

E. ANGLIAN FIELD NAMES

Place-names are always a source of fascinating information for the student of both history and geomancy. East Anglian field names, like their counterparts in other parts of the country, reflect the former uses and physical characteristics which the places once had. Apart from the fields which were named after their former owners, many have names which at first glance appear meaningless in terms of modern language. However, the names are derived from dialect usage and possess particular meanings. Below, I list a few examples, with their derivations:

At Dennington, Bury St. Edmunds, Attleborough, Hindringham and Clopton are fields which bear the names 'Bell Acre Land', 'Bell Meadow', 'Bell Pightle', 'Bell Rope Land', etc. These tracts of territory were lands formerly given to the church for the maintenance and repair of the church Bells and their fittings. At Redenhall and Woodton, the name 'Borzell Meadow' can be found. 'Borcell' were countryfolk, and one must assume that the meadows were owned by folk from outside the villages.

'Breck' is a name immortalized in the Brecklands. Strictly it is an exposed barren slope or newly broken-up land. 'Breure' is another name occasionally encountered, meaning heath or moorland.

Where the name 'Camp' or 'Camping' occurs in relation to a field, one may be assured that it is not referring to an ancient Roman or any other period fort, but to the ancient and often lethally violent game of Camping which was formerly "played" upon such grounds. I don't know the rules of the game, or even the way it was played (perhaps a reader of *Lantern* can enlighten me?) but it was so dangerous that it was finally outlawed at the beginning of the last century.

'Cancer Field', or as at Fressingfield, the 'Parsons Cancer', does not refer to a hideous disease, or even to the sign of the zodiac, but to a raised footpath which once (or still) crossed it. Also at Fressingfield is 'Chevenhall (once Chepenhall) Green', the site of a 'chepe' - a market, the old fair. Anywhere the name 'carr' appears, one may be certain there was once swampy ground. The name 'clamps' or 'Hale' applied to a field, means it was once the venue of stacks of roots or bricks for burning. At Mendham can be found 'Clapper Pightle', which, strangely, refers not to a gate, but a burrow or enclosure.

'Clink', at Walpole, refers not to a prison, like the famous Borough Clink formerly in London, but to a fir plantation on a sandy slope or gravelly bluff, just as 'Cloyts' refers to clay lands.

East Anglian words, of course, are characteristic and give their well-known "ring" to the names of certain fields. 'Deerboughts' or 'Boughts' refers to enclosures, 'boughts' being an East Anglian dialect word for them. 'Delf' is a marsh drain, from the verb 'delvan' - to dig. Allotments are often known as 'Doles', and small groves as 'Grovetts'. 'Hern' or 'Horn' refers to a sharply angular field; 'Tun', a protective ditch; 'Toft', an enclosed yard or a homestead; 'Gull', a gully and 'Grupp' or 'Cripp', a small shallow water channel. A 'Holt' is a wood-crowned hill, or simply just a wood.

Several names refer to systems of measurement which are now lost. The word 'Rigg' refers to tracts with ridges of 9 or 10 plough furrows. 'Snor', 'Snotch', or 'Snorce', refer to land measured by an obsolete measurement system derived from ancient Danish usage. In the manors of Topcroft with Denton and Holbrook, the 'Snorce' was used. In Danish, 'Snor' means a cord or string, and the 'snotches' were knots on a measuring line, an ancient method of land-measure which dates back into great antiquity and was used by the Freemasons in laying out the ground plans of Mediaeval churches. In East Anglia, 13 snorce was equal to 3 roods. Now completely lost, the 'Ware' was another obsolete measure of land. The name 'Went' also refers to a large

THE SECRET TUNNELS OF NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

by: Michael W. Burgess.

I hope I may be forgiven for perhaps dredging up one or two tunnels legends that I have told in these pages before, but the time seemed right for a semi-complete gazetteer on the subject, as nothing more than a few lines have been written since Lantern 3. Also, I plead guilty to a greater concentration on Suffolk tales, which is solely the result of my lack of research as far as 'the other place' is concerned. I intend to rectify that in the near future. Any further information will be gratefully received.

BACTON (Norfolk): Here are the ruins of the great medieval priory of Bromholme, one-time guardian of the famed Holy Rood, said to be a fragment of the 'true' cross. From here there is alleged to run a secret tunnel to Gimingham Hall and midway between the two is said to stand a pair of golden gates (1).

