

Newspaper Archive 1745-1950 from the Ipswich Journal, Bury and Suffolk Herald, Bury & Norwich post, Norfolk Chronicle, Suffolk and Essex Free Press, South-West Suffolk Echo, Sudbury Post & Long Melford Gazette, and Haverhill Echo.

November 9th 1745 - Stolen or strayed from the parish of Gestingthorp in Essex near Sible Hedingham-a black horse near 14 hands-5 years-white snipend of nose. Whoever gives information to Thomas Marlton of the Compasses in Gestingthorp shall be allowed reasonable charges.

Essex-Gestingthorp, March 30th 1754

Whereas for some time it has infamously and falsely reported by Hannah Clarke, then of this parish, (by her being inticed and tutor'd by a person to screen himself from shame) that I, Francis Butcher, from before 25th of March 1753 had carnal knowledge of her body several times and places so as to beget her of child.

Notwithstanding the said Hannah Clarke is a wretch and quite a natural as to know good from evil or the concern of the prejudice she was doing me, there are many people and some that are creditable that do credit to the truth.

I take this opportunity to contradict the said Hannah Clarke, her tutors, her believers and asserters with the following sentiments.

To which God is my witness to the truth.

I Francis Butcher never had any carnal knowledge of the body of the said Hannah Clarke, either by words or actions nor never had intentions, so help me God.

Witness by my hand Francis Butcher.

January 6th 1759 - The Rev Mr Raymond, vicar of Belchamp, Essex, and Chaplain to the Earl Pembroke is presented to the Rectory of Gestingthorpe of the same county.

May 7th 1763 - To be sold at the Pound Farm in Gestingthorp near

Hedingham Castle, Essex-a compleat bay-brown coach gelding with a star in forehead and a little white on the two front feet, five years old. Likewise a pair of geldings of the same kind.

August 27th 1763 - All persons indebted to the estate of Jeffery Ruffle of Wickham St Pauls, Essex are desired to pay their debts to Edward Walker of Gestingthorpe, his executor.

Gestingthorp-Saturday December 28th 1766---

Whereas two men coming up the road from Sudbury did on the same day in the evening knock down and rob Pottle Ripingale a butcher of this parish of 4 Moidores-two guineas and some halfpence and an old silver watch with a bruise on the case with Evans, Halsted upon a paper within the case.

They were afterwards seen to go towards Castle Hedingham then through to Braintree.

In the morning they were in the company of the person they robbed at the sign of the Compasses within 200 yards of the place where the robbery was committed, they seemed about 22 years of age, one was well pitted with small-pox, round faced, about 5ft -7 or 8 inches he seemed to lisp a little, had on a loose short brown frock, a pair of ash coloured drill breeches which were very greasy and said he got a living by shoe making.

The other man was the same height with a pale thin countenance, he had on a blue waistcoat and breeches, a round hat and seemed to be in the dress of a sailor but said he was a journeyman butcher.

Whoever shall apprehend the said persons or can give account of their names and places of abode so that they may be apprehended are desired to give notice to the parish officers of Gestingthorp.

July 21st 1781 - On Monday last was rung at Belchamp Walter, Essex, a complete peal of 5040 Bob major in two hours 58 minutes, what makes it worthy of recognition is that one of the ringers was Mr Hall of Gestingthorpe is in his 88th year, his son and grandson were of the set.

April 24th 1784 - A few days since died the Rev John Bell vicar of

Gestingthorpe, Essex.

September 8th 1802 - Essex farm to be sold at the sign of the Bell Inn at Castle Hedingham comprising Odwell, a manor farm in the parishes of Castle Hedingham and Gestingthorpe in occupation of Mr Downs-178 acres of arable and pasture, good dwelling house with a wood called Ram Acre contiguous to the above containing 17 acres. Lot 2 Shepcoat in Castle Hedingham-40 acres arable and hop ground, all copyhold at the will of the Lord and pay quit rent of one pound eighteen shillings per annum. Red House farm in Sible Hedingham, 79 acres with Nottle Wood adjoining- Collards farm at Sible Hedingham, 90 acres and land at Gt Bradley.

June 20th 1821 - Capital farm to be let at Gestingthorpe on lease, with farmhouse, two covered ricks, 314 acres comprising 20 acres of pasture and 10 acres of hop ground with newly erected kiln for drying hops, this estate claims particular attention of agriculturist's as the wheat land is of the highest quality, the whole being ring fenced, in occupation of the proprietor. For terms apply Frost and Stedman, Sudbury.

September 5th 1821 - To be let for a term of years. Farms called Prestfield and Rushey Green situated in Castle Hedingham and Gestingthorpe, 350 acres.

April 21st 1824 - A valuable estate on the Essex-Suffolk border for sale.

Fine meadow, turnip and wheat land-203 acres-good residence or sporting box with every desirable accomodation for a family-lawns-flower house- coach house-stables-bailiff's cottage-excellently situated in Gestingthorpe in an elevated desirable part of Essex-in the vicinity of fox hounds-harriers-surrounded by preserves of game. To be sold at the Mart in London.

June 8th 1825 - Mr George Walker of Gestingthorpe is appointed Recorder of Sudbury in the room of Sir John Cox Hippersley Bart, deceased.

A caravan in which a showman and his family were asleep was stationed in the High street at Hadleigh, a large drove of oxen were passing through on their way to London early in the morning when one fat beast deliberately walked up to the van and put it's horns underneath it and upset the van to the great terror of the inmates, the showman's wife was dangerously hurt.

March 12th 1828 - Died at Castle Hedingham--Thomas Granger, late of Park Gate Farm, Gestingthorpe.

September 17th 1828 - Nether Hall at Gestingthorpe for sale by orders of the executors of Edward Downs also the live and dead stock. 8 horses-9 spotted Suffolk cows-implements etc, of John Firmin who is leaving the farm.

December 17th 1828 - At Essex Assizes, Robert Proctor a farmer of Gestingthorpe and William Simpson his servant were indicted for stealing corn from the barn of Lewis Majendie in Gestingthorpe. It appears that last autumn at Michaelmas Mr Majendie put off a farm which he occupied to Proctor and the men who were threshing the crop in the barn had the habit of leaving the keys to the barn with the incoming tenant but they continually missed corn, they informed the bailiff and a constable was put to watch the barn, at about six the next morning the prisoners came and filled a skeep from the heap, the constable secured them. Proctor 12 months and Simpson 6 months.

February 22nd 1832 - The East Essex foxhounds will meet on Saturday 25th at Gestingthorpe Compasses.

October 30th 1833 - Important sale at Over Hall in Gestingthorpe, valuable furniture, who is leaving the above establishment for Tunbridge Wells, superb paintings including a splendid copy of "Christ healing the sick" which was recently sold for 3, 000 guineas.

August 6th 1834 - Death on Saturday last at Gestingthorpe, aged 19 years, Eliza the 2nd daughter of Charles Branwhite.

November 3rd 1840 - A few days since a youth respectably connected with parents residing not far from Gestingthorpe, when passing Leys Wood on his way to school at Cstle Hedingham wantonly set fire to an oat stack belonging to Mr J.Downes of Gestingthorpe, fortunately he was spotted by a man working near the spot and he put the fire out, he pursued the boy and overtaking him asked his name " Clarke" he replied, which was not correct, his real name was discovered and luckily for him Mr Downes declined to proceed against him.

February 16th 1841 - Died at Wickham St Pauls, aged 83 years-- Samuel Downes and at Gestingthorpe, George Downes, nephew of the former.

March 2nd 1841 - A melancholy instance of death happened to David Hunt, servant to Mr Whybrew of the Compasses Inn at Gestingthorpe. He had been with his master to Hedingham in the cart with a quantity of malt, he laid down and complained of drowsiness and stooped down in the cart, on arrival at his master's, he was considered asleep and left for a short time but on someone sent to wake him he was found to be dead.

