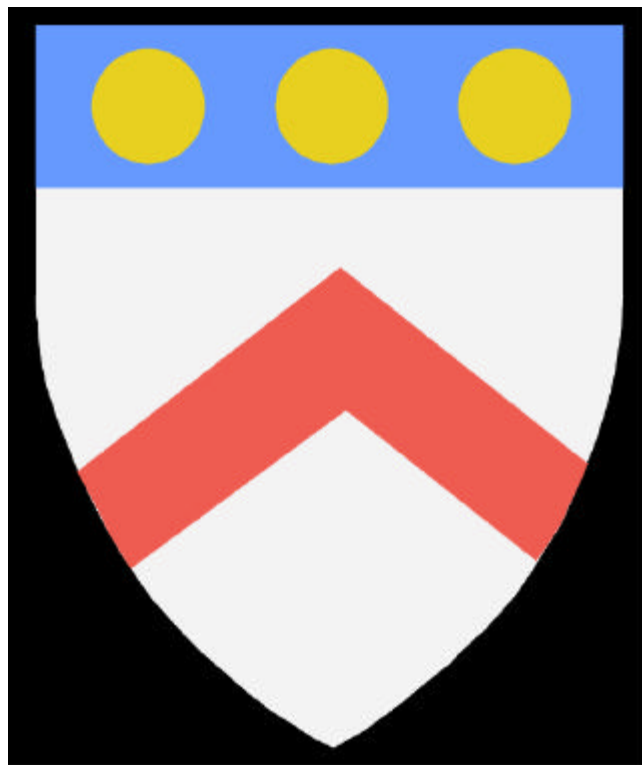


# *The Cuddons of Nayland*

*Sally Arnold*



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## *An Ancient Suffolk Family*

*By Sally Arnold*

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### **SIR THOMAS CUDDON OF SHADDINGFIELD HALL**

The Nayland CUDDONS are members of one of the most ancient Suffolk families. They trace their descent from CONSTANTINE CODUM living in Dunwich in 1239. They were prosperous merchants trading with Holland and Flanders, just across the water. They supplied many bailiffs, and two MPs to the Borough between 1302 - 1484, and were amongst its largest taxpayers. When Dunwich fell into decay, due to the encroachments of the sea, the Cuddons moved on to pastures new, in the 16th Century. They continued to prosper, and founded families of repute and standing in such towns as Weston, Horsham, Wyverstone, Halesworth, Bungay, Norwich and then London<sup>1</sup>.

Present day Cuddons are proud of their connection to SHADDINGFIELD HALL and Shaddingfield Church, near Beccles. The Hall was acquired in 1430 by Robert Cuddon through his marriage to heiress Elizabeth Francis. There are Cuddon brasses to be found in the chancel of the Shaddingfield Church. Its greatest treasure is a hand made linen altar cloth, edged with lace, presented on Christmas Day 1632 by Elizabeth Cuddon, wife of William. It was in regular use until 1892, but is now kept, in its original box, with inscription, at the Beccles Museum, as part of a permanent exhibition on Shaddingfield village, church and hall<sup>2</sup>.

Also of interest is the Cuddon right to bear arms, through the marriage of Ellenor Cuddon of Shaddingfield Hall (1678 - 1725) to Thomas Leman (1616 - 1717). These arms can be seen in St Peter's, Brampton, and are described as follows:

Argent, a chevron gules, on a chief azure, 3 bezants or (see cover illustration).

One distinguished member of the family was Sir Thomas Cuddon of Shaddingfield Hall (1648-1702), Chamberlain of the City of London, Receiver General of Taxes for London & Middlesex and Master of the Leathersellers Company.

Shaddingfield Hall was demolished in 1814, but the name lives on in the Shaddingfield Lodge, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth. The Lodge was built by the Victoria Building Company in 1865 for James Cuddon the younger (1816-1896), of Somerton Hall, Norfolk; a barrister of the Middle Temple. In 1872 James made the Lodge available to the future Edward VII when the Prince was visiting Yarmouth to inspect the Norfolk Militia, and he and his circle were regular visitors thereafter. The building is still there, now run as a hotel.

