

NOTE C.

THE UFFORD SCHOOLS.

Little is known of the early schools in Ufford.

1650-1699 A schoolmaster lived in the village.

1818 Two day schools; 70 children in attendance.

1833 4 day schools; 52 children in attendance.
1 Sunday school; 35 children attended.

1844 W.D. Edward Johnson, day and boarding school.
Rebecca Warby, schoolmistress.

1855 W.D. Mrs. F. Johnson and Miss Lott, Ladies School,
Church Villa.
The Misses Ellen and Hannah Johnson, school.

1869 K.D. School, supported principally by the rector.

1873 Board Schools for 100 children. School Board of
5 members 1872. G. Moor, Woodbridge, clerk.
Cost of building £800. 95 children, average
attendance 62. Horace Kelly attendance officer.

1888 K.D. Mrs. Catherine Emily Ward, mistress.

1912 K.D. School enlarged, 104 children, average attendance 80.
Miss E.M. Tudd, headmistress. The Rev. W.J. Wyon
correspondent.

The following notes were kindly contributed by Mrs. Rowena Lay:

Ufford County Primary School was opened on April 21st 1873.

The first Headmistress was Miss Sarah Freeth. Members of the Ufford School Board were present at the opening. There were 86 pupils. Captain Brooke came in to teach reading, and Miss Ravly taught knitting. School desks, easels, a clock, a map of the World, an alphabet box, fireguards and a harmonium were installed.

After thirty years the school was taken over by the East Suffolk County Council.

Other Head Teachers were Miss Williams, 1876; Miss Matilda Cullington 1878-1883; Miss C. Dawkins; Miss Edith Elmer 1893-1894; Mr. William Bentley 1894-1904; Miss Ward; Miss Judd 1908-1934; Mrs. Jennie Barnes 1935-1947; Miss Dorothy Dee 1948; Mr. George Mills 1965-1970; Miss Inez Benham 1970-1981; Mrs. Susan Baldry 1981-1985 and Mr. John Aldous 1985-1987.

Many students from the Wickham Market Pupil Teacher Centre (Principal, Miss Clara Turton) started their training at this school, including Violet Fletcher, Ida Booth, Dorothy Skeet, Margaret Jenvey, Peggy Orford, Joan Pryke, Dorothy Bourne and Edna Lankester.

Quite a number of pupils during the years obtained scholarships to Woodbridge Grammar School, Mills Grammar School for Girls at Framlingham,

and Leiston High School.

Electricity was installed in 1939, and central heating in 1955.

Extra holidays were granted for:-

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1897

Edward VII's Coronation 1902.

The Wedding of Princess Mary to the Earl of Harewood 1922.

The Wedding of the Duke of York to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon 1923.

The Funeral of George V 1936.

The Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth 1937.

Victory in Europe 1945.

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II 1953.

Princess Margaret's Wedding 1960.

In 1987, sadly, the school was closed. There were only 15 pupils compared with 116 in 1878, and they were transferred to Melton County Primary School. A service was held in St. Mary's Church, an oak tree was planted in the churchyard, and on Friday 24th July 1987 a farewell party was held at the school. So, after 114 years and 3 months, Ufford School ceased to exist.

NOTE D.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHANGES.

Archaeology. The earliest inhabited area yet discovered roughly followed the 50' contour line. In prehistoric times the sea and river levels were higher than they are now, and coastal high tides would have influenced the river levels at Bromeswell, Eyke and Ufford. The 50' contour formed a shelf of high ground, above the flood plain, on which much of the village was built, and old housing in Ufford stops abruptly along this line. Archaeological records are scanty. The built up, emparked and planted nature of modern Ufford makes surface investigation difficult. The main 'finds' are:

1. Roman Period 55 B.C.-c450 A.D. Two sites west and north of the housing estate areas on the former Ufford Place/Ufford Park were established in the 1960s. One was a burial ground which yielded five skeletons.

2. Anglo Saxon Period c500 A.D.-1066 A.D. When Ufford Place was remodelled in the C18 and C19 the Brooke family and their friends found several sites:-

a) 1786. The Rev. T. Carthew of Woodbridge recorded two or more large urns of blue clay 220 yards "west of the Church Tower", which contained "bones and bronze clasps of the Saxon period".

b) 1819. The Rev. Francis Capper Brooke excavated "iron spears and bronzework" 150 yards in front of Ufford Place, which at that period seemed to have its frontage northwestwards away from the village over the park (c.f. Isaac Johnson's sketch on the 1788 estate plan), so the discovery was probably on the Park side of the house. It was an inhumation burial - bones, a shield boss and bronze ornaments - artifacts which were verified by the noted archaeologist Basil Brown in recent years.

c) 1862. The British Archaeological Association recorded an Anglo Saxon graveyard here, and the discovery of a cruciform brooch 50 yards east of Brooke's discoveries.

d) 1927. The Rev. R.W. Maitland referred to an Early Saxon settlement 'near the rising ground in front of Ufford Place where a Saxon cemetery lay'.

e) During the last few years the early sites were checked where possible, and the recently developed Golf Links has been field-walked by J. Newman and members of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit. Small traces of Roman and Anglo Saxon occupation, and later medieval pottery, have been found along the line of the former Hackeries Lane towards Old Melton and

Ufford churches - the southern edge of Ufford Park and parish.

Thus the early settlement lay along the S.W. ridge of rising ground. The site of the original chief manor house, that of the de Uffords, was reputedly on the opposite side of the Byng Brook valley near Willow Farm, but there were five manors, and one may have been situated above the Green at the village centre.

Documentary Evidence.

The 1066 Domesday Book records two Ufford manors:

- a) That of Almar, an Anglo Saxon freeman; 60 acres arable, 4 acres meadow and a mill.
- b) That of 9 freemen, sharing 25 acres arable and 2 acres meadow. The overlords were Edric, and the Abbot of Ely.

In 1086, under the Norman overlords Robert Malet, Gilbert de Wishant and the Abbot of Ely, the manorial estates were:

- a) Ufford Manor (ex Almar 1066).
- b) Sogenho Manor (see NOTE B), held by a freeman under Edric in 1066, and under Robert Malet in 1086.

In the Middle Ages there were four manors:

- a) Ufford Manor, which in the C13 passed to the Peyton family, later the de Uffords. In 1316 it went to the Willoughbys of Parham Moat Hall, who sold it in 1602 to Sir Michael Stanhope of Sudbourne. Between 1608-1627 it was briefly held by the Barker, Pitman and Burwell families, then Sir Henry Wood of Loudham (see NOTE A) bought it, and with the rest of his lands it passed to the Oneby family, and from them in 1786 to the Whitbreads of Loudham.

The manor house was reputedly at or near Willow Farm, "440 yards North of the Church". The exact site is not known.

- b) Sogenho Manor came under the de Uffords and followed the same course as (a). The reputedly moated original manor house may have been near Ufford Thicks. In later times Grove Farm was known as a manor house for this area. See NOTE B.

Three sub-manors appear in later times:

- c) Ufford Sutton, 1352-1641, when it became part of Wood's estate. The manor house site is not known.

- d) Ottley's. Roger or Robert Otley, father of William Otley Lord Mayor of London 1434, was the first manorial lord. The Glovers of Ashe and John Father owned it in the sixteenth century; the Groome family in the seventeenth, from whom it passed to Thomas Mills (see NOTE A) and thenceforward was part of the Mills Charity Estate managed by Trustees. The manor house was Vale Farm, on the main road.

e) Kettleburgh Ufford. This belonged to the de Uffords from 1315 and passed with their lands until the 16th century. The Hare, Timperley and Worsley families then held it. Manorial courts were held at the last house on the left of the main turnpike road going north, viz Hill Farm.

The Medieval Village.

The chief and focal medieval building is the church, one of the most magnificently furnished in Suffolk. It has been well written up, and is Ufford's great glory. From its position in the centre on the Green it controls and contributes to every aspect of village life. In the Middle Ages it was the focus of all routes into the village.

There were three distinct settlement areas in Ufford in the early Middle Ages:

a) Lower Ufford, centred on the Church and its surrounding open Green, which extended from the White Lion Inn northwards to the farmstead near the church (and village hall). It included the Camping Close, where the rough medieval football game known as Camp was played, (in later times this was the rectory tennis courts and front garden; now the village hall, car park and cemetery extension). The Rectory grounds on the east and water meadows on the north bounded the Green, the rising ground to the west terminating that edge. There were few buildings on the Green until the Almshouses of 1690 and the Red House/Dower House of 1723. The Water Mill and farms along East Lane, especially Willow Farm which may be the site of the de Ufford Manor house, were part of Lower Ufford.

b) Upper Ufford, along the main turnpike road, included the second inn, the Crown; the manor house of Ottleys - Vale Farm - and the subsidiary Crown Farm; the manor house of Kettleburgh Ufford - Hill Farm; the Windmill in Spring Lane, and several large farms, e.g. the Red House. The service industries - inns, blacksmith, wheelwright - for the main turnpike road were concentrated here.

c) Sogenhoe. A hamlet on the Bredfield borders, with the best arable land, and manor house and chapel of its own. Later Grove Farm, a fine C17 house, was the manor house; and the important medieval woodland of the Thicks was close by.

The three sections were linked by long east/west tracks - Spring Lane, the later School Lane and Avenue, the two roads from Bredfield, the eastern ends of which (Hackeries Lane and Sonoveves Lane) were closed in the early C19. The north/south alignment of the turnpike in Upper Ufford has only recently been reinforced by the bypasses of 1934 and 1976,

which together have re-orientated modern residents away from the self-sufficient in-turned village towards the commuter world, travelling out from the village dormitory to the nondescript towns, or at best using the village as a retirement base. Inevitably something of vitality and reality has been lost.

The Rectory is an example of such changes. In the 1635 Terrier it is described as:

"One messuage or mansion house called the parsonage, with a backhouse, barn, stable and hay house, orchard, garden and pightle of land one acre, lying between the churchyard on the west and a lane or way on the east, and upon a little lane, being a common church path south, and the parsonage hempland north." In 1674 it had four hearths. The 1820 measurements were given as 48', with the backhouse 38' x 11' - evidently found inadequate by the Revd Jacob Chilton, who on his marriage built the Red House (Dower House) on the Green as a residence for the incumbent. To all this was added the cure of souls and the practical management of 12 pieces of Glebe Land scattered all over the parish, including the Parson's Hole - a gravel pit, and the site of the former Sogenho Chapel. Today these two houses are private dwellings, the land disseminated into nursery gardens and private hands, and the close daily contact of church and people is inevitably weakened in its most effective place - everyday life - to the impoverishment of both.

NOTE E.

UFFORD PLACE AND PARK

(c.f. 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 36, 37, 38)

The early settlements evidenced by archaeological discovery seem to have been left after 1066 in favour of sheltered sites further down the valley or beside the main road in Upper Ufford. The unknown strong-point of the de Uffords may have been on the edge of the later park above the Church - if so there is little evidence as yet - or on the WILLOW FARM site (see NOTE D) - or at SOGENHO (see NOTE B), or even under GROVE FARM. Much more detailed archaeological research would be needed for certainty, and most of the areas mentioned have suffered great changes in the last thousand years which may have destroyed all the evidence.

Southwest Ufford was an area of parkland and wood pasture on the heavy clays westward, probably used as a hunting ground, and crossed by the ancient ways of HACKERIES and SONOVEVE Lanes. The AVENUE did not exist; the GRUF, TERRAS FIELD and the later brickworks were under the park. The first house known and documented at the eastern end of the park was that of the Balletts in the C16. Probably of modest size, it passed by sale to the Father family and thence to the Hammonds, who owned it from c1630-1726. They sold the house, no doubt rebuilt and larger in size, to the Reverend Samuel Thompson, through whom the Blois/Brooke connection came into possession, c1770-1956.

They made considerable changes to the house, garden and park. To increase his privacy, in 1817 Francis Capper Brooke completed a scheme of road closure and diversion which shut off the Park from the village, and screened the house from public view. At the same period the Rev. Jacob Chilton, Rector 1725-1765, had enclosed part of the Green and built the RED HOUSE/DOWER HOUSE south of the Church. The open area of the Green was infilled by cottages, and as work became available in connection with these two large "gentleman's establishments" - and many smaller villas and houses occupied by 'gentry' - more small cottages were built to accommodate the workers and their families. A study of the many directories between 1844 and 1912 shows this social development very clearly. The Brookes became accepted as "Squires", though they owned comparatively little land and were not Lords of any manor.

The accompanying diagrams illustrate the changes in the village in the C18 and C19. The reader's attention is drawn to the very fine set of estate maps in the Suffolk Record Office, part of the Brooke family archive, on which the sketch maps and diagrams here are based.