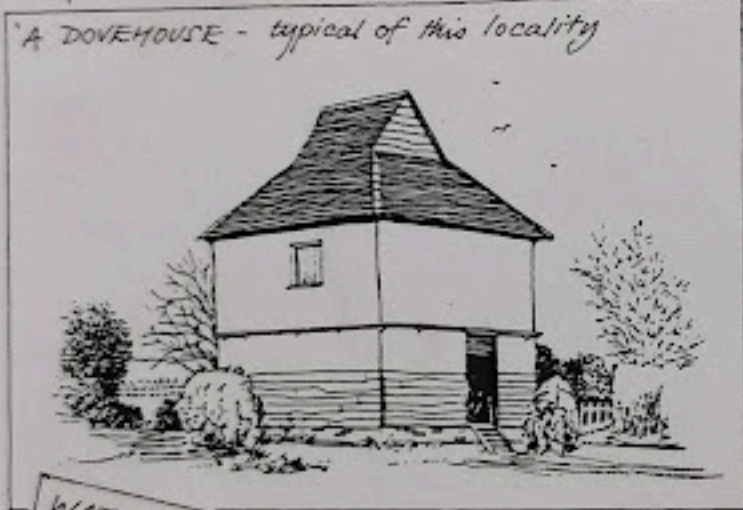


Rampisford Places



A dovehouse once stood on the site now used as a recreation ground in Church Lane.
 As well as supplementing the diet of the gentry, the produce was used in Rampisford, to help support the income of the vicar.



Compiled by O.C. Mayo

PART IV



THE OLD VICARAGE - PAMPISFORD

The old vicarage house at Pampisford was referred to in a document dated 1607 but a date of 1450 is said to have been discovered inside the building. The small cross-beamed house based on a brick plinth and now called "Fiddler's Folly", is almost certainly the old vicarage. By 1615 the old rectorial glebe lands were part of the property. The house was in a very poor, decaying condition by 1638 and the vicar, Reverend Selby, was admonished over the appalling state of it. In part, the very small size of the house led to its neglect, as the Pampisford incumbents refused to live there and it was abandoned as a vicarage after the 17th Century.



The following is an extract drawn from a number of 17th Century documents that relate to the old vicarage. The documents appear to be indentures drawn up between three couples and the following abstract was taken from them, (as far as they could be read), covering the years 1654/1655.

A compilation taken from several 17th Cent. documents in the County Archives which refer to the old Vicarage (now Fiddle's Jolly) estate.

"Arthur Turner milliner & Elizabeth his wife & William Lofts of Little Abington carpenter & his wife Hester & John Newton & Anne his wife Old Vicarage House Pampisford abutting the highway called High Street with a cove of land messuage & tenement lyeth between the vicarage house on the east & a land, Rotts Lane on the west side, 2½ acres of arable lands lying in the fields of Pampisford & ½ acres lying north unto the Chalk Pit abutting land in the occupation of Elizabeth Bitten widow, on the south side abutting the lord's land to the west and another ½ acre lyeth in Symingtons & abutteth unto Symingtons fields towards the south. Together with all barns, stables, edifices, buildings, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements, commons, comodities, profits & hereditaments bequeathed by John to William Lofts. circa 1650.

By 1681 the land was still held by the Lofts family but the property was occupied by Henry P....., baker. In 1783 it was occupied by 'a poor family' and in 1836, when Pampisford's vicar lived in Devon, the local Curate described it as a cottage "not more than 16' square".

The old vicarage became modernised, much altered and extended during the Victorian era and today is a privately owned residence.

The old glebe lands are shown as 'closes' on the inclosure map of 1799, but have in recent times been developed into a housing area for pensioners. The origin of the area has not been overlooked however, as the new road which serves the area is called Glebe Crescent.



.....

PAMPISFORD'S 19th CENTURY VICARAGE

The benefice at Pampisford was one of the poorest livings in the deanery and, coupled with the extremely poor state of the original tiny vicarage, the incumbency offered little attraction to any prospective candidate. By the 17th century very few of Pampisford's incumbents lived in the Parish. In 1707 the living amounted to £20 per year but the Vicar's expenses in travelling to and from the village reduced his income to less than £15. Traditionally the Vicar had always received some small tithes, for example in 1639 he received payment for cows, 10 shillings from the mill and 2 shillings and six pence from the dovecot. By the 19th century the living was still extremely small and in 1873 was worth only £78. Clearly only those with private means could take up the benefice.



To the
Rev. John Haviland.
1846

Vicarage House Intended
to be erected at Pampisford
County of Cambridge.

During the Victorian era when Anglicanism experienced a revival a number of quite enterprising men took on the vicarate at Pampisford and in 1846 the Reverend John Haviland decided it was time that the parish had a new vicarage. The site for the new scheme was to be an area of land lying next to the church. Plans were drawn up for the enterprise and a letter was sent to the "Governors of the Queen's Bounty", in the hope of persuading them to grant monies towards the costs of building the vicarage. The following is an extract from the letter:

The yearly benefice is £80 being next to certain Rectorial Glebe lands. Inhabitants about 351. The incumbent of the vicarage has title to the fee-simple in the right of his church, of the land on which the vicarage is to be built. The land having been exchanged by an award of the Tythe Commissioners for other land formerly belonging to the benefice.

Queen Anne's Bounty approved to the extent of providing £836.12.0d towards the building to be erected on the Glebe Benefice.

The Governors would not however take responsibility for expenses beyond that figure.

John Webster of Cambridge was appointed builder although the final estimate came to £919.

The house was smaller than its present size but it included a coach house, hayloft, stables, knife house, ash pit and open shed. Although such a house would prove an attraction to future incumbents the actual benefice remained impoverished and once more the situation became one whereby only men with their own private income could serve the parish. The situation became even more acute in the latter part of the 19th century when the already over-large vicarage was extended. (Probably by the Reverend Brocklebank, although it appears he later took up residence in the living area of the School House, now called the "Old School House").



In 1915-16 the Venerable Archdeacon Edward Miller of Foxton Hall, and prospective vicar of Pampisford, arrived to view the church and its environs. By then the house was in an appalling state and needed a considerable amount of refurbishing. The following is an extract from a letter sent by Mr. Miller to the "Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty".

there is no reason why anyone should wish to live in this little, rather remote village. The shooting is all taken up & the place is off the main line to the golf links at Royston. The position of the vicarage to the church is one of the main attractions of the place & were this to be disturbed, I would cease to have any further interest in the place.

A report was also sent in on the condition of the plumbing and the awfulness of the sewerage system. In any case the Governors thought that the vicarage was too large for the benefice and in their opinion also, the hot-water system that had been recommended was far too extravagant.

Interestingly, a letter from the Bishop of Ely's Palace supported Mr. Miller's requests and defended the expenses on the grounds that

in these days when servants are difficult to get it is almost necessary in a large house that water be laid on.

The Bishop was keen on encouraging Mr. Miller because he had private means and could at least take on the meagre living.

Mr. Miller went on further to explain that his acceptance of the living depended on his success at gaining a grant for the necessary work that needed to be carried out - the costs of which approximated to £200. That in any case according to Mr. Miller, would only bring the house up to "a moderate degree of comfort".

Coulsons of Cambridge drew up the final estimate but, in reality, the vicarage required an immense amount of work to bring it up to proper residential standards.

Replacement of the sewage system and completely new drainage was of paramount importance. The internal plumbing was to be completely overhauled and the bath pumiced and re-enameled. New toilets, new kitchen ranges, various other new fittings were required along with total redecoration throughout. All the stained glass was to be removed and replaced by clear glass in most rooms and the greenhouse was to be refurbished. A gas engine existed in the stable but work needed to be carried out for the installation of petrol-air gas.

The final estimate came to to £341 (probably an under estimate); the Governors however agreed only to pay for the most urgent repairs and approved costs up to the figure of £134. Whether the work was ever carried out or not, it's difficult to say. The Reverend Miller became Vicar in 1916 but by 1917 he had left Pampisford.

A succession of incumbents were to follow; the large house and garden proved an impossibility. In 1936 for example the Reverend Austin Lee moved into a flat converted from the stables (now St. John's Cottage) to avoid the high rates. He resigned the following year because he had received no payment during the time the vicarage was being used to house Basque refugees - mostly children - from the Spanish Civil War.

The Basque Hostel



"MY LIFE IN ENGLAND."

Alvaro's Essay (Translated).

"When I arrived in England and saw the motor buses, flying-boats and all, I began to cry because the country was very different from Spain, but I calmed down a bit soon.

That day I looked for my sister and my other friends. On the loudspeaker Sancho announced that the doctor and his assistant were coming to inspect the tents to see which was cleanest. We always kept our tent cleanest of all, but the jealous Nationalist boys always came and spoilt it. But we always brought it off with our tent.

After a good long time they sent for us to have an injection, because we were soon to go to Pampisford. We went by motor-bus to the station, and then by train. When we arrived we all went to wash our faces. We arrived, but not at Pampisford: it was Cambridge—and there they took us to a big club-room and gave us tea, which I called 'Coffee cinders' because it was black like coffee.

After tea we went in motors to Pampisford. We arrived, and there first I saw the Señoritas waiting for us. We went in, and it was a lovely house and they showed me where I was to sleep, and night came, and I slept.

Next morning we all got up and washed, and the breakfast bell rang. Some ran one way and some another, because no one knew where the dining-room was. At last Señorita arrived saying 'Why didn't you come to breakfast?' and we said 'Because we don't know where the dining-room is,' and we all walked down to breakfast behind her.

After a time we all began to play in the garden. It was a very big garden for us 29 to play in. I was happy in that house.

Some days after, a gentleman came to teach us football. Another day he brought his boys' club and they all came in football boots, and we, as we didn't know the game, just kicked about and we all came out wounded from that game. But in the end we won 1-0.

A good deal later we all got football boots, and later still jerseys. On Sundays we had to go for walks because if we shouted in the garden the clergyman came out of the church because it was close beside the church.

Winter came and every day snow fell and every day we went out to play in the snow. And one day I went with one or two others to make a snowman. When he was finished Señorita M. took a photograph of us and the man smoking a beautiful pipe.

Many thanks to all who have done things for us. I like England very much, and when I return to Spain I shall say 'I have been in England.' "

FOR two years a small community of Basque Children have been our guests here. Cambridge has become familiar with the little black-eyed, black-haired boys and girls, and has enjoyed watching them dance and sing. Those who have been in close contact with them have felt that there is something about these children which made their sojourn an event of extreme interest.

Mr. Austin Lee's generous offer of Pampisford Vicarage relieved us, for the time at least, of further house-hunting. From June 17th, 1937, to January 18th, 1938, it became "The Basque Hostel."

They arrived under tragic circumstances, racked and nervous; the peace and quiet of a country village, in six months, redeemed and restored them.



Mrs. Ryle describes the preparations at the Vicarage in her account of early days at Pampisford.

"For some weeks before we had been very busy in this old Vicarage. Most of the rooms had not been lived in for some time, and the house looked derelict and sad. It was decided to ask for volunteers to clean, paint and repair what we could. The student societies interested in the children found most of the helpers, but there were many others. One man, doing a full day's work, came out each evening and did all the rather considerable carpentering needed. This included the removal and replacing of floor-boards and joists that had dry rot, the building of a hand-rail to the loft-ladder, and many repairs to doors, windows, and stairs.

There were usually from ten to fifteen helpers working all day, and on one proud day we had a complete boat-crew. They came fortified with much beer, which I hope helped to take away the taste of the sooty plaster that they washed from the kitchen ceiling. The problems we had to solve caused us much amusement, and a number of specialists had to be appointed to find out the details of various branches of house decoration. When a crisis in sanitation arose a girl was discovered in her bathing-dress half way down the main drain trying with her bare hands to unstop it. The only work we did not undertake was the putting into working order of the drainage system, which was in a very bad state, and the installing of electric light to the top floor. For these we had to get in professional help and this accounted for a great deal of the initial expense. I believe everyone was very happy preparing the house. The work was quite hard, but each room as it was cleaned and painted and had the worst cracks in the ceiling pasted over, the floor stained, the curtains hung, and the beds made up, was a definite and satisfactory step towards the peace and happiness we hoped these children would find. A special word is due to the determination of one student who, for some time, tackled unaided the wilderness of the vegetable garden. Here he dug day after day—and each lunch-time we would ask him how many weeks of potatoes and greens he had provided for. Little did we guess that the greens would not be eaten by our children, though I believe a heaven-sent goat got in and ate the hearts out of many rows of cabbages the day the children left. The furnishing of the house was done almost entirely by gifts and loans, and when it was ready it looked quite home-like. The children came from their reception and tea in Cambridge late in the afternoon and, although tired, were gravely courteous and self-possessed. Each carried a small kit-bag and as soon as they had been shown round, the little girls settled down with their dolls.

Our group of 29 children was composed of several families of 2, 3 or 4 members, of ages varying from seven to fourteen.

One family—two big boys and three younger sisters—were born leaders and a dominating element from the first. Their father, a factory worker in San Sebastian, had suffered persecution under Gil Robles, until the popular front gave him an opportunity of organising the Syndicates in Bilbao. Always losing jobs for his politics, frequently beaten up by the police, the children and their mother saw horrors which it is not lawful for a child to see. Sympathy and wise handling at the Hostel restored them to normal childhood, and developed their sensitive artistic natures. But for a year a sleeping draught was necessary to save them from nightmares. The family ambition is a united home in England, but at present their mother is content that her boys are receiving a solid English training on a country farm.