### **THE NAYLAND BRANCH**

The Cuddons arrived in this area in the late 18th century. James (1762 - 1828) and Ann (Neé Harris, 1767 - 1828), came from Bungay, to farm at Layham. As devout Catholics, they may have been drawn here by the presence of a long standing Mass centre at nearby Giffords Hall, Withermarsh Green, seat of the Mannock family.

The Mannocks, baronets since c. 1430, were Recusants, who kept the Faith through Penal times. From 1602, they had maintained a priest at the Hall to serve the families neighbouring Catholics as well as their own needs. The chaplains of Giffords Hall kept the early records of this parish. From the Baptismal Registers of 1783 - 1855, it is clear that there was a thriving Cuddon clan living around Withermarsh Green. Not only the progeny of



James and Ann, but those of his brothers Thomas, Charles and William feature in the Registers. Between them the four brothers had 26 children.

William and his wife Sarah seem to have been the earliest Cuddons in Nayland. They had four children. Susanna, b. 1814; Mary, b. 1819; William, 1820-1821; Sarah, b. 1822, died aged 10 months. The two younger children are buried in St. James' churchyard, Nayland – (then called St. Stephens).<sup>3</sup>

James and Ann had eleven children. Their third child, James Jnr. was born in 1794. In 1825 he married Elizabeth Smith (1798-1848) of Bungay and they farmed at Withermarsh Green.

In 1827 (only two years later) the church of Our Lady Immaculate and St Edmund was built, on land donated by the Mannocks, on their southern border. Cuddons must have represented a considerable proportion of the congregation, as they did when the Sacred Heart Church was opened in 1902, 75 years later. They were among the 'great and the good', with their own pews at St Edmunds, for which they paid seat rent. Cousin Ambrose would also have attended Mass at St Edmunds since he had in-laws in the area. He was a London publisher and one of a group appointed to receive donations for the new church.

When James Snr. and Ann, died in 1828 they were the first lay people to be buried in the adjoining cemetery, previously reserved for priests.<sup>4</sup>

### SAMUEL THOMAS

James Jnr. and Elizabeth had nine children, SAMUEL THOMAS being their fourth child, born in 1830. He went to school at Giffords Hall, run by the Parish Priest, Fr. North.

When SAMUEL was about ten years old, his parents moved the family down to Nayland, and took up residence at 2 Church Street (now High Street). This is when James Jnr. founded the famous Cuddon Brewery that was to prosper and flourish in Nayland until its closure in 1918.<sup>5</sup>

All of James' boys adopted the family trade. The eldest James John was a brewer in Hereford. Richard founded a brewery in Old Heath, Colchester. William emigrated to New Zealand, aged 21, with a gift of £3,000 from his parents. Among other business interests he founded another Cuddon brewery there. William had fallen out with

his staunchly Catholic family over his courtship of Marianne Boggis from Stoke-By-Nayland, a staunch Protestant.

William and Marianne (still a minor), sailed from New Zealand on board the Egmont on Sept. 11, 1856, both as steerage passengers in spite of the small fortune in William's pocket. They were married in Christchurch in March 1858, and raised all their fourteen children as Anglicans.

