

Lexden History Group

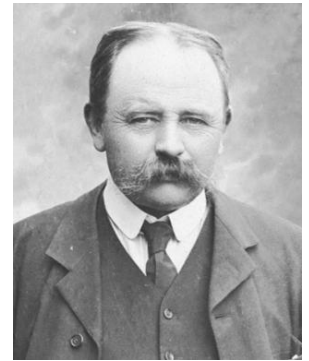


Smugglers, 1793 by George Morland
engraved by James Ward (1769-1859), published by J R Smith

- **Historical Pageant at Lexden Manor July 1913**
- **Tales from the Churchyard – Drawbridge Family**
 - **Smuggling at Mersea**
and Old Bailey Proceedings 1789

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In June 1909 the Colchester Pageant was presented on the Lower Castle Park by a series of episodes covering the history of the town between the days of King Coel and his daughter, Helena, through to the Siege of Colchester in 1648. With a cast of almost one hundred players telling the stories by acting on the open air arena with music song, narrative and dancing under the direction of pageant master, Louis Napoleon Parker (*right*). From 1905 Parker had put on several such pageants across the country, of which one was in Colchester.



Inspired by the great production of four years earlier, some members of St Stephen's Church



in Canterbury Road, led by their vicar, Rev G Manfred Behr, planned a mini-pageant which was performed at Lexden Manor (*right*) on 13th July 1913 at the invitation of Cllr W Coats-Hutton (*left*), owner of Lexden Manor,



who was Mayor of Colchester that year.

The programme informed the audience that the incidental music was provided by St Stephen's String Band under the conductor, Mr R W Hall.

Scene I – Meeting of St Helena and Constantius AD 274

St Helena was by tradition the daughter of King Coel of Colchester. The King has not paid his tribute to Rome, and the Emperor Constantius comes to Britain to exact it. He meets Helena and claims her as his bride.

Helena – Miss Hunt Constantius – Elliott-Benham King Coel – Major J B Clarke

Scene 2 – St Alban confessing the Faith circa AD 300

An old monk is summoned before the Roman Governor. Alban takes his place and is ordered by the Governor to cast incense on the heathen altar. Alban refuses and proclaims himself a Christian. The soldier, who is ordered to execute him, does the same.

Governor- Mr Chant Alban – Mr W Raven Centurion – Mr Barleycorn

Scene 3 – St Helena instructing Constantine

Helena (*left*) became a Christian and was mother of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor. This scene is imaginary, and represents Helena instilling the Story of the Cross into the mind of her young son.

Helena – Miss Hunt Constantine – Miss Jean Coats-Hutton

Scene 4 – St Gregory and the English Slaves of Rome circa AD585

Gregory the Deacon is struck by the beauty of the fair-haired, blue-eyed boys sent to be sold in the slave market. Hearing they came from Angle-land, he declares they were 'not Angles, but Angels'.

Gregory – Rev GM Behr Slave Dealer – Colin Tomalin Slaves – boys from St Stephen's



HISTORICAL PAGEANT at LEXDEN MANOR continued

Scene 5 – St Cedd and the renewal of Christianity in Essex AD 653

An allegorical scene. Paganism, wearing chains and emblems of witchcraft, kneels before Cedd, Bishop of London, who strikes off the chains. She rises in the white raiment of Christianity and embraces her sister, who represents the earlier Christian Church founded by Mellitus.

*Paganism – Miss N Asten Cedd – Rev JB Marsh choir boys of Holy Trinity and
St Giles Churches*

Scene 6 – Meeting of King Ethelbert and St Augustine AD 597

King Ethelbert yields to the persuasion of Queen Bertha, herself already a Christian, to give hearing to the Roman Missionaries with Augustine at their head. The King receives them and decides that they shall preach their strange new doctrine to his people.

