



# WALSHAM

## *History Group*

REVIEW Summer 2021 Number 88

## LAST DAY AT THE VICARAGE, 1859

One of our members, Michael Marland, has kindly let us see an 1859 sale catalogue relating to The Priory. In 1902 it gave its name to the building nearby in which we have our meetings, The Priory Room.

The Priory at Walsham was an offshoot of the great Ixworth Priory established in the 12th century. Ixworth supplied priests for several parishes in this area, and the Walsham building was a base for chaplains who ministered in St Mary's church. When Ixworth Priory was dissolved in 1538, our outpost continued in use as the Anglian priest's residence. It still served this purpose in 1859, but, as implied in the catalogue, it was not very suitable for Victorian vicars, often with large families. Some time after 1859 a more extensive property, Spilmans on Palmer Street, was adopted as St Mary's vicarage. This house in its turn was seen as inconvenient, being a long way from the church. In 1904 John Martineau, Patron of The Living, virtually rebuilt The Priory, nearly doubling its size, so that it could again be acceptable as a vicarage. Most of what we see today, a seemingly medieval timbered building, is in fact Edwardian. With the parson's residence reinstated at The Priory, Spilmans came to be known, in confusing Walsham style, by its present title "The Old Vicarage". To round off this tale, in the 1990s The Priory was seen as unsuitable as a rectory. The Diocese bought the present Rectory on The Causeway, selling The Priory as a private dwelling.

Back to the 1859 catalogue; it is an octavo-sized booklet, the cover using many different printer's founts, and decorated at the corners with printer's ornaments. This florid display advertises the versatility of "A.B. Woolby, Printer, Stowmarket". Setting aside the showmanship, the title page tells us

that there is "a catalogue of the modern household furniture, cottage pianoforte, 600 volumes of books of the Rev. C.R. Payne, deceased". Because of the many Lots, the sale by S.W. Hunt on May 24th 1859 was to begin briskly "at ten o'clock".

We know very little about Mr Payne. From the Parish Register we gather that his christian name was Charles, that his incumbency began in 1852, (the year before the Martineaus came to The Lawn), and that his ministry ended with his death in 1859. He was not buried at Walsham. From the details of the catalogue it appears that he was not a rich man, comparatively speaking, and, if he left a widow, she would have been obliged to leave The Priory for the next incumbent.

Interestingly the prices realized have been written in the margins. Humble details are entered from every part of the house. For example in "The Attics": "night commode and warming pan. (7s.0d)". Among the "Outdoor Effects" was a "denet gig", somewhat outmoded by 1859, which realized £9.5s.0d. It was pulled by a "handsome grey pony, fast and quiet in harness, neat, sociable". This realized the most money in the whole sale: 7pound; 16s.

A pony and gig were necessary tools of the trade in a parish as far-flung as Walsham. Other "tools" were the books, 600 volumes forming 93 Lots, occupying four pages of the slim catalogue. They were listed under the contents of the dining room, there being no separate study, and it appears that Mr Payne prepared his sermons on the mahogany dining table (£3.15s.0d). Many of the books went for knock-down prices, and presumably they were not in good condition. An instance of the pitiful amount realized, one of many, is "Lot 129: Greek lexicon, 2 vols. and 6 others(1s.6d)". Charles Payne's library held the usual biblical commentaries, concordances and devotional works, including, amusingly for us, "Blair's Sermons, 3 vols.". Apart from theology

there were editions of Herodotus, Euripides, Suetonius and Ovid, but no Homer or Virgil, which were the usual components of a classical library. For English authors, Shakespeare and Dr Johnson were well represented, but contemporary popular authors such as Dickens and Thackeray were only hinted at in “sundry volumes of books”.

The drawing room was presumably where a lady held sway. Here was the “mahogany ladies” work-table (14s.od.)” and a “mahogany what not” (£1.15s.od.). This was a luxury item, a set of shelves to hold ornaments. Amidst all the precise details of household items, the fish-kettles, fire-irons and floorcloths desperately sold for shillings, there was no mention of drawing-room keepsakes or pictures. Similarly, the cottage pianoforte, announced in large letters on the cover of the catalogue, was unmentioned among the Lots. Perhaps some other arrangement had been made, a private sale, or maybe a gift. One is reminded of the mysterious piano in Jane Austen’s bittersweet novel of 1816, “Emma”. Victorian reality was probably grimmer for Mrs Payne. We can assume that Charles Payne’s death was unexpected because a drawing room Lot which realized an appreciable sum was a “large brussels (sic) carpet, nearly new (£8.8s.od.)”. The vicar would not have made such an investment if he had thought his death was imminent.