SAMUEL and the youngest son, Philip, stayed on in Nayland to work with their father and eventually took over the business in 1870.<sup>6</sup>

In 1848 SAMUEL's mother died, and in 1850 James remarried Tamar Mayston. The 1861 census reveals James and Tamar living at 1 Church Street (now High Street) with Samuel aged 31 and Philip 19. Next door, at 3 Church Street, lived SAMUEL's future wife Sarah Susanna Sandle (1836 - 1891), a school mistress, and her two younger brothers. The Sandles came from Assington, probably non-Catholics, as Sarah's parents are buried in St James Anglican Churchyard (north east corner).<sup>7</sup>



SAMUEL and SARAH were married in 1863 and were blessed with 11 children

Elizabeth	1864 – 1958, died aged 93
Mary	1865 – 1907, died aged 42
Thomas	1866 – 1919, died aged 52
James	1867 – 1872, died aged 4
Martha	1868 – 1870, died aged 18 months
Raymund	1869 – 1908, died aged 38
Bertha	1871 – 1961, died aged 90
Sarah Jane	1872 – 1950, died aged 78
Ada	1874 – 1940, died aged 66
Emily	1875 – 1954, died aged 78
Gertrude	1877 – 1914, died aged 37

SAMUEL and SARAH and all their children except for Bertha are buried at Withermarsh Green as are SAMUEL's parents and grandparents.<sup>8</sup>

Philip (Samuel's brother) was married in 1866 to Mary Agnes. Tragically she died giving birth to their only child, Agnes (1867-1959). In

1881, when Agnes was 14 years old, Philip moved to Norwich. In 1890 Agnes married Theodore Rossi (1863-1955), listed as a Sacred Heart benefactor.



The 2 sons and 7 daughters of Samuel Thomas and Sarah Susanna Cuddon, their grandchildren and other relations.

We know from a cousin in Bungay, that SAMUEL and SARAH drove their large family the four miles to Withermarsh Green in a Wagonette, and that their two sons Thomas and Raymund were educated at Ampleforth. The girls probably went to the Mater Dei de Sion Convent, Worthing, where their cousin Agnes was sent. They appear to have been quite active in parish affairs, as shown by the Father Murphy 'saga'.

After the death of Canon Mathias Lane in 1886, Father Philip Murphy (borrowed from another diocese) agreed to 'fill in' during the interregnum. In fact the 'new' priest, Father George Miles, was not appointed until 1891! By this time Father Murphy was so well loved that a petition was sent to Bishop Arthur Riddle, pleading that Father Murphy be allowed to stay on. The petition, headed by the Cuddons and their employees, and including many non Catholics, was not heeded ... perhaps Bishop Riddle knew that Father Murphy really wanted to return to his own diocese.

In 1895 Samuel, now a widower, handed over the Brewery to Thomas and Raymund. They were both married and founding families of their own. Thomas had married Ada Elizabeth Browne in 1893, and her sister Kate married Raymund in 1894.



Great Aunt Emily, Aunt Ada & Aunt Bessie

The two sisters were daughters of John and Mary Browne, brewers and hoteliers of Colchester.

Samuel and his family must often have dreamt of a Catholic church for Nayland as they toiled up the steep roads to Withermarsh Green. But it was Elizabeth (Bessie) who realised the dream. After the death of SARAH SUSANNA in 1891, Elizabeth took over the role of 'mother' to the family; this may have given her the confidence to proceed – though surely with Samuel's blessing, approval and financial backing. Bessie began by ear-marking a parcel of Cuddon land in Church Lane as a suitable site, and started a building fund.

On 16th June 1899, Elizabeth, always known as Bessie, wrote the following letter to the Bishop of Northampton, quoted in full for its admirable simplicity:

*"For some years it has been the earnest wish of the Catholics of Nayland to have a Church in their parish. We number 24 practising Catholics and there are several born and baptised Catholics who do not practise their religion owing to the long distance from Church. Lately a London firm have bought a factory in the village and doubtless have brought Catholic workmen. There has also been purchased 93 acres of land for the building of a large Sanatorium for the treatment of consumption; possibly there will be Catholic patients.*

*Feeling sure my Lord, that when you know the circumstances you would sanction and bless this undertaking, I started a fund some time ago. Do you not consider the priest at Stoke could do duty also here so that the church would not be a burden to the diocese?*

