

A TRUE STORY

told by Henry Edward Hawes May 1st 1953

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Of Reepham, starting from Messr. Allen's Bus Garage, taking the Right hand side of the Road, up and around the Market Place to the Town's End, and around by the other side of the Market Place, Church Plain, by the two Churches, finishing at St. Mary's School, mentioning the names and trades of People dating from about 1868, or about 85 years ago.

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I was put to Rebecca Goose's house now known as Swiss Cottage, with about 8 or 9 boys and girls during the Summer Holiday, the National School being closed mothers paying threepence a week.

Mrs. Allen's house adjoining was occupied by Mr. George Howard who was Carpenter and Builder. His house was built of clay, with a grape vine on the front. His workshops was a thac (*thatched?*) barn. He had Three sons, William, George and Fred and one daughter named Esther. My father was foreman.

Next was a twenty five Quarter Malt House with Barley Chamber, Steep lined with lead, two floors, kiln, malt store pump, and a large enclosed ground known as Malt House Yard. This was sold by auction at the King's Arms Hotel by Messrs. Spelman on Wednesday March 26th 1879.

Next come the George and Dragon. This was tenanted by Mr. Dennis Hurrell. His daughter Hannah was housekeeper; afterwards she married John Coe the pig dealer etc.

Next come Messrs. Randall's Ironmonger Shop. The tenant was Alfred C. Savoury, he carried on business as Baker, Confectioner - Bricklayer and Smoked Meat. He had a talking parrot, his wife had a sister named Savage who lived at Brandistone, she came to Reepham on Wednesdays with donkey and tumbril for drams from the Brewery. When the parrot thought the sisters had sufficient talk it would call out "Go away (*you and*) your old dickey (*donkey?*) Mrs. (*Missus*)".

Next come Randell's house and premises. The tenant was Robert Parker Gooch he employed a blacksmith Richard Bishop and his son. It was a public house known as Ferrier's Arms (*Farrier's Arms*). He also sold Arnold's Ale in 4 <sup>1/2</sup> and 9 gallon casks. He also sold milk at 1 <sup>1/2</sup> d per pint. The Gentlemen Urinal can be seen today. The walls of part of the house now used as stores are built in clay. There were three daughters Jane Margaret and Catherine.

Next come the Butcher's shop. The tenant was Joe Burton. He was a fine built man and carried on the butchering business for many years, until his sight failed.

I was sent by my mother on Tuesday nights with a large basin with her name wrote in ink and called for it on Wednesdays. It was for bullock's fry 8 <sup>1/2</sup> d per lb. The liver was given in free. (Ration books quite unknown).

Now we come to the thatch houses. The tenant was James Sizeling who had one son and I think he had two daughters. His business was Postillion at the Kings Arms Hotel. On Saturdays he went to Norwich mounted, with red coat on, a bugler behind, this was in John Badcock's time leaving the Kings Arms at 9 o'clock returning about 5.30.

Now we come to Mr. Pratt's house and the other two houses on Church Plain. Pratt's house was occupied by Mrs. Leeds she was a sister of Burton the butcher. Her husband was otherwise known as Greyhound Stephen. They kept cows and sold milk at 1 <sup>1/2</sup> d per pint. The cow mangers can be seen on enquiry from Mrs. Pratt at the shop.

Now we come to the cottage occupied by W. Morris. This was occupied by Mr. Mason he was a cooper by trade and made tubs etc. for the Bircham's Brewery.

The other two cottages on Church Plain. One was occupied by my grandfather James Hawes who was a Tailor by trade and my Aunt Betsy Hawes who did dressmaking. She had two grown up apprentices, Mrs. Russell, wife of John Russell, and Sally Dove, daughter of Dove, farmer, Gt. Witchingham.

My grandfather told me he had to make yearly for Samuel Bircham Esq, Booton Hall, ten duffle coats for men, and Betsy made ten scarlet petticoats for women. These the Esquire gave away to the aged and poor at Christmas time (Bless his kindness). The memorial stone with his name on also some of his family who died in their teens in St. Michael's near the belfry.

The other tenant was Mrs. Vardigans (*Miss*). For her living she cleaned and dyed straw hats, she always wore a bonnet and shawl. The shawl was a bit bronze in colour I guess from age. I believe she delivered letters round the market place and the outskirts on Sunday mornings. After her death Barney Southgate took the cottage. He was a travelling handsaw sharpener. His wife did a little in the straw hat but not much.

