CAMPSEA ASHE
Heritage Group

Railway Terrace
Campsea Ashe



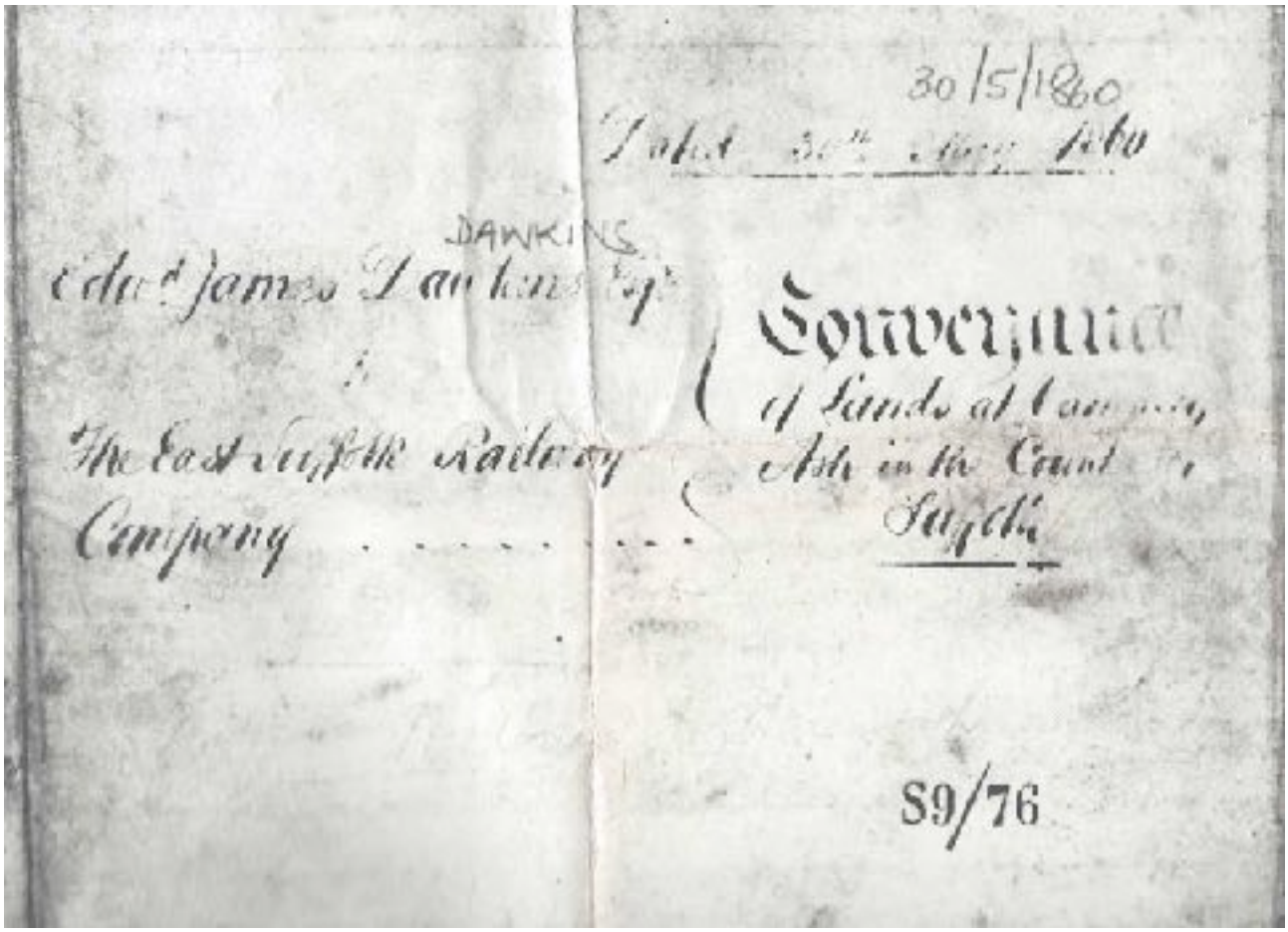
Research by Tim Holmes
September 2019

Introduction

It is thought that Railway Terrace cottages were built to accommodate railway staff who worked on the railway that opened in 1859. According to a number of Conveyance documents that still survive[1] the land on which the cottages were built were sold in various stages to the Great Eastern Railway Company, as follows:

30th May 1860

An Indenture of Conveyance land was sold by Edward James Dawkins to the Great Eastern Railway Company.