*On Sunday I shall drive two children to Sudbury for Confirmation and shall be glad my Lord if you will give me a few minutes private audience, when I shall give you further particulars. Trusting that you will grant this Petition, I am my Lord, your obedient child etc."*

Only six days later, on 22nd June 1899, a highly delighted Bessie was writing again:

*"My Lord,  
All your little flock at Nayland thank you most heartily for giving your consent for a little church. We have waited so long for one now we must really try to have it before the winter. My Lord, I am sending you the list of Catholics as you requested, and what do you want me to do next?"*

The Bishop must have been amused when he read the list of names, because 18 of them were Cuddons! Maybe he vetoed an immediate start, because the Sacred Heart Church was not built until 1902.

The opening Mass was celebrated on the 18th December 1902 amid great rejoicing. Main celebrant was the Parish Priest Fr. George Miles, assisted by priests from Sudbury, East Bergholt,

Ipswich and Ely. In the evening there were devotions to the Sacred Heart, a sermon, and solemn Benediction. The local press noted "The services were well attended; many non-Catholics being present".<sup>9</sup>

However there were still legalities to sort out, and sadly the process of transferring ownership of the Sacred Heart Church to the diocese was fraught with difficulties. Very strange, considering that this church had been handed over to the diocese during Samuel's lifetime, and the gift recognised by all the members of his family.

The problem was that the land on which the church stood was part of a meadow, the whole of which SAMUEL bequeathed to his daughter Mary when he died in 1905. Mary, it seems, was inclined to hang on to her legacy during her lifetime, leaving the church and its land to the diocese in her will. The rest of the meadow she left to her sister Bertha. Mary died in 1909, but another year was to go by before the legal tangle was sorted out, and the church 'safe' (as Bessie put it).<sup>10</sup>

In a letter to Fr. Tonks, the Bishop's secretary, dated 5 May 1910, Bessie wrote:

*"Thank God the church is safe, and thank you for letting me know at once, for it has been a worry ... and for the trouble you are taking over this sad and unjust business."*

A postscript to this curious affair came in 1936 when Bertha Was in dispute with Walter Webb over church grounds. He maintained they were still part of the meadow, now Webb's meadow. An official search found in Bertha's favour, so all was well.<sup>11</sup>

## THOMAS AND RAYMUND

When SAMUEL died in 1905, it was the end of an era. Small family Breweries were in decline, increasingly subject to takeover bids by large competitors, followed by then being shut down. The Cuddon Brewery saw out Thomas' and Raymund's days, but closed in 1918 after it had been acquired by the Colchester Brewing Co Ltd, together with 10 public houses, for only £7,000 the lot.<sup>12</sup>

Thomas (1866 - 1919), last owner of the Cuddon Brewery, was married to Ada Elizabeth Browne (1866 - 1901). They lived at Hillside, 14 Stoke Road, and at Brewery House (now The Butts) in Church Lane.<sup>13</sup> They had four children:

Mary Hilda	b. 1894
Gertrude Constance	b. 1895
Winifrid Muriel	b. 1898
	m. John Paul Morris 1889 - 1968
Samuel Eric	b. 1900 - 1957
	m. Kathleen

Tragedy struck with the untimely death of Ada Elizabeth at the age of 35. Baby Eric (also known as JACK), was only a year old, and the girls were aged seven, six and three respectively. One wonders how poor Thomas coped. I expect the family rallied round, and there is evidence that Ada Elizabeth's parents, John and Mary Browne, moved in for a while to help look after the motherless children. Later they were sent to a convent near Liege in Belgium, which they all loathed. A misfortune for which they tended to blame the 'flock of aunties', their father's numerous sisters, for not coming forward with more T. L. C.