Bertha – Miss Eva Webb Ethelbert – Rev J Christie Augustine- Rev GM Behr

Scene 7 – Renunciation of St Osyth AD 850

Osyth (*right*), daughter of the King of East Anglia, has been wedded to Sighere, King of the Saxons. Osyth becomes a Christian. Sighere returns from the battle, but she refuses to remain with him, having dedicated her life to God. An old Priest preaches the Gospel to the people as she departs.

*Osyth – Miss Broadhurst Sighere – Crawford Lindsay
Priest – Rev D Barrett-Lennard*



- - - TEA INTERVAL - - -

Scene 8 - An Incident in the life of St Francis AD 1220

St Francis has recourse to a sign to guide him on his journey. He makes proof of his humility to Brothers Masseo and Agnolo. He preaches to the birds.

Francis - Mr J Rhodes Masseo –Rev J Valpy Agnola – Mr Taylor



Scene 9 – St Elizabeth of Hungary AD 1228

Heinrich, Lord of Wartburg, forbids his wife, Elizabeth (*left*), to give him alms. A peasant implores his help, which Elizabeth gives. Heinrich, witnessing his wife's disobedience, threatens her. She implores help through the power of her faith, and says her basket contains roses. A miracle is granted – roses alone are found.

*Heinrich – Mr Chadwick Elizabeth – Mrs JF Dver
Peasant – Miss Worts*

Scene 10 – King John and the Magna Carta AD 1215

Very reluctantly King John is forced to sign the Charter which is demanded from him by the rebellious Barons, led by Fitzwalter. By this Charter, the Church of England is made free, and all her rights and privileges preserved to her.

John – Rev GM Behr Fitzwalter – Rev J Christie Mayor of London – Mr J Hatfield

And all the cast playing minor roles mostly drawn from Rev Behr's colleagues and friends.

FINAL SCENE – TABLEAU AND MARCH

HISTORICAL PAGEANT at LEXDEN MANOR continued

Here ends all the details of the pageant shown on the official programme, sadly no photographs, drawings or report in the local newspapers can be found of the event. It has been difficult to accurately identify all the actors in the pageant but below are some of them (alphabetical order).

Rev Dacre F Barrett-Lennard born in 1888, one of many Dacres in that large confusing family. He was later Rector of Ickburgh, Norfolk, and then Vicar of Arkesden, Essex.

Rev George Manfred Behr was born in 1873 in Southsea, Hants, and probably moved to St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road (*right*), in 1911 or 1912. He was unmarried and first lived at May Villa, New Town Road, then moved to 60 Wimpole Road, Colchester. He later became Vicar of St Margaret's Church, Margaretting, where he died in 1949.



Jean Coats-Hutton was the 6 year old daughter of Cllr William Coats-Hutton of Lexden Manor.



Mr John Hatfield (*left*) was born in 1847 and lived at 32 St John's Street, Colchester, selling furniture. He had been page boy at Birch Hall with the Round family and later was butler to one of William Gladstone's sons.

Miss Hunt was possibly Rosina Maud Hunt aged 27 who lived at 24 Winchester Road and worked as a housemaid. She probably attended St Stephens Church.

Crawford Lindsey was born in 1891 in USA of British parents and in 1911 was a student at Oxford University, staying with Rev Frederick Toulmin at Hatfield Peverel Vicarage.

Rev John Bishop Marsh born in 1863 was rector of St Giles Church 1910-1917. He lived at 2 Gladstone Road, Colchester.

Colin Tomalin born in 1870, was an Army Pensioner, and worked as a Labourer. He lived at 20 Lucas Road, Colchester.

Rev John Hooper Valpy (*right*) was born 1874 in Jersey and at the time was livubg in Kelvedon. He was later Vicar of Fingringhoe.

Eva Webb aged 24 worked as a typist and lived at 41 New Town Road, the daughter of William, Manager of Coal and General Merchants.