February 8th 1842 - On Thursday evening as Mr Bear, a farmer from Gestingthorpe was returning from Sudbury market, he was stopped on the road about quarter of a mile out of Sudbury by three men who took his hat and after a short scuffle left him. A man named Stow was taken up but there was no proof of guilt and he was released.

May 20th 1844 - On Sunday afternoon, a large haulm stack at Borley Hall near Rodbridge Turnpike gate at Melford, in occupation of Mr Branwhite of Gestingthorpe was set on fire and was quickly reduced to ashes but happily the wind was in the right direction and no other damage was done or the whole of the farm buildings would have been destroyed. The young villian by whom the deed was perpetrated walked deliberately off and meeting one the workmen, told him he had done it. He was apprehended and we hope he will receive the punishment he deserves.

September 24th 1845 - At Park Farm, Gestingthorpe, the live and dead stock and the effects of John Clarke who is quitting the farm. 6 horses, 2 riding mares, 2 well bred sucklerels, 4 cows, etc.

August 23rd 1846 - Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe-to be sold by auction on September 19th by order of the exors. of Mr Robert Purkis. Team of 12 powerful and valuable cart mares and geldings bred by the proprietor. Yearling filly-black cob-135 Southdown sheep-6 milch cows-poultry-waggon-carts- brewing and dairy utensils.

November 17th 1846 - There was an inquest at the Plough Inn at Bulmer on Charles Felton aged 64 who was found dead in a ditch the previous Monday morning. James Johnson a labourer of Gestingthorpe said he was in the Gestingthorpe Compasses with deceased on the Sunday evening and about 6 he accompanied him on the road to Bulmer.

May 23rd 1849 - To be sold by auction at Gestingthorpe Hall the live and dead farming stock of the late Mr G. Walker, the farm being let.

July 29th 1851 - A farm of 52 acres at Gestingthorpe has been purchased by Sudbury Building Society for £1800 for division into small parcels.

September 8th 1852 - Live and dead stock at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, for sale. Powerful cart horses- 4 yearling colts- -brown nag horse-5 well bred steers-shorthorn bull-188 half bred Down and Norfolk shearling wethers-several lots of house-hold furniture-brewing and dairy equipment. To be sold on the premises by Nockolds and King on the 17th of September by order of Mr John Turpin who quits at Michaelmas next.

June 14th 1854 - Married at Gestingthorpe---Joseph Mason of Sudbury to Ellen Newman Sims of Springfield Lodge, Sudbury the only child of Capt. Wentworth Sims of the 10th foot.

January 3rd 1855 - The Rev J.C. Coleman has recently been presented

with the living of Clare, he left Gestingthorpe last week amidst regrets from the parishioners.

October 1st 1856 - At the village of Gestingthorpe, a good dinner and tea was provided by the clergy and farmers of the parish to the labourers who they employ, together with their wives, upwards of 200 people had the treat in the school room and afterwards in a large booth erected on the lawn of the Hall, cricket and rural games were entered into and a band of music enlivened the scene, the decorum of the men was exemplary throughout the day.

December 4th 1855 - Whilst going to his labours, George Rippingale of Gestingthorpe died suddenly, aged 35 years.

March 11th 1869 - Hedingham Highway Board--The surveyor said that he had prepared a plan for a bridge over the water course near Nether Hall at Gestingthorpe, and he proposed that 4yds. be taken from the adjoining meadows to secure width for the road through the river. He estimated the expence at £ 165. Rev. Foster considered that the work was highly necessary, as it was more dangerous at the wash at Nether Hall than elsewhere, the last time a flood took place a person and his horse and cart were dragged out by Mr. Bear.

June 12th 1856 - Judith Wickes, a women of Gestingthorpe was charged with leaving her three children chargeable to the parish of Gestingthorpe. 1 month.

August 14th 1856 - Thomas Bishop, George Felton and James Felton, labourers of Gestingthorpe were charged with having on the 8th of August assaulted Thomas Simmons of the same place, it appears that August 9th was a wet day and the defendants were not able to work they went to the public house which they call the "Kicking Dickie" to have a little beer, Simmons said it was about 12 when they got there, Thomas Bishop the two Feltons and I also my brother, I and my brother left about 7 in the evening, when we got about 5 rods away the defendants came running after us and knocked us down, I have never had angry words with them at any time, they were "freshy" not

drunk. There were about 14 of us there and we "shoed" a few colts, we drank about 32 quarts of beer between 14 of us, my hat was rent, I did take someone's hat off, I did not offer to fight anyone. Adjourned for 14 days.

March 10th 1857 - On Tuesday evening a fire broke out on a farm at Gestingthorpe in occupation of Mr George Whybrew. Mr Whybrew on going in to tea at about 6 o'clock perceived a light glimmer in the corner of the stackyard and discovered a straw stack on fire. The flames spread rapidly and great exertions were made to get the livestock out, engines arrived from Castle Hedingham, Sudbury and Halstead but the stacks and buildings were enveloped. Property burned consisted of 2 barns, granary, stables, cartlodge, 100 coombs of wheat, 100 coombs of barley, 15 coombs of oats, 30 of peas, stack of wheat, stack of hay and a large quantity of straw. 10 tons of hay was saved and one stable and the dwelling.

A young man of under 20 years named Corder and residing in the village confessed and surrendered to the police saying he could hardly be worse off being without work or food.

April 16th 1857 - The Ebenezer chapel was opened at Otten Belchamp on Tuesday evening week, Mr Simpson, the minister of Walter Belchamp chapel was requested to officiate but he objected to do so as he considered the erection has been founded upon malignant rather than spiritual motives, the chapel is close to the house of the Rev Dawson who is unremitting in his clerical duties and is highly respected as a gospel minister, the decision of Mr Simpson was not to be shaken and the desk was at length occupied by a labourer, William Collier of Gestingthorpe.

June 18th 1857 - Harriet Downs, a diminutive half clad dirty looking individual, late of Gestingthorpe, was charged with putting privy manure on the door and window of Mrs Newman, weaver of Bullock's lane in Sudbury. George Piper proved the dirty trick the delinquent having done this several times, Inspector Whitecombe said the prisoner tried to strangle herself in gaol, the prisoner who was said to be a prostitute did not deny the charge. 1 month.

June 18th 1857 - Castle Hedingham. John Dixey, labourer of Lt Maplestead was summoned to show cause etc etc why he should not support the illegitimate child of Charlotte Simmons of Gestingthorpe.

September 15th 1857 - On Tuesday last, the last fetes took place at Cornard Parva, Foxearth and Gestingthorpe. At Cornard Parva, all the men assembled at the church in the morning and heard a sermon by the Rev Sidney after which they dined in Mr Sidney's large and commodious barn whilst their employers kindly attended them, after which various rural games were engaged in and witnessed by the gentry of the parish.

At Gestingthorpe the men met at the church where they were addressed by the Rev Elwes, after the service about 110 men walked in procession to a booth erected on the lawn of Mr Boulnois at the Hall where dinner was provided and later in the day a good tea was taken in the schoolroom which was tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers.

March 25th 1858 - Gestingthorpe. For Sale at the Compasses Inn in Gestingthorpe on March 29th. 7 freehold cottages situated on the highroad from Clare to Halsted, in occupation of Bower, Carter, Daniels, Bocking, Plamplin, Corder, Hurrel. Producing £21 2s annually.

May 20th 1858 - At Park Farm, Gestingthorpe. Notice to railway contractors and builders-300 fine oak, ash, elm and poplar trees, on June the 8th.

June 10th 1858 - George Smith, a carter of Wickham St Pauls for stealing some chips valued at 2d the property Mr Branwhite of Gestingthorpe. 6 months hard labour.

