

The Rectory was re-built by the rector Francis Mason soon after he was inducted following the death of Thomas Agas in 1599. Norden probably depicts the new building. The old rectory may have been dilapidated long before 1600. The strongly evangelical Thomas Agas lived in his own house when he made his will eight years before he died.

He bequeathed 'the tenement wherein I dwell, with the hempland' to his wife Anne, and after her decease to his son Raphe. Clearly Raulfe Agas is that son and Norden shows the house on the edge of town by Chapel Street. His father wanted Raphe to take up 'an honest trade' and it appears this was that of a carter. As seen above, he carried materials in connection with buildings at Chapmans. Anne died soon after her husband and among her bequests were two milch cows and two calves. Among the complaints levelled at Thomas Agas at the time of the Bishop's Visitation in 1597 was the charge that he kept his cattle in the churchyard!

Also connected with this work was John Wincke, whose small cottage lay on the eastern edge of the town. His stone pit was at Sudbourne and crag was taken from there for the construction of the stables. He described himself as a wheelwright in his nuncupative will of 1606 and left the cottage to his wife and then his son.

Not appearing in Norden's schedules, but on his map, is the land occupied by Thomas Revell, which presumably did not belong to the Stanhope estate. Thomas' father was Randolph Revell, cablemaker, who died in 1593. He bequeathed his wife his houses until Thomas reached the age of 21 years, and left his servant, Henry Haughfen, the equipment for making ropes. Randolph's widow Frances mortgaged the land 'near Orford Rectory' for £11, borrowed from Cecilia Farrowe alias Baker, who left the money to her five daughters in 1596. Henry carried on the business, it would seem, since he married in 1599 and his wife bore him three children over the next six years, all baptised in Orford Church.

William Munday leased a cottage for 21 years 'buylte near ye Fayre place'. A fair had been granted in Orford in 1256, and is referred to in Issue 28 of the *Bulletin*.

Much of this article was written a few years ago when it was hoped an expert in recognizing the age of

timber-framed houses would be able to advise which of the present houses were probably in existence in 1601. However this did not take place, and in re-visiting Norden's schedule I found Lord Willoughby mentioned, but under Chillesford although the land was clearly in Orford. Willoughby had rented 'land in Orford', 'land late Cockerells', 'land sometime Spicers' and 'Chantry land'. Norden was uncertain of their exact status in 1601 and intended to enquire further.

Note on Mercers

John and Richard Copping were mercers, as was Robert Pootie. The Copping family was connected with Marlesford from at least the middle of the 15th century. John, who made his will in 1552 asked to be buried in the aisle of Marlesford church, as did his son Richard who died in 1583. The John Copping who died in 1605 also asked to be buried in that aisle, but he was almost certainly not Richard's son.

Richard (died 1583) had a son named John and a daughter Johanne Edgar. He mentions no other children, but John (died 1605) mentions a brother William and sister Elizabeth.

The Coppings and Pootie all appear in a sale document of 1597 [EE5/6/79]. Richard Copping, mercer of Orford, sold lands and tenements in Wickham Market and Hacheston to Thomas Reinolde of Sudbourne. The properties had previously belonged to John, his father. The sale document refers to an 'assurance' between John Copping and Robert Pootie in connection with part of a property, and another was leased to William Copping. Finally the witnesses were John and William Copping and another.

We can therefore say with certainty that the Coppings who held land and tenements in Orford in 1601 were closely related mercers.

Vic Harrup

Sources

Documents with a reference beginning EE5 are held at Ipswich Record Office.