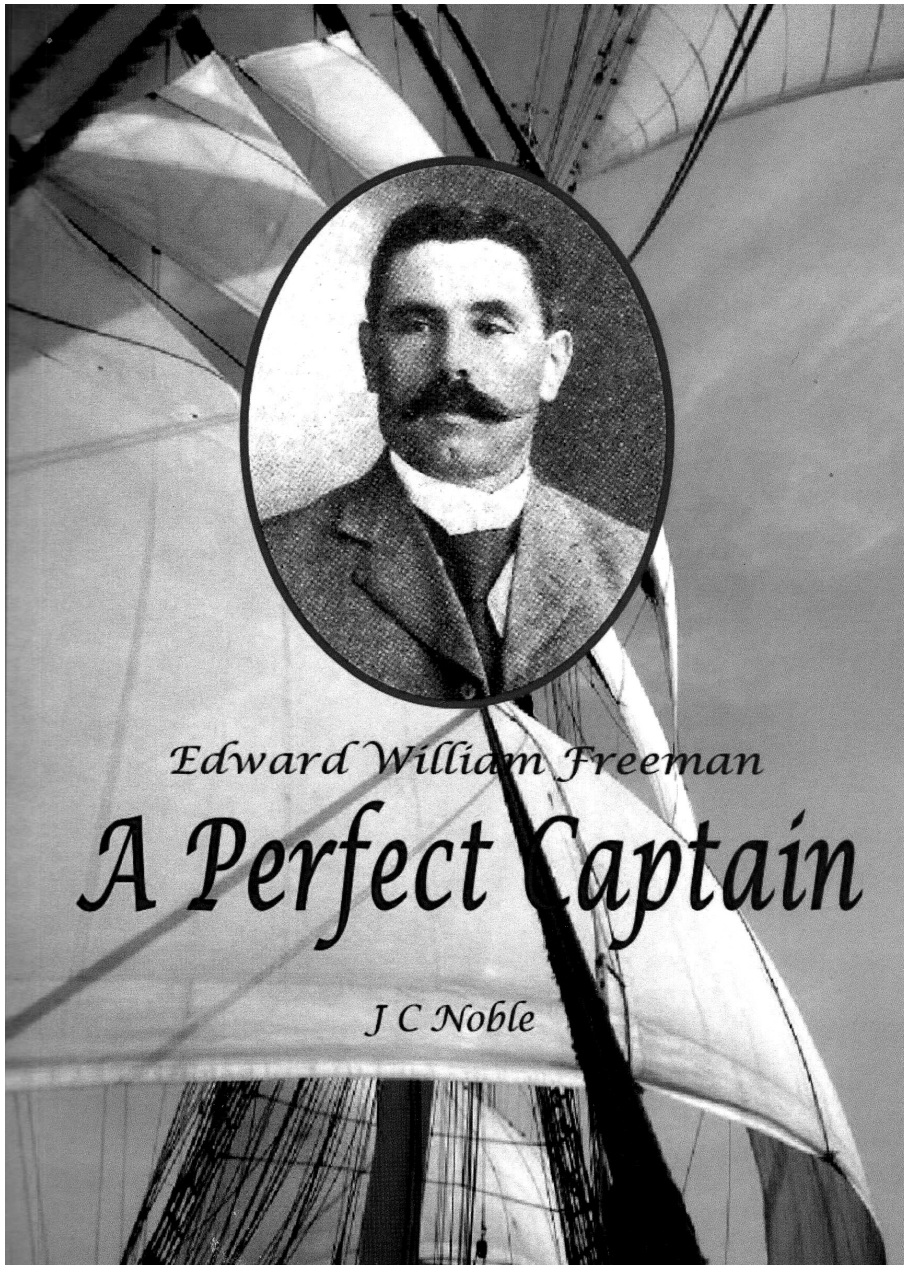




SMHS JOURNAL 17

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JUNE 2017



Edward William Freeman

A Perfect Captain

J C Noble

'A local Hero' —See Books, page 12

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A Victorian Country Parson
New insights into the Duke of York Camps
Southwold's 19th century economic migrants
Sanctuaries from the Demon Drink



SOUTHWOLD MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL
Issue no 17 - June 2017

Editor: Paul Scriven, MBE

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EDITORIAL

THIS 'N THAT

I cannot say that I am one of those people who is a 'list-maker', but in my many years connection with the Museum, I seem to have typed up so many of them, sometimes after collecting large collections of material from donors, sorting and cataloguing. Lists of pictures, lists of maps, lists of past summer and winter lectures, and recently, up-dating by a further six years the index of this Annual Newsletter (now to be re-styled the SMHS Journal). For the latter I am indebted to Barry Tolfree who kindly offered, and has carried out these improvements.

It is inevitable that, having been a member of the cataloguing group since its formation in 2002, one cannot help but acquire a knowledge of our muniments. It helps that, other than 2 years National Service, my life has been spent in the area, including Southwold where I spent some of my childhood days with grandparents, and in 1962 living for a year in the town. (Some of my kinsmen make a family link back to c.1760)

In doing this latest index, I have seen how much help has been given by those who have researched, and written wide ranging articles, some of which highlighted items of

'ephemera'. I thank the authors for all for their help and support. Why do I write all this? It is to point out that when doing research there are some collection indices and, often in our files, sundry information about items – this is part of the fun of research – looking and above all asking.

We should also remember that the museum catchment area extends beyond Southwold to several neighbouring villages where there may be private collections of material which should not be lost.

I have had many words of appreciation over the years about our annual newsletter, and less than a handful of criticisms (but I can cope with those-pistols at dawn!)*. In the 17 issues since I first, as a trustee, suggested such a publication, encouragement comes when told 'don't give it up as we enjoy reading it'. The late Commissioner Catherine Bramwell Booth told a wonderful story after she had done her first 'mission' as a young girl for the Salvation Army. Grandfather William (the founder) asked her how she got on. She said, 'I did my best Grandfather'. "Your best" said the General, 'anyone can do their best; you must do better than your best.'" Well most of us try!

**As many will recall, during my 6 years as President, that almost happened although I am not sure who would have fired the first shot!*

Paul Scriven

Long incumbency in a rural parish

A VICTORIAN COUNTRY PARSON

Richard Gooch was born on 24 December 1781 and was the 4th son of Sir Thomas Gooch the 4th Baronet of Benacre and his wife Anna Maria (nee Hayward).

He Matriculated from Christchurch, Oxford on 5 February 1800 aged 18. B.A. 1804. He was ordained as a deacon by the Bishop of Norwich in March 1806 and priested in September of that same year, the same month in which he was instituted to the Rectory of Frostenden on the presentation of Sir Thomas Gooch.

During his tenure there were a number of changes of patron. The living was valued in 1841 at £348 p.a. with the population of Frostenden given as 373. In 1855 the yearly modus was given as £372 and in 1868 this was stated to be at £362 with 26 acres of glebe land.

In 1810 until his death, he also held (in plurality) the Rectory of North Cove (population 218) to which was added Willingham (population 158) with the value of the living being £353.

On 20 February 1851, the High Sheriff of Suffolk (Frederick Barne Esq) appointed the Revd. Richard Gooch to be his chaplain and as such preached the sermons for the Assizes at the Divine Service at St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds in March 1851 and at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich in July the same year.

It is not clear where he resided before 1830 but it is likely to have been Frostenden Lodge but Gooch leased the property for 8 years to expire on 11 October 1838 at £2 p.a.

There had been several changes of ownership before 1838 when Mrs Eeles purchased the small estate which included Frostenden Lodge, and also the adjacent house, The Hermitage (a.k.a. Ivy Cottage), (Which she then made her home), with adjoining fields. Mrs Eeles died in 1868 when the 'estate' was purchased by Thomas Girling.

It is unlikely that the Rector lived in the Parsonage House (to the north of Frostenden Hall), as this had been converted into 2 homes earlier, for farm workers.

He appears in two Census Returns, the first 1841 which shows: Richard Gooch 55. Clerk. Jane Barlee, female servant 20; Robert Scott, agricultural labourer 35; Thomas Walker agricultural labourer 20. (In the 1841 Census ages were rounded to the nearest 5 or 10.)