May 26th 1859 - Memorial Tower at Pentlow. From the summit may be viewed a wide expanse of country with the valley of the Stour and hills and dales with distant churches and villages. There are visible the castles at Hedingham and Clare and many of the fine estates of

Kentwell, Melford Hall, Liston Hall, Walter Belchamp Hall, The Aubries, The Ryes, Gestingthorpe Hall etc. With powerful telescope, Mr Bull informs us, he can see 41 churches on a clear day as follows-Depden, Boxted, Somerton, Glemsford, Lawshall, Stanstead, Preston, Lavenham, Melford, Acton, Lt Waldingfield, Gt Waldingfield, Newton, Chilton, Foxearth, Stoke by Nayland, Wormingford, Lt Cornard, Gt Cornard, St Peters, St Gregory's, All Saints at Sudbury, Borley, Bulmer, Walter Belchamp, Belchamp Otten, Belchamp St Pauls, Wickham St Pauls, Earls Colne, Lt Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, Lt Yeldham, Toppesfield, Ovington, Ridgewell, Birdbrook, Ashen, Middleton, Clare, Cavendish, Pentlow. Mr Bull who has erected the tower in memory of his father and grandfather has aptly named the tower John Bull's Tower. He readily grants permission to anyone anxious to inspect it.

August 23rd 1860 - Advert. New Plough. John Downs Jun. ironfounder of Gestingthorpe, Halsted, Essex, begs to present his grateful thanks to farmers and the public for the liberal support he has received in the last 15 years of this old establishment which was carried on by his father and is soliciting the continuance of their patronage. J.D. begs to invite attention to the recent improvements in his Essex plough.

September 4th 1860 - Sale at Gestingthorpe on the 29th at the George Hotel, Halsted. A small estate in this parish known as Edye's Farm, with growing crops.

August 8th 1861 - To be sold at Gestingthorpe Compasses under a deed of assignment for the benefit of the creditors. All the household furniture-a compact good 21 bushel brewing plant including a nearly new copper Coolers-mash tun-pump etc-light spring cart-sweet beer casks from 11 to 4 hhds each.

March 13th 1862 - For sale at the Bells Inn in Belchamp by order of the proprietor-Double tenement cottage by the side of the road from Gestingthorpe to Belchamp Bells, in occupation of Thomas Chinery and Isaac Smith at £6 15s per annum. Lot 2. 3 freehold cottages

sitting on the road from Gestingthorpe to Belchamp in several occupation of George Wicks, Robert Ives, Charles Martin, Thomas Scrivener and Samuel Smith at £15 per anum.

January 1st 1863 - Farmers. John Downes jun of Gestingthorpe begs to state he has an 8 hp engine to be let out and barn works, he also begs attention to his Essex plough.

July 9th 1863 - Advert. John Downs junior of Gestingthorpe. Essex Ploughs at £2 2s 0d. Plough Shares at 6s 6d per dozen.

June 23rd 1863 - A serious accident happened to David Scarfe the police constable of Bulmer. He had attended the Hedingham Sessions and rode as far as Gestingthorpe Compasses where he was standing leaning on the shafts of the cart when the horse suddenly plunged forward knocking him down and the wheel passed over his head breaking his jaw in two places and his arm. He now lies in a precarious situation.

September 27th 1863 - Thomas Turner, R.Cattawell and James Felton labourers of Walter Belchamp were charged with stealing 7 bushels of wheat from Mr Thomas Hart their employer. Mr Hart said the men had been in his employ for some time and he suspected them of stealing wheat. He hid himself in some straw near his house and kept watch, at about 11-30 he saw the prisoners enter the field and one watched my door and the other two filled the sacks or bags. Next morning he informed the police and they traced the foot marks throught the fields to Gestingthorpe to a farm in the occupation of Mr Joseph Firmin. A man named Brown has been charged with receiving. Committed for trial.

January 5th 1865 - Notice. Steam thrashing machine to let. John Downs jun. due to incessant demand he has been compelled to purchase another 8 hp engine with barn works and straw elevator. Iron works Gestingthorpe.

March 23rd 1865 - Esekiel Corder aged 13 was charged with setting

fire to a hay stack the property of Thomas Finch, labourer of Gestingthorpe. Committed for trial.

May 25th 1865 - Gestingthorpe. The opening of the new organ on the 16th of May will be long be remembered by the parishioners of this usually quiet little village, prayers were said by the Rev Hart, curate of Gestingthorpe, a collection was made and the sum of £13 -12s- 8d was raised.

August 14th 1865 - Notice to engine drivers and feeders. As I have another 8 h p engine and barn works coming home from Clayton and Shuttleworth, Lincoln, on the 18th of this month, I shall want a driver and to feeders. JOHN DOWNS jun. IRON FOUNDER, GESTINGTHORPE.

February 21st 1865 - Died at Gestingthorpe on the 14th inst in her 93rd year, Susannah, daughter of the late John Wigglesworth of Gosfield.

September 25th 1866 - Inquest at Sudbury Union on the death of Susannah Cater aged 81, a native of Gestingthorpe who met her death by falling down stairs. Accidental.

July 19th 1866 - Died recently in Natal, South Africa, aged 42, Henry Brooke the youngest son of the late Charles Branwhite of Gestingthorpe.

August 16th 1866 - Wanted. Journeyman-Blacksmith-Wheelwright, one of each of the above trades can have constant employment at John Downes, Iron Works, Gestingthorpe, wages £1 per week.

April 10th 1869 - The Overhall Estate, situated in Gestingthorpe and adjacent parishes are to be sold by auction at the Rose and Crown in Sudbury on May 5th 1869 by direction of the trust of the late George Walker in 31 lots.

The noble old red brick mansion surrounded by a well timbered park situated near the village and the church. 207 acres of arable and

pasture-wood land-Ashley cottage and gardens-several enclosures of land adjoining the foundry and Pound farm, 32 acres

-Tucklan farm, 39 acres

-Dalvyn's farm, an exceeding choice residential occupation with 200 acres-the celebrated covers known as Wiggery and Oakley woods of 60 acres-Moat and New House farms containing 300 acres

-Church Hall farm at Gt Henny, 132 acres-valuable brick and tile known as Gestingthorpe brickyards extending to 10 acres underlined with inexhaustible supply of the finest of white brick and pottery earth

-the village Inn known as The Compasses

-The Manor of Overhall with the rights and privileges and emoluments to the value of £2,400 per annum.

Particulars from Mr Coote at Sudbury, Suffolk.

May 28th 1868 - William Orbell a carpenter of Castle Hedingham was charged with stealing a stone lion from Mrs Bear of Nether Hall, Gestingthorpe. William Bear said I live with my mother at Nether Hall, I had a stone lion in the front garden it was my property, I value it at 20s, I saw it there on December 11th last on the eve of Belchamp Colne fair, I missed it that night. Bound over.

July 9th 1868 - William Orbell was charged with stealing a stone lion at Gestingthorpe, weighing 16 stone. William Brett who is employed by defendant's father at Castle Hedingham, said he saw the lion in the cart the next morning at defendant's father's public house, no attempt had been made to hide it. Defendant told him someone had placed it in the cart on the night of Belchamp fair. Acquitted.

March 18th 1869 - To be sold by George Coote at the Rose and Crown, Sudbury, in April-Overhall Estate, Gestingthorpe, under the will of the late Mr George Walker-Red Brick family mansion surrounded by park like grounds, 297 acres-Hill Farm, 200 acres, in occupation of Mr James Turner-Ashley Cottage-Tuckland farm, 38 acres-Foundry farm-Dalvyns farm- The celebrated covers known as Wiggery and Oaklands woods, 60 acres-Moat and Newhouse farm in occupation of Mr C.H.Branwhite, 300 acres-Church Hall farm, Great

Henny-Brick and tile pottery works, Gestingthorpe-the village Inn, the " Compasses"-copyhold of the manor of Overhall.