Part of Conveyance document 30th May 1860

Edward Dawkins lived in London at St Georges, Hanover Square. He was born in 1795 and died 1865. It is thought he may have worked for the Foreign Office as the following newspaper article indicates:

[1] Kindly loaned to the Heritage Group by current resident Nathan Wills

From the LONDON GAZETTE, Saturday, Oct. 4.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, Oct. 4.

The King has been pleased to nominate and appoint Edward James Dawkins, Esq., and Robert Albion Cox, Esq., to be Commissioners on the part of his Majesty, to meet the Commissioners appointed by the Catholic King, for the consideration and decision of the claims of British and Spanish subjects, under the convention concluded at Madrid on the 12th of March, 1823, between Great Britain and Spain.

24th December 1875

Land sold firstly by the Honourable Charles John Earl of Shrewsbury, also holding the title of Earl Talbot, Charles Schrieber, and secondly the Right Honourable Frederick William Brook Baron Rendlesham to the Great Eastern Railway Company.



Earl of Shrewsbury (left) and Baron Rendlesham (right)



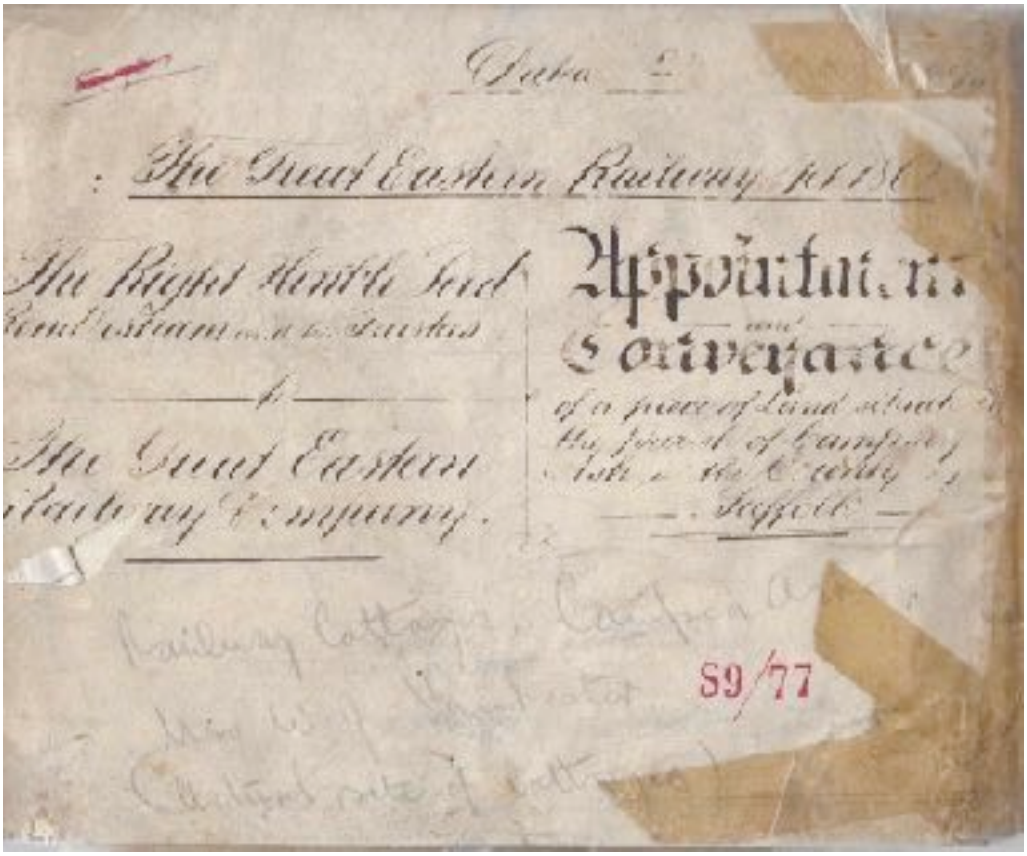
9th November 1914

Further land sold by Baron Rendlesham and Bernard James Peter and Granville John Berney Duff to the Great Eastern Railway Company.