Thomas died in 1919, leaving his family fairly impoverished. Most of his remaining assets had to be sold to pay off debts and death duties. His four children were left with a roof over their heads, and thirty shillings a week to each from their father's estate. That 'roof' must have been the Gables (now the White House), which remained part of the Thomas Cuddon Trust until sold by auction on May 11th, 1935, by direction of the Trustees, the Misses Cuddon of Loretto. At the same auction they disposed of Fieldside, Newlands Lane, the nearby 2 acre field, and 2 Fennages on the Common Meadows of Nayland.<sup>14</sup>

Young Jack (Samuel Eric), was now 'man of the house', and money was retained from the estate to set him up in business as a farm Contractor. He was given a tractor and implements but never really took up the challenge, being a 'bit of a lad', by all accounts. The business folded and Jack moved to Ipswich to seek his fortune there. In 1932 he married Kathleen, they lived in Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, and they had four children: Patrick b. 1935, David b. 1936, Margaret b. 1938 and Frances b. 1955.<sup>15</sup>

Jack's sisters, Mary, Connie and Muriel lived at The Gables until Muriel's marriage in 1922. Muriel married John Paul Morris - theirs being one of the first to be celebrated at the Sacred Heart. A relation, Fr. John Cuddon, officiated.<sup>16</sup>

John Paul and Muriel had four children: John Eric, b. 1923, Paul Hubert, b. 1927, Elizabeth Winifred b. 1935 and Robert Thomas b. 1938.

Mary Hilda (also known as FAYE) lived with John Paul and Muriel as part of their family, and in later years with Connie, who had devoted her life to looking after her aunt, Bertha Cuddon in Felixstowe.<sup>17</sup>

Raymund (1869-1908) and his wife Kate Browne (1866-1901), lived at The Gables (now the White House) in Church Lane. They had four children: May b. 1895, Gladys b. 1897, Leo b. 1898 Wilfred b. 1899.

Raymund began his working life as 'Brewer Assistant' in the family business (1891 Census). However, Kelly's Directory of 1894 lists him as a farmer at Wiston. Possibly the Brewery was already

in slow decline and Raymund edged out as the younger brother. Certainly he had health problems, and died at the early age of 38 in 1908. Raymund made his mark in Nayland as captain of the fire brigade.

### MORE ABOUT RAYMUND

Kate was left with a small annuity with which to bring up her four children, who were aged 9-13 years in 1908. She was apparently not encouraged to stay on in the marital home, and moved to Norwich and later Great Yarmouth. But not before her girls, May and Gladys had modelled for a pair of angel hangings commissioned for the Sacred Heart church. These used to hang on either side of the tabernacle until the 1970s, when they were deemed to have 'passed their sell by date'. Sadly they disappeared without a trace; they were of great sentimental value to Kate and Raymund's family, however worn, and of historical interest to the parish!

Kate's two boys, Leo and Wilfred, married Jeane (from Belgium) and Blanche respectively and May married Harold Oliveri; from none of these unions were there any progeny. Gladys married Arthur Smith, persuading him to incorporate CUDDON into their family name. The Cuddon-Smiths had one daughter, Pamela Mary, b. 1922, and she married Quentin Benz. She is Raymund's only grandchild.<sup>18</sup>

### THE MISS CUDDONS OF LORETTO

After the death of their father in 1905, Bessie and her sisters had moved to Loretto, next door to the church. When the house came on the market in 1906, it must have seemed providential. They could now be effective custodians of the new church, which would account for permission being granted for reservation of the Blessed Sacrament, and the church kept open, as it is to this day.

It also meant that Loretto could be used as a Presbytery until the day that one could be built on the land adjoining, to the South, as planned.

According to Miss Agnes Barford (1900 - 1999), who worked for the Cuddon sisters in the 1940's and 1950's, Bessie insisted that the best bedroom be reserved for the use of the parish priest, and visiting clergy, including the Bishop when he came here for Confirmations. In a letter dated 1907, Bessie wrote:

*"Father Miles has told me you are going to honour Nayland with a visit and give Confirmation. I hope you will accept our humble hospitality as you did in my dear father's life ..."*

Certainly Fr. Miles freely availed himself of Cuddon hospitality, much to the annoyance of Bertha and Mary.