Next come the Tailors shop. This was a lock up shop, Mr. Thomas Bircham was the tenant. He had several grown up apprentices. Mr. Charles Frankland the Moor, also Mr. W. A. Pask the well known tailor. Mr. Pask died about ten years ago.

The next come Mrs. Gowan's (*Mrs. Goward*) house. This house I was born in. I was born on Sept. 23rd 1863 this will make me just about 90 years old.

The next come the Post Office. I remember Mr. John Boon, Boot and Shoe maker, living there. They had two daughters and one son, Jane Ethel and Henry. Ethel now lives at Carlton Forehoe, Barnham Broom, We exchange friendly letters together.

After the Boon family moved out Mr. Shepherd moved in. He was a cooper by trade and made wash killers, Flour Kids and other fancy goods. He came to Reepham as a married man police constable and lived at the police station next door to Inspector Woolner (*Woolmer?*). He had two sons, Charles and Harry, these were both school pals of mine. After Mr. Shepherd had been in Reepham about three years his wife fancied another husband so Shepherd became a single man and had to leave his police station house. Mr. Shepherd took in Harry Everitt as an apprentice. Harry was another pal of mine. Harry's parents lived in the house now occupied by Mr. Utting, near the Chapel. His father was Gardener to the Reverend Holley who lived in the Market Place.

Next come the house occupied by Mr. William Bishop the watch and clock maker. It was occupied by Barber Rudd. He had a big mound under the front window about 3 feet high and about 4 feet 6 wide made of mould and stones, covered with ivy etc. The barber did a good trade in rearing canaries. He also learnt the good men of Reepham how to use the boxing gloves. The barber was my God Father (what a choice for my parents to make) unless they thought of the relationship. The Barber's wife and my grandmother were sisters.

*Parish Magazine February 1979*      A TRUE STORY

(being a continuation of the description by the late Mr. Henry Edward Hawes in 1953 of Reepham Market Place as he remembered it about 1868- the first two instalments having appeared in the Sept. & Oct. issues)

The alley adjoining to Bishop's shop years ago went as the name St. John's Alley, otherwise Barber Rudd's Alley. The cottage now occupied by Mr. William Fuller (once Lines' and Barrets') was formerly two cottages. One occupied by Mrs. Hannah Mears who was a good midwife. The other was occupied by Punch Frost, his daughter Mrs. Manthorpe, her husband and their son and daughter (they were packed in like pills in a box). The house now occupied by Robert Allen and family was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Eglington and their well known son Mr. Sidney Eglington.

Mr. Mark Eglington had a small farm at Kerdistone which made him late home some nights. Mrs. Eglington, who sometimes went to have a gossip with her mother, Mrs. Robert Parker Gooch, left me in charge with Sidney to rock the cradle. If he was a bit unruly I would give him a slight pat. If he cried a little it was alright, if he got loud both of us would cry till my mother would come and finish the rocking, she only living in the same yard my father putting me to bed up the attic near the sky. I was Mr. Sidney Senior ten years.

The cottage now occupied by Mr. Henry Coe against the Salvation Army. Mr. Henry Coe was relation to Mr. Overton who travelled in the country with his ventriloquial knowledge, Mr. Coe acting as his agent in advance etc. His house was formerly occupied by Mr. Blythe. Mr. Blythe was a Boot and shoe repairer, he had three sons, Tony who was a tailor, Joshua who worked in the Ollands garden as a gardener in Brewer Bircham's time. The other one was Tom who was apprentice to Mr. Goddard as a cabinet maker.

The next comes Mr. Cocking's property. Before Mr. Cocking bought it from Mr. William Allen it formerly belonged to Mr. St. John. Mr. Allen soon altered it and employed four different tradesmen at one time. Mr. Thomas Blythe, builder, Foulsham put in the shop front. Mr. Allen's brother from Burnham came over, made the approach to the shop by altering the railing from the front to crossways, he putting up a date stone as can be seen today 1884. The other tradesman was Mr. Thomas Tomasten of Gt. Witchingham who did what brickwork was required, the other was my father who did the carpentering work. Before Mr. Allen purchased the property it was owned by Mr. St. John who carried on business as a tallow chandler and made the ordinary tallow candles, also the rush candles. A man named Todd came from Norwich with a large cart and horse and took most of them. The writer have seen them making the candles, anyone can see the lath window where the candles were made. (Perhaps Messrs. Fords' yard is the best view of the window.)