September 16th 1869 - For sale at Pound Farm, Gestingthorpe, next Wednesday by George Coote near the Iron Foundry-8 horses-3 cart horses-22 ewes-35 lambs-2 sows-40,000 new patent ornamental tiles-large brewhouse.

November 18th 1869 - William Rippengale, labourer of Gestingthorpe was summoned for refusing to contribute to support his lunatic wife, he did not appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

March 18th 1871 - To ship builders and others. For sale at Wiggery Wood, Gestingthorpe. Superb standing oak timber of first rate quality and large size to be sold by auction at the Rose and Crown, Sudbury, 200 very superior oak timber with the usual credit, trees can be seen on application to William Turner at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe.

May 24th 1873 - Gestingthorpe. Mrs Downs, widow of the late John Downs, iron founder of Gestingthorpe begs to thank the farmers and others for past favours and to inform them that the business will now be carried on by her son, King Downs. King Downs will regularly attend the markets of Sudbury, Haverhill, Braintree and Bury over alternate weeks.

February 20th 1875 - Died at Gestingthorpe aged 82 years, Mrs Cansell, mother of Mrs Cansell of Sudbury.

April 5th 1881 - Gestingthorpe. To be sold by auction at the Bell Inn, Castle Hedingham, two pieces of rich arable land supposed to be under laid with valuable white brick earth and containing 12 acres, also a short distance from the church, abutting the highway, a dwelling house known as "Ellises" with bake house and brew house, piggeries, etc.

February 28th 1882 - Sold on Tuesday at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Sudbury, one lot of freehold premises situate in Gestingthorpe, late in

occupation of Mr J.Pannel to Mr Hart for £165.

July 30th 1884 - our. Gestingthorpe. The funeral of Master Branwhite took place on Monday last he was the only son of Mr Charles Branwhite of "The Moat", he died suddenly at school on his 12th birthday.

September 2nd 1885 - To be sold—Crouch House farm, Gestingthorpe, consisting of 93 acres, good house and premises. Apply Mr J.G.Vaisey land agent Braintree.

September 7th 1886 - Death of Mr Charles Branwhite of Moat Farm, Gestingthorpe.

May 22nd 1889 - Pebmarsh. Henry Cook who is in the employ of Mr Coles of Gestingthorpe whilst working with a chaff cutter at Pebmarsh happened with a serious accident which caused him to lose an arm below the elbow, he was conveyed to St Leonards hospital where it was amputated successfully by Dr Holden, the poor man is getting on as well as can be expected, when a child he had lost the other arm in an accident.

August 21st 1888 - At the sale at Gestingthorpe, 2 valuable fields situated near North End facing the highway at the junction of the roads leading from Little Yeldham to Belchamp, Tuckland Farm 44 acres was bought by Mr A.Finch of Gestingthorpe for £ 580.

July 6th 1892 - Gestingthorpe. There was an inquest at the Brickworks, Gestingthorpe, on the death of Thomas Beaumont aged 22 who drowned while bathing in a claypit at the brickworks on Monday evening. William Beaumont of Fakenham said deceased is my son, I do not know whether he could swim, last year he suffered from rheumatic fever, I believe the doctor said it could affect his heart, he was working at the foundry for Downs at Gestingthorpe. Arthur Felton said he worked at the foundry, " on Monday evening I went with deceased to the pond, at about 7-15 we went to bathe at deceased's suggestion, we had never been there before, we looked at

the pits and decided which one to bathe in, I took off my jacket and waistcoat, I went a little way from the pond for sanitary reasons”, deceased said “I am going in now”, I saw a splash in the water, when I went to look I did not see him. Frederick Rayner said I heard Felton’s cry for help, I went to the pit, he said “the blacksmith is in the water”, I got a plank and his body was recovered with a long hoe. Accident.

November 16th 1892 - Bulmer. Bulmer cricket team had a tea at the Blackbirds Inn on Monday evening where a capital spread was provided by host Viall, the Rev Pelley occupied the chair and the vice was filled by the team captain the Rev Bellhouse, ample justice was done to the excellent viands, the cloth was removed and the evening was devoted to harmony, songs were sung by Messrs Sullivan of Gestingthorpe, Gordon, Ford, Chinnery, Deal, Clarry, Sillitoe, Howell and the Rev Bellhouse of Belchamp, it was a very pleasant evening.

January 25th 1893 - There was an inquest at Lodge House, Over Hall, Gestingthorpe on the body of James Butcher an aged labourer of 79 years. P.C. Willsmere said Butcher was a native of Gestingthorpe, he was killed while assisting to fell a tree for Mr Oakes of Over Hall, he has been told the deceased had great experience in felling trees. Arthur Surridge said he was 28 years of age and was working with the deceased, Butcher gave the orders, a few moments before the accident he said “it will not come down today”, suddenly he heard deceased call out “I am dead man”, he looked and saw Butcher lying clear of the tree which had fallen, there was no noise as the tree fell on deceased and he thought deceased had rolled on one side as the tree fell, they were both quite sober. Supt Elsey handed a purse to the coroner the metal of which was much bent suggesting the tree fell on him, Dr Bromley said two ribs were broken which probably pressed on the heart. Accidental.

March 15th 1893 - Gestingthorpe. A meeting was held at the schoolroom on Tuesday last to consider the question of reviving the cricket club. Mr W.E.Oates presided, there was a good attendance, Mr Oates was elected President and the Rev Bromwich captain, W.Nice,

vice captain, Mr Minchin, secretary and treasurer, committee, Townsend, Bell, A.Pannel, O'Sullivan and W. Blake. Subscriptions 1s, 22 players joined at once, Mr Oates kindly offered to give at the close of the season, a bat for the best batting average and another for the best bowling average in a "bona fide" match.

July 12th 1893 - Gestingthorpe. On Thursday last Mrs Branwhite of The Moat at Gestingthorpe invited all her employees and their wives for dinner, the company numbered upwards of 50 enjoyed the meal consisting of hot joints etc of which were plentiful, all agreed it was a very happy dinner.

September 6th 1894 - Cricket. Through the kindness of Col. Burke, Gestingthorpe played Clare on the beautiful grounds of the Aubries on Saturday last. Clare won the toss and scored 161 with Mitson scoring 70, it was 5 o' clock when Gestingthorpe commenced batting, Benson played a capital game with 32 and Clarke scored 31, when time was called 100 had been scored by Gestingthorpe for 6 wickets.

April 13th 1898 - Sale at Gestingthorpe. Mrs Rayner's brick and pot works. 1st lot - brick and tile dwelling house and offices - 3 kilns and pipe and tile making equipment. Situated facing the road leading from Gestingthorpe to Halstead. Mr Balls started the proceedings saying that a syndicate was trying to get a light railway through Hedingham to Melford. Property was withdrawn at £ 500.

March 8th 1899 - Josiah Downs of Gestingthorpe, was summoned for erecting a steam engine within 25 yards of the road, not being properly screened. The chairman observed that the screen was often worse than the engine, but a waggon load of straw in front of the engine was sufficient. Fined 2s 6d with 2s costs.

January 16th 1895 - Gestingthorpe. On Monday afternoon the teachers and scholars attending the day and Sunday schools were invited to tea by Mrs Oates of the Hall, about 120 children sat down to a tea and afterwards games were played. A present was given to each child, three cheers were given for Mr and Mrs Oates and Miss

Oates.

June 26th 1895 - Gestingthorpe. A few night ago as constables Halstead, Reed and Scott were conferring near Crouch House when they heard the shrieks of a fowl, they ran to Parsonage farm which belongs to Mr King Downs and found a fox had been at work, 23 dead chickens were strewn about the meadow.

September 4th 1895 - Gestingthorpe. Funeral of Mrs Nathan Coe took place at Gestingthorpe who died at Delvyn's farm, she was only 27 years of age and was the eldest daughter of Mr Thomas Taylor of Hill farm, Gestingthorpe, the chief mourners were Mr Nathan Coe and his five little children.

