



## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 38 1995

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Mrs K A Evans	Mrs N Proudman	Mrs H West
Mrs N Gibson	Mr R Pytches	

## Notes from the editor

Once again we must thank Pat Brown for an excellent list of speakers, everyone who helped with the projector and Harry Palmer for his weekly lecture summaries. I must thank Andy Roper for producing the layout.

## **National Archaeology Day - Sunday 11th September 1994**

*Jill Hamblin*

CAG members celebrated in fine style on a gloriously clear, warm day in Mount Bures. Ida McMaster and Kath Evans had spent weeks planning a series of events, which proved to be overwhelmingly successful.

Members, friends, spouses (or should it be spice?) and children, many of them members of the Young Archaeologists Club, met at noon in the Village Hall to view a magnificent exhibition of archaeological work in and around Bures. Palaeolithic axe heads were on display, as were drawings of timber framed houses, including "Abrams", belonging to Mr and Mrs Sayer, Lord and Lady of the Manor. There were photographs taken on field walks, aerial photographs of Iron Age structures, sites plotted on maps, manorial documents and much more. The CAG bookstall did a roaring trade too.

At 12:30pm, Ida McMaster welcomed everyone and the Lady of the Manor gave her welcoming address. Part of this was a warm invitation to visit her own house, restored by her husband and herself. Then the first real socialising of the day began at lunchtime. Groups of sun-seeking archaeologists sat outside consuming filled rolls and fruit juice, whilst those who wished to be nearer the exhibition, and the coffee remained inside.

At 1:45pm, Kath Evans outlined the afternoon's programme: visits to the church, the motte, the site of the Saxon watermill and to "Abrams", and field-walking. No-one was expected to tackle everything, but some did, before returning for a wondrous tea provided by Ida's daughter Pam and Bettie Young.

Mark Davies conducted groups around the church, approached by a footpath across the McMaster's fields. The Ardleigh CAG contingent was interested to see that here was another beneficiary of Thomas Love's charitable bequests, whilst all members remarked on the use of Roman bricks in the walls. Mark explained the different building phases, showing everyone the now-plain interior, including the memorial to Canon Collins. It was, in a way, sad to realise that the interesting looking spire was a replacement of an earlier, plainer, type.

Richard Shackle welcomed those who sprang nimbly up the steep, thorn-bedecked path to the top of the motte. He was equally welcoming to those who hauled themselves up laboriously on the guide ropes provided! He pointed out the strategic position of the mound and explained its construction. It was an important place in Norman times; now it is picturesque, a place of memories.

James Fawn showed members the putative sites of the Saxon water mill recorded in Domesday, on the stream running at the bottom of Ida's field. It is an awesome thought, that the whole of the watermeadow was probably once the millpond. The retaining banks are still there, now sliced through by the road, but enabling visitors to see that where they stood would once have been eight feet deep water.

Valerie Sayer welcomed Group members to her house to see the conversion work on the timber frame building, providing a hospitable and fascinating venue for the afternoon. Many of the younger members, however, spent most of the time field walking with Michael Matthews and Pat Brown. In the warm autumnal sunshine, this was a rewarding experience: young enthusiasts and their attendant adults picked up bags full of Roman pottery and tile, as they made their way across country.

## **Summer Outings 1995**

### **Walk along the Colchester Dykes - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Mark Davies led an evening walk along the dykes starting from Dugard Avenue. A pleasant evening walk along Gryme's Dyke (north), The Triple Dyke, Heath Farm Dyke and finally Kidman Dyke. It was good to see that Kidman Dyke had been put in a good state of repair when a housing development was built alongside it.

### **Visit to Copford and Little Braxted churches -Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Members met at Copford church where we saw the magnificent 12th century wall paintings. We then moved on to Little Braxted church that was restored by Ernest Geldart in 1884. This rich Victorian interior with gold leaf and red paint has been recently renovated and looks marvelous.

### **Day outing to Kent - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

The party first visited Crofton Roman Villa and museum at Orpington, where the excavation of the site and creation of a museum were organised by the local archaeological society.

The party moved on to Lullingstone Roman Villa, Eynsford. The Lullingstone estate excavated the villa and uncovered the famous cellar room with its Christian wall paintings.

The final visit was to Knole, the enormous palace of the Sackville family, who were at one time the Lords of the manor of Mount Bures.

### **Summer party -Monday 17th July**

The summer party was at Easthorpe at the home of Tony and Hazel West. The food was organised by Hazel West and Pat Brown. There was a raffle with prizes provided by members. During the evening there was a table tennis competition which was much enjoyed by the participants.

## **National Archaeology weekend at Bures & Bures Hamlet - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 1995**

*Richard Shackle.*

CAG members and visitors gathered in the village hall at Bures on a wet morning to celebrate National Archaeology Day. The day was devoted to the history and archaeology of Bures and Bures Hamlet.

After the coffee and biscuits came the main event of the morning. This was a talk by Leigh Alston on the history of Bures. This talk which was illustrated with slides, began at 6000 BC with the small-leaved lime tree which is still found in the woods and hedges of Bures. Leigh then moved on to talk on pre-historic cropmarks, which are found along the Stour valley. We were shown aerial views of the Bures cursus and Bronze Age burial circles. For the Roman period we were shown a mortarium dredged up from the River Stour. Leigh then finished with an excellent description of medieval Bures and its cloth trade.

There was then a break for lunch in the hall with people eating the picnic lunches they had brought with them. During the lunch break various archaeological finds were displayed. These included a Roman mortarium, a Bronze Age axe from Bures, and a large Roman brick from Birch. There was also a collection of pottery mostly Roman but including sherds from the bronze and the iron ages.

After lunch there were two walkabouts in Bures, each one repeated so that everyone could go to both Leigh Alston walkabouts, which covered the church and old buildings of the village. Leigh's second group spent most of their time in the church due to heavy rain. Richard Shackle led parties to St Stephen's chapel at Tani manor. This stone chapel which was converted into a barn when the manor complex was demolished, was converted back in to a chapel in the 1930's. It now houses the De Vere tombs from Earls Colne.

At 4:30pm when everyone had returned there was tea and cakes in the village hall. The splendid cakes were made or donated by CAG members. A special thanks should go to Ida McMaster for organising the day and to the ladies who prepared the refreshments throughout the day, Ida's daughter Pam, Bettie Young, Kath Evans and Beryl Stevens.

We should like to thank Raymond Rowe for making a special trip to France to get the wine for the 1997 Summer Party.

## Obituary Roy Pytches

During the forty years since the groups' inauguration (1957) it has been inevitable that we should lose some valued members and old friends. We were saddened to hear that Roy Pytches died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1997, aged 71. Roy, with his wife Pat, was always a staunch and regular supporter of all the groups' activities since 1975.

Roy's quiet demeanour and strength of character soon led to a place on CAG Committee in 1977 where he served diligently for his term of three years. By 1979 however he was suffering from the illness which led in 1984 to his successful kidney transplant operation. Roy overcame this hurdle with great fortitude and few of us even knew about his previous years on a dialysis machine. Afterwards with the help of much medication Roy was able to carry on with his work for the Babergh Social Services department at Hadleigh, Suffolk. He and Pat seldom missed any of our Winter Lecture meetings and by 1991 Roy was back on the committee of CAG where he assisted with arrangements for visiting lecturers.

Both he and Pat joined the Transplant Society no doubt giving support to others and receiving some in return. They were full of admiration for the many recipients who had also gained new leases of life. Roy's transplant did not let him down, an unfortunate fall caused his death. He will be much missed by us all in CAG. Our sincere condolences go to Pat and her family.

*Ida McMaster*

## Obituary - Tony West

The Group was sad to lose yet another valued member in Tony West who died aged 60 on 23rd July 1997. Many of us remember Tony as our kind host at summer parties. On a number of occasions we were entertained by Tony and his wife Hazel at their charming home Hoggets at Easthorpe, where all manner of diversions were provided for our evenings entertainment. Their timber-framed house alone was a joy to examine and Tony's hobby of cultivating rare varieties of lots of plants, to which he gave devotion and skill, was an added interest for us all.

We are told his musical prowess was, very much earlier, well appreciated by the school cadet corps when Tony transferred from the flute to fife for his participation in the cadet band. In National Service he ended up training people in intelligence work in the Russian Corps.

He had a distinguished career as a management consultant concluding as partner in the prestigious firm of Deloitte Touche Ross.

Most of Tony's life was spent in Essex settling finally in 1969 in Easthorpe. As a Cambridge graduate, his scholarship was apparent when he produced a fine pageant for the village and also published an excellent history of Easthorpe. He and Hazel joined CAG in 1980 when the group was working on churchyard surveys and recording gravestones, among them Easthorpe. Tony had already assisted with a great deal of conservation work on the church. His interest in conserving all that appeared of value in our past led to his election as chairman of Colchester & District Federation of Amenity Societies. During those years Tony and Hazel purchased a traditional house and barns on Bodmin Moor and true to practising what they preached, restored it to its original condition and period making a delightful holiday retreat for all their extended family.

This dynamic man will be missed by many. Our sympathy goes to Hazel and her family - Lucian, Vernon and Alcina not forgetting mention of Mervyn, the young son who died tragically young.

## THE CRESSENER LORDS OF MOUNT BURES

### A Chancery Case of 1731 & The Cressener Cup

*Ida McMaster*

During the compilation of the book *"Mount Bures; Its Lands and its People "* it was not possible to research all the many subsidiary documents which came to notice. However, a copy of a will dated 1730, made by an Edward Cressener of Hamburg in the kingdom of Denmark was of interest. Not only did it appear to be concerned with the manor of Mount Bures but mentioned an unknown Chancery case that it has now been possible to trace. The will although made in Hamburg<sup>2</sup> had remained undisturbed in a tin deed box together with many older deeds.

The first Cressener to become lord of Mount Bures was John who purchased the manor in 1662 from Sir Richard Wiseman. John was born 1620 and had become a wealthy grocer of London. His father Edward and his grandfather George had settled in Earls Colne where many relatives were buried (Fig 1). The Cresseners were a Norman family and were known from Hawkedon and Sudbury in Suffolk as well as from Alphamstone and Bures Hamlet in Essex. The two Christian names Edward and George were used in successive generations with monotonous and bewildering effect as may be seen from the following documents. In 1685 this John Cressener and his wife Anne (Weld) drew up a lengthy marriage contract<sup>3</sup> for their first son Edward who was to marry a daughter of Samuel Thompson. The manor of Mount Bures was a part of the affluent settlement whereby John and Anne placed the manor in trust for their lifetime after which it would pass to Edward and his intended bride Mary, then in turn to any child of their union. In addition, Edward's father gave the young couple the rents from property in London near St Paul's Cathedral. This property, fully described, consisted of a large block at one end of which had stood the demolished mansion the Pheasant and Starre which had burnt down in what was described as "the recent dreadful fire of 1666". Edward also received £5000 worth of grocer's "stock-in-trade"; surely a very early form of life insurance was £1000 from the office of the Royal Exchange when his father died. Mary's father Samuel, later knighted, provided £4000 towards his daughter's dowry, a generous sum for that date; so the couple were well setup and Mary amply provided for in the event that she outlived her intended husband. Extracts from four wills of subsequent generations that are discussed below illustrate the detailed care by which the inheritance of land and goods was to be secured.

#### **Will No. 1 - John Cressener of London, Grocer, 1694<sup>4</sup>**

At the age of 73 John Cressener made his will. His wife Anne had died that year but he survived until 1696. He desired to be buried in Earls Colne churchyard near his wife. He bequeathed to his daughter Elizabeth Halton and Thomas her husband property in Brides Lane, London; also to their four sons stock in the East India House or Company, and half his household chattels and £20 for mourning to Elizabeth. To daughter Anne Dorrell and her husband James, his house and furniture for their lives, together with £300 for their three sons until they became of age. To daughter Mary Poynter £20 for mourning apparel and to be loving to her sister Dorrell as always. To John's own sister, Mary White, £10 for mourning. To George his son and wife £20 for mourning and to be loving to his sisters. To John, his son and wife two rings of 20 shillings each ring. To Edward, perhaps his son and wife, two rings of 20 shillings each ring. Other lesser beneficiaries included a cousin John Cressener and his wife, also an Elizabeth Cressener; all received rings or money for mourning. Edward his eldest son was named sole executor and was directed to have all the "Writings and Bonds that lie in the chamber where I lie". No other property or inheritance was mentioned for any of John's three sons so one presumes that they had already been provided for, or as they termed it "already advanced", that is having earlier settlements, often at marriage. Mount Bures was also not mentioned. Edward obtained probate 8th February 1696.

#### **Will No. 2 - Edward Cressener Esq. of London 1696 (sometimes known as the "Colonel")<sup>5</sup>**

Edward made his will on 2nd February 1696, spurred on by the ill health of his father. It stated that he was in perfect health and of sound memory. It was a most generous document and all his sisters and their children benefited. His honoured mother, Anne Cressener deceased, had requested £100 be given to her grandson James Dorrell at the age of 23, which proposal Edward now confirmed. His uncles Alexander, William and John Weld, no doubt his mother's brothers, received money towards mourning apparel; also his father's sister aunt Mary White had similar, as did kinsman John Cressener, and his wife Elizabeth (Franklyn); as well a further kinswoman yet another Elizabeth Cressener. In addition another kinsman Edward Cressener and his wife inherited; all were remembered. The last mentioned Edward Cressener was probably the "imbroiderer", (Fig 1 and note 12 below.)

To his loving sister Mary Poynter, widow £1000. To his niece Mary (daughter of his brother George) £500 to be paid to her at age 21 or at marriage. To his honoured friend and father-in-law Sir Samuel Thompson £100 to put his family into mourning. There was no mention of his wife Mary, Samuel's daughter, or of the manor of Mount Bures.

Presumably Mary's dowry trust was sacrosanct; she was perhaps dead before 1696. According to Morant Edward married again, but there were no children of either marriage. Bequests were made to servants and others. Finally he named his loving brother George to be sole Executor "not doubting of his faithful performance thereof". Morant refers to this Edward as Colonel Cressener<sup>6</sup>; he was perhaps a war casualty. George obtained probate 12th November 1700.

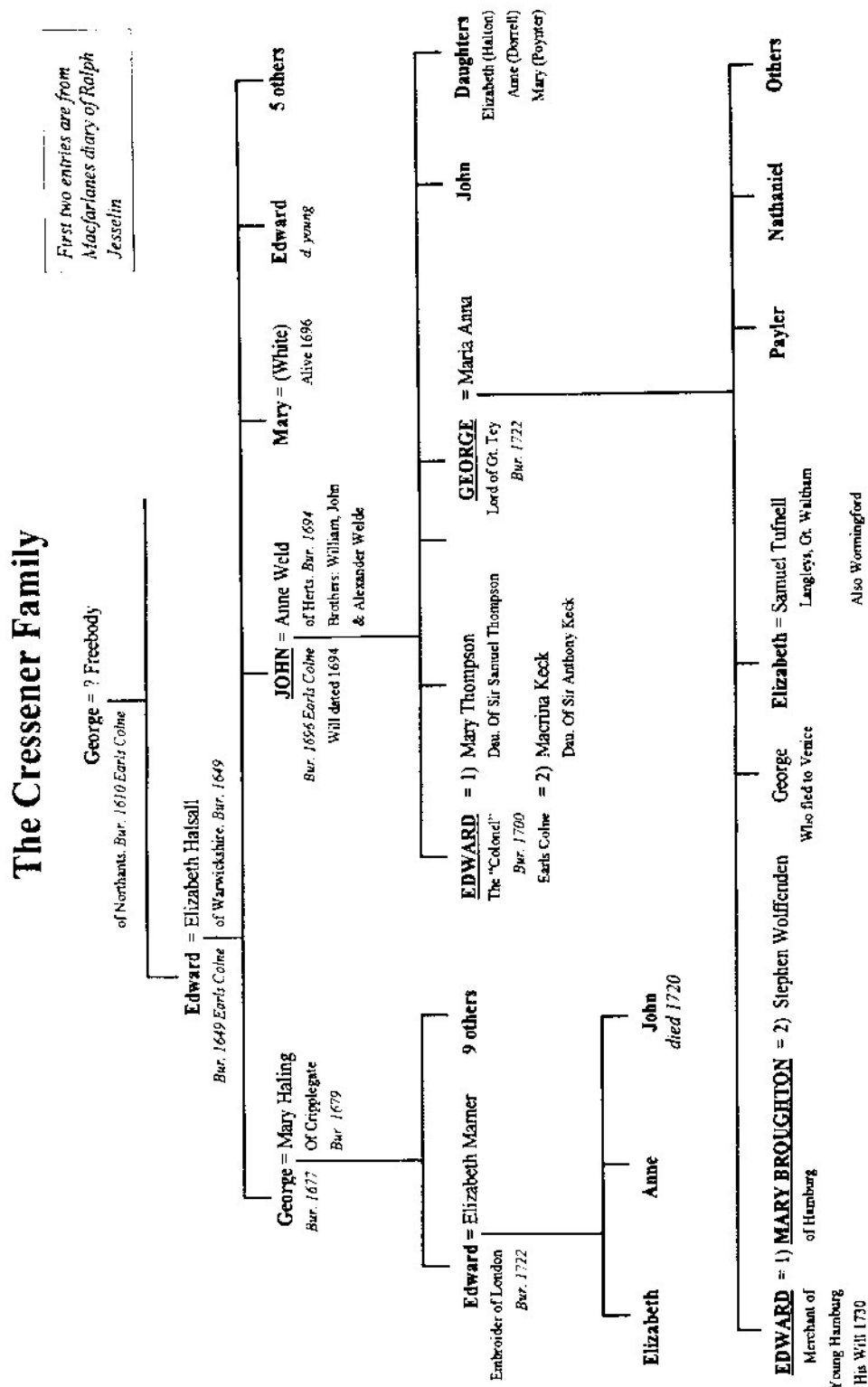


Figure 1) *The Cressener Family Tree: the first two generations kindly supplied by Jane Pearson from Ralph Josselyn's diary.*

### **Will No. 3 - George Cressener, Citizen and Grocer of London**

George, second son of John (above), made his will on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1722. He desired to be interred in his vault at the parish church of Earls Colne, the upkeep for which, with a monument, was to be provided from his estate. His bequest to his loving sister, Mrs Mary Poynter, confirmed that he was also brother to Edward Cressener (Will No 2). Various individuals and charities received bequests or sums for mourning. To his loving wife Maria Anna Cressener he bequeathed his manor of Tey Magna with all that pertained to it; also a freehold estate in Golden Lane, Middlesex, recently purchased from Mr Christopher Wragg who, incidentally, received £20 for mourning. Maria Anna was named sole Executrix. By virtue of the custom of the City of London, of which George was a Freeman, his personal estate was divided into three equal parts; one third to his wife as of her own right; a third in his own disposing which he also bequeathed to his wife and the final third was divided equally between his "unadvanced" children. They were George, Paylor, Nathaniel and daughter Maria Anna. His eldest son Edward and his daughter Elizabeth married to Samuel Tufnell, were already "advanced". Elizabeth's children were to receive Stock in the South Sea Company at the age of 21. Did the children benefit one wonders? The South Sea Bubble had burst in 1720. George bequeathed to Edward (his eldest son) the manor of Bures ad Moment with all that pertained to it, the Hall and farm lands then in possession or tenancy of Robert Newman. This appears to show that George's elder brother Colonel Cressener had indeed died childless. Probate was granted to Maria Anna Cressener at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 29<sup>th</sup> November 1722.

George Cressener headed several court rolls of Mount Bures manor during the early 1700's but there was a lengthy gap in records after 1722. This is not surprising, since according to Morant, George's son and heir Edward had from about 1718 been a merchant domiciled in Hamburg and had married there in 1725.

### **Will No. 4 - Edward Cressener of Hamburg, Merchant<sup>8</sup> (Fig 2)**

This Edward, grandson of John Cressener (Will 1) made his will in Hamburg 20th August 1730. After the usual devout introductory sentences he bequeathed his manor of Mount Bures to his loving wife Mary Cressener together with all the rest and residue of his estate whatsoever and wheresoever. His debts and funeral expenses as desired by him not to exceed the sum of 300 Reich dollars banco. Obviously he kept a business eye on his estate to the end. He desired to be buried in Hamburg. Witnesses were Samuel Biggs and William and Stephen Wolffenden, of whom more later. Edward died 15<sup>th</sup> December 1730 and Mary, sole executrix, obtained probate.

Stephen Wolffenden (named above) later married Mary Cressener, widow of Edward and their names appear on subsequent deeds. A second sheet attached to Edward's will (Fig 3) and found in the tin box mentioned in the first paragraph referred to various endorsements concerning the mysterious Chancery Case of 1737.

### **The Chancery Case (1731-1737)**

The nature of the Chancery Case was somewhat obscure and so search was made at the Public Record Office at Kew. A staff member kindly located the outline of such a case in the Decree and Order books of the relevant years. It confirmed that a Mary Cressener Plaintiff brought the case against Clinton Dowse and other defendants among whom was Edward Cressener's brother George Cressener<sup>9</sup>. To ascertain the full bill of complaint it was necessary to search in the six divisions making up the six Clerks Offices in Chancery, a lengthy task, as there was no composite index. At this point sheer good luck intervened when the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford received a bundle of new acquisitions among them a splendid ten-sheet document of Letters Patent of George II dated 1731<sup>10</sup>. These parchment sheets held answers to all our queries; how fortunate that a dusty vault had received a spring-clean at this particular time.

The Letters Patent show that a situation had arisen in 1727 three years before Edward's death when his younger brother George, grocer of London, had run up debts of £50,000. Creditors brought several Acts of Bankruptcy against George under the Great Seal of Britain so he fled to Venice and never returned. Without his presence at any of the debtors courts the creditors could not prevail and so George's entire estate was vested in trust by the Court officials. Creditors named were Clinton Dowse, William Ffoulds, Benjamin Whiten, Thomas Parker and Henry Barnes. Chosen assignees of the Trust were three other creditors William Coleman (merchant), Thomas Corkell (sugar refiner) and Henry Marshall (grocer) all of London. For some reason the creditors claimed that George was next heir at law to his elder brother Edward's manor of Mount Bures; this on the grounds that there was no issue from Edward and Mary's 1725 marriage, nor was she enceinte at his death. Despite the fact that Edward's will (Will 4) was quoted in full Mary his widow was forced to collect evidence over a number of years in order to claim her right to the manor of Mount Bures with other lands bequeathed to her. Her case was that her husband had willed his entire estate and properties to her: and that Mary was the sole executrix and had been granted probate. Submissions of the creditors appeared weak and smacked of last ditch efforts to recoup some of their losses. However, Mary was required to bring proof of her marriage and to obtain confirmation of her husband's will. Commissioners appointed to interrogate witnesses to the will were Charles Halsey, William Burrows, Samuel Free and John Butler.