The 1851 Census is more detailed and we find: Turnpike Road - Richard Gooch, unnm. 69. Rector of Frostenden b. Benacre. Robert Scott servant 50 groom b. Alburgh (or could be Attleborough (?) Nfk: Mary Catchpole, servant widow 70 housekeeper b. Westleton: Mary Ann Burton servant unnm 18 housemaid b. Blythburgh.

In 1825 at the Epiphany Quarter Sessions - the Revd. Richard Gooch against William Kent brief for the prosecution.

22 November 1824 with force and arms etc., at Metfield – did make an assault. Bound by recognizance 15 December last in the sum of £20.



Refers to the prosecutor hunting with the Union Harriers at Metfield and a hare was found on another owner's land and pursued to the farm of the defendant (Kent) who had a pitchfork in hand. " Mr. Gooch altho' frequently enjoying the rational sports of the field is welcomed by all who have the pleasure of knowing him only on account of his amiable qualities and conduct and because he carefully avoids when engaged in those pursuits annoying and injuring his neighbours."

There was obviously some annoyance in that "world though the *Morning Herald* and other papers and from the same source in the *Suffolk Chronicle* several garbled and false representation(s) of this case – the latter of which is one headed "The Rev'd Mr. Gooch" and another "The Hunting Parson".

In 1840 a steeplechase over about 4 miles of fair hunting country off the Belton Turnpike Road and a hurdle race over the Denes one day in March were followed by "Two very capital ordinaries..... one at the Feathers Inn and the other at the Royal Hotel (Gt.Yarmouth) and a liberal subscription was entered into at each house for a steeplechase the ensuing season.

The 'opening dinner'; was an unqualified success, upwards of 100 gentlemen being present with the Mayor of Bloater Town in the chair. Among them was the Rev. Richard Gooch, a sporting parson, son of the Baronet of Benacre Hall. (*Norwich Mercury 1840 quoted in "East Anglia Life" January 1965*).

He appears in the Game List 6 October 1813 paying £3.13s.6d and in the *Ipswich Journal* of September 24, 1842 the County of Suffolk Game Lists paying £4. 0s. 10d.

He headed one of the tables at Wrentham for the Peace Celebrations for the poor of Benacre, Covehithe, Easton, Wrentham and South Cove (15 July 1814) and was present at a similar celebration in Frostenden (August 1814).

In the "Perlustration of Gt. Yarmouth" 3 vols (1874) by Charles John Palmer we read " The Rev. Richard Gooch was frequently a temporary resident in Yarmouth died unmarried..."

His sister Sophia had married in 1818 Capt. George William Manby R.N., F.R.S., of Gt. Yarmouth. He was well known as an inventor including life-saving apparatus – by means of a rope attached to a mortar and fired over a stranded ship thus establishing a contact with the shore – breeches buoy. He also invented a portable fire extinguisher. He died in poverty aged 89 in 1854.

Among other social occasions, the reverend gentleman was at a Ball in Saxmundham (1837), the co-steward at Southwold Regatta, Gala and Ball (August 1837) said Grace at the East Sfk Agricultural Association dinner at Ipswich Corn Exchange (1853) Conservative Meeting, Southwold (September 1837).

In 1854 he subscribed £1 to the " Corporation of the sons of Clergyman for assisting necessitous clergymen, pensioning their widow and aged single daughters and education, apprenticing and providing outfits for their children". (The Archbishop of Canterbury gave £10).

There is no trace of Gooch in the 1861 Census by which

time he had left the parish. However, he continued to be the Rector and employed curates, particularly after 1854. Those in succession were the Revd John W. Clapcott (who went on to become the Rector of Filby); the Revd. David Stevenson (in 1866 becoming vicar of Wendy, Cambs); and the Revd. G.M. Norris (who succeeded the Revd, Charles Gooch as Rector of South Cove). The Vale, a Benacre Estate property, was often used to house the curate(s). This was later converted to three tenements and demolished in 1974. An indication of the stipends of the curates is shown in extant curates' licences; Clapcott licenced on 1 December 1854 at an annual salary of £150, David Stevenson on 4 November 1859 at £120 and George Montgomery Norris on 31 March 1865 at £100.

During Mr. Gooch's incumbency (1806-1873) there were 670 baptisms of which he conducted 395, the last in 1854: Marriages 159 of which he officiated at 112 (the last in 1853) and as no priest is shown against entries before printed registers came into use in 1813, there were from that year 410 burials of which he conducted 173. Curates dealt with the remainder.

On 3 August 1854 a sale of "the valuable household furniture, plate, wine, carriage horses, vehicles and other effects of the Rev. Richard Gooch" were sold at an auction conducted by George P. Freeman (who was later to occupy Frostenden Lodge).

Effects included a library of about 150 volumes, principally in divinity, history and biography.

The outdoor effects included a "black horse 9 years old, quiet in single or double harness: grey mare 6 years old quiet in single or double harness; hooded phaeton, 2 gigs, gig and carriage harness, 4 road saddles, double and single reined bridles etc".

By this time the Rector was 73 years old and beyond what would have been considered retirement age. He continued as absentee rector of both Frostenden and North Cove until his death in 1873.

In a Report by Smith & Watson, 16 Whitehall Place, S.W. for the Westminster Chapter. 17 October 1870, it states "In Frostenden there is no vicarage house, the present incumbent, who has held the living since 1806, seldom appearing in the parish".

In a Report on Frostenden Church land and Poor Allotment to the Commissioners (for the Poor) written by Richard Allen and dated 14 March 1865 he wrote "I send particulars of the parish. Our Rector, the Rev. Richard Gooch is, I believe, 85 and in all probability when we have a new rector, a great deal will have to be done in repairing and beautifying the church, so I think it will be best to pay the balance every year into Gurney's Bank", At that time they had a balance of £95. 4s. 6d (£95.22 ½ p of which £80 was deposited with the bank at 3½% from 28 March 1865.

There is an interesting account of life in Frostenden in "Suffolk Remembered" by Allan Jobson quoting from "The Plough Tail to the College Steps (being the first 29 years of the life of a Suffolk Farmer's Boy". Jobson identified the author (whose name is not on the book) as being James Mills (b.Stoven 1814) who lived with his parents in part of the old Parsonage House.

"On Sunday for ¼ hr the 3 bells rang out from the old round steeple calling the people to church. Most of

them, however, had assembled before this to hear and exchange the news of the week for in those days there were no newspapers. Then the parson (the youngest son of a baronet known locally as "Master Gewch") would ride up to the gate on horseback and the people trooped into church. The prayers and sermon were then hurried through, no part of the service proving of greater interest to the children than the ascription to the Trinity, because then, as now, "the belly hates a long sermon". ½ d each to children who had behaved from an old man with a pole. 6d (2 ½ p) to a simple woman when she attended "arly service".

One day a gentleman on horseback said to young James, "Here boy hold my horse" but James tried to keep the other side of the stile but the man said, "No, get over and hold it". James received 1d. It was the parson who had come to see James and his sister about going to school the next day. James was nearly 6. School was 1 ½ miles distant and was kept by a widow in her cottage home. He had learned to read before he was 5, partly by his mother and partly by the lady at the Hall and when the parson examined them at church, he won a prize – a book called "The Pedlar"

In a letter dated 7 July 1969 to the author from the National Society it stated that "The Society has only two brief reports about the early school in Frostenden. The first is an abstract of a return to the Select Committee on Education for the Poor, in 1818, by the Rev. Gooch and gave the following information, "A day school consisting of 40 children, 18 of whom are paid for by the Rector, and the remainder by their parents. The poor are without the means of education, but are desirous of possessing them."

There is an interesting item in the records headed "Emigration" Frostenden. At a meeting of the ratepayers of the above parish and owners of property.... held in the church on Thursday 4 April 1844, It was resolved that the churchwarden and overseers shall and are hereby directed to raise the sum of £10 as a fund for defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons having settlements in this parish and being willing to emigrate to be paid out of the rates raised.... Richard Gooch, Minister and also signed by the churchwarden and two overseers.

