



*The dilapidated building in front of Dennington Cottage
likely to have been used by signalmen
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for the Marquess in 1796, but the survey does not appear to have survived. However a plan of the same farm, still occupied by Syred, 31 years later is extant. Castle Green Farm comprised 132 acres, arable 113, pasture 18 and saltings one. It extended from Newton Broad Way to the north, the river to the south, Gedgrave Marsh to the west and looped round the castle, excluding Castle Green itself.

Less than three years after the plan was produced the farmer fell on hard times. In December 1829 the Woodbridge auctioneer, Mr. Cana, placed a notice in the Ipswich Journal to the effect that '*under an execution of*

the Sheriff of this County', John Syred's farm animals and implements at Orford were to be sold on the 22nd, and the following day his household furniture, dairy and washhouse utensils and brewing requisites at the Bell Inn, Saxmundham. There were sixteen horses, some Suffolk Punches and others riding mares. Their sires were named Smolensko, Fireaway and Sturmer, and other stallions were owned by Messrs. Goodwin and Chaplin. In addition four milch cows, 43 Cheviot sheep and some pigs were on the farm.

Then in January 1830 another notice revealed that John Syred had assigned all his personal estate to the merchant, William Sewell and the farmer, Francis Keer, in trust for the benefit of his creditors. He probably never married and was buried in Orford in 1837, aged 76.

Sources:

- Wills - Thomas Hastings (1705) IC/AA1/138/68
- John Syred (1709) IC/AA1/140/34
- James Syred (1717) IC/AA1/146/25
- Hastings Syred (1739) IC/AA1/168/92
- John Syred (1770) IC/AA1/192/65
- Inventory - Hastings Syred (1739) FE1/26/66
- Stanhope Charity Trustees (1705) EE5/6/104
- Isaac Johnson's Account Book HD 11/432
- Castle Green Farm survey (1827) HD 11:475/104

1796. He does not appear to be directly descended from the Orford Syreds. Did he serve in the militia, thus explaining his presence in the Castle? In 1796 the previous ten-year-old Militia Act was amended and the number in the militia doubled to 100,000 countrywide. Nearly all men between the ages of 18 and 50 were liable for service.

Although he would have been included in muster lists of the militia, Margaret Poulter's research gives him another likely role. Each signal station was manned by a Lieutenant who had to engage '*one intelligent Petty Officer and two trusty men to assist*'. Only one of the four could be absent at any one time, and then for no more than 24 hours. It is clear that local men were employed - all three listed in 1814 bore the names of Orford men, George Read, Thomas Rymer and Henry Ablett. Patriotism might well have led John Syred to take on the Petty Officer's job when the signal station was set up in 1798, for which he received the pay of a fourth-rate midshipman plus two shillings a day for subsistence. However although he could overlook his farm literally, he is unlikely to have been able to administer it under the required attendance conditions, and may have resigned within a short while.

Isaac Johnson, the surveyor, noted in his account book that he surveyed John Syred's farm in Orford