In the name of God Amen —

I Edward Cressener of Bures ad Montem alias Mount Bures in the County of Essex Esquire now residing & Merchant in Hamburg in the Kingdom of Denmark being in health of Body and of a sound & disposing mind & memory praised be God, Therefore do make this my last Will & Testament in manner & form following

And first & principally I commend my Soule to God that gave it, my Body I commit to the Earth to be decently interred at Hamburg at the disposition of my Executors herein after named, Not doubting of a Joyfull Resurrection to life Eternal through the Merits of Jesus Christ my Blessed Saviour & Redeemer. And as for such Wordly State as I shall please God to bestow on that, I give & bequeath the same in manner & form following, That is to say

Whereas I stand seized to me & my Heirs of & in all the Manner of Bures ad Montem, alias Mount Bures in the said County of Essex — and the Lands Tenements, Hereditaments thereto belonging, now in the possession of Robert Newman. Now Knoweth God & you & I bequeath my said Manner, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, with the Rents, Issues & profits thereof of every part & parcel thereof unto my Loving Wife Mary Cressener and her Heirs forever, And all the rest & residue of my Estate, whosoever & whosoever, after payment of my Just Debts & expenses hereunto, which shall not exceed the Summ of Three hundred Pounds or Dollars Banco, I give & bequeath unto my said Loving Wife, her Executors Administrators & Assigns, And of this my last Will & Testament I make Ordain & appoint my said Loving Wife sole & whole Executrix, hereby revoking all former & other Wills by me at any time heretofore made — Ratifying & confirming this to be my last Will & Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal in Hamburg this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August Anno Domini 1730.

Edward Cressener

Witnessed & published & declared by the Testator as & for his last Will & Testament in the presence of us, who subscribed our Names at the before the words in the presence of the Testator Samuel Biggs, William Wolffenden Stephen Wolffenden

Thos. C. Jones Esqy  
20<sup>th</sup> Aug 1730  
with the original  
will 18 Aug 1730

Figure 2) Will of Edward Cressener of Hamburg 1730

Not until six years later had the witnesses to Edward's will been interrogated but the Chancery Case was opened under an appeal to Peter, Lord King Baron of Oldham and Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain in 1731. Peter Basford of Watling Street, London, affirmed that George Cressener had absconded to Venice and not at any time returned to be submitted to bankruptcy. John Thomas - Doctor of Divinity aged 45, and Chaplain to the Company of Merchant Adventurers of England situated in Hamburg - had married Mary Broughton and Edward Cressener 28<sup>th</sup> June 1725 according to the rites of the Church of England, the event being recorded in the Chapel register. It was also disclosed that Charles Halsey above, one of the Commissioners to the case was, in fact, present at the ceremony. The Chaplain had known Mary for 30 years and Edward for several. His evidence was taken 15 May 1737 in the house of Charles Broughton, merchant, St Catherine Street, Hamburg; perhaps Mary's old home. Stephen Wolffenden witness to the will who had known Mary for 30 years and his brother William stated that they had both witnessed Edward's will in the presence of Captain Samuel Biggs, all were in William's home at the time. Much later, 1749, Henry Bird the younger, of Shipwright Street, Rotherhithe aged 25 questioned by Edward Northey one of the examiners in Chancery, was able to verify the signature of Captain Samuel Biggs by then deceased (Fig 3). There is no explanation of this long delayed evidence. The fact that Charles Halsey had been

present at the wedding ceremony in 1725 could be regarded today as an act of collusion or bias. The Letters Patent end by confirming the outcome of the hearing as follows:

"We have at the request of the said Complainant Exemplified by these presents and In Testimony thereof have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witnesses: Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury and other Guardians and Justices of the Kingdom at Westminster the 15th day of May in the twenty third year of our Reign. Signed Strange Reynardson." (George II ascended the throne 1727).

Thus Mary had proved she was entitled to her first husband's property; she and Stephen Wolffenden are recorded as Lord and Lady of Mount Bures and their names appear in the Mount Bures Church Register as donors of new pews for the church in 1742". The costs of the case over 19 years from 1731-1749 must have been prohibitive; the following year, 1750, they sold the estate to John Hanbury and Cresseners then disappear from Mount Bures history. It seems the Bankruptcy Trust was quashed and the title proved beyond doubt.

*Prote In the Margins*  
*of Edward Cressener's*  
*will --*

*This paper writing was shown to Henry Kiss the younger at the time of his Examination in Chancery on the behalf of Mary Cressener Widow Compt. agt. Clinton, Dower & others Defts. David Northey Esq. &c.*

*Indorsed on the back*  
*of Edward Cressener's will*

*N<sup>o</sup> 2 In Chancery at Westm.*

*Shown Mary Cressener Widow Compt. Clinton Dower &c. & others Defts.*

*May 15<sup>th</sup> 1737* *This paper writing was shown to Mr. Stephen Wolffenden & Mr. William Wolffenden 12. Judges present & sworn and Examined on the part and behalf of the said Compt. at the time of their Examinations --*

*before*

*Chas. Halsey*  
*Wm. Durrant*  
*Samuel Tree*  
*John Butler.*

*also Indorsed*

*The*  
*Last Will & Testament of Edward Cressener*  
*Merchant Adventurer residing in Hamburg*

*15th May 1751*

*At the house of Mr. John Hanbury by the hand of Mr. Samuel Carter the original will of Edward Cressener Esq. and of which there is a true Copy in order to be proved by Mr. J. D. Durrant Esq. & others Defts.*

Figure 3) Endorsements added to Edward Cressener's Will (Fig 2) 1730

# Will No. 5 - Edward Cressener, Imbroiderer, and the Cressener Gold Cup



Figure 4) The Cressener Gold Cup dated 1503, by courtesy of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths

This beautiful silver-gilt cup, six and three-quarters inches high (Fig 4) dated 1503 is now in the permanent Collection of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, Goldsmiths Hall, London, where it is catalogued as the Cressener Cup. There can be little doubt that this is the same silver-gilt cup which was left in the 1722 will of yet another Edward Cressener<sup>12</sup> (Will 5), to George Cressener his cousin (Will 3) when it was described as "the silver goblet which has been in the family for many years". In Will 5, Edward is described as Citizen and Imbroiderer, he was nephew of John Cressener (Will 1); and had married Elizabeth Marner (Fig 1). Edward and his cousin George both died in 1722, so it seems likely that the Cressener Cup may have passed to George's eldest daughter Elizabeth. She married Samuel Tufnell who built Langleys at Great Waltham which has been occupied by the Tufnells ever since. Samuel also owned the Hall and Church Hall manors at Wormingford, which are still Tufnell family homes today. Samuel's wife Elizabeth had two brothers Edward of Hamburg and George who had absconded to Venice neither appear to have had children. Edward the imbroiderer was never Lord of Mount Bures but was a senior member of the Cressener family. Two of his daughters survived him and inherited lands in Earls Colne and White Colne and Colne Engaine and his wife was left property in Golden Lane, Cripplegate. Cousin George was offered £50 or the gift of a free school in Earls Colne in lieu of the cup. It is likely that the beautiful cup had remained at Langleys until it was sold to the Goldsmiths Company<sup>3</sup> some ninety years ago.

There is a full description of this Henry VII cup and cover that is the earliest example of plate in the Goldsmith's Collection<sup>14</sup>. Comparisons with other Coats of Arms are given together with the short extracts shown below:

This cup was made in 1503 for John Cressener of Hinckford Hundred in Essex, who was knighted by Henry VIII in 1513 for his services at the siege of Tournai and who died in 1536. The arms, as stated, are of Cressener quartering Mortimer with the arms of Ferrera (Ferrier) on the escutcheon of pretence.

This cup is of great interest for several reasons. The design is purely English in character and probably it was (with the exception of the enamelled print) the work of a single craftsman. It is the earliest known covered cup that is still in its original condition. It bears the only known instances of the date mark for 1503 ('a small black letter f') and of the makers mark ('a crossbow'), and finally it was acquired (1908) from the direct descendants of the original owners over 400 years after it was made.

Marks	1503, leopard's head crowned; maker's mark, a crossbow	
Weight	22.7 oz	
Dimensions	Height	6.375"
	Diameter	4.6875"

Arms and inscription Arms on grint: Quarterly  
1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (for Cressener) 'Argent, on a bend engrailed sable, three cross Crosslets fitchee or, a crescent in the middle chief point of the first quarter'.  
2nd and 3rd (for Mortimer of Harling) 'azure semee of fleur-de-lis argent'. On an escutcheon of pretense for Ferrers, 'Vair or and gules, on a bordure, eight horseshoes or'  
In the Heralds' Visitation of London in 1687 appears a depiction of these arms.

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- <sup>2</sup> ERO Colchester McMaster Collection Acc. c54
- <sup>3</sup> ERO Colchester McMaster Collection Acc c54
- <sup>4</sup> PR Office PROB 11/436, folio 26 (1697)
- <sup>5</sup> PR Office PROB 11/458, folio 165 (1700)
- <sup>6</sup> Morant P. The History of the County of Essex **11**, 267
- <sup>7</sup> PR Office PROB 11/588 folio 210 (1722)
- <sup>8</sup> ERO Colchester McMaster Collection Ace c54 & ERO Chelmsford Ace A9882 D/D SI (1731)
- <sup>9</sup> PR Office C/33/367/421 & 426 (1737) ERO
- <sup>10</sup> Chelmsford Ace A9882 D/DSI. Addl ERO
- <sup>11</sup> Chelmsford D/P 287/1/1
- <sup>12</sup> PR Office PROB 11/585 folio 113 (1722)
- <sup>13</sup> Letter from Mrs Milburn, nee Tufnell, of Fowberry Tower, Alnwick, Northumberland stating that her grandfather had sold the cup some 60 years before; she wrote from Langleys, Great Waltham in 1967.
- <sup>14</sup> Carrington, JB and Hughes, GR *"The Plate of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths"* (1926) OUP

## **Mascotts - a medieval house at Copford**

*by Richard Shackle*

Until the 1960's Mascotts was a farm with a barn and other outbuildings. Then the farmland was sold off for building and the farm buildings demolished, so it now comprises a large house, a circular brick wellhouse, a Second World War air-raid shelter and a garage. In 1996, Mr Michael Moles bought the house and sympathetically renovated it. He kindly allowed me to make a detailed record of its structure.

The medieval house was added to over the centuries, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The medieval house faced away from the London to Colchester road (the former A12). In the nineteenth century the house was turned round so that today the house faces towards the London to Colchester road with a Victorian porch and bay windows.

The core of the house consists of a 14<sup>th</sup> Century crosswing, and a 16<sup>th</sup> Century in-line structure, comprising a floored hall and a separate end bay (fig 1). It is not certain which is the High end and which is the Low end.

### **The Fourteenth Century Crosswing**

The crosswing has two bays and is jettied to the front (south). It can be seen from the sooting that it formerly abutted an open hall.

The ground floor was made up of one room partly divided by a partition of two pegged studs. There were windows to the front and side with diamond mullions and grooves for shutter runners. There are three doors into the side-wall from the former open hall (fig 2). The one at the north end had a rebate and opened outwards, as it was a stair door. The two central doors are difficult to understand. As originally built there was one wide door (3 foot 2 inches), with an ogee doorhead and one narrow doorway (1 foot 9 inches wide) wide. The door jamb\stud of the narrow door was moved in medieval times to make the door wider. We can tell this because the jamb\stud became sooted in its new position. Other possibilities for this narrow opening are that it was a hatch between the crosswing and hall or that it was a doorway to a cellar.

The upper floor consisted of a room open to the roof. It had windows to the front, side and rear. The side windows on both floors had grooves for shutters cut into the side of the central post. The main bridging joist was not set between the two central posts as usual, but morticed into the side plates (see figs 3 and 4). There was a stair trap at the rear of the crosswing.

The front and side-walls have multiple bracing (see figs 5 and 6), but the rear wall probably only had a single brace (fig 7).

The roof is missing most of its front gable, so it is not possible to be sure of the roof type, but it probably consisted of a rafter couple roof. If there ever had been a crown post roof the evidence has not survived. The roof is lopped to the rear. The rafter couple at the hip has two collars, the upper collar supporting the jack rafters of the hip.

### **The dating of the Crosswing**

Four features suggest an early date.

- 1) The rafter couple roof.
- 2) The bridging joist set between the side plates.
- 3) The ogee doorhead.
- 4) The multiple bracing on the front and side walls

These features suggest a date early in the Fourteenth Century.