Miss Worts was one of four unmarried daughters of Physician and Surgeon Dr Edwin Worts, Jane, Mary, Eva and Amy, aged between 43 and 31, and lived in Trinity Street. Eva was a teacher at St Mary's School. (Dr Worts and family featured the 1885 Diary of Clarice Ord – LHG book June 2021)

TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD – DRAWBRIDGE FAMILY

Part 1 – Countering Smuggling

Another interesting series of graves to the north-west of Lexden Churchyard but now completely destroyed by the rampant laurel growth, is that of the Drawbridge family. The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland (2016) suggests that the name Drawbridge came from Middle English *drauen or draghen* meaning to draw or drag, and *breche* meaning breeches, underpants or buttocks, so the derivation suggests to hitch up one's breeches or could possibly have described a man with a large rear or useless legs!

Fortunately these graves were recorded in the 1990s and the inscription of a now lost “low pointed top box tomb” on the north slope read “Sacred to the memory of Thomas Drawbridge who died December 28 1855 aged 57 years. ‘Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.’ Heb 12 chap 2. Thomas was the son of Joseph and Sarah, both born locally in 1765. Another lost one is recorded as a large ornate headstone inscribed “In memory of Sarah relict of Joseph Drawbridge of Bishops Stortford Herts who died Jan 23 1838 aged 71 years. Sarah daughter of the above and relict of William Manly of Cheltenham who died April 23rd 1848 aged 60 years”. Sarah, born in West Bergholt in 1787, married William Manly in May 1825 in Painswick, Glouc. By 1841 she was living in Lexden Street with her sister, Mary. Two Drawbridge gravestones that have survived, although heavily moss-covered, are on the opposite side of the same path to the main church door. They remember Charlotte who died 21st May 1823 aged 24 and Nicholas who died aged 23 on 13th May 1831. (right: Charlotte left grave, Nicholas right). Joseph and Sarah moved to Bishop's Stortford in about 1806 where Joseph died in 1811 and Sarah in Jan 3rd 1838, but Sarah is buried at Lexden where most of her family remained.



Little is known about Joseph Drawbridge's father, Samuel, except that he moved in about 1760 to the Colchester area. He was an Excise Officer transferred from his home in Kent to where there were no family connections which might risk corruption. East Anglia was rife with smuggling at that time with vast amounts of alcohol and tea being regularly unloaded quietly on the many small beaches. Large gangs were responsible for organising this “free trade”, as it was known, and extreme violence was not uncommon in order to protect their businesses. The tax revenue lost was enormous and excise officers and military support was used to prevent smuggling.

Several small islands, or holms, between the mouth of the Blackwater and Mersea offered a labyrinth of narrow waterways familiar to the locals who could elude the Excise Officers. Great support was also given to the smugglers by farmers and inns with large cellars. Samuel was involved in many incidents, one of which saw one smuggler tried and sentenced at the Old Bailey. (See Page 8 for details of these proceedings on 25th February 1789)

Samuel, who in the 1791 Universal British Directory is listed as an Excise Officer and a prominent resident of Colchester, was based at Laver de la Haye. His son, Joseph, born locally in 1765, was also an Excise Officer and posted to Scottow, North Norfolk, in the 1780s where, with only 100 miles to Flanders and Holland, the long deserted beaches offered easy access to the land behind. This was a period of high taxes on brandy, gin, tea, lace and

TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD – DRAWBRIDGE FAMILY

Part 1 – Countering Smuggling

continued

silk and the Norfolk Chronicle frequently reported seizures of smuggled goods. The following extracts give a good indication of what Joseph had to deal with.

“2 Mar 1782 – On Sunday the 24th ult was seized at Hunstanton by a supervisor and two excise officers, assisted by a party of horse, 27 ankers of brandy, a like quantity of rum, 162 half ankers of geneva (*gin*) and 850 pounds of tea.” (*An anker, right, - Dorset County Museum - was a measure of spirits, usually between 7½ - 8 gallons. The half anker cask was easier to transport.*)



“15 Feb 1783 – On Friday last was seized at Thornham, by the Excise officers from Wells, assisted by a party of dragoons, about four hundredweight of tea, which was buried in the sand and on Saturday the officers assisted by the dragoons, seized at Brancaster a cart and three horses, laden with about thirty half ankers of gin and brandy, and about two hundredweight of tea.!