(The rules of settlement meant that the person(s) were permanent residents and not workers engaged for a period usually under one year who would have no claim).

Frostenden Church has two leather bound matching bibles, one undated, the other printed in 1854. One volume contains a leather embossed plate "Frostenden 1858. Richard Gooch, Rector. Samuel C. Goodwyn, churchwarden".

In the 1871 Census we find:

Lincoln Road, St. Marks, Peterborough.
Matthew Wilkinson Hd mar. 40 b. Peterborough. Attorney.
Mary A. wife 33 b. Jersey
Richard Gooch. Visitor. 89 Suffolk: Benacre Hall. Rector
Faney Upex. Servant 26 b. Peterborough
Mary A Fox. Servant. 19 b. Peterborough.

In February 1873, North Cove and Willingham acknowledged his gift of £10 for the poor of the parishes which was expended on coals and other necessities.

The East Suffolk Gazette of April 1 1873 carried the following Death notice:

GOOCH - On the 22nd Ult., of Peterborough, the Rev. Richard Gooch, rector of Frostenden and North Cove, in the 92nd year of his age. Mr. Gooch was the youngest brother of Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch of Benacre Hall.

His death occurred at St. Marks Villas, Peterborough and he is buried in the Broadway Cemetery, Peterborough (Entry 3887. Division 1, grave 43) brick grave 8 ft deep on 28 March 1873. Ceremony being performed by the Rev. J.S .Percival.

The gravestone reads "Revd. Richard Gooch who died on 22nd day of March 1873 in the 92nd year of his age"

The footstone has a 4-line inscription but weather has worn the text away.

His will was dated 3 November 1872 and witnessed by Ella Austin Burbage, domestic servant of Peterborough and Thomas James Walker, physician and surgeon, Peterborough. This was proved in London 30 June 1873 on the oaths of William Manning and Joseph Carpenter Lewis, the executors.

Manning was an optician of 32 Clifton Road East, St. John's Wood, Middx and Lewis was an architect at Derby Road, Woodford at the time Gooch made his will but was shown as a surveyor when the will was proved. The effects were valued at under £2000 and were left in Trust for the lifetime of Mary Ann Wilkinson, the wife of Matthew Wilkinson, Gent.

Thus the long incumbency of almost 67 years at Frostenden and 63 at North Cove came to an end.

No examination has been made by the author to the records of North Cove.

Frostenden did have a rectory for his successor,* the Revd. J.N.F. Ewen, and considerable interior work was undertaken in All Saints Church, the architect being J.L. Clemence, who also designed Lowestoft Town Hall, the work being carried out by R.J .Allen of Southwold. (There was a need for this as shown in the report of 1865 referred above. Fortunately this was not over 'Victorianised')

* *What had formerly been known as Frostenden Lodge, the patron being his father, John Leman Ewen (Manor House, Southwold) who was responsible for purchasing the property.*

Paul Scriven (2016)

DO YOU HAVE A LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT JUST WAITING TO BE RESEARCHED?

We'd love to have the opportunity to publish it in the 2018 issue of SMHS Journal.

Remember the Museum library and archive is open to Members every Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm (and at other times by arrangement) when our archivist, Bob Jellicoe is in attendance to provide help and guidance.

The Duke of York Camps

Gift of ephemera casts new light on this inter-War Southwold institution

At the end of 2016 the Society received a couple of interesting items which related to the Duke of York's Camps. The first was an invitation card and the second the rules for participants.

These annual camps ran from 1921 until 1939 and had been held at New Romney and Southport (Lancs) before coming to Southwold from 1931 until 1938. The final camp was near Balmoral in 1939.



The Duke of York at his 1932 camp on Southwold Common (Southwold Museum archive P1154)

About half the boys came from Public Schools whilst the other half were those from the industrial towns, the key movers being the Industrial Welfare Society whose organiser was a Church of England clergyman, the Revd. R.H. Hyde (later Sir Robert). Among the boys in 1932 was Dennis Thatcher who later became a member of "staff" for 3 years. Captain J.G. Paterson was the Camp Commandant. The first camp at Romney Marsh in 1921 was organised by Louis Greig (who was a great friend and tennis partner of the Duke of York). Greig came back in 1929 and in 1933 he was a speaker who told of his adventures on the Mt. Everest Expedition of 1933. (There is no mention of the camps in Geordie Greig's memoir of his grandfather).

The boys assembled at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace where lunch was provided at 1 p.m. After this they were conveyed to Liverpool Street Station to board the train to Halesworth. On arrival, a fleet of buses conveyed them to the Southwold camp. Electricity and water had been laid on to the camp and tents had been supplied by the then well-known firm of Dennington's of Halesworth. The boys slept on straw palliasses.

Each boy was allowed to bring one bag or suitcase, with the coloured label (supplied) attached, and should have a

Jersey or sweater, a sports shirt and shorts (or cut down trousers – no long trousers permitted), shoes suitable for games, socks or stockings to wear with shorts (if desired), 2 towels, a cake of soap, tooth brush, bathing costume, pyjamas, and a mackintosh or overcoat in case of rain.

Musical instruments were welcomed. There would be an official camp photographer on site and should anyone have any valuables or money, these should be left with the bursar to whom any request for telephone or telegram should also be made. There was a camp tuck shop and canteen.

It was a busy and active schedule with Reveille at 7 am when they had to roll up their bedding. 8 am breakfast, 9.45 am camp prayers. 10 am camp tournaments, 11.45 am tournaments ceased and bathing assembly in beach. 1.15 pm dinner 4.30 pm tea 6.15 pm bathing assembly 7.30 pm supper 8 pm entertainments 9.45 pm camp prayers. 10.30 pm lights out.

The museum holds a number of the 'panoramic' – photographs of the camps, normally with the Duke of York/King George VI seated in the centre of the front row as well as a number of 'snapshots' There is also a large framed Camp Theatre Poster which has been signed 'Albert'. We have numerous copies of the sheet music (with lyrics) for the action song "Under the spreading chestnut tree" used at the camp entertainments.

At the end of the week the group returned by train to Liverpool Street Station.

By 1938 when the last camp was held in Southwold, the Duke of York had become King and he sailed with the Queen and the two Princesses on the old Royal Yacht, "The Victoria & Albert" which anchored off the town. The King transferred to a pinnace and then to a rowing/fishing boat with two local men, 'Dykes' Stannard and 'Prim' Deal as oarsmen. They also



In 1938, just a year after his Coronation, George VI is rowed ashore for his last Southwold Camp. The Royal Yacht can be seen on the horizon. (Southwold Museum archive P505)

had the honour of doing the same in reverse after the King had visited his camp.

Other sources: "The King Comes To Southwold" by Margot Strickland (1984)

The museum library holds a donated compilation on the Duke of York's camps including Pathe newsreel 1932-1937 (15-20 minutes) Now transferred to DVD- Ref: SOWDM 2001.82

Paul Scriven



THE POWDITCH & LORD FAMILIES

Economic migrants who helped build modern Southwold

This is the story of two North Norfolk mariner families who relocated to Southwold in the middle of the 19th century. Brother and sister, Richard and Maria Lord hailed from Wells-next-the-Sea. William Powditch and his brother and sister, Samuel and Eleanor, were from Brancaster, 10 miles away. All five of them were in their twenties or early thirties when they made their move.

Like many on that stretch of coast, both families had long associations with the coastal cargo trade, carrying grain up to the north east of England and returning with coal, and sometimes coasting down to London. Operating sail-powered cargo boats in the unpredictable German Ocean was a high-risk business so it is not surprising that insurance was often out of the question and the investment was frequently spread very widely with local people from all walks of life owning a few shares in a vessel or two in the hope of making a typical 5% return... so long as 'their boat came in'.