BILDESTON (Suffolk): Behind the bar of the 15th century 'Crown Inn' is the trap-door supposed to be the entrance to a tunnel that runs at a very acute angle to the market-place, where it surfaces beneath the clock tower. (2)

BINHAM (Norfolk): A persistent tradition exists on an underground passage between Binham Priory and Walsingham Abbey, and connected with this is the widespread and archetypal tale of the fiddler and his dog. Apparently, he and his faithful dog entered the tunnel one day, the sound of his fiddling followed by people above ground. However, when the procession reached the place called Fiddlers' Hill in the parish of Warham, the music stopped dead, and neither man nor hound were ever seen again. Some confirmation of this legend was supposedly provided in 1933 when a party of workmen rounding off a corner at the hill dug up the skeletons of a man and a dog. (3) Another source seems to contradict the basic tale and states that fiddler and beast actually entered the tunnel at the Hill, which is in fact a round barrow or burial mound. (4)

BUNGAY (Suffolk): Oliver Cromwell is blamed for the subterranean passage said to run from Bungay Castle to Mettingham Castle, but no sign of any such tunnel was discovered during the 1934 excavations at the former. (5)

BURY ST EDMUNDS (Suffolk): The entire area of Angel Hill in Bury is locally believed to be riddled with tunnels and passages. Although a bricked-up doorway in the medieval vaulted cellars under the 'Angel Hotel' is often quoted, no possible destination for a tunnel is ever mentioned. Here again is the tale of the vanishing fiddler, this time without his dog. (6)

DEBENHAM (Suffolk): A tunnel from the door by the church pulpit to an as yet unlocated site called 'Weir Farm' was supposedly sealed off "because of foul air". The farm was traditionally once a religious house of some kind, and Catholics escaping persecution may have had some connection here. (7)

DUNWICH (Suffolk): Another bricked-up entrance in the cellar of the 'Ship Inn' provides yet another tantalisingly elusive clue to a tunnel, this one is said to lead to the gaunt remains of Greyfriars Monastery. (8)

FRECKENHAM (Suffolk): Here there is a circular chalk mound about forty feet high known locally as 'The Castle'. An underground passage is believed to run from here to the Hall on the opposite side of the road. (9)

GRESHAM (Norfolk): A 'golden calf' is alleged to be hidden somewhere in the subterranean way said to run from Gresham's market cross to the ruins of the Abbey at Beeston Regis (10).

HICKLING (Norfolk): A monk which haunts the remains of Hickling Priory is said to disappear down a tunnel which leads from here to, of all places, a marsh drain about half-a-mile to the north-east.

HOXNE (Suffolk): According to old local tales, there used to be an underground passage from a moat near Hoxne Abbey to Eye, and yet another to Denham Church from beneath the altar. (11)

ILKETSHALL ST JOHN (Suffolk): There was once a 'bower', or probable wayside shel-

ter for pilgrims in this parish, beside the Roman 'Stone Street' to Bungay. A tunnel is said to have led from here to the Moat Minster at South Elmham. (I2)

ILKETSHALL ST LAWRENCE (Suffolk): Here was another bower, this at the north junction of a staggered crossroads, and once again, the legendary tunnel led to the Moat Minster. (I3) (see also under SPEXHALL)

IPSWICH (Suffolk): Here there are several tunnel traditions, the first of which is one said to run from Alnesbourne Priory (no Priory Farm) to the Ancient House (I4). Connected in one source to the town's monastic days, another secret passage leads from the cellars of the 'Coach and Horses' Inn to those beneath the premises of Messrs Hunts (as yet unidentified). (I5). Stoke Hall is the site of the next pair of tales. Apparently a man named Thomas Cartwright built a vast range of wine cellars beneath the house in 1740, and the legends only arose when portions of them were discovered during the Hall's demolition. One tunnel is said to lead to the folly called 'Freston Tower', whilst the other actually runs beneath the river to Greyfriars Monastery. (I6)

KINGS LYNN (Norfolk): It is said of this town that the 'Red Mount Chapel' on its artificial mound was once connected underground with Greyfriars Monastery, of which only the lantern tower now remains. (I7)

LAVENHAM (Suffolk): Nos. 67-69 Water Street were once one house called 'The Priory', and in the cellar of the part NOW known by that name is said to be a blocked doorway leading to the underground water-course, which in turn gives access to a tunnel reputedly running towards Lady Street.

'The Grove' is a large Georgian-fronted building in the town. At the same time as a 'Roman bath or crypt' was discovered in the gardens, so also was all-egely found evidence of a secret tunnel running towards the Guildhall.