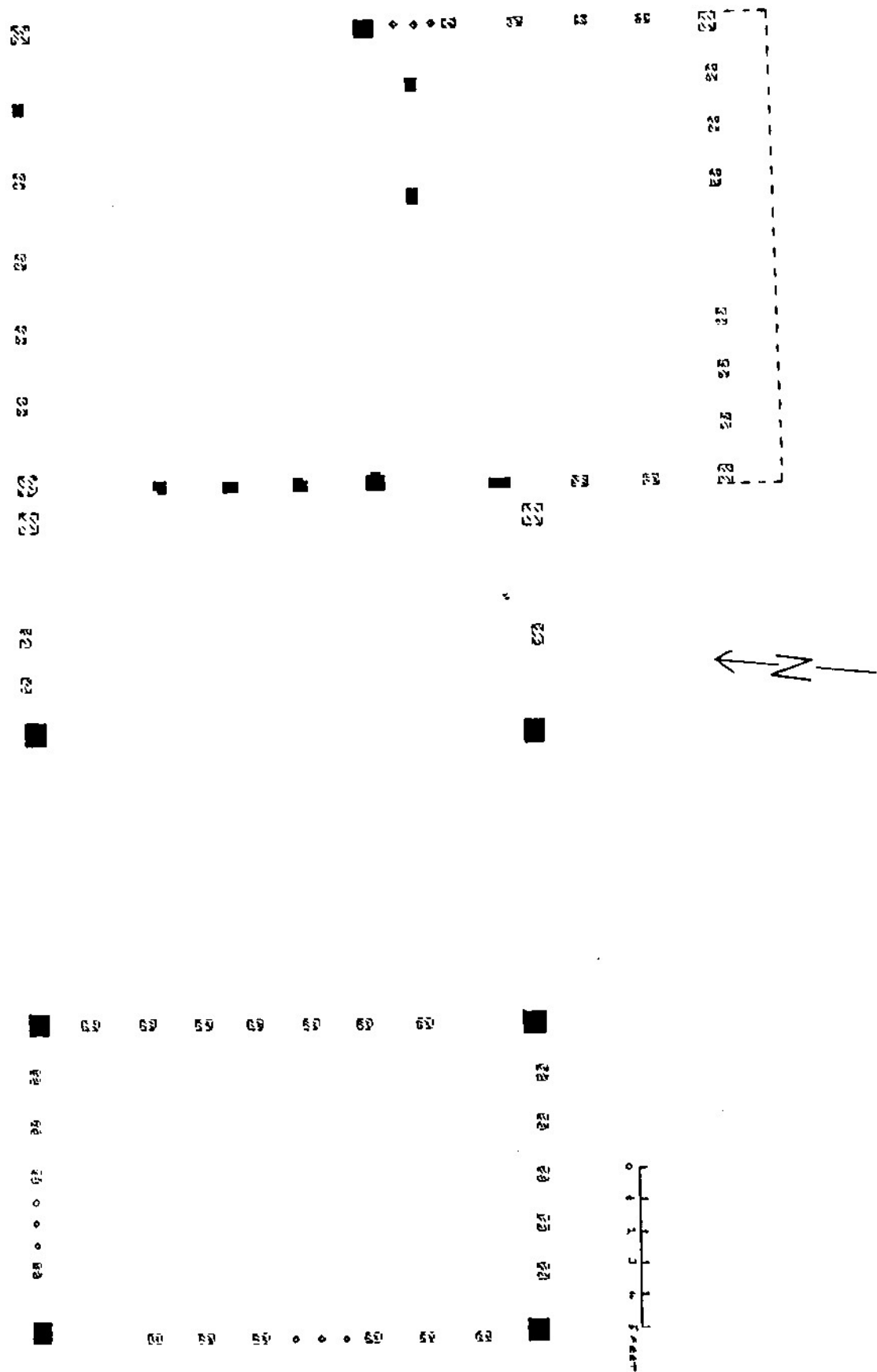


Figure 1) Mascotts, Copford: Plan of Ground Floor

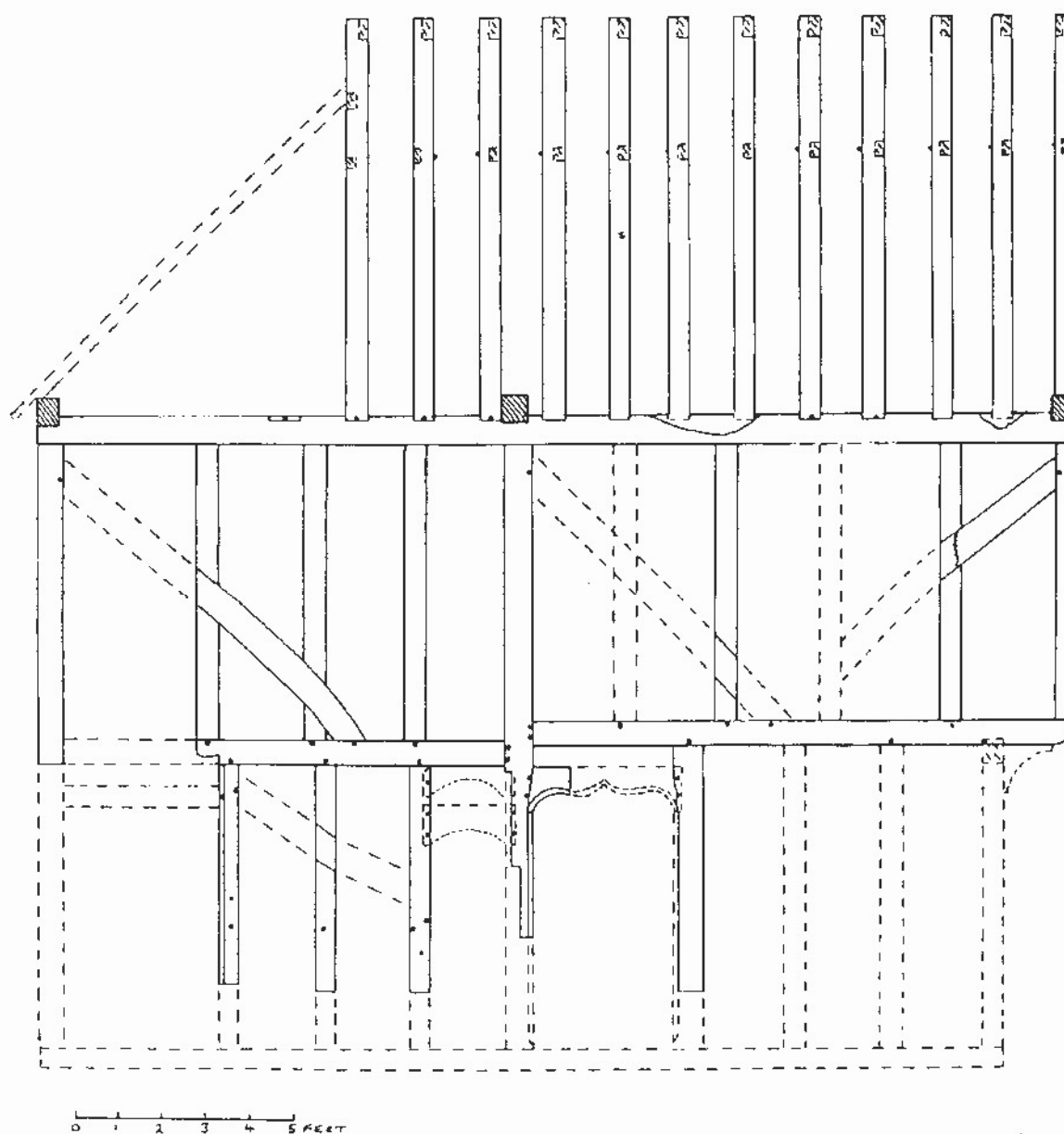


Figure 2) Mascotts, Copford: West Wall of Crosswing

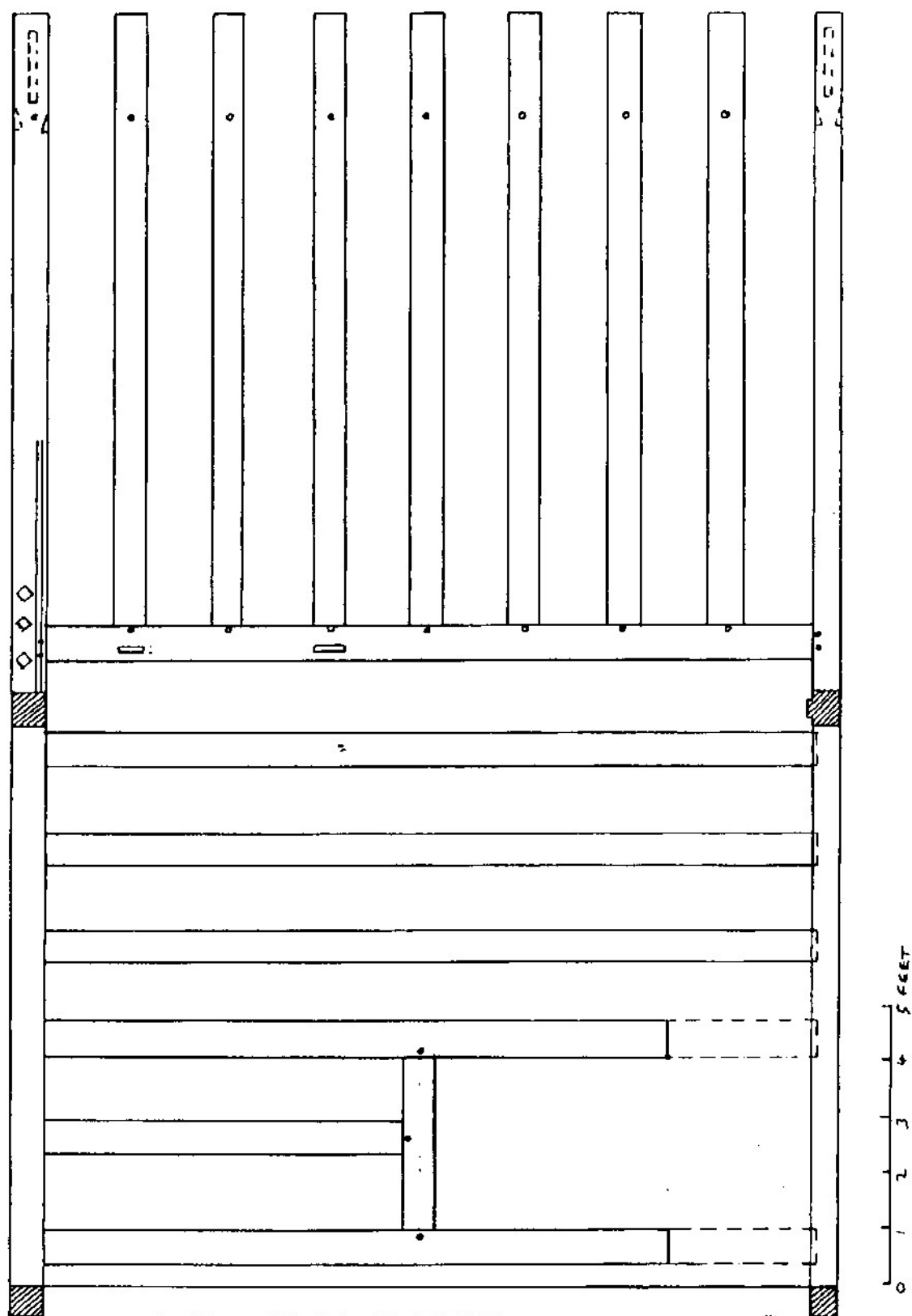


Figure 3) Mascotts, Copford: Joist Plan of view down Crosswing



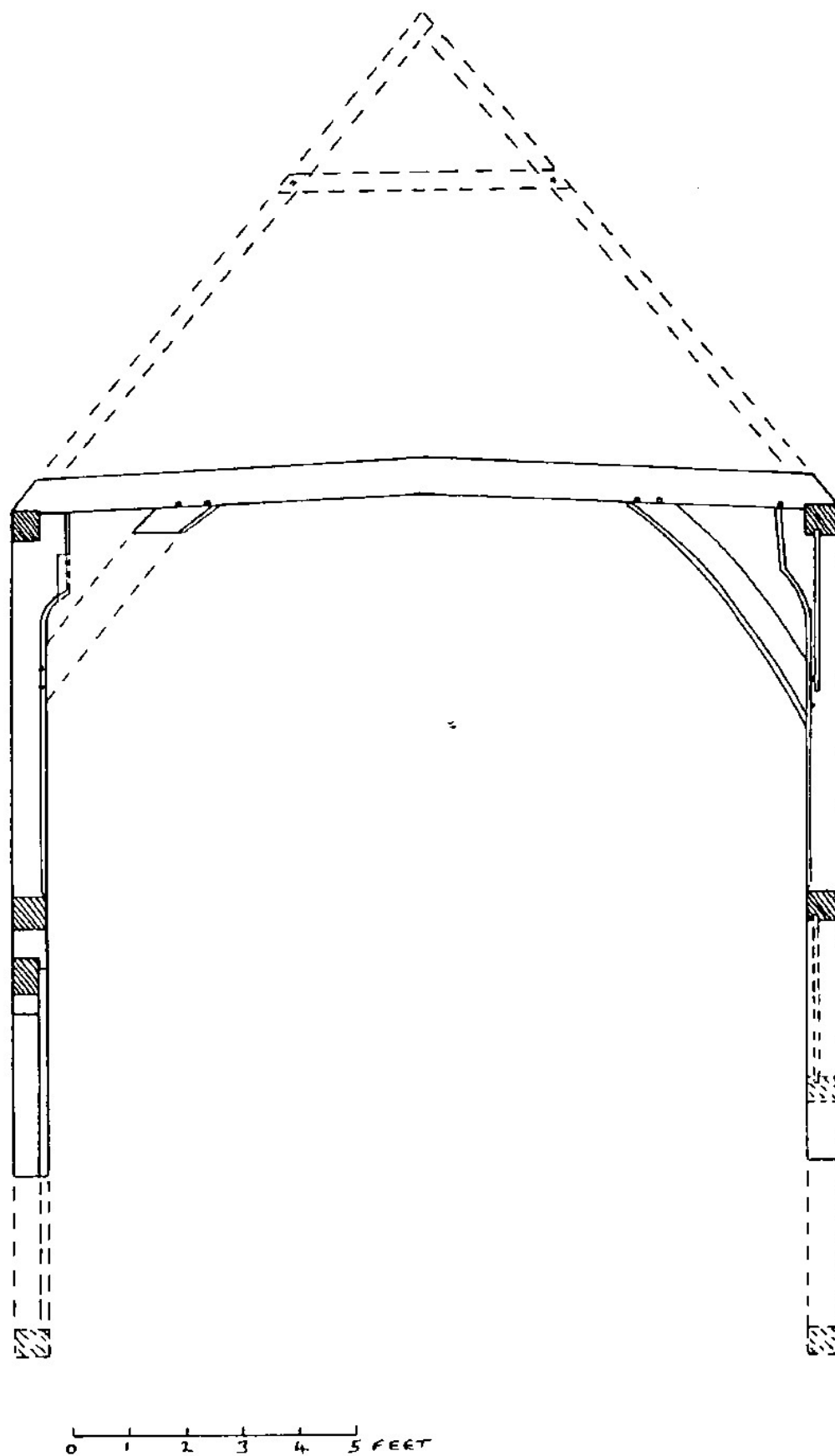


Figure 4) Mascotts, Copford: Central Truss of Crosswing

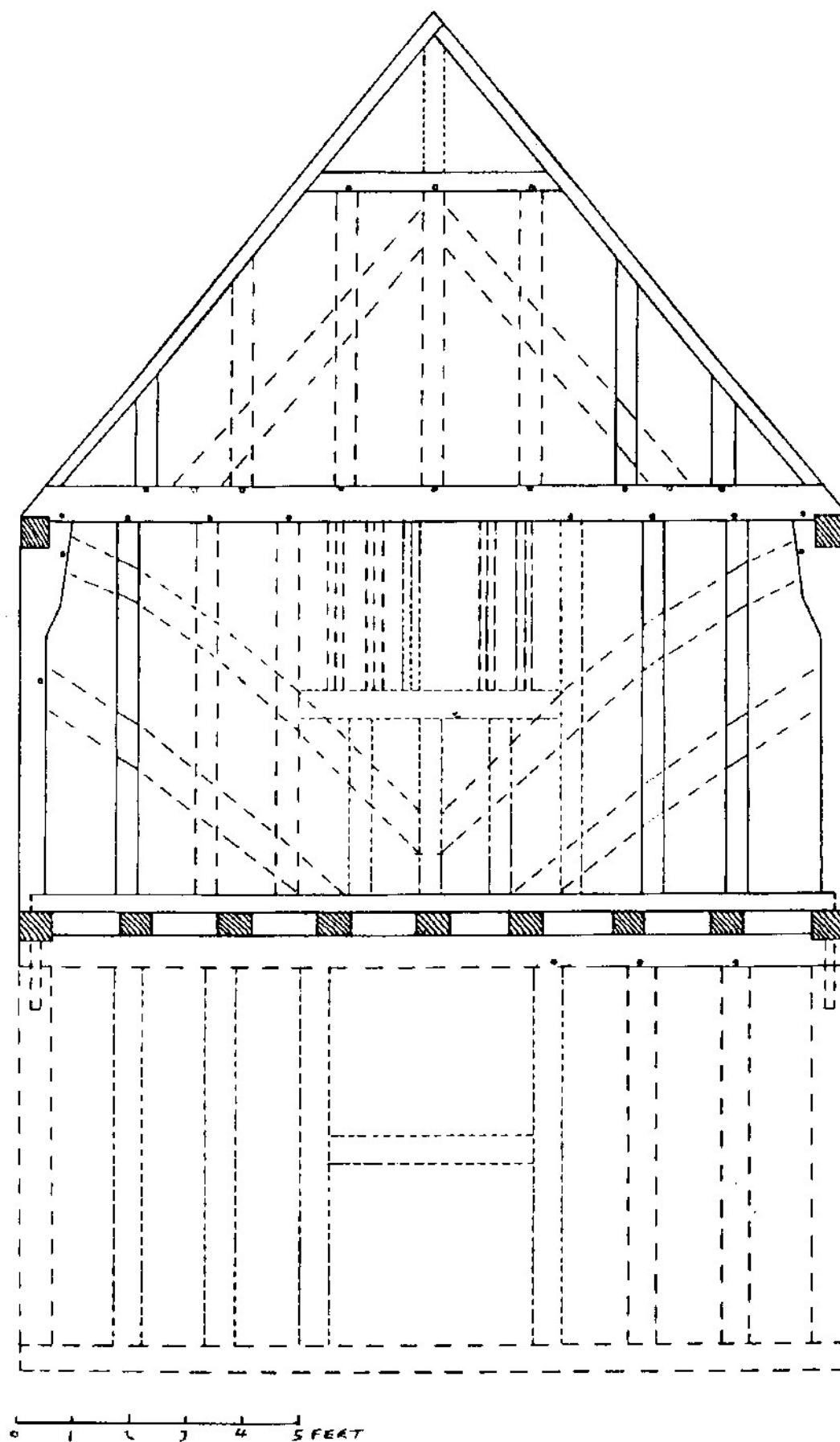


Figure 5) Mascotts, Copford: Front elevation of Crosswing

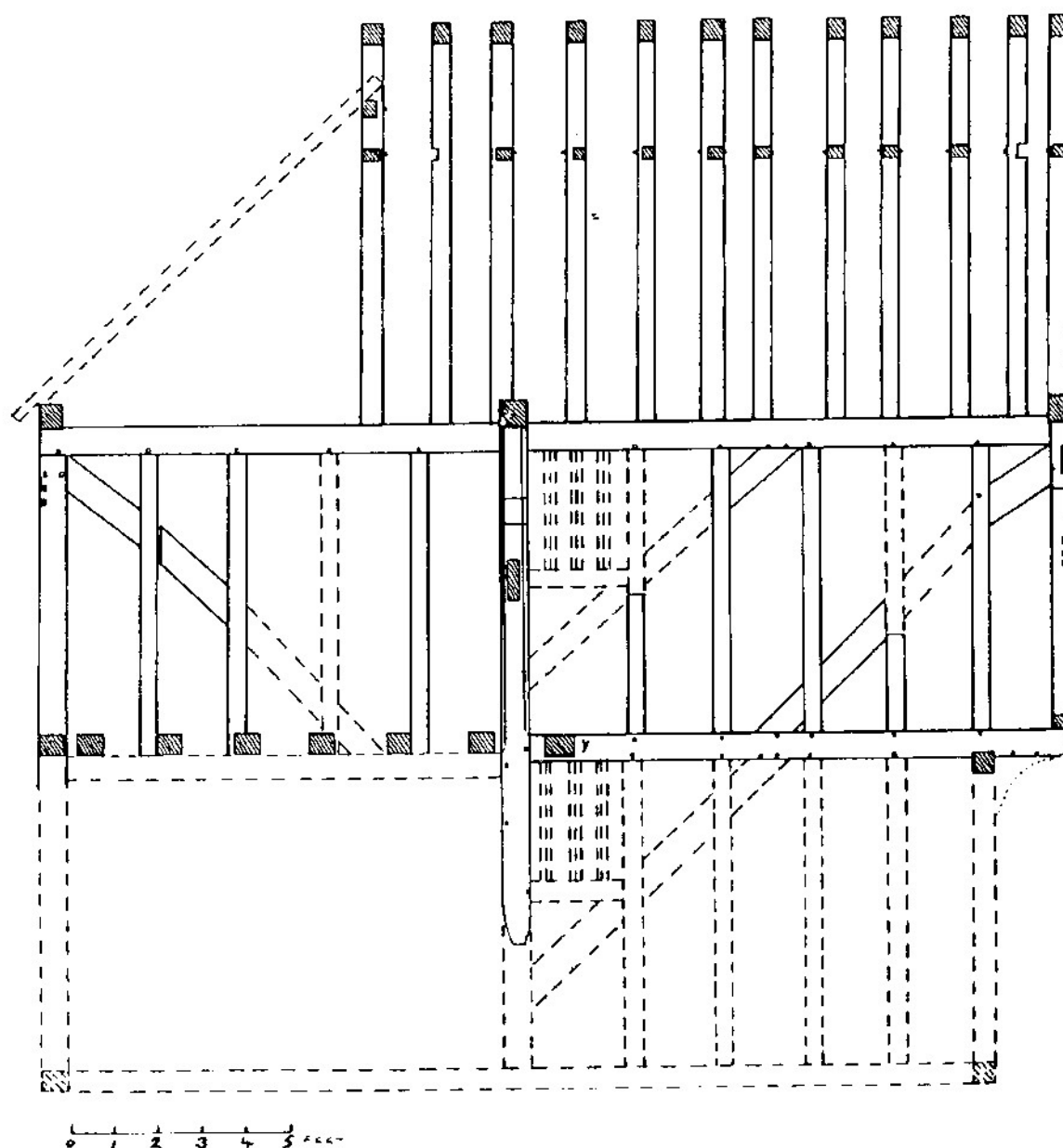


Figure 6) Mascotts, Copford: East wall of Crosswing from inside

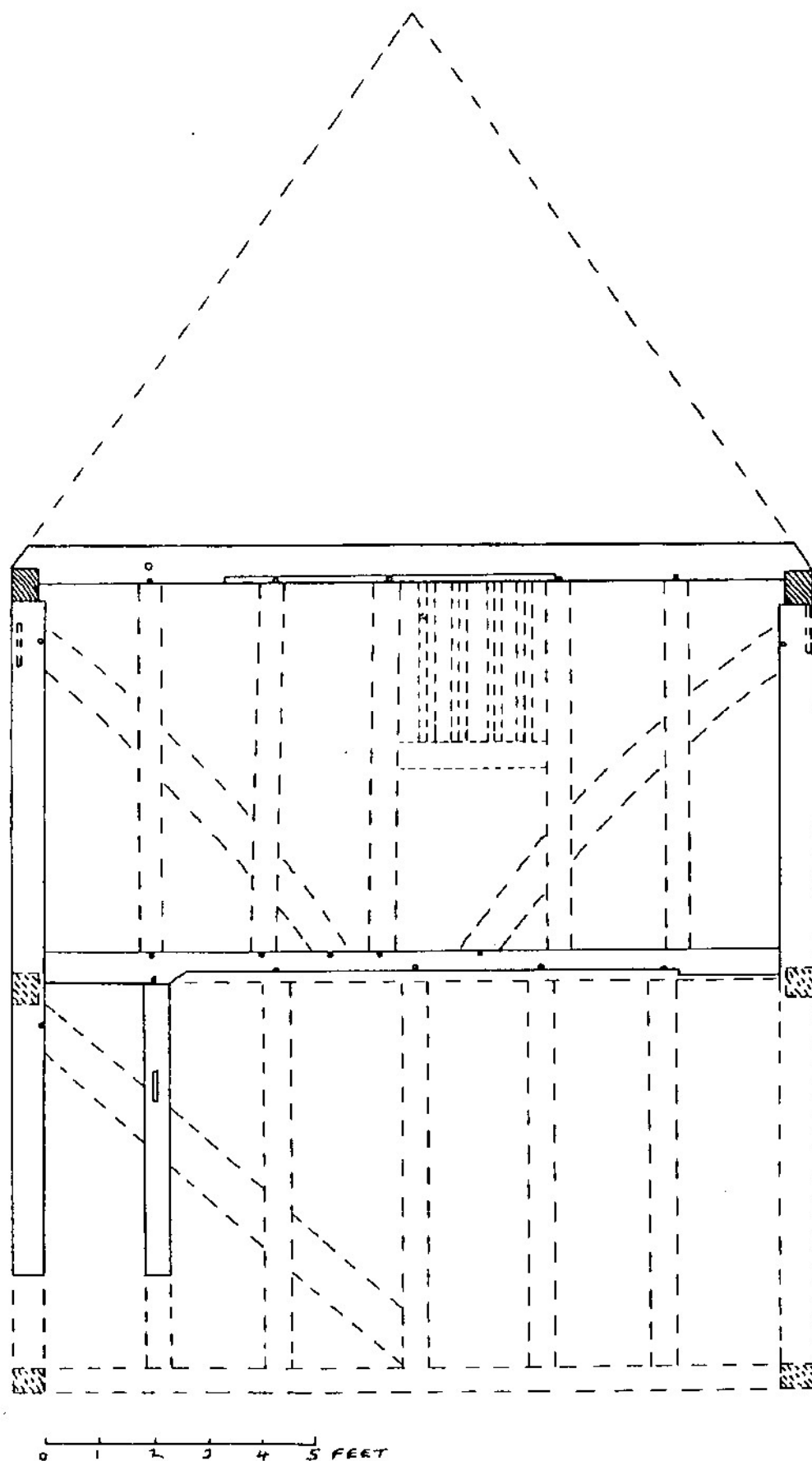


Figure 7) Mascotts, Copford: Rear elevation of Crosswing from inside

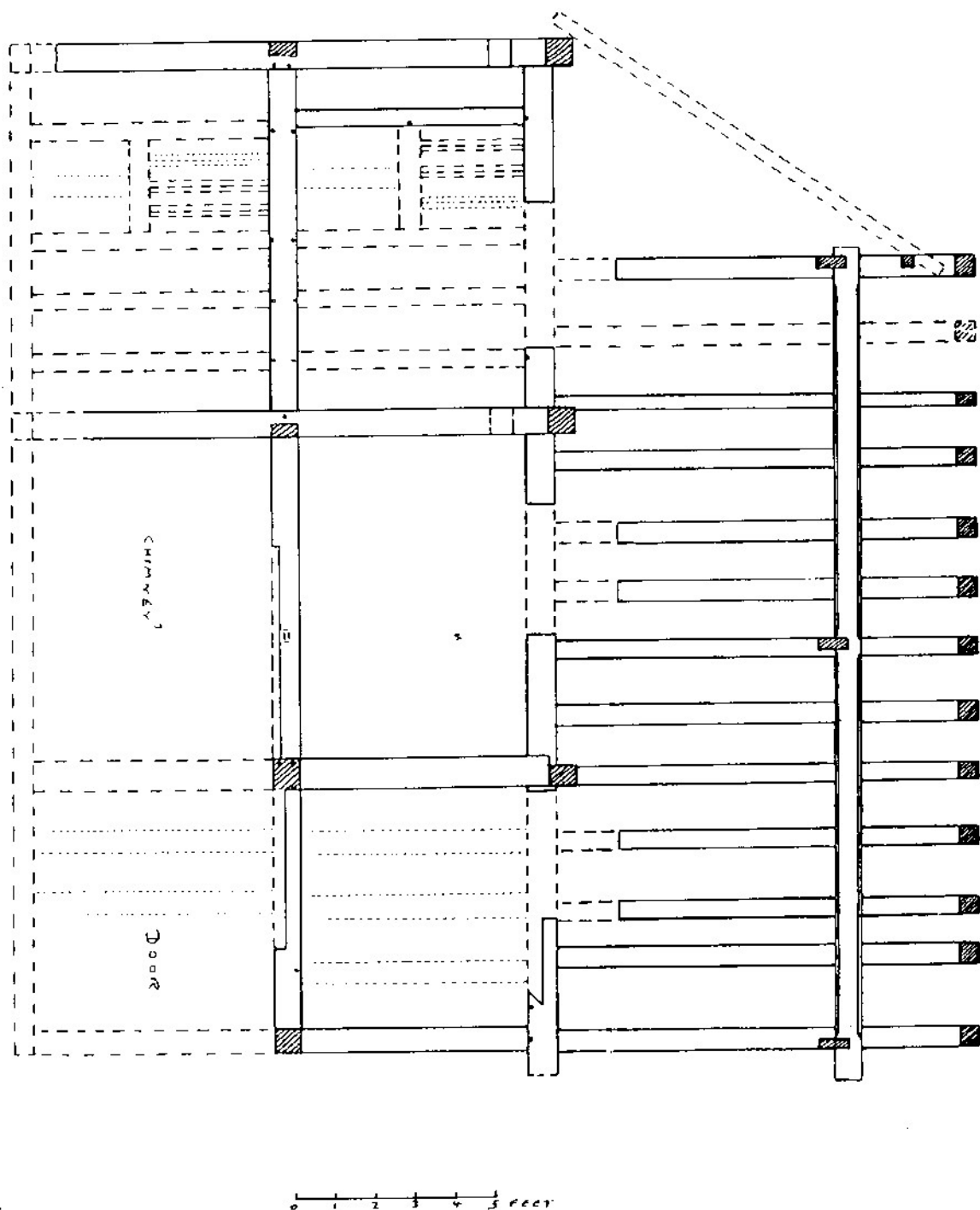


Figure 8) Mascotts, Copford: Inline Hall and bay, North Wall

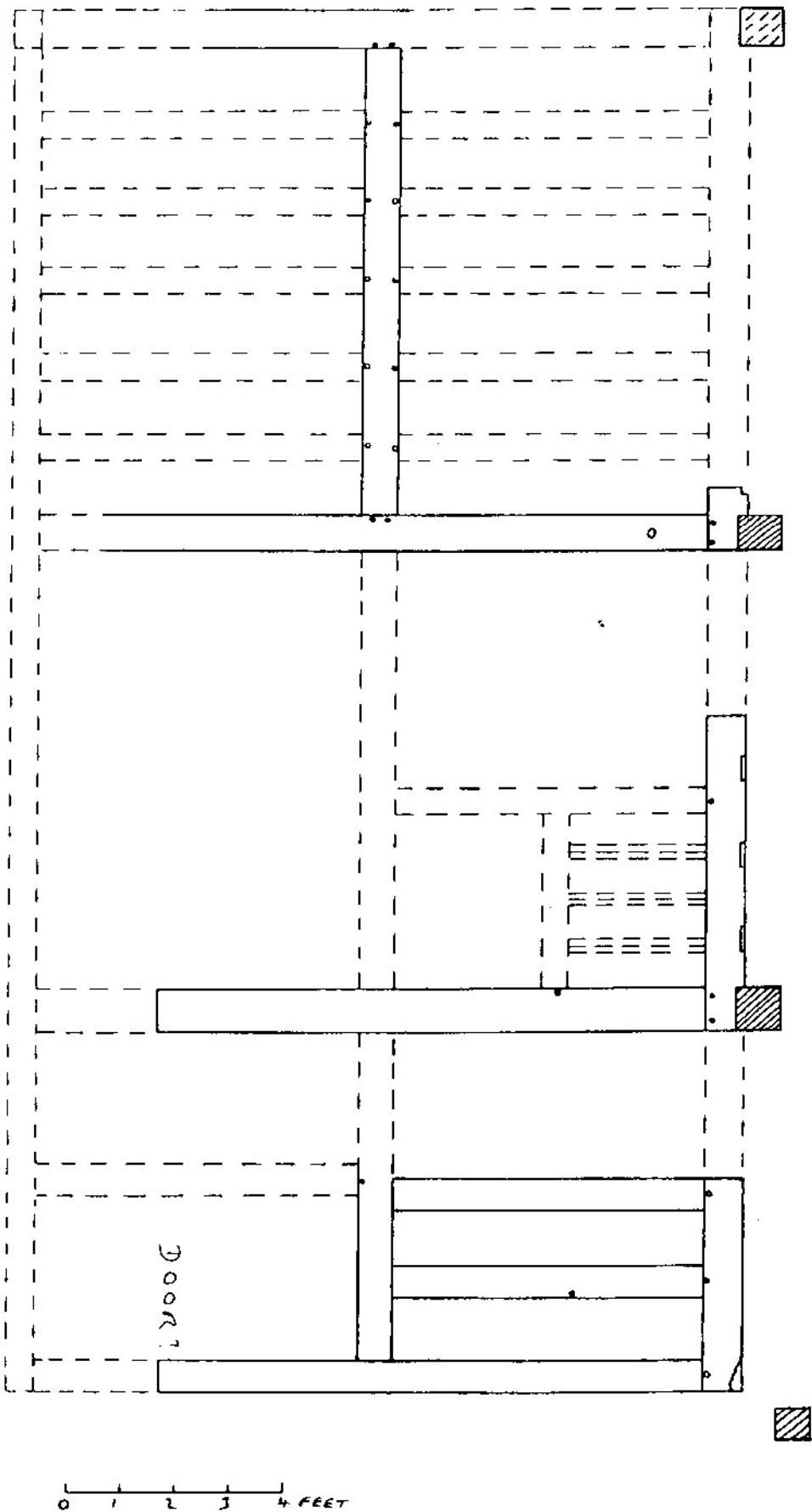


Figure 9) Mascott, Copford: Inline Hall and Bay, South Wall

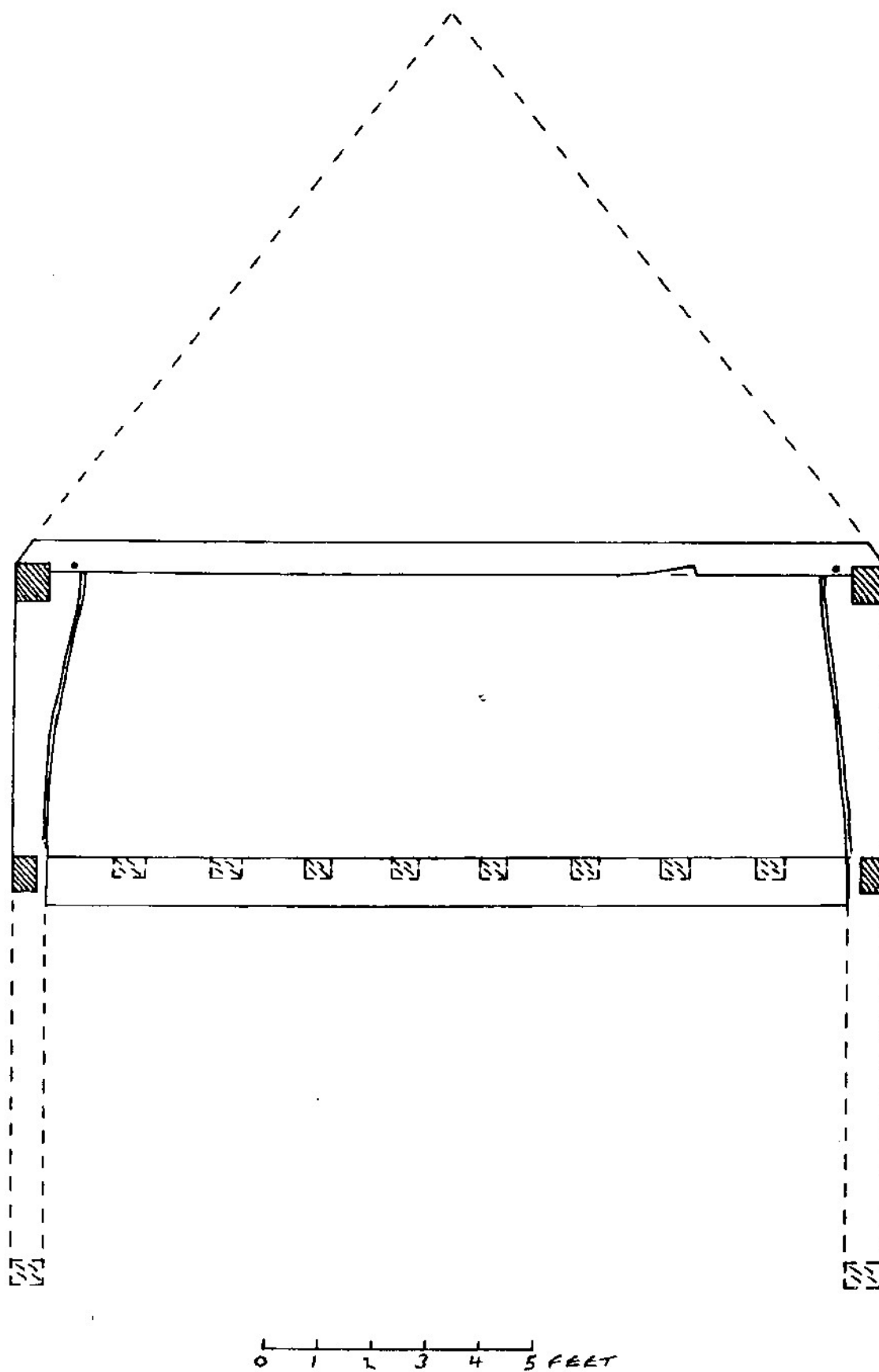


Figure 10 Mascotts, Copford: Inline Structure, Central Truss

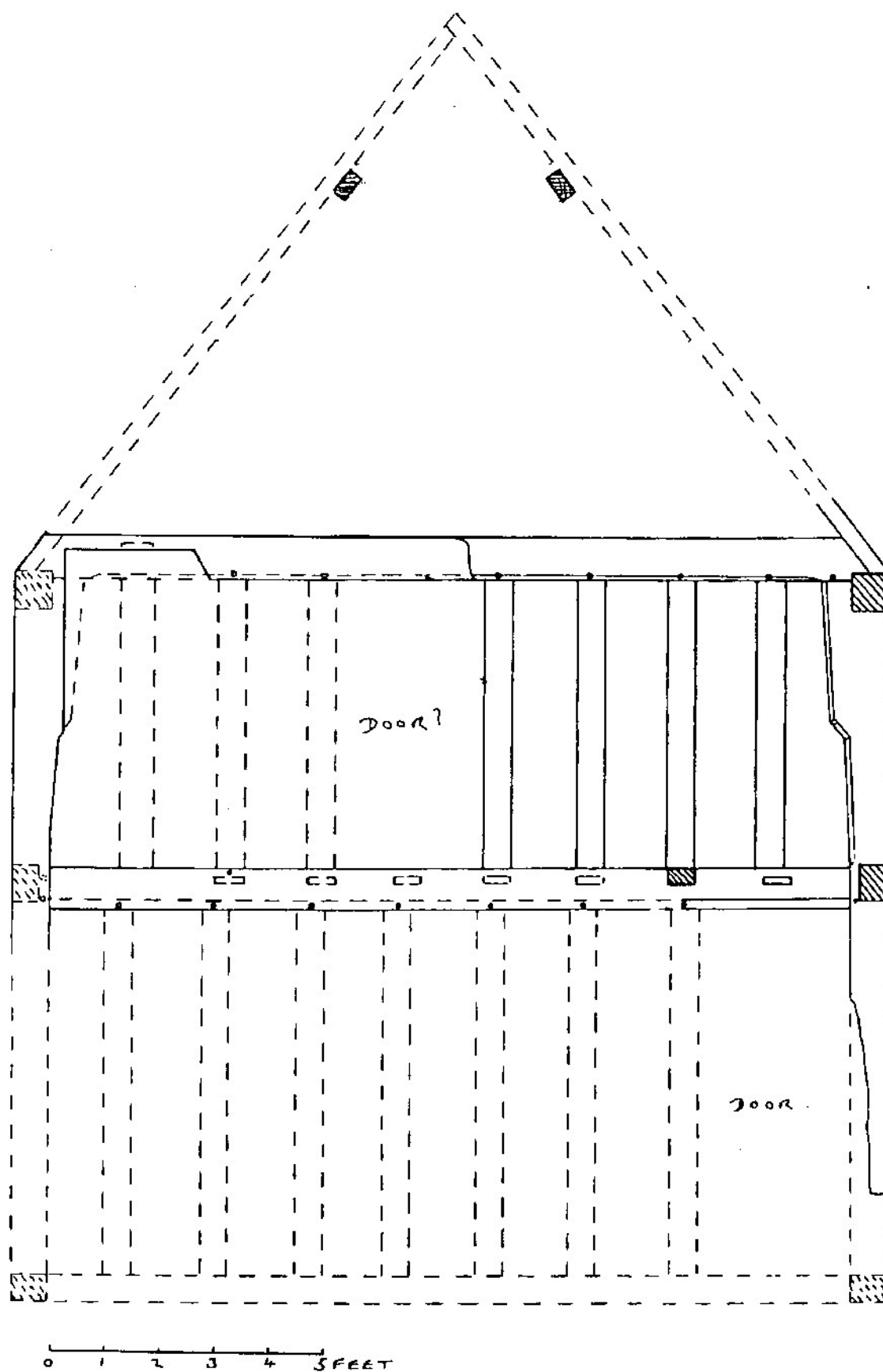


Figure 11) Mascotts, Copford: Inline structure, wall between Hall and Bay



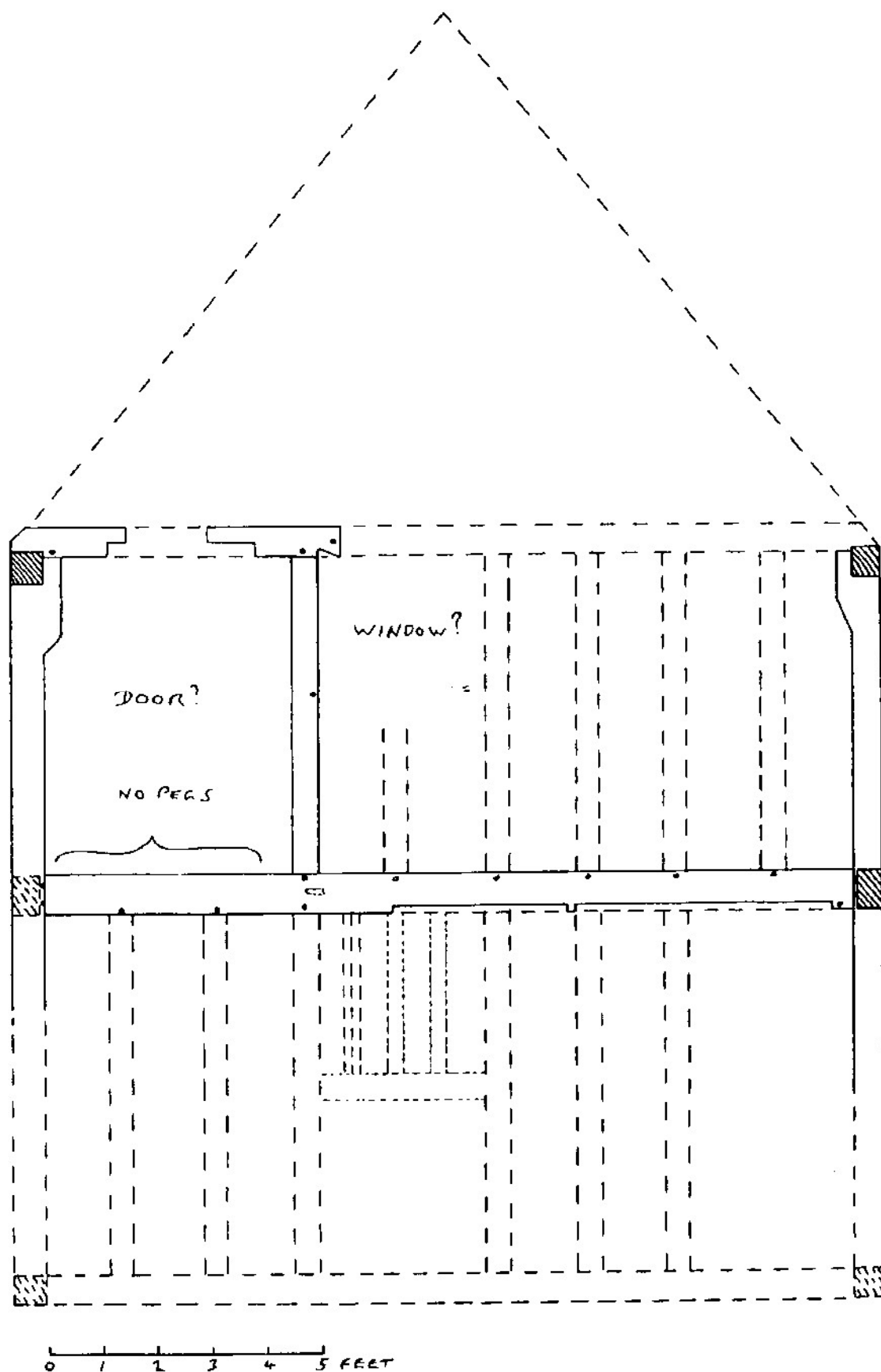


Figure 12) Mascotts, Copford: Inline Bay, end wall with wardrobe

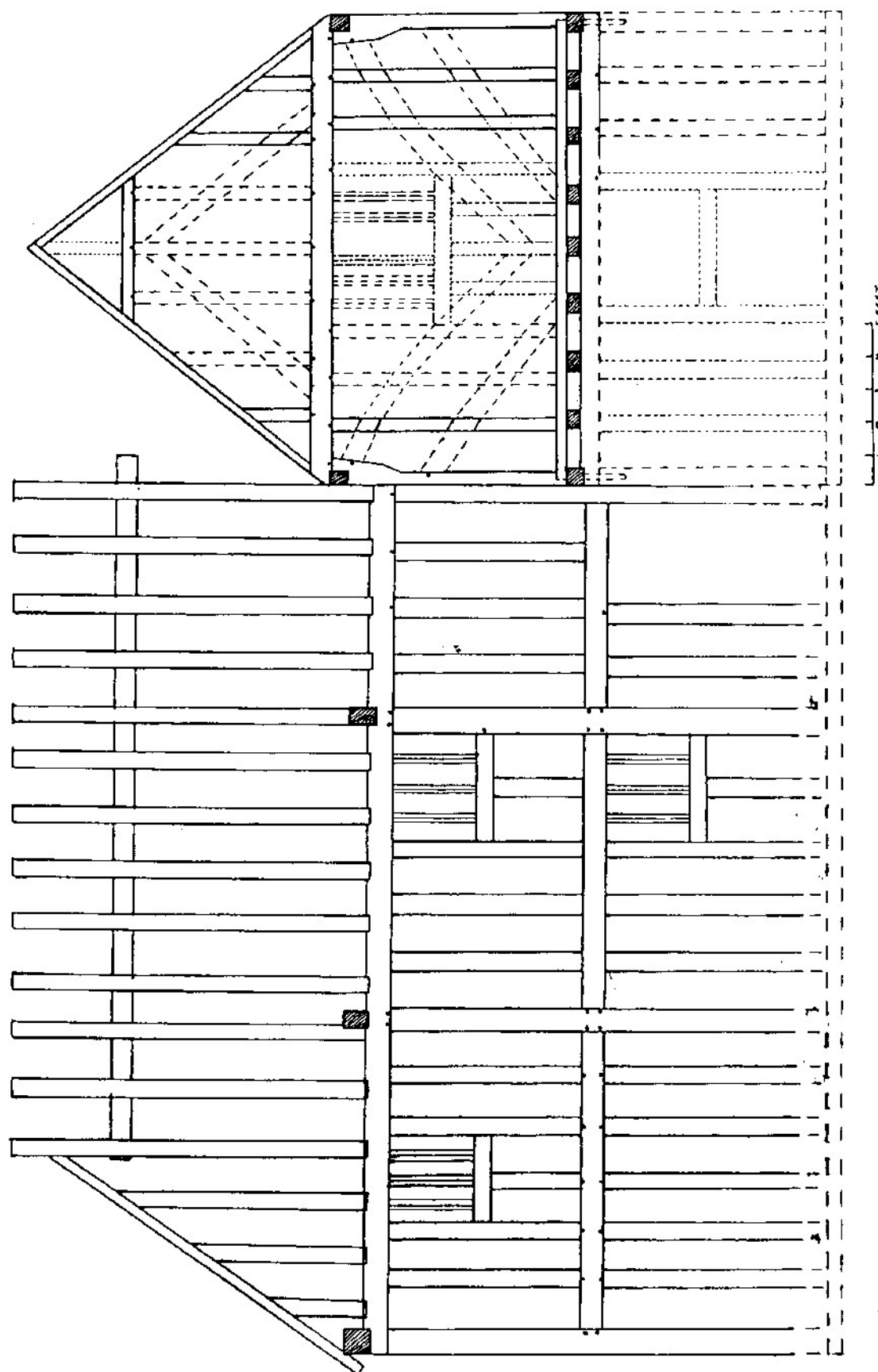


Figure 13) Mascotts, Copford: Reconstruction of southern elevation c1600 AD

## **The Sixteenth Century in-line Hall and Bay**

This structure replaced an earlier open hall and bay. The new hall had an integral floor and was of two bays.

The ground floor probably had a cross passage at the northern end next to the crosswing. The rear (north) wall (fig 8) had a gap in the framing. This was probably for a brick chimney, but it might be for a staircase. The front wall (south) (fig 9) had at least one window on the upper floor. One of the joists has the letter "S" branded on it several times. The integral floor of this hall can be seen in the central truss (fig 10).

The upper floor also had a gap in the framing on the rear wall and a window in the front wall. The headroom under the tie beams was low suggesting that this upper room was only used for storage.

The end bay also has an integral floor. The ground floor room, had a door through into the hall (fig 11), with windows in the rear and end walls but none in the front wall.

The upper floor had windows on the rear, end and possibly front walls. The end wall had a gap in the framing that may have been a wardrobe (fig 12). The joists are missing in this bay but there was probably a stair trap.