In the early 1850s the Lords and Powditches had become connected by more than the sea. William Powditch had married Richard Lord's sister, Maria, and Richard had married another Maria – Maria Harrison. They seemed to be relatively affluent folk with majority shares in several cargo boats. Richard Lord called himself a coal merchant and owned three: the *Lapwing of Wells*, a schooner, the *Wells Packet*, a sloop, and the *Katherine Fraser of Wells*, a serious 198 ton sailing ship built in Canada and sporting a female figurehead! William Powditch owned a coal and grain ship, *The Good Intent*, while his elder brother, Samuel, who gained his Master Mariner's certificate in 1851, is recorded as having owned four ships at various times, among them a little, 40 ton 'Billy-Boy' sloop called '*The Mariner's Hope*' which he owned outright and which plays an important part in this story.

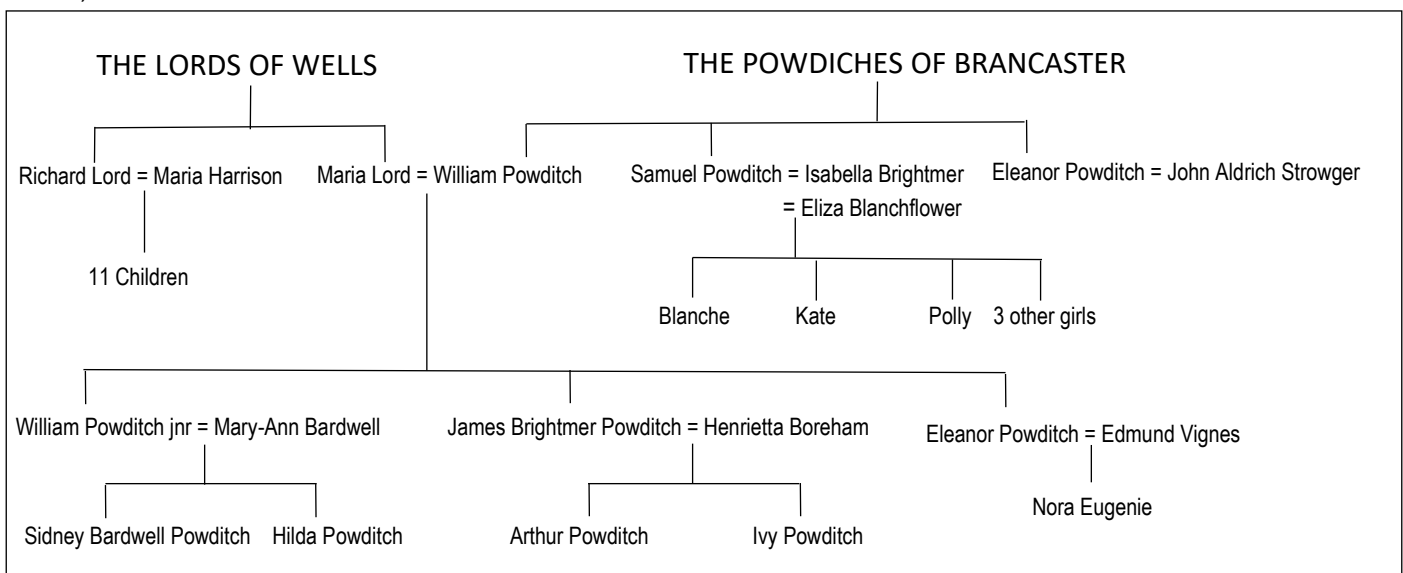
Samuel, however, suffered two huge personal setbacks. He had married a girl called Isabella Brightmer in 1852 and, a year later she and her baby died in childbirth. Some years afterwards while entering London's just-built, Royal Victoria Docks, he suffered a serious industrial accident when the

dock gates closed prematurely, jamming his leg between the tiller and the stanchions of his vessel. It permanently disabled him and brought his seagoing career to an end. He had no option but to ask his younger brother, William, to take over as Master of his sloop. Samuel did, remarry three years after Isabella's death. His new wife was Norfolk girl, Eliza Blanchflower, and they went on to have six daughters, including Blanche, Kate and Polly.

So why did the Lords and the Powditches decide to abandon Norfolk and move their little fleets and their families to Southwold? We can only speculate but, in the early 1860s the trading conditions in North Norfolk were in decline. The advent of the railway was taking trade away from traditional merchant ships. It was becoming cheaper and quicker to move coal by rail. At the same time local grain growers were losing market share to foreign imports. So there was less of that to ship up and down the coast. Southwold, however, was still a rail-free zone and would remain so for 20 more years, so it was a logical destination. What's more, the demand for coal in the town had just spiked with the introduction of its pioneering Gas Works. The Lords and the Powditches were, in a real sense, economic migrants.

On arrival, the Powditches lodged first of all with a fellow retired mariner, John Dendy Strowger, who was the landlord of *The Fishing Buss* inn (now the *Harbour Inn*). John's son, John Aldrich Strowger quickly took a fancy to young Eleanor Powditch and in 1865, they were married. Her brothers William and Samuel went in search of a base for their trading business and lit upon a building used as a wherry sail loft in Ferry Road – the very building that has recently been appropriately renamed 'The Sail Loft' restaurant.

William and Maria Powditch set up home at No 5 Queen Street (now the RNLi charity shop) where Maria started a second-hand clothes business. Their next-door neighbour, incidentally, was Mrs Rayley who, at that time was busy supervising the building of the Sailors' Reading Room in





The Marquess of Lorne in the 1890s at about the time that Richard and Maria Lord were the tenants. (Southwold Museum P273)

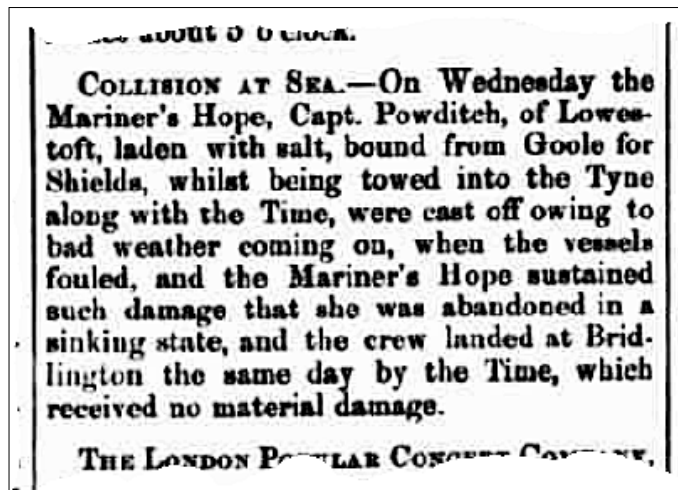
memory of her husband. (See Cynthia Wade's article on page 13.)

Richard Lord, meanwhile, had experienced a life-changing disaster in 1863: one of his vessels, loaded with coal, had caught fire at Blackshore and been completely destroyed. Although he seems to have continued to own ships, his active days as a mariner were over. Instead, with his wife, Maria, he set up as a pork butcher in a shop on Constitution Hill. Later they took over the *Wagon and Horses* public house on North Green which became rechristened *The Marquess of Lorne* in 1871 to commemorate the marriage of Princess Louise to John Campbell, the eponymous Marquess. While Richard ran the pub, Maria looked after a little dairy herd and sold the milk. They had 11 children: Ellen, Charlotte, Richard John, Eleanor, Fanny, Thomas, William, Charles, Mary, Frederick and Margaret.

On the night of the 15 June 1869, the Powditch boys suffered their own catastrophe. William was skippering his brother's sloop, *The Mariner's Hope*, with a crew of just two men, up the coast bound for North Shields where they were to pick up a cargo of coal. They had broken their journey at Goole to take on a consignment of salt and had just set sail again when the *Mariner's Hope* was caught in what William described as a 'Complete Hurricane'. The vessel was in dire trouble and it was not the only one. A schooner named 'Time' had also found itself in distress but, fortunately, had been found by the skipper of a steam tug – 'The Home' out of Goole – who had managed to get a line aboard and was struggling to tow her back to harbour. In the process she came upon the *Mariner's Hope* and, very gallantly but probably unwisely, the master of the tug offered to take the sloop in tow as well. William managed to throw him a rope and the tug was now pulling the two ships side by side. But the storm was worsening and eventually both ropes gave way. The two vessels slammed into one another, sinking the 'Mariner's Hope' within minutes. The steam tug and her brave crew of four also went down. But William and his two crew just managed to scramble aboard their lifeboat and were taken aboard the 'Time'. Somehow, they made port. The *Mariner's Hope* name board and its lifeboat with the

word 'Lowestoft' on it were picked up on Huntcliffe beach, North Yorkshire, 10 days later.

