

# FRAM

## October Update 2020



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As you know, we are currently unable to provide our usual Winter lectures but to keep our members entertained over these difficult times we decided to produce a circular with useful links and reproductions of articles that have appeared in past journals. You will also find a link to the first of the audio recordings 'Our Town in Sound' recorded by Nick Jenkins. This recording has been split onto three parts with one being released with each issue on the web site. Just follow the link to the web site and then click on the podcast to hear each instalment.

<http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk/about/newsletters-and-podcasts/>

There are other sites and organisations that may be of interest:

- The Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History (SIAH), founded in 1848, is Suffolk's largest and oldest archaeological and historical society. Membership is £25 (£30 for 2 adults plus children under 16). The Institute has been offering a series of very interesting Zoom discussion groups for their members on such topics as *Re-evaluating Suffolk's medieval markets*. <https://www.suffolk institute.org.uk/membership>
- British Association for Local History (BALH). As a Society we are members of BALH (benefits we receive can be found at <https://www.balh.org.uk/join-society>). Individual membership is also available for £30. The occasional newsletters can be found at <https://www.balh.org.uk/resources-balh-e-newsletters>
- *A Little History of Suffolk* talks given by Sarah Doig, which many said they enjoyed, can be found at:

EPISODE ONE EARLY SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/414237903> Password: Freston

EPISODE TWO NORMAN SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/418382610> Password: Beccles

EPISODE THREE MEDIEVAL SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/423956361> Password: Sudbury

EPISODE FOUR TUDOR SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/431199273> Password: Ixworth

EPISODE FIVE STUART SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/435473783> Password: Otley

EPISODE SIX GEORGIAN SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/437392333> Password: Newmarket

EPISODE SEVEN VICTORIAN SUFFOLK <https://vimeo.com/443722272> Password: Lowestoft

EPISODE EIGHT TWENTIETH CENTURY SUFFOLK & SUFFOLK TODAY <https://vimeo.com/448073230>  
Password: Woodbridge

- Suffolk Heritage Explorer (<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-behind-the-scenes>) offers a fascinating series of on-line lectures *Behind the Scenes: Analysing Anglo-Saxon Rendlesham* with the experts who have been analysing the archaeological material from this internationally important site. Past talks are available to watch as videos and future ones can be booked on line for free. This ties in with the lecture we had in last year's series. The site is the public face of Suffolk Archeological Service and has a plethora of other resources which may be of interest to members.
- Suffolk Local History Council (SLHC) <https://slhc.org.uk/> Our Society is a member of the Suffolk Local History Council whose purpose is to encourage and support the study of local history and to act as an umbrella organisation for groups and individuals with similar interests in the county of Suffolk. Copies of the Suffolk Review can be found on-line on the site

There are many other societies and sources across the country and county and if any member has one they think would be of interest to other members please contact Alison Bowman ([alison@alisonpickup.co.uk](mailto:alison@alisonpickup.co.uk)) so that it can be included in the next publication.

### From Earlier Publications:

#### **THE INNS OF FRAMLINGHAM, PAST AND PRESENT**

*As read to the members of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society by PJ Stannard, Hon Sec on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1959*



*Interior of Hare and Hounds by John Western.*

## Part 1: Brewers & Brewing

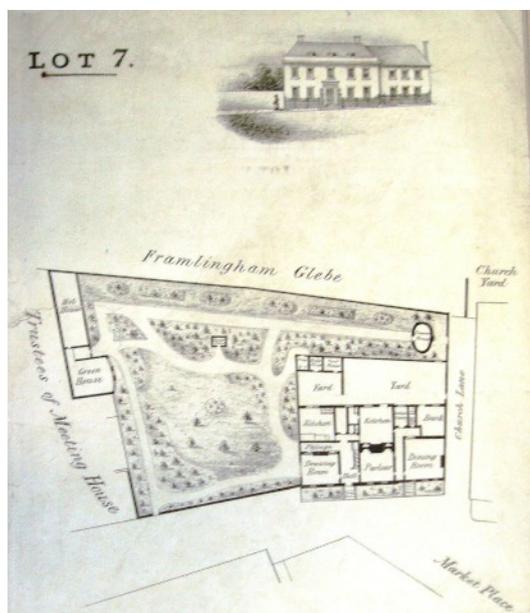
It is very interesting to recall how, many years ago, a comparatively large number of houses in various places were used as Inns and Public Houses, and especially so in Framlingham. The occupants of these houses mostly brewed their own beers, and no doubt vied with each other in their brew: some no doubt would produce a very good strong ale or beer or porter, and others were not so particular, and believed in making the malt and hops go a long way, and their brew would not, in the eyes and taste of the connoisseur, be so good or strong, with the ultimate result that sooner or later the customers would patronize those who brewed the best, and the others found that their business didn't bring in sufficient to make a living, and they closed down. In those days, of course, they had plenty of time to sample the various brews, as there were no restrictions on opening times such as there are now. Until the Licensing Act of 1910, the Inns were allowed to remain open, if the proprietors so wished, practically twenty-four hours a day. (I believe they were expected to close for an hour or two in the very early hours of the morning.)