The roof of this structure is side purlin roof with a lopped end over the separate end bay (fig 8). Figure 13 suggests how the front elevation of this building may have looked c1600 AD.

## **The Dating of the floored Hall structure**

The side purlin roof suggests a date in the late Sixteenth Century.

## **Conclusion**

This fascinating building comprises two parts. A very early crosswing with rare multiple bracing and two very puzzling doors into the former open hall. The second part the floored hall and bay is also interesting because the low tie beams in the room over the hall suggest that this room had a storage function. The wardrobe on the upper floor of the end bay suggests that this may have been a parlour bay.

I should like to thank Dave Stenning for his advice and suggestions. All drawings by Richard Shackle.

## Excavations at "Houchins" - a moated farmhouse at Coggeshall

by Vic Scott and S. Chapman

The excavations carried out over nine days during July 1996, resulted from Susannah Chapman receiving a request from the owner to investigate his moat. The aim being to obtain a cross section of the moat, investigate the possibility of Roman occupation, and see if the evidence would connect the moat with the earliest documented occupation in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

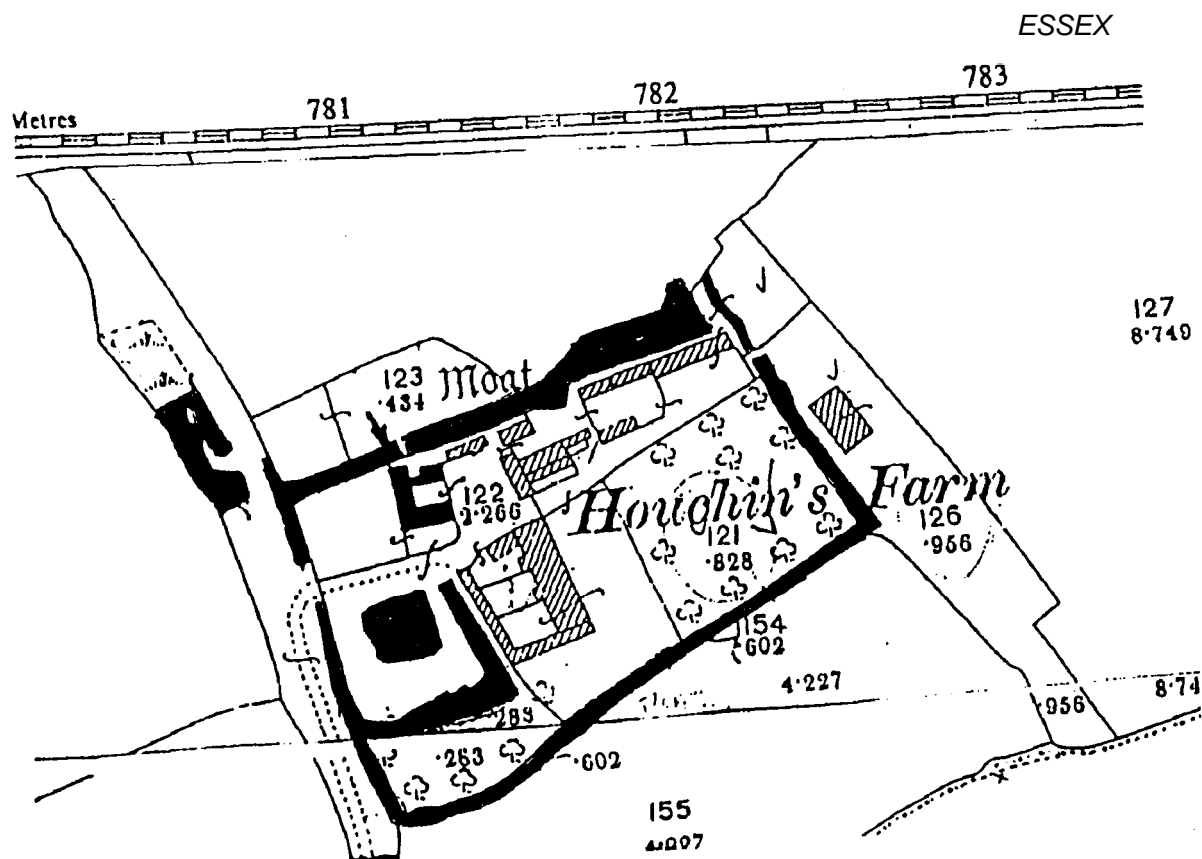


Figure 1) Plan of Moat & House - Houchins, Coggeshall

Susannah approached me for assistance, having already carried out a considerable amount of research, and I am indebted to her for much of the information in this report.

Permission was granted by the County Archaeological Unit to carry out the excavation once they were satisfied we knew what we were doing, and Richard Havis agreed to act as adviser. Three other members of CAG joined us to work on the excavation.

### The Excavation

In all five trenches were dug (see plan). Trench 1 was directly behind the house where an amount of Victorian pottery had already been found when cleaning out a section of the moat. Trench 3 bypassed a tree and made sure we reached the outer edge of the moat. Trench 2 was dug about 7 metres to the west, in the hope of obtaining drier conditions, and to check the results of the first section. Trench 4 was dug against the south side of the house, where a good scatter of medieval pottery had been found in the rose beds. Trench 5 was opened up to the east of the bridge over the moat, and yielded the same types of pottery as Trench 1.