December 4th 1895 - Moses Carder a labourer of Gestingthorpe was charged with being drunk and disorderly in North Street, Sudbury on Sunday night, P.C.Mansfield said he saw defendant hopelessly drunk and he took him to the police station as he was a stranger to him, defendant asked me if I would let him go and he would never go near a beerhouse again. 2s 6d with 6s costs.

September 10th 1895 - Hall Farm, Gestingthorpe. The live and dead stock to be sold on the instructions of Mr John Green who's tenancy has expired.

October 13th 1897 - Gestingthorpe. Rose Sandford aged 16 years the daughter of the coachman at the Moat, Gestingthorpe, met with a serious accident while riding a bicycle in the village, a wagon drawn by three horses belonging to Mr Nathan Coe was just in front of her, as she was about to pass, the horses turned into Mr Coe's premises, the bicycle ran into the horses who became startled and they started plunging about, the girl was thrown off her machine and was conveyed to Mr Coe's house, she is going on quite well. No blame has been attached to the driver.

August 24th 1898 - Gestinthorpe. Moses Corder, labourer of Gestingthorpe was charged with being drunk and disorderly at

Bulmer. 2s 6d with 11s 6d costs.

September 21st 1898 - For sale at Oddwell farm, Gestingthorpe, 10 horses- threshing drum-binder-reaper etc, by instructions from Mr George Goodchild whose tenancy has expired. On October 4th.

April 5th 1899 - Gestingthorpe. The death occurred on Saturday morning of Nellie Annie the eldest daughter of Mr George Brewer of the Red Lion, Gestingthorpe, deceased broke a blood vessel the previous Thursday and although everything possible was done she passed away aged 25, she was to be married on Easter Monday, among the wreaths there was one from her loving Fred.

March 13th 1901 - Lieut. Oates and a small party of 20 men from the Royal Inniskilling Dragoons have shown conspicuous gallantry in South Africa.

It is reported that they were surrounded by the enemy and Boer commander summoned them to surrender, Lieut Oates indignantly refused, when their ammunition ran out they retired one by one and got through the enemy lines with only five men wounded. Mrs Oates of Gestingthorpe has had numerous letters of congratulations on her son's gallantry.

December 4th 1901 - Lieut Oates, the young squire of Gestingthorpe who was wounded at the beginning of the year, is to rejoin his regiment, he left Gestingthorpe Hall on the 27th of November for Ireland where he boards the S.S.Canada for South Africa. Our correspondent says he looks the picture of health although he still limps a little.

April 23rd 1902 - We regret to state that Lieut Oates of Gestingthorpe is lying seriously ill with enteric fever in Helbron, South Africa.

January 1st 1903 - Gestingthorpe. The annual parish dance in the schoolroom on New Year was as usual a great success, dancing was kept up till the New Year came in, Mr Teverson was the M.C. and refreshments were supplied by Mrs Pannel.

January 7th 1903 - Death of Mrs Branwhite of Moat Farm Gestingthorpe, she will be sadly missed by the parish.

September 9th 1903 - There was a fire on the premises of Messrs Pannell of Gestingthorpe, a good deal of damage was done but the horses and pigs were let out but one pig was burnt to death.

May 25th 1904 - William Corder, 42, a labourer of Gestingthorpe, was charged with being drunk on the highway. P.C.Prior said that on the 18th of this month he found defendant lying beside the road near Nether Hall hill, he had considerable difficulty getting him home. The chairman said " did he tell you where he got this drink from", " yes from Chappel Hill but I can't prove it", the defendant said it is the truth. Supt Terry said defendant had been out all day on Sunday and he had no doubt that he had finished up at Martin's and that if he got proof he would take proceedings. (Martin's was the Prince of Wales beerhouse on Chappel Hill, Belchamp Walter.) 5s with 4s costs.

September 7th 1904 - On Saturday evening a party of Gestingthorpe men, 10- 12 in number had been to Sudbury to do some harvest shopping, on returning about 9 pm the horse shied near the Moat and two men were thrown out, one named Nehemiah Cansell had an ankle broken and the other man, Arthur Ripplingale, escaped with a few bruises, Cansell was quickly conveyed to Castle Hedingham and Doctor Bromley ordered him to St Leonards Hospital in Sudbury.

February 10th 1904 - Advert. Small parcels of laundry can be left at Mr Parsonson's basket making shop in Ballingdon for Miss Bentall of Gestingthorpe which will be called for on Thursday and sent back the following Thursday.

September 21st 1904 - A shocking accident happened to a man at Gestingthorpe on Saturday evening, to a man named William Cansell, it appears that Mr Aubrey Chinery of this parish drove to Sudbury and put up at one of the hotels and by some means his horse got loose from the stables and made it's way home, it was seen by Cansell near

the Barracks at Gestingthorpe and it is thought he caught the horse and somehow got his feet tangled in the reins and he was dragged 300 yards, a man named Arthur Finch found him about 9 pm lying in a pool of blood with his face cut and one eye protruding from its socket, Finch placed the man on the green and went for assistance and when the men were endeavouring to get the injured man into the cart a party of men (if they may be termed men) drove past from North End, they refused to give assistance. The injured man is going on well as can be expected.

January 4th 1905 - On Sunday evening, Ann Cansell, wife of Nehemiah Cansell of Gestingthorpe, died suddenly, Mrs Cansell had partook of supper with her two youngest children and was sitting in a chair when she suddenly fainted, the children ran to their neighbour for assistance. It is a extremely bad case as deceased's poor husband is still in St Leonards hospital at Sudbury as a result of a trap accident last September. She left five children, two quite young.

May 17th 1905 - Gestingthorpe Cricket Club held a meeting in the school room to consider again starting the club. The Rev Bromwich to be President, Mr T. Teverson, secretary. Mr Oates agreed to the use of the old cricket ground.

October 11th 1905 - The death of Mr James Mallyon a farmer from Gestingthorpe has occurred, he was 66 years old. The remains were carried to the church in a van drawn by his two favourite horses led by two employees.

February 6th 1907 - Lieut Oates of Gestingthorpe has recently been appointed adjutant of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons in Egypt, on Saturday he was promoted to Captain. Captain Oates was wounded during the Boer War.

May 15th 1907 - A Clerk in Holy Orders who until recently resided in Sudbury was on Friday morning placed in the dock at Castle Hedingham police court on a charge of indecent behaviour at Gestingthorpe. The principal witness was Ruth Stammers, her

evidence was corroborated by a girl named Nice. Allowed bail on the sum of £ 100.

April 1st 1908 - A serious accident in Station road at Sudbury on Thursday evening was narrowly averted, Miss Oates of Gestingthorpe Hall shortly after 7 drove a pony and trap to Sudbury railway station to meet her mother, as the train left the horse bolted and dashed along Station road into the front of the Anchor Inn smashing wood and glass windows, as the horse was plunging it fell to the ground and Mr Godbold jun sprang to it's head and Miss Oates getting down from the trap quieted it, Miss Oates and her Mother drove home with little damage.

August 11th 1909 - At a meeting of Belchamp Rural Council references were made to the extraordinary traffic at Belchamp Walter, the surveyor reported that the haulage of timber by Messrs Brown Brothers of Braintree was still continuing and increasing , he had received complaints about the dangerous condition of the road, he estimated he would require an additional £100 for Belchamp Walter and £37 13s for Gestingthorpe to repair the damage.

September 23rd 1908 - The whole of the live and dead stock at Nether Hall, Gestingthorpe, was sold by Messrs Balls. The farm had been farmed by the Bear family for 80 years.

