

In 1979 Mr Wadhams had reported that two further bays had once extended beyond the south end wall of the house. We had lost an earlier house from which the long screen and some of the fine little old oak doors had come.

In August 1987 when we had a small excavation at this end of the house, supervised by Dr John Ridgard and videotaped by Dr John Innes there was evidence that not only two bays, but perhaps a whole wing had existed – the lost earlier house that Mr Wadhams had predicted.

Rufus de Pinto also knew that there had been findings in the garden which pointed to a good standard of living - a 16th Century silver candle-snuffer, and a large handsome brass padlock with the image of gen. Monk incised on it. He, himself, had found many coins, dottels, clay pipes etc. and of course like all Stradbroke, neolithic flints and flakes.

Four Stradbroke Doggett wills have survived and evidently they all had houses, copyhold lands, cattle, furniture and tidy sums of “lawfull Inglysshe monye” to leave their heirs.

Dr John Ridgard, who has recently undertaken the further researches into the Doggett family history, describes the will of Robert Doggett 1558 as a “nicely detailed will.”

In it Robert Doggett left everything to his wife for the term of her natural life and she was one of his executors. he must have made his will lying on his deathbed surrounded by his friends for he died the same day – he left “the bedstead on which I laye” to his son Arthur but he left her with everything else, including “a bedstead, a featherbed with all the other things thereupon as yet stand in the parlor,” obviously his second best bed – like Wm. Shakespeare, Gent, some 60 years later.

There is also a remarkably detailed Probate Inventory of William Rookwood 1684, of which Dr Ridgard says “Without too serious a doubt, its contents provide a guided tour of Doggetts in 1684.”

From the now famous Elveden papers recently acquired by the Suffolk record office, Dr Ridgard also tells us, “on the earliest Stradbroke account roll surviving in the Iveagh Collection, the Manor of Stradbroke itself was recorded as paying rent “for the lands and tenements which it once bought from John Doggett.” This was in 1359 in the reign of Edward III – the earliest reference so far to a Stradbroke Doggett.

Dr Ridgard has also put together a fascinating and revealing time chart showing all the owners, occupiers and tenants of Doggetts since that date. He concludes:-

“The earlier history of Doggetts seems to be entangled with the history of Stradbroke Deer Park” (recorded as in existence in 1279) – :”The house in the park could well remain embedded in Doggetts. It is quite clear that the further back in time enquiries proceed, the wealthier and more important were the families connected with Doggetts.

This is the story so far.

Olive de Pinto.

First Inspection

Timber framed and plastered. Red plain roof. A complex comprising 3 major builds, and numerous alterations.

The earliest part is the main range of the building, the bays nearest to New Street, extending as far as the inserted beam to the left of the main entrance door. These comprise the remnant of a much altered early house, which must have extended across the present space in front of the rear wing. Dating is not easy. The floor joints are bare faced soffit tenons, and there is a simple splayed scarf in the top plate. All that can be said is that it is not going to be later than c.1390, and could be up to 100 years earlier. The very fine plank and muntin screen presumably came from this building as it is certainly not now in its original position.

The remainder of that range, is a major build of c.1540. The floor joints are soffit tenons with diminished haunches, and there is a Queen post roof with jowled posts and bracing. The roof of the earlier part was reconstructed at a higher level at this time and the top plate scarfs are halved and bridled.