EDUCATION AT PAMPISFORD.

By E. W. HAWKINS.

"The vicarage at Pampisford was roomy and soundly built, but with thirty children eating and sleeping, working and playing in it, the school-master had to look elsewhere for a class-room. He found one to dream of, in the loft over the stables, reached by an outside wooden stairway, whose top landing offered a splendid view over the church-yard and the fields beyond. Under the low rafters two rows of desks ran from end to end of the loft, parting in the middle to skirt an old-fashioned iron stove. Romanticism had its moments of faint-heartedness, it is true, when the July sun turned the loft to an oven, or the wind rushed under the eaves, but in July we soon learned to retreat to the shade on the lawn with a story-book, and in December to curl around the stove.

Our time-table began at 9 o'clock, when the two junior classes began lessons, leaving the seniors to do an hour's house-work before joining in the morning's work in the loft. The mid-morning break for exercise and cold douche was followed by two more lessons before lunch at 1 o'clock. After lunch and an hour's "quiet time," the afternoon was usually given up to painting, music, or handicrafts, with the help of patient, devoted band of outside workers, too numerous to refer to in detail.

Rosita Bal was a pupil of de Falla, a brilliant pianist and a composer. Her weekly visit and singing class every Thursday was a great event at Pampisford. I frequently drove her. Our arrival in the car was greeted by children at every window and door and she was smothered with hugs and kisses.

In 1946 E.C. Sherwood, an ex-headmaster and Vicar of Whittlesford from 1933-1945, moved to Pampisford and turned the vicarage into a training house for ordinands during which time the vicarage became known as the "College of St. Andrews".

From 1947 Pampisford Church has been held in plurality with Babraham and in recent times the vicar has resided in the vicarage house at Babraham. The church sold Pampisford vicarage in 1960 to a private buyer and today it is still in use as a private residence.

FAMPISFORD RECREATION GROUND

The need for a recreation ground for the village children arose at least as far back as 1879 when Mr. W. Kent (a tenant of Mr. Parker-Hamond) was approached by the church charities about the possibility of hiring his grass paddock, north of the church, as a recreation ground. It was felt that it would also be of use to the school children. Nothing appears to have come of it as a field was eventually hired from Mr. J.W. Scruby of Rectory Farm at £1.0.0. rent. However, no permanent site for a recreation ground had been found.

In 1895 a complaint had been received by the Parish Council and the Clerk of the Council was instructed to draw the attention of Sergeant Baker to the lawlessness of a band of men from Sawston, who frequented the parish on Sunday mornings with dogs for the purpose of poaching etc. Presumably such activity influenced local youth and several incidents of stone throwing and misbehaviour were reported. A further complaint was made to Sergeant Baker about lads from Pampisford who assembled near the church and amongst the congregation, and who disrupted divine service by shouting.

It was felt by the Parish Council that a recreation ground providing activities for the local youth would be advisable and Mrs. Hardwick (College Farm) was approached as to the viability of leasing the Grove for this purpose.

Nothing came of the suggestion and, though several large hints were dropped to local landowners, by 1896 the Parish Council were forced to abandon the idea as no land could be found for hire.

In more recent times, as many parishioners recall, the field, north of Town Lane, known as the 'Cricket Meadow' was used as a recreation area. Numerous activities took place there such as football, cricket, picnics, village feasts and even motor racing. This meadow however was eventually ploughed up and the problem of finding an alternative site arose. By 1960 however, the meadow north of the church was once more considered as a possibility. Eventually an agreement was made with Mr. Binney and a lease drawn up. Two banks of swings, a slide and a rocking horse were bought at a cost of £218 and erected, transforming the former grazing area into a new recreation ground.

In 1979 a piece of land belonging to the Church Charity was cleared of its old and dying woodland and a small section was sold for housing and the remainder hired to the Parish Council for use and development as a recreation ground. This venture has been very successful so far and further activities are envisaged for the future.



(Tenniel, 1853, reproduced by permission of the Proprietors of 'Punch')

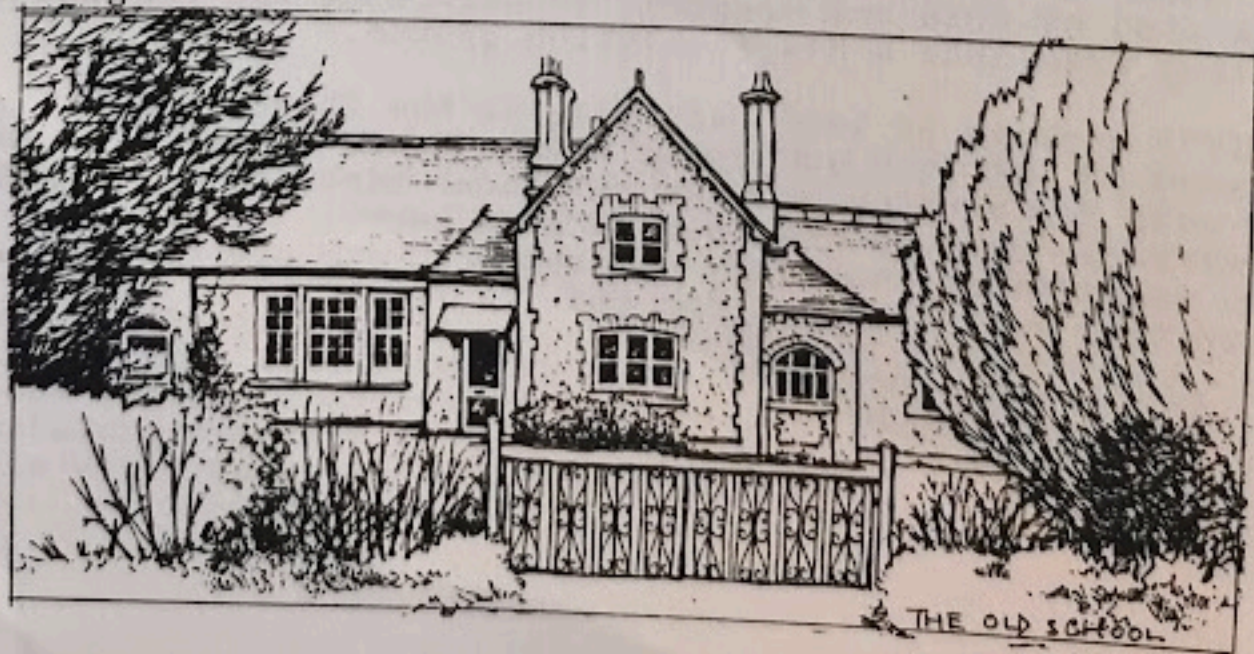
WHO SHALL EDUCATE? or, OUR BABES IN THE WOOD
 Churchman and Nonconformist battle for the right to educate the two babes (the young—who meanwhile go largely uneducated).

PAMPISFORD SCHOOLS

In the early 19th Century the idea of educating the poor was generally regarded as a dangerous notion by the English ruling classes. Religious Charity schools existed but they were few in number. Dame schools charging a penny a week were far more common but served the purpose of child-minding rather than education. Any impetus for educating the poor in England came from the desire to instruct people in religion, which usually led to rivalries between the Church of England and the Non-conformist for the right to educate.

No record of a school exists in Pampisford prior to the 19th Century but by 1807 a Sunday school was operating. In 1818 two schools teaching about 30 children existed in the village; these two would have been under the control of religious bodies. In 1825 a school was being run by a dissenter and in 1833 a lady resident in the parish paid the costs of running an infants' school and a day school for 16 girls.

By 1847 the (old) School House had been built by William Parker-Hamond. This was supported by local subscription and payments from the pupils; there were about 50 children attending.



At this time the job of a village school teacher was not taken at all seriously. Wages and conditions were invariably poor and village teachers often illiterate. The education received by the children, especially girls, was extremely elementary though discipline could be strict. Any absence could mean expulsion, if not adequately explained.

Despite its elementary nature, education was not free until 1891 and children paid a fee. Costs for children of the labouring poor were one pence or two pence per week. At Pampisford in 1886 the school teacher was warned not to admit children who had not paid their fees (over the quarter year in 1886 the collective fee figure amounted to £5.0s.3d)

England dragged behind many other countries when it came to education, but with the growth and development of her industrial society it was realised that an educated working class was necessary. The fear that England's industrial position in the world and even her national security might be threatened by an ignorant working class led towards Forster's Education Act of 1870. This was to put elementary education within the reach of every British child.

The running of schools was to be undertaken by elected bodies known as School Boards, but, as no strict guidelines had been laid down by the Government Act regarding religious education, School Board elections became the focus of considerable competition among the various secular and religious factions. Control of the school board meant control of the course of education.

Even after the Education Act the school in Pampisford was still paid for by private subscription and in religious affairs the influence of the parish incumbent remained. A great deal therefore would depend upon the attitude of any particular vicar that served the parish. For example, in 1877 the Reverend Prior refused to continue to run Pampisford's evening classes - began for adults by Reverend Lockwood in 1873 - because he believed that education did more harm than good.

The School house (i.e. Old School House) was rented to the Board at a nominal fee by Colonel R. Hamond, who extended and improved the school in 1876-77, during which time it was closed. He also installed gymnastic equipment in the school yard for boys. Being a military man he took an interest in physical fitness and expressed the hope that in the years to come Pampisford's schoolboys would prove so strong that they would never be rejected by a military doctor if ever they should volunteer to become defenders of the country.

Methods of financing and controlling education in Pampisford led to a number of disputes over a period of years. The following extract from the local press illustrates the strength of feeling - which was by no means limited to this village alone.

1 August 1884 - School Board Elections at Pampisford

" - Last Monday, 28th July, was the first time a contest of any kind had taken place in this apparently quiet little spot. The school has been hitherto supported on the voluntary system, chiefly by Mr. W. Parker-Hamond, Mr. E.J. Mortlock with the addition of small subscriptions from a few of the residents. There has lately, however, been much dissention among them, and threats of withdrawing subscriptions have been made, one of the results of which is a determination to throw the school upon the rates. As the building was erected by the late Mr. Parker-Hamond and enlarged by the present Mr. Parker-Hamond, he will be able if he chooses, to close it, and thus compel the erection of another elsewhere. If this is done, it must of course come out of the pocket of the rate payers. The gentlemen nominated as the Board were Mr. W. Parker-Hamond, Mr. E.J. Mortlock, Reverend A.H.D. Hutton, Vicar, Reverend A.E. Clark-Kennedy Curate in charge, Messrs T.O. Kent, J Rush, A.F. Hurry, H.J. Waldock. (Mr. E.J. Mortlock and Mr. Waldock withdrew.)

The result of poll was - Rush, 59; Hamond, 52; Hurry, 48; Kent, 45; Clark-Kennedy, 15; and Hutton, 5. These figures do not, however, convey an accurate estimate of the public opinion in the Parish. There are only about 80 voters, and of these only 45 voted. Mr. Rush's numbers were obtained by plumpers from his own men, several of whom were strangers. Hence he had but few voters (each voter having 5 votes). Mr. Kent had most of his own men's votes, some being plumpers. The other candidates had almost, without exception, split votes and therefore show public opinion to have been on their side, much more than appears at first sight."

The school minute book for Pampisford dates from 1885 when Colonel T. Hamond was appointed Chairman of the School Board and the Reverend Clark-Kennedy Vice-Chairman. The costs of running the village school at that time are noted in the minute book.

<u>Costs Pampisford School (QUARTERLY) 1885</u>	
Colonel Hamond - half-years rent	£2.0.0
Mr W. G. Smith - schoolmaster: quarters/salary	22.0.0
E. C. Smith - clerks salary	10.0.0
Miss M. Smith - monitoresses salary	1.15.0
Mr. Mouley - coals	4.0.0
Mr. J. Crampton - stationery	1.2.7
Mr. Fletcher - Cotton & Co.	7.3½
James Clark - cleaning closets	5.0
Harriet Goodwin - cleaning & sweeping school	4.0

In 1893 Colonel Hamond sold Pampisford Hall and the Estate along with the school-house, which contained the school room and living accomodation combined. The Reverend Brocklebank, Vicar of Pampisford Church from 1891, took over the school and by 1895 became Chairman of the School Board. Mr. James Binney, the new owner of Pampisford Hall became Vice-Chairman. The Inspectors' Report of 1896 gives a reasonable impression of the school at this time.

Inspector's Report.