It was not until the 8th October 1965 that the cottages were sold by the successor to the Great Eastern Railway Company, the British Railways Board, to William John Lankester who lived at and owned the nearby Talbot Hotel.

The Conveyance document of 1965 indicates that Mr Lankester gradually sold the properties to various people, mainly resident tenants over the next few years.

The story of who has lived in the cottages is recorded in the following pages and we are grateful to those who have contributed to our knowledge of the history.



Part of Conveyance document 24th December 1875

No 1 Railway Terrace

David Charles Ford and his family were long term tenants at No 1 as they are recorded on the four censuses from 1881 to 1911. He was a signalman and probably manned the signal box at the station, so he had an important role.

Charles, as he was known, was born in Leiston in 1858 and he married Emma Garnham Said in 1880. The middle name of Garnham appears to be a Sad family name. She was born in 1861 in Halesworth and they married at the Independent Chapel at Halesworth. Their first child was born in Halesworth, although he died in infancy, bu their second and all further children were born in Campsea Ashe. It is believed that they had twelve children in total of whom 3 died before 1911. Their children were:

Name	**Dates**	**Baptism**
Charles William	1879 - 1880	23rd June 1880
Etheldine Maud	1883 -	13th January 1884
Emma Garnham	1886 -	12th September 1886
Ada	1888 -	14th April 1889
Charles Garnham	1891 -	11th October 1891
Kate Harriet	1894 - 1975	25th March 1894
Gertrude Edith	1896	9th August 1896
Richard Henry	1899 -	9th April 1899
Edith Mary	1902 -	9th March 1902



Station Staff 1921.
Ernest Everett is the first man on the left of the middle row.

Ruby Millicent	1903	17th March 1903
Dorothy May	1904 - 1904	26th June 1904

Sometime after 1911 the family left the village, probably on the retirement of Charles. Their son, Richard, was confirmed at the Church in 1913 and this was probably one of the last times the family were in the village.

It is believed that Emma died in Ipswich on 7th July 1928 and Charles on 20th august 1935 in Chelmsford.

The Everett family moved into no 1 after the Ford family moved out. Edward Ernest Everett was the father, born 1871 in Haughley and he was, like his predecessor Charles Ford, a signalman. He married Rosa Ann Bridges in 1891 and they had two children, Ruby Isabell, born 1899, and Percival Edward, born 1905. Rosa was born in Little Glemham in 1864 and after their marriage they lived in Little Glemham for a time.

It is believed that Rosa died in 1934 whilst still living at No 1 so she is probably buried in the Churchyard, but no such burial record has been found. Edward was still at Railway Terrace in 1937 along with Percival, but it is believed he moved shortly after this. He probably retired as he was in his mid 60s by this date. He died in Ardleigh, Essex on the 8th June 1943.

James Earnest Ling was the resident in 1939. He was born in 1873 and, interestingly, he was a farm labourer, not a railway worker. However, in 1911 he is recorded as a Railway Platelayer and was living at Marlesford, so the connection to the railway is made.

He married Lucy Osborne in 1899 and it is believed they had five children:

Emily	1901 - 1980
Lilian Margaret	1905 -
Frederick James	1907 - 1922
Henry Samuel	1913 - 1986
Basil Leonard	1915 - 1982.