As stated earlier, we know little about Charles Payne. His incumbency of 1852 to 1859 means that he slips between the Censuses of 1851 and 1861, and his obituary cannot be found. We do not know whether there were any sons or daughters. There was a well appointed “Chamber No.1” holding “a four-post bedstead, mahogany pillars, drab morine furniture (£3.5s.od.)”. “Drab morine furniture”, incidentally, means that the bed hangings were of a stout warm material in a restricted colour. The bedstead was fitted with an expensive “hair mattress (pound;2.10s.od.)”. There were three other upstairs bedrooms (Chambers 2,3, and 4) with similar, less expensive, furnishings. Although family is implied, these rooms may have been for guests.

There is evidence of a servant, for downstairs there is a “kitchen chamber”. Like the upstairs rooms, it had a fireplace, foot bath and wash stand. There was a simple “tester bedstead, green furniture (7s.od.)”, that is, bed-hangings dyed in a cheap colour, but there was a good quality wool mattress (15s.od.) and a feather bed (£1.5s.od.). Surprisingly, in this kitchen chamber, there was a “mahogany chest of drawers (£2.16s.od.)”. This last item was written in as an addition, perhaps to raise as much money as possible.

The total amount for the sale was £300.11s.6d. It all seems a sad business. In some ways it is reminiscent of that large painting in Tate Britain: “The Last Days in the Old Home” by Robert Braithwaite Martineau, cousin to our family at The Lawn. The painting, finished in 1861 after years of work, was on the easel at the time of the Walsham auction. It deals with the results of drink and gambling, but it also poignantly shows the trauma of a forced sale.

Brian Turner, 2007

## REV. C.E. PAYNE

In his paper in 2007, reproduced above, Brian Turner comprehensively set out the limited details then known of the Rev. Charles Payne, local vicar of Walsham Le Willows, and based on a sale catalogue, issued in 1859. The catalogue listed the furniture and contents of The Priory, Walsham Le Willows, which was the former rectory for the various clergy who served the village from time-to-time. The sale in 1859 followed the recent early departure from his post of the Rev. Payne, but unfortunately little else is widely known of him because of scant local records – or even relevant census returns. Some more information has now been found based on various newspaper reports over the years to fill in some of the details.

We first come across Charles Payne in his final time as a pupil at his public school, Winchester College, Hampshire:

OXFORD, July 25.

At the annual election at Winchester College, the following gentlemen were placed on the roll to fill the vacancies that may occur in the course of the ensuing year in New College:—James Gould, C. Adams, G. Riddling, T. W. Erle, T. W. G. Hallward, R. J. Baker, H. Miller, C. R. Payne, H. Furneaux, T. J. Griffith, J. D. Randall, and E. Hill.

*Bucks Herald*, 1 August 1846

He completed his time at Winchester and went on to study at Emmanuel College Cambridge. But life was not all the studying for his B.A. He enjoyed some sporting pleasure there, as in a match between Emmanuel and Caius colleges.

**CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE.**

Five over. The total of the innings was 189. Caius in due time went in against this large amount, but were only able to achieve 11, of which Mr. W. Frost made 31, by a five, three fours, a three, and eleven single runs. Mr. C. Hunt contributed 28, in excellent style, by means of two threes, five twos, and a balance of ones. In the “fielding,” the catch made by Mr. W. Weston of Mr. Still, off Mr. Payne, presented the chief feature. It was

*Morning Advertiser*, 30 May 1851,



In that year he was ordained Deacon in the Church of England by the Bishop of Ely, Thomas Turton, on 16th November 1851.

#### ORDINATION.

By the Bishop of Ely, at his Cathedral, Nov. 16 :—

##### DEACONS.

J. P. Lucas, B.A., New Inn Hall, Oxford.  
J. Parkinson, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.  
W. Payne, B.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.  
C. R. Payne, B.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge.  
G. C. Pollard, M.A., Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge.  
G. Rowe, B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

*Morning Chronicle*, 20 November 1851

He was similarly ordained priest, aged 24, the following year, when his incumbency commenced as a curate at St. Mary's, Walsham Le Willows.