Arched recesses and yet another bricked-up doorway in the cellars under the 'Swan Inn' are taken as proof of a passage leading under the street. (I8)

LAWSHALL (Suffolk): Lawshall Hall is now a farmhouse, but with huge stone walls six feet thick in places, which tradition states are the remains of a monastery. A tunnel is said to run from here to Coldham Hall in Stanningfield. (I9)

LEISTON (Suffolk): The abbey is now in ruins, but at the west end was allegedly a secret tunnel which communicated with Framlingham Castle (20), and possibly another leading to Greyfriars at Dunwich. But one reference claimed that a blocked drainage channel from the Abbey refectory undercroft was responsible for the legends. (21)

LOWESTOFT (Suffolk): As far as tunnels and their investigation are concerned, this town could do with a booklet of its own (which we hope to provide in due course). According to the tales, the north end of Lowestoft is virtually honeycombed by secret passages and underground vaults, but these can be broken down as follows:

- a) From the Town Hall area of the High Street to the parish church, associated by most people with a mythical priory of St. Bartholemew.
- b) From the High Street to somewhere on the cliffs, supposedly used by smugglers or, alternatively, sea-watchers on the look-out for Viking raiders (!)
- c) From the Sparrows Nest gardens to the parish church, this time reputedly dug by Oliver Cromwell and his men.
- d) From one side of the High Street to the other, linking by passages and 'monastic' crypts various old houses with dubious claims to notability.

LUDHAM (Norfolk): This tunnel legend is a unique one in East Anglia, made as it was by a dragon which terrorised the village people. It ran from what was the 'Carpenters Arms' Inn to a corner of the churchyard, and its blockage with a huge stone was what led to the dragon's angry departure. (22)

NEWMARKET (Suffolk): Only a fragment of a tale is preserved in the information that the cellars of the 'Bushel Inn' here provide evidence of an underground passage; where it may have run to is not stated (24). But beneath the 'Rutland Arms' passes a tunnel which once connected the Palace with Nell Gwynn's house (25).

OULTON (Suffolk): There is a tradition of a tunnel leading from St. Michael's Church to Oulton Hall, and fairly recent work on the church floor MAY have uncovered the remains of an entrance to this. Another tunnel in this parish is said to go

from the 'High House' to St, Margarets Church. Lowestoft. (26)

PAKEFIELD (Suffolk): A connection with smugglers is mooted concerning the tradition of a subterranean passage between the parish church and the 'White House' in Florence Road. (27)

SOUTHWOLD (Suffolk): Beneath Bumstead's grocery shop are the remains of the old town jail, and there is local belief in a tunnel from here, running under the market place to the Town Hall, which was once a court-house. (28)

SPEXHALL (Suffolk): "When the baily had ridden to Bramfield Oak,
Sir Hugh was at Ilksall bower;
When the baily had ridden to Halesworth Cross,
He was singing in Bungay Tower...."

Those lines are from an anonymous 12th(?) century ballad called 'The Pleasant History of the King and Lord Bigod of Bungay.' The 'Ilksall' or Ilkeshall² bower mentioned was actually in the parish of Spexhall, at the southern junction of a staggered crossroads referred to previously. In 1918 it was described as a "ruined archway of stone and rubble under a tree'd mound", and was probably another shelter for pilgrims. The local tales asserted that the monks often used it for easy travel to the Moat Minster at South Elmham. (29)

WENHASTON (Suffolk): The destination and exact origin of the subterranean passage here is unknown, but it is thought to have been connected with the chapel of St. Bartholomew which, again, is THOUGHT to have stood somewhere just south of Mill Heath. (30)

WIGGENHALL (Norfolk): There is a legend of a tunnel here leading from the church of St. Mary Magdalen to the Old Priory by the river, and there are said to be old people in the village who can still remember its exact course. (31)

YOXFORD (Suffolk): In the park grounds of Cockfield Hall at Yoxford stands 'Satis House'. Tradition has it that, in the early 19th century, Sir Charles Blois, installed one of his mistresses at Satis, and had a tunnel built between the two to "facilitate his nightly visits". During World War Two, the army, who had commandeered both house, were said to have found an entrance to the passage at Satis House, but them had it blocked-up. (32).