The results of my investigation took me back to about the year 1750, when I find we had these Inns in Framlingham:-

"Dove"; "Bull"; "Black Swan"; "White Horse"; "White Lion"; "Griffin"; "Crown"; "Duck and Mallard"; "Marlborough Head"; "Black Horse"; "White Hart"; "Shoulder of Mutton"; "Cherry Tree"; "Castle"; "Blue Boar"; "Wagon and Horses".

Only six of these were in existence in the year 1823; there were, however, other houses in town at the time where beer was sold, but apparently they were not known by any sign. <sup>i</sup>

Before I continue with the Inns separately, I would like to deal with one of the sources from which intoxicating liquor was obtained about that time, by referring to the premises that were known in those days as "The Brewery". In the early part of the nineteenth century, Framlingham was noted for its brewery. This was owned by Mr George Brooke Keer Senior, who was acknowledged to be a brewer of great repute. Mr Keer also owned the adjoining malt offices, 21 public houses in Framlingham and district, two mansions and several farms. What the Cobbolds and Tollemaches are now [were] to Ipswich, the Keers were to the town of Framlingham in those days. Six of the 21 public houses were in Framlingham, and six were no doubt what are known as 'tied houses', as in the early nineteenth century the beer etc. was supplied to these houses, and also to the remainder of the 21, from Mr Keer's brewery. In 1832, Mr Keer had some trouble with the tax collector. It would seem that Mr Keer had been unable to pay the duty on malt that was due from him – the amount is not stated – and his affairs were thrown into bankruptcy. On an order of the Commissioners acting under a Fiat in Bankruptcy against Mr Keer, he was described as a Common Brewer and Merchant. All the properties he owned, including the brewery with malting offices, the 21 public houses, the two mansions and also the farms, were offered for sale by auction at the Crown Inn, Framlingham on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1832. On the particulars of sale it was noted that this, being a sale under a bankruptcy, *no auction duty* would



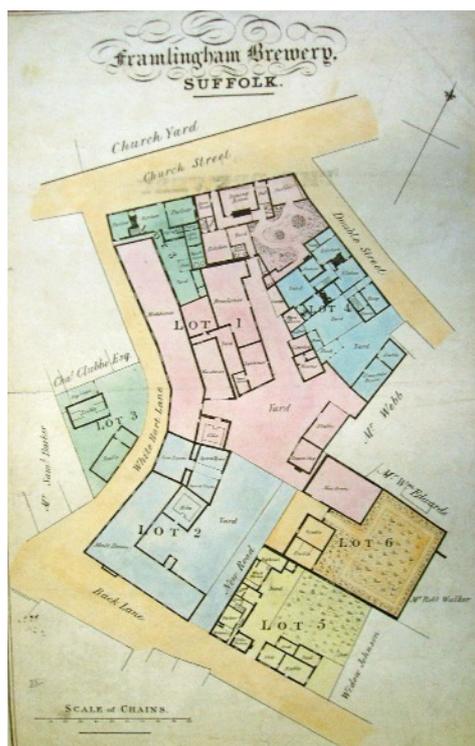
George Brooke Keer's Mansion House and gardens, located between Church Lane and the Unitarian Meeting House.

be payable, so it would seem that in those days one had normally to pay auction duty on the sale by auction of public houses. The particulars went on:-

The brewery and malt offices are stated to be in full trade, the site is perhaps the best situation in the County of Suffolk for carrying on an extensive business, there being at this time a very considerable trade attached to the brewery, and every opportunity is afforded to the *man of industry and capital* for accumulating a handsome fortune.