By the Lord Bishop of Ely, at the Cathedral.

DEACONS.—C. Dury, B.A., Fellow of Christ's coll., Camb.; G. R. Fenwick, B.A., St. Alban's hall, Oxf.; R. Ferguson, M.A., Fellow of Pembroke, Camb.; H. Russell, M.A., Fellow of St. John's, Camb.; J. R. Freeling, B.A., by letters dimissory from the Bishop of Salisbury.  
PRIESTS.—A. Bower, M.A., Fellow of St. John's coll., Camb.; E. Bradley, B.A., University coll., Durham; W. Barham, M.A., Pembroke, Camb.; W. W. Howard, M.A., Fellow of Sidney Sussex, Camb.; J. E. Law, B.A., St. John's, Camb.; C. F. Mackenzie, M.A., Fellow of Gonville and Caius, Camb.; C. R. Payne, B.A., Emmanuel, Camb.

*John Bull*, 25 September 1852

He then married Margaret Jane Goldson and the couple lived at The Priory, where his son was duly born in 1856 when his wife was aged 25. I have found no further record of his son,

#### BIRTHS.

On the 29th ult., the wife of Major E. T. Hibgame, of a son.

On the 29th ult., at Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk, the wife of the Rev. C. R. Payne, of a son.

*Norfolk Chronicle*, 2 August 1856

This period coincided with his publication of the 'Penny Dreadful' he had written with a title typical of the genre. Its authorship poses an intriguing aside on the way a curate passed his time in writing.

*Just Published.*

**PRICE ONE PENNY.**

**RICHARD MEADS:**

Or, an Account of a Man who was first Robbed and afterwards Murdered by his intimate Friend.

By The Rev. C. R. PAYNE.

*Bury Free Press*, 27 December 1856

Sadly, shortly after the birth of their son, his wife died. In those days it was customary for provincial newspapers to take copy from more significant "Journals of Record". Thus, the *Dublin Daily Express* published this sad news on 10 January 1857.

#### DEATHS.

Kekewich—January 7, at Summerlands, Exeter, George Granville Kekewich, Esq., Judge of the County Courts of Cornwall, aged 55.  
Payne—January 5, at Walsham le Willows, Margaret Jane, wife of the Rev. C. R. Payne, aged 26.  
Rose—January 8, at his residence, in Limerick, the Rev. Henry Rose, Surrogate of the diocese, and Chaplain to the county gaol.

Some months later in that same year he shared responsibility for any over-exuberance that occurred in marking the completion of the Harvest, by helping to organise a celebratory meal (alcohol-free) at Stanton. This notable event was to be repeated the following year. It is perhaps worth reflecting on the tone adopted by the Leader Writer in commenting on such festivities.

#### STANTON.

"UNITED HARVEST HOME."—One of these experimental parochial gatherings took place in this parish on Friday last, the object being to substitute a rational celebration of the goodness of "the Lord of the Harvest," instead of the drunken revelry that has hitherto prevailed on such occasions. The management was undertaken by the Rev. G. Bidwell, (rector,) Rev. C. R. Payne, (curate,) and several of the principal inhabitants of the parish, and the festival came off on Friday last, in a meadow belonging to Mr. Gathercole, which had been kindly lent for the occasion. The farmers in the parish presented tickets to the men and women in their employ, and 214 of the labouring class sat down to a most substantial and excellent dinner, their employers officiating as carvers, and the ladies and gentlemen of the parish as waiters on the occasion. The viands, which were provided in great abundance were rapidly diminished, and at the conclusion of the repast, the Rev. G. Bidwell, addressing the assembled labourers, remarked upon the evils attendant on the old system of public-house harvest homes, and the quarrels and screams which unfortunately were heard late at night or early the morning after.

*Bury Free Press*, 5 September 1857

Following the unfortunate death of Margaret Jane in 1857 her husband was called upon to conduct the wedding service for her sister.

WEDDING OF MISS CHAPMAN, OF THE ABOVE PLACE.

21st inst., at Blo' Norton, Norfolk, by the Rev. C. R. Payne, brother-in-law to the bride, the Rev. W. R. Ick, B.D., Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and Vicar of Peasmarsh, Sussex, to Helen youngest daughter of the late J. S. Goldson, Esq., of East Dereham, Norfolk.