A huge amount of mainly 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century pottery, glass, metalwork, clay pipes, oyster shells and other oddments were brought up from Trench 1 all the way down to the natural clay bottom. The moat at this point was found to be 5.5 metres wide and 2.25 metres deep (see section), and although drought conditions existed, the excavation was constantly filling with water. A sump was dug and a pump installed which while constantly working allowed digging to proceed. Trench 2 (see section) was drier, but again was waterlogged in the centre at the bottom. Although fewer finds were made, they were of the same period as Trench 1. Trench 4 against the house (see plan) was dug through heavy clay infill. It produced 9 medieval sherds, fragments of burnt clay and some modern pottery. Natural clay was reached at a depth of

0.5 metres (see section). The brick wall forming the cellar of the house appeared to have been laid from inside as the outer face was left rough with squeezed out mortar.

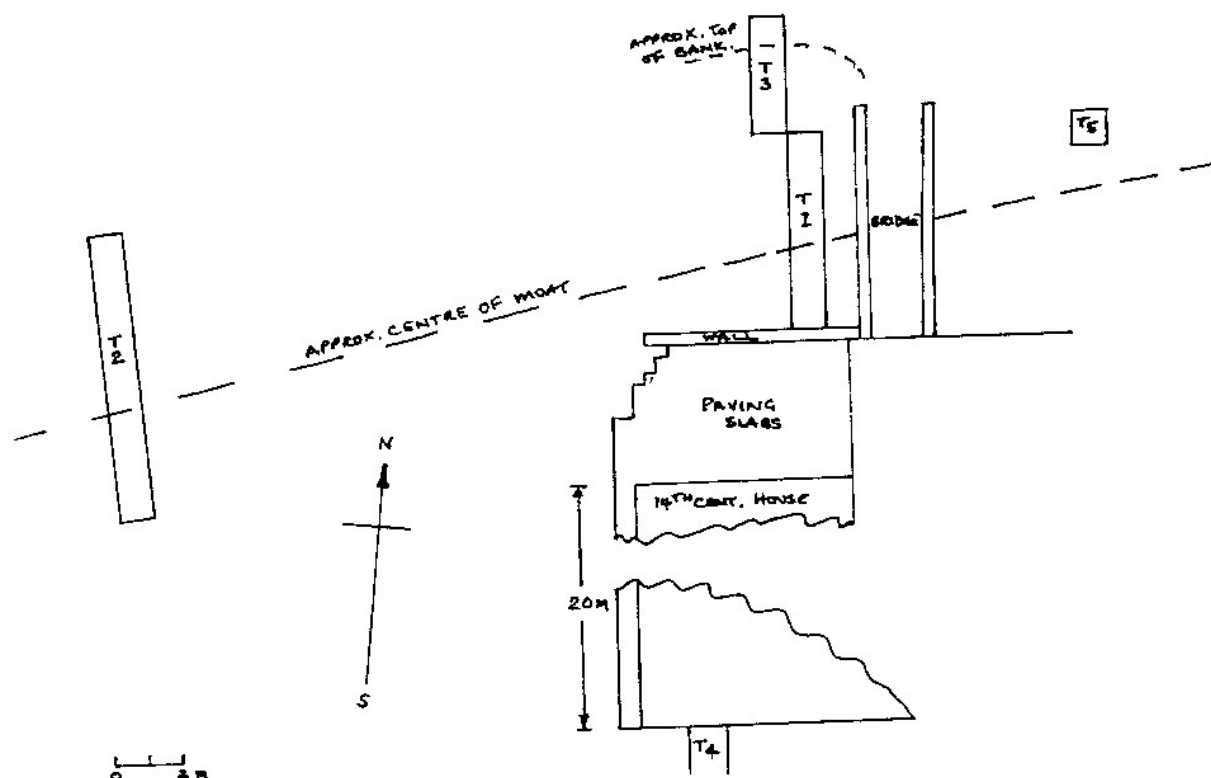


Figure 2) Plan of excavation at Houchins, Coggeshall

## Land and Water Levels

To the west of Houchins lies the watershed or headwater, here the valley drains to Coggeshall and the Blackwater, and to the east to the Roman River and the Colne. In spite of severe drought conditions during July 1996, water was plentiful throughout the site. The lowest area lay in front of the house, where the pond was full. The owner described how the lawn flooded for several years, until he re-dug the original pond. Water had also been a problem in the cellar and a land drain was laid to the north to try and drain water away from the house. Water still lay in the cellar and the well in the back yard is full to within a metre of the top. The moat to the south and west is full where it was cleaned out as part of the establishment of the present reservoirs about 30 years ago.

The house stands on a clay outcrop and the area around it and the front garden now lie several feet above the surrounding land. A revetment wall that appears to be fairly modern supports this. The house itself has a foundation of at least nine courses of brick, which has been raised further with a modern brick wall to the east. To the north where we dug there is a retaining wall going down to the bottom of the moat of frogless bricks, 9" x 2 1/4", and are dated as 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> Century. One area is raised about a foot higher than the ground on which the house stands, this is to the north side of the moat and is reached by a brick bridge. In the sale particulars of 1897 this is known as the garden. Perhaps this raised area is made up of earth dug out of the moat and its subsequent cleaning. If this is so, the possibility of the moat being defensive seems unlikely. No pottery was found in this area. To the south-east where large modern barns stand, and marked on the 1897 plan as an orchard, the land has been raised at some time by two to three feet, probably to achieve dry ground. This also has a small drainage ditch running along its north side, with the moat to the east and south.

## The Finds

The greater part of the pottery found consisted of blue and white willow pattern, and many whole plates and dishes could have been reconstructed. Over 400 sherds were counted, including 11 with makers marks, 65 pieces of other types of blue and white were found, some with gold ornamentation, others with rustic scenes or blue flowers.

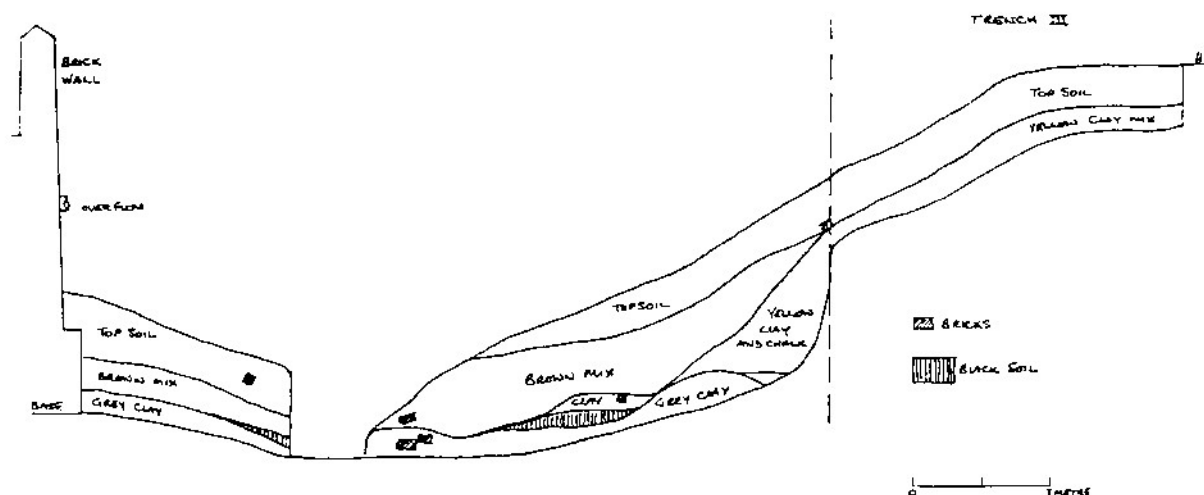


Figure 3) Trench I (Section)

Among the makers marks were Ironstone China, Davenport, Stafford and stoneware. Other pottery included pieces of large bowls and jars for kitchen use, bowls and jugs for the bedroom, and salt glazed and stoneware. Finer pottery included designs in green and red, a mug with rhymes on it, and more than one ointment pot with its trade name. Entire bottles were found, many pale green or dark brown including a scent bottle marked E. Rimmel of Paris.

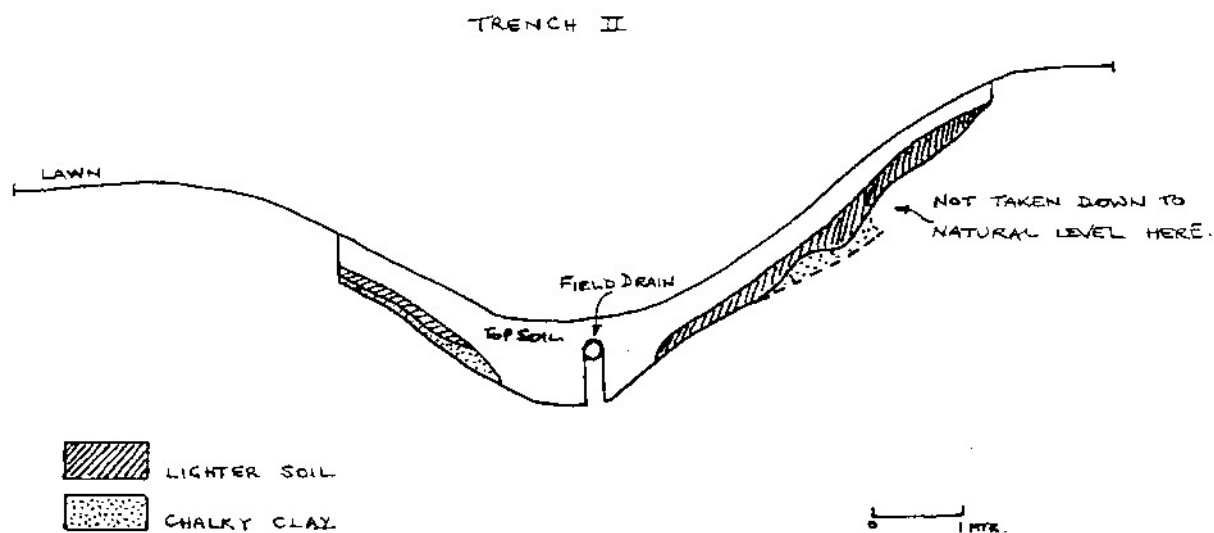


Figure 4) Trench II (Section) by James Fawn

There were also heavy cut glass tumblers, stemmed wineglasses, broken decanters and wine bottles, and cut glass salt cellars and bowls.

Metalwork included a cauldron with handles, a barrel hoop, a mattock, fire tongs, part of an animal trap and a spoon. Numbers of clay pipes were found including nine bowls, five were thought to date from 1780 to 1850. One

marked S.R. on the spur could well be made by Steven Rand of Colchester, if so would date to 1840. Another marked J.P. could be from James Pettit of 38 East Street, Colchester, and date to 1839. Two bowls were decorated with oak leaves and acorns, these are described as decoration used by Steven Rand. Two further bowls probably made by the same person, could be described as of Irish style, milled round the rim and with an identical shield with cross bar both sides of the spur, and datable to 1850-1910. One stem was marked thorn & Co 7 Salop. (Ref. Clay Pipes found at Colchester by Leonard H. Gant - CAG Bulletin No. 1 part 3, 1958).

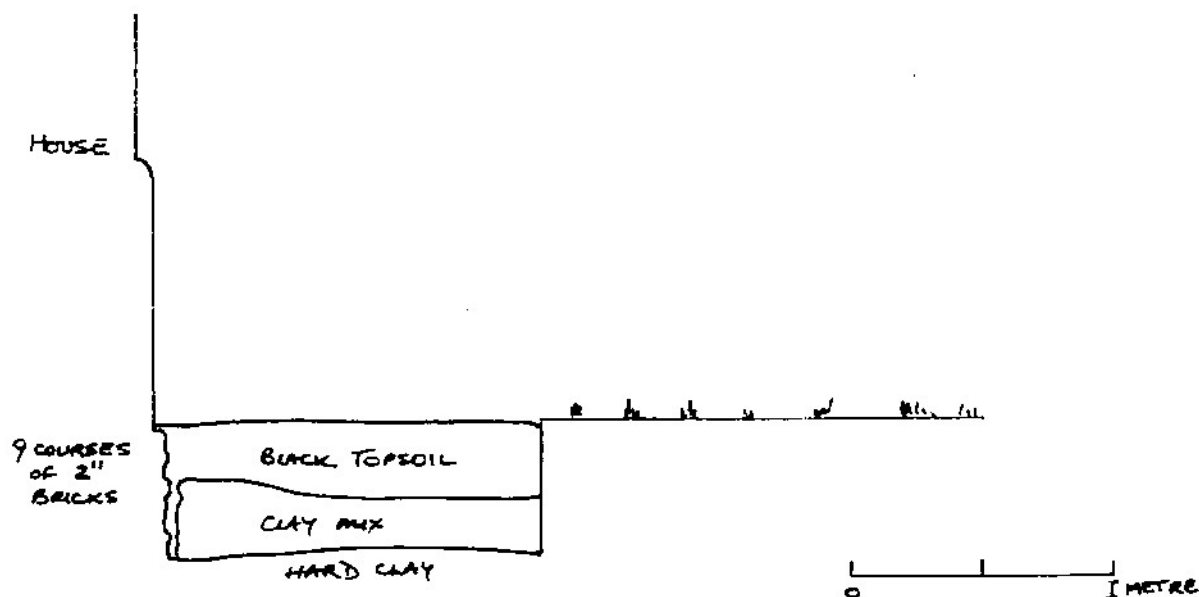


Figure 5) Trench IV (section)

Several oyster shells were found, also bone, fragments of slate and slate pencils, a lead soldier, a ceramic female head, a bell (from a horse harness?), a ceramic boy riding on a cockerel, fragments of moulded ashlar and lead from a window. Any pottery thought to be of an early date was separated and taken to Helen Walker at Chelmsford, and we are grateful for her dating the following list:

**Early medieval course ware**

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Century (not likely to be later): One base and two sherds.

**Heddingham ware**

Probably late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Century: One base and possible fragment of a strip jug.

**Medieval course ware.**

12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century: 20 sherds including 3 rims.

**Suffolk buff ware**

A glazed sherd of possibly 14<sup>th</sup> Century date.

**Colchester ware**

13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century: one sherd with green glaze.

**Late medieval**

Sandy orange fabric - broadly dated from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Century: 11 sherds in all, two of which were probably 14<sup>th</sup> Century

**Post medieval**

12 sherds of red ware – 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Three lids probably 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century

**Staffordshire- type slip ware**

3 sherds from second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

## Historical Records

Fortunately Houchins is a site for which numerous records exist. C.A. Hewett dates the main part of the house to c1600, and this includes re-used timber from an earlier building. The rear part of the house is older, probably fifteenth century, but because it has no site for a fireplace appears in every way to consist of ancillary buildings such as brewery, bakehouse or kitchen. It must therefore be argued that there was an earlier medieval building on the site of the present house.

Reaney quotes several names - 1411 Howhannys, 1463-8 Howchonys-chins while Morant refers to a Hugh de Feringe in 1332 giving his lands in Feering to St. John's Abbey in Colchester, and Hewett quotes reference to Howchonys in 1422. Thus there is written evidence for settlement at Houchins in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, and possibly back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. There are 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century records which are relevant to the existence of a moat. A survey of the manor farm called Houchins in 1764 names and marks all fields and describes the house, yards and hop garden but does not refer to water or a moat. The 1764 survey map shows what is most likely to be water in front of the house, which is an even stronger indication that if there were a moat in existence at that time, it would have been marked. The 1787 Schedule of Honeywood Estates repeats this description, but does not mention a moat. Furthermore an indenture of 1787 gives great detail of the management of the farm, detailing management of timber, manure, repairs and so on, but with no reference to the maintenance or cleaning of the moat.

The 1841 tithe map shows the moat very much as it is today, but with only two crossings, at the main entrance and behind the house. The pond and water in front of the house are included, as is the new feature of the raised area behind the house cut out of the large field.

## Conclusion

- 1) Drainage would appear to be a compelling reason why the so-called moat was dug at Houchins. The quest for dry ground has led not only to the digging of the moat, but also to the raising of the land round the house and the revetment walls.
- 2) Since no further Roman finds were made, it is most unlikely that a Roman settlement existed on this site.
- 3) The medieval pottery found suggests a date a hundred years or more earlier than the written records for settlement of the site. While written records do not go back further than 14<sup>th</sup> Century, several sherds of pottery were found, and on present dating cannot be later than the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.
- 4) Several documents dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century give no evidence of a moat; while it existed in its modern form in 1841 nothing precludes the existence of an earlier moat. The evidence suggests that, while ditches must always have existed, the moat surrounding the house and grounds was dug in its present form sometime between 1787 and 1841. The earth from this excavation was dumped behind the house, and the raised area this made was separated from the main fields and used as the kitchen garden.

## Note

After the excavation of July 1996 sample field walking of the fields adjacent to the house was carried out. Walking of the two fields between Houchins and the Roman Stane Street (A120) has also been undertaken by CAG and the Young Archaeologists. Finds made reflect the previous finds from the excavations, with the addition of numerous pieces of peg tile and brick.



## EXCAVATION OF A WARTIME AIRCRAFT: CRASHED 1944

*Ida McMaster and James Fawn*

Several members of CAG were able to carry out a most unusual watching brief on Saturday 30th August 1997. The East Anglian Aircraft Research Group had sought permission to excavate the remains of a World War II Thunderbolt plane that crashed on 2nd November 1944. Its American 8th Army pilot Lt. Wallace W. Knief was forced to bale out of his aircraft which then crashed into Farecroft Field (or Middle Field) Mount Bures narrowly missing the Thatchers Arms Inn. Fortunately the pilot landed safely and survived the war. He had flown on a training flight from Boxted Essex airfield with other members of his USAAF 56th Fighter Group. His P47 Thunderbolt was well worn, stripped of its armament and had been used for target towing practice.

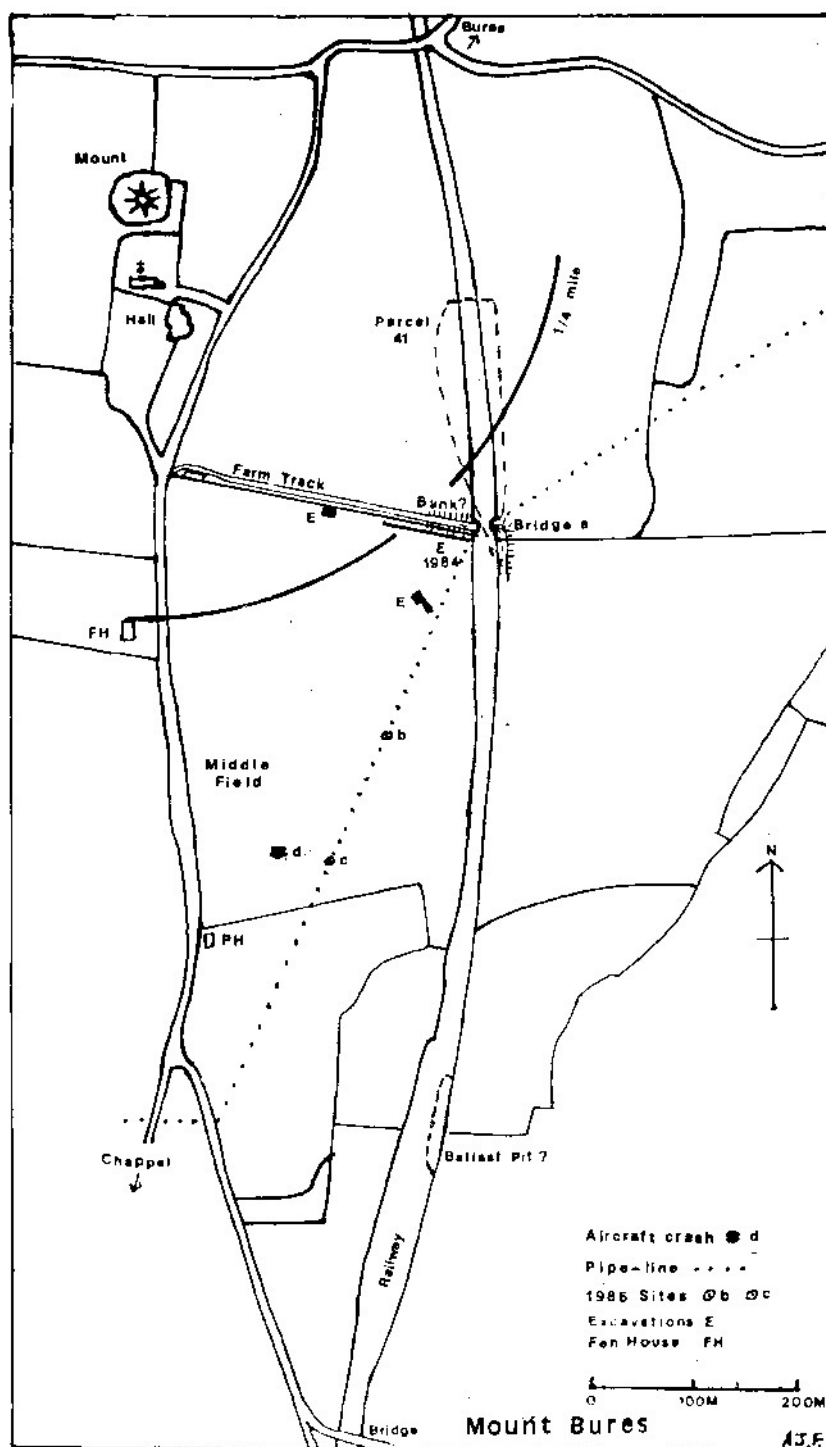


Figure 1) Map of Mount Bures showing location of excavation

On that day his leader ordered the flight to carry out an 'Immehtan' manoeuvre from which Lt. Knief was unable to extricate his machine. From about 11,000 feet height it was spinning helplessly and he was only able to escape from his cockpit at around 4,500 feet, stating later that he never saw his plane again after he opened the canopy. The subsequent investigation concluded that the accident was 100% pilot error due to poor technique, but added in mitigation that the nineteen-year-old Lt. Knief was a recent replacement pilot and that "owing to the excessive restrictions placed upon pilots in the USA he had never spun the P47". Local inhabitants at the time - some of whom are still alive today - believed the crash was a German V 1 doodlebug, so quickly was the surface wreckage cleared in wartime. The loss of our own planes was hushed up of course.

Geoff Barker and David Wade who supervised the excavation for the Research Group were able to locate the exact crash site with their powerful metal detector. Readings proved so strong it seemed almost certain that the engine was still beneath the soil. All finds were destined for display at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Museum at Hardwick, Norfolk. Almost at once traces of grey ash were seen below the topsoil indicating that the plane had burned fiercely on impact. Nevertheless, one of the first substantial objects, located at a depth of 1.5m was the recognisable framework of the pilot's armoured seat; the buckles of his safety harness were also found, together with the cockpit levers and the tailwheel assembly. No doubt other pieces will be identified among the trailer load of material transported away. Most impressive of all was the nose of the engine that was finally located at a depth of 4m. Giving credence to the power of Lt. Knief's spin and wonderment at his escape from such thrust.