On the brewery premises eight to ten men were employed, and Mr Keer also employed his own coopers to make the casks. The auction, you will notice, was billed to take place at the Crown Inn, and totalled 31 lots, but in an article printed 65 years later in the *Framlingham Weekly News* it stated that the auction was held on the bowling green by the castle, and it brought together a large concourse of people. The brewery was knocked down at the auction to Mr Abraham Thompson for £1,400, but he apparently did not make the success of it that was envisaged in the particulars of sale, because some years later Mr Thompson failed in business, and the brewery with malt offices and the residence, were up up again for sale by auction by Mr Henry Preston, and purchased by Mr Edward Lankester at the low figure of something like £650.

I have a plan showing the situation of the brewery, and it comprised the premises in Crown and Anchor Lane and Fore Street now partly used by Garrards as motor car showrooms and repair shops [Garrards Court], and the remainder by the Misses Carley [Turner and Ellerby offices], and it is interesting to note that the plan shows the room which was no doubt the Framlingham Theatre, but on the plan it was called 'New Room', which rather indicates that it might have been built or rebuilt shortly before the date of the auction in 1832.[The Theatre building can be seen on the right hand side as you look up the drive way to the side of Garrards Court].



Part of the 1832 sale document for George Brooke Keer's maltings. Lot 2 is now Garrards Court. The theatre was later established in the pink building section adjacent Lot 6.

The residence attached to the brewery was described in the particulars as being nearly opposite the church, and at that time was occupied by a son of Mr G B Keer, the brewer. It is now known to all of us as 'Manor House' [Turner and Ellerby offices], and is owned and occupied by the Carley family. A short time ago, I mentioned that the brewery property and residence were purchased by Mr Edward Lankester. He carried on an extensive business in Framlingham for many years, and there may perhaps be one of two of you in the room tonight who will just remember him – he died about 60 years ago. While I cannot ask you to sample any of the nice things Mr Lankester sold, I will ask you to look at and examine a stone-ware bottle which was dug up in Fore Street only this last summer, then the builders were digging the trenches for the foundations of Mr Dennis Maulden's new house [Hill House]. The name on the bottle reads 'Lankester, Wine Spirit &

Porter Merchant, Framlingham'. By the way, this bottle was found in the garden next to the house where Walton Tongate lived for many years: Walton Tongate worked for the late Edward Lankester, and when the latter died, the business was taken over by Mr Walter Cocks, who, I believe, was also employed by Mr Lankester, and it would be quite reasonable to assume that these two employees continued to carry on the business, as we know that Mr Cocks lived in the Manor House and carried on the wine and spirit business, and also that Mr Walton Tongate was employed by him. This business is, of course, that now carried on by the Carley family [ceased trading some time ago], who took it over on the death of Mr Walter Cocks.

As I have said previously, Mr Keer owned two mansion houses: one was the Manor House which I have just referred to, and the other was the property on Market Hill then known as 'The Mansion House'. [At auction, nobody wanted to buy The Mansion House, and it was demolished and all the materials sold off. The present buildings were constructed on the site]. I have a drawing of plan of this Mansion House and also of the grounds which went with it, and it can be seen that it stood on the site of the property which now belongs to Mr George Willett Cooper, the front parts of which are now occupied, one as a showroom for the Eastern Gas Board, and the other by Mr Geoffrey Peck as a seed stores [all recently Impulse]. You might will say, "What has this to do with Inns or public houses?", but before it became the Mansion House and occupied by Mr G B Keer, it was an inn, known by the sign of the 'Black Horse'. I also have a plan taken from the particulars of sale, and it shows extensive grounds attached, which went right down Bridge Street as far as the Unitarian Chapel (then known as the Meeting House). There is a painting in the Museum<sup>ii</sup> which Miss Gibbs lent to us and dated *circa* 1820, which clearly shows this same house. Other names for this house were 'The Steppe House' or 'Stair House'. On the painting in the Museum, the steps leading up to the front door are clearly shown, and on this plan, there is palisading in front of the whole length of the house. It ran back to the Rectory grounds, embracing the sites of the Old Police Station with the Court House, [the Police Station was on the site which is the library car park], also Mr Brackenbury's harness-makers premises [Toby's Pet Shop], the International Stores [Bulstrodes], and also the premises now owned by Stebbings the fruiterers [Sue Ryder shop]. The Bank of Norfolk and Norwich Joint Stock Banking Co. was under this roof and managed by Mr Manning Keer, another son of GB Keer Senior.

<sup>i</sup> Or at least were not known by any sign recorded in printed sources of the time. For some unknown reason, nineteenth century trade directories frequently omit the actual names of licensed premises, unless they provided overnight accommodation.