June 9th 1909 - A drawing match was held at Bulmer on land belonging to Mr Blacker of Goldingham Hall. There were 22 entries and 5 prizes presented by Messrs Bentall-Mr Blacker-Col Burke-Mr Courtnall-Dupont and Ortterwell. Mr Clarke of Goldingham Hall was Master of Ceromonies, judges were Nathan Coe of Gestingthorpe and Mr E.C.Hills,(school attendance officer, Fred says). Prizes-1st to G.E.Chatters, 12s, who is employed by Mr Blacker,(G.Chatters lived at Belchamp Walter in the first cottage by the pond on the Gestingthorpe road, Fred says). 2nd to C.Rowe, 9s- 3rd to H.Radley, 7s, both in the employ of G.English-4th to G.Rippingale, a spade, in the employ of N.Coe-5th to J.Rash, a fork, in the employ of the exors of Mr Keeble. Mr Courtnell proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Blacker

for use of his land and horses.

November 17th 1909 - At the Bankruptcy Court. Arthur Pannel of Gestingthorpe, wheelwright and carpenter with deficiency of £ 204.

March 23rd 1910 - There was sad accident at Gestingthorpe to a little girl, Alice Dixey. She came down in the morning in her flannelette nightgown an attempted to move the kettle in the fireplace, she was enveloped in flames and the little sufferer died in the afternoon. Accidental.

November 29th 1911 - George Reeve and Alfred Wicks, lab.of Belchamp Walter were charged with stealing 11 cabbages belonging to Mr Thomas Taylor of Gestingthorpe, P.C.Robertson said he stopped defendants with a sack containing 11 cabbages. Fined 5s and 4s costs.

June 1st 1910 - At the ploughing match at Goldingham Hall, Bulmer, 20 teams were entered by Mrs Oates of Gestingthorpe, F.Ruffle, King Downs, N.Coe, J.Malyon, Col.Burke 2 teams, Mr Blacker, Mr Courtnall, Mr Clarke, Mr Dupont, Mr Parker, T.Ruffle and Mr Turkentine. W.Chatters 1st with a Goldingham team, 2, Alfred Felton, Goldingham, 3 Arthur Pearson for King Downs of Gestingthorpe, W.Eaves for Mr Courtnall.

July 20th 1910 - Dr Harrison, the Coroner, has presented an award of 2 guineas to Mrs Jessie Abbot the wife of Albert Abbot of Sudbury road, Gestingthorpe in recognition of her brave attempt to save a neighbour's child in a recent fire five or six weeks ago. The child was, Alice Dixey, aged 7 years, at 7 in the morning Mrs Abbot heard screams from the cottage next door, she ran in and saw the child standing at the top of the stairs with her nightdress alight, Mrs Abbot siezed the child and carried her downstairs and tore her clothes off, being badly burnt herself, the child died the next day. Mrs Abbot who is 34 years old said she would do the same again.

September 7th 1909 - Susannah Pearsons of Belchamp Walter, Emma

Pearsons of Gestingthorpe and Arthur Cutler also of Gestingthorpe were charged with the concealment of the body of the illegitimate child of Susannah Pearsons at North End, Gestingthorpe.

P.C. Robinson that he had heard that she had given birth and went to the house of her father, James Pearsons at Belchamp Walter and saw the prisoner and told the prisoner that there were rumours that she had given birth to a child, she denied it, he then went to the house of Benjamin Cutler at Gestingthorpe where he saw the prisoner Emma Pearsons who was Cutler's housekeeper and asked her if it was true her sister had given birth, she said it was true. Cutler admitted he was the father of the child and that the child was a male born dead.

Committed for trial. November 2nd. At Essex Assises, Susanna Pearsons 25, Emma Pearsons 31 and Arthur Cutler a labourer pleaded guilty to concealment of birth, P.C. Robinson said he found the baby buried in the garden at about 14-16 inches deep. Dr Twamley said the child was a female and was born dead. Susannah to prison for 1 week and the other two bound over in the surety of £ 10. The chairman advised the couple to get married as they were already living together.

December 14th 1910 - At a meeting of Belchamp District Council, Mr F. Nott reported that the roof of a canvas shelter erected at Gestingthorpe was leaking and he thought something should be done so that the boy could continue with his treatment.

March 17th 1911 - There was a lamentable accident on Friday afternoon at farm belonging to Mrs Oates at Gestingthorpe when Albert Martin aged 16 years was killed accidentally. On Friday afternoon after the men had finished dipping when the deceased ran with great force against a fence where there was a pair of shears hanging on a hurdle, the blades entered to a depth of 3-4 inches and the boy never spoke again despite skillful treatment by the village nurse, Miss Wood. At the inquest, Enoch Martin of Belchamp Walter said the boy was his son and he worked at Gestingthorpe Hall. James Le Bean, shepherd, said that they had finished dipping the sheep in the Hall yard and according to custom those who had been dipping for the first time would also be dipped, they told deceased that he would be dipped, witness said he caught the boy by his legs and Charles

Martin caught him by the shoulders, they did not intend to dip the boy, deceased backed away from the tub and backed into a pair of shears hanging on a hurdle, he pulled him away and the shears came out but he died within a quarter of an hour. Accidental, no blame attached to the men.

April 26th 1911 - On Saturday evening two uninhabited cottages situated on the Gestingthorpe road at Belchamp Walter were destroyed by a fire, they were the property of Mr T. Lawrence. Shortly after nine in the evening the daughter of Mr E. Martin saw a glow through the window. A cottage nearby is built of brick and tile. The houses are near Largess farm in the occupation of Mr E. Tibbrook, and is about 120 yards away, the farm had a narrow escape as burning thatch settled on the roofs but did not catch alight. This is the 8th case of incendiarism in the locality and is causing much uneasiness in the village.

June 7th 1911 - At the ploughing match at Goldingham Hall, Bulmer, the best team was won by Mr Malyon of Gestingthorpe, 15s-2nd Mr Blacker of Goldingham, horseman S. Carter, 10s-3rd Mr Blacker, horseman G. Chatters, 5s- Ploughman, John Messent for Col Burke £ 1-5s, 2nd William Martin for Mrs Oates, 17s 6d,-3rd Walter Eaves for Mr Courtnell 10s. Second Class--James Rowe for Col Burke £ 1-2nd G. Bunn for Col Burke, 10s-3rd G. Rippingale for Mrs Oates 5s,-4th George Chatters for Mr Blacker 5s. Mrs Oates who presented the prizes was thanked by Mr Laurence Parker.

June 28th 1911 - Death at Gestingthorpe of Mr Nathan Coe of Delvyns farm. Deceased had a grown up family and a young wife and child. Death was due to blood poisoning, Mr Coe was the son in law of Marshall Andrews of Sudbury.

October 11th 1911 - At A meeting of Belchamp Rural Council, the surveyor said the shelter at Gestingthorpe would not now be required and should be taken down and stored. The Rev Bromwich said that the woman who had wanted her daughter to go there had now agreed to for her to be kept at the sanatorium for three months. A tender of £

4-5s for the repair of a culvert at Belchamp St Pauls by Mr Wm Bareham of Clare was accepted.

November 29th 1911 - George Reeve and Alfred Wicks, labourers of Belchamp Walter were charged with stealing 11 cabbages, valued at 11d from a farm at Gestingthorpe belonging to Mr Thomas Taylor. Lily Everitt aged 16 years, a servant of Belchamp Walter was charged with stealing 2s 6d from Mary Borrow of St Mary's Hall, Belcham Walter. Mrs Borrow, mother of Mary Borrow expressed a wish that she should be dealt with severely as she had been forgiven for the same offence once before. Probation and bound over in the sum of £5.

March 6th 1912 - . The Sanitary Inspector said that the shelter at Gestingthorpe had been re-erected and put in a satisfactory condition with a bedsted and bedding, this came to £ 1 5s 2d.

February 12th 1913 - Captain Oates of Gestingthorpe is one of the victims of the South Pole tragedy.

January 7th 1914 - Captain Oates of Gestingthorpe left £ 28, 823.