Bertha was compelled to write a stern letter to Bessie strenuously objecting to the frequent visits of Fr. Miles.

*"Fr. Miles has been extremely rude to Mary and myself, which we justly resent. As this is our home, equally as it is Sallie's (SARAH), Ada's, Emily's and Gertie's, I consider that we have every right to object to any person's presence here. We ask therefore that Fr. Miles no longer comes to this house as before" (letter 1906).*

There is a long string of complaints including that Fr. Miles had ordered Mary out of the church for yawning!

As eldest Bessie was able to 'pull rank', and her policy continued, because as Bertha dourly observed *"We all knew on what a pinnacle you place a priest .... a priest can do no wrong."*

Another memorial of Cuddon generosity is the gilded chalice and paten still in weekly use at the Sacred Heart. Both are inscribed:

*"In loving memory of Samuel Thomas and Sarah S Cuddon. R.I.P. from their 9 children, Sacred Heart, Nayland, 1906."*

### INCREASE OF CATHOLIC FAMILIES IN NAYLAND AND AREA

Meanwhile, the congregation at the Sacred Heart was growing, vindicating Cuddon belief in the viability of a Catholic church in Nayland. Besides, there was undoubtedly an upsurge of zeal among the existing Catholic families. Early entries in the Sacred Heart Baptismal Register record many children well passed babyhood, indicating the return of lapsed Catholics to the faith. There were also adult Baptisms, indicating conversions.

The Cuddon ladies were in great demand as Godparents, mustering 20 Godchildren between them from 1904-1938.

Between 1904-1917 there were 36 candidates for Confirmation, another sign of a thriving Catholic community. Bessie was sponsor to no less than 26 of them!

It would be unrealistic to suppose that all was sweetness and light in this ménage of seven sisters, and I imagine Loretto would have been fairly cramped with the best room always kept for a priest. However they also had a cottage in their grounds, which extended as far as Fen Street until 1958. A relic of those days is the millstone at Loretto, partner to the one leaning against a wall in Fen Street.

Their numbers thinned out over the years with the death of Mary in 1907, and Gertrude in 1914. In the 1920s Emily moved to The Gables and later to Roman Road, Colchester. Bertha moved to Felixstowe where she shared a bungalow with her niece Connie (one of Thomas' daughters), that left Bessie (d. 1958), Sarah (d. 1950) and Ada (d. 1940).

From 1922 to 1931 the household included Farther Michael Geraghty who had been appointed to assist the ailing Father Miles, and who only took over as parish priest after the latter's death in 1931. How Father Geraghty longed to escape from Loretto, keenly feeling the lack of privacy.

The Cuddon ladies appear to have been left comfortably provided for, thanks to the good husbandry of their father SAMUEL. We know, for instance, that they owned 9 Fennages on the Common Meadows of Nayland, sold in 1935, that Mary owned Webb's Meadow and that a Miss Cuddon owned Shitts Farm, Leavenheath, in 1891 (now split between 'Radleys', 'Gladwins' and Brunnings) farms;<sup>19</sup> that Bessie's estate included three cottages in Newlands Lane, and that she paid half the £400 it cost to build the Sacred Heart Church in 1902. Thomas and Raymund were expected to make a living from the Brewery, and so they did - up to a point.

It must have given the Cuddon sisters great joy living right next to 'their' church, lovingly tending to its needs and able to make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Bessie, it seems, was particularly devout, because she was dubbed AB on knee' i.e. Aunt Bessie on knee, by younger generation Cuddons!

No doubt the Cuddon ladies, none of whom ever married, also took an active interest in village affairs. They appear in White's Directory of 1912, and when Ada died in 1940, the following notice appeared in the Suffolk Gazette:

'Miss Cuddon's family have been highly respected in the village for over a hundred years, The deceased lady, together with another, suggested some years ago that Nayland should have a district nurse, and the suggestion soon took practical form. Since the formation of the Nursing Association, she has served on its committee, and other interests in the village also had her practical sympathy and support.'

Two present day 'Cuddons' remember visiting their great aunts in the 1930s. Paul Morris, b.1927 (Thomas' grandson) recalls: 'My brother John and I visited Loretto three or four times between 1931 and 1936, playing happily with an ancient wheeled bath chair; more interesting than a lot of quaint old great aunts, most of whom regarded small boys with active dislike! The boys soon picked up the vibes that their parents considered the aunts too genteel for the real world!

Pam Benz, b. 1922, (Raymund's granddaughter), has happier memories. Her mother Gladys would leave her at Loretto for a week at a time while visiting her Browne relations in Colchester. Pam was kindly received and had fun playing in the empty cottage and with the family spaniel. She pleaded to be allowed to take the dog

home, and was told she might - if she could carry him as far as the gate! Pam also remembers being shown a family treasure: a watercolour of Shaddingfield Hall, pasted inside a small bureau.

*"Such happy times I had with the Aunts - but how strict they were!"*

Bessie lived on until 1958, SAMUEL and SUSANNA'S first born and the last Cuddon to die in Nayland.

This terse entry in Fr. Montgomery Fulcher's log book speaks volumes:

'Jan. 4th 1958. Miss E. Cuddon died, R.I.P. aged 93. Till now Miss Cuddon has seen after Nayland, and paid most of the bills. Now we must take over'

As we celebrate the centenary of the Sacred Heart church, Nayland (1902-2002), it is fitting that a tribute be paid to our Cuddon benefactors, 20 of whom are on a list kept in this church. SAMUEL, as head of the family, is regarded as chief benefactor, but as we have seen, Bessie ('AB on Knee') had a major role to play.

We give heartfelt thanks for their tenacity, vision, generosity and untiring devotion;  
*Laus Tibi Domine.*

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<sup>1</sup> East Anglian Daily Times, July 21, 1938

'An Ancient Suffolk Family'.

<sup>2</sup> Eastern Daily Press, March 17, 1999

'Alter Cloth Comes Home'.

<sup>3</sup> National Burial Index.

<sup>4</sup> Statement by Miss Elizabeth Cuddon (1864-1958) recorded by Fr. Montgomery Fulcher, on February 7, 1950.

<sup>5</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Century Suffolk Breweries by C. W. Bristow.

<sup>6</sup> From the Cuddon family tree compiled by Rupert Cuddon Large.

<sup>7</sup> Dr Slade's History of Nayland.

<sup>8</sup> The Hadleigh Catholic Parish Registers.

<sup>9</sup> Press cutting in the Log book of the church of Sacred Heart, Nayland, started December 18, 1902.

<sup>10</sup> Councils Opinion. Signed A. Cyrprian Bowen Webb, Lincoln's Inn, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1909.

<sup>11</sup> Statement given by Miss Bertha Cuddon, (1871-1967), to a Commissioner of Oaths, 25 May, 1936.

<sup>12</sup> Taverns and Pubs of Colchester, by Jess A. Jephcott, Published 1995, p29.

<sup>13</sup> Paul Morris, son of Muriel, neé Cuddon, letter to the author, Feb. 2003.

<sup>14</sup> Fenn, Wright & Co. auction particulars.

<sup>15</sup> Elizabeth Southon and Simone Lintolt, granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Thomas Cuddon.

<sup>16</sup> Sacred Heart Registers.

<sup>17</sup> Paul Morris, grandson of Thomas Cuddon, letter to the author, Feb 2003.

<sup>18</sup> Pam Benz, granddaughter of Raymund Cuddon, letter to the author.

<sup>19</sup> 'Is it Wiston or Wissington' by Rosemary Knox, Published 2001.

## THE CUDDONS, OF DUNWICH

On June 15th, 1938, there passed over, at the age of 75, Bernard Cuddon, formerly of Mulbarton Court, Chiselhurst, and late of London, who traced his descent direct from Constantine Codon, living at Dunwich in 1239, a member of one of the most ancient of Suffolk families, which supplied many bailiffs to the borough from 1302 to 1484, as well as Members of Parliament at intervals from 1307 to 1451. I have a note that the expenses of Peter Codon at an eight-weeks' Parliament, the fifth of Hen. IV., amounted to the modest sum of 26s 8d., which was paid by the borough.

The Cuddons were probably prosperous Dunwich merchants, as in 1327 Edmund Codonn was the big man there, and in 1408 Robert Codon was the largest taxpayer, with Peter not far behind. The latter in those days held the Manor of Westleton Cliffs. Both are often mentioned in Dunwich records, and, according to Weever, Peter was buried in the church of the Friars Minors, which stood by the ruins we see to-day, while as late as 1521 Nicholas Cuddon left the Friars, his "Fytell at the Dame," for them



Sir Thos. Cuddon, Kt., of Shaddingfield Hall (1648-1702).

to sing a dirge for him for ever. The Dutch records show that Robert Codon, of Dunwich, was trading with them in 1402, and no doubt the greater part of the family business was carried on in the Dunwich topships with Flanders and Holland, just over the water.

In 1430 their fortunes took an upward turn

by the marriage of Robert Cuddon, of Dunwich, to Elizabeth, only child and heiress of John Francis, of Shaddingfield Hall, another old Suffolk family established there from 1311. Thus the Dunwich merchant became a landed Esquire, and in due course earned the right to bear arms; argent, a chevron gules, on a chief azure, 3 bezants or, shown in Palmer's Perustrations of Great Yarmouth, vol. 3, p. 198. Their pedigree is registered at the College of Arms, and a copy appears at p. 294 of vol. 2 of Suckling's "Suffolk." Copinger's "Manors of Suffolk," vol. 7, p. 210, gives some account of the family and their moated hall at Shaddingfield, erected 1540 and pulled down 1814. This interesting old house is described and illustrated in vol. 1 of Suckling, and Mr. Cuddon gave me another view of it, shown here, which was referred to in the E.A. Miscellany (No. 8,884) not long back. There are brasses to Cuddons in Shaddingfield Church.

The most distinguished Cuddon seems to have been Sir Thomas, Kt., who was Chamberlain of the City of London, Receiver-General of Taxes for London and Middlesex, and Master of the Leathersellers Company. He was knighted 1697, and died 1702. His first wife was Ann, daughter of Isaac Jurin, of the City of London, and the late Mr. Cuddon gave me copies of their portraits. Sir Thomas's son, Ebenezer, sold the Shaddingfield estate, after which their country quarters appear to have been at Mulbarton, Norfolk, an association kept alive by Mulbarton Court, Chiselhurst, where Mr. Cuddon was living during his correspondences with me.

The well-known Shaddingfield Lodge on the Drive at Yarmouth was built by James Cuddon, of the same family, and in 1872 he offered the use of it to the Prince of Wales during his visit to that town to inspect his Norfolk Artillery Militia, an occupation which was repeated in later years when Mr. Nightingale was the owner, Shaddingfield Lodge is also depicted in Palmer.

Mr. Cuddon was the son of Francis Thomas Cuddon, of the Middle Temple, whose father was James Cuddon, a Norwich solicitor. When in his latter years he became interested in the connection of his people with Dunwich, I was happy to be able to tell him about them and to supply him with impressions of the corporate seals, etc. He became a subscriber to the Dunwich life-boat branch, and planned to attend one of the annual pilgrimages there, but was prevented.

As a Catholic Mr. Cuddon was interested in several of their charities, and was made a Knight Commander of the Order of Pius IX., and a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. He leaves one son, Mr. Eric Cuddon of the Inner Temple, who is prospective Government candidate for Deptford.

So here we have some account of another of the once enterprising old Dunwich merchant houses, driven away by the encroