

Ufford Heritage Trail

3. Old Green & The Dower House

The Old Green was the village green of Ufford until the early C18th. It originally included the land now occupied by The Dower House and several of the houses in Church Lane. The Old Green was absorbed into the grounds of the mansion built for Reverend Jacob Chilton who was Rector of Ufford St Mary's Church from 1723 - 1765.

Unfortunately, no photographs or paintings of Ufford's Old Green remain.

The Dower House and its owners through the years

This Grade 2 listed house was built with Flemish bond brick under a plain tiled roof and includes a wealth of Georgian features. The house has had several notable residents and name changes over the past three centuries.

The first occupant **Jacob Chilton** was born in 1687 and came from an educated family; his father was Rector of Wickham Market and Jacob graduated from Corpus Christi College in Cambridge. He became Rector for Campsea Ashe in 1711 and married Eliza Brown. She had a son, Richard, but she died young in 1719 and Jacob married Sarah Hammond not long after, in 1725. Sarah was one of the daughters of the Hammond family who built and lived at Ufford Place.

It is most likely that the Hammond family arranged and funded the building of the house. They would have had the power and the money to override any local opposition to their plans to annexe the village green, as they also owned land in and around Ufford as well as many of the houses in the village.

Jacob became a "pluralist" vicar holding advowsons ie the right to appoint curates to serve in another parish. He presided over nine parishes including Eyke, Mendlesham and Wetheringset. This gave him power and influence as well as income. He died in 1765 and Sarah lived on till 1783.

Sometime around the mid -1800s, the house name changed to Church Villa. See below an advertisement from *The Times*, placed by Miss Frances Johnson and Miss Lott, showing the house being used for the education of children, including children from India.

MISS FRANCES JOHNSON and Miss LOTT
beg to announce that the present VACATION will TERMINATE on January the 26th instant. They take this opportunity of inviting the attention of parents in town to their delightful country residence, comprising a most commodious and airy house, extensive gardens and pleasure grounds; it is situate between the towns of Woodbridge and Wickham Market. Conveyances to and from the Ipswich Station several times a day, which facilitates the attendance of the best masters. Indian pupils received, educated, and provided for upon very moderate terms. Satisfactory references may be received.—
Church Villa, Ufford, Suffolk.

In the late 1860s, the house was bought by **Major Ernest St-George Cobbold JP** and his wife, Helen. Ernest, one of 13 children of John Chevallier Cobbold JP, DL, MP was one of the major figures in Victorian Ipswich with interests in brewing, banking and the railways. Ernest's wife Helen was the daughter of Philip Cazenove, the founder of Cazenove's Bank.

The Cobbolds lived in the house from around 1868 when it was still known as Church Villa; they had 8 children and were still in Ufford until 1879 by which time they had renamed the house 'The Red House'. By 1880, the parents moved to Colchester with some of their children. However, four of their daughters, aged 4 to 16, were still to be found in Ufford in the 1881 census, living with a German governess, Miss Wanken Hennog, when the house was again known as Church Villa.

The Red House was bought in 1887 by **Lieutenant Colonel Campbell Clark**. Lt Col Clark served in the British Army in Burma and the Punjab. He was a Colonel with the 104th Regiment of Foot (Bengal Fusiliers) when he was ambushed and shot in the stomach at Cawnpore by rebel sepoys (Indian infantrymen) during the Indian Mutiny, in 1857.



He survived several operations to remove the musket ball, fragments of his gold watch chain and pieces of clothing from the wound, in appalling military hospital conditions. The tunic he wore is now in the National Army Museum: you can see the musket hole just above the pocket.

In 1879, Colonel Clark retired and lived in London before buying The Red House, in Ufford in May 1887. He died there in March 1896, aged 69.

See QR code for more about Lt. Col Campbell Clark and his role in the Indian Mutiny



In the early 1900s, the house was bought by the **Brooke family** who owned Ufford Place and the name was changed again to The Dower House.

By 1921, it was the home of **Eleanor Heywood** (1866 - 1942) who bought it after inheriting £350,000 on the death of her father, Arthur Heywood, a prominent banker in Liverpool in the late 1800s. He lived at Glevering Park near Wickham Market. At the time of the 1939 census, she was living at The Dower House with her elderly siblings, a registered nurse and three domestic servants.

Eleanor was one of many Suffolk artists who exhibited at the Royal Academy. She is known for her floral studies: a typical example is "Flowers in a Glass Vase".

Eleanor was unmarried and died in 1942.