December 1896

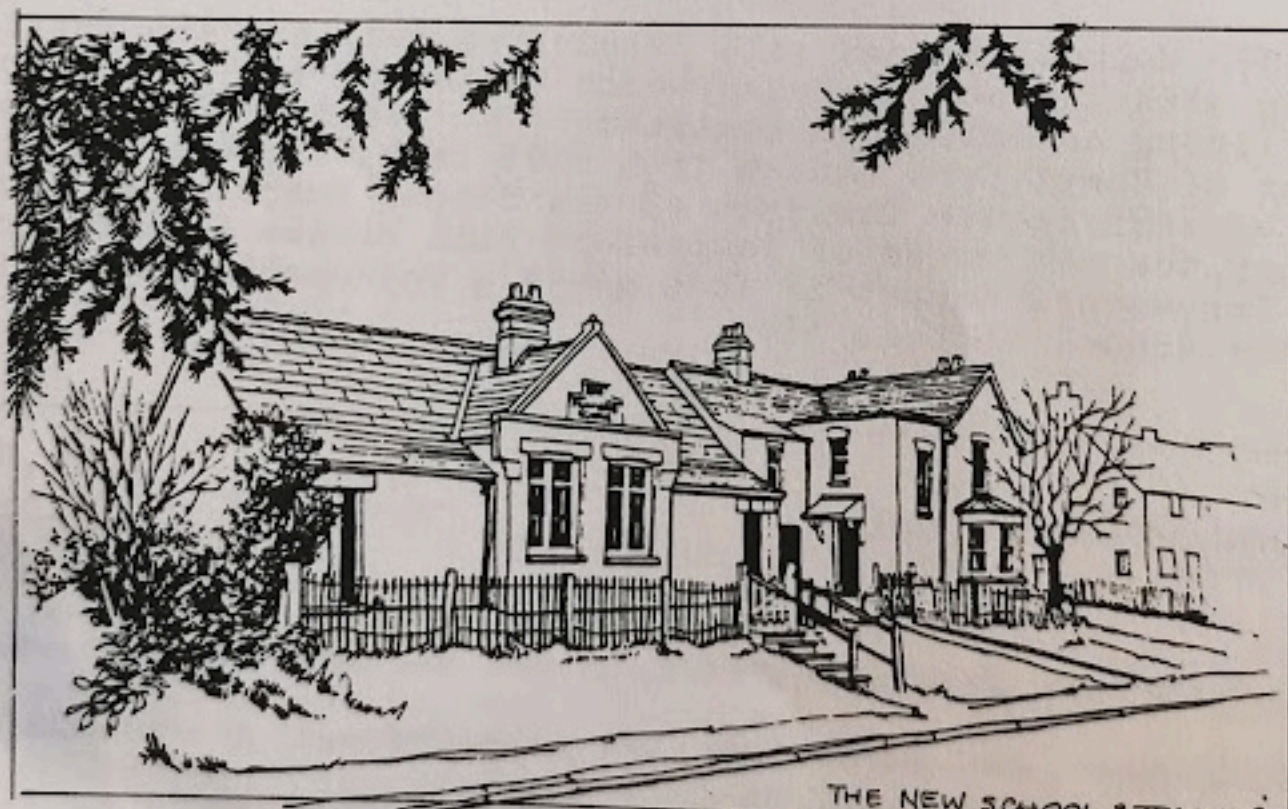
School in excellent order, I am struck by the very extensive improvements in playground & buildings which make this a model country school.

The mistresses house & back-yard are now satisfactory. Desk renewal is needed, some of them are shaky & delapidated.

The Reverend Brocklebank lived in the school house but rented out the school room area to the School Board at £24 per annum for use during school hours. In October 1898 he gave notice to give up the premises and notwithstanding that he was the Chairman of the School Board, he refused to attend Board Meetings. The situation became totally unsatisfactory and the future of the school uncertain. No conclusions were arrived at about where the pupils would be housed and attempts by the Board to accommodate the children at the school in Sawston failed.

The Board then made efforts to ascertain what increase in rent the Reverend might require for the continued use of the school room or, if he would prefer it, what price he would require for the sale of the entire premises.

It is difficult to know precisely how this state of affairs had arisen. A speculative guess would be that a clash between the two powerful personalities of Mr. Binney and the Reverend Brocklebank had occurred. Whatever the reasons, the school board and the Reverend Brocklebank simply could not come to terms. In frustration Mr. Binney offered to build a new school in conformity with the Education Acts and by 1899 he challenged the Reverend Brocklebank's position as Chairman of the School Board.



THE NEW SCHOOL & TEACHERS HOUSE

A new School Board was formed in August 1899 with Mr. Binney appointed as Chairman and Mr. Hudson (of the Brewery) as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Binney's proposed lease for the new school was accepted by the Board and October 1899 the school furniture from the old school was repaired and taken into the new building which had been erected next door.

By January 1900 the new school was almost ready but the response from the population was poor. The new school had a reputation for being icily cold and many parents were reluctant to send children for fear of illness. The school inspector noted that although the school was light and airy its fireplaces were of very poor type. The state of the school desks and furniture were on the inspector's list of regular complaints to the Board. The condition of the playground and its 'offices' were also regarded as unsatisfactory. Especially pressing was the question of dividing the playground into two areas - boys in one section and girls in the other. This needed to be done "without delay" according to the inspector.

Although Pampisford's new school was not without its difficulties, Mrs Smith (nee' Scrivener), who had begun teaching at Pampisford's former school in 1890, continued to teach Pampisford's children, often in very trying circumstances. Years after the school was opened the heating was still considered to be quite inadequate.

In 1910 Mrs. Smith left the school after 20 years of teaching. Many changes had taken place and at times her poorly paid job must have seemed impossible. In the same year the school inspector reported that "in no neighbouring parish do equally bad conditions obtain".



Boys were frequently absent from school because they worked in the fields, - during harvest especially, - and were also required to act as beaters for Mr Binney. Mrs. Smith, when Head Teacher, had often recorded poor attendance in the school log book. Sometimes the cause was illness such as diptheria, whooping cough, measles and influenza. Such outbreaks could close the entire school. Occasionally however, children absented themselves when the local fairs and feasts were due. Although a holiday was not granted for Pampisford's annual flower show, - (at one time a very successful village event) most children took a day off. Yet another favourite excuse for not going to school was the coming of the Spike Fair.

Nevertheless, medals were given for full attendance and considerable trepidation was felt by the children when Mr. Binney made his regular calls to inspect the school register.

A punishment book was kept to record any disciplinary action taken in the school by the teacher. None of the misdemeanours recorded were of a serious nature, nevertheless one boy who was continually naughty was sent away to an industrial home in Devon.

It was not unusual for children under 4 years of age to be admitted to the school; the school Teacher and a Monitress were responsible for covering a wide range of age groups. Lessons consisted of the three 'Rs', geography, a good deal of scripture, singing, rush work, needlework, drill and special topics such as 'The caterpillar', 'A Coalmine', or 'Evergreens'. Nature walks and rambles in the local fields and woods became an integral part of the children's education. Among the many songs sung by the children were 'The fox and grapes', 'Home sweet Home' and 'Try, try, try again'.

By 1915 medical and dental inspections became a regular part of school life and only rarely was a child sent home for being 'too dirty', to be allowed back only when 'properly clean'. Some of today's residents still recall the terrifying visit of the dentist - Mr. Everard. The children's dental treatment was carried out, there and then on the premises in a small area of the classroom not being used for teaching. Any moans or cries of pain could of course be easily heard by the remaining pupils who were trying to concentrate on their lessons!

The medical inspectors who visited the school must have found a reasonably healthy set of children. Very few comments were made, apart from one or two regarding children who needed cod liver oil and malt which was to be administered daily by the teacher.

Happier times too were recorded in the school log-book, such as Christmas time, when the children would trim a Christmas tree supplied by Mr. Binney and receive gifts from Lady Margery Binney - usually a box of chocolates.

TEACHERS

1886	Mr. Smith was the Schoolmaster. He put in a request for linoleum and carpets for the house but this was turned down by the School Board. In December Mr. Smith quit his service as Schoolmaster.
1887	Mr and Mrs Garland were appointed. Salary at £72 per annum in quarterly payments, plus house value £8 per annum free. A fair quantity of coals were also supplied gratis. The Garlands resigned after one year.
1889	Williams served one year
1890	Miss Scrivener appointed at £12 per quarter plus house and coal supplied in moderation
1898	Miss Scrivener married Mr. J. Smith ARCO Organist at the Church but continued to teach at the school for the next 12 years.
1910	Miss Margaret Greaves
1913	Miss Rose Andrews
1916	Miss Maggie Ross (temporary)
1917	Miss Ada May Beck
1923	Miss Ethel Mabel Smith
1925	Miss May Alice Trussel
1934	Miss D Harris



BACK ROW: Vic Freestone. Jack Walker. Pamela Octone. — Salmon. Nelly Mynott.
 Miss Trussel. Irene Ashman. John Cope. Edna Wright. Frank Wright.
 Frank Freestone.

FRONT ROW: Joan Belsham. John (Dick) Brown. Pamela Brown. Beryl Day.
 — Salmon. Philip Brown. Walter Walker.

Later in the school's history, conditions improved and in Miss Trussels's time the children received new caps and badges. It was a marvellous excuse for a school photo and some of the children depicted who still live in the village, have very happy memories of the little school.

By 1922 older pupils attended school in Sawston and after 1930 were sent to Sawston Village College. Pampisford school closed in 1963 when all the pupils were transferred to Sawston. Fortunately a glimpse into the minutiae of every day life at the school in Pampisford is recorded in the school log book which was kept from 1900 to 1958 and is now in the County Archives. The school building is now rented for use as the Village Hall, a nursery school being part of its many activities.

Both the Teacher's House which stands next to the Village Hall and the Old School House are at present in use as private residences.

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PAMPISFORD POST OFFICE

During the 18th Century, when general communications in Great Britain began to be improved, the most important site for receiving and distributing local messages and information was at the Inn at Bournebridge. By 1847 however, letters and mail for the area, including Pampisford, were received at Sawston and no mention is made of a post office in Pampisford until the mid 1890's when Pampisford had its own sub-post-mistress. Just prior to the First World War Mr. Jack Brand, who had been an Inspector on London Transport, came to the village to run the post office in the High Street. The post office also sold sweets and groceries and was to become a hive of activity where all the local people could meet to exchange gossip and news about village affairs.

The post office took on a role of special responsibility at the outbreak of World War I in 1914 when post offices were ordered to remain open day and night for the relaying of service messages and other kinds of information. Mr. W. J. Brand kept a diary during the critical years of 1914-1918 in which he recorded his daily work at the post office as well as numerous incidents relating to the village life at that time. The following summary is taken from part of Mr. Brand's diary by kind permission of Mr. William Brand of Duxford, grandson of Mr. W. J. Brand.

Mr. Brand begins by noting the reaction of the village when the war notices were hung up outside the post office..... "Men came out of the "Chequers" to read the notices and before long half the village population was gathered in the High Street". Later another notice was hung up, this time by the Rev. De Candole, who informed the village that the church would be open every morning for the reading of the litany throughout the duration of the war.



War Time Aug 1914
Army Notices

Mr and Mrs Binney were away in Switzerland when War was declared. The parish church had adopted a custom common throughout churches in England at that time, of playing the National Anthem at the conclusion of church services. Alas, on hearing this innovation on his return, Mr Binney became incensed. He and his family left the church, Mr. Binney declaring in no uncertain terms that "the church wasn't a theatre!" Henceforth the custom was no longer practised in Pampisford.

Recruitment for the military during the early part of the war was done on a purely voluntary basis. Mr. Binney and Mr. Huddleston were speakers at one of the first public meetings to be held locally to encourage men to enlist. Only 2 men from Sawston and 1 from Pampisford volunteered and despite the visit of a bugle band and recruiting squad to the village, it was some time before locals were encouraged sufficiently to join up in any numbers. Mr. Brand's son Jack, who was only 15½ years old, was one of the first to join.

Some of the recruits were seen off at Pampisford station. The Station was also a stopping-off point for soldiers from the front who were wounded and were on their way to hospitals at Whittlesford and Great Chesterford. Many of the women volunteers who worked for the Red Cross at the local hospitals came from Pampisford.

Lady Margery Binney sent parcels regularly to Pampisford men who were fighting at the front and even Pampisford's school children raised £1. 2s. 4d for wounded soldiers by holding a Maypole display.

By 1915 a battle in the skies had begun and some consternation arose when a foreign plane flew over the village. It came to rest in a field of barley near Babraham Bridge and was later discovered to be French. In October of 1915 a Zeppelin flew over the village from Duxford towards Pampisford Station. The Zeppelins were greatly feared; most raids were at night and all lights in the village had to be obscured. Although most of the bombing raids were over Essex and London, the noise of guns and explosions often kept the village awake all night. Pheasants would screech and dogs would bark, all adding to the general meleé.

In 1916 a telegram arrived at the Post Office summoning the Lieut-Colonel Hudson of Pampisford to Buckingham Palace to receive the D.S.O. for his war efforts. Mrs Hudson too worked tirelessly throughout the war, arranging sewing groups and other work in the village to help support the war. Many village women worked especially hard during this period and in 1916 41 women volunteered to help bring in the harvest.



By 1917 when Ted Fison, Pampisford's butcher, left for the war the old butcher's shop on the High Street had to close as there was no one else to replace him. The Post Office, with its crucial role during war time, kept going of course but other hardships in the village were recorded by the Post Master. The shortage of fuel was a case in point; although coal was rationed at half a hundredweight per week for each household, in reality there was no coal available from anywhere. The village shivered - imagine then everyone's surprise when three coal carts rumbled through the village. Mr. Brand describes the scene.....

"The coal had arrived! But no, the carts went on until they came to the vicarage gates into which they turned. The Reverend Archdeacon Miller was having 8 tons put into the cellars. He had employed the carts to carry it from the railway - he had bought it direct from the collieries, and did his venerableship think to give or lend to his poorer brethren a few buckets full?.....No fear!"

