types of user: priority was given to the 'fountains' street supplies for citizens - then the Baths, commercial users and then private supplies to the privileged.

Museums in the 1990's - A Future for our Past? - Monday 12th March 1990

Oliver Green BA, AMA, Curator and Head of Museum Services, Colchester and Essex Museum.

There are well over 2000 museums in Great Britain and every three weeks another opens. There is no sign as yet that this number exceeds demand. In the nineteenth century, museum buildings were pompous and not very inviting as, for example, the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam and the French chateau-style Bowes museum (County Durham). Generally, their contents were not displayed in a meaningful way for the general public and often appealed more to specialists in archaeology, ethnography etc. To remedy this, museums resorted to such displays as the Victorian Parlour, then to 'rooms' of later period, though this led to difficulties in labelling. Later it developed into showing a mixture of genuine and reproduction articles as the Roman sitting room (Museum of London) where very little is authentic.

Some museums were on a large scale, such as the very successful (under cover) street scene at York and the more recent open air Black Country street scene at Dudley and the Beamish Museum. Transport Museums are difficult owing to the size of exhibits and can often only interest enthusiasts. Crich (Derbyshire) with its trams is one way of overcoming this. At Burton-on-Trent, the difficulty has been skirted round by having an authentic model of the town centre reflecting a particular day in the twenties.

Archaeology displays of collections of a great number of often small articles are difficult to relate to, with masses of print, and so likely to appeal only to specialists. They have usually defeated museums which try to give them a wider appeal. Videos, increasingly used, can help to connect the exhibits with life in early times, as can demonstrations, though these are very time-consuming. The speaker referred to recent museum or museum-like ventures such as Coronation Street, London Dungeons and all-reproduction displays at Oxford and Canterbury which were inspired by the 'Viking Experience' at York (but have not proved as popular).

Mr Green then turned to local matters. The Castle, part demolished and part greatly altered, does not look obviously like a Norman castle and the 'moat' is nothing of the sort. Also, the contents do not relate to the building, the most obvious example of this being the section of a mediaeval timber framed house which is out of keeping as it is so conspicuous, and would perhaps be better sited at, for example, Cressing Temple. Some of the best exhibits are not very conspicuous, e.g. the Mercury statue. The curator thinks that many exhibits should be removed to store and made available there to those with specialist interests and the courtyard space be used in a more appropriate way. A video is being prepared to feature the Ermine Street Guard, so reflecting the important Roman past of the town. A good museum shop is needed; apart from commercial reasons, it would enable visitors to relate more closely with the artifacts they have seen. At Holly Trees, the traditional display hinders displaying to full advantage the good collection of costume. The Natural History Museum will probably be the first to be re-arranged. The dioramas - many very good - in some cases need up-grading. Some videos would help, and in some cases there could be 'hands-on' exhibits. Trinity Church social life museum is largely concerned with rural life, though it is in the middle of Colchester, and there is a shortage of industrial and urban exhibits. Perhaps many of the present exhibits would be better displayed at Cressing Temple if a Rural Life Museum is established there. Finally, Tymperleys Clock Museum, the most recent museum established in the town, is the one which seems to be least in need of review and the speaker sees no need to alter its present form.

Development of European Horology 1250-1900 - Monday 19th March 1990

Viscount Middleton FBHI, Curator of the Clock Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.

By 1250, the Arabs had made extensive conquests in Europe and their knowledge of Horology was filtering through to Northern Europe. At that time, the monks were the people who chiefly felt a need to know the time so they could know when the Church Offices should take place (as stressed by St. Benedict).

Water clocks had been known in ancient Rome, Greece and Eastern countries - their history is fairly well documented - but the early history of mechanical clocks is very obscure. The mediaeval water clocks were designed to ring bells at service times and had no dial or hands. Advances were made when the escapement was invented. Early mechanical clocks were hand adjusted to register longer and shorter hours according to day and night seasonal changes. This was impractical with the introduction of pendulum regulated clocks.

The speaker illustrated his talk with slides of early clocks at Wells, Wimborne Minster etc. with their 'Jacks' - automatic figures which struck bells at the hour. The Wimborne clock is an astronomical one based on the Ptolemaic system (with Jerusalem at the centre of the Universe). These large clocks were expertly made; it is a fallacy that they were made by village blacksmiths. The most expert makers were at Augsburg until the disasters of the Thirty Years War. Probably small clocks were made as models for the large church and cathedral clocks but the type of small clock shown in the picture of Thomas More's family is an imported example made by a famous Swiss maker, which became commoner later. A late sixteenth century portrait of a Jesuit dignitary is interesting as it shows a clock of an earlier time; it is a sort of link with the Emperor Charles V, who abdicated in 1555, and retired to a monastery where he interested himself in clock-making.

Several of the Bury St. Edmunds clocks have automatons, e.g. the Lion clock and the Crucifix clock (which has a skull whose teeth chatter at the hours). Early clocks had only an hour hand. More elaborate clocks were 'mufti-dial' showing phases of the moon, position of planets, date of Easter, signs of the Zodiac, time of eclipses etc. on their many dials.

The Restoration of 1660 encouraged skilled craftsmen to come to England and this country became the leading one for the craft. To accommodate the pendulum, clocks were all 'long-case' ones and the cases were beautifully made, often of exotic woods. As the need for more exact time-keeping was felt, first minute hands and then second hands were introduced - the latter by Clement, a skilled craftsman but with a tempestuous disposition. In the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, rooms got taller and the long case clocks were able to become taller too. In the late eighteenth century, mahogany was the most popular timber employed. However, a flood of the newly designed American shelf clocks, which were very much cheaper, practically killed the English clock-making trade.

As for watches, the early watches date from c 1450 but were very bad time keepers. However, they were elaborately decorated and sold in great numbers to China as prestige articles. Eighteenth century watches were very bulbous but became thinner to be accommodated in the tighter fitting garments of the early nineteenth century. Swiss watch-making did not become paramount until around 1930.