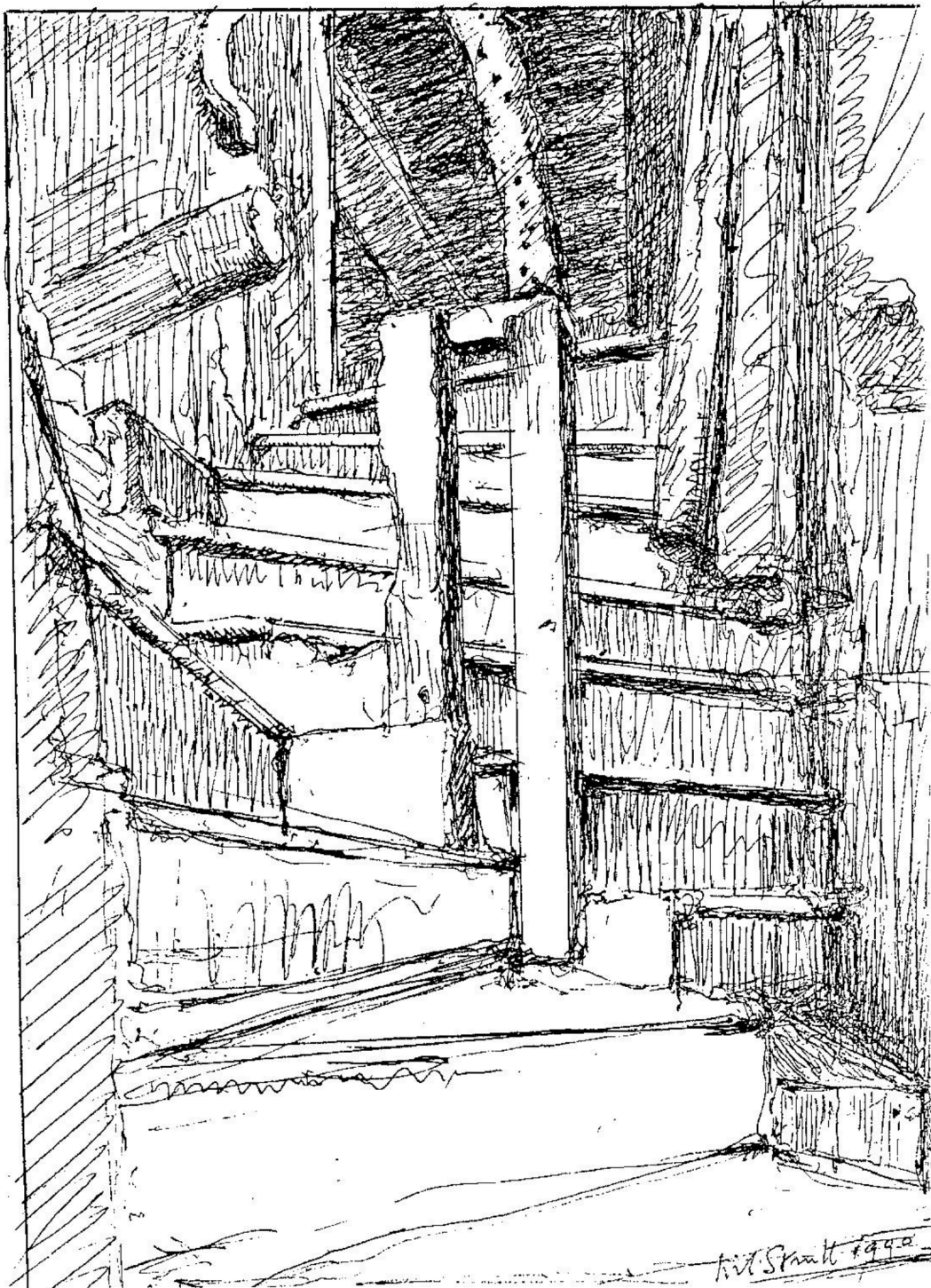
The rear wing is even more difficult to date. If comparisons with Essex examples is at all relevant, the quality of timber and spacing of studs suggest a date well prior to 1500. The roof of this range has also been raised and reconstructed in the 18 century and there is an inserted chimney stack of c.1600.

There are numerous 16 century and 17 doors, throughout the building, and an interesting 16 century plaster fire surround.

Michael Wadhams

Essex County Council

5th October 1979.



Second Inspection

A second inspection in September 1987 has made it possible to both amend and extend the original observations.