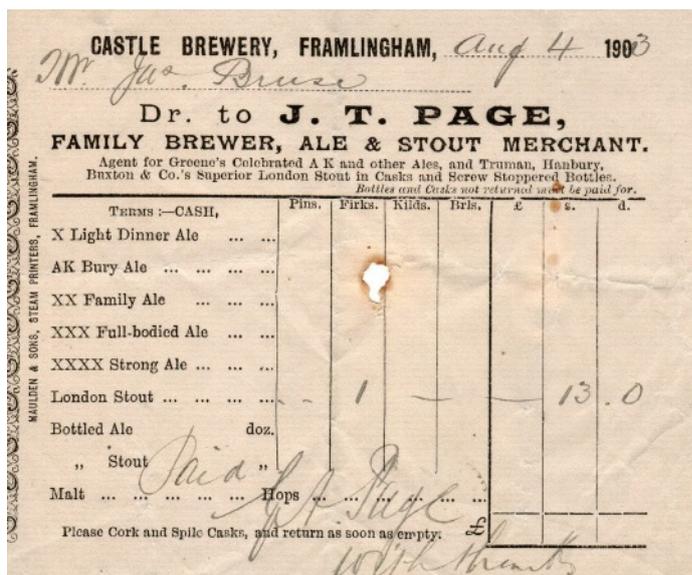
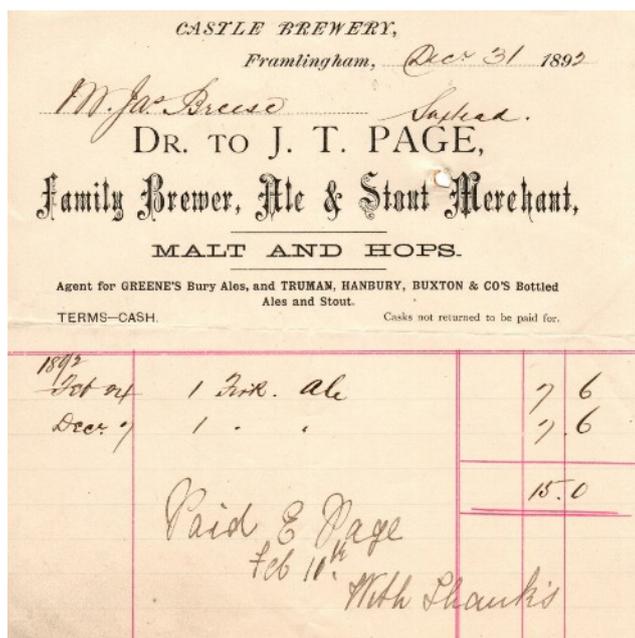
<sup>ii</sup> What is now the Lanman Museum in the Castle; in 1959 the Museum was in Double Street.

## Part 2: The North-East of the Town

Now that I have dealt with the brewery and, if you are not feeling too bored (or thirsty) after hearing about Framlingham Beer and Porter, I will continue with the various inns or public houses. As I said in my early remarks, my information goes back to about 1750, or shall we say 200 years ago. One in existence at that time was known by the sign of the 'Griffin Inn', which until the year 1777, was located at the grocer's shop on Market Hill, now owned by Carley and Co. [Framlingham Travel and Carley Hill Hair], but in that year for some reason which I have not been able to ascertain, the sign of the 'Griffin Inn' was transferred to the premises on the other side of Market Hill, now occupied as a grocer's shop by Mrs Steggall [Country vision Opticians], so that you see both sets of premises I have mentioned can lay claim to the fact that formerly they were known as the 'Griffin Inn'. I think you will follow better what I have to say, if I now start at the north-east, or, shall I say, the St Michael's Rooms end of town. As far as can be ascertained, the inn now known as the 'Castle Inn', which adjoins these Rooms, did not exist until many years later, and in a reference to it which I found in a copy of *The Framlingham Weekly News* published about 1895, I find this note:-The Castle Brewery, now held by Mr Page, was outside the Keer family, and was built by Mr Benjamin Rackham, who was employed as a clerk by Mr G B Keer. Unfortunately, it does not state the year the Castle Brewery was built.

Mr Page, as we who have lived in Framlingham many years will know, carried on a brewing business on these premises, and sold his brew to all and sundry, until he retired getting on for 60 years ago, and then

went to live in the house in Castle Street next to the pond, where his two daughters, Mrs Veasy and Mrs Cooke are now living. Mr Page, by the way also owned an inn in Station Road, Saxmundham, and also supplied that inn with his brew.