But, although William was saved, his disabled brother Samuel – the ship's owner – was now a ruined man. He was the vessel's sole owner and had no insurance. Amazingly, the people of Southwold organised a collection for him and raised £111. Many of the donors were fellow maritime townsmen. It was an example of the Southwold

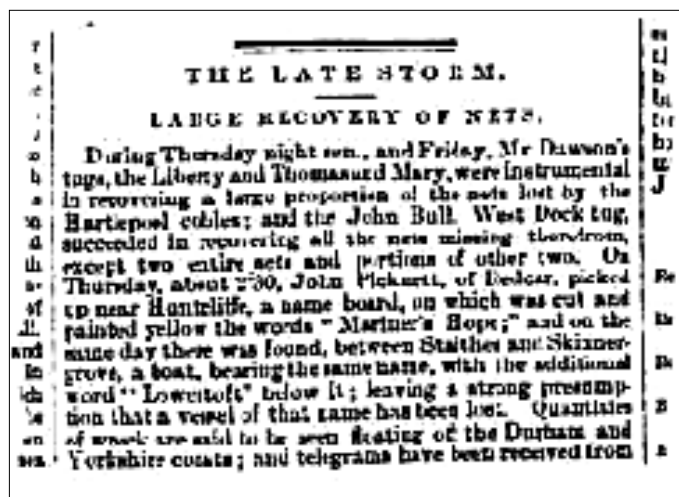


From the Bridlington Free Press 19th June 1869

community's spontaneous response to an individual's misfortune which has been recorded repeatedly over the past couple of centuries. But this was an especially generous gesture considering that the Powditches had lived here for less than 10 years. No doubt part of their popularity was due to the way they had integrated with the Southwold community. Both brothers were talented musicians and key members of the town brass band.

Samuel and his second wife, Eliza, now had six daughters and, with the donation money, they set up home at No 8 High Street where they started a confectionery business. Brother William, meanwhile continued to captain his own ship, *The Good Intent*, running a daily postal packet service between Southwold and Lowestoft with his friend Fred Wentworth.

In the early 1880s William and his wife Maria, now in



Durham County Advertiser of 25 June 1869, reported the discovery of the 'Mariner's Hope' name board and lifeboat off the coast of North Yorkshire, "Leaving a strong presumption that a vessel of that name has been lost."

their 50s, retired from the sea to run the Sole Bay Inn. They had two sons: William Junior and James Brightmer, whose second name memorialised his tragically deceased aunt Isabella. There was also a daughter, Eleanor, named after her father's sister.

The three children all made their mark on Southwold. Eleanor became a skilled dressmaker, James a carpenter, builder and occasional undertaker and William an engineer. Like their father, both young men became talented musicians, playing cornet with Southwold's Town Band and regular performers at civic functions and concert parties as solo singers, violoncello players and brass players.

When he was just 14 in 1873 William jnr was indentured as an apprentice to George Edmund Child, the brilliant iron founder and engineer in the Market Place. Although the Child Foundry was a financially ailing and rather diminished business by that time, William joined them in the year when they began to fabricate and erect their most famous piece... the Town Pump. It proved to be a great start to William's career and gave him a grounding in all the skills he later excelled at – pipe work, hydraulics and fluid engineering. He was a man with precisely the right set of skills for Southwold at that time. The town's service infrastructure was being completely revolutionised. More and more households were now on the gas main, piped water supplies were replacing wells and the town's sewage system was already among the most sophisticated in the land. By the 1890s

William had his own business as a gas and hot & cold water fitter, general engineer, whitesmith, repairer of pumps and bell hanger. His first workshop was at No 44 Church Street in a building that has now been completely replaced, adjacent to the current Co-op car park. When he became more successful, his brother, James built him an impressive, purpose-designed workshop at the other end of Church Street – the building that would later house Southwold Press and, today, the Spring design and advertising agency. William's initials, 'WP' and the date '1896' can still be seen proudly displayed high on the wall.

It may seem odd that William lists 'bell hanger' as one of his occupations. How much bell-hanging is there to be done in Southwold? Interestingly, though, the archives of St Edmund's bell tower record that the church bells were indeed re-hung in 1897 so it seems more than likely that William was the man who did the job.

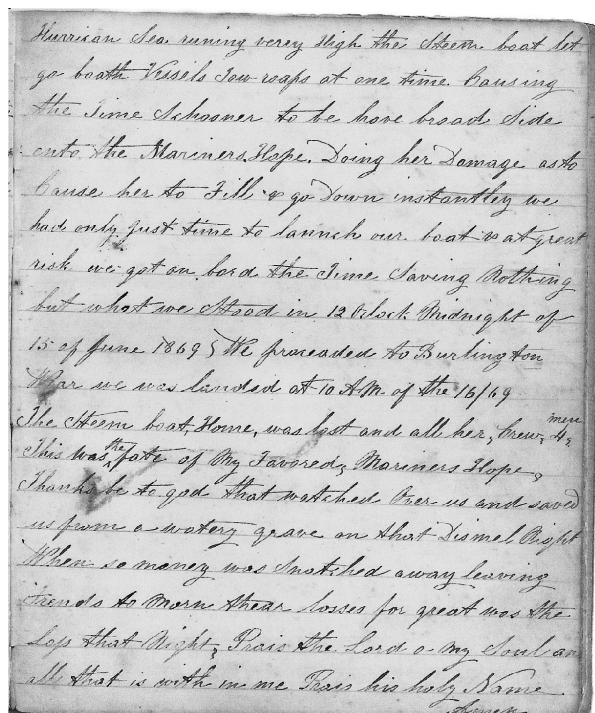
William became much in demand as a consulting engineer a couple of years later when work began on rebuilding Southwold Harbour with the aim of reviving it as a major herring port. Although there is no documentary proof that I have yet found, there is anecdotal evidence that William, as well as being deeply involved in the new harbour project, was almost certainly engaged as an engineer in the rebuilding of Might's Bridge in 1898.

Brother James was just as active in the development of

THE LOSS OF THE 'MARINER'S HOPE'

William's log book somehow survived and inside it a three-page handwritten account of the disaster. This has been transcribed below by Carol Stone, William's great-great granddaughter. Illustrated is the final page of the original.

Mariners Hope. Log of her leaving Goole to her being lost on the night of Tuesday June 15/69. Mariners Hope, William Powditch Master sailed from Goole, June 13 Wind SW fresh at 1 P.M. Steem boat let go of our rope in Hull Roads. Turned into Whitboath roads, Wind westered. Sailed down to Bull Light over the flood. Wind light at 5 P.M let go the anchor in 6



Hurricane sea running very high the Steem boat let go boath vessels tow-roops at one time causing the Time Schooner to be have broad side onto the Mariners Hope. Doing her Damage as to cause her to fill & go down instantlyly we had only just time to launch our boat at great risk we got on bord the Time saving Nothing but what we stood in 12 o'clock Midnight of 15 of June 1869 We proceeded to Burlington whar there we was landed at 10 AM of the 16/69 The Steem boat, Horne, was lost and all her crew 4. This was the fate of my Favoured, Mariners Hope Thanks be to god that watched over us and saved us from a watery grave on that Dismal Night when so many was snatched away leaving friends to morn their losses for great was the loss that night. Prais the Lord O my soul an all that is with in me Prais his holy Name Amen

Fathom water at 9 P.M tide done. Wind NE Drisling with rain every appearance of a dirty night. Weighed anchor and reached over into the Hawk at 2 A.M. Brought up in Five Fathom Water. June 14 wether squaly during the day 6 P.M moor moderat, 8 P.M calm squals rising on the land 10 P.M fresh breeze at SW. Weighed anchor and worked out of the Humber 12 o'clock midnight.