Excavation, during the interim period, had proved the former existence of a building at the south end of the present structure. This presumably was a crosswing relating to the earlier open hall, and there is ample space for this to have been a typical two bay depth.

The existence of this wing, and recent research in Essex, suggest a different interpretation now, for the "Cottage". It is of a form, and in a position which we now expect to find in early attached kitchens. As in this case, they were usually two bay structures. Some, as early as the 14th century had integral first floors and smoke bays, but many even as late as the 16th century were built open to the roof, with open hearth. The main structure of the cottage is difficult to date, as there are extensive 17th century alterations, and re-roofing which appears to post date circa 1750. However the first floor is inserted and gives every appearance of being a 16th century alteration. The roof was raised at the same time. It would be a "top-end" or "service" wing, on the basis of kitchen position. In Essex examples have been found at either end.

It is now apparent that we have the remains of two open halls in the main range. That adjacent to the demolished crosswing appears to date from sometime between circa 1250 and circa 1350. There are then two bays indeterminate date.* The remaining 2 bays at the north end represent a late example of an open hall type structure, presumably of the early 16th century. It was built as an end hall, with windows in north, east, and west walls. Therefore, if there was further structure at the north end, then it must have been a still later addition.

The roof of the earlier hall was raised when the first floor was inserted. Another first floor was inserted in the later hall, but the roof was not raised. These insertions are 16th century, as is the attic floor added above the earlier hall and the intermediate bays.

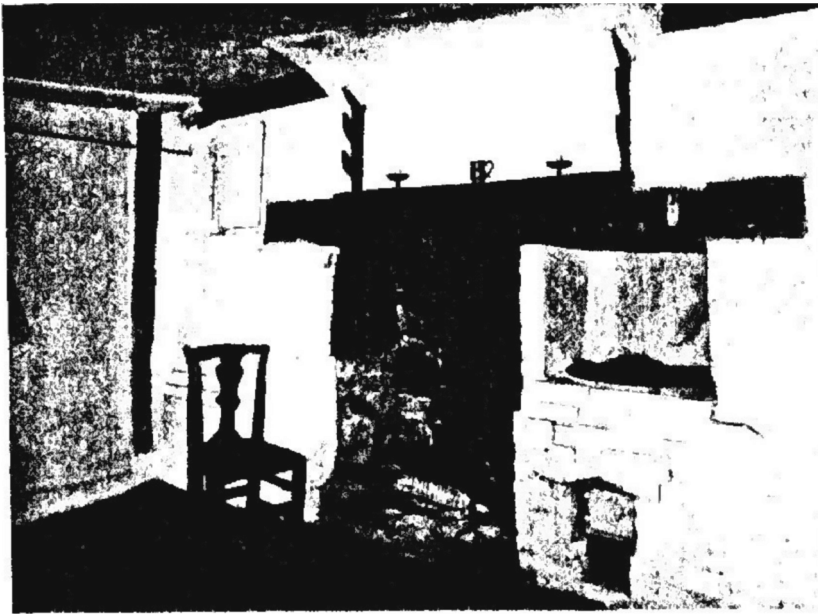
Therefore we have three phases very close together in date. First the later hall, then the inserted first floors, then the attic floors. All apparently 16th century, and apparently quite a lot of money spent on modernisation.

When the first floor was added to the later hall, the rear window was blocked, but the upper part of the front hall window was reduced in size.

The south chimney, fireplaces and bread oven are an addition of the early 18th century, whilst the northern stack is 16th century, and may replace an earlier timber chimney.

* Subsequent investigation suggests a 16th century date, on floor joint evidence.