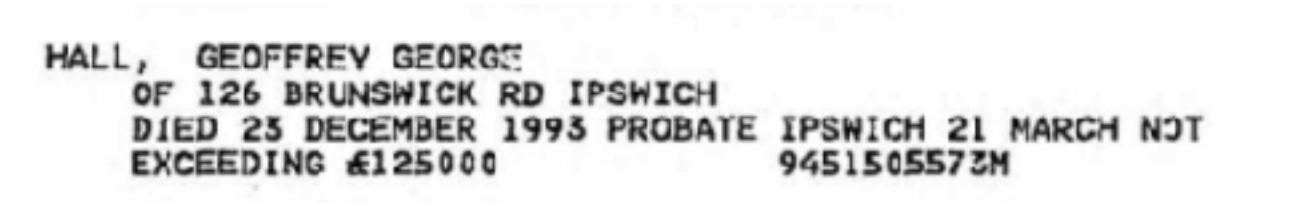
In 1939 James was a widower, his wife having died in 1930. Lilian was at home and was named as the housekeeper. Samuel was a miller and Basil a farm labourer.

A bomb fell on Railway Terrace in the early part of the war and it may well be that James and his children moved away from the village at this point. James died in 1946 just after the end of the war.

The next known residents were **Geoffrey George and Violet Lilian Hall** or **Hale.** There is some uncertainty about their surname and our knowledge about them is limited, so the following should be read with caution.

They are recorded as living there in the 1958 Electoral Roll and their surname is Hall. A Geoffrey George Hall was born on 17th August 1928 and the only record of a marriage between Geoffrey George and a Violet Lilian is in April 1947, but his surname is Hale. This Violet Lilian had the surname of Hart and was born on the 15th January 1922.

A Geoffrey George Hall died in 1993 and a Violet Lilian Hall three years earlier in 1990.


HALL, GEOFFREY GEORGE
OF 126 BRUNSWICK RD IPSWICH
DIED 25 DECEMBER 1993 PROBATE IPSWICH 21 MARCH NOT
EXCEEDING £125000 9451505573M

In 1965 the Railway Terrace houses were sold by the British Railways Board to William John Lankester who owned The Talbot Hotel just opposite the houses. He paid £2000 for all four houses and the land. The sale was possibly brought about as a result of the Beeching report of 1963, *The*

reshaping of British Railways. Although the line from Ipswich to Lowestoft survived it is possible that British Railways were required to sell off such houses.

The next tenant we know of is an **S Cleveland,** who is recoded on the 1965 Conveyance document. This person first took up the tenancy on 14th December 1963. Nothing further is known about this resident.

A Memorandum added to the 1965 Conveyance indicates that Mr Lankester sold the property in 1967 to **Jack Robert Goudy.** It is believed he was born on 12th March 1922 and in 1939 he was living with his family at Newton Farm, Orford where he was working as a farm labourer. He died in 2006 and is buried in the Churchyard.

No 2 Railway Terrace

On the 1881 census the **Harvey family** are recorded as living at No 2. James Harvey, aged 31, was a railway porter, his wife, Catherine was 35 and they had four children living with them:

Eliza	8
Jemima	4
William	2
Isabella	3 months.

Also living with them was James's sister, Charlotte (18 and a dressmaker) and lodger Charles Woods, also a railway porter aged 22 years.

James was born in Uggeshall in 1850, the son of James and Sarah (née Backhouse) Harvey. His father was a gardener.

In addition to the two children living with James and Catherine in 1881, they had two older children, Eliza (1873 - 1961) and Jemima (1877 -) who had left home by this point. The family are recorded as living at No 2 on the 1891 and 1901 censuses. Two further children had arrived by 1891 - James (b 1883) and Robert (b 1886). In 1891 their 15 year old son is recorded as also working for the railway as a clerk.

Their eldest child, Eliza, was m,arriewd at Campsea Ashe Church on the 2nd February 1897, to Arthur George Gilbert, a seaman from Uggeshall.

It is not known what happened to James and the family after they left the village sometime after 1901.

By 1911 **William George Whymark and his family** were resident at No 2. On the census of this year he is recorded as a horseman shunter aged 25 years. Other residents were:

Catherine, his wife	26
Dorothy	1
Ernest	6 months.
Mabel Hayward	13, sister in law.