Passed the outer Bink bouy shaped our cours for the Head at 4 A.M of 15 made the Head Light. Wind SW squaly with rain 6 A.M. Rounded the Head 8 A.M moor moderate 12 at noon wind light & varebal of North Cheek of Robenhood 4 P.M off Whitby, wind light & varable 6 P.M Whitby Baring SSW. Dist about 8 miles the, Horne, steem. Tug of North Shields spook me. Did not engage her at this time Horne steemed to the Time of Goole at 7 P.M the Horne came along side towing the schooner Time gave him our rope he comenced towing both vessels for the Tyne The Dock Shields Wind NNE light Drisling with rain 10 P.M wind increasing all appearance of a Dirty Night 11 P.M Wind increasing with squals sea making 12 o'clock midnight blowing a compleat Hurricane sea running very high the steem boat let go boath vessels tow-roops at one time causing the Time Schooner to be have broad side onto the Mariners Hope. Doing her damage as to cause her to fill and go down instantlyly we had only just time to launch our boat and at great risk we got on bord the Time saving nothing but what we stood in 12 o'clock midnight of 15 of June 1869.

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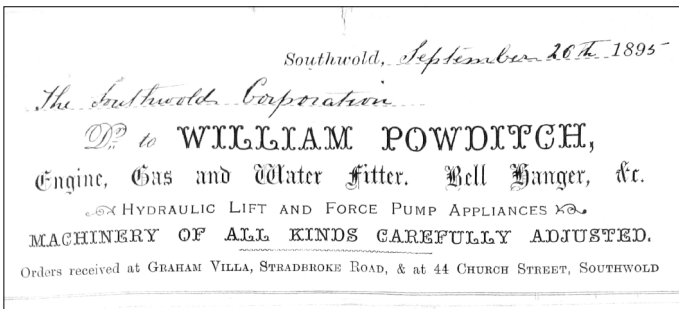
This was the fate of my favoured, Mariners Hope. Thanks be to god that watched over us and saved us from a watery grave on that dismel night when so many was snatched away leaving friends to morn their losses for great was the lost that night.

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Amen



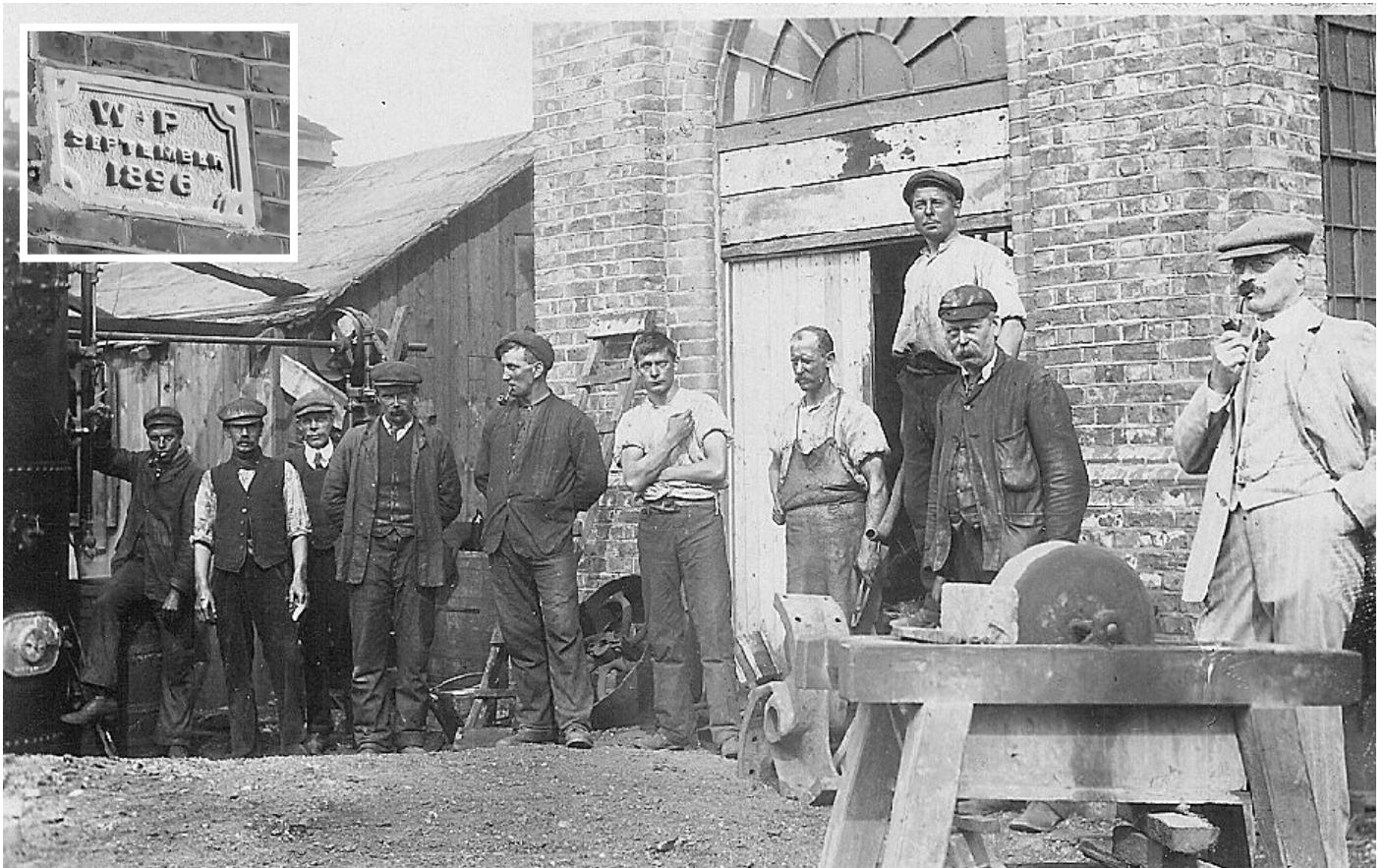
Left: William Powditch Snr. with his wife, Maria and daughter Eleanor. Centre and right: James Powditch and his wife, Henrietta (nee Boreham)



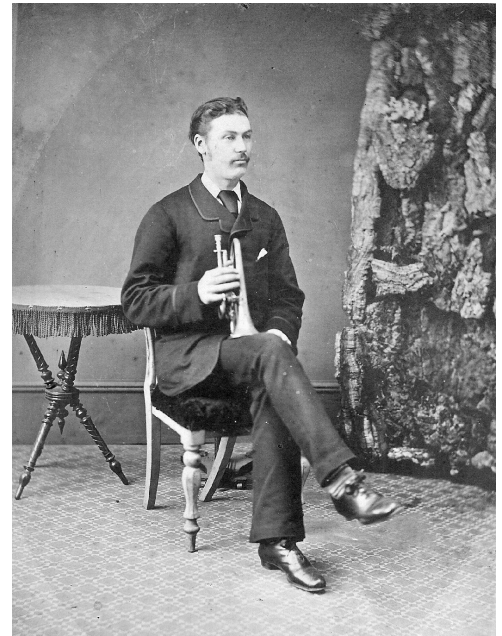
Part of a bill head dated 1895 addressed to Southwold Corporation. From the Southwold Museum archives.

‘modern’ Southwold. The town’s Northern boundary had until the late 19th century been effectively marked by the Lighthouse and his parents’ pub, The Sole Bay Inn. Now the whole of the North Cliff area was under construction to meet the growing demand from the thriving seaside holiday industry.

James who had been living with his parents and sister at the Sole Bay Inn, became engaged to Henrietta Boreham. His first priority was to build them a home. It was an end-of-terrace house in newly fashionable Stradbroke Road which he called *Brightmer Villa* after his own middle name and the



The engineering team engaged in rebuilding Southwold Harbour. William Powditch Jnr is second from the right wearing what looks like a school cap! Inset: the date stone set in the wall of William’s workshop in Church Street.