Farecroft field has been the site of several CAG examinations when Iron Age sherds and ditches and a Bronze Age pit have been noted'. Also the well known Welwyn burial of an important chieftain or prince<sup>2</sup> is thought to lie in the north east corner of the same field; its site has never been relocated despite considerable search near the railway bridge (A). Nothing of archaeological interest was seen at the site of the plane crash (TL93 90593191).

The excavation of the plane was approximately 5m Square and is shown on the map at (D). The location measurements were 107m from the south-west corner of the field and 143m from the projecting corner of the Thatchers Arms adjacent property to the south-east.

In future, the crop marks in the field may include not only the sites listed in reference', but also the reported pipeline and the excavated aircraft site.

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- <sup>2</sup> Roach-Smith, C "Roman Remains Found at Mount Bures, near Colchester," *Collectanea Antiqua*, **2**, 25-36 1852

## Letters relating to the East Essex Militia and North Essex during the Napoleonic Wars

by Richard Shackle

Mr Ivan Trinder and Mr Gerald Daldry kindly let me copy some early Nineteenth Century letters relating to the East Essex Militia and North Essex. Mr Trinder's letters come first. He originally acquired the letters because of his interest in military and postal history, but they are also interesting because of the detail that reveal the way Colonel Rigby ran his estate through his agent John Ambrose.

### **Letter 1**

*Dr Sir*

*The Lord Lieutenant has desired me to transmit you the above copy of a circular letter received by his Lordship from Mr Secretary Yorke, which you will please to lay before the Deputy Lieutenants acting within your subdivision at their next meeting. -*

*I am Dr Sir*

*your most obedient servt  
J R Parker Senr  
Ctts of the Gen Meetings  
Chelmsford  
30th Dec 1803*

(page 2)

(Circular)

*Whitehall 26th December 1803*

*My Lord*

*I have received the Kings Commands to desire that your Lordships would use all possible Diligence in forwarding the completion of the levies for the Militia and army of reserve in the County of Essex; and His Majesty expects that your Deputy Lieutenants, and all officers concerned will excel themselves to the utmost ----? the present Occasion.*

*Your Lordship must be so well aware of ----? importance of executing this Service as speedily as possible, that I am sure I Need not press it upon you. - I have the Honor to be  
My Lord*

*Your Lordships most obedient  
Humble Servent  
C. Yorke*

*His Majesty's Lieutenant of the County of Essex*

(FRONT COVER)

*John Ambrose Esq  
Manningtree  
Essex  
A  
(Postmark Chelmsford 29)*

**Letter 2**

Gosforth House July 3d 1805

Dear Sir

----? yr letter with the account of my halfyearly Rents. The bills and vouchers for which I wish you to keep till I have a better opportunity of ---- ing them- I think you mentioned another house at the Thorn being vacant early in the spring; which I said wd better be kept for the new coal? master?; which I have heard nothing about, or recd any answer to my letter upon that subject, assp'd to the G y. I sh'd think the widow Betts was the best person to put in, but of that you can better judge. Are there now two vacant dwellings?-I have had a letter from Mr Newman who writes in low spirits-I am glad the person you have employed has e--- --nally remedied a long standing evil, and driven all the idle sho---rs from the home premises; who, of course disturb'd what little game there was. -The weather is such here as to give great expectation of a fine hay harvest, Tho(s) Spooner writes that the weather is still cold in Essex. The wheat and corn in general looks remarkably well- I beg you will return my thanks to Win Roberts, the first oppertunity you may have- Crooks sends me a favourable account of the appearance of my fruit trees- how are the walnut trees?- I am thus far on my way to Berwick, where I expect to receive L'hiocia's (?) orders to proceed further into Scotland: but I don't easily take my leave of the good things of England, and am therefore enjoying this week at Mr Brandling's, while my party are moving forward- you had better continue directing to London, as our ---ing is so uncertain- and letters so sent, are sure to find me.

I am Dr Sir

yrs sincerely

-- Rigby

(unused part of front sheet)

Mistake and sopy(?) tag  
Barnard Lam--ton  
Houses vacant  
walnut trees  
Oak trees  
Days(?)  
Barnard  
Baker's cash  
Mills  
Groom

3 july 1805  
Mr Rigby

(FRONT COVER)

Newcastle july four 1805  
Mr Ambrose  
Mistley Thorn  
Manningtree

FREE

C.J.Brandling

**Letter 3**

Glasgow Sept 14th 1805

Dear Sir

---d yr letter of the 6th Ins, - I never heard of a more impudent thing done, than what your ---- of the Persons in shooting a brace of hares in Keningale's (?) fields. I am surprised nobody saw them do it, and went to them upon hearing the report of the gun: it proves what I have always perceived, that the people ----- enough to be of any use in the preservation of game. It is high time the Keepers house was finished- It would certainly be right to have floors(?) put in, and if there are any in hand that will do, they may be put up; there was one large good grate in Laundress's house.-I should have no objection to that for the exchange of Abbots for Mayjammer's wood, is to hear Baper's proposals for the purchase of the latter, or in exchange for Walton Pythes(?). I am much obliged to Mr Howlett for his ----- about the game, and he may rest assured that nobody shall have Abbots Wood till he has refused it if I sh'd at any time intend to part with it, I must defer entering upon any particulars upon the subject of Mr Baper's intentions till I go to Mistley; in the mean time you may receive, and forward any proposals he may advance: I suppose there are few ,if any, good trees in Mayjammer's, and it probably has been cleared of the underwood since sold. If I bought or exchanged it, I shall wish to have the whole undivided -I am glad to hear so much good corn has been got in well; it is also carrying here, though we don't know what two successive dry days mean in this country- If I do not receive a part of my money of

----

Barnard by xmas, the estate must be sold. I hope he will

---

avoid ----- of a m-----. I sh'd unwillingly have recourse to. I thank you for paying my forfeits at The Cups- Do you know if there are any gates(?) put up in the Kitchen Garden since I was at Mistley? I hear it has been a bad year for fruit, and shall I have but a short crop of grapes. -Yr are again relieved from the apprehension of immediate invasion; and the signal for general war is now flying on the continent. Sh'd there be no gra---shall risk. So for the keeper's house, I have two that have recently been taken down at Mistley Hall, out of my bed and dressing(?) rooms, wrk may be needed(?). My Stable man sends me word that my Pointer bitch Died

is still at Mistley; I thought that she - yr old dog was sold- I hope Mr(?) Barton will do all he can to preserve the few coveys he has on his farm: and that more will be discover'd there ---- --when the ----are clear'd which I hope will (rest of sentence missing).

I am

(front cover)

MrAmbrose  
MistleyThorn  
Manningtree  
Essex S.B.  
(postmark GREENOCK)

**Letter 4**

Glasgow Oct: 19th: 1805

Dear Sir

I am obliged to you for the account sent me of the very unpleasant, and vexatious proceedings in my Garden: it is however some satisfaction to know that the culprits were secured: it appears very strange that a more severe punishment could not be imposed(?) on such subjects, in addition to the penalty- such as committing them to the house of correction for 2 or 3 months, or forcing them on board ship: it appears that the men come from Sunderland- but a great deal of this mischief might have been prevented, but for want of alertness and decision so conspicuous upon all occasions in our neighbourhood- the garden was robb'd on Tuesday night, wk must have known by the gardener early on Wednesday morn 'g but, having taken that whole day and night to think it over, hr decides on the Thursday morning to inform you of it; allowing the thieves another night unmolested to finish the job they had commenced: for it appears that it was only on Friday night thought necessary to make watch;

*and that, Done by an old man and a boy, who might both have been knock'd on the head by an active sailor. There sh'd have been three men, well arm'd, posted on Wedn'sday night, and continued every night for a Week. I am allways for active measures, and severe example with a proper in---: it is the surest way of putting a complete stop to transgressions, and the most lenient made in the end -*

*I understand the ground intended for y young plants is trench'd - I don't know what the Ipswich gardener's idea of my intentions may be, but I can assure him it is not to set up in opposition to him, therefore shall certainly not require upwards of 7000 young trees: at any rate I must know the prices of the different plants, and should like tolerable sized oaks, of about 2 or 3 feet, whilst I plant a good many acorns. I do not want quite half of the ground planted this year, but -- have a good many more Firs and Lawrels put down by the church, the brook by my(?) garden, and the outside of the paling-all the lawrells may be had at home, and a great many Firs, for sowing- the Firs for planting as above, must be about the size of those already by the church- whatever number of plants are set this year, must be put in pretty thick at first- when the gardener informs me the price of the different trees, I shall let him know what will be wanted, in time to put in the ground by the 20th Nov. I hope to get to England again about that time. have my Walnut trees been productive this year? I hear it's a god nut year. I fear you have not been able to get me my trunk(?). -*

*I am, Dear sir*

*(front cover)*

*Mr Ambrose  
Mistley Thorn  
Mannlngtree  
S. B:  
Postmarks GLASGOW D*

*190CT 1805  
OCT22 1805*

Wax seal has a stag's head on it.

## **Letter 5**

*London March 2nd 1808*

*Dear Sir*

*I received your letter of the 23d --, and have expected to have been able to go down to Mistley before this time; where I should have talked over the contents of your letter- but business shall detain(?) me in this town, though I hope shortly to get into Essex- my Reg't is at Danbury, a most convenient mid-way situation for me, at this time- I should certainly prefer you to occupy the Deer Park to anybody else, and it will give me great satisfaction to have it so disposed of but that can be better arranged when we meet, which will probably be next week, and I shall take Danbury in my way. have you done any thing towards forwarding the Bond from Mr B to me. Let me know if there are any papers here, which you may require the inspection of that I may take them with me. -*

*in haste, yours sincerely*

*Rigby*

*(on cover)*

*postmark                      FREE*

*2 MR 2*

*1808*

**Letter 6**

*Dear Sir*

*I have recd your letter, but have at present, but time to write a line to request the favour of you to desire Betts of the Post Office to discover (if possible) who the person may be who comes for a letter directed there to A.B. Post Office till called for- you will naturally suppose it concerns my former anonymous correspondent- I will write again in a day or two- I quit London on the 12th July at latest, therefore you may send me the Notice for Mr Warren- in haste, yrs sincerely*

*-- -- Rigby*

*No 27 Somerset Street*

*Jan y 26th 1807*

**Letter 7**

*London Dec 2 nd 1807*

*Dear Sir*

*It will be advisable to advertise the sale of the Manningtree(?) Pyghtles(?) for sale on Thursaday (Market day) the 2(?) Jan y in the Ipswich and Chelmsford paper. I enclose a letter which I beg you to let Spooner have, but sh'd he be absent tomorrow Morning, Baker may open it and fulfill the directions therein mentioned. -*

*I hope Mr Nunn received through you the requisite notice. I see Baker is down to serve for the Parish of Mistley, but as I understand orphaned(?), ofcourse is ineligible ; when are the days of appeal and enrollment?*

*I remain Dear Sir*

*yrs sincerely -- -- Rigby*

**Letter 8**

*The undersigned Men, Principals serving in Person for the Subdivision of Tendring, in the County of Essex, came this day before me, one of the Deputy Leiutenants for the said County, and took and subscribed the following Oath, viz*

*"We the undersigned do make Oath, that we are not worth, in money, Goods, Chattels or effects, the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds. "*

<i>Robert Taylor</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Bradfield</i>
<i>Sam 'I Neward</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Ardleigh</i>
<i>James Sharp</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Lawford</i>
<i>Wm Bond</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Lt Clacton</i>
<i>Charles Deeks</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Do</i>
<i>Jos'h Slowgrove</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Kirby</i>
<i>John Bardfield</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>
<i>James Lawrence</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>Wix</i>
<i>Mesh Houchin</i>	<i>his mark</i>	<i>kirby</i>

*Given under my hand at Dover, this fifth day of February One thousand eight hundred and eight*

*Saml Chr Carne DL*

(ON COVER)

*Mr Thomas Hitchcock  
Mistley  
Manningtree  
Essex  
postmark Dover 72*

Mr Trinder tells me that Mr Came was the Adjutant for the militia. The men were signing a form to say much they were worth, because if they were killed in action, the families of those worth more than £500 were paid higher compensation.

**Letter 9**

*Porchester Castle*

*June 1st - 13*

*Dear Sir*

*I have this day re'd your letter- you will probably hear from Mr Mortimer when Mr Wood is likly to be down about his tithes, (if you do not yourself see him in town) and you will learn what he requires to assist him in making his survey- I understand Mr John Bastle(?) passed a morning at Mr Mortimer's, examining my abstract of title with the original deeds, and I presume he is getting on with the business to have every thing ready by the end of this month but, I shall be glad to hear from you that it is so. -*

*I hope you will like your young dog, and be more fortunate with him than with the last. He knows but little of his business-I don't expect we shall embark these two months, which I am sorry for, I wish to see them off and be relieved myself.*

*I am Dear Sir*

*yrs sincerely*

*-- -- Rigby*

*(Post mark on cover FAREHAM 73)*

**Letter 10**

*Chatham Barracks*

*Dec 29th*

*Dear Sir*

*I am very sorry to see, in the papers, that the Partnership of Bridges Elmes and Horlock is dissolved, and as I apprehend it is a forerunner(?) of a total break up of the Partner, and of one at least appearing in another paper; though I hope the other Partner, in the Mistley engagement, is sufficiently stable to secure me against any great loss. -*

*We were to have marched from home tomorrow on our way to Colchester, to be disbanded, but it is differed a few days: I shall at all events be there next week, and will let you know- if you have an opportunity, I wish you w'd acquaint Sir John Byng with the circumstance of our postponed arrival in Colchester*

*I am Dear Sir*

*yrs sincerely*

*-- -- Rigby*

*Postmark CHATHAM 38*

*D*

*30DE30*

*1815*



**Letter 11**

Drayton Sept 14th 1800

Dear Sir

*I herewith enclose you the two notices to be served Mr Botham from me. I dare say he is only delaying his shooting near home with an idea that persons upon the watch for him will be more off their guard later in the season from not having seen him shoot at all and I make no doubt that he proposes commencing his attack next month in order to include Pheasants with Partridges but I hope Jefferies and others won't be less vigilant, and be imposed upon by this feint-A man of the name of Sargiant wrote to me for leave to shoot which I refused him, and gave Jefferies notice accordingly- if my friends are but alert this year for the preservation of the game, I hope there will be plenty in future- I dare say there will be much difficulty in making out a particular without being in possession of the maps which of course Mr Hill will not give up upon requisition from those who have acted so hopfully - remember me kindly to your father, x*

*belive me Dr Sir, yr sincerely*

*-- --Rigby*

*(Postmark THRAPSTON)*

**Letter 12**

Stilton Dec 12th

Dear Sir

*I have got these for my journey to Hull to which cursed place you have probably heard we were unexpectedly ordered front Ipswich: a most inconvenient distance indeed it is to me at this time of the year. I know not that it will be in my power to procure leave to get into Essex this year, (but God knows when again) therefore I write to say that I wish cz300 to be lodged at messrs Homes(?) Farquhar and Co ----- on my account by the 27th Jnr at latest, and that you will be so good as to transmit to all at Hull a rough sketch of my rents due at Mich's last, but as soon as you can form any calculation of them. I shall reach my destination on the 19th Ins: nothing under heaven can be so -----to as that station, with the many concerns I have at this time to settle both in London and in Essex; but this is one of many pleasant appendages to a military life, of which I get very sick.*

*I understand you bought Capt Rupell's pony, and you mean to keep him, or is he to be sold for a little money?- Dunbois(?) knows how to direct me every day I am on the road, therefore if you have occasion to write he can give you the necessary instructions*

*I am Dr Sir, yrs sincerely*

*-- --Rigby*

Nb

*The chancellor gave it against Mr Arnold, therefore if there is any more there(?), the Pr---- g ---- will prove a good stumbling block.*

*(Postmark STILTON 72)*

Mr Gerald Daldry has kindly allowed me to publish his collection of letters. Letters 1 to 3 he has edited them himself and I am using his transcription, letters 4 and 5 I have edited.

**Letter 1**

*Dover Sept 19th*

*1807*

*Dear Sir*

*Your letter of the 17th I read this morning as far as they relate to Newman's conduct have astonishe'd me and give me a good deal of vexation: you say he is but in an indifferent state yet I suspect he is worse than ever. I request the favour of you to call upon him saying, with my comp'ts that having been informe'd of a Person making use of his name as an authority for killing the Game on my Estate, which I have so long been endeavouring to rear, at a considerable expense, but as I bring myself to believe that Mr Newman would be that Person to interfere so.... ? with my views and amusements, I beg to know whether he has countenanced the Proceedings of the Person who has lately incroache'd upon my farms in Little Bromley- you will learn whether that be the line of conduct he means to pursue with me - and say that Mr Rigby w'd be very sorry to interfere in the pursuits and amusements of others nor will he submit to any intrusions on their part so inimical to his pleasures - you may read to him such Parts of this letter as are expressive of my sentiments of such conduct and if he perseveres in his intentions or does not counter- order the instructions given, you had better inform him that if I was to take measures to prevent his shooting, such causes having been already tried and carried ....? the Lords of Manors, he would find himself mistaken in his supposed rights - you will accordingly proceed to take such measures as will effectually check such unwarrantable and illiberal behaviour- I beg to hear from you after you have seen Mr N--- and am Dr Sir,*

*Yrs sincerely Thom Rigby*

*(FRONT COVER)*

*To John Ambrose*

*Mistley Thorn*

*Manningtree Essex*

**Letter 2**

*Mistley 12 Jan 1808*

*Dear Sir*

*I am sorry to inform you that although employed this whole day in drawing Mrs Rigby's accounts, I have not been able to complete them but you may rely on receiving them by tomorrows Mail.*

*Cole of Harwich was with Spooner last evening and promised repay him next thursday - upon which Spooner places great dependence as Cole appeared much frightened at the letter.*

*Your obliged Serv't*

*Win S Chapman*

*(FRONT COVER)*

*To John Ambrose*

*Bedford Coffee House*

*Covent Garden*

**Letter 3**

*Mistley Hall Oct 19th 1813*

*Dear Sir*

*As I understand measures are looking to promote the enclosure of Bradfield Heath, a measure I conceive will prove highly advantageous with Parties interested, I think it necessary to observe that I shall have no objection to meet the wishes of Copyholders to carry it into execution provided I have as Lord of the Manor, and Titleholder the proportions and local allotment which as such, I conceive I have a right to*

*I am Sir*

**Letter 4**

*Manningtree 20th October 1813*

*Dear Sir*

*Since you left Mistley I have received a letter from Mr Elliott? upon the subject of the divers Tithes, he states that the Rent agreed upon them is too much, that 7d or 8d per acre is quite sufficient especially when it is considered that Essex is not in the first state of farming, I think it's lucky for him that he does not live near Mr Hardy or he might expect a challenge*

*I yesterday received a letter from the Colonel? a Copy of which is on the other side, for? of course he must be aware of your absence, it must have been written to draw something from me as to the intended enclosure, as his servant ---- declined to take back an answer, I wrote him that I believed it was your intention to call a Court previously to- Parliaments meeting, that I understood you sh'd request the favour of his presence when the Sense of the Copyholders would obtained, and that the notices be given were merely preliminary to such application, required by law-with regard to his claim.*

*I-----ed him entitled to an allotment as Lord of both Manors, as well as proportion of the tithes, I am not sure that I am quite correct in the latter, but at all events the vicar will be entitled?*

*I have been to Bradfield, I have -----about £60*

*-- W Hardy has paid me a balance of £34, ----- which*

*---- produced the letter respecting the advance of tithe,*

*and I hardly know what to do whether to take 5 or 4/6 of the remainder, I allow? those who have paid, altho' they have all paid very quietly, I shall see him tomorrow, nothing else very material has occurred since you left fl me.*

*I am Dear Sir*

*Yours very sincerely*

*Hitchcock*

*PS. I forgot to mention to you that I directed a letter to Mr Ambrose before your return from Norwich last time.*

**Letter 5**

*Copford 2 April 1816*

*Sir,*

*I take the liberty of calling your attention to the Annuity payable out of Mr Rigby's Estate to Mrs Pickard and beg leave to remind you that it is Mr Rigby's particular wish and desire that it should be paid half-yearly into Messrs Mills & Bawtree's Bank for her use and benefit. To you, this payment is entrusted by Mr Rigby and I am extremely sorry to be under the necessity of saying that it has hitherto been made with so much uncertainty and delay as to occasion a great deal of trouble to those of Mrs Pickard's friends who have the management of her affairs Your last payment was made Nov 2nd 1815, due at Lady Day in that year, and there are now due two half years viz: for Michaelmas 1815 and for Lady Day 1816. Before the expiration of the present month these arrears will be wanted. I must therefore beg the favour of you to let them be discharged in due time and save me the painful Duty of applying to the Fountains Head.*

*I am Sir*

*Your Most ffd Servant, Thomas Barstow.*

*(FRONT COVER)*

*To John Ambrose*

*Mistley Thorn*

*Manningtree Essex*

## **Bronze Age Pots at High Sheriffs Party?**

*by Ida McMaster*

The present High Sheriff of Essex, Robert Erith, is the elder son of Felix Erith, FSA, of Ardleigh, Essex whom we all know as the pioneer of the Bronze Age for this county. It appears that Robert has the same eye for archaeology as his father. The high Sheriff held his traditional garden party on parkland at his home at Shrubs Farm, Lamarsh, near Bures. It is situated on the high ground overlooking the Stour valley, with lovely views to the North and East, and has benefited from considerable conservation work in recent years.

Robert and his wife, Sara, received their guests in a large marquee on the lawn on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1997. It was a memorable occasion, with numerous mayoral chains in evidence among the several hundred people present. A fine display of the well-known Bronze Age pots from Ardleigh, found by Felix over forty years ago, were on view, loaned by the Colchester and Essex Museum. Rain threatened but held off for the two hours of the party, though the drought conditions badly needed moisture.

When the marquee was removed soon after, some aerial photographs were taken by a firm which Robert had commissioned. Not surprisingly, the outline, of the marquee showed up in the grass of the lawn as a cropmark of a light golden colour. Within the cropmark, in its north-east corner, were the outlines of two rings which were immediately suggestive of Bronze Age burials, the ring being the outer ditch surrounding a possible mounded interior. The position of these rings is on the high ground which then slopes down to the river Stour, about a kilometre to the north east. This is a very likely site for such burials since there are hundreds of these rings along the banks and terraces of the Stour, from the estuary up through the Tendring Hundred, in particular in Ardleigh, and on up beyond Stoke by Clare. The two rings at Shrubs Farm (measuring about three metres in diameter) were visible at ground level. It is likely that the humidity in the marquee had been sufficient to moisten the ditch infill around the rings, causing colour differential in the lawn grass.

Various archaeologists have examined this site and, hopefully, it may be excavated in the near future.