William enlisted in the army in 1903 and later served in WWI. The Heritage Group has recorded his history as follows:

> *William was the eldest son of Charles and Ellen Whymark. He was born in 1886 in Chilton, Suffolk and had 8 siblings. For much of his early life he was living in Great Waldingfield where his father was a horseman and William was a stockboy. He used his knowledge and love of horses to great effect as in 1911 he was a horseman shunter working for the railway and living in Campsea Ashe at Railway Cottages. In 1908, he married Kathleen Blanche Tuffin and they had at least two children – Dorothy and Ernest.*
> *It appears he originally enlisted in 1903 and gave 2 years service after which, it appears, he became part of the Army Reserve, hence he resumed a civilian career. At the outbreak of war, he re-enlisted and became a driver in the Army Service Corps, his regimental number*

being T/ 20823. He was sent to France with the 1st Expeditionary Force on the 12th August 1914 and was discharged from the Army on 4th March 1916. His service records describe him as having brown hair and hazel eyes, he stood 5' 4" tall. His Captain described him as: A good driver and a sober man accustomed to the care and management of horses. His military character was good. William died in 1963 and there is a memorial to him and his wife in the churchyard.

Catherine and William were married in 1909 and moved to the village from Diss where both their children were born.

By 1914 the family had moved from No 2 to No 3 Railway Terrace, more of which later.

In 1914 the Rev Lucas recorded that the **Clarke family** were living in No 2. Unfortunately nothing further has been discovered about this family.

The next known residents were the **Cook family**[2]**.** Arthur, 1879 - 1948, and Mary Ann (née Pooley) 1880 - 1940. Arthur was born in Occold, Suffolk, the son of James and Sarah Cook.

It is not known when Arthur and Mary married, nor how many children they had, but at the time of the 1939 National Register (see appendix), there were three adults living at the house with them:

Arthur, a farm labourer
Mary, domestic duties
Walter, a cowman
Alec, a warehouseman, and
one other person not named.

In addition to the above there were several other children in the family - Frederick, Arthur, Gladys, Doris, Iris and Roy. Iris married Mr P Driver (*right*) who, in 1940 was away at war. Iris was killed when a bomb hit the terrace of cottages, the only civilian from the village to be killed during WWII.



DRIVER, Iris Mabel, age 25; of Ash Corner, Campsey Ash. Daughter of Arthur Cook, of the same address, and of the late Mary Ann Elizabeth Cook; wife of P. Driver (H.M. Forces). 21 November 1940, at 2 Railway Terrace Cottage, Campsey Ash.

Arthur Cook died in 1948. One researcher (from the Gill family and recorded on www.ancestry.co.uk) records the story of his death, but this has not been proved.:

Death by Misadventure. Broke his neck after his pedal cycle he was riding collided with an army vehicle outside the Swan Inn crossroads, Ashfield Road.

[2] As is common with the spellings of names at some point an 'e' has been added to the name, but the 1911 census and other records indicate the spelling of he name is without the 'e'.



Believed to be the parents of Arthur Cook, James and Sarah



When the house was bombed in 1940 the family moved to Mission Cottage in the village.



Left to right: Alan Nay, worked at Ashmore Hall, Billy Newman, Wally Smith, Wallie Cook, (Resident) Walter was Roy Cook's Uncle



The 1958 Electoral Roll indicates that **Albert Edward and Margaret Gertrude Dickerson** were living at No 2. Little is known about them. It is thought that Albert was born in 1908 and he was a member of the National Union of Railwaymen - in 1925 he was recoded as a ‘gatelad’. Albert married Margaret Gertrude Scoggins in 1953. She was born in Brandeston in 1910.

Albert and Margaret had left the house by 1960 when an **R Friend** was tenant. This was probably Robert Sidney Friend who bought the house, along with R Friend (his son?) in January 1975.