May 29th 1912 - The third annual ploughing match between Bulmer and Gestingthorpe took place at Delvyns farm at Gestingthorpe. 1st Walter Deaves for Mr W.Courtnall, £ 1 12s 6d- 2nd William Marten for Mrs Oates £ 1 5s-3rd J.Cansell for T.Teverson £ 1-4th M.Rash for Mr Courtnall 12s 6d- 5th George Bunn for Col Burke 10s-6th John Messent for Col Burke 7s 6d and S.Carter for Mr Blacker and J.Rowe for Col Burke 5s each. Best turned out teams --G.Chatters for Mr Blacker £ 1--2nd S.Carter for Mr Blacker 10s and J.Lomax for Mr Blacker 7s 6d. Long service J.Felton for Mr Hyde Parker. Among the competitors was Henry Cook the man with no arms, although he had not held a plough for many years he gave a remarkable display of ploughing with two horses belonging to Mr Surridge.

June 24th 1912 - William Catterwell aged 16 years of Lt Yeldham was charged with using indecent language to Sarah Lampard of North End Road, Gestingthorpe who said she was in her garden when the

defendant came up the road and started to use bad language to her, the witness denied using nasty insinuations concerning the lad about him going to see Mrs Smith for improper purposes. Bound over for 12 months.

January 8th 1913 - At a meeting of Belchamp R.D.C., the clerk reported that the cost of the new sewer at Gestingthorpe was £ 12 15s 1d.

February 5th 1913 - At a meeting at Delvyns farm, Gestingthorpe, 29 members were enrolled into the Gestingthorpe working mens club.

February 12th 1913 - Captain Oates of Gestingthorpe and his four companions are dead, they reached the South Pole on January 18th but perished on their return.

June 11th 1913 - At Sudbury County Court. Mr Douglas de Courcy Wilson of Devlyns Farm at Gestingthorpe was sued by his wife Ada for the return of goods valued at £ 41. There is a painful story behind this of matrimonial unhappiness. Mr Orfeur said that the facts were that for the last year Mrs Wilson had been in Darlington to nurse a married daughter and remained there long after she was better, she then came to Essex to a married son saying her husband was impossible to live with and she claimed certain goods, they have been married for 30 years. Adjourned.

May 26th 1914 - Advert. When buying your new motor car see that it is a Ford, your local agent is Stanley Downs, motor engineer of Gestingthorpe.

October 13th 1915 - Advert. 3 ½ h p Torpedo motor cycle 1914 model overhauled like new, lamps etc, bargain at £30. Stanley Downs, Gestingthorpe.

January 15th 1919 - Joseph Stammers, a labourer of Gestingthorpe, was found with his throat cut on Monday morning, he died later that day, he worked for a number of years at the Hall Farm.

May 23rd 1918 - Advert. Before you order that tractor get particulars of the "Eros" tractor and the Ferguson plough the lightest and simplest tractor available. Stanley Downs, Gestingthorpe.

May 15th 1918 - There was a large attendance at Gestingthorpe church for the funeral of Sapper Walter Nice a native of Gestingthorpe who died at Dover in hospital as a result of wounds. Deceased who was in the Royal Engineers had been shot in the stomach, after treatment in France he was brought to Dover where his wife was summoned by telegram, she went to see him but a day or two later intelligence was received in Gestingthorpe that he had passed away, he was aged 28 years. He belonged to a family long residents of Gestingthorpe, his father was village blacksmith for many years and well known in the neighbourhood. Deceased was a gas fitter for Messrs Portway in Sudbury but was employed elsewhere when he joined the army. 12 months ago he married Miss Downs who was assistant teacher at Gestingthorpe school.

June 19th 1918 - At a meeting of the Belchamp Rural District Council Captain Miller complained about the condition of the footbridge between Gestingthorpe and Belchamp Walter at North End. The surveyor said it was the responsibility of the parish councils to repair the bridge.

June 19th 1918 - Messrs Balls and Balls have received instructions from the trustees of Eliza Rippingale to sell at the Four Swans, Sudbury, the Lion Inn at Gestingthorpe which is in the centre of the village with stabling-coach house-store shed, now let to Messrs Adams at £ 40 per annum also four cottages in occupation of A.Finch and G.Coe.

July 3rd 1918. Sale of Gestingthorpe Lion. The auctioneer was greeted with laughter when he asked £ 1000 for the Inn, when the bidding reached £ 625 the auctioneer smiled saying when peace comes more money will be turned over in this house in one hour than what you are offering. The final bid went to Mr D.Ward of Foxearth with £ 850. The four cottages were purchased by Mr Ruffle for £ 155.

November 20th 1918 - It is feared that an old Gestingthorpe boy, Pte J.Finch, the youngest son of Mr Peter Finch is among those who has made the supreme sacrifice. Before going to Canada he worked for Mrs Oates at Gestingthorpe Hall, he joined the Canadian forces and came to France. His sister, Mrs Pearson of Mosses farm at Little Maplestead, made enquiries and the other day received a letter from the Chaplain of the regiment stating Pte Finch was last seen going into action in a tank near Ameins on August 9th, the tank was afterwards found burnt out and the charred bodies were still inside. He was married with a widow and children living in Hamilton, Canada.

August 6th 1919 - A cricket match was played between Belchamp Walter and Gestingthorpe on a meadow belonging to Mr Tilbrook, the ladies provided an excellent tea and Mr Morgan Parson a 4© gallon cask of beer, the game resulted in a win for Belchamp. Belchamp- S.Stunt run out o- H.Shuter(servant in Belchamp Hall) b R.Felton 3- C.Martin (Bombie)b R.Felton 0-R.C.Mauldon c Downs b Finch 6- P.Pearson b Finch 0-C.Hearne st Downs 0-H.Smythe run out 0- F.Tredgett b G.Finch 0-G.Hearne run out 4- A.Pearson not out 1- W.Wright c and b R.Felton 0 extras 6, total 57.

Gestingthorpe. A.Pannel b Stunt 13-D.Godefroy,(gardener for Mrs Oates at Gestingthorpe Hall info from Fred Chatters) b Stunt 9- D.Felton c Pearson b Mauldon 1-R.Nice b Mauldon 1- R.Martin b Mauldon 3- R.Rippingale not out 0-P.Downs c Shuter b Stunt 1-extras 5-Total 51.

October 1st 1919 - Funeral at Little Yeldham of Edward Gardiner of Delvyns Farm, Gestingthorpe, after a brief illness, he had been out shooting on Saturday, afterwards he was taken seriously ill, he died on Tuesday, aged 35 years. He was the son of Mr B.A.Gardiner, late of Newton Hall but lately resided at the Lawns, Bulmer. He leaves a widow and a little girl. He took Delvyns six years ago.

August 11th 1920 - For Sale—Agricultural Estate known as “Odwell Farm” at Gestingthorpe—attractive residence—2 cottages.

June 29th 1921 - The outlying portions of the Aubries Estate to be sold. Middleton Hall 401 acres—Gate House farm Henny---Hill farm, Gestingthorpe, 257 acres with valuable field known as Punts Hill with plantation adjoining which contains valuable tile earth. By direction of Mr Redmont St George Burke, at the Rose and Crown, Sudbury, on July 7th.

October 19th 1922 - Death of Mr Joseph Coe of Brickwall Farm, Bulmer. Deceased was 58 years old and had resided at Bulmer for many years, coming originally from Gestingthorpe, he had carried on a successful business as a threshing contractor.

September 20th 1928 - To be sold. At Clicketts Farm, Gestingthorpe, the live and dead stock, two horses-sow—50 poultry—3 stacks of clover and hay for Mr W. Surridge.

September 20th 1928 - A retaining wall to support the road opposite Waits Farm at Belchamp Walter to be built at the cost of £4 10s also it was stated that the footbridge near the Barracks at Gestingthorpe had been repaired at a cost of £1 5s.