Above left: mariner brothers Samuel and William Snr (front row, left) with the Southwold Brass band. Estimated date 1870s. William's two sons inherited the Powditch musical talent and both eventually joined the band. Above right: William Powditch Jnr posing with his cornet and, below: the next-generation band. Only James is featured here—minus his instrument—fourth from the right, next to the base drum. Below right: William Powditch jnr. on an outing with his daughter, Hilda and niece Ivy, probably in the 1920s.



maiden name of his dead aunt, Isabella. The new house was ready for them to move into on their wedding day in January 1891 and, in due course they had two children – Arthur and Ivy. The name Brightmer Villa may still be seen over the front door. James built several other houses in Stradbroke Road and its neighbourhood. Brancaster Villas, named after his family home town, were two houses on the corner of Stradbroke and Salisbury Roads, built specifically as serviced apartments for summer visitors which Henrietta managed.

The couple spent less than 10 years living in Brightmer Villa. William Senior had died in 1890, aged 58 and Maria and daughter Eleanor were now running the Sole Bay Inn by themselves. By the turn of the century it was getting too much for them and James decided to give up his carpentry and building work to take over the pub full time. He and Henrietta left Brightmer Villa and moved into the pub with their children Arthur and Ivy and they remained there until around 1924. Eventually they moved back to Brightmer Villa. James died in 1941, His brother William in 1945

Barry Tolfree 2017



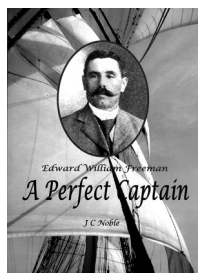
Brightmer Villa built by James for himself and Henrietta as their marital home and Brancaster Villas built as two adjacent lodging houses which Henrietta managed.

This story came together through the help of Neil Moran, Richard Lord's great, great grandson and Carol Stone, the great granddaughter of James Brightmer Powditch. Carol also supplied the family photos and the first-hand account, by William Powditch, of the foundering of 'Mariner's Hope'. Carol and Neil found each other through the website www.southwoldandson.co.uk and it was this that enabled them and us to make the connection between the Lord & Powditch families.

Other sources include: 'Victorian North Norfolk Sailing Ships' by Michael Stammers, published by Milepost Research, Southwold Museum & Historical Society, the census returns, and contemporary reports from The Bridlington Free Press, Durham County Advertiser and Suffolk Chronicle.

BOOKS

A LOCAL HERO



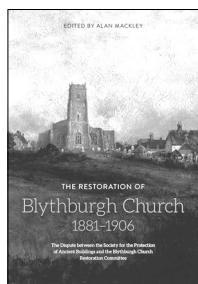
In our last annual newsletter, I wrote about the Local Hero, Captain Edward Freeman, little knowing that later in 2016, a book which had been long in the planning, would be published. This is called "A Perfect Captain" by J.C. Noble (ISBN-978-1-326-44850-9). We read in 543 pp. from him joining a vessel in Liverpool at the age of 15 years and his subsequent career. This includes the story of the remarkable escape

from St. Pierre, Martinique of the S.S. Roddam during the volcano eruption of Mt. Pelee in 1902. Although himself badly burned, he, with most of his crew, was the only one of the eighteen vessels in the harbour which managed to get away.

Here, the government presented to him a silver cup in recognition of his bravery which is now housed in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich with his other awards.

The book is the result of about 16 years of research by the author, whom I met whilst she was doing her research, not only at Frostenden Church but at the house where he had lived with his parents. This is duly acknowledged in this excellent book.

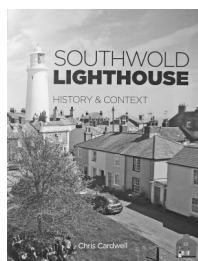
BLYTHBURGH CHURCH



In the 2010/11 season of winter lectures for the Society, Dr. Alan Mackley gave a talk on "The battle for Blythburgh Church". For the 60th volume by the Suffolk Records Society published recently, Dr. Mackley has edited "The Restoration of Blythburgh Church 1881-1906, The dispute between the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Blythburgh Church Restoration Committee" ISBN 9781783271672 h.b. 362 pp with

illustrations. The volume is a collection of original letters shedding light on the rescue of the abandoned church and a 25 year long dispute between the Blythburgh vicars and committees, and the SPAB, who feared that the medieval fabric would be over-restored and the character of the building lost forever. The RRP is £35.

SOUTHWOLD LIGHTHOUSE



A new inexpensive publication being sold in aid of the museum is "Southwold Lighthouse; History and context" written by SMHS trustee, Chris Cardwell. This informative booklet, with attractive illustrations not only has sections on the lighthouse but many allied matters e.g. lighthouse keepers, Trinity House and pilots, light vessels, hazards to shipping and coastline etc. The lighthouse is one of the

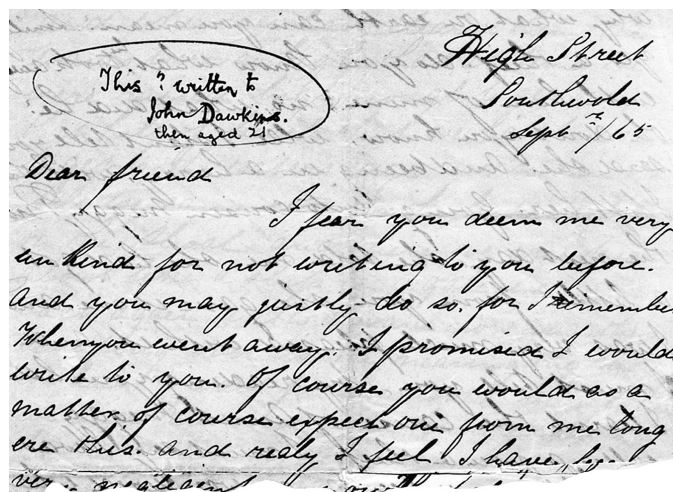
attractive features of the town and often admired by visitors. This new work makes a useful gift and souvenir. A few of the illustrations are from the museum collection and familiar to readers of the earlier small museum publication, "Southwold Lighthouses" by our hon. Librarian, David Lee (2004) with a layout designed by Barry Tolfree, which is no longer available.

P.S.

Beach Boys 1865

This is an extract of a letter sent by 18 year-old Robert Charles Blowers to his absent friend, John Dawkins in September 1885. Robert was the son of Southwold's famous blacksmith, William Blowers, on the corner of High Street and Victoria Street. In due course, Robert would become a blacksmith and farrier himself and would marry his friend's sister, Mary Ann Dawkins, known as 'Polly'. The copy of the letter was kindly sent to me by family descendant, Alan Blowers of the Isle of Wight. It provides a fascinating glimpse not only into how the young of Southwold amused themselves a century and a half ago, but also into how elaborately courteous they were with each other; The opening apologetic paragraph was at least twice as long before editing!

Barry Tolfree



Dear Friend, I fear you deem me very unkind for not writing to you before, and you may justly do so, for I remember when you went away, I promised I would write to you. Of course you would as a matter of course expect one from me long before this, and really I feel I have been very negligent on your behalf. [...]

I have often wished you back again amongst us that we might go and bath together. I went bath on Friday last with George Heath, when the sea was very rough, so that we had a hard job in getting clear of the breakers to have a swim, and when we had cleared them the waves were so high that at times we were raised high enough to see over the hill of the beach that we had to descend to get to the waters edge, we swam on till we came close to the broken water on the shore and here we were tossed about like a ship in a gale, we went back again with a wave now and then sweeping over us, on nearing the shore we had to wait for a smooth, but when we did land we were knocked down by the violence of the surf.

A grand Regatta came off on Thursday, when there were sailing matches with yawls, and rowing matches with gigs and sundries, and other matches with smaller boats, then there was a duck hunt, a mowing match. But best of all, and most amusing, there was a pig put into a trap for the purpose, then hoisted out on a large pole on the end of the jetty, it was greased you must know if any man could run or walk to the end of this pole and let the pig into the water, he would be entitled to the pig. There were four men who volunteered to go. The first one got half way and slipped off and fell head long into the water, and the others in like manner did the same so that they were a good hour trying to get the pig out of the trap. Of course they got it out last, and when it fell out of the trap into the water, the air was rung as it were with loud peals of laughter from the excited crowd on the cliffs above. The life gun was fired off several times with rockets and so ended the regatta [...]