Another area of shortage was food; potatoes were not available and this was causing hardship. Great resentment grew, however when it was learned that truck loads of potatoes were being carried through Whittlesford Station to London. They had been

held back from the locals for sale in London by profiteers! Even ferrets became a lucrative source of income during the first World War. Previously ferrets would fetch about 2/6d but Jack Curtis, Pampisford's Constable, bellringer and sexton was able to sell ferrets at 8 shillings each! They were shipped to France to be used as rat catchers in the trenches.

Food was so short that very old hens could fetch outrageous prices on Cambridge Market. There was no fruit available to make Christmas Puddings in 1917 and even the 49 wounded men at Whittlesford Hospital went short of food and were grateful for a score of eggs that were sent to them from Pampisford.

Colonel Hudson went on through the war and received the Order of Leopold in 1917. His division however, suffered heavy losses in the Spring of 1918 when 17,000 men went into battle, sadly only 4000 men surviving.

By July 1918 the government sent out instructions to all local Special Constables and Officials stating that all wagons and carts were to be commandeered for use in carrying the elderly or infirm to places of safety. Fear of invasion was rife and further to government instructions all picks, shovels and saws owned by the local populace were to be counted and kept as weaponry if necessary. Gates into fields were to be removed, rough roads cut and gaps through hedges made to create escape routes via Sawston, onto Whittlesford, Newton, Harston and then Wimpole Park which had been selected as a camping ground for the local refugee population.

Fortunately matters never reached the point of invasion and by September 1918 the Armistice was signed. Pampisford heard about the Armistice from "young Freeman", a brewery clerk who called in at the Post Office. "Mr. Hudson had an officer from Duxford Airfield with him at the brewery. The officer had heard the news on the wireless at the aerodrome and had gone straight to the brewery to find out how much beer the brewery could supply to the aerodrome!" Later Mr. Kefford the post-man called to say that all the flags were out at Sawston. The brewery workers were given a day off and one week's extra wages in celebration. A Grand Concert in aid of Christmas presents for the troops was given by American personal stationed at Duxford. The Concert, held in the village school, was a great success.

The War was over at last but on a more serious note there were those who would not return to the village, having given their lives in the struggle.

1920

July 4

It is Sunday evening. People are standing by the church gates and in the churchyard. In the church the organ is playing and the congregation is singing. Then after a few moments silence the doors open the people file out - then the choir. For our War Memorial to the men and boys - so many were boys - is to be unveiled by Mr. Binney this evening. And it is an impressive and sad ceremony - the weeping women placing their wreaths at the foot of the memorial, the vicar in his robes, the surpliced choristers, the bareheaded men.

And as I look round there is a lump in my throat and pity in my heart - pity for the poor weeping mothers - Mr. Turner for her boy Mr. Dyer for hers, Mr. Hooker for two. And I thank God our

Jack is home - "safe at home" for there he is singing in the choir as he used to do before the war - six years ago - what a terrible long six years it seems!

And now it is over - this "The Last Scene of All": We have done our best to keep in remembrance those who died for us. Some are sleeping in honoured graves, others lie deep down in mother earth - no man knows where.

And as I write my thoughts go back to the early days of the war when the Recruiting parties marched through the village, laughing, chatting, singing. And it was nearly always the same song - "Tipperary - its a long long way to Tipperary, its a long, long way to go" Yes, many of them poor fellows were starting on that long journey never to return.

W. J. Brand

THE WAR MEMORIAL

After the First World War the Memorial was erected to the memory of those who lost their lives. A touching account of the first service held at the Memorial is given by Mr. Brand in his Diary written at the time - see opposite.



Mr. Brand continued as post master at Pampisford until his death in 1922. For the next 20 years the post office was run by Mr and Mrs Beere and after that time by Mr and Mrs Inglesant. The old post office finally closed about 1950. Mr and Mrs Beere junior, who lived in the old vicarage, opposite the "Chequers", then began to sell sweets and small items from their front room. The business grew and application was made and granted for the running of a post office along with a general store. The shop didn't survive the supermarket era and closed down in the mid 1970's. A post office service did however, continue once a week in the village hall - an extension of the Sawston Branch, but this too finally ceased to operate in 1984.

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PAMPISFORD MILL

As far back as 1086, at least, a water mill has existed in Pampisford (most probably on the site of the present mill.) This area therefore is likely to be an area of ancient settlement and on the inclosure map of 1799 numerous buildings are shown to be in existence at that time. Some of the buildings would have been concerned with the mill and as can clearly be seen, one building actually spanned the river. (Perhaps the Mill at Duxford gives an idea of the type of building that stood in Pampisford at that time). Dwelling houses would also have existed from early times and probably a grain store. Although the present Mill Farm House was built in the mid 19th century an earlier farm house may have existed.

One of the large communal open-fields lay by the mill, as did water meadows which included the lammas meadow on the northside.. The mill's original purpose would have been that of grinding corn and up until the beginning of the 19th century, when John Tillbrooke was Miller, it was still being put to that use. However by 1802 the mill was up for sale. It was described as a water corn-mill with a fine head of clear water and it was further suggested that the mill could be converted for use as a paper mill. By 1808 Charles Martindale owned the mill and was brought before the Court for causing flooding in the area by diverting the course of the river. Charles Martindale was a paper manufacturer who had enfranchised Borough Mill in Sawston in 1802. (later to become Towgoods, one of the leading paper manufacturers in the country). Charles Martindale may have used the mill for making paper during this period but this doesn't rule out the possibility of it having other uses, including corn grinding. By 1813 a new mill building which had been erected was put up for sale along with about 80 acres of land; no details however are given as to its specific use.

During the rural unrest in the early part of the 19th century an attempt was made to set fire to a stack of oats in the yard of Mr. King the miller at that time. Fortunately the incendiarists were disturbed and took flight before any damage was done. When the agricultural depression of the 1870's occurred, John Thompson Waldoek - "Miller and Farmer of Pampisford" - was declared bankrupt. The mill however, continued to be used for grinding corn and seeds for oil until its sale by Colonel Hamond in 1893.

Eastern Counties Leather Company were the new purchasers of Pampisford Mill and Mill Farm. In the accounts of Eastern Counties Leather Works of 1893 the following appears:

"NEW PROPERTY PURCHASED TO THE VALUE
OF £3,367.16s.4d."

The property consisted of 69 acres of farm land known as Mill Farm along with the farm house, homestead and water mill. The above sum also included the cost of building a 3 storey building at Langford Arch. £500 was then raised to convert the water mill into a power-source for the leather works. An 8 horsepower steam engine was installed for this purpose.

After this time the mill was used for processing and became known locally as the "oily mill" which referred to the cod oil used in tanning the leather. Heavy wooden stocks were driven by the mill and rather like large hammers, they literally punched the oil into the leather..

The "oily mill" eventually closed and was put up for sale in 1941 along with 14 acres of 'rich old pasture'. It was bought by Mr. Harold Driver. Eventually, when the mill's function fell into disuse, its tall chimney was demolished and in 1960 the mill became converted for residential use; eventually part of it became a timber store.

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PARTICULARS
1941

The substantially built FREEHOLD Premises

known as

PAMPISFORD MILL

Together with about 14 Acres of Rich old Pasture and all the rights and interests of the Vendors in the portion of Mill Pool and River Grants or Cam as shewn hatched on the Plan.

The Mill Buildings

The Mill is substantially built of brick with tiled roof and comprises three floors with hand hoist from ground to top floor.

The Ground Floor and First Floor each contain an area of about 1963 superficial feet, the former having a concrete floor.

The Second Floor has a superficial area of approximately 950 feet with a loft over containing the same superficial area.

On the Ground Floor there is a Dynamo by Crompton, Voltage 100/140, Amps 25, Speed 1,100, R.P.M. for Electric Light, complete with distributor board, and Iron Water Mill Wheel and bearings.

Adjoining the Ground Floor and communicating therewith is a brick-built, tiled and corrugated iron roof lean-to, BOILER HOUSE with brick floor containing No. 1 Vertical Multitubular Steam Boiler by Hindley from which 2 in. steam pipes heat the Ground, First and Second Floors.

This installation has recently been overhauled.

FOUR BAY STORE. Brick and tiled with timber and corrugated iron Lavatory adjoining.

Substantial brick-built Chimney Stack.

Brick-built two bay STORE formerly used as Water Storage Tank.

Well built brick and tiled STORE with brick floor, adjoining front entrance to Mill.

The Premises generally are in good structural order and are ample and commodious, affording VERY VALUABLE Accommodation for FACTORY, MILL, WAREHOUSE or other STORAGE PURPOSES.

The Mill and Premises are offered with VACANT POSSESSION on completion.

The Land

The Land consists of about 14 Acres of Rich old Pasture—well watered and shaded.

It is at present let with other land on a Yearly Michaelmas Tenancy to Mr. A. Horne at the very low apportioned annual rent of £17 10s.

As will be seen from the Plan the land adjoins the L.N.E.R. Main line to London, thus affording exceptional facilities for SIDING ACCOMMODATION.

The Timber is included in the Purchase Price.

OUTGOINGS:

The Property is believed to be TITHE FREE.

There is a small Land Tax, at present amounting to 19s. 3d.

The Langford Auch Works



An engraving of the factory reproduced from the Company's letter heading in use up to the 1920s.

EASTERN COUNTIES LEATHER - PAMPISFORD

Eastern Counties was founded as a limited company in 1879, after which a new tannery and leather works was erected which became popularly known as the "New Yard". The train of events that led to the opening of the "New Yard" are however, still vividly remembered by many local people.

THE 'OLD YARD' LEATHER WORKS SAWSTON

During the 19th century, Thomas Sutton Evans, a man of immense energy and ability, developed the leather business he had inherited from his father to a pitch of excellence. He earned for himself a high reputation within the leather industry, which not only brought employment and prestige to the area but also amassed a considerable fortune for Thomas Sutton Evans himself.

As an employer Thomas Sutton Evans was high minded and extremely autocratic, so much so he was often referred to as the "uncrowned King of Sawston". Unfortunately, the extremes of his personality betrayed strong destructive elements which were to bring him into conflict with all levels of society. Anyone in the area who was in the least successful or influential was almost bound to fall victim to Evans' pathological jealousy.

Perhaps one of the best examples of Thomas Sutton Evans' tyrannical control over his work force is illustrated by the practice he employed of paying out his workers' wages from one of the four local pubs he owned. No employee was allowed his wage until he had spent at least 4 pence on a quart of ale - whether or not he wished to drink it !

Given the undesirable social effects of such a scheme the local congregational church Minister, the Reverend McClure-Uffen, confronted Evans with the morality of such a practice. The debate that ensued grew and soon became one of the many issues between the people of Sawston and Thomas Sutton Evans. The village was split, workers at Evans' yard were sacked, leaving numerous high skilled leather craftsmen out of work.

The Reverend McClure-Uffen took action and set out with others (many of them local business men) to offer those dismissed by Evans an alternative. During 1879 the possibility of opening a new leather works was pursued. A site at Langford Arch Pampisford was in part leased and in part sold by W. Parker-Hamond to the newly founded company for the development of a tannery and leather works. The first appointees of "Eastern Counties Leather and Parchment Company" were W. Parker-Hamond, Dr. Prince, Edward Adams, William Bond, John Crampton, Joseph Tyler and the Reverend McClure-Uffen with Owen Stubbins as Company Secretary.

Events at Thomas Sutton Evans' "Old Yard" eventually became affected by Evans' own vengeful and destructive personality. An ill-judged business venture led to his financial ruin and by 1882 at the early age of 55 years Thomas Sutton Evans was dead.

An early link with leather work in this locality can be found in the account book of a lady of quality - Anne Fortesque - who was a paying guest at Sawston Hall.