“8th Nov 1783 - On Monday a troop of the 15th regt. of Light Dragoons (*left*), commanded by Gen. ELLIOTT, marched into Lynn, for winter quarters, in order to assist the Revenue Officers against the smugglers, who are arrived to the most daring height ever remembered.”

“15 Nov 1783 – On Saturday night last the excise officers from Lynn, assisted by a party of Gen Elliott’s Light dragoons, seized at Thornham 89 half-ankers of rum, geneva, and brandy which they conveyed to the Excise Office there on Sunday morning. And on Wednesday evening the Excise Officers, assisted by the Dragoons as above, carried to the Excise Office there, 36 half-ankers of geneva which they seized the preceding night at Hunstanton.”

In 1787 Joseph travelled back to West Bergholt to marry Sarah Hurrell on 30th April. She was born there on 3rd Feb 1766 to Thomas, a local brickmaker, and his wife Sarah. Joseph and Sarah had eleven children, seven sons and three daughters (Sarah born in West Bergholt in 1787, James, baptised at Gorleston in 1792, Mary in 1794, Joseph, Samuel and Thomas in 1795, 1796 and 1798 at Scottow, then Charlotte and Susan in 1799 and 1800 at Aldborough). Joseph and Sarah had moved back to Essex by the early 1800s and a few years later moved to Bishop’s Stortford where their son, David, died in infancy. Nathaniel, born in 1808, died in 1831 and is buried at Lexden, as is his sister, Charlotte.

A Land Tax was raised in Norfolk in 1798 and Joseph Drawbridge is recorded as an “Outsetter” (not locally born) with his occupation declared as Excise Officer and was due to pay £10 which was considerably more than most in that list who were only required to pay shillings. Excise officers were not well paid but until 1809 they could stamp contraband goods with the government’s broad arrow and sell at auction, but this left them open to bribery. However, with up to 2,000 gallons of alcohol and 1,000 lbs of tea landing weekly on one small beach in North Norfolk, they could easily enhance their wages. Many locals thought that taxes on these items were grossly unfair and that smuggling was not a crime, so would support the local gangs by watching out for the Excise Officers, who were few in

TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD – DRAWBRIDGE FAMILY

Part 1 – Countering Smuggling continued

number. Smugglers were often caught but conviction was not automatic as witnesses were often threatened.

A brief history of Excise: The 'Excise Ordinance' had been passed in Parliament on 22 July 1643 to raise much needed revenue. Initially duty started with soap, salt, spirits, beer and cider and, as it became more lucrative, the list was increased to include common necessities such as clothes, leather, meat and fish. The public took umbrage at this and the Excise office in Smithfield was burnt to the ground in 1647. After the Restoration in 1660 tea, coffee, sherbet and chocolate, etc, were also taxed and although originally a temporary measure it became permanent in 1683 collecting much revenue. In 1733 Robert Walpole attempted to



impose wider excise powers (including plans to counter fraud and smuggling) but, after widespread public opposition, it all went quiet until William Pitt the Younger introduced a comprehensive bill in 1783. This included duty on goods, particularly tobacco which had to be taken to a bonded warehouse under Excise control. Despite opposition from merchants and retailers, the Bill was passed and until 1969 tobacco duty became the most productive and effective form of revenue.

(left: The Excise Office, Broad Street, London: headquarters of the Excise from 1769 to 1852 - Thomas Higham 1816)

Smuggling was a huge problem and by 1784 the Excise Board had a fleet of seven cutters to patrol the coasts. HM Customs had twenty and many more on contract. The Napoleonic Wars increased duties to pay for the munitions, men and equipment but gradually these were reduced.