Yours Truly, Robert Chas Blowers

Cynthia Wade writes about another of her favourite places and...

THE DEMON DRINK

Not being able to walk very far these days, one of my many pleasures in this retired life is to sit outside the Sailors' Reading Room and watch the sometimes mad world go by.

The seat on which I sit has the words Alice V Hess carved into it. Alice was the sister of Dame Myra Hess the world-famous pianist who gave morale-boosting free concerts at the National Gallery in London during the dark days of the Second World War for which she received the DBE in 1941.



The Alice V. Hess seat is currently being renovated

Alice lived in Cliff house and Myra often visited her. The seat is in a very sheltered spot and I have even sat there in February eating ice-cream much to the amusement of an American visitor. The Reading Room has not lost its old world charm I am pleased to say and provides what it always was intended for, a refuge. Hopefully you will have all read Douglas Pope's excellent booklet published to celebrate the 150th birthday of the Reading Room; well worth getting a copy or look up our society's Newsletter No 5—June 2005. This can be photocopied at your request.

The building was funded by Mrs. Frances Rayley in memory of her late husband Captain Charles Rayley. The couple lived at The Elms, now called May Place on the corner of Queen Street and Lorne Road. Many generous and interesting people have lived there including Andrew Matthews, who built the almshouses in Reydon and gave them to the town of Southwold in 1910.

When you visit the Museum this year, which I am sure you will do, look at Stephen Wells' one-off display of the story of the almshouses. Again, for the full story, new members can order photocopies of Newsletter No 7—2007 and No 8—2008 or read them in the Museum at one of Bob Jellicoe's Thursday afternoon research sessions.

While researching for a Museum visitor's enquiry last year, which I told you about in the last newsletter, I came across a newspaper article written in 1864 about the opening of the Reading Room - very different from today's style of reporting.

OPENING OF MRS. RAYLEY'S ROOM FOR MARINERS AND FISHERMEN

Thursday last was quite a gala day here, the bells ringing merrily and flags flaunting in the breeze in all directions. The occasion was the opening and dedication of a reading and coffee room, erected at the sole expense of Mrs. Rayley, widow of the late

Captain

Charles Rayley R.N. for the benefit of mariners and fishermen. The opening was celebrated by a tea of which nearly 200 partook and it must have been a proud and happy hour for the

benevolent donor while surveying the delighted recipients. The room was tastefully decorated with flags and on the tables a profusion of greenhouse flowers, in addition to superabundance of eatables and the drink which maintains sobriety. After tea the public (men) were admitted and the Rev. W. Hay Chapman incumbent of Southwold and president of the management committee gave out the 25th hymn, which was sung, accompanied by the harmonium, and a dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Imrie, of Saxmundham.

The Rev. Hay Chapman spoke of the worthiness of the new venture at length. I found it interesting when he said:

"I want you to use this room instead of the public house. You will have as good a fire here as there, as good seats and as good company. You can use this room for one penny per week but cannot use the public house for that sum. How many men have been ruined body and soul by frequenting the tavern."

He told many stories of people he knew affected by demon drink. He reminded the audience of their affection for the cliff where the new building stood as, just below, in the old lookout, Charlotte Ellis had started bible meetings for the fishermen in the late 1850s. Charlotte had married and gone to live in Canada. (See our 2016 Newsletter). The Rev. continued:

"Here is a room right on the cliff and I want you to enter into an engagement with me; if you will, I will do the best I can to establish a Bible class here. I want you to come next Sunday evening at half past six. Some of you have told me you have not clothes fit to appear in church in, never mind you can come here. I'll meet if you will, all men, no women, and as I am very fond of the sea and sailors I hope we will have a good bible class".

The former minister of Southwold the Rev. Mr. Imrie talked of the venture at length including the words:

"I trust this harbour will always be full of vessels, filled for the Master's use, outside this harbour the dangerous rock of intoxicating drinks ruinous to both soul and body, inside you are saved from this danger. By bare possibility one of you may have a scolding wife, here you can find a peaceful refuge till the storm is over, more possibly the fault is yours; then come here till the war of passion is passed by and the sky cloudless and serene. Let this be your public house, the best side of a public house is outside".

Dr. Blacken, the treasurer, the Rev Wm. Hopkins, the Independent Minister, Mr. W. Echlin Wayth a Trinity Pilot, and Mr. B. Herrington all praised and



supported the new Reading Room. The Rev. Chapman said:

"there would be a good library of books, moral and religious, and the daily papers. Coffee at one penny a cup with all the sugar and milk you like, and if any fault is found with the coffee first tell the committee and they will go through the process in tasting till it is to your satisfaction".

The meeting ended with a hymn, bible reading and prayers and three cheers for Mrs. Rayley.

The Temperance movement was in full swing at this time backed by people like the Presbyterian Church of Ireland minister John Edgar from 1829 and Joseph Livesey who opened the first Temperance hotel in Preston in 1833. The British Association for the

whole establishment is admirably arranged to meet requirements of a large and varied business combining all the comforts of a home.

During the season a large number of visitors avail themselves of the conveniences of Mr. Chapman's hostelry, the proprietor having made it a special point to add the attractions of a comfortable residence to unexceptionable boarding facilities. On the ground floor of the hotel is a comfortable dining room, where in the season, luncheons and dinners are provided and the prices are astonishingly moderate... On the first floor there is another dining room where the requirements of those in residence at the Hotel are dealt with. The bedrooms are clean, airy, well ventilated and appropriately furnished. The terms are moderate, the tariff for daily or weekly boarders ... modest.

The location of this hotel is an excellent one, being within two minutes walk of the sea and five minutes of the pier, while the Post Office and Railway Station are within easy distance... The rapidly extending fame of Southwold as a seaside resort, the advantages of its pleasant situation, and unusually mild climate, render it just the place where a temperance hotel such as Mr. Chapman's may be expected to prove prosperous from a business point of view to one who, like the proprietor, spares no pains to give his clientele the utmost satisfaction in every respect.

The name of Chapman is still in the town of course but that is another story. This is just a glance at the Victorian Temperance Movement as seen in Southwold. The aim was to keep men in all walks of life out of public houses and there were more pubs then, than now. The subject of over-indulgence in alcohol is a very large one and is a problem which is still with us today. Am I being cynical in saying nothing is new in history? There are government guidelines to those who seek them. These were reviewed in January 2016 with a suggested limit of 14 units a week. We all know people who had their childhood affected by one of their parents being an alcoholic. People with the courage to face up to their problem can be greatly helped by contacting Alcoholics Anonymous which has branches all over the world and certainly in Suffolk. The first meeting in this country was at the Dorchester Hotel in London on March 31st 1947 with the help and encouragement of a visiting American lady who had the problem herself. An American group had been formed in 1935.

The calm and peace of the Reading Room is there for us all to enjoy and long may it remain thanks to Mrs. Rayley and those who have cared for it ever since.

My thanks go to Barry Tolfree and his marvellous website southwoldandson.co.uk and for the help of Paul Scriven.

Cynthia Wade



The former Temperance Hotel in East Street

Promotion of Temperance was established in 1835. Southwold had a Temperance hotel in East Street in what is now the Break Charity shop. It was run in 1896 according to Kelly's directory by Benjamin Henry Stannard. By 1902 it was owned by J.H. Chapman, and this is the advert in the guide book *Southwold and Neighbourhood* published that year.

There is a considerable amount of business performed by men who live 'on the wing' and have scarcely any other home than hotels in towns on their route. Beside being the resort of local travelling business men, such establishments are also the headquarters of many visitors on pleasure bent, and they therefore form important centres of commercial and social life. Temperance hotels have, of late years, grown greatly in public favour, and that owned by Mr. Chapman is no exception to the rule. The



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