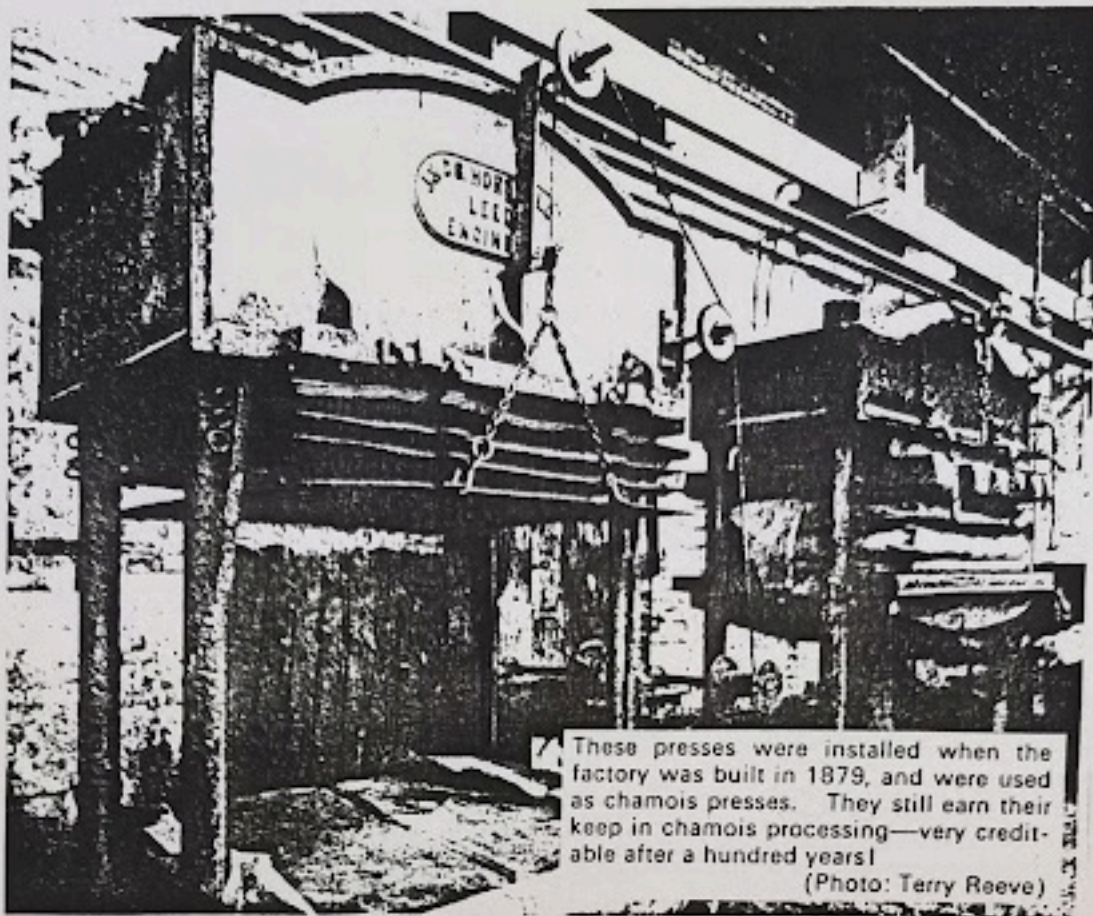
From Sawston

<i>61698</i>	<i>for 2 pair of washable doe</i>	<i>5/-</i>
<i>1701</i>	<i>a pair of shammy gloves</i>	<i>3/-</i>
<i>1709</i>	<i>a pair of white lamb gloves</i>	<i>1/-</i>

By 1926 Charles Moore was working for Eastern Counties Leather but by that time the company was on the verge of collapse. With unemployment rising the loss of yet another company would mean a great deal of local hardship. It was at this juncture that Charles Moore saw an opportunity and was determined to revitalise the company and transform it into a profitable concern.

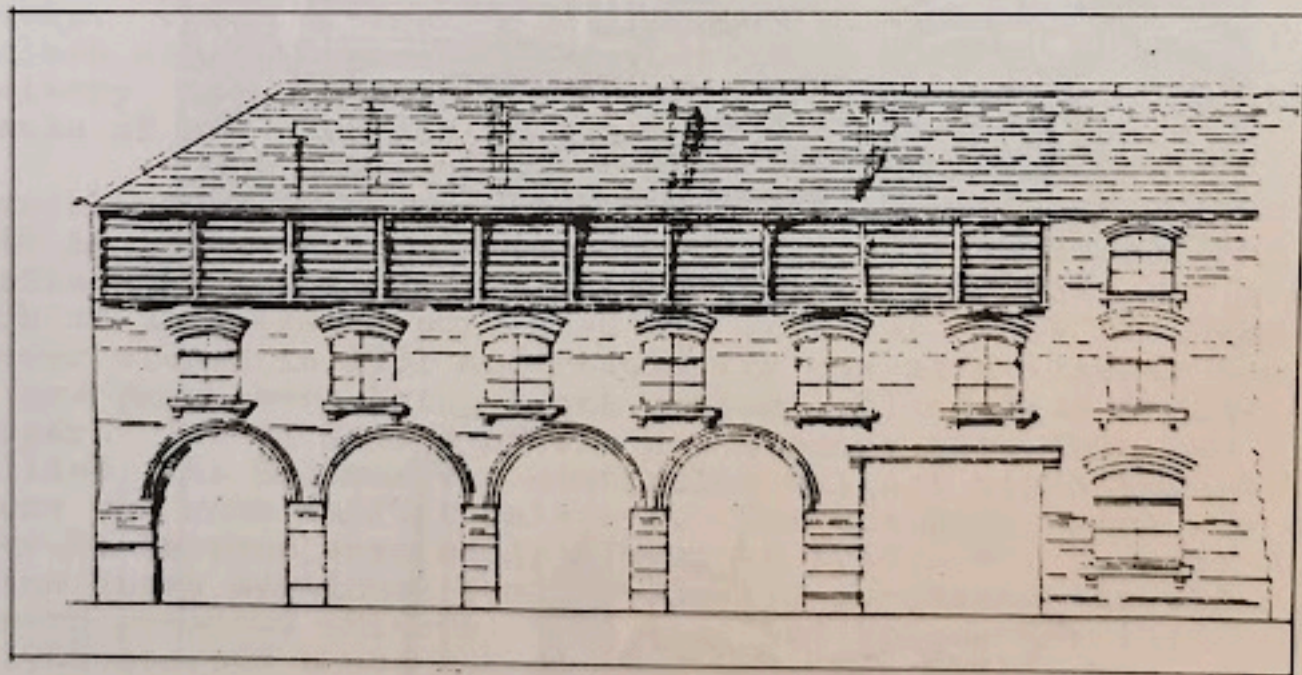
In that he was successful and, in many ways, Charles Moore can be seen as the second founder of Eastern Counties Leather Company.

Although Charles Moore died in 1945 the company remained in the hands of the Moore family and eventually came to be run by Ronald Moore, whose son Brian Moore was co-opted on to the Board in 1953.



These presses were installed when the factory was built in 1879, and were used as chamois presses. They still earn their keep in chamois processing—very creditable after a hundred years!
 (Photo: Terry Reeve)

Despite the vicissitudes of the leather industry both the old and new yards continued to process leather and employ local people. Eastern Counties, which is now a thriving company headed by Brian Moore, received a high accolade in 1976 when it was appointed supplier by Royal Warrant to the Queen's Household.



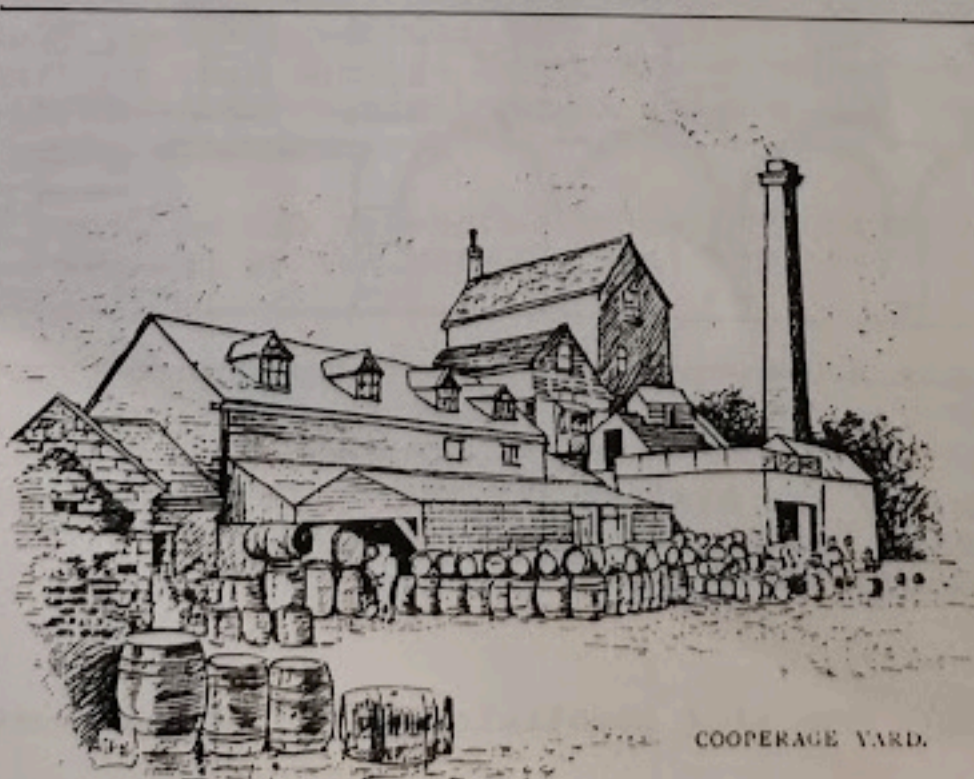
A full account of the history and recent development of Eastern Counties Leather Co.Ltd., is contained in the Company's 100 years Commemorative booklet.

Photographs etc. by kind permission of Mr. Brian Moore

*Hudsons
Brewery*



RACKING ROOM.



COOPERAGE YARD.

PAMPISFORD BREWERY

It seems possible that even as early as 1800 a small brewery may have been founded on the present Sealmaster site. The situation was ideal because of the quality and purity of the water that could be obtained from the deep underground wells that existed there. The earliest brewing activity of any size in the village was undertaken by members of the Scruby family who were tenants of Rectory Farm.

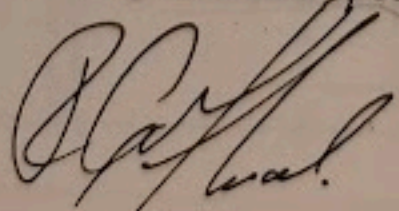
William Scruby, who was also a farmer, worked a brewery and malthouse on the site circa 1840, which Charles Scruby took over about 10 years later and ran for the next 30 years. By about the year 1880 Charles sold the brewery to Inverness John Bathe, who traded as Bathe & Co. Only two years after taking over, Bathe & Co. built a new brewery close by the old one, but by 1888 the business was sold to Philip Llewelyn Hudson.

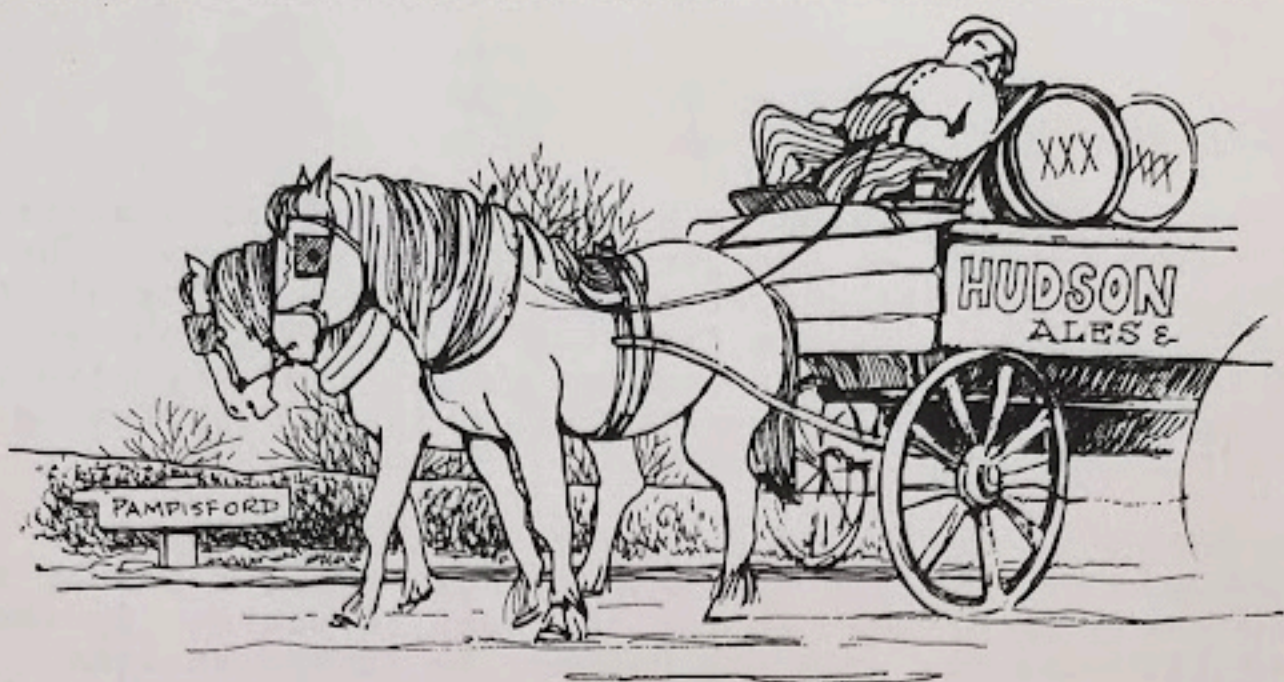
Hudson, who had formerly been a butler at one of the Cambridge Colleges (either King's or Trinity), founded a company in 1892 entitled "Hudson's Cambridge and Pampisford Breweries Limited". Under his direction the brewery was enlarged considerably and about 50 people were employed there. The malthouses became necessary to satisfy the demand for beer. Mr. Hudson supplied his own 22 public houses with "Pampisford Ales and Stout" as well as numerous other "free-houses" in the district.

During this era a staggering amount of beer was drunk in the many beer houses, pubs and ale houses which existed locally. Tales of legendary drinking bouts among the local populace are still remembered, but in reality a great deal of misery and hardship was wrought upon many local families because of the problems of drink.