(left: The Resolution, an Excise Cutter (bearing the ensign and pennant of the Excise Board) in 1794).

This is the environment in which the Drawbridge children were raised. To be employed as an Excise Officer Joseph would have had a good education as did his sons but there is no record of which school they attended. Samuel (born 1797), also became an Excise Officer, following his father and grandfather, but was posted to serve in Suffolk. Thomas, (born 1798) worked in Newfoundland for many years.



Another brother, Joseph, (born 1796) became a lawyer in London later returning to West Bergholt and at his death in 1863 he was living in a house South Street, which he owned, and was registered on the Poll Registers for St Giles Parish. He is buried at Colchester Cemetery.

More on Thomas Drawbridge b1798 in the next issue.

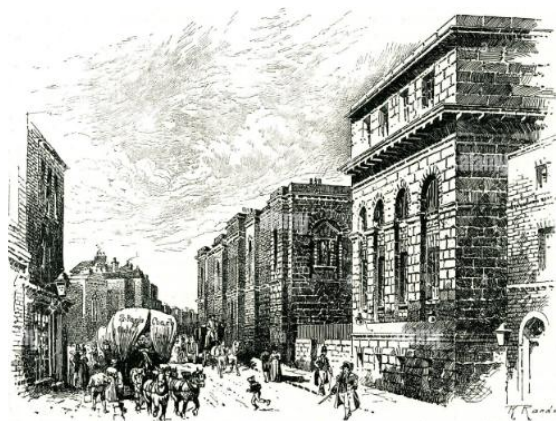
SMUGGLING AT MERSEA AND OLD BAILEY PROCEEDINGS

Gravestones in Lexden Churchyard record members of the Drawbridge family (see page 5) of whom three generations were Excise Officers. The first was Samuel Drawbridge, probably born in Kent or Sussex, in about 1740 and on becoming an Excise Officer was transferred from his home county to the Colchester area.

Inns, including the Rose at Peldon, were often willing to hide smugglers' contraband. Many stories tell of heavy tubs of spirits being weighted with stones and lowered on ropes into the pond (*right*) or to shafts in the pond. Soil would be shovelled on top to escape notice by the Excise Officers when they dredged the pond. The famous 600 year old oak tree at Fingringhoe is supposed to be the result of an acorn being placed in the mouth of a man hung for smuggling (or piracy or highway robbery). No proof but an interesting tale!



An fascinating local report dates back to an episode in December 1788 when Samuel and some colleagues became heavily involved with violent smugglers in a local wood, Manwood, on the Mersea Road between Blackheath and Abberton.



The Old Bailey (*left: c1814*) has records which give detailed evidence from the trial on 25th February 1789 of one such smuggler, James Payne, with Samuel Drawbridge as a witness. The following is taken directly from the Old Bailey proceedings (including spelling and punctuation!).

“JAMES PAYNE was indicted, for that he, with several others not in custody, one John Roe, an officer of the excise, in the execution of his duty, in seizing twenty gallons of brandy, and twenty gallons of geneva, which were liable to be seized, and did assault and obstruct him against the statute, and against the King's peace.

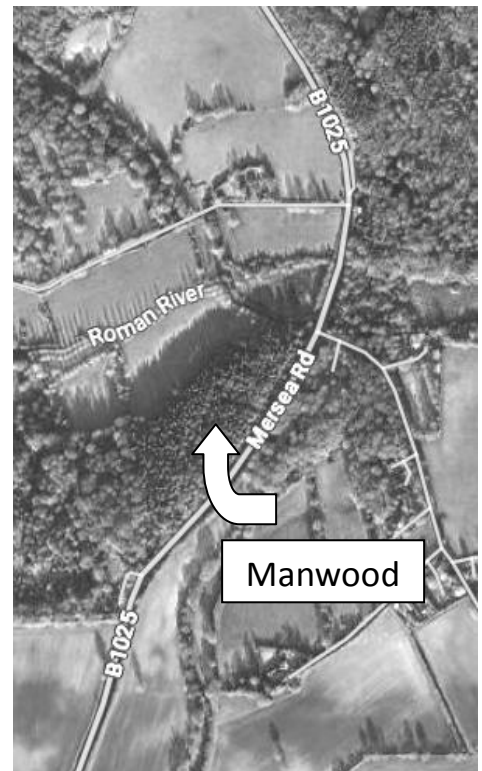
JOHN ROE sworn.

