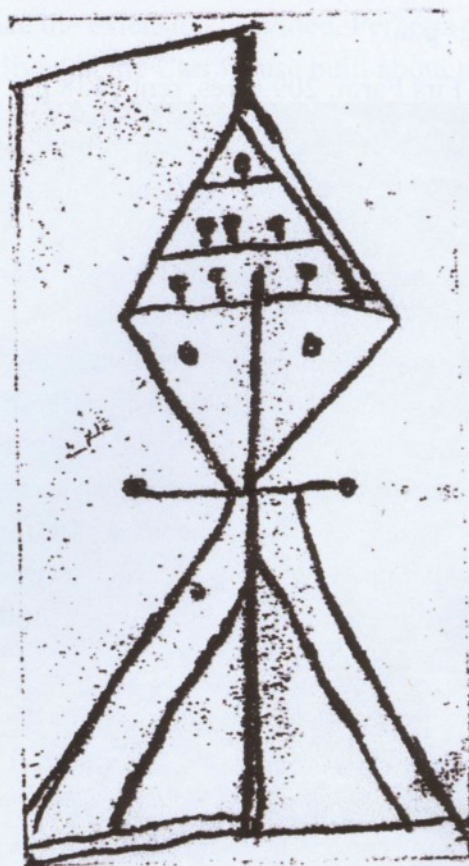


The Syred Family of Orford

By Vic Harrup

Margaret Poulter wrote about the signal station at Orford Castle in the first two issues of the Bulletin. She imagined a bored signals officer chiselling the graffito, depicting the station, whilst waiting for something to report. When I found it for myself I read the name beneath it as J. Syred 1798. Clearly he made the sketch - note the circular incisions both in the sketch and attached to some of the letters of his name. A John Syred was a farmer in Orford around this time, so I decided to try and track down his family. I quickly found Hastings Syred, which was a name that intrigued me, because I knew that Thomas Hastings was prominent in the town a hundred years before 1798.

In 1705 Thomas Hastings was one of the newly appointed trustees for the Stanhope Charity, along with John, James and Hastings Syred and others. His trusteeship was short and he made his will the same year, leaving bequests to many people. The main beneficiaries of the will were the brothers James and John Syred. The former, whom he had brought up from childhood, was bequeathed his brewhouse, malthouse, lands in Orford and property in five other local parishes. James and



Sketch of the graffito (Orford & District Local History Bulletin: Issue 2)