REFERENCES:

- (1) Eastern Daily Press; 15/12/1953.
- (2) Oral.
- (3) 'The Kings England: Norfolk' - (Ed) Arthur Mee; 1940; pp428/9.
- (4) 'Folklore of Prehistoric Sites in England' - L.V.Grinsell; 1976; p.133.
- (5) Oral. Also 'East Anglian Magazine'; Vol.20; pp 58 & 189.
- (6) 'Secret Passages and Hiding Places' - J. Errand; 1974; p.49.
Also: 'Old Inns of Suffolk' - L.P.Thompson; 1946; p75.
- (7) 'Folklore from SE Suffolk' - Lady E.C.Gurdon in 'Folklore'; December 1892.
- (8) 'Ancient Dunwich' - J. Carter & S.Bacon; 1975.
- (9) 'Proc.Suff.Inst of Archeology'; Vol.17; p.182.
- (10) 'Secret Tunnels' - W.J.Chambers in Lantern 3, Autumn 1973; p.3.
- (11) 'East Anglian Magazine'; Dec.1951 Vol; p.222.
- (12) 'East Anglian Miscellany'; Vol.1917/19; No.5609.
- (13) Ibid.
- (14) 'Portrait of Suffolk' - A. Jobson; 1973; p.60.
- (15) L.P.Thompson; op.cit., p.24.
- (16) 'East Anglian Magazine'; Vol.5; 1940; p.132.
- (17) (ed); Arthur Mee; op.cit., p213.
- (18) 'Lavenham, Suffolk'; F. Lingard Ranson; 1965; pp48,52,59.
- (19) 'The Kings England: Suffolk' - (ed) Arthur Mee; 1941; p.258.
- (20) 'A Short Account of Leiston Abbey' - D.E.Davey; 1823; p.9.
- (21) 'East Anglian Magazine'; Vol.19; p.287.
- (22) W.H.Cooke MSS, 54-5; Norfolk & Norwich Record Office.
- (23) Oral.
- (24) L.P.Thompson; op.cit., p.118.
- (25) Ibid; p.124.
- (26) Oral.
- (27) Oral.

bomber. The witnesses watched the object travel slowly in a north-easterly direction until it became just a ball of light again. It then appeared to stop for almost 15 minutes and then Mrs. Clarke realised that the light was no longer there. When she returned indoors (and while the light was still visible in the west) Mrs. Clarke noticed that there was a lot of interference on her T.V.set.

Although she wasn't frightened by the object, Mrs. Clarke says that watching it gave her a very 'eerie' feeling and she felt 'mesmerised' by the object which, she felt was actually watching her. Also in the house at the time was her 13 year old daughter who was very frightened and upset and who refused to go outside to watch the object and remained inside, huddled in a corner crying and screaming! The three boys felt no psychological effects, but were particularly struck by the absolute silence of the object and its very slow speed.

At the time of writing this, details are just coming to hand, of a very similar object seen on the same evening a mile or so to the west of Mrs. Clarke's house - The report is from two boys - completely independent witnesses - who it is hoped might be able to corroborate this report.

On May 4th four teenage school-girls on a playing field called Barnard's Meadow, Lowestoft, saw two very large and vivid-bright orange objects hovering in the sky over the town. It was 3.30pm and the girls watched the objects for about 5 minutes, during which time they descended slowly with a sideways motion, finally being lost to sight behind the roof-tops. One of the girls who was interviewed later by a BSIG investigator, said that as soon as she saw the lights she felt very frightened and the feeling of fear lasted the rest of the afternoon and evening and at one point she became almost obsessed by the idea that the lights had been observing her and that 'something' was coming after her.

Perhaps the most interesting report received during this 'wave' of sightings happened on the evening of May 13th on Oulton marshes a mile or so to the west of Lowestoft. Two school-girls, 14 year old Tracey Segasby and 13 year old Michaela Field, were stabling their horses in a paddock on the edge of the marshes when they saw a dome-shaped object hovering close above the ground about a quarter of a mile away to the west. Said Tracey, "It had a silvery appearance with bright orange lights around it. We stared at it and after about 10 seconds the orange lights changed to a pinky-red and then to a dazzling white. It then began to slowly rise above the ground and hovered for about 5 seconds, and it then landed again and when it did so the lights turned to bright orange again. It was then that we noticed four figures coming towards us. There were 2 large creatures standing side by side. On either side were two smaller ones. They did not walk towards us, they moved in a jerky manner, at least five feet every time. The creatures then disappeared and the UFO gradually started to rise into the air and fade away. Then, after about 10 seconds, it had completely disappeared". At first Tracy thought the object was a building and added, "It was pretty scary, actually". She also stated that the horses nearby were going "really mad" and that the dogs were howling and barking and cats started running about. Both girls visited the scene the next day but could find nothing to account for the sighting.