(Examined by Mr Sylvester) (*right- John Sylvester, created Baronet 1814*)

I am an officer of the excise, I was stationed at Lare Delahoy (*Layer de la Haye*) near Colchester, on the 22nd of December last I went on the look-out at Beldon (*Peldon*) to the Rose public-house, which is by the sea-coast, about half a mile from Mersey Island; when I was at the Rose public-house, I observed a number of horses and asses going towards the island, they were going by the house which is close by the road side, I observed the prisoner at the bar to be one of the party. I knew him before, he was upon an ass; upon this I informed my brother officers, when I saw them it was about four in the afternoon, I went to Colchester for some assistance, and I



brought back with me Drawbridge, Eddy and Storer; one of them is the Collector's clerk, the other two are officers; we returned back some time between eight and ten, then we went to a place called Manwood wood (*right - between Blackheath and Abberton*); which is the direct road between Colchester and Mersey Island; we devided, Drawbridge and me went first, and Eddy and Storer staid about a couple of rods behind (*roughly 10yds or 9m*); about halfway through the wood, we heard a number of horses and men coming down the road, which is in the wood; they were coming from Mersey Island towards us, they were talking together like farmers; me and Drawbridge stept on one side out of the road behind the bushes; as soon as we did that we observed two horses and some asses come first, with five or six tubs flung on each of the horses and asses; then Drawbridge and me directly went out and stopt a dun horse, a little bay mare, and one ass, they being first; there was a man alighted from the dun horse, we told him we were officers of the excise, and we must have their goods that they had got; we told him loud enough that the whole party might hear; the man that alighted from the dun horse made no answer at all, but came directly, and struck at me with a stick, on my arm; it was a large stick, about four or give foot long; then I directly having a stick in my hand, struck at him and knocked him down; that was not the defendant; then Mr Drawbridge caught hold of the dun horse by the head, and Payne (the prisoner) and two others, struck at Drawbridge with a stick; Drawbridge was down, I went and struck at the three men and beat them off while he got up; then Payne returned and caught hold of me round the body and I tript up his heels; he kept hold of me, and we both fell together; as soon as I was on the ground on him, I felt the blood run down my face, but I did not know from whence it came; I did not feel any blow at that time; when I came to examine, as soon as I got up, I put my hand to my forehead, and found my head was cut in two places; I had laid on the ground three or four minutes before I got up, I called Mr Drawbridge to my assistance; Payne kept hold of me and I could not free myself; when Drawbridge came to relieve me, I said, don't strike, for I am at top; then Payne said immediately, as Drawbridge came up, you mean to murder me, and he let go his hold, and then I perceived I was cut; as soon as I got up I found nine or ten persons were beating of Mr Drawbridge; then I saw Eddy down, and Payne and he were together; I relieved Eddy by beating Payne and another man off; when I was beating him off, Payne said, don't strike me, I am an officer; after that somebody struck me on the back part of my head, and knocked me down, and I was insensible, when I came to myself, my partners were all gone, and I saw nothing but a single ass with five tubs upon it; the other officers had gone away with the two horses; I found I had a large wound at the top of my head; I put the ass inside a gate, by the road side, where there were two other asses with five tubs a-piece; then directly there were five other men, who were in the field, came up, and beat me very much with sticks, and took away all the tubs from me, and two of the asses; I then went on the road, towards Colchester, to see after my partners; I did not see any of them 'till I came to Colchester, where I found them; I then tasted what they had taken, and I found it was Holland's gin, and brandy; it was in the usual tubs that smugglers have. I afterwards went, and got my head



dressed; I was ill three weeks afterwards.