Frances Hudson inherited the business after his father's death in 1914. Hudson's continued to brew Pampisford beer, despite a serious financial setback, until 1930 when Wells & Winch of Biggleswade purchased the premises. The business was however closed in 1931 and resold for use as a vinegar factory, the new purchasers being a new company called East Anglia Vinegar. The directors of the new company came from two families, the Redmans who controlled Wells & Winch and the Dixons who were Suffolk malsters. The business, which was sold later to Sarsons, eventually closed in 1950. Mr. Bernard Dixon, of the above mentioned family, finally purchased the old brewery premises which by that time had become derelict and in 1965 started a new company now known as Sealmaster. Most of the old buildings were demolished in 1972 but the old Engine House was preserved and incorporated into the new buildings.

Compiled with grateful acknowledgement and assistance from
Mr.





At one time Hudson's Brewery had a very bad name, particularly in Sawston because of the excessive drunkenness that led to great hardship among poor families. Beer was very cheap, in 1870 it was 2^p per pint, and the local pubs were many.

Workers at the Brewery enjoyed a considerable amount of free beer as one of the perquisites of the job. Draymen at the Brewery took advantage of this of course and the story has it that the Brewery houses had to find their own way back to Pampisford on more than one occasion!

In the late 1880s Pampisford Ale was awarded a gold medal for quality and strength at an international exhibition in Paris.



Lots 1, 2 and 3, with an area of 6a. 3r. 29p., will first be offered as a whole, and if not sold, then as described in these particulars.

PAMPISFORD, CAMBS.

The Extensive Freehold Premises

formerly known as

HUDSON'S BREWERY

Well adapted for use as a

Small Factory, Fruit Cannery, Vinegar Brewery

Depôt or any business requiring extensive floor space and substantial buildings with good transport facilities, close to two Railway Stations with main roads thereto and within 8 miles of Cambridge to which there is available an excellent bus service.

Excellent water supply.

Electric light and power from own plant.

The Premises comprise:—

A 25-QUARTER BREWERY

approached from the road by a driveway and consisting of the brick, part slated and tiled, Buildings formerly utilised as follows:—

OFFICE SECTION

FIRST FLOOR—

BOARD ROOM, 20ft. 2ins. by 12ft. 1in.

TYPISTS' ROOM, 13ft. 2ins. by 12ft. 2ins.

STOREROOM.

CLOAKROOM, with lavatory basin (h. & c.) and W.C.

GROUND FLOOR—

DISPATCH ROOM, 9ft. 6ins. by 11ft. 1in., with small fitted safe outside.

MAIN OFFICE, 20ft. 2ins. by 12ft. 6ins., fitted with store, stationery cupboard with glazed sliding doors, large double-door safe by *Hipkins & Co.* with ledger compartments, and a 20ft. 2in. range of desks.

THREE WINE AND SPIRIT STORES—26ft. 2ins. by 19ft. 9ins.
20ft. 4ins. by 12ft. 6ins.
9ft. 9ins. by 12ft. 1in.

fitted with bins and shelving.

TOWER SECTION

FOURTH FLOOR—

HOPPER ROOM, 26ft. 5ins. by 16ft. 3ins., with hoist.

THIRD FLOOR—

COOLER ROOM, 27ft. 9ins. by 11ft. 6ins.; the walls lined with white glazed brick.

SECOND FLOOR—

HOT LIQUOR VAT ROOM.

MILL ROOM, 26ft. by 11ft. 6ins.; walls lined with white glazed brick.

FIRST FLOOR—

TUN ROOM, 26ft. by 16ft. 6ins.

BOILER COPPER ROOM.

GROUND FLOOR—

ENGINE ROOM, 25ft. 4ins. by 15ft. 4ins., and
STORE adjoining.

MAIN SECTION

FIRST FLOOR—

REFRIGERATOR ROOM, 19ft. 6ins. by 11ft. 9ins.; the walls lined with white glazed brick.

BREWER'S OFFICE.

FERMENTING ROOM, 52ft. by 26ft.

HOP ROOM, 20ft. 3ins. by 12ft. 10ins.

STORE—No. 1, 20ft. 1in. by 13ft.

No. 2, 15ft. 6ins. by 19ft. 7ins.

No. 3, 19ft. 6ins. by 8ft. 8ins.

No. 4, 20ft. 6ins. by 25ft. 8ins.

GROUND FLOOR—

RACK ROOM, 51ft. 6ins. by 25ft. 8ins.

BEER STORE, 40ft. by 52ft. 11ins.

BASEMENT—

CELLAR, 25ft. 9ins. by 41ft.

together with all the plant, piping, shafting and pulleys throughout.

Adjoining the Offices is:—

The FILLING ROOM, 55ft. 6ins. by part 33ft. 2ins. and part 24ft. 6ins., built of brick and corrugated iron with slated roof, together with MESS ROOM and W.C. above.

The BOILER HOUSE is built of brick with part corrugated iron roof, the remainder of roof covered by a large cast iron water tank.

THE POWER HOUSE

substantially built of brick with slated roof, comprises:—

GROUND FLOOR—

ENGINE ROOM, with 35 H.P. Suction Gas Engine by *Campbell*, compressed air starting bottle fitted for belt driving complete with pump, 110 volt direct current. 7 K.W. Dynamo by *Seaman*.

FIRST FLOOR—

BATTERY ROOM.

Adjoining the Power House are OPEN HEARTH GAS GENERATOR with scrubber and 2 galvanised Cooling Tanks.

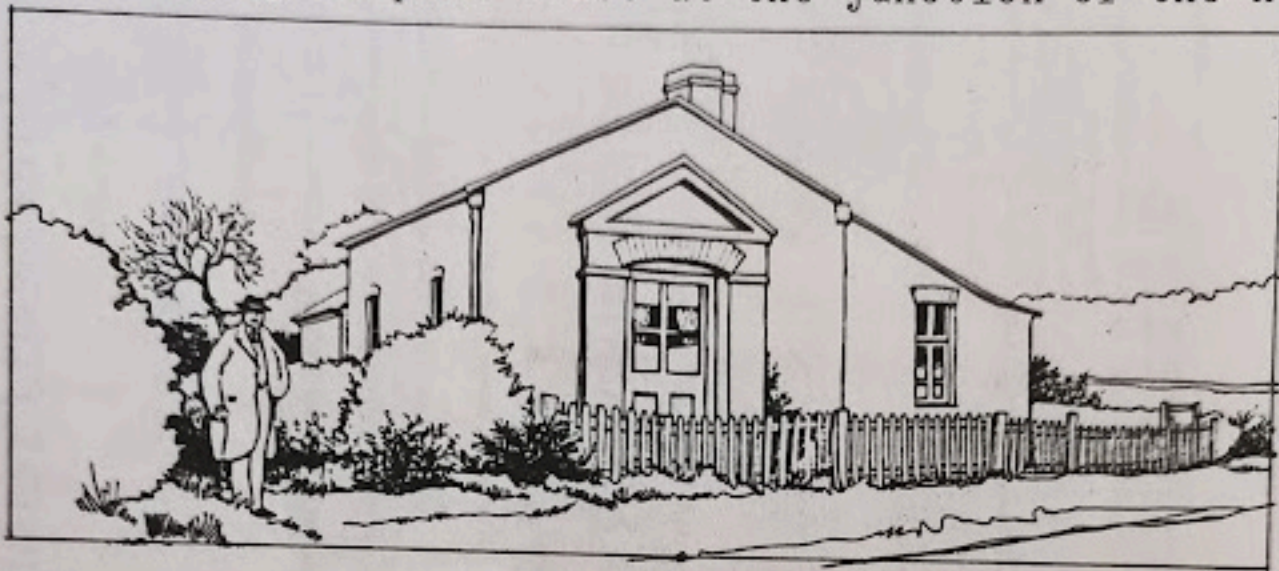
Further plant on the property includes a

Rotary Electric Pump, direct coupling, 2,000 gallons per hour capacity, 110 volts.

Sale Particulars

PAMPISFORD RAILWAY STATION

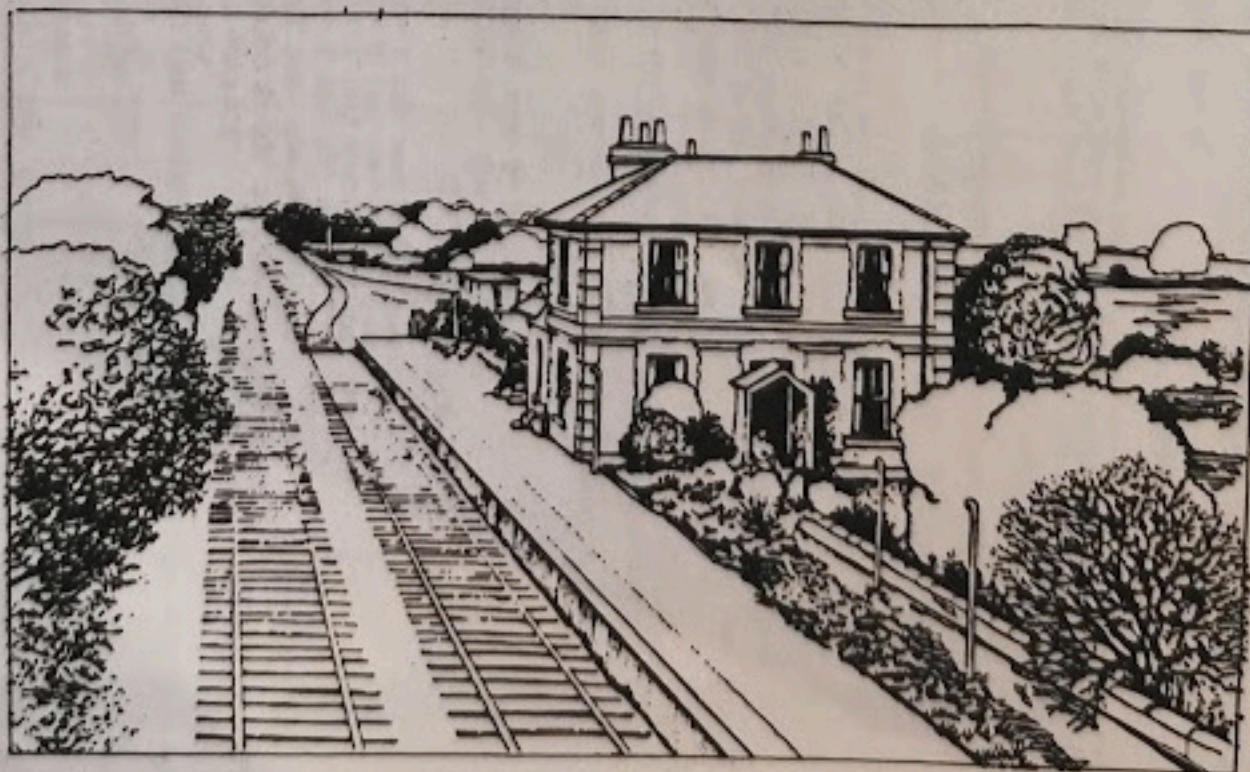
In 1848 a railway branch line was built through Pampisford. It branched from the main London to Cambridge line at Chesterford and ran through Pampisford to Six Mile Bottom. A station that served this line was built near the site of the present day "Railway Inn". The line was however, ill-fated and it closed after only three years service. The only remaining evidence of the venture being the old railway bank and the crossing keeper's house at the junction of the A.505 and A.11



Eventually a second, more viable railway line was built, via the parish, from Great Shelford to Sudbury. A second station was built nearby the old abandoned station. This line opened in 1865 and served the area for many years until its closure in March 1967.

The station saw a number of Station Masters and many villagers still remember Mr. Rule who was Station Master, porter, ticket collector and general factotum. He repeatedly treated every passenger as a V.I.P. and was not averse to holding up the train for any belated passenger seen panting towards the station!

In more recent times many local people remember taking sugar-beet up to the sidings for loading onto the trains.



The old Railway Station now houses "Solopark", a local business concerned with reclamation of old building materials. The main station building is somewhat different today, however, following rebuilding after a fire in 1978.



A fire which last night swept through the old railway station buildings at Pampisford, causing about £20,000 damage, is being treated as a case of arson.

CRAMPTON'S ALMANACK COMPENDIUM, 1890.

A. ASHMAN,
Railway Inn & Coal & Coke Wharf,
—❧— **PAMPISFORD STATION.** —❧—

BEGS to thank his Customers for their kind patronage during the past Six Years, and trusts that they will continue to favour him with their esteemed orders.

FURNITURE REMOVED BY SPRING VAN. CARTING DONE.
PONY AND TRAP TO LET.

In 1892 a beer retailing business is recorded in Kelly's Directory. Coal was also sold to the public from the same premises, at that time known as the "Station Inn". This is very probably a reference to the building we now know as the "Railway Inn" - a purpose-built public house designed primarily to serve members of the travelling public.



Mr. and Mrs. Stocker at the Railway Inn.

Pampisford innkeeper is leaving village

After 40 years as publican at the Railway Inn, Pampisford, Mr. Alfred Charles Stocker, is retiring this month.

Mr. Stocker, who has spent all his working life at the inn, apart from four years in London, took over from his father as licensee in 1939. He also had a coal business in Pampisford for 37

years, but sold up three years ago because of illness. When the Stockers first came to the inn, it used to be known as "Paraffin Alley" since oil lamps were the only source of light. Drinking habits have changed, too, over the years. Mr. Stocker said today: "Twenty-five to 30 years ago, people used to drink mild beers. Today they drink more

spirits and expensive beers. Now they've got the money, they can afford to drink better stuff."