The following Tuesday, BUFORA RIC Ptere Johnson visited the witnesses and took details and photographs from the paddock, and on Saturday, May 20th, Two BSIG Investigators visited the marshes with portable contamination equipment but could find nothing unusual.

All of these cases are still under investigation.

Another object, very similar to that at Oulton, was seen on the same evening. 26 year old Ian Scutton and his 24 year old wife, Thelma who live at Lawford Suffolk watched it fly over their house. "It was a thing with orange lights

IF YOU SEE A U.F.O.

REPORT IT

TO THE

NORFOLK UFO INVESTIGATION
NETWORK.

TELEPHONE:

Norwich 898667

Sheringham 833311

Dereham 2487

Lowestoft 69694

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EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

- FRIENDS OF GHOSTS (FOG): Litho'd; quarterly Newsletter for the International Society for the Investigation of Ghosts. All aspects of Psychical Research. Full details from the International Ghost Registry, 369-J Western Drive, Sanat Cruz, California 95060, USA.
- THE CHRISTIAN PARAPSYCHOLOGIST: A professionally produced magazine dealing with psychic phenomena from a religious viewpoint. Quarterly; annual sub. £2.00, from Leslie Price, The Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies, St. Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA.
- ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN: NOW LITHO'd, bi-monthly, Fortean phenomena. Journal of the Michigan Anomaly Research Group. Annual UK sub £1.50 from Dave Fideler, 7098 Edinburgh, Lambertville, Michigan 48144, USA.
- UFO RESEARCH REVIEW: litho'd, quarterly. Scientific approach to UFO Research. The Journal of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society. Single Copies 25p, full details from NUFOIS, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB.
- THE LEY HUNTER: litho'd, quarterly, THE magazine of Earth Mysteries. Annual sub for UK and Europe, £2.70 from Paul Devereux, PO Box 152, London, N101EP.
- FORTEAN TIMES: litho'd, quarterly. THE magazine strange phenomena, curiosities, mysteries, etc. Annual Sub £3.00, single copies 75p from R.J.M. Rickard at the same address as TLH above.
- MUFOB: litho'd, quarterly. An informal journal devoted to UFOlogy and associated subjects. Annual sub £1.25, from John Rimmer, 11 Beverly Road, New Malden, Surrey.
- THE JOURNAL of the Essex UFO Study Group. Duplicated, bi-monthly. Annual sub £2.00 from D. J. Goring, 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex.
- PULSAR: duplicated, quarterly. The Journal of the Preston Ufological & Leyographical Society & Expedition (PULSE). Single copies 20p, full details from 29 Bairstow Street, Preston, Lancs, PR1 3TN.
- ANCIENT SKILLS & WISDOM REVIEW: duplicated, quarterly. Reviews of books and magazines on Leys, folklore, geomancy, earth mysteries etc., annual sub £2.00 from Mr. Paul Screeton, 5 Egtom Drive, Scaton Carew, Hartlepool.
- JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY: duplicated/litho'd illus, quarterly. Published by the Institute of Geomantic Research (IGR). Single copies 60p or full membership to the IGR £3 per annum, from Nigel Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs. CB3 8SD.
- SKYWATCH: duplicated, bi-monthly. UFOs and related phenomena. Journal of the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Team (MAPIT). Annual sub to Skywatch/MAPIT is £2.30 from 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE.
- NORTHERN UFO NEWS: duplicated, monthly, newsletter of the Northern UFO Network, UFO reports, news and comment. Details from Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Manchester, M30 6NJ.
- RES BUREAUX BULLETIN: duplicated, tri-weekly. Fortean and allied phenomena. Details from the Res Bureaux, Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.
- STONEHENGE VIEWPOINT: professional newspaper format, US publication. Astro-archaeology, geomancy etc. Quarterly, annual sub £1 from 51 Charminster Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset.
- AWARENESS: duplicated. Quarterly journal of Contact International (UK). All aspects of UFO research, interesting articles. Full details of Awareness and Contact, from J.B. Delair, 19 Cumnor Road, Boar's Hill, Oxford.
- KENTISH MEGALITHS & ALIGNMENTS: being a short treatise on the "Meridional Position of Megaliths in Kent compared with those of Wiltshire, and also with those Earth-works and churches", by F.J. Bennett, FGS (First published in 1904). Price 40p inc. P & P from Fenris-Wolf Publications, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs. CB3 8SD.
- THE STANDING STONES OF THE LOTHIANS: Professionally produced handbook to ancient sites, earth-works and stones. Good background material, by Adam McLean. Soft covers £1.50 from Megalithic Research Publications, 12 Antigua Street, Edinburgh 1.

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