On Mr Page's retirement, he sold the premises to Messrs Truman, Hanbury and Buxton of London, and until the last year or two it was called or described as a Beerhouse, but it has been granted a full licence, so that any kind of intoxicating liquor can be supplied. Before we leave the 'Castle Inn', I would like to mention that until 1816, there was an inn in Church Street called 'The Kings Head', afterwards known as 'The Black Swan', and this was situated on the site of the Old Stables, which belonged to the house opposite these Rooms, and are now used as the Conservative Club. [recently re-opened as a community resource and called The Con Club]. The property belonged to the late Mr Charles Clubbe, a solicitor of repute in the town, and it afterwards came into the possession of the Edwards' family, one of whom was also in the legal profession, until it was sold by the executors of the late Miss Louisa Edwards to the Committee of the Conservative Club in the year 1911. It is rather amusing to recall that in the year 1910, we had two General Elections: at the first in January, the house was hired by Sir Harold Pearson (afterwards Lord Cowdray), who was then the Liberal candidate, and it was used as a temporary residence by him and also as Liberal Headquarters for the Eye Division. I can remember it was lavishly decorated with yellow flowers and on the front windowsills were placed the most exquisite daffodils and other yellow flowers, with a request, 'Please take one'. But when the next election began to be talked about the Tories jumped in: they hired the house for their Divisional Headquarters, and the Liberals were obliged to find other Headquarters, and this they did on Market Hill: ever since that time, this house has been the Headquarters of the Tories in the Eye Division, as well as the local Conservative Club.

The name 'Black Swan' was subsequently transferred to the premises which I have mentioned were built by Mr Benjamin Rackham across part of the outer moat of the Castle, and I dare say a few of you may have noticed painted on the side wall of the 'Castle Inn' next to the entrance to The Gulls [the pathway next to Castle Inn, leading down to the Mere] the words 'Black Swan and Castle', which is the name by which the inn was known for many years [part of the lettering can just about be made out]. May we now pass on to Swan Street (or, as most of you will know it, Castle Street). Swan Street was the ancient name for it, and possible the 'Black Swan' took its name from the name of the street.

On the corner of Castle Street and Double Street is the inn formerly known as 'The Dove' and now called the 'Hare and Hounds' [now a private residence]. It is one of those in existence about 1750, and it was sold at Mr Keer's auction (it was then known by the sign of the 'Hare and Hounds') to a Mr James Aldridge for Mr Richard Wright for £500: fifty years ago this house was the property of the Colchester Brewing Co. Ltd., and had then been for many years under the proprietorship of Mr James Row Howlett; and on his death it was

taken over by his son, Mr H C Howlett, who held the licence until his death, and now the licence is held by Mr H C Howlett's son-in-law, Mr Jim Finbow. The owners of the Colchester Brewing Co. Ltd. sold all their inns in this district to Ind Coope & Co Ltd., who kept the inns they wanted to acquire, and sold the remainder to E Lacon & Co. Ltd., of Great Yarmouth, and they are the owners at the present time. The cottage next door to the inn was at one time occupied by William Jennings who was described in an old directory as an 'orange dealer'. The cottage has now been pulled down .

Proceeding down Double Street we come to a house on the left [No. 26 Double Street] now occupied by Mr Podd, College Master, and belonging to Mrs Woodgate. A previous owner and occupier of this house was Mr John Martin, father of Mr James Mason Martin of Ipswich [great grandfather of Tony Martin], and Mr J M Martin tells me that when his parents lived there, there was an entrance through the garden into Fore Street. I have a document dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1801 which makes very interesting reading, as it says that a well had been dug in: a part of the Waste of the Manor of Framlingham at the Castle, in an ancient and common highway called Double or Bow Street in Framlingham opposite to a messuage or tenement theretofore of a Brewer known as JOHN BUCKE and then called or known by the name or sign of 'The Bull'. The document went on to say that the well had for many years been disused and abandoned. Apparently John Bucke had been made a bankrupt (quite a common occurrence in those days it would seem) and a person, curiously enough of the name of DANIEL BULL (note:- this was the sign of the inn), who was a currier by trade, was the surviving assignee of John Bucke's estate .The inhabitants at that time had obtained leave from the Lords of the Manor, and this document goes on to state that they, the inhabitants, intended to re-open the well for the use and benefit of the public. The well is still in Double Street, and when there is a snow-storm the position of it can easily be located, as snow will not remain on the top of a well for any length of time, I have noticed this repeatedly in connection with this particular well. I mention all this to show to you that Double Street was formerly Bow Street, and that there was an inn there known as 'The Bull '. There has been a suggestion that Northwold House [No. 22], the residence of Mr Barrington Phillips, in the same Street, was an inn or public house, but I have not been able to obtain confirmation of this.

The next is the beerhouse known by the sign of 'The Farriers Arms' [Double House], the licence for which was surrendered only this last February: this had been a beerhouse for a good many years, but in the



The Farriers Arms is now called Double House.

particulars of sale of Mr Keer's property in 1832, these premises were described as two dwelling houses with a butchers shop slaughter house and yard adjoining and in the occupations of John Dixon a butcher and Charles Williams, an excise officer. The property was bought by the tenant John Dixon. Many years later, it passed into the ownership of Flintham Hall and Co Ltd., brewers of Aldeburgh and when this company went into liquidation it was bought by Adnams and Co. Ltd., brewers in Southwold, who as I have said, surrendered the licence only this year. This is the only inn which has been closed in Framlingham during the past 50 years.

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At Garrards shop on Market Hill [Bridges and Garrards] was the inn known by the sign of the 'White Lion', but little is known as to its merits as an inn, nor how long it existed.

We now come to Carley's shop, which was known by the sign of 'The Griffin' until 1777. In the year 1701 this property was owned by Mr Richard Porter of Framlingham, and in his will dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1701, he directed and appointed 18 twopenny loaves of bread: -to be delivered weekly to eighteen poor persons of Framlingham of honest conversations to be nominated by the Churchwardens of the same parish for the time being which allowance of bread shall be perpetual and continue for ever and be paid by the tenant and occupier of my Griffin Inn in Framlingham aforesaid. Many years ago, the perpetual allowance for bread was converted into a rent-charge, and the owners for the time being of the property now pay one sum of £7 16s 0d (i.e. 3/- per week) annually at Michaelmas,[29<sup>th</sup> September] in lieu of the weekly issue of 18 two-pence loaves. There are other small charities in Framlingham which supplement the amount received from this rent-charge. During the Second World War, from 1939 onwards, bread was rationed and the price increased to such an extent, that those members of our local Parish Council who were then entrusted with administering the amounts received, found great difficulty in carrying out the terms of Mr Porter's will, and it was decided to allocate the amounts once a year at Christmas. At the present time about 27 poor persons of Framlingham receive 10/- each. In August 1747, the 'Griffin Inn' belonged to a Mr William Foulkes, who lived in Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, and a Mr Joseph Barker of Debenham, who no doubt carried on an Estate Agency business wrote in the following terms:-

*Sir, I have a client who hearing your inclinations to sell the Griffin Inn in Framlingham is minded to purchase it, desired me to write to you to know the lowest price you'll take for it, all other particulars relating thereto which you apprehend a Purchaser ought to be acquainted with – I make no doubt but you are sensible of the great reparations that are wanting to make it either convenient or commodious, will propose your price accordingly which I'm pretty certain if agreeable will be complied with. My client being willing to give a reasonable price, as much as any other. Therefore I think you'll deal so honourable with these offers, to prefer them to any subsequent proposal of this sort. Your speedy answer will oblige your intended purchaser .  
Ever your humble servant*

*Jos. Barker Debenham Suffolk 8<sup>th</sup> August 1747*

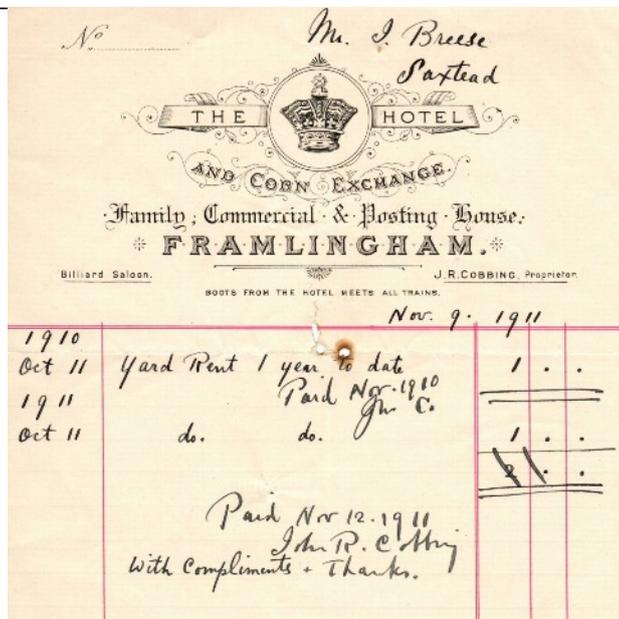
Whether Mr Foulkes replied to Mr Barker's letter is not on record, but in or about the year 1777, as I have mentioned before, the licence of the 'Griffin Inn' was transferred to Mrs Steggall's property, and thereafter that shop was known as 'The Griffin Inn'. When it was transferred or given up we cannot say, but when the property was acquired by Mr Frances Ann Jude, mother of the late Mr George Jude we knew, this particular shop was used for millinery etc. the grocer's shop being then in the premises of Pageant House [St Elizabeth Hospice shop] at the Bridge Street end.