SAMUEL DRAWBRIDGE sworn.

I am an officer of the Excise; I went in company with the last witness, John Rowe, and two others, Eddy and Storer, to Man Wood when we got into the middle, we heard some men and horses coming; the men were talking; we went aside, and Eddy and Storer were behind us; as soon as the smugglers came opposite to us we went out, and I asked, what they had got? They said, what is that to you? There appeared to be eight or nine of them; I told them we were King's officers, and must see what they had got; there were two men on horses, one a dun, and the other a brown; they had five tubs on each, with sling cords; Rowe was further on than me; the two men alighted, and went towards Rowe, and one of them struck at him, it appeared to me to be with a large bludgeon or whip; when I saw them dismount, before they went to Rowe, I called out to my brother officers not to hurt anyone unless they resisted; I went up and seized the dun horse; and in a minute or two after that I heard Eddy cry out, Drawbridge! Drawbridge! come to my assistance, for I am down; he was about four rods (20+ yards) from me; I went, and found him closed with one of the smugglers in the bushes; they were down, and he told me, the smuggler would not let him go; Eddy was uppermost; I



desired the smuggler to let him go; if he did not. I must strike him; I had a drawn cutlass (left) in my hand; he would not let Eddy go, and I

struck the smuggler; and he let him go, and I desired Eddy not to close with any of them any more; I then went back, and took hold of the horse; two or three of the smugglers came and struck the horse to make him go away, but I held him fast; one of the smugglers then came up, and with a long stick about four feet and a half long, which he held in both his hands; and struck me on the back of the head. I had an iron cap on, but notwithstanding I was stunned; and while I was staggering, I heard a voice say, damn you, Drawbridge, now we have you we will do you, and I fell; and three or four of the smugglers were beating of me with large bludgeons; while I was down I called out to Rowe to come to my assistance, or I should be murdered; I got up, and staggered to the road, where I fell again; and the smugglers came up and laid on me again; then Rowe came to my assistance, and beat them off, and I got up again; we got the two horses with ten casks, which we tasted at Colchester, and I found it to be geneva and brandy (twenty gallons of each); me and the three officers took them to Colchester, and Rowe followed us; I am sure the defendant is the one that struck me; I struck him again; three times with the cutlass, I struck him on the head. I am positive he is the man.

ROBERT RICHARDSON NEWELL sworn.

I am a surgeon in Colchester; I dressed the prisoner on the night of the 22nd December, about two miles from Manwood, at a house between Mersey Island and Manwood; I believe there were six of them all wounded; the general tenor of their conversation was, that they had had an affray with the Excise officers in Manwood, and that they were all wounded; the prisoner was one of them; I dressed them all; he had three long cuts on the forehead, and a blow on the skull; that I took several pieces of bone out of his skull; he appeared from his wounds to be almost in a stupid state; he had a most terrible cut on the wrist, about three quarters through the bone, so that I was obliged to get a board sawed, to lay his arm on and bind