February 11th 1932 - Harry Catterwell of Audley End Cottages, Gestingthorpe, was admitted into St Leonards hospital at Sudbury as a result of a motor cycle accident when going down the hill by Nether Hall at Gestingthorpe when his machine skidded, Henry Teverson found him lying beside the roadway unconscious.

April 7th 1932 - At a meeting of Belchamp Council Mr Alpress the sanitary inspector said that owing to complaints about housing conditions in Gestingthorpe he made an inspection of the village, in the 1921 census there were 435 people in the village, 22 private houses, 17 farmhouses and a 100 cottages, most of the cottages were not of modern construction there being no damp courses etc, a group of cottages near the Barracks and four at near Maplestead Cock should be dealt with as not fit for human habitation.

June 2nd 1932 - The village of Gestingthorpe continues to receive considerable attention from Essex County Council and Belchamp District Council, at the monthly meeting of the latter most of the time was devoted to matters relating to this village, the clerk, Mr F.T. Boshier reported that the new housing scheme was proposed for this parish, he said the fact that the Council had decided to erect six houses had been conveyed to the Ministry, he stated the proposed new houses were to be of the parlour type with three bedrooms covering 728 square feet, it was proposed to charge 4s 6d per week rent, the Medical Officer urged they should sink a drain instead of a bucket under the sink and at the suggestion of Mr Ward it was decided to invite a representative of the Ministry of Health to inspect the houses erected by the Council in the district, Mr Ward said he wished every member of the Council had a copy of the report from the County Council as there had been ill feeling with regard to Gestingthorpe going over their heads. The Sanitary Inspector said some of the owners of property in Gestingthorpe were doing minor repairs where the Council recommended a grant under the Rural Workers Act be made. Mr Lambert proposed making additions to a cottage in Foxearth.

June 23rd 1932 - Henry Catterwell of Gestingthorpe, a wood cutter machinist sued Henry Teverson for £35 damages alleging negligence by defendant for leaving his pony unattended so the plaintiff sustained personal damage, the pony had been left in a field attached to reins when it got loose on to the road and plaintiff on a motor cycle ran into it. For defendant with costs.

July 30th 1932 - The decision of the Ministry of Health not to entertain building of parlour type houses for the working classes by local authorities has not pleased members of Belchamp District Council who have erected about 40 such houses in the last few years in the district and were now proposing to build 6 more in the village of Gestingthorpe, Mr Nott said that he believed it was the financial state of the country was the cause of the decision, the Rev Cann said they would be building for the future and they should point out to the Ministry that they could build parlour type houses for £660 per pair

which was less than the £728 the amount allowed. A letter was received regarding some cottages on the Halstead road, Gestingthorpe which are in need of repair, the letter said the owner of the property was prepared to repair them to the Council's requirements.

September 22nd 1932 - At Hedingham Magistrates Court James Wilson of Hill farm, Gestingthorpe applied for an ejection order against Horace Dyer living at the Barracks. Possession in 28 days.

October 20th 1932 - At a meeting of Belchamp Rural District Council it was announced that failure by the Ministry of Health to approve plans for the building of six cottages at Gestingthorpe caused the scheme to be held up, the Ministry made certain suggestions amongst which was that the thickness of the foundations be reduced from 12 inches to 9 inches, the Housing Committee resolved to accept the revised tender from A. and E. Brown to build the houses for £624 per pair, the original tender was for £667.

November 3rd 1932 - We are informed that the Ministry of Health has approved the amended housing scheme for the erection of six working class houses in Gestingthorpe.

November 10th 1932 - The original cost per pair of cottages at Gestingthorpe of £333 was now £298.

February 8th 1934 - At a meeting of Belchamp District Council a sub committee which was appointed to select a suitable site for new council houses at Gestingthorpe reported that they had inspected four pieces of land, the only site they could recommend was at the Rectory farm, it was reported that work on the reconstruction of six old cottages known as the Barracks had commenced.

June 8th 1944 - An inquest on the six members of the Essex Home Guard fatally injured in a bomb explosion on Sunday morning, April 23rd, at Rectory Farm, Gestingthorpe, during a demonstration, has been completed by the Coroner(Dr.J.F.Mcdonald). Sergeant Stanley Wallace, farmer, Great Maplestead, one of the three survivors of the

N.C.O.'s class which was being instructed in explosives, said that during the whole lesson Capt.Philp was continually impressing on the class that safety precautions had to be observed.

Capt.Philp took the charge from a grenade and held it in his hand," Capt Philp did not actually cut the explosive charge. he then proceeded to replace the charge in its case, but I could not swear whether he had completely replaced it or not. He stooped down to place the charge at his feet; then he got up and turned to the Corporal. An explosion occurred. That is all I can remember." The Coroner: Was there one explosion or more?. Sergeant Wallace: All I know is there was a brilliant flash, and the next thing I remember was that I was picking myself up. Lt.-Col.D.B.Rose, Ridgewell, Commanding Officer 15th Batt.Essex Home Guard, stated that Capt Philp was battallion weapons officer, and experienced in dealing with explosives. Major H.Cree, R.A.O.C., giving expert evidence, stated that the most likely conclusion was that a quantity of gelignite immediately at the feet of the instructor detonated on its own account due to being exposed to the direct rays of the sun. This was a hot day. Col.Rose stated that the gelignite found at the farm was Capt.Philp's private property. The Coroner said this was a sad business and the Home Guard felt it very much. He returned a verdict that the six men came to their deaths accidentally.

A number of people in the parishes of Sible and Castle Hedingham expressed a wish to show some form of sympathy with the widows of the local men in their sad time. A sum of £ 208 15s 11d was collected from the two platoons and the proceeds of a football match. The sum has been equally divided and sent to the widows of Serg.Cousins, Serg.Firman and Cpl.Halls.

November 4th 1943 - Ruby Ripplingale of New Cottages Gestingthorpe was charge with abandoning a child at Sudbury railway station on September 1st, Bailed in the sum of £1 and to be sent for trial.

February 1st 1945 - For sale—By Direction of Mr C.M.Bain—Goldingham Hall, Bulmer, Essex.—Choice dairy stock farm with superb residence—model cowhouse—good farm premises—5

cottages—391 acres—possession 29th September. By direction of Mr J.F.Wilson—Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, modern house, 6 cottages, 225 acres.

June 28th 1945 - Alteration of date by direction of the owners. Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe will now be sold on Thursday July 12th. . Lot 1—Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, 4 miles from Sudbury with modern well built farm house and premises—cow house for 18—6 excellent cottages together with 225 acres of well farmed mixed soil with possession—Lot 2—Wiggery Wood extending to 24 acres 1 rood 16 poles—Lot 3 An enclosure of garden ground around 2 roods 19 poles.

September 6th 1945 - To be sold on September 26th at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. The live and dead stock—8 horse-small pedigree stud of Clydesdales—18 heavy milking cows—3 in calf heifers—16 other heifers—9 calves—50 fowls and ducks—other implements.

January 10th 1946 - One of Sudbury's oldest residents died on January 9th, he was Nathaniel Pearson aged 93, he was a native of Gestingthorpe and came to Sudbury 60 years ago and was employed at Brundon Hall.

July 27th 1950 - Hill farm, Gestingthorpe suffered considerable damage to growing crops as hail as big as large filbert nuts ripped into growing crops, Bulmer street was flooded and on the allotments cabbage was shredded, Bardfield hill on the Belchamp road resembled a ski run.

February 4th 1954 - Out riding at Gestingthorpe on Sunday afternoon a 17 year old agricultural student, Ronald Rathbone was thrown from his horse at Pot Kiln Chase, he died later in St Leonards hospital, he was with two friends, Miss Sheila Fulford and Robert Fulford of Belchamp Otten, he was a student at Writtle Agricultural College.

August 1st 1957 - Four Friesian cattle were killed by lightning at Gestingthorpe, they belonged to Mr W.Prior of Hall farm, they were in a meadow on the Halstead – Sudbury.