### **Part 3: The South and West of the Town**

Now 'The Crown Inn': here was established the Corn Exchange, which was carried on there in the Corn Hall until a few years ago. In 1849, the Petty Sessions were held there. This also was one of the houses owned by Mr G B Keer and sold at the auction in 1832 to Mr John Oakley. It was described as a Posting House with excellent accommodation with stabling for 24 horses. There was also a hairdresser's shop adjoining the premises, this in the occupation of Richard Lay. This hairdresser's shop stood on the site of the entrance to the Corn Hall, and there were steps up to the floor level. It is stated that the shop was papered with posting bills, horsemanship, lithographed placards, etc. Mr Lay had a picture inside the shop illustrating Absalom hanging on a branch of an oak tree and his mule or donkey running away, beneath which were these lines as near as we can remember: -

*O Absalom, my son my son Had'st thou had thy periwig on Thou would'st not have been undone.*

At the Exhibition in the Assembly Hall in 1953 we had a barber's sign lent by Ipswich Museum containing the



Crown Hotel invoice to James Breese for rent of yard when visiting Framlingham.

same quotation, and which, it is said, hung outside Mr Lay's shop. 'The Crown Inn' was a free house until about 25 years ago, when it was sold to Trust House Ltd., and it is now under their ownership [it is no longer owned by THL]. Next door, at Barclays Bank, it is reputed hung the sign of 'The Barking Dicky', but I have not been able to confirm or deny this. In the corner of the Market Hill, now Mr Durrant's butcher's shop [Leo's Deli], was the inn known by the sign of 'The Duck and Mallard' and next door, where the Queens Head Inn [16 Market Hill] is now, this was known as 'The Blue Boar'. This was also one of Mr Keer's houses, and at one time the lodging-house which was attached to the inn used to be a brewery, in which Mr Revett for a time carried on business – there was stabling for 16 horses. This house came into the ownership of the Colchester Brewing Co. Ltd., afterwards to Ind Coope and Co. Ltd., and is now owned by Lacons of Great Yarmouth. At this inn was a 'dosshouse' or lodging-house for down-and-outs. In Queens Head Alley, at the rear of the inn's premises, was a common lodging-house used for giving a night's shelter to those who had no homes. It was a sort of half-way house for weary road travellers between the workhouses at Eye and at Wickham Market, and a tramp, or anyone else for that matter, if he had no money, could go to the Police Station in Bridge Street, and on satisfying the Superintendent of Police who then lived at the Police Station (oh yes, we had a Superintendent of Police in charge here in those days), he or she could get a ticket worth sixpence, which entitled him or her, as the case might be, to a single bed for the night: the bed was fourpence, and you were entitled to a pennyworth of bread and a pennyworth of cheese, but more often that not the tuppence was spent on a pint of beer, which was the price of mild beer in those days. If it was a married couple, then they were entitled to a sixpenny ticket for a double bed, with the usual allowance for subsistence. The dosshouse was closed down on the reorganisation of the Poor Law system.

Near to the 'Queens Head', at what is known as 'The Old Bank' [Bank House], where Mr Henry Turner until recently had his office, was the 'Marlborough Inn'. Subsequent to its being used as an inn it was used by the late Dr G E Jeaffreson and afterwards by his son Dr Cordy Jeaffreson. Mr Ron Allen occupies the dwelling house part of the premises. At the Steppe or Stair House on Market Hill, the Mansion House of which I have



James Brunning plaque on the White Horse

already spoken as being the residence of Mr G B Keer, was 'The Black Horse', but this was before Mr Keer went into residence. I will not dwell longer here, beyond saying that the Stair House was taken down in 1832 but pass on down Bridge Street to Well Close Square, where there was an inn known as the 'Kings Arms'. Its exact location is still a mystery to modern-day research.