*The Ipswich Journal*, Saturday 24 July 1858

Later that year the Stanton 'Harvest Home' duly took place (*reproduced overleaf*).

It should be noted that Dr. Kent (Review #80) was prominent in the subsequent singing of the National Anthem (as amended). Was the Goldson girl who was among the guests a relative of his wife? And perhaps the Payne family members also among the guests were related to him? I wonder if he died en route to Alexandria in 1859 (*below*). There seems

#### DEPARTURES.

PER STEAMER "MALTA," CAPT. DOWN, FROM SOUTHAMPTON, NOV. 27.  
FOR BOMBAY.—Mrs. E. Baynes, Mrs. Brewty, Mrs. J. Mennie, Miss Godden, Captain Shuttleworth, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. W. C. Anderson, Mr. F. H. Smith, Miss Bidell, Mr. C. West, Miss White, Mr. Meiklejohn, Mrs. L. Tucker, Mrs. Hodgart, Mr. Way, Mr. R. Thomas, Mrs. Loch and infant, Miss Babington, Mr. Fawcett, Mrs. Singleton, Mr. W. Valentine, Mrs. W. P. Smith and four children, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. and Miss Tyndall, Mr. J. Colthurst, Mr. A. Fulcher, Rev. W. White, Mrs. Coxon, Major Vincent, Mr. Conley, Mr. Goodwyn, and Lieut.-Colonel Timmins.  
From Marseilles: Mr. and Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Compton and child, Mr. Ripton, Mr. E. Comber, Major St. Clair, Mr. Brunstall, Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bunstall, Dosabhooy Framjee, Mr. P. Achenback, Mr. L. Moegling, and Mr. R. Bodington.  
FOR SUEZ.—Mr. Forbes.  
FOR MALTA.—Mr. and Mrs. Gisborne and two children.  
FOR ALEXANDRIA.—Mr. Hamond, Rev. J. Hughes, Mr. Wild, Miss Masters, Rev. C. R. Payne, Mr. Payne, Mr. Monney, and Mr. G. Smith.  
From Marseilles: Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Mr. Shepherd, and Mr. Todd.  
FOR GIBRALTAR.—Mr. Alexander and son, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Mark and two infants, Captain M'Donald, Mr. Kindermaun, Mr. de Beaulieu, and Mr. Moureal.



## STANTON.

The great success which attended this festival last year induced the worthy rector (the Rev. Geo. Bidwell), and his curate (the Rev. C. R. Payne), with the principal occupiers, to get up another fête this year, in which they succeeded to admiration. A more respectable company to honour the occasion could scarcely have been assembled; and the happy faces and good conduct of the labourers and their families evinced how well they enjoyed the ample fare provided for them, and the general pleasures of the day. On the present occasion, Mr. Bidwell kindly allowed the festival to take place on

the lawn in front of the parsonage, and a more delightful spot could scarcely have been selected. It was arranged by the Committee of Management that the visitors and principal inhabitants should dine together on the ground at two o'clock; that the *real* harvest home should take place at four; and that those ladies & gentlemen who had previously dined should assist in carving and attending to the labourers and their wives. Amongst those present we noticed the Rev. G. Bidwell, and Miss Bidwell, L. S. Bidwell, Esq., and Mrs. Bidwell, the Rev. C. Payne, Miss Payne, Miss Goldson, G. E. Payne, Esq., the Rev. H. Ray, the Rev. Mr. Dunlop, of Bardwell, the Rev. Mr. Maul, of Rickinghall, the Rev. Mr. Gibson, the Rev. Mr. Browne, of Blo' Norton, and many of the gentry and most respectable inhabitants of the village and surrounding neighbourhood—indeed, a more numerous attendance than last year. The shops in the village were closed, and all business was suspended. At the entrance of the grounds were three triumphal arches, decorated with evergreens and flowers, and bearing two banners, one of which was a beautiful work of fancy, and the other inscribed:—"Trade and Commerce," and "Honour to our worthy Pastors." The booth provided for the repast was a most pleasing surprise. Three long rows of tables were set out and loaded with the most substantial fare, provided by Mr. Cullum, of the Cock Inn, Stanton; and there was a profusion of flowers and devices, designed and executed by Mrs. Wells, Miss Howes, and other ladies of Stanton. Some very beautiful bouquets were sent from the garden of the Rev. C. Payne. On the centre of each table, was a very beautiful ornament; that on the middle table furnished, we believe, from the house of the Rev. C. Payne, consisted of an immense cake on a stand, richly decorated with flowers, small flags of various colours, with suitable mottoes, and the elegant hop twining its clusters round the lower part of the orna- ment. On each of the side-tables the ornament was composed of ears of wheat and barley, a variety of small flags and mottoes, and a profusion of flowers and evergreens, so tastefully arranged as none but ladies' hands could have done. Then the roof of the booth was richly ornamented with evergreens and flowers in arches, festoons, and other pleasing forms. The banners and flags were in great profusion, each inscribed with a suitable motto. At two o'clock the band of the West Suffolk Militia announced that the first dinner was ready. This was a capital cold collation, for which each visitor paid 2s. The Rev. George Bidwell presided; and proposed the health of "The Queen." The band played some lively tunes, several dances were got up, and the time was thus occupied till the labourers and their wives assembled for their repast. The Rev. G. Bidwell again presided. Mr. Kent led the National Anthem, which was well supported by all present. Mr. Kent added the following verse for the occasion:—