Mr. Stocker has no plans for when he retires. "We're moving to Abington," he said. "I'll find some job to pass the time away. But we'll miss the people here very much, they've been very good to us."

The "Railway Inn", once kept by Mr. Stocker, is now run jointly by Mrs Munton and Mrs Honeywell who came to Pampisford in 1981. The premises have recently been improved and extended to include a music and pool room, as well as a large garden.





"THE CHEQUERS"

The building now known as "The Chequers" public house was probably built in the 16th century, although a date of the 1400s was once inscribed on the facade. It would have originally have been a farm house, probably occupied by a yeoman family. In 1713, when the building was occupied by the Webb family, it was described in a sale document as a freehold messuage with an orchard standing by an area then known as Crosshill. The property was bought in 1713 by the Hayward family who were described as woolcombers and yeomen. Edward Hayward, a signatee of one of the sale documents, is described as living at "Panser House" but which building this refers to remains a mystery. Very few houses in the village could command such a title. The present "Chequers" pub, the building now known as the "Dower House" and the (then largest) house in the village, which stood at College Farm, are the likeliest possibilities.

By 1776 the property was bought by Robert White and Joseph Hoffman of Cambridge, who were described as common brewers. It was from that date that the building became a public house. A barn, stabling and outhouses along with a garden and an orchard were now part of the property and in the great age of stage coaching no doubt the "Chequers" proved a quieter spot for travellers than the busy inns at Bournbridge.

By 1859 the "Chequers" was tenanted by John Pratt who is an ancestor of Mr. Charles Fison, who still lives in Pampisford today. At that date the pub was sold by the executors of Richard Foster, the new purchaser being Charles Scruby. Charles Scruby eventually built the brewery at Pampisford and, along with other members of his family, became very prominent and influential in the village for many years, especially in brewing, malstering and farming.

To be Sold by Auction, by

CHAS. WISBEY

AT THE TOWN-HALL, CAMBRIDGE,

(By kind permission of the Mayor.)

On Wednesday, June the 22nd, 1859,

AT 11 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON,

*By Order of the Executors and Trustees under the Will of
the said Richard Foster,*

PAMPISFORD.

LOT 45.

The CHEQUERS, FREEHOLD.

Tenant, JOHN PRATT.

Contains Parlor, Tap-room, 3 Bedrooms, Cellar, Dairy,
Pantry, Washhouse, Yard and Garden. *Land Tax, 8s.*

The Purchaser to pay 25s. for 2 Beer Stalls.

The Tenant claims 3 small Sheds and the fixtures.

The "Chequers" continued to thrive as a public house and eventually had its own smithy, which up until the First World War was run by Mark Henry Chandler - not to be confused with the Smithy that was run by Mr. Marry at the rear of the "Plough Boy" off licence.

Today the "Chequers" is tenanted by Mrs Jessie Green who has been at the pub since 1966. At that time a large inglenook fire-place and chimney stack formed the central area of the building and customers had the choice of two bars which stood on either side. One bar contained a welsh dresser and a three piece suite and resembled an ordinary living room, which often confused a passing stranger!

A disastrous fire in 1973 ruined not only the thatched roof but also the strength of the ancient central chimney stack which was eventually demolished. From that date the interior of the pub was opened up into a long bar and modernised. New dormer windows were built into the roof and the thatch was replaced by slates.

*It has been suggested that the reason so many public houses in East Anglia are called the "Chequers" is due to an association with the "Wild Service Tree", otherwise known as the "Chequers Tree". The name is derived from the pitted appearance of its wood. The tree is however quite rare in East Anglia today. See also 'Pampisford Flora'.

Blaze wrecks 400-year-old pub



Firemen tackle the smouldering remains of the 16th-century pub's thatched roof.

SECOND FIRE IN WEEKS IS SPOTTED BY A. A. MAN

A 16th-century Pampisford pub, which escaped disaster by a thousand-to-one chance a few weeks ago, was yesterday the victim of a blaze that destroyed the thatched roof and gutted the first floor.

Sixteen firemen fought the blaze which broke out in the Chequers during the afternoon while landlord Stan Green and his wife were out. They were still at the scene hours later cleaning up the wreckage.

When the fire broke out at the pub in January flames burned through plastic piping in the cellar and beer cascaded out to kill the blaze.

People in Pampisford were speaking last night of a "village tragedy" as they stared at the charred remains of the pub's first floor.

The blaze was spotted by AA man Ron Batchelor, of Abbey Close, Burwell, who was on patrol on the A505.

"I saw smoke coming from the pub and raced to the scene," he said.

"There were two women coming out with dogs. I made sure there was no-one else in there. I put a garden hose on the fire, but by then it was no good."

Mr. Sonnie Wright, aged 75, lives next door to the pub and has been a regular there for 50 years.

"The pub goes back a long time. It's a terrible shame," he said.

And Mrs. Ailie Isle, of Hammond Close, commented: "The pub and the post office are the village."

The firemen, from Cambridge, Sawston and Linton, had the blaze under control in about half an hour.

The senior officer in charge of the fire fighting told the "News": "We have no idea how it started. I think the structure of the pub will be all right."

"It was very punishing work for the men. Thatch is designed to keep water out. The first floor was virtually gutted and the roof will have to come off. It's a great pity. It's a lovely old pub and I've enjoyed a drink there myself."

THE "WHITE HORSE INN"

An early mention of the land and property in the area where the "White Horse" now stands is given in a set of Deeds now in the possession of Greene King Breweries. It contains the following:

Bargain & Sale with Feoffment OCT 1688 AD.

1) John Wells cordwainer & his wife VENDORS

2) Thos Adams of St. Shelford, grocer PURCHASER

Messuage & tenement & Croft or Orchard wherein
Charles Parish now dwells in Pampisford

S: lies the house of John Wells, senior

N: house & gardens of the late George
Seabrook

W: Church Street

E: a close called Campbells close

Witnesses: John Armerage Issac Louty and
Johnathan Robynett.

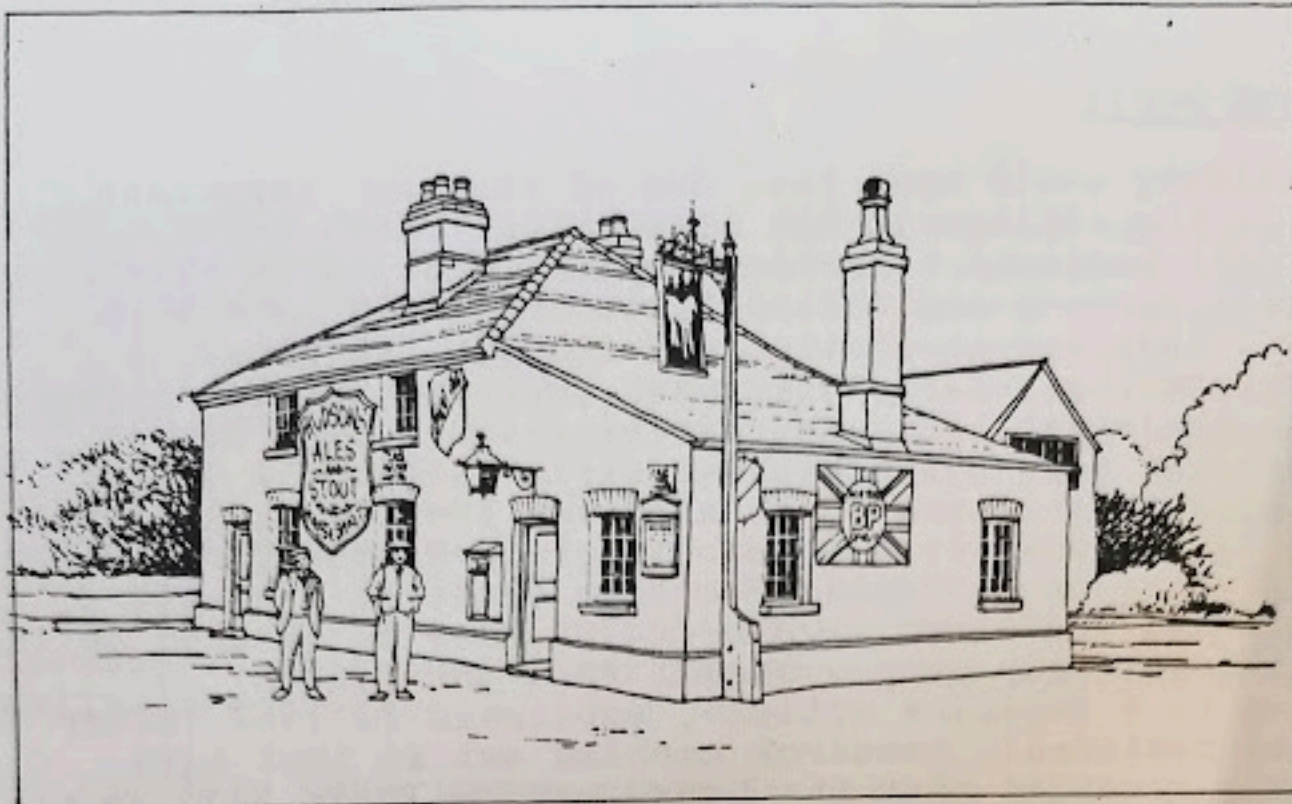
At the time of inclosure the area consisted of a messuage with appurtenances or croft, orchard and pightle (i.e. a small enclosure such as for growing trees) adjoining the street at Pampisford. John Whestone, a yeoman of Pampisford, was awarded the area under the Inclosure Act.

The Turner family and the Rollinson family also occupied cottages in the "White Horse" area during the mid 1750's.

By 1831 the land and property was bought by William Parker-Hamond, although part of it had been allotted to public works (this was probably the area known as the Drainage Meadow).

By 1866 there existed on the site a grocers shop and bakehouse, which was occupied by Charles Smith. No mention of an inn or ale-house arises in the deeds before this date although there is evidence that beer retailing might have been taking place in premises on the site as far back as 1841. - J.R. Scruby had connections with this area of the village during the 1860's and the brewers Bathe & Co., owned part of the property prior to 1889 when Sam Parsons was a beer retailer.

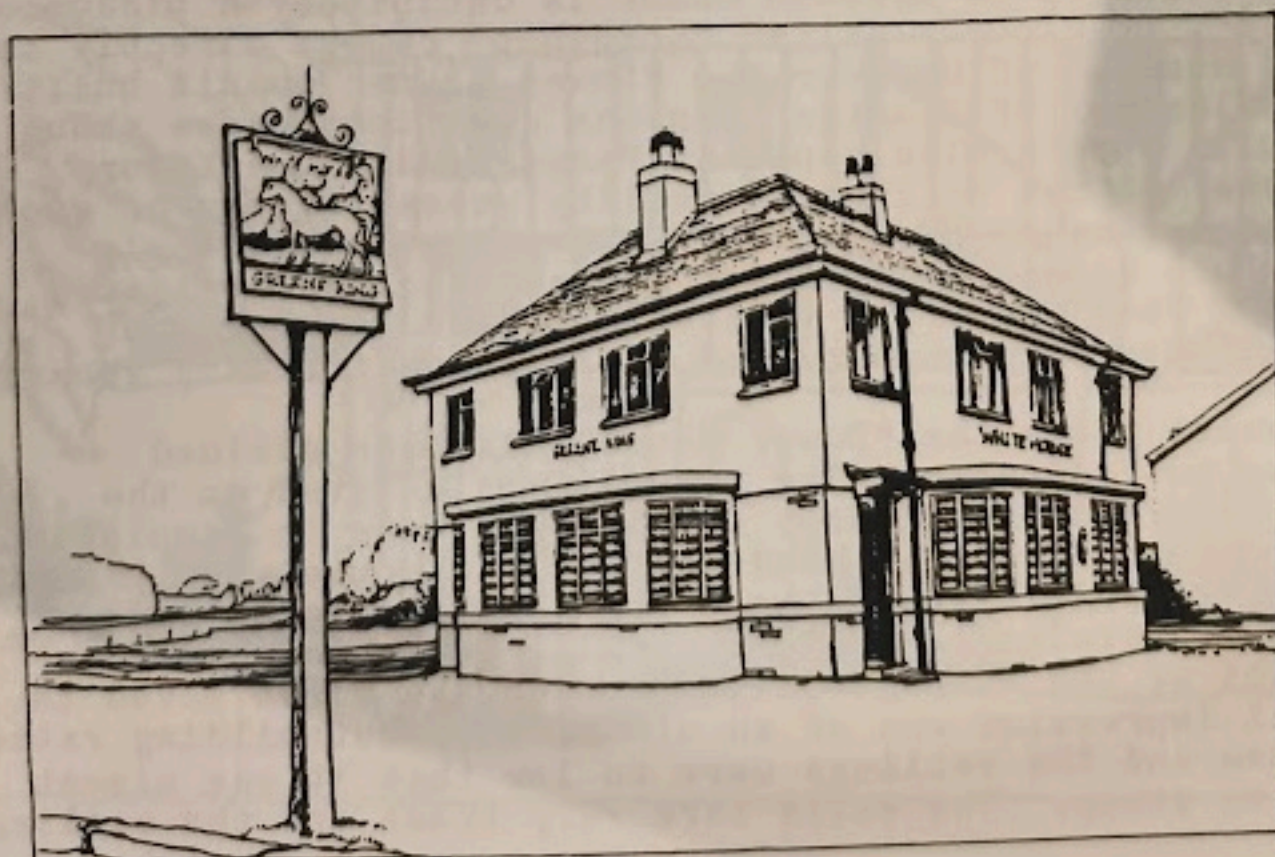
Philip Llewelyn Hudson bought the property in 1889 which by that time included a building known as "The White Horse Inn". This was probably the old building people still remember.