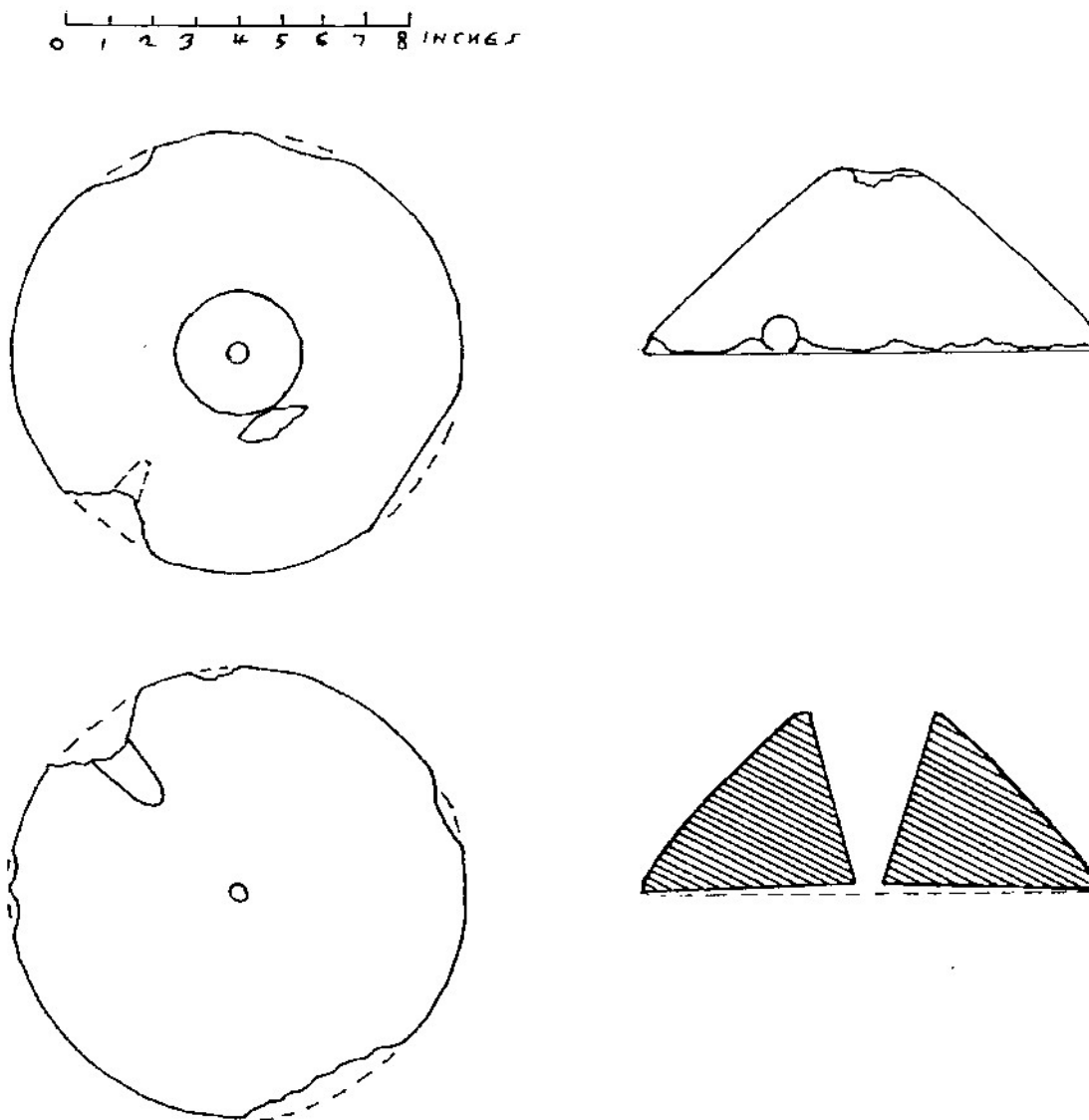
## A Puddingstone quern from Halstead

*by Richard Shackle*

In 1996 Jane Greatorex found A Roman puddingstone quern in a field at Halstead. Querns were used for grinding corn into flour. This type of quern comes in two parts, an upper stone and a lower stone. The upper stone that Jane Greatorex found (Fig 1) is very complete. Figure 2 shows a reconstruction of what the stone would have looked like complete.

There is a tapering hole at the top where the grain was poured in. The underside is concave so that the flour will move by gravity to the outside of the two stones. There is a hole in the side of the stone for a handle, so the upper stone can be rotated against the lower stone.

Puddingstone querns are fairly common in Essex, but usually only found as fragments. It is thought that puddingstone querns were made in Hertfordshire where the stone is found.



*Figure 1) A puddingstone quern from Halstead, (as found)*

Dave Buckley, The County Archaeologist is creating a gazetteer of querns found in Essex, hundreds have been found. He kindly sent me a list of references as follows:

- Rudge, E.A. 1963 "The maker of querns" in Essex Countryside 1963, 26-8
- Rudge, E.A. 1968 "Interim report on the distribution of the puddingstone quern" in Trans Essex Archaeol. Soc. 1, 3rd series, 247-9
- Curwen, E.C. 1941 "More about querns" in Antiquity **15**, 15-32
- Buckley, D and Major, H "Quernstones" Colchester Archaeological Trust Report No. 2

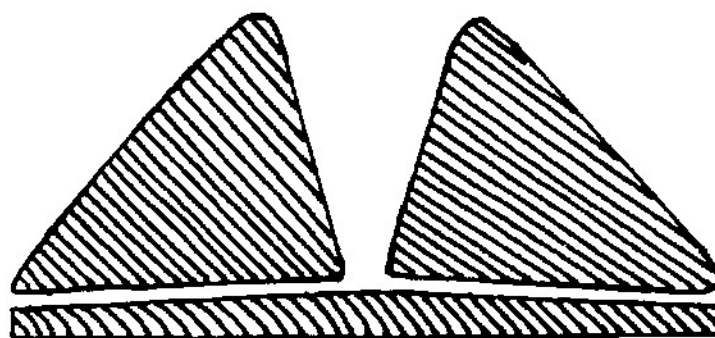


Figure 2) *A puddingstone quern from Halstead*  
A reconstruction side view and cross-section

## Short Notes

*all by Richard Shackle.*

### Stone mould for casting jewellery from Colchester

In May 1997 Norman Bone visited the building site for the new YMCA hostel in Magdalen Street Colchester. The building work had uncovered several interesting archaeological features. There was a culvert tall enough to stand in, which was constructed of stone at the bottom but was arched over in tile. There were three hearths made of tile.

There were traces of a substantial stone wall mostly made of large flints but including a few loose pieces of worked stone with mouldings. Associated with this wall were seven floor levels, the one at the bottom being made of hard compacted clay. At the level of this floor were pieces of medieval pottery, including two jug handles in gray fabric. One of the handles showed signs of sooting.

Close to these pieces of medieval pottery was a small piece of fine-grained limestone about 60 mm x 40mm x 18mm. This appears to be part of a mould for casting jewellery. The mould is not complete having had part of it sawn off in antiquity.

On one side are moulds for four pins (partly cut away). Notice the channels for the hot metal to be poured in. There are also moulds for two elaborate pinheads. On this face also are two locating studs to make sure that the two halves of the mould join together properly.

On the other side is a mould for an elaborate buckle, notice the pouring channel here also. At the top of this face is part of another mould which has been cut away except for a crescent of radiating grooves. There is a pouring channel going to this mould as well. Near the bottom of this face are two locating holes, which are the equivalents of the two locating studs on the other face.

Paul Sealey at The Castle Museum Colchester thinks the mould is Saxon. This rare and unusual find will be compared with similar material at The Museum of London.

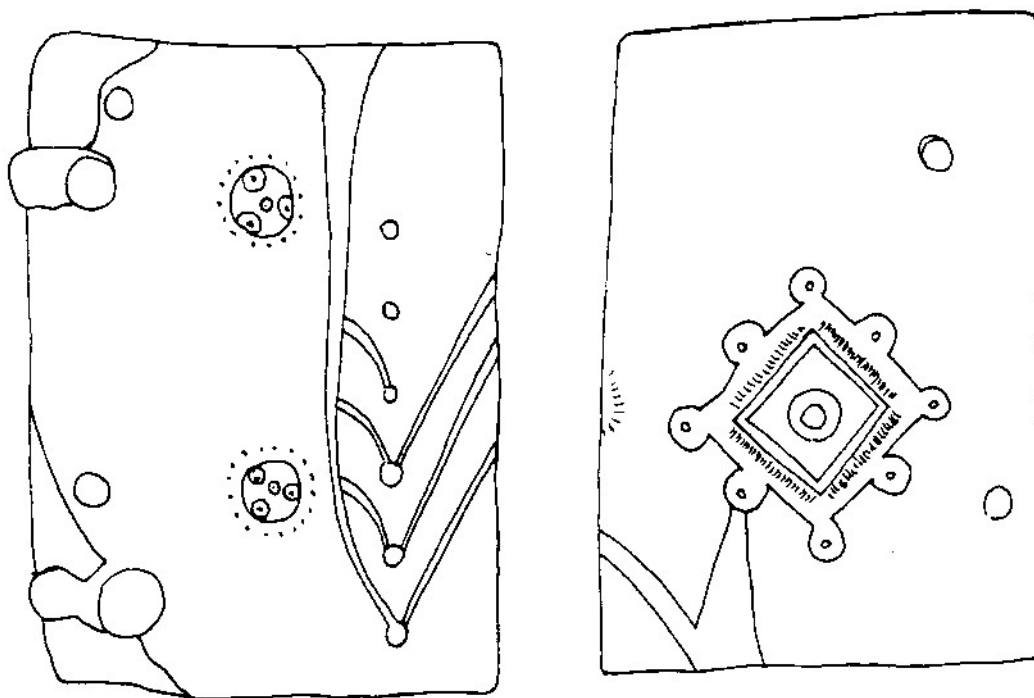


Figure 1) Stone mould for casting jewellery, Colchester

### Pilgrim's Lead ampulla from Magdalen Street Colchester

Mr Norman Bone also found at the same site in Magdalen Street, Colchester, a lead ampulla (see fig 2). It is 50mm high, 34mm wide and 9mm thick. It has two loops, (which have been squashed flat), so that it can be sewn on



to the hat or coat of the pilgrim. Lead ampullae are hollow so that the pilgrim can bring back from his pilgrimage a sample of holy water. This example has a rounded base and curved striations, which means it may represent a cockleshell. If this is the case it could have come from the shrine of St James of Compostella in Spain whose symbol was a cockleshell. Lead ampulla were sometimes put in fields so that the holy water could make the fields fertile. Norman Bone says all the ampullae he has found in fields have been badly cut about by the plough, so perhaps it is a good thing that this one was found in an urban context.

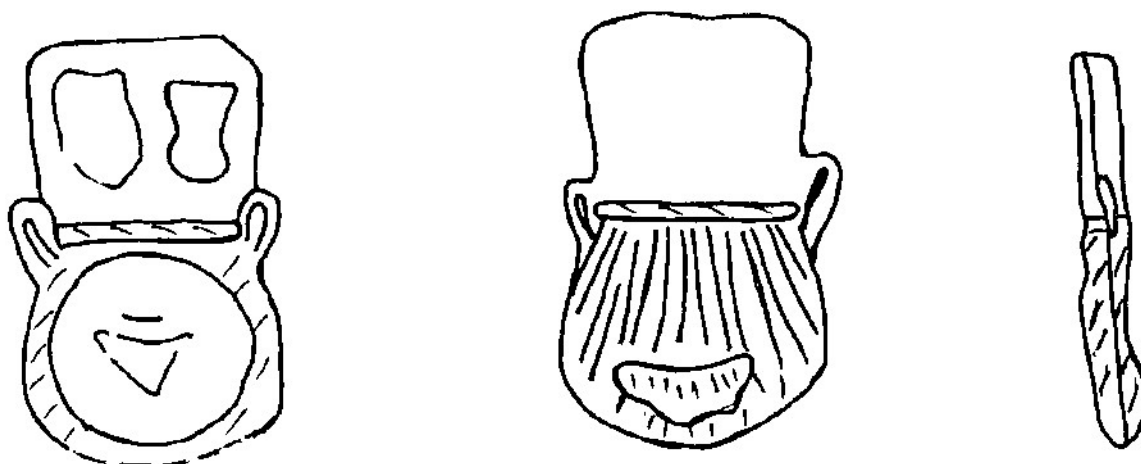


Figure 2) Pilgrims Lead Ampulla from Colchester

### Two seal matrices from Coggeshall

In 1997 John Lay found two bronze seal matrices in Coggeshall parish. Seal A is 20mm high and approximately 24mm across the face. There may be an inscription round the edge of the seal but because the face is very damaged and eroded it is difficult to see. The marks may just be geometric shapes pretending to be an inscription. The symbols on the seal are a monk with hands clasped in prayer, an open hand with two fingers folded across the palm, two stars and two crescents. These symbols suggest that the seal had a religious association.

Seal B is 18mm high and 18mm across the face. The inscription is difficult to read but might read John Walter. In the middle is a carving of a curled up fox. This might be a pun on the owners' name or perhaps an association with hunting.

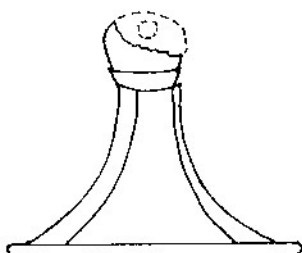
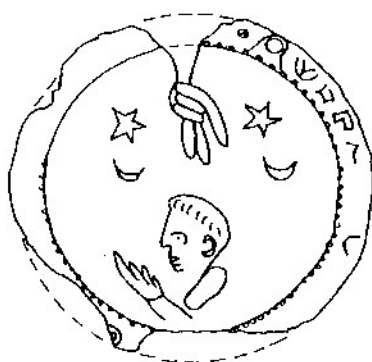


Figure 3) Seal Matrix A from Coggeshall

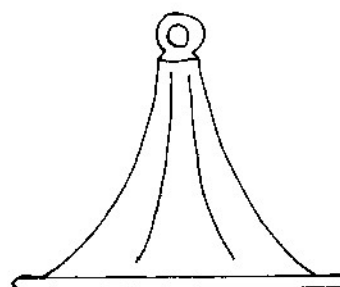


Figure 4 Seal Matrix B from Coggeshall

## Spirits Licence for Three Bells Inn Colchester

When measuring the attic at 60 North Hill Colchester, I noticed a small piece of paper with print on it, lying between the joists. On close examination it turned out to be a spirit licence for The Three Bells Inn (Fig 5).

... and Licent  
... of the Peace for the  
... do allow and Licent

*The Three Bells Inn*

... to keep a  
... dwelling-house in the House wherein he  
... Space of one whole Year next ensuing the  
... the next General Licensing of Victuallers for  
... and to utter and sell  
... the same House, and not elsewhere, Bread and other  
... Ale, and other exciseable Liquors (except Brandy,  
... Whisky, Uisquebaugh, Geneva, Aqua-Vita, and such other  
... spirituous Liquors, or Strong Waters, as are otherwise  
... and directed in and by an Act of Parliament made in the  
... tenth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, Intituled, *An Act for*  
... *regulating certain Duties on Spirituous Liquors, and on Licenses for*  
... *the same, and for laying other Duties on Spirituous Liquors,*  
... *for retailing the said Liquors*) so as the true Assize  
... Beer, Ale, and other exciseable Liquors as aforesaid  
... no unlawful Games, Drunkenness, or any other  
... in his House, Yard, Garden, or Backside; but  
... Order and Rule be maintained therein, according to the  
... Realm in that Behalf made and provided. For the  
... whereof the said Victualler hath now entered into  
... with Sureties, according to the Statute, Given under  
... Lands and Seals this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of ...  
... And in the 2<sup>d</sup> Year of the Reign of our Sovereign  
... Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great-  
... Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and  
... forth.

*Wm Daniel*  
*Cooper*

Figure 5) Spirits Licence from Three Bells, Colchester (Front)

It is a standard printed form with the appropriate details filled in with ink. Part of the form is missing but enough of it is left to make sense of the document.

I showed a copy of the document to John Bensusan-Butt. He made the following comments. The address on the back is

Wm Daniel  
(Attorney)  
(60) North Hill  
Colchester

The licence was issued during the period that Colchester Borough lost its charter; so instead of the Borough magistrates' issuing the licence, it was issued by the County magistrates. He thought that the gap after General Licensing of Victuallers for... was Lexden Hundred. Daniel may have owned the inn but not the licence or stood bond for the licensee. He added that there is a monument to the Daniel family in St Peter's churchyard.

## A lead medallion from Langenhoe

A few years ago Richard Woods was using a metal detector at Langenhoe when he found a lead medallion (Fig 7). It is 48mm high with a lug projecting an extra 6mm, 42mm wide and 2mm thick. It is slightly damaged where it has been hit by a plough.

On the front face there is a bust of Queen Elizabeth and an inscription. On the rear face there is a phoenix rising from the flames, a crown with the letters ER underneath, and an inscription.

This medallion is recorded in Whiting, J.R.S. *Commemorative medals A Medallic History of Britain from Tudor Times to the Present Day*. The book illustrates a perfect copy with the full inscription on both sides and the date 1574. The example in the book however does not have a lug at the top. Whiting says the medal was issued to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's recovery from smallpox in 1572. Queen Elizabeth had adopted the phoenix as her personal badge. The Latin inscription on the reverse flatters Elizabeth as being our phoenix in all but death. The inscription on the front praises her. The medal was probably the work of John Rutlinger who was under-graver at the Royal Mint.

I should like to thank Martin Winter of the Castle Museum for finding me the reference in JR. S. Whiting.



Figure 6) Lead medallion from Langenhoe

### A seal matrix from Norfolk

D Gurney of the Norfolk Museums Service wrote to Colchester Castle Museum asking for help in identifying the person named on a seal matrix found in East Dereham Norfolk and Paul Sealey kindly showed me the letter. The inscription on the matrix is S'DEIADATVS: DE : LEXDENE.

There is only one place in England called Lexden, so presumably Deiadatus must have been living in Lexden in the 13th or 14th centuries when these seals were most commonly used.

(All drawings by Richard Shackle)

## **Roman Provence**

10 October 1994 - *Mark Davies - retiring Chairman of CAG*

Following the AGM of the group, Mr Davies gave an illustrated talk on the Roman architectural remains of several towns still to be seen on a holiday in Provence.

He began with what is probably the most famous of all these structures - the Pont du Gard which stands 48 metres high. This supplied water to Nimes, where there are numerous other Roman remains, notably the temple which survives in a remarkably good condition.

The speaker had slides of several theatres; the most splendid of which is probably seen in the remains at Orange. Several of the theatres are used today for performances during the summer.

It is impracticable to mention the large number of buildings shown in Mr Davies' slides - a splendid collection. He linked the up-standing buildings of Provence with the Colchester Roman buildings now evidenced by excavations. This gave a good idea of what our Roman town looked like in its heyday.

Altogether, this was a fascinating address by our former chairman and was greatly appreciated by the large attendance.

## **Roman Southwark**

17 October 1994 - *Dr Harvey Sheldon, former Head of DLGA, President of LAMAS*

Little has been known until recently about Roman Southwark and other Roman Urban areas generally, i.e. of town plans and the functions these areas served. Dr Sheldon has been principally concerned with the northern part of the area.

In Roman and pre-Roman times this district was a swampy area with sand inlets. Prehistoric artefacts and plough marks underlying the Roman level testify a thinly populated land. The Romans built two roads (one being Watling Street) converging near the first Thames bridge, which was near the present bridge and probably made of wood.

Excavations have been mainly on bomb-sites (Kathleen Kenyon) and on re-development sites, but later cellars have cut through Roman levels in many places. Bridges had to be provided where the roads (of Claudian date) crossed a channel between islets. Military presence is witnessed by finds of that period.

Some sites show that there had been fires - possibly due to the Boudiccan attack (especially at the corner of St. Thomas's Street).

Most of the buildings seem to have been 'strip' ones but two substantial ones have been discovered. These had stone foundations, at least, and were of considerable size.

One, in Southwark Street, had robbed-out walls and oak timbers. It had a Vespasian origin and was possibly a mansion. Inscribed tiles were found.

The other big building, early second century, was near the Bishop's Palace site nearer the Thames. Fortunately a large piece of painted plaster, very ornate, survives from this site. It shows a garden, Cupids and garlands. Later, a less ornate painting had been put over it. An inscription was found listing military dispositions. Classio-Britannica tiles were found. This was obviously an important official building and it faced a site on the north bank of the Thames likely to have been the governor's palace.

A luxury item - an amphora from Antibes with the shippers name - was found. It had contained fish sauce.

Like much later development, Roman buildings tended to spread along the river. On the Courage's Brewery site a large wooden building with a well-preserved wooden floor was excavated. It dated from early 2nd century and was near the Roman shoreline but seems to have been flooded and abandoned after a short time. This was a warehouse. A similar building was found by Guy's hospital.

A very interesting find at the Cathedral was a well with a number of sculptures of the 3rd century. These were of a religious nature and showed signs of being partly burnt.

It was not the Roman practice to have human burials in urban areas but some burials have been found in Southwark.

The speaker concluded by describing rather strange black soil levels of considerable depths found on Roman levels in some places. He thinks this may probably be due to the collapse of thatched or turf roofed buildings and rotten wood.

### **Late Roman Towns in Britain**

24 October 1994 - *Neil Faulkner, Lecturer in Classical Studies, StMary's College, Strawberry Hill*

There has been considerable argument in recent years concerning the state of Towns in late Roman Britain. Some (e.g. Stephen Frere) considered that his late Roman "dig" at Verulamium on Building XXVII which showed that the building was still having alterations and repairs - and similar reports from other late sites - showed that the towns flourished to a late date. Other reports seemed to show that their decline set in much earlier.

The speaker feels that supporters of both camps were inclined to back their opinions by pointing to selected cases. He has collected a very great number of reports on such sites to provide a statistically reliable database.

He contrasted the early Roman towns with those existing later. The former were modelled on classical types such as those in Mediterranean areas. They had baths, theatres, forum buildings, temples etc, larger stone built buildings (at least in part), and a number of grand houses for the prosperous classes.

In the third century there was a dramatic decline in such buildings. Some were used for metal-working, others had low grade housing built in them, fires were placed on tessellated floors, etc. However, great resources were spent on building stone fortifications, even round smaller towns, and on strengthening earlier walls. This was an empire-wide phenomenon and must have resulted from Imperial government instructions.

Looting financed the earlier classical town buildings, and the slaves were supplied by the expansion of the Empire. The later defence programme was financed by heavy taxation, now largely levied in kind instead of money. The rich landowners with fine town houses could only rarely keep them up. The speaker is sceptical about the idea that they moved to villa estates as it seems that the decay of the towns was contemporary with the decay of the villas.

