

1693 The Manor and Thomas Kitchener and his descendants.

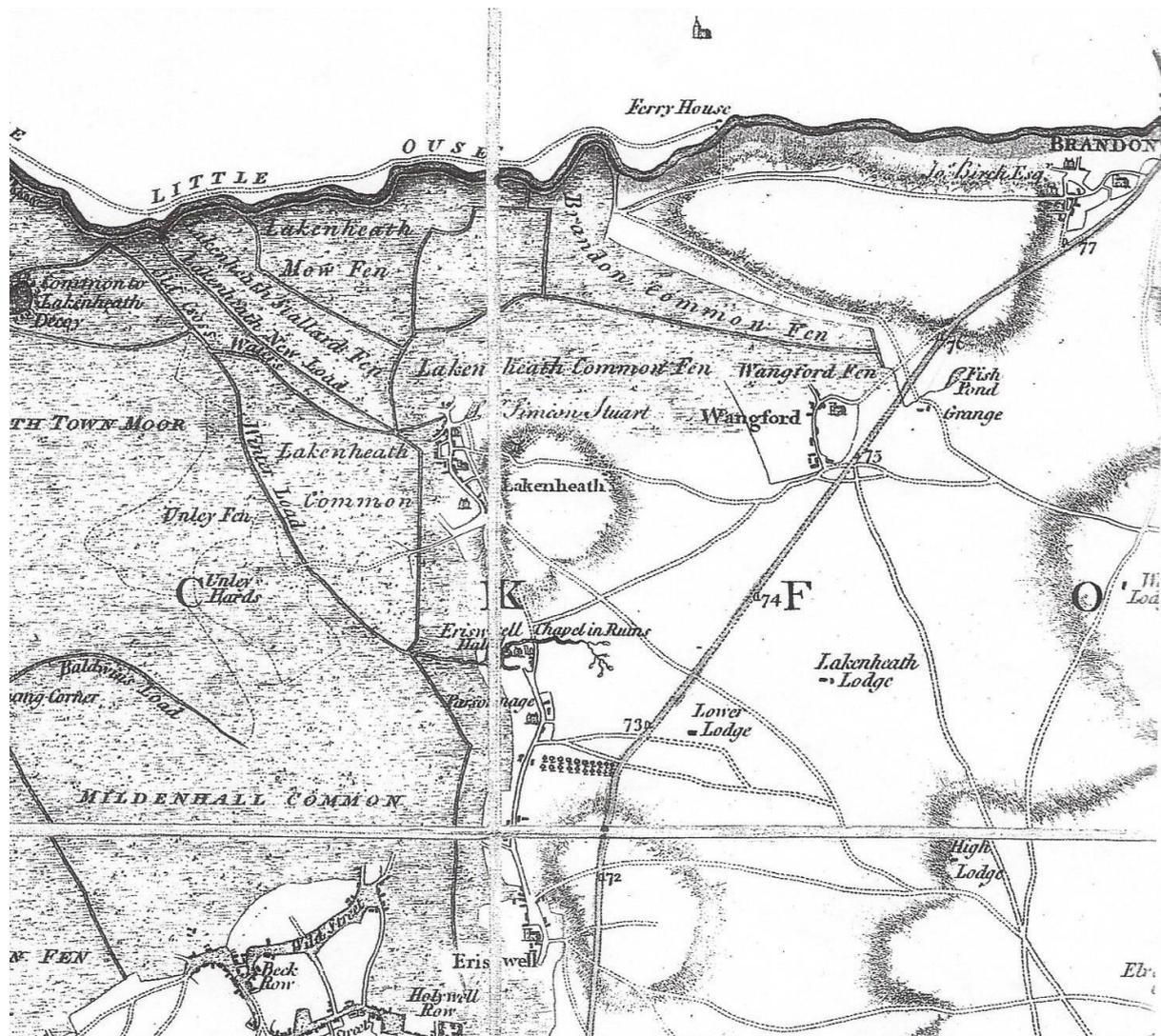
Sir Nicholas Stewart, MP, 1st. Baronet of Hartley Mauditt in Hampshire, a descendant of Simeon Styward, inherited the lease of Lakenheath Hall and lands following the death of Simeon's Styward's grandson, William who died unmarried. He employed as his land agent THOMAS KITCHENER (1), also from Hampshire, who settled here and married Abigail Clarke. They had several children amongst whom were ROBERT (1) and THOMAS (2). Thomas (1) was the representative of Sir Nicholas in the village and would have been influential in village affairs. After only a few years he became a Church Warden in 1697.

On the death of the aged Sir Nicholas in 1710 the lease passed to SIR SIMEON STEWART, MP, who, in 1749 was granted a Right of Enclosure by Parliament to enclose common land which lay next to the Hall. Munday says that this included a winding passage or path leading to a well or spring which possibly became the site of Spring Pump Cottage and was near Kitchener Cottage.

J T Munday



Spring Pump Cottage.



Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk 1783

The Lakenheath Decoy.

Sir Simeon is said to have introduced a method of catching large numbers of wildfowl known as 'decoys'. The draining of the Fen, having lowered the water level, had resulted in a large number of islands which had allowed willows to grow on them. To make a decoy the trees were draped with nets to which were joined tunnels of willow saplings. A man, or a dog, scared the wildfowl so that they fled into the tunnels, ending up in the nets. The Lakenheath Decoy is said to have been on Sedge Fen not far from Botany Bay and was considered to be one of the most successful in the country. The birds were sent to London markets.

J Wentworth-Day

Sir Simeon, 3rd Bt., died in 1779, leaving his affairs in a mess, resulting in legal disputes between his estate and his creditors for almost 100 years. He was probably the last Stuart to live at the original Tudor Hall.

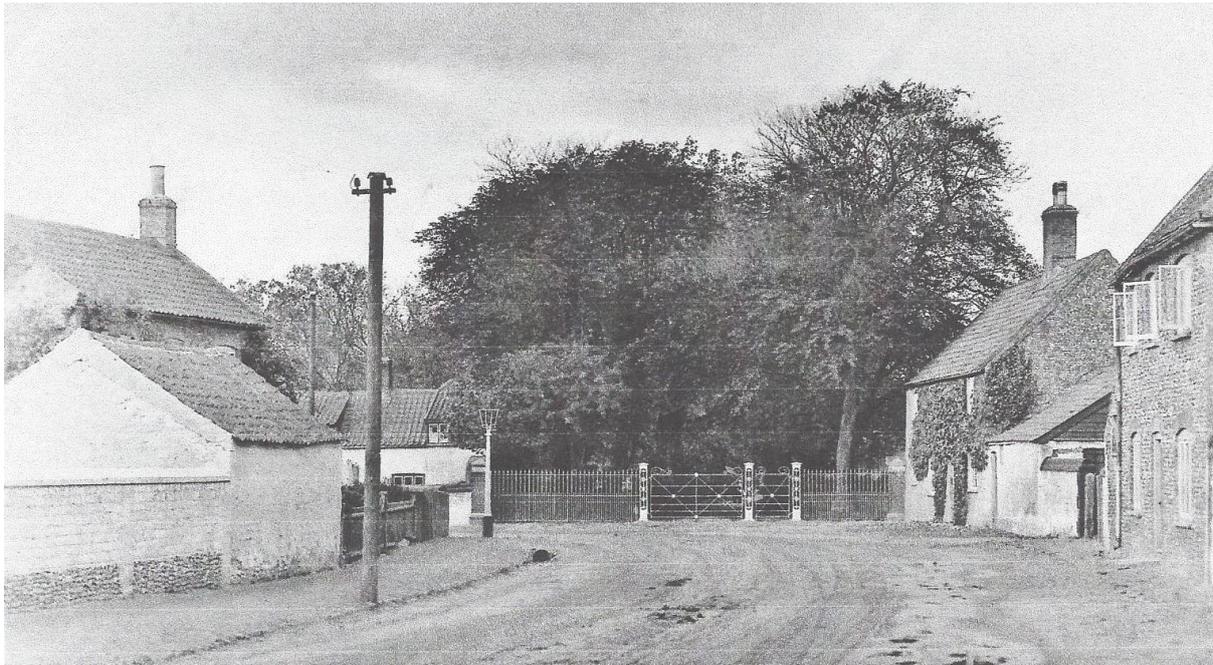
*A History of Lakenheath. Lakenheath W I.
The London Gazette No. 5, 1872*

When was the High Street diverted?

The changes of direction in the road we are used to are a mystery. It certainly has not always been the twisty affair it is today.

The original 'Street' passed Dumpling Bridge Lane and went straight on up what is now the track called Hall Drive. It is thought that this passed the original entrance to the Tudor Hall and later North Lawn Cottage and ended in not much more than a rough track probably leading to the Ouse. Hall Drive later became, as the name suggests, one of the entrances to the remodelled house known as 'The Retreat'.

Munday



The road went straight on though where the gates are in the photograph.

It is undoubtedly the case that the present road originally came about because an inhabitant of the hall wished for greater privacy from villagers and passers-by so the road was moved westward. A look at the Hodkinson Map published in 1783 could suggest that the change to the old road was yet to happen, but allowances have to be made for surveying inaccuracies as well as the time lapse between the survey and the publication of the map. Work on the map began in 1776. Roads or tracks that are no longer here are shown. The tithe map of 1850 clearly shows the modern route.

Anthony Breen suggests that 'Pleasure Grounds' were created by the fourth baronet, another Sir Simeon. This was the fashionable thing at the time and clearly a significant amount of land would have been necessary.

The construction of the Lakenheath and Hockwold turnpike (see part 4 of the timeline) resulted in further development of the road but doesn't seem to have altered the direction of this part of the High Street at all.

Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk 1783.

Tithe map of Lakenheath 1850. Bury Record Office. T96A/4

Anthony Breen in Archaeological Report, Lakenheath Hall. Suffolk C C Archaeological Service. 2004

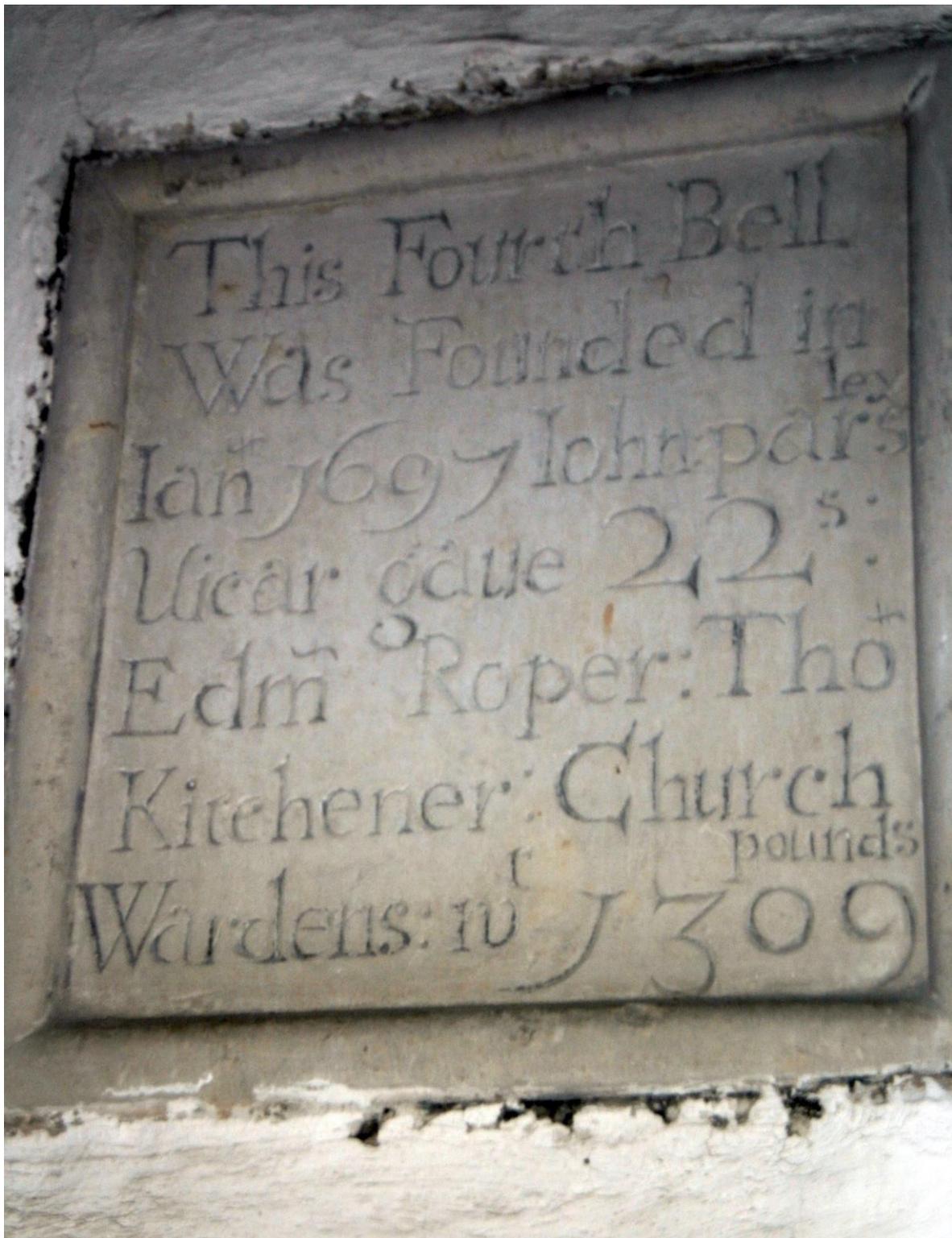
So the answer to the question is, "don't know"! If you do I'd like to hear from you

The Kitcheners.



Thomas Kitchener I. Print in possession of Marie Laflin

In 1697 Thomas Kitchener (1), along with the vicar, JOHN PARSLEY and EDMUND ROPER contributed to the casting and installation of a new bell for the church which is still rung.



Names of bell donors. Lakenheath Parish Church

ROBERT (1), Thomas' eldest son married Anne Fisher in 1738 and they lived in the village all their lives. It is this Robert who with JOHN EVANS founded the EVANS and KITCHENER CHARITY by the selling of 13 acres of land to provide education for poor boys.



Lord Kitchener's Ancestor's House. Now known as Kitchener Cottage



Some of St Mary's Church Bells

Thomas (2), the second son of Thomas (1) eventually left Lakenheath to set up as a Tea Merchant in Bury St. Edmunds. He was so successful that his son WILLIAM moved to London to extend the business. Success was short-lived and he died in 1807 aged 38. His eldest son, Henry Horatio, eventually joined the army after having a commission purchased for him by his step-father. Only wealthy people could buy a commission and this began the association of the Kitcheners with the Army which culminated in the First World War with LORD KITCHENER of Khartoum, Minister of War, whose memorial is placed in St. Mary's Church.

In 1899 St. Mary's Church was presented with a specially produced book given by F H Cripps-Day, from which much of the Kitchener information comes. He was a descendent of Thomas Kitchener. The book gives the pedigree of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

*F H Cripps-Day.
The Cobbold Family History Trust website.*