At the turn of the century public houses were open all day long and beer was cheap. The old "White Horse" had a long tap-room, a lounge bar and a snug. Crowds of people came not only to taste the beer but also to play billiards in the building behind the pub.

Motor coaches called at the Inn, some which carried hop-pickers who were making their way to Kent.

Mrs Spicer remembers how she and her friends, as children, would play outside the pub on summer evenings, just waiting for the motor coaches to leave. As they did so, the merry occupants would throw coppers to the village children. The old pub was demolished in 1937/38 and a new "White Horse" was built near-by. The present occupant is Mr. Harry Savage who has been the landlord since 1971.



THE DOWER HOUSE

This building would have been one of the most important houses in the village at the time it was first built. It is the only medieval house in Pampisford still in existence that has a purpose-built first floor (jettied on simple brackets), independent of the roof space. The house is built around the chimney stack and originally had an entrance opposite the stack, a common arrangement in such houses. The house was also built with an earth cellar. A detail featuring a thistle and crown survives from an earlier age and can be found above a stone fireplace on the first floor. Originally the house would have been built as a single household and would not have been intended to be used as the two dwellings many people recall from the 1920's. According to a magazine article, published in 1962 (after the house was restored), research carried out at that time apparently revealed that the house was built in 1455 as a Dower House to Sawston Hall. "Blackbird Cottage" opposite was the coachman's cottage, alongside which stables came to be built. (These have now been converted into housing and known as "St. John's Cottage") All of these buildings served the "Dower House" at some time in its history.

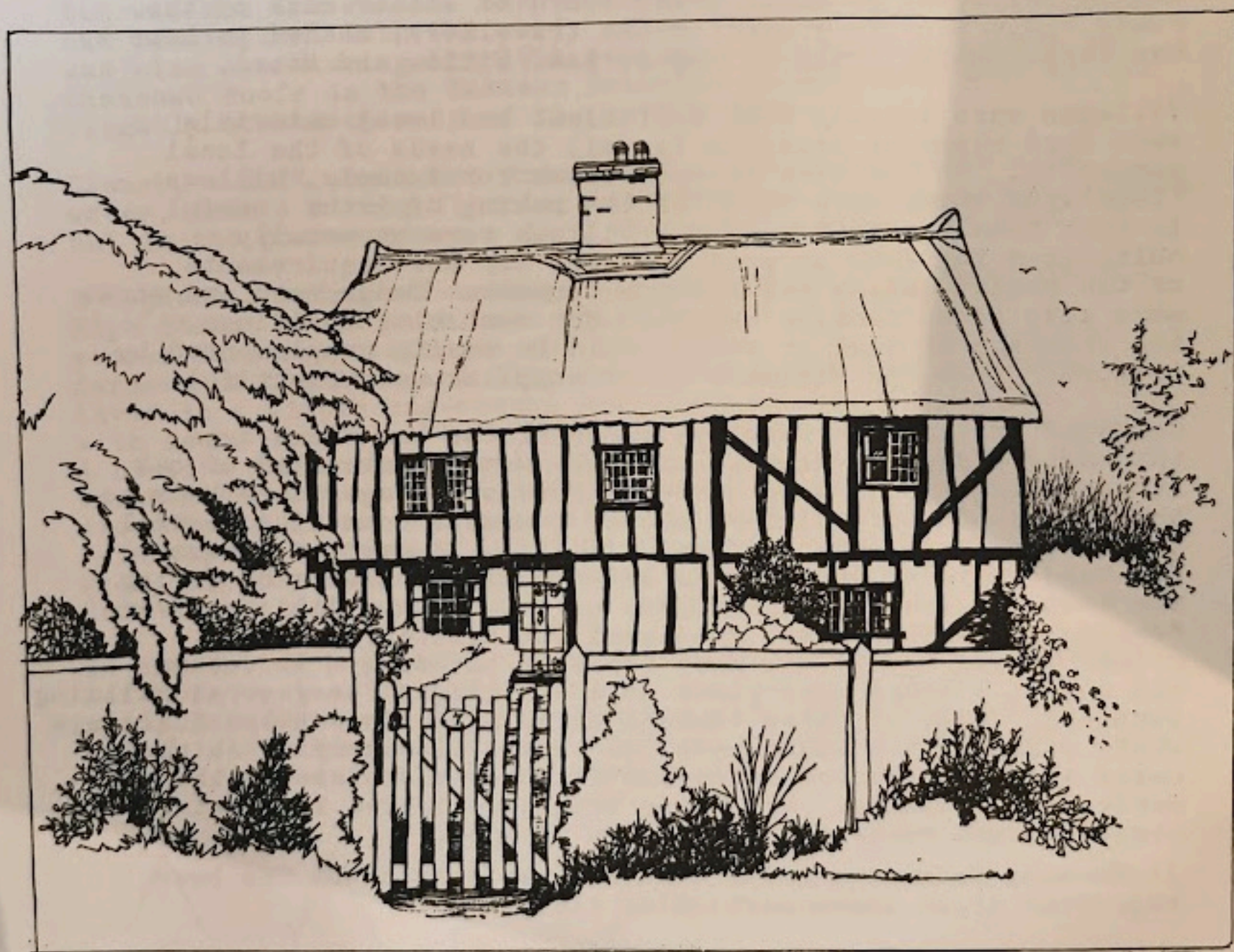
However, it is only since the restoration of the house in the early 1960's that the house has been known as the "Dower House". It would be fascinating to discover how the Manor of Sawston managed to build a Dower House on land that belonged to a separate manor i.e. Pampisford Manor. Medieval landowners were as possessive about their lands as landowners at any time in history and from a military, fiscal & law-court point of view, Pampisford belonged to an entirely different administrative area to Sawston throughout the medieval period. (see pamphlet of Early History).

Whether or not this house belonged to Sawston, the notion that Manor Farm belonged to Sawston Manor is definitely a misconception. ("Manor Farm", previously called "Lordship" refers directly to Pampisford Manor.) If however the "Dower House" wasn't built by the Huddlestons of Sawston then the question arises about who did build such a fine house in Pampisford. One theory might be that it was built by a wealthy yeoman farmer or wool merchant at a time when wool was central to the country's economy. Such highly independent yeoman families dominated the scene in Pampisford due to the fact that the Lords of Pampisford Manor were absent from their lands for many generations.

In more recent times the "Dower House" has been divided and used as two cottages. The Mynott family lived on the left hand side and Mr and Mrs. Collick, who came to Pampisford in 1929, lived in the right hand half of the house. At that time the garden was sufficiently large for the keeping of pigs, chickens and ducks. Mrs Collick recalls her utter dismay at the sight of the cottage interior when she first moved in. The general impression was of an old barn or outbuilding rather than a house and the ceilings were so low that it was almost necessary to stoop. The walls were very brown and the ceiling

beams crudely tarred, while the floor was of old uneven bricks. An old fashioned iron stove served the main room. This was so large that it was possible to burn a good sized tree trunk on it. The outside doors however, were so old and ill-fitting that they barely afforded any shelter from the wind and weather and an old door to one of the bedrooms swung on ancient gate hinges. This bedroom door had previously belonged to a pub and still had a peep-hole where the wary publican had once espied his customers. As in other cottages, water was obtainable only from the village pump and toilet facilities were non-existent! Mr and Mrs Collick however, improved their cottage over the years and enjoyed a happy family life there.

Two specific house names occur in various early records relating to the village, namely "The Town House" and "Panser House". It is possible that the present "Dower House" was one of these specifically named buildings.





COTTAGES

In medieval times villages in the region of the Bourne Valley were set amongst the open fields of communal farms, surrounded by woods and moorland. Walls surrounding houses were few and the roads, which were rough and rutted, would today hardly be considered roads at all. Green sward on either side of the roads would provide a way for the travellers, shaded perhaps by the large native trees of Maple, Ash, Willow and Hazel.

Villages were largely self sufficient and local materials were used whenever possible for all the needs of the local community. In the lush water meadows for example, willows flourished, which were used for the making of laths useful in both fencing and building. Willows were especially cultivated for this purpose and also for the requirements of the basket-makers and leather tanners. Sedge reed and straw were also grown locally and used for thatching buildings. Any shortage of reed or sedge could be easily supplemented by 'imports' from the Fenlands where supplies were plentiful.

Cottages in the area were typically of the box frame type, the early medieval examples of which were constructed of oak. (It is thought that some of Pampisford's cottages date back to the 15th century). Timber was, of course, a commodity central to the economy of the medieval village. It was the custom for landowners to support the defence of the nation by giving the best oak trees on their land to the crown. Oaks that were "straight and true" were then used for military purposes, primarily for use by the navy for ship building. In return old ship's timbers were given to the villages for general building purposes. Many of these timbers still exist in cottage buildings where stripped oak beams have led to the discovery of ship's names and other carved marks and features associated with early ship building. Mr. Sunny Wright delighted in showing visitors such marks inside his own cottage.

It is only fair to mention however that some doubt has been expressed about these particular claims.

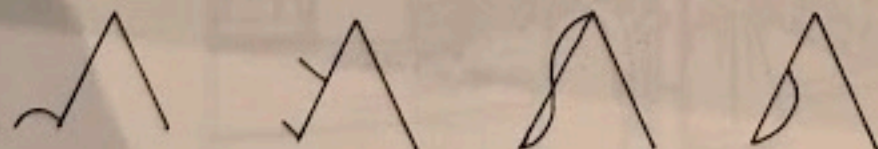
Towards the end of the 16th century supplies of oak became less plentiful and expensive and after that date various other woods were used in the box frame. Carpentry standards were also lower in the 17th century when diagonal wooden struts were introduced into box framing.

In East Anglia box-framing was built with the specific intention of being covered entirely with plaster, leaving no exposed beams on the exterior, thus allowing better weatherproofing and insulation. Split laths of oak or beech or alternatively hazel or birch wands were pinned to the box-frame to form walls in readiness for infilling. A plaster infill was used, into which cleaned animal hair and straw was incorporated. Great care was taken by the craftsmen over the mixing and beating together of this plaster/hair mixture; done properly the material was known to grow stronger as the years passed and as a proven method it was used for centuries. The most lasting materials for roof thatching was Norfolk reed, with the more pliable sedge for ridging. Longstraw was also used in the corn growing areas. This was applied in yealms (wetted straw about 14-18 inches wide and 4 inches thick) but was not dressed and tended to look as if the thatch had been poured onto the roof. Dressed wheat and barley straw was also used during the 19th century. A typical feature of thatched roofs in the Eastern Counties is characterised by the slightly cocked-up ends of the roof ridges.

Clunch, a soft chalk that dried hard after being mixed with water, made a strong flooring material for houses, yards or barns but in the poorer homes a dirt floor would have been usual.

A typical 2 bedroomed cottage similar to those on Pampisford High Street would have been built by men of means such as yeoman farmers, craftsmen and tradesmen. The poorer peasant farmers of the 16th and 17th centuries would however, have lived in a simple one-roomed structure of mud and clunch with reeds laid upon bare tree branches to suffice for a roof. A bonfire for cooking would have been lit in the centre of the earth floor and as no chimneys existed in such buildings, smoke would filter out gradually through the roof or through "wind eyes" which were holes in the wall. Window openings, when incorporated, were covered by a mesh of wooden slats. Such hovels did not survive for long.

In the better houses of the 17th century, large chimney stacks set more or less in the centre of the building became a popular feature. This innovation provided extra warmth within a dwelling and formed a strong, steady support for the timber frame as well as the staircase.



Medieval carpenter's marks

*Charity Cottages 1833 a cottage divided into 3 tenements near
the Grove occupied by Isaac Hamond, Rbt Maugh, Rebecca
Reynolds & Robert Skelpage
A cottage divided into 3 at the east end of Paupisford
occupied by Widow Westwood, William Freeman &
James Goodwin*

Throughout the centuries, and especially in the 18th and 19th centuries among the poorer sections of society, more than one family might have lived in one cottage and problems arose over matters of hygiene. The rapid spread of illness was a constant occurrence. Small-pox, typhus and cholera, along with other feverous illnesses, killed large numbers of the population before improvements were made to water supplies and the control of sewage. It is estimated that in the early 19th century twice as many people died annually through these illnesses than the number of deaths suffered by the allies at Waterloo!

The satirical magazine "Punch" published the following lines as a counter-blast to the romantic poetry of the day which eulogised rural life.

"The cottages of England
Alas! how they smell
There's fever in the cess pool
and sewage in the Well".

Once the importance of clean water supplies were realised conditions in the countryside improved for all sections of society and the idyllic view of cottage life became a little more realistic.

