

The house and land were described in manorial documents as occupied in the past by Thomas Johnson, clerk and Francis Edmunds. Thomas Johnson was probably one of Butley's perpetual curates who served the parish after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and had no parsonage to live in. Francis Edmunds appears in various records in the mid-seventeenth century. He was listed as 'an able man' of the county in 1638, paid Ship Money in 1640 (7s 5d in Plomesgate Hundred and 8s 7d in Loes Hundred, Butley lay in two Hundreds), appeared in a document dated 1643 and also in a settlement between the Devereux, Forth and Tirrell families in 1655. The 1643 document names Woodhouse Close being in Francis Edmunds' occupation. It also reveals that William Forth inherited the copyhold from his father Sir William Forth in 1619.

When Robert Blomfield was admitted to the house and land in 1785 it was occupied by Thomas Chandler and James Hooker, but at the time of the fire the occupier was Jonathan Askew who farmed

175 acres in the parish. As often happens in manorial records reference is made to people or abutments which existed as much as two hundred years before. Not only did Francis Edmunds live nearly 150 years before 1792, but one of the abutments referred to 'the King's Highway leading from Reyle Green to the site of the dilapidated church of Capel'. This church was a ruin by around 1550.

The house was never rebuilt and on the Tithe Map of 1846 and to this day its site is known as Burnt House Field (Buntus Field in the vernacular). Many metal objects have been found by metal detecting on the field, but which derive from the destroyed house is uncertain. Only two can be dated, one a duit, a coin used by the Dutch East India Company, but dated 1794 so therefore lost after fire. The other is a silver teaspoon made by the silversmiths Samuel Godbehere and Edward Wigan, London. According to trade cards held at the British Museum their business began around 1784. Intriguingly the back of the spoon has carefully engraved upon it the letters T B. However no connection has been found with Tyrrel Bird junior.