*Parish Magazine March 1979*

A TRUE STORY (continued)

Mrs. Miller's front room and the bedroom above was used for drying the candles, there were pegs around the two rooms made of wood similar to hat and cloak hooks. The access from the front room to the bedroom had a wide rough step ladder.

Mr. St. John had two tall smart daughters. He thought more of the daughters than he did his wife. He provided a chestnut coloured pony and Phaeton for them go out to drives etc. A man named James Vardigans was paid to keep the the phaeton and harness clean.

Mr. St. John was Captain of the Reepham Manual Fire Brigade. Every year at Midsummer time he had the Fire Brigade in the Market Place for a practice.

Mr. William Bircham the Brewer had four or five water carts of water ready for the occasion. After the practice St. John gave the firemen a shilling each and then the men adjourned to the Brewery for light refreshments (the quantity was best known to themselves). Mr. Francis Bircham, second son of the Brewer, got the boys all together and when the engine played the water over the Bank buildings he gave the Hip Hip Hurrah and then again Hip Hip Hurrah! The practice was always in the noon time.

Now came the premises of Messrs. Ford this was tenanted by Mr. Ormiston, Baker and Confectioner. There were two sons John and Ernest, also two or three daughters. John the eldest son was Sergt. in the Reepham Volunteers, they wore grey suits at that time. According to the grave stone on the Hackford cemetery it read Mrs. John Ormiston born March 8th 1855 Died June 18th 1883. They were regular attendants at St. Michael's Church. On Sunday mornings at 10.45 all the family could be seen going to church, Mr. Ormiston with tall silk hat and kid gloves, Mrs. Ormiston with her claret coloured silk dress. (She had some lovely curls.)

The next house was occupied by Mr. Daverson (*Davidson*) the retired confectioner from the house occupied by the Ormiston family. Mr. Daverson had one daughter, she married John Redman Spencer. He farmed at Guestwick and died in the house now known as the Bircham Institute.

Then next come the Brewery House with its beautiful Sun Dial.

On the right hand side of the Brewery House was a Conservatory with a frontage 16 or 18 feet about 15 feet high. The house was occupied by Mr. William Bircham Jun. and his brother Francis Bircham.

They kept a housekeeper Mrs. Ann Hazel and two other servants. They lived there many years and they both married from there. One was Mrs. Gillingwater, her husband was a farmer, Reepham Moor, the other was Mrs. Fred Self, she lived on the Ollands Road until she died. The boy known as Copperhold Jack was Walter Holt. He was the present Mrs. Ford's third brother. When he grew up he went to Canada.

The following Mrs. Ford told me :- After Mr. F. Bircham had finished with the Times newspaper Walter Holt would fold up the paper and put it into the large black dog's mouth they kept. He would get hold of the dog's tail and take it to Mrs. Dalrymple who lived at the Moor House. She was Aunt to Mr. F. Bircham. In the Brewery House Yard against the Barber's Shop can be seen an octagon tall shape roof, this is the cover over the Old Brewery Well. The well is 8 feet across it. I am told it is about 100 feet deep. The cover, I Henry E. Hawes did as the date prove, 1900.

Mr. S. Bircham of 46 Parliament St., who wanted the oak to be of very old oak, so I told him about the old oak of Booton Windmill. He made arrangement for me to meet and we went and saw the old oak by going up a part of the Norwich Road through a gateway without the Miller's Knowledge. Mr. Bircham at once said Hawes, be down there in the morning and buy the lot at any price. Away I went in the morning, saw Charles Stackword and had the deal (you would be surprised what language he used when he made out what I wanted the oak for.)

The weather vane, I had to use Mr. Bircham's initials S.B. entwined.

The house against the well, Mr. S. Bircham had built for Mr. Scotten his wife and grown up daughter. Mr. Scotten was an old tenant of Mr. Bircham relations, who died at Thorpe near Norwich. I believe Mr. Scotten had to superintend and see to the making of gardens etc, that one can see today.