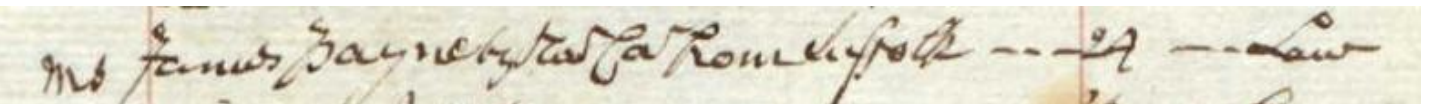
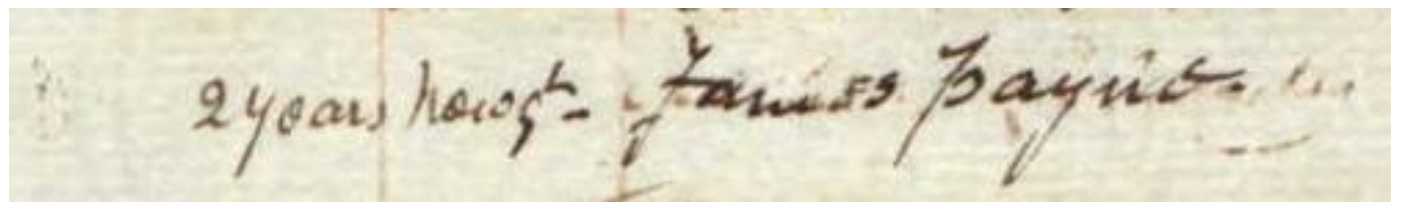
round to keep it together; I expressed my surprise at seeing men in that state; and in liquor; at the time I dressed the prisoner I did not think he would recover from the state of the wound in the skull.

Mr Knowlys address the Jury on the behalf of the prisoner, and called two witnesses who gave him a good character.

GUILTY

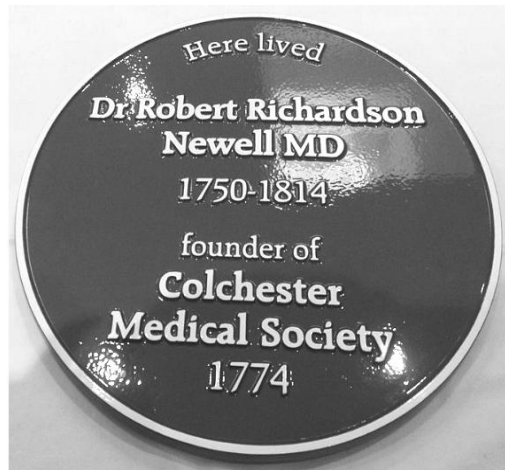
Imprisoned for two years in Newgate.

(right: West View of Newgate c1810 by George Shepherd 1784-1862)



(above: Extracts from UK Prison Commission records under Newgate Prison)

It appears that James Payne had been held in Suffolk before being brought up, probably by horse and cart, to London the day before his trial.



Dr Robert Richardson Newell, born in 1750, was a surgeon and apothecary who worked in Colchester and founded the Colchester Medical society. (Left: blue plaque on 39 Head Street, Colchester, courtesy Peter Evans) He was their first secretary and treasurer until his death in 1814. His training is rather sketchy and he appears to have been apprenticed to his grandfather in Pelhams' Lane. He married Sally Hasell from Hadleigh in Suffolk and they had 6 sons and 6 daughters. They lived in Head Street, a large house later demolished to build the Post Office in 1930. In 1813 in recognition of

his work Dr Newell's medical colleagues presented him with a silver cup which was later donated by his grandson, Major F H Newell, to Colchester Corporation and the Newell Cup is now part of the town's regalia. The original blue plaque was never unveiled at his Head St residence. He died on 24th May 1814 and was buried at St Mary-at-the-Walls Church where a memorial plaque remains.

Unfortunately it is impossible to positively identify James Payne and John Rowe or Eddy and Storer.

Erratum: LHG Newsletter No 75 December 2024, page 5: Jean Lazarus-Barlow was the grand-daughter, not daughter, of Philip Oxenden Papillon.

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Forthcoming Meetings

Wednesday 9th April 2025

John Mallinson

Marks Hall

Wednesday 14th May 2025

AGM

Education and Experiences at School

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Peter Jones

Speeding the Plough

**Meetings are held on
the 2nd Wednesday of each month
at 2.30pm in St Leonard's Church Hall, Lexden.**

Annual Membership subscriptions

These are due by the end of April

£25 Family, £18 Single