Crossing the road to the 'White Horse' [now a private residence], this was in existence in about 1750, and it was also one of Mr Keer's houses. At the auction in 1832, it was purchased by James Brunning for £900. James Brunning went to the inn to live and carried on a very good business (there was stabling there for 26 horses). He was succeeded by his son, John Brunning, who lived there till about 30 years ago. On his death, this house was sold to Steward and Patteson Ltd. of Norwich. Mrs Wells of Saxtead is a granddaughter of James Brunning who bought this house in 1832, and Alice Brunning of Fairfield Road is a great-granddaughter. In addition to those mentioned above, there were other inns or beerhouses in the College Road part of the town, where beer was brewed on the premises, one in particular being the flint cottages in College Road, where David Foreman used to live; little, however, is known of these inns or beerhouses. (Horn Hill by the way, was the old name for College Road, and Pembroke Road was known as Strawberry Hill or Red Rose Lane.)

The Railway Inn was run by Alfred Brackenbury between about 1908 and 1916. There was no spirit license, and it was called a 'beer house'. Alfred also provided a horse carriage service, and it is probably him holding the reins in this photo. 22 horses could be accommodated in the yard. By 1922, he had moved from the Railway Inn, and was jobmaster, saddler and harness maker in Well Close Square



Coming back into the town, opposite to Brook Lane, or Potter's Lane as it is sometimes called, is the 'Railway Inn'. In the yard at the side of the inn was the site of the Old Wesleyan Chapel. Mr Abraham Clements (grandfather of Herbert Clements in Station Road) was then the landlord of the 'Railway Inn', and he bought the Chapel and pulled it down in 1868, and the site was thrown open for the purposes of an inn yard. A bowling alley was on the site of the vestry, and there are graves of those who once were worshippers in the Chapel, which can be found in the yard of the inn. But just one moment. I have overlooked the 'Shoulder of Mutton'. This was probably where Herbert Clements now lives [No. 5 Station Road] and carries on his business of harness-maker, as its location is given as opposite Mills Almshouses, but it is definite it was never the premises known as the 'Railway Inn'.

Taking a right-hand turn by Mill's Almshouses, we ramble down Brook Lane to the late Mr John Larter's farm, the house of which was a beerhouse and known by the sign of the 'Cherry Tree'. Again, not a great deal is known of the inn, but the farm is still known by the name of 'Cherry Tree Farm'.

Returning to Station Road, there is the 'Station Hotel' next to the railway station, and this no doubt came into existence about 1859, the year when the railway to Framlingham was opened. I think the construction of the building points to this.

Leaving the town and proceeding along the Woodbridge Road, near to the Kettleburgh Road gate crossing, the bridge over the stream there is known as the Castle Bridge, and round the corner into Fairfield Road, we come to what was for many years the Fairfield Nurseries, where a market garden was carried on by the late Mr Fred Clark and his father before him. The house on these premises was known by the sign of the 'Castle Inn', and I think we are not far wrong when we express the opinion that the licence of the 'Castle Inn' was

Frederick Rix, landlord of the Station Hotel in the 1920s.



transferred, when this house was closed to trade, to that of the 'Black Swan'. This accounts for the name of the sign which I referred to at almost the beginning of my paper, as being painted on the wall of the present 'Castle Inn'.

Back in Fore Street, the ancient name of which was Back Lane, our call is at Mr Brownsord's butcher's shop [Old Tavern House]. This was also one of Mr Keer's properties and is show as lot V on the sale plan. It is described as a freehold Public House called the 'Wagon and Horses', with a slaughterhouse, butcher's shop, stable and also a coach house, and was then in the occupation of Francis Bilney. This was sold at auction to Mr Cobbold for £400, but, as we all know, it ceased to be an inn many years ago. When these premises were closed as an inn, the licence was transferred to the 'Station Hotel'.

And now my tour of the inns of Framlingham is almost over, that last call being in Saxmundham Road, round the corner beyond the bungalows on the left. There was an inn known by the sign of the 'Mill Inn'. There are elderly residents who can still remember the inn, and even to this day these same people still use the name Mill Inn for this property. There again, we do not know quite when it ceased to exist as an inn, but it was certainly of much more recent date than some I have mentioned. I hope that this paper has been of interest to you all, and that perhaps for many it has enlightened you just a little on the past history of the inns and beerhouses of our town, and although I have on my rounds visited all the public houses in Framlingham, both past and present, I will close as I began, on a sober note, hoping that you are not feeling too bored, or – shall I say – thirsty, and I thank you all very much for so attentively listening to me for such a long time.