When the Brewery was sold by auction on March the 26th 1879 the Picturesque Shrubbery and Plantation with Walks, Summer House, thickly planted with Evergreen and other shrubs and adorned with ornamental trees, this was bought by Dr. Perry who at once laid most of it down and let it in lots as allotments. Mr. Perry also bought several pieces inside the Brewery premises. Mr. Perry at once employed Mr. Thos. Blythe Builder Foulsham to take down the tall chimney shaft and other buildings.

He built two cottages, one was tenanted by Mr. William Ford his first wife and family. The other was tenanted by Mr, Fred Gayford his wife and family. Mr. Perry had stabling made for Mr. William Dyball the horse trainer. Mr. Fred Howard the Builder had work shops, Timber yard etc. The Reepham Manual Fire Engine had also a home on the premises. All this Dr. Perry sold to Mr. Samuel Bircham.

Next come the Barber's Shop (Swoish). Mrs. Robert Dyball, mother of the Dyball family, Horse breakers and trainer Thomas, William, George, and John. Mrs. Dyball had two upstairs rooms which she let to the Reepham Drum and Fife Band. One evening a tea was provided for the Band and a few friends. Mr. William Bacon, a higgler by trade, made me a confession :-

I had a grey horse for my business, it would always pull up at public houses, if it saw a sign hanging out, so I bought a blind horse. This cured the job, and I have been a member of the temperance cause ever since.

Next come Mr. Carman's shop. This was occupied by Mr. James Kirby Grocer and draper. After a time it was closed for about three or four months. Mr. Robert George employed Mr. George Howard the Builder, Norwich Road to refit the shop, new counters fittings etc. The next tenant was Mr. Alfred Roy, the father to the well known Wroxham grocers etc.

Next come Mr. Hall's harness makers shop. The tenant was Mr. Prior.

Next come the house now occupied by Mr. John Hall. The tenant was Mr. Woolmer watch and clock maker.

Mr. Woolmer wore a tall hat and black frock coat. Every night at about four o'clock you could see him on his way to the church to wind up the clock. One of the weights was made of iron the other was made of lead. Each was suspended on 15 or 16 feet of rope. They each worked up and down a long box. One day the ratchet of one of the weights got out of repair. The crank knocked the poor old man and hurt him. My mother with my help did the clock winding for a few months. I remember seeing one of the brass weights the date 1760.

Next come Mr. Purdy's office. This was used as Reepham Reading Rooms. Mr. Farrow's door was the entrance, the window was a large pair of sashes and frames same size as the one above. Mrs. Hannah Bell was the caretaker, she lived down in the basement, and slept in the top storey. Francis Bircham Esq's office was on the next storey. The Reading Room had a curtain partition. The backside of the partition was used by young men playing on a billiard table, the front side was used by Newspaper Readers smoking their long clay pipes. Every quarter Mrs. Bell would hunt up the eighteen pennys contribution.

One day I went to meet Mr. Sewell, a gentleman living at Buxton, who wanted a talk about making the Reading Room into a Bank. He soon got Mr. Edward Boardman of Norwich at work, and prepared the plans for me to fit up same as the bank. The window and door etc. now used by Messrs. Purdy. Mr. Owen was Bank Manager.

Next come Barclay's Bank. This was used as a Chemist Shop. The door on the South side was similar to the door used by Mr. Farrow on the East side. That door was used as the chemist's house door, also the door was used for Gurney's Bank. The entrance to the Chemist's shop, Mr. Johnson Cripps. The chemist had an apprentice, Mr. George Fowler, a tall young man.

The chemist and his wife did all the working of the Bank, also the Chemist shop. They took it by turns.

Next come Penton's house, the Wool shop and part of Messrs. Gibbs shop. Mr. Heading had the above as a draper's shop. After that Mr. Gibbs let the house now occupied by Mrs. Penton to Mr. Morgan who carried on as Monumental Mason.

The remainder I fitted up for the National Provincial Bank of England. They had it about three years.

Next come Mr. Edward Gibbs & Son, Ironmongers. This was carried on by Mr. William George, he had two men in the shop, Arthur Crisp and Mr. Millet. Mr. George had some very funny ideas, he had his shop windows full of skates at Reepham fair. The fair was the last day of June. He kept an iron grey colour pony which my Grandfather Hawes used to drive to Norwich, or North Elmham to bring stuff for the shop sometime I went with him.