Long flourish husbandry.  
Success to industry.  
God speed the plough.  
Cultivate arts of peace  
To thank Him never cease,  
Who giveth the increase.

There were about 400 persons present; 150 dined at the first dinner, and 220 of the labourers, &c., at the second dinner. Tea was provided in a smaller tent for all who chose to partake of it, at sixpence each. In this way passed off one of the happiest scenes we ever witnessed.

no further trace. It is hardly likely that "Mr. Payne" accompanying him from Southampton was his son.

After his demise a successor was sought for Walsham Le Willows, and the Rev. Robert Ingram M.A. (Jesus College, Oxford), took over parochial duties as curate.

## PERPETUAL CURACIES.

The Rev. Stephen Whiteside, M.A., Queen's College, Oxford, to Thrimby Perpetual Curacy, Westmoreland. Value £80.

The Rev. David Beilby, to Forsbrook Perpetual Curacy, Staffordshire. Value £55.

The Rev. Robert Ingram, M.A., Jesus College, Oxford, to Walsham-le-Willows Perpetual Curacy, Suffolk. Value £93. Patron S. Golding, Esq.

The Rev. John d'Arcy Preston, M.A., Worcester College, Oxford, to Sandgate Perpetual Curacy, Kent. Value £300 with residence.

*Bucks Herald*, 19 March 1859

Samuel Golding, charged with finding his successor, was of course a significant local worthy (Review #86).

Following the death of C.R. Payne, the contents at Priory House were sold, as described in Brian Turner's comments. They were extensively advertised.

## PRIORY HOUSE, Walsham-le-Willows.

To be SOLD by AUCTION,  
By S. W. HUNT,

On Tuesday, May the 24th, 1859, at Ten o'clock, on account of the number of Lots.

THE VALUABLE

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,  
Books, Linen, China and Glass,  
HANDSOME GREY PONY, SOCIABLE,  
DENNETT GIG, OXFORD CART,

and other effects, of the Rev. C. R. PAYNE, deceased.  
**C**OMPRISE mahogany loo, card, dining, sofa, Pembroke, writing, occasional, work, and stand tables; hair-seated, reclining. Windsor, and chamber chairs; Turkey, Brussels, and felt carpets; mahogany what nots; cottage pianoforte, by *Wornum*; mahogany sideboards and bookcases, 600 volumes of books, damask and moiré window curtains, four-post and other bedsteads and furniture, chests of drawers, wash-hand stands and toilet glasses; superior featherbeds, wool and hair mattresses and blankets; damask, Irish, and hemp linen; handsome dinner, breakfast, and dessert services; glass ware, and culinary articles. Handsome Grey Pony, quiet in harness; neat Sociable; Dennett Gig, Oxford Cart, and Harness, iron garden roll, and a variety of other effects, described in catalogues in circulation.

*Bury and Norwich Post*, 3 May 1859

*The Ipswich Journal*, 14 May 1859.

The same text appeared in *The Suffolk Chronicle*, 21 May 1859.

Article by  
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