

George Crabbe and Great Glemham. George Crabbe lived at Great Glemham from 1796 to 1801 and, according to his son's life of the poet in Volume I of the 8 volume *Poetical Works*, 8vo. London 1834, 'at Great Glemham Hall', a statement which has been repeated by subsequent biographers; indeed in the Souvenir of the Crabbe Celebrations at Aldeburgh 16-18 September, 1905, is a drawing of Gt. Glemham Hall 'from a pencil sketch in the Fitch Collection,' which sketch is obviously copied from a picture on a 17th Century pedigree of the Edgar family of Gt. Glemham, now in the Ipswich Borough Library. The younger Crabbe goes on to say of his home that it had, '... since been levelled to the ground. A new and elegant Mansion has been built on the hill by Dr. (Samuel) Kilderbee.'

The present Gt. Glemham House is built of Woolpit brick and stands on the highest part of Gt. Glemham park; only in Suffolk could it be said to 'stand on a hill.' On the north wall are two stones; on the one is inscribed '1708', on the other 'REBUILT ON THIS SPOT, 1814. S.K.' The second inscription seems to indicate that the former house stood elsewhere and that the '1708' stone was removed from the old house. None of the present house looks as if it were built in 1708 though some portions of it, the stables and the kitchen wing, are partly built of a softer and possibly older red brick. Even these however have the front walls of white. It seems obvious therefore that the poet lived at the former Gt. Glemham House and probable that this house was built in 1708 and cannot have been the much earlier subject of the picture in the Edgar pedigree.

On the exact site of the poet's home, tradition is, I think, at variance with fact. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1834, the Rev. John Mitford of Benhall says of Crabbe: 'He soon after took the curacies of Sweffling and Glemham and moved to a house of Mr. North's in the latter parish which had been inhabited by Lady Harbord. It was pulled down soon after Mr. Crabbe left: it stood at the bottom of the park near the village and the house in which Mr. Moseley's gamekeeper now resides formed its stables.' The old stables, now turned into three cottages and with an obviously 18th Century elevation, still exist and near them a Dovecote of about the same date. These stand at the western end of and 'in the bottom of the park near the village' and local tradition, *post* Mitford and possibly *propter* Mitford, had it that the old house stood about 100 yards to the East, but still 'near the village.'

In the records of Quarter Sessions at the County Hall, Ipswich, is a certificate signed by two Justices, 8 Nov. 1796, approving the diversion of the Gt. Glemham-Sweffling road where it runs past the present lodge which lies at the extreme eastern end of the small park. On the map attached to the certificate is shown the L-shaped

plan of the Mansion House 'in the bottom of the park', though some 400-500 yards from the stables and village. Young Crabbe (*loc. cit.*) describes the site of his home in some detail: apart from 'lying in the lowest part . . . of the small park,' that description does not exactly fit either of the above, nor indeed any other possible site in Gt. Glemham Park, but it was written some 35 years later of boyhood's memories—the biographer having been born in 1785. Mitford's account too was written in 1834.

The problem has however recently been determined by the plough. About 6 acres of the eastern end of the park was, with the present house, under military occupation during the recent war: the 6 acres of parkland are indeed still requisitioned and have presumably been lost in the jungle of files at Whitehall. In these circumstances this small area remained under grass—and Nissen Huts—during the war and until the impending disappearance of the £4 an acre subsidy settled its fate: it was ploughed up in December 1949. Under the turf, where the Mansion House is shown on the 1796 map, is an indeterminate but roughly L-shaped area of small stones and rubble on a spot which fortunately had no Nissen Hut.

There remains the problem of the house of the Edgar pedigree and the Crabbe Celebration Souvenir. This must I think be an earlier Great Glemham Hall on or near the site of the present Hall Farm, which has always been called Gt. Glemham Hall on the maps of the Ordnance Survey. The Hall Farm, a mid 19th Century farmhouse, also of Woolpit brick, is on the highest ground in the parish, has nothing resembling a park, but has nearby a moat and the obvious foundations of a former house, the home, one must presume, of the Edgars.

CRANBROOK.

Thomas Bostock (? of Hoxne). In the autumn of 1943, when a pond situated within fifty yards of Hoxne church was being cleaned out, a piece of brass inscription, measuring about 13 by 4½ ins., was found; unfortunately it was not quite complete and the break ran through part of the name and date. It was cleaned by Mr. R. H. Pearson, F.S.A., honorary secretary of the Monumental Brass Society, in whose *Transactions*, vol. viii, p. 147, a short note will be found, accompanied by a photograph, facing p. 152.

Miraculous to relate, in October 1949, near the same pond, the missing fragment, 5 by 4½ ins., was discovered. The two pieces have now been joined together by Mr. Pearson, and have been fixed to the wall of Hoxne church; a photograph accompanies this note (see Plate XXIII).

It is now clear that the complete inscription, which is badly