No 3 Railway Terrace

The **Battle family** start the story of No 3. They are recorded as residents in 1881, 1891 and 1901. William, the father, came from an established village family and was born in 1846 in Campsea Ashe. In 1881 was described as a 'Railway Porter'. Later he graduated to become a railway carman[3]. He married Anna Chilvers, 11 years younger than him, in 1873 and it is thought they had five children:

Lily Rosanna	1875 -
Robert	1877 -
Kate Lucy	1873 -
Florence	1883 -
William	1888 -.

Anna died in 1908 leaving William as a widower. On retirement, presumably, he moved away from the village and in 1911 he is recorded as living 'Near the Bridge, Wickham Market'. With him were his two children, Kate and William. William died in 1928.

John William Hart and his family were resident in 1911. John was a 37 year old railway plate layer at this time and he was married to 40 year old Elizabeth. It is believed they married in 1899 and her maiden name was Rignall. At the time of the census they had one child, a daughter, Adeline Lily, who was nine years old and born in Whitton Suffolk. The census also indicates that they had had a further child, but he or she had died.

The Hart family moved shortly after 1911 as by 1914 the **Whymark family** had moved in. Previously they had lived at No 2, details above. They were living at the house for some time as they are recorded in the 1937 Electoral Register as living at Railway Terrace as well as on the 1939 National Register (see appendix).

After the bombing in 1940 it seems William and his family moved and in November 1946 an **A T Nash** was recorded as tenant paying a weekly rent of £41 11s 8d. Alfred Nash was born in 1909 in Wantisden near Tunstall, the son of Albert and Effie Nash. He went to Tunstall school. In 1932 he married Marjorie Moss.

Albert served in WWII and is recorded as a prisoner of war having been captured by the Japanese. At the start of the war, his wife and son, Ronald Thomas, were living at 61 Tinkerbrook, Stratford St Andrew.

Apparently Albert survived the war and in November 1946 he and Marjorie moved into No 3. They were still living there in 1958. Their son, Ronald had married June Margaret Bailey in 1952 and they moved into No 4 Ullswater Road.

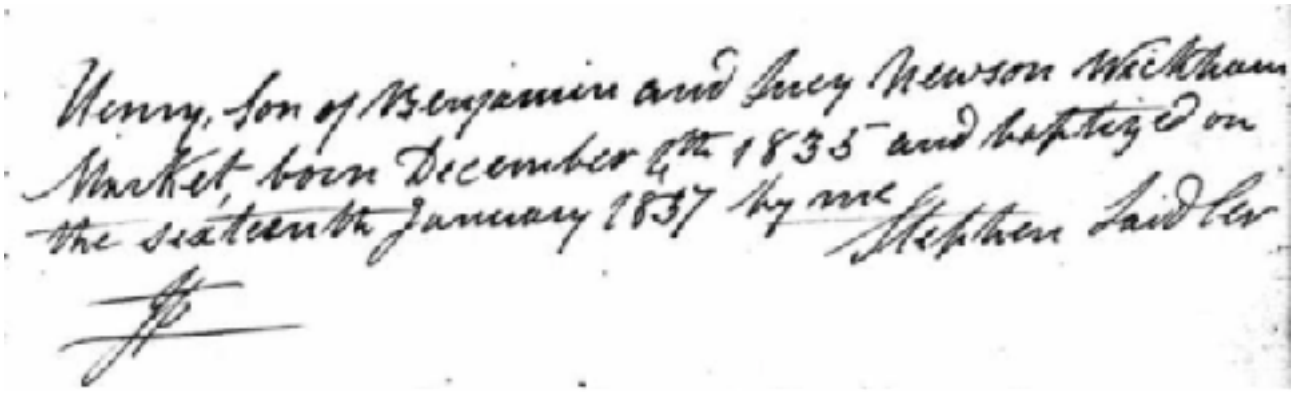
[3] The Hall Genealogy Website describes a carman as *"Driver of (horse-drawn) vehicles for transporting goods. Carmen were often employed by railway companies for local deliveries and collections of goods and parcels."*

No 4 Railway Terrace

The first known residents of No 4, according to the 1881 census were the **Newson family**, as follows:

Henry	45	Railway Porter	born Wickham Market
Elizabeth	43		Parham
Henry	13		Hacheston
Benjamin	11		Hacheston
Emma	8		Hacheston
Mary	4		Hacheston
Frederick	1		Campsea Ashe

Henry was born in 1835, the son of Benjamin and Lucy Newson from Wickham Market. He was baptised at the Independent chapel in January 1837.