October 1987



Will of Robert Doggett of Stradbroke, 1558

In the name of our God Amen. The 10th daye of Apryll in the yere of our lord god 1558, I, Robert Doggett of Stradbroke in the Countie of Suffolk within the (diocese) of Norwiche, beinge of good and perfecte memorye (thanks be to god), neverthelesse sycke and feble of bodye, do make, ordeyn and declare this my last will and testament in maner and forme followinge. Fyrst, I bequethe my sowle to the great mercye of god and my bodye to be buryed in the Churchyard of Stradbroke aforesayd. item, I gyve and wyll all my lands and tenements bothe free and bond with all their appertenaunces lyinge and beinge in Stradbroke aforesayd to (deleted) Kateryne my Wyffe for terme of her naturall lyffe upon condicion that she bringe up Arthur and Dorathye my youngest children. And after her deceste I gyve my wyll all my sayd lands and tenements to Arthur my sonne and to his heiers for ever upon condicion that he paye or cawse to be payd to the rest of my children hereafter wrytten suche summes of monye at suche dayes and tymes as hereafter ys especydyed. That is to saye, to Thomas my sonne 5 pounds of lawfull monye of Inglond in maner and forme followinge: viz. (deleted) within one yere next after my wyffs deceste 20s, and within 3 yers next after my said wyffs deceste other 20s, and within 4 yers next after my said wyffs deceste other 20s in full payment of the sayd 5 pounds. And to Margarett my dowghter within 5 yers next after my wyffs deceste 20s of lawfull Inglyshe monye. And to Johanne my dowghter within 6 yers next after my wyffs deceste 20s of lawful Inglysshe monye. And to Dorathye my dawghter within 7 yers next after my wyffs deceste 20s of lawfull Inglyshe moneye. And to Kateryn my dawghter within 8 yers next after my wyffs deceste 40s of lawfull Inglyshe monye. And to Agnes my dawghter within 9 yers next after my wyffs deceste 20s of lawfull Inglyshe monye. Provyded (.....) always. And I wyll and gyve that, notwithstanding my gyft of the sayd lands and tenements to my sonne Authur and his heiers as ys aforesayd, to my sayd dawghter Mararett shall from and imedyatelye after the deceste of my sayd wyff for terme of the natural lyffe of the sayd Margarett all that howse wherin Margery Pecke wydowe nowe dwelleth callyd the slawghter howse and all the ground from the falgate to the sayd howse of the brede of the same howse, with fre ingate and outegate to and from the water within my ground next unto the sayd howse and into the sayd howse. And after her deceste, then I wyll that my sayd sonne Arthur shall (have) to hym and his heiers the sayd house in maner and forme as I have herin gevyn emongest. And yf Arthur my sonne happen to die before he has payd the sayd summes of monye t my dowghters, then I wyll that Thomas my sonne shall have my sayd lands and tenements to hym and his heiers payinge the said summes of monye to my said dawghters. The rest of my lands and tenements, yf he refuseith (h) thus to do, then I will my said lands and tenements shall rever (t) to all my sayd dawghters and their heiers. Item, I gyve and bequethe to my said sonne Arthur after the deceste of my wyffe a fether bedde, a bolster of fethers, a pollowe with fethers, a payer of blanketts, a redd coverlett and a bedsted wherin I laye. Item, I wyll and bequethe unto my sayd sonne Arthur imedyatelye after the deceste of my wiffe my gretest brasse pott, my cupbord standinge in my hall, 4 of my best pewter platters, 4 of my best pewter dysshes, 4 great cawdron of brasse with 2 earys, my best chaffyn dysshe of latten, my best chayer, my table with the tressylles in the hall and the forme of their standyng. All the resydue of my goods howsolde stuff and moveables (deleted) not after gevyn or bequethed nor hereafter specyallye gevyn and appoynted, I will shall be evenlye

devyded by indyfferent persons in 2 parts imedyaltely after my decesse, and, beyng so devyded in 2 parts, I wyll that my wyffe shall have one of the parts at her choyce to bring up my sayd 2 yongest children withe. And thother part of my goods I wyll shall be evenly devyded emongst all my dawghters. Item, I wyll and bequethe unto my said wyffe for terme of her life all my stuffe afore gevyn to Arthur my sonne (deleted). Allso I will and bequethe unto my sayd wyffe a bedsted, a fetherbed with all other things therupon as yt stand in the parlor and all my cattle together with all suche detts as be owinge to me (for) payinge and dyscharging my detts, bringing up my said 2 yongest children and bryngyng me honestlye to the ground. And of this my last will and testament, I ordeyn and make my sayd wyffe and John Godbold my executors whome I prey to do for me as shall seme good to them to the honor of god.

memorandum that the 10th day of April,
Robert Doggett dyd surrender all his
copyhold lands held of Stradbroke and
Stubcroft hall in to th' ands of Thomas
Fysk in the prescence of Robert Brocke and
John Brocke to th' use of his will.

Wyttnesses Robert Brocke, John Brocke, Thomas Fyske and Thomas Tower with others.

(proved) at Stradbroke, 20th April 1558.

Draft of February 1990

The Probate Inventory of William Rookwood of Stradbroke, gentleman, 1684

A true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of William Rookwood late of Stradbroke in the County of Suffolk gentleman, seen, valued and apprized the 16th day of June 1684 by us whose names are hereunto subscribed.

In the Hall.

Firstly, 1 long table, 1 forme, 1 little table, 3 joined stooles0-15-0
One table, 7 chayres, 1 backiron, cobiron, firepan and tongs1-14-6
Two hakes, a small rost, 1 iron bar, 1 chefyng dish, 3 (seurs ?).....0-5-6
Two oven leads, 1 jacke, 2 speets, and leaden waights0-16-6
One box iron, 2 heats, 1 payle, scales, hooke, hatchett, saw and wedges0-6-0
Books, 1 holborne, 1 steele, 1 hour glass, 4 cushions, 1 payr of tables0-6-0

In the Parlor.

Item, one great cubbord, one long table and carpitt1-10-0
5 joyned stooles, 2 smal stooles, 1 smale table with drawers0-12-0
One glass keep, 1 longe forme, one backe chaire, two fringstools0-11-6
Two large chayres, 1 payre cobirons, tongs, 1 feather bed, bolster bed,
bolster, coverlett bedstead, matt and cord2-10-0
One warming pan and one looking glass0-7-0

In the Buttery.

Item, 21 pieces of pewter, 1 bolting hutch and a great kille2-19-6
One leaven, 1 poudering tubb and 3 killers and 5 bowls0-14-0
One dresser, 2 skillits, 2 beervessells, 1 alestoole, a tilt, one pye board and seive0-7-6
One sacke, a pie peeel, 1 roling pin, 7 bolles and earthen ware0-3-6
Eight silver spoons and a silver cupp4-0-0
3 beer vessells, 1 ale stoole, 1 old keep, eathin potts and pans0-10-0
3 payles, 3 platters, 1 tunill, rost iron, 1 lattin tunill and skumer0-6-0
2 iron potts, 1 iron bille, hoggs stoole, a smale stoole0-12-0
A sckepp, 2 baskitts and 2 frying panns0-5-9
One brass bille, two sckillitts, 1 posenet, 1 candlestick, 2 panns0-17-6
One buckin tubb, 2 tubbs and 1 payre of tongs, pestle and mortar0-13-6
1 dozen trenchers, dishes, spoones, 1 pint and a ladle0-2-0
One brass ladle and flesh forks0-1-0

In the Parlor Chamber.

Item, 14 payre fine sheets, 18 napkins, 2 board clothes, 1 dozen pillow
beers and a trunke12-0-0
One bedstead, a feather bed, 1 bolster, 2 pillowes, curtaines, vallance,
matt and cord3-0-0
One great chest, a cubbord and table1-6-0
1 chayre, 3 stooles, 1 cushion, 1 cobiron and firepan0-9-0
Two dozen trenchers, white earthin waer0-3-6
1 seale and gold ring1-10-0

CONTINUED 2