However the towns, until quite a late Roman occupation date, had large populations. Large aisled halls were built - store-houses for the taxes-in-kind. Parts of the public buildings were occupied by the bureaucracy administering the tax system and as mansions to accommodate travelling officials. There was a considerable number of craftsmen too, who lived in sub-standard dwellings within the walls.

Even after the event of the Anglo-Saxons, the town sites did not revert to agricultural use for a long time, as they were marginal lands for farming.

A perplexing case is that of Wroxeter. After the "abandonment" by the military and government not a single artefact of a date before 650 AD has been found, though scientific evidence - compaction of the soil - shows there was some kind of occupation. Wroxeter never had an urban life again and this raises the question - if other town sites had their latest strata carefully studied in the same way as Philip Barker did at Wroxeter would similar anomalies be found? Of course, "rescue" digs in modern towns on Roman sites could not be of much use, if only because there is never enough time for such research.

### **Recent Prehistoric & Roman Excavations in Northeast London**

31 October 1994 -- *Dr Pamela Greenwood, Assistant Curator, Passmore Edwards Museum*

Dr Greenwood's excavations recently have been in the five boroughs situated between the River Lea and the Greater London boundary. Much of the area is built over but sites such as the edge of the Rainham marshes are available. Artefacts ranging from the Neolithic to Roman times have been found here such as knapped flints, arrowheads, and pottery. Earlier, features of middle Bronze Age, such as wooden (yew) trackways, have been found under the peat.

In early times the good alluvial soil was farmed, (as in much of Dr Greenwood's area) but there seems to have been no largish settlements. Trackways occur frequently, e.g. at a gravel site near Ford's, and at Barking Abbey.

On a hill overlooking Romford was an early Iron Age (late Bronze Age) enclosure, a 4th century windmill site, and much pottery, ridge and furrow, and a moated manor.

Investigations at Stratford Market site led to finds of Iron Age and Roman date. The Jubilee Rail line site had an enclosure and Iron Age material.

A very 'rewarding' site was at Hants Hill Farm. Here there were round-houses and "Four Post" ones. Some finds were early Iron Age, some probably Late Bronze Age. Unusually one of the early Iron Age round-houses had the entrance on the North side. A magnetic survey is under way.

There are many peri-glacial features - where they meet each other are early wells. These are early Iron Age - and produce much waterlogged material and pottery. Deliberately broken early Iron Age and late Bronze Age pottery was found. A strange feature was a pit with two postholes by it; its purpose unknown.

A 15-metre long Saxon building, with many postholes, is of considerable interest.

The Iron Age Uphall Camp - whose ramparts were destroyed, probably in 1896, was investigated. In this area was a Roman Enclosure (c200 AD?), a military road, etc.

Concern was expressed at the meeting about closure of the Passmore Edwards Museum. The destination of some of the contents is still unclear.

## **Stansted Airport Excavations**

*7 November 1994 - Howard Brooks, who directed the Airport Excavations*

Before these 1985-91 excavations - made for Essex County Council - only four archaeological sites were known here. These were all deeply moated manorial sites. Consequently it was expected that the "digs" would be mainly of medieval interest, but it was soon found that there had been activity here since the Neolithic period.

At Colchester Hall - so called because the original owners had been the Augustinian Priory at Colchester - it was thought that there might be stone carvings etc. under the later buildings. However, a few carved pieces of mid 12<sup>th</sup> century date were all that was found. All traces of the pre-17<sup>th</sup> century halls had disappeared.

Bassingbourne Hall- another moated site - showed large C-shaped ditches, drains etc. There was nothing earlier than the 17th century.

At Molehill Green three sites were excavated after field walking. At one was a large medieval timber building - probably a farm building. Large bowls (cheese presses) indicated pastoral activity.

A large timbered barn with a raised floor (shown by postholes) at Round Wood indicated grain storing. Nearby were signs of all that remained of a 13<sup>th</sup> century house was the kitchen.

The heavy boulder clay of Northwest Essex permitted only a sporadic occupation in the Neolithic era and early Bronze Age (hunters). In the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age there is evidence that people actually settled there from c1000 BC in nucleated settlements, and trackways also appear in time. By the late Iron Age there was much more settlement-evidenced at the Airport Catering Centre site. Many ditches and foundation sites for thatched conical houses from 75-25 BC with a defensive ditch. Perhaps this showed apprehension after the Roman invasion by Julius Caesar. Forty late Iron Age coins of potin were found - unused - as well as proof of a luxury trade in wine, a classical intaglio, Massilian coins, all of which demonstrate contacts with the more civilized world. Occupation "trickled on" into Roman Times.

In the long-term Car Park were found two Roman graves, one male, and the other probably female. These were supplied with rich grave goods - dateable to about 140 AD - made by highly skilled craftsmen. The speaker likened them to the graves at Ashdon (Bartlow Hills) and suggests that like them they might have carried tall barrows originally.

Later occupation sites at Duckend Farm seems to show the population increased in Saxon times with a number of smallish farms, until the disasters of late Medieval times - the Black Death etc. - when the landscape changed to one with a few large manorial farms.

## **Roman Military Diplomas**

*14 November 1994 - Dr Margaret Ruxan, London Institute of Archaeology.*

These Diplomas consisted of two bronze tablets with four holes enabling them to be wired together. On the outside was a little box to protect the official seal on the wires. Inside was a respected formula giving the names of the emperor and consuls at the time of issue, the name of the recipient and the units he had served in, etc. This was the official copy of the original grant kept in Rome. On the outside was a copy of these particulars. The Diplomas fall into three classes: -

i) Issued to members of the Roman Navy - earliest known dated AD 52. These were "provincials" and qualified after 25 years service.

ii) Issued to Auxiliaries (at maximum numbering about 250,000.) Like the navy men these could not get married in Roman law while serving but very often entered into attachments under local tribal laws. On discharge the diploma granted recognition to such wives and gave citizenship to the soldier and his sons providing only one wife was recognised. Auxiliaries had to serve 25 years.

- iii) Issued to Praetorian Guards - these qualified after 16 years service and had similar rights granted regarding citizenship. In the years of "The Four Emperors" there were four such units. Vespasian dispersed many of these Praetorians round the empire.

Find spots of Praetorian Diplomas show that many of their owners retired to the district of their birth, which was frequently in the Danubian area.

Claudius appears to have begun the issue of diplomas. This is in line with his policy of having more people citizenship in the empire. In the later empire, when Caracalla granted citizenship to the whole empire, the benefits derived from having a diploma largely diminished so the issuing of them faded away.

In Britain, a diploma issued by the Emperor Hadrian, presumably at the time of his visit here, is very well preserved and the army units mentioned give a splendid account of the disposition of troops in the island.

The speaker described how the details of this sort can throw light on Roman History. For example, it is by gradually building up a list of the successive consuls, which enables so many inscriptions to be dated.

The Roman Legions recruited from those already citizens did not receive Diplomas as they had little to benefit from doing so.

## **Foundations of Christchurch, Canterbury**

*21 November 1994 - John Burton, Surveyor to the Fabric of Canterbury Cathedral.*

Recent excavations in the floor of the Cathedral were made possible by the need to replace the stone paving of 1783, which had broken up because of the large number of visitors (now three million a year). It was stipulated that excavations were not to exceed 44cms where the new service pipes were to be except in the case of grave sites, which could be cleared of their filling.

A monk, by the name of Eadmer who had seen it as a boy, gave an account of the Anglo-Saxon (AS) cathedral, but its location was uncertain. However, these recent excavations have shown that the AS building was sited very close to the same area as the Norman cathedral of Lanfranc, which was started in 1070. This building was demolished in the late 14th Century - except for the north-west tower - when the present perpendicular cathedral was built.

The excavations showed that on the south side the Norman foundations were almost on the same line as AS ones. Enough was left of the latter to establish their position, though the Norman foundations were deeper. The AS work that survived was entirely made up from remains of the Roman city. In one place, a part of a Roman road was found, on an alignment of a previously known road in the city.

The bases of the Norman columns were found. The early graves which had been disturbed during previous work in the cathedral had been completely emptied, then back-filled with rubble - no dating material remained, but now the exact sites of the two apses (east and west) of the AS building have been positively established.

There was a strict time limit for the excavations of six months, and of course this had to be meshed in with the builders' work in re-paving, re-cabling, putting in new heating, etc. The 1783 paving was Portland stone and was replaced by Portland slabs (the same size as the old ones, but thicker).

The palmy days of the cathedral were in the days the great pilgrimages to Thomas a Becket's grave and place of martyrdom. A tunnel to by-pass the waiting crowds was constructed for the benefit of VIP pilgrims.

A good account of the recent excavations can be found in "*Current Archaeology*" No. 136, November 1993, by Kevin Blockley of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

## **The Roman Town of Caister St. Edmund**

*28 November 1994 - Dr John Davies, Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, Norwich Castle Museum*

Caister (also known as Caister-by-Norwich) has been little excavated so little dating material has come to light and there is little published material.

The late Professor Donald Atkinson (1930-33) who uncovered the forum and the baths carried out the chief excavations here. Fortunately Caister is a site which has not been built on, or even ploughed, though in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century some of the walls were quarried for road making material.

The town's site has been occupied since late Iron Age times at least. Iceni coins, brooches, terret etc. have been found; some by metal detector enthusiasts who have a good working relationship with Norwich Museum.

On the south side of the walled area crop marks showed parallel ditches and more lately these have been detected to be turning to run down to the River Tas, indicating a Legionary fort of the early Roman period. The

river was then navigable by barges and in the north-west corner there was a wharf area and a stretch of marshy land from the river for a distance along the outside of the north wall - a likely "canal" for barges to load or unload.

The Roman town was probably built here because the Celts had a centre here, it had accessibility by water, was a suitable place for a river crossing and was off the sticky local clays. The foundation of the Roman town seems to have been c87 AD.

The original town covered about twice the area of the later walled town. These fortifications appear to have been erected c270-280 AD and are built of rubble obtained from the buildings which had to be pulled down to make room for them. Much flint was used - probably from the Thetford area. Some tiles were used for coursing in the walls.

In the 4th century bastions were built along the walls. These were alternately rectangular and round in plan. This is a most unusual arrangement and unparalleled in Britain. The walls at the north-west corner were more flimsy than elsewhere as they were protected by the river and the dock mentioned above.

Beside agriculture, a tile kiln, wool combs, a glass furnace and 4th century pottery kilns show other economic activity.

There is much archaeological material, no doubt, to be found in the Roman rubbish tip outside the west gate.

The town faded with the Saxon invasions and was one of the first to fall. Later, a Norman church was built in the south-east corner of the walls. A Saxon burial ground lies on the east side of the town. Some material for the site is displayed in Norwich Museum, e.g. a trumpet brooch, a zoomorphic brooch, small pottery lamps, etc.

Land adjacent to the walled area has been acquired to enlarge the site and improve the access for visitors.

## **Monumental Brasses in East Anglia**

*5 December 1994 - Martin Stutchfield, Consultant on Monumental Brasses to the Chelmsford Diocesan Advisory Committee*

These brasses are a great feature of Essex and other counties of south-east England; there are more in St James Church, Colchester than in the whole of Scotland. This is because they originated in Germany and so spread to this part of England. The centres for their production here were Norwich and London, with Bury St Edmunds and Coventry less important places. The English ones were made of much thinner brass and were generally inferior to foreign ones of German, French, or Belgian origin. After a short period of large-scale production in England, the production fell off greatly in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

They are more commonly found here than in mainland Europe where their distribution is bounded by Madrid in the south, the east side of East Germany, and Denmark. In Belgium many have been lost in the frequent wars there. Many have been stolen and finish up in Japan and the USA collections - a few even in Australia.

They were fixed - when on the floor of a church - in matrices cut out of heavy stones, usually Purbeck Marble. Hot pitch was run on to the matrix and molten lead into the holes made to receive the rivets. The brass would be rapidly placed in situ and the rivets driven through the holes in the brass into the holes below them using wooden dowels, so they were firmly fixed.

Some brasses still retain traces of enamelling - giving a connection with heraldry and some had the fabric of dresses brightened with silver.

As time went on, a brass would sometimes be taken up and the back of it used for another person's memorial (a palimpsest) or even the original dedication changed for a fresh one. An example of this recycling is the Bartleet brass that was cut into two pieces - one piece used in Devon, the other in Yorkshire.

It is not possible to describe the great number of brasses shown by the speaker's slides. Unusual ones were the 1540 one in the British Museum of two laughing skeletons and a fine Flemish one in Christchurch mansion with the arms of Ipswich and the Merchant Venturers depicted - quite different from the English style. At Frenze (near Diss) the brass depicts a man with exaggerated long legs and short torso.

People are often depicted with animals - dogs, lions, etc. and a more unusual in Wivenhoe church shows an elephant used as a foot stand.

A bomb in WWII destroyed Little Horkesley church. A part of a fine brass was found in Nayland parish. The remnants of the brass were eventually found to a great extent and taken to Colchester Castle where they were painstakingly pieced together and are now in the church again with only a few pieces missing.

The speaker concluded by speaking of the care needed with brasses. Brasses on the floor should be covered with felt and then a carpet; they should not be polished. The worst thing to do is to cover them with "coco matting".



## **Ancient Roman Blood donors!**

23 January 1995 - *Dr Michael Wilson, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Essex*

The study of ancient biological remains has advanced greatly in recent years; the speaker mentioned St Bees Man, 600-700 years old, found in a wonderful state of preservation in a lead container with the liver still red.

A wide range of information has been retrieved from studies of the "Bog Men" and the 2000-3000 year-old "Ginger" found in preservative conditions.

It was hoped that much might be learnt concerning migrations of ethnic groups by studying blood groups but generally specimens decayed with age, and reliable conclusions are rarely obtained.

More recently the discovery of DNA chains has opened up fresh and productive lines of research. Proteins are found in bone structure but also in the marrow where it stands a better chance of surviving. The marrow is the source of haemoglobin, which carries oxygen through the blood stream to maintain all the other parts of the body. The haemoglobin molecules consist of long knotted chains with four continually recurring elements along it. The patterns they form determine the development of different parts of the body.

From an archaeological point of view the first thing is to ascertain if any haemoglobin has survived in the marrow for hundreds of years. If human haemoglobin is inserted in a rabbit's bloodstream the rabbit will produce antibodies to destroy the "invader". Then the human marrow can be tested with some of the rabbit's antibodies so produced to see if a similar reaction ensues. If so, it would show that human haemoglobin still remains in the marrow.

If the results are positive the DNA chains of the haemoglobin protein can be compared with other sources to establish migration patterns, (and similar methods can establish migration patterns of other creatures).

This kind of study can result in remedying the inherited tendency of some familiar groups to have certain diseases, and the production of human haemoglobin for blood transfusion to people with inherited liability for some illnesses is now a commercial practicality.

The possibility of studying the DNA chains in archaeological bone specimens is most encouraging.

## **Excavations at Braintree**

6 February 1995 - *Richard Bale-Field Director, Brain Valley Archaeological Society*

The speaker's Society grew from a School Archaeological Group founded by John Hope. His map showing the distribution of Small Roman Towns in the area of Essex round Braintree showed that they had all grown up by rivers, which at that time were the best means of transporting iron ore, building materials, and other heavy goods. His group's excavations at Braintree had been mainly in 1981 to 1988.

To the north and south of the Roman small town air photos showed Celtic field systems. An alleged Belgic Oppidum, has however, not been confirmed. Some Celtic coins of Colchester and other origins have also been found.

The main area the group excavated was the course of a new relief road, which had been little disturbed since Roman times - the Roman level was just below the topsoil. Much pottery was found, though mainly from local sources from Colchester to Chelmsford, with only a small amount of Samian ware found.

Only one stone wall - a rubble foundation - came to light, and no roof tile fragments. The Roman town was far from being a wealthy place, with the houses of woodland thatch, despite being on the Camulodunum to Verulamium main road.

Part of the explored area was devoted to industry - a bloomery was found and large deposits of slag, at present of undefined origins. The commonest finds were iron nails. A butcher had used a former pond site at the bloomery as a rubbish tip and bone articles (knife handles, hairpins, etc) showed a craft industry. A metal stamp indicated another occupation - a metal worker.

Slides shown by the speaker showed the following finds:

- 1) A twisted finger-ring
- 2) lock/ key ring
- 3) A small silver ring (gold intaglio)
- 4) An intaglio showing Hygeia and Aesculopius
- 5) A nice collection of brooches including a Bee brooch, a Hod Hill type brooch, a plate brooch etc.
- 6) Gold wire bracelet and other bangles.
- 7) A small Romano-Celtic mounted Mars figurine. This is of a Gaulish type.

## Gravestones in East Anglia and elsewhere

20 February 1995 - *Barbara Skudder, who has made a special study of gravestones in their graveyards*

Not until the 10<sup>th</sup> century were gravestones erected, and those, of course, only to mark the burials of more important folk and inside the churches. With large families being very common, and high death rates, the surrounding church yards were re-used frequently, so causing a rise in the levels of these "God's acres". The bones thrown up in the later burials were frequently re-housed in charnel houses. The one at Bury St Edmunds still survives- it also contains memorial stones.

Early gravestones of women are not as common as men's, though an early example (from 1498) is in Shelley church.

In time, effigies were erected to depict the "departed", in many cases on pedestals. Interesting ones are found at Narborough, e.g. a wax-work figure of Sarah, dressed in accordance with her will, and another Clement Spelman (1672) standing on what originally was a tall column, in which his coffin had been placed on end. There is also a double monument of another Clement Spelman and his wife, both reclining, he above, she below. There are several more interesting monuments, here.

Stow Bardolph is a church with a noteworthy array of sculptured figures of the Hare family.

About 1700 middle class people began to be buried in churchyards and provided with stone monuments, such as Table stones (i.e. ledger stones raised up), body stones, (i.e. half circle section on length of grave). Chest shaped stones, often with sculptured side panels, were Georgian fashions. At Burford, Oxfordshire - a great "wool" area - are the graves of wealthy wool merchants with ornate stones carrying bales of wool. The ends of chest monuments are sometimes decorated with sculptured lyres - a fashion of about 1770. Portraits of the deceased are also found.

Gradually more and more emblems of mortality were introduced, urns with veils, hourglasses, skull and two bones, the book of judgment, etc.

The speaker concluded with referring to some epitaphs. One recorded (1809-35) a family with twelve children, another at Stisted of four young children who died in about four years of each other, and a memorial saying "Say what a wife should be And she was that". The inscriptions frequently record occupations - e.g. sailor, master thatcher, gravedigger, housewife and faithful servant.

The speaker regretted the stop put on inscriptions of an interesting nature nowadays. The audience left, feeling that they had heard an enthusiast with a fascinating field of study.

## Stonehenge through the Ages

27 February 1995 - *Dr Philip Pantelis, an expert on stone circles and standing stones.*

Stonehenge is a very complex structure, originating about 2000BC and having a Final Phase between 1500 and 1000BC, when the spectacular trilithons at the centre were erected on a relatively restricted part of the site (which could be accommodated in the dome of St Paul's Cathedral).

The Bluestones are an early feature. They were removed from their original sites and re-erected in a circle where some still remain.

A less conspicuous feature is the outer ring of 56 holes, each about a metre in diameter, their positions now marked by concrete. These were first recorded by John Aubrey and are now named Aubrey holes.

The Bluestones came from a considerable distance; the source originally was Preseli in South Wales and it entailed a difficult crossing of the Bristol Channel to assemble them on Salisbury Plain, though experiments show that it would have been feasible to move them (after the crossing) to Stonehenge. The speaker suggested a likely alternative source would have been as glacial erratics transferred there in the ice age nearer the present site.

The other stones are Sarsen stones. These are of great size, weighing many tons, and erected by the Beaker people. Some are 22ft high with 8ft below ground. Dr Pantelis discussed the way they could have been utilised. He discounts the idea they came on rollers from the original sources because the endless movement of the rollers would have been taking up the time of the workforce. He instanced other such tasks carried out in antiquity, which show how a large workforce could move huge stones by brute force.

As for the methods of erection, there is little doubt that a pit with a vertical face below the stone to be raised upright would have been used. The stone would have been shaped to some extent before coming to the site by using stone mauls, and finished on the site. Mauls have been used as packing material in the holes.

The inside face of the stones was finished much more finely than the outer one, showing that the "happenings" were carried on inside the circle.

The lintels were very probably raised step by step on log platforms. This method is shown on Assyrian carvings, and is recorded in modern times, to raise a heavy boiler at an atomic power station in India. The lintels have a slight curve to agree with the circular shape of the whole monument and were fixed in place on the uprights by projections fitting into holes on the lower side of the lintel. The lintels allowed for optical foreshortening by making them slightly wider at the top.

Carvings of daggers on some stones were first observed by Professor Atkinson and suggest some contact with Mediterranean culture.

The speaker concluded an entrancing lecture with a display of amusing advertisements exploiting this ancient monument.

## **Development of Suffolk Deer Parks- 11th to 17th centuries**

6 March 1995 - *Dr Rosemary Hoppitt, Lecturer in Geography, Suffolk College.*

Gaston de Loix's *"Libre de Chasse"* shows in its beautiful illustrations what great resources were poured into hunting in France, and no doubt also in England, where a vast number of deer parks were established by the Norman invaders. The King had Royal Forests and some nobles had "chases" within them, but parks were large enclosures with banks and hedges around them and so were not allowed in the Forests.

In Suffolk few parks were set up on fenny or sandy soils, but a large number can be accounted for on level, rather higher, clay soils which were less used for agriculture and settlement in early phases.

These sites were a great resource for timber - especially oaks, fishponds, grazing, coppicing, forage for animal food etc. The parks of 200 to 300 acres were divided internally to allow the exploitation of these resources. They were peripheral to villages or the small Suffolk towns.

Place names survive from these pursuits, i.e. Lodge Farm, Kennel Field etc., for lodges and kennels were associated with hunting. Coppicing was done on a large scale and was one of the sources of wealth for the park owners. Practically nothing remains of park buildings.

It is not surprising that raiding of parks by nearby nobles was common, and deer, fish, timber would be abstracted from them. Much information on the subject can be obtained from patent rolls, account rolls, manorial documents and so on. There was a great amount of bureaucracy about 1300AD. This documentation throws light, not only on the new parks that were being set up, but on long established ones too.

The bad weather common in the 14<sup>th</sup> century later on is shown by records of deer having to be fed in cold weather etc. This caused some park boundaries to become neglected, but subsequent increases in population caused more and more manorial "wastes" to become settled with agriculturists.

Big landowners tried to check this by emparking surviving parts of the waste - a good example being the three big parks at Hundon, one a very early landscape feature, the other two being of this later period.

In Tudor times the wealthy gentry frequently established parks round their big country houses but these were merely prestige affairs and did not serve any economic ends.

Dr Hoppitt showed several slides which revealed landscape features - fishponds, banks, trackways and so on - of the great medieval parks. She also quoted an excommunication by the Bishop of Thetford against the unknown thieves who had broken into the episcopal park and stolen all his deer and much else. Several parks in Suffolk were in the ownership of Bishops (e.g. Elmham).