Henry, Son of Benjamin and Lucy Newson Wickham Market, born December 4th 1835 and baptized on the seventeenth January 1837 by me Stephen Laidler

He married Elizabeth Chilcot from Parham in 1860. In addition to the children recorded in the above census, they had two older children, Lucy and John.

The Newsons were still at the cottage in 1891 and again in 1901. However, Henry died in 1906 and his wife in 1914. Both are buried in the churchyard.

The **Sawyer family** took over the cottage after the Newsons left and are recorded as such in the 1911 census. George Sawyer was head of the family and he was born in 1855 in Melton. He married Agnes Jane Bridges in Campsea Ashe in 1890 and they went on to have at least five children:

Rose Gertrude	born 1891	Hacheston
Frank	1892	Campsea Ashe
Mary Ann	1895	Campsea Ashe
William Norman	1897	Little Glemham
Amy Agnes	1900	Little Glemham

It is interesting to note that the children were born in three different villages. Their father was a signalman and it is likely that he moved between the three villages to work.



Thought to be George and Agnes Sawver



The family were still at No 4 in 1914. George probably retired around 1920 when he was 65 and it is believed he died in 1938, two years after his wife. They are buried in the churchyard.

An F Sawyer is third from the right of the back row on the 1921 station staff photograph (see page * above). This may well be the son of George and Agnes, Frank.

The 1937 Electoral Register does not identify anyone living at No 4 so it is possible that it was unoccupied at this time. However, a year later the **Whipps family** moved in. Alec William Whipps, a cowman, was born in 1908. He worked for Jack Sawyer at Pettistree. He would cycle to work and then drive Mr Sawyer to different cattle markets as his employer had only one arm so couldn't drive. Alec married Marjorie Alice Brooker in 1932. They had three children:

Derek	born 1933
Russell	1935
Gerald	1939, born at Campsea Ashe.

The bombing of the house in 1940 was, of course, the most devastating event for the family. Russell told us how how his father came to the school to collect him and told him of the bombing. They had to move out immediately and they went to live with a relative at Wissett before moving eventually to Afford where Alec and Marjorie died in 1987 and 1983 respectively.

When the bomb was dropped Gerald was lucky to escape being in a pram in the front garden. A neighbour warned Marjorie that a plane was around and the pram was moved just in time. Their furniture was stored in the Creamery (now demolished)

Russell has provided the Heritage Group with much valuable information about his time in the village. He told us:

> *Our neighbours at no 3 were the Wymarks, Mr Wymark drove the lorry that delivered railway goods around the district. Mr & Mrs Wymark had a daughter Joyce who in 2005 wrote a letter in 2005 in which she talks about her mother being thrown from the kitchen to the back porch, when the bomb dropped in their garden she had a bundle of stockings, in the bedroom, they where ripped to pieces, the bomb holes in our garden were very wide and deep, must have been big bombs, their furniture was put outside because they thought the roof would fall in. The family went to live at the Rectory.*



View of Railway Terrace from the railway, probably 1920s

Some years later, in 2015, Russell wrote an article for the EADT about his experience of the bombing:

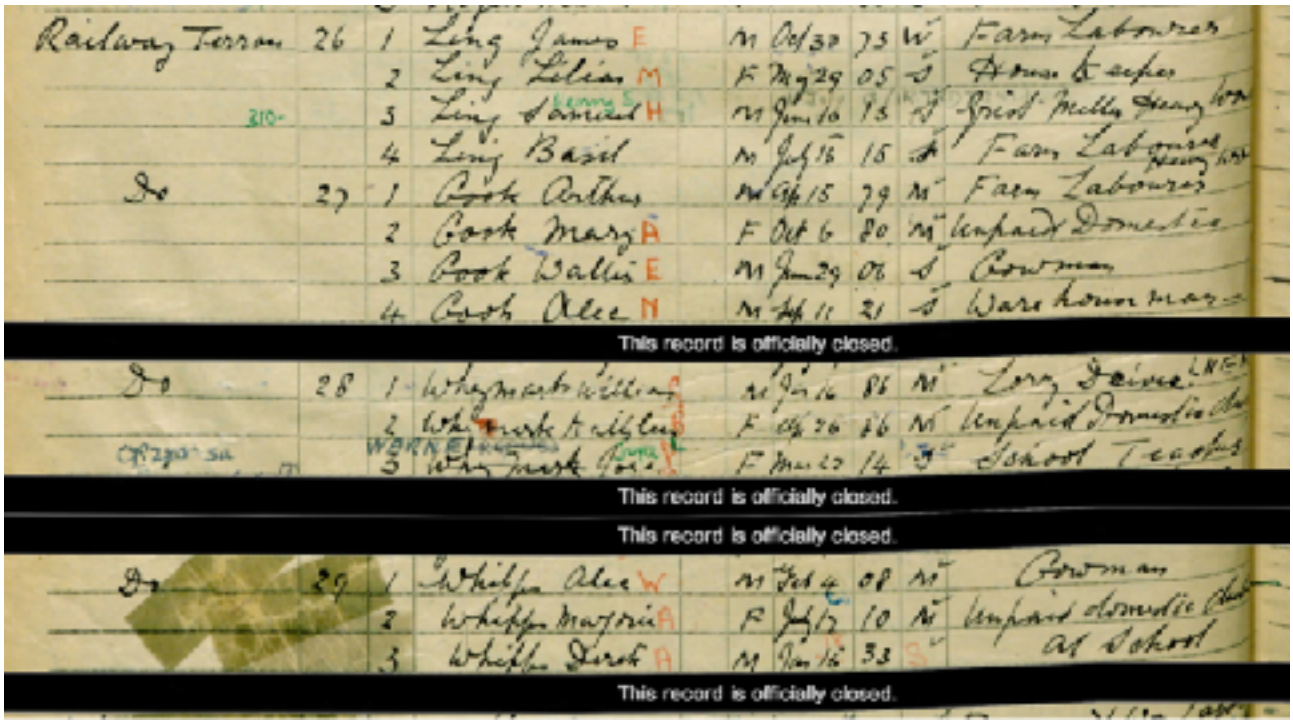


EADT, TUESDAY, 22nd DECEMBER 2015

It is not clear what happened after the house was rebuilt. The next reference to residents in No 4 at **William George Whymark and his wife, Florence May**. William had been resident at both No 2 and No 3 earlier but moved out after the 1940 bombing. His wife, Catherine (or Kathleen as she was also known) died in 1950 and he remarried a year later, this time to Florence May Mepham. In 1958 they are recorded as living in No 4. William died in 1963. However, before he died they had moved on from No 4 as in 1960 a **J M Kersey** was the tenant. Nothing is known about this tenant.

Appendix 1

1939 National Register



Appendix 2
Bombs dropped 21st November 1940 at 11.00 am.

All bombs were dropped by a Dornier 215 flying north to south, and fell parallel to the Ipswich to Great Yarmouth railway line. A train was just leaving the station for Yarmouth.

Location	Bombs	Casualties	Damage
Blackstock Wood	2	None	Near railway
37ft East of Talbot pub opposite railway station	1	None	Extensive damage to pub and store. railway station lines still open for traffic
100yards south of railway station and 3 yards from rear door of No 3 Railway Terrace	1	1 person killed 5 injured	Exrensive damage to No 3 & 4 Railway Terrace partly demolished. Damage to other houses in Mill Road
Garden No 4 Mill Road	1	None	Damage to house in Mill Road
In a field 280 yards south of railway station	1	None	Damage to houses in Mill Road
In a field 300 yards from railway station	1	None	Damage to houses in Mill Road
3/4 mile west of railway station	1	None	Unexploded in Loudham Road



A Dornier 215 in flight