

## Ufford Heritage Trail

### 8. Melton Hamlet

These cottages and their gardens are the last remnant of lands in Ufford belonging to the Abbey of Ely's Saxon manor of Melton Ufford. The Vicar of Ufford had to pay the Vicar of Melton a sum in lieu of tithes.

The land owned by the Abbey (St Ethelreda) is named in the Domesday Book in 1086 as having nine freemen and two smallholders as well as 6 acres of meadow, a mill and 1.5 ploughing teams.

The cottages still retain much of their original charm although, in the past, life for the inhabitants would have been tough. For example, the Carr family (mid 1800s) had moved to Ufford from Gosbeck, near Coddensham, to escape "wagging tongues" when Robert Carr married his 8-month pregnant wife, Lucy from that village. A couple of generations later the family left Ufford after a series of premature deaths.



*"That family had quite a tragic history as, of their eight known children, five died prematurely before they married. Two girls died in the same year of 1849 within three months of each other, at the ages of 21 years and 27 years. Their gravestone is in the churchyard of the parish church in Ufford"*

[Note: Source - James of Glencarr family history]

As late as the 1891 these cottages were still occupied by several large families. The census shows 26 inhabitants living in what was then six small cottages, although by 1901 this had reduced to five.

David Leggatt, a miller, lived in one of the cottages in the 1880s and 90s, with his wife, five sons and six daughters, all born in Melton Hamlet. By the start of World War 1, they had moved to Woodbridge; three of the sons were killed during the war and are remembered at the Woodbridge War Memorial.

In the 1950s, in happier times, one of today's residents remembers ice-skating on the frozen flooded fields between Melton Hamlet and the river.