*Parish Magazine August 1979*      A TRUE STORY (continued)

At Mr. George's death, Mr. Stephen Leeds took over the business, he had it about three years, and then Mr. Edward Gibbs took over the business.

Next come Mr. Grief's shop. This was a harness makers shop carried on by Mr. Lawson, he had an apprentice who is still alive, Mr. William Alford retired postman. Just up the road the shop occupied by Mr. Grief was a Cabinet Makers Business carried on by Mr. William Griggs. He also smoked meat. His workshop was on the first floor. Today can be seen his pair of doors which opened into the shop.

Across the road Mrs. Curtis shop also Plumes hair dressers shop. It's best for me to include the Miss Pask's shop also. All the above belonged to Mr. David Wright. There were three daughters, Celia, Kate and Polly. Polly when she was about eighteen went as Bar Maid at the Duke's Palace Hotel Norwich. The five sons were George John Robert and Peter. The Painter's shop was a very quaint place it had a pair of ledge doors facing the Towns End Plain. The walls were stone and bricks about 2 feet 6 inches high. The remainder of the wall was clay. The window had panes of glass about nine inches square. The roof was covered in with corrugated iron. Adjoining the painter's shop was a shop carried on by Celia and Kate they sold wool and fancy goods. The remainder of the building was the living department.

Before Pask's shop was put up it was a nice patch of grass railed in with iron railing about four feet high and a wide gate. The gate was wide enough for a horse and cart to pass through. There was the road direction post. On Reepham fair day, the last day of June, donkeys, ponies and a few horses were tethered to the iron railing as far as the old pound (the pound was a square brick building with no roof, about 8 or 9 feet square. This stood opposite Mrs. Curtis living house pound road.)

George and his sister Kate went to Foulsham, hired a house and building place and carried on business as a painter and glazier. The competition being keen he soon returned home to Reepham and opened up the old painter's shop as an ironmonger's shop.

Next come the cement plain and direction post on the Towns End corner during the Sun Inn alterations. Messrs. Steward and Patterson gave this piece to the road, it formerly was stables etc.

Next come the Sun Inn, this was a quaint public house with a thatch roof, please notice the chimneys now standing. The alterations to pub was carried out by Mr. William Watts, Builder, of Cawston, Mrs. Ann Boardman was the tenant. Mr. Arthur Crisp married the daughter and after a time took Cromer White Horse and brought up a large family.

Next comes Mrs. Jewell. This was occupied by Mr. Spruell (?) (*Spurrell*). He lived a quiet life, his wife was Sarah, sister to the Ironmonger opposite, William George.

*Parish Magazine October 1979*      A TRUE STORY (continued)

Next comes Mr. K. Chapman. This was occupied by Mr. Skillings. He did a little printing, his wife kept a school for girls.

Next comes the fish shop. This was occupied by William Hannant. He carried on business as a corn chandler, also sold coal by the hundred weights (at 1/- per hundred weight). He had two sons, William and Joe (?). Mr. Hannant was very friendly with Mr. Glister of Dalle (*Salle*). He was farm bailiff to the Jodrells. These two went to Norwich to see Madame Card's manager. Madame Card was in Norwich a week Glister paid £25 down. Hannant at once saw Brewer Bircham so he could have the Sun Barn. Bircham was delighted. He had the Barn cleared out, distempered the walls, and arches painted on the walls. This can be seen today. The barn was named Gothic Hall. The two men I remembered she melodized (*mesmerized?*) was George Fowler and Harry Dye. Fowler nursed and fed a doll all the evening. Harry Dye sang a song he never learnt.

Next comes the house next door. This was occupied by Miss Sands, a middle aged lady, she kept the Post Office and she kept two clerks, Miss Eliza Rudd (D. Chapman's Aunt), and John Hill. There was no entering the Post Office. There was a small door in the wall between the door and the window. Customers gave a tap on the small door and waited outside to be waited on.

The next comes Mrs. Coe's boot and shoe shop, the Club room above, the cart shed in the King's Arms etc. This was a house occupied by Tailor Rudd, D. Chapman's grandfather. I have been there and had tea more than once.

The next comes the King's Arms. This was occupied by Mr. Dickerson he had a large family. I have played with them up in their orchard. This orchard was the present Messrs. Irelands sale ground.

Now come the Bircham Institute. Formerly the Rev. E. Holley lived there. He was a decent size property owner. He owned Hardiment's shop. He had a path in the church yard along Riches living room windows to a door leading into his rectory grounds, three cottages and Messrs. Moy's work shop, also Mrs. Symonds' house and premises. Mrs. Symonds' lot was a barn, stables and coach house. The Rev. Holley had a carriage and a pair of horses. He kept a gardener and coachman, also three servants in the house. He kept a curate, the Rev. James. He lived at Whitwell Street.

After his death his wife did not live very long. Before she died her wish was that I should be one of her 6 bearers. As Mr. Robert Keeler who lived in the shop and house now occupied by Mrs. Beaver Norwich Road always did all first class undertaking, I had to go down to his for my rig up. I was then in my teens. The cloak was a few inches too long, so I had to take the rig up to my grandfathers Mr. James Hawes who was a tailor. This is the rig up tall hat with a silk band, cape, long cloak, and black gloves. Mrs. Holley was buried at Aylsham Burgh (grave very watery). When we come home I had a present given to me by Mr. Keeler, a golden sovereign.

*Parish Magazine November 1979* A TRUE STORY (continued)

The shop now occupied by Hardiments was occupied by Mr. Hart. I slightly remember him. Then come Charles Barnes. He had two apprentices. They lodged with my grandmother Hawes. Charles Barnes had high ideas. He soon got himself into the Bankruptcy Court. A large Marquee was erected in the market place and all his goods and shackles were sold by auction. This gave Mr. A. Roy a chance to move out of Carmans shop into the one recently occupied by Charles Barnes. The oldest Miss Roy opened up a school for girls. The entrance to the same was by the side door facing the post office. Mr. & Mrs. Eglington parents of Sewell Eglington Sen. now retired farmer, Pettywell Farm Hackford, was sent there to school. They Put Me Among The Girls.

Next come Mr. Riches' shop. This was occupied by Mr. John Gray who brought up a decent family. Mr. Gray was noted for his tobacco and tea. He had a Mr. Tomas Wajer (*?Wyer?Whur?*) who did most of taking out the goods. Mr. John Gray did a good liquor trade.

Next come the small shop against the church yard. This was occupied by Mr. W.A. Pask the well known tailor. He brought up a large family there he had a splendid workshop up at the back for his workman.

Now the iron fencing on the plain. This was put there by Mrs. Bircham the Brewer. The enclosure is kept clean by Miss Ann Bircham up to this day. I have been told there was stocks fixed there many years ago.

Now come St. Michael's Church. On the North side there is a good epigraph midway between the Church and the road wall.

There is an iron tablet on the south side of the tower to Doctor Williams of Glamorganshire he lived in the Bircham Institute house. He went to a dinner party at Booton Hall on horse back. On coming home through the ford at Booton he fell and broke his neck, I have years ago taken the dates on the tablet and the stone on Booton bridge and they both agree.

In the Church yard on the south side there are the remains of Hackford Church, Mr. H. C. Peck formerly of Reepham Now living at 50 Avondale Road, Gorleston on Sea, Norfolk has a good sketch of same. In a letter he wrote to me about two years ago, he said he would give the sketch to some one in Reepham. My father was parish clerk. I copied this from his grave stone :-

"Thomas Hawes Died March 1911 aged 77 years  
Clerk to this parish 49 years"

Before we new seated the church the seating accommodation was all box shape pews - most of them had the names painted on the doors which used the pews.

Reepham St. Mary church come next. My grandfather Job Henry Watson was clerk fourteen years.

I remember a gallery at the west end, I believe the choir used the gallery, Miss Elizabeth Neal played the harmonium, Rev. Wilkinson was the Rector for many years.

St. Mary's Church had some good donors in my recollection S. Bircham Esq of 46 Parliament Street London gave the organ. The Jodrell family of Salle Hall and the Rev. C. Marsh (*rector of Salle church*) could not agree, so the Jodrells attended Reepham Church. His tablet can be seen in the Chancel. The fine East Window bears the name of Richard Jodrell on it. The oak roof with lead was done by Messrs. Chapman and Son Builder Hanworth at the expense of Jodrell. I remember the Jodrells coming to Church Mr. Clements driving the pair of horses and phaeton.

A person standing on the road against the south east corner of St. Mary's church and walk towards the Duke of York pub thirty walking paces then stop. You will stand in three parishes Reepham, Whitwell and Hackford. Then turn yourself half to the left you will be looking at the archway which formerly led to the old Rectory, next come the large house occupied by Mr. Jarvis. This was formerly Reepham Rectory.

*Parish Magazine January 1980*

A TRUE STORY (conclusion)

Reepham Rectory was occupied by the Rev. M.M.U. Wilkinson. He had three daughters two of them are still alive.

The Rectory was built by a Lincolnshire firm so I have been told. Mr. James Rudd who worked on the Rectory and worked for me afterwards. Rev. Wilkinson came here as a bachelor.



Next come the Britons house and chemist shop. This was formerly occupied by Mrs. Hannah Bircham she had four sons, Thomas Herbert Arthur and Jesse, and I believe two daughters one was married to Mr. Curson lawyer's manager in King's Lynn. The other married Mr. Richmond who lived in Booton Hall. Mrs. Bircham carried on the Chemistry many years, she also sold newspapers. I when a boy about seven years old called for my grandfather's Norfolk News to take to Reepham Moor. Her son Jesse took over the Chemist shop etc. at her death. Jesse practically rebuilt the house and shop. I did all the alterations etc. all the mahogany shop fittings, counter etc. All the time my men and myself was there, my men had light refreshment at lunch time, one week at the George & Dragon, next week the Duke of York. I myself had mine with Jesse and his housekeeper, Mrs. Howell, a drop of port and sponge cake.

Jesse's portrait can be seen in the Band Hall Reepham. I must mention a few words respecting the Band Hall. Jesse built the Band Hall for a Sunday School with his friend Mr. John Walker. Walker found brains, Jesse found cash. I sold him the site for seventy pounds.

Now come Messrs. Laugs house (*Laine? Lang? Large?*), shop and garden. Harvey Munford who lived in the George and Dragon his eldest daughter had the whole of the garden for a studio. This had glass sides & roof and on the front in large letters EAST ANGLIAN PHOTOGRAPH COMPANY. She had a Mr. Vivian who travelled the country with her.

The shop and house was occupied by Mrs. Loades, tailor Pask's Aunt. She was housekeeper to Pork Springall a retired builder. In the shop she sold lime and whiting.

Next come Woodcock's Jewellery shop. This was used by Mr. Robert Keeler as a salt store. He sold by wholesale blocks of salt about 16 or 18 inches long and about 6 or 7 square.

Next come Mrs. Beavers. Mr. Beaver used the shop for grocery, furniture etc. I put this shop front in for him, this was formerly owned by Mr. Robert Keeler.

Next come Mr. Hardiment's shop. This was two houses. One was owned by Miss Breeze. The other was occupied by Mrs. Timbers. She had a shop and sold women's boots only. She had a son, his name was Jeremiah. When he came home from abroad with his wife and family they lived in Kerdistone Old Hall. I do not remember whether he had any of the farm. He had a son with a gunpowdered face. He went as a clerk with Messrs. Ireland.

The two houses, Miss Breeze and Mrs. Timbers, was bought by Mr. John Wright the painter. I altered them for him for his eldest daughter who married John Gray the boot maker.

Next come Mrs. Coe's house and the cottage adjoining. Mrs. Coe's house was occupied by Mr. James Fish Boot and Shoe Maker. He kept 3 or 4 workmen at the back. The cottage was occupied by Mr. Boon who was Mr. James Fish's foreman.

Next come Sidney Fenn's house. This was occupied by Mr. Dick Rodham. He kept a housekeeper, a Mrs. Cletheroe.

Mr. Dick Rodham had a bosom friend, his name was William George the Ironmonger. They had a perpenetive (*propensity?*) for roaming about the place visiting houses such as The Kings Arms, The Sun, The Greyhound, The Lord Nelson, The Swan, The Lamb, Whitwell Star, The Duke Of York, The Farriers Arms, The George & Dragon The Black Lion, The Crown and Booton Kings Head. The Reepham none such would be on the look out for these two gentlemen.

When Dick died he his property he left to his house keeper Mrs. Clitheroe and his niece Priscilla Parnell. This property has been sold during the last few days, Booton Kings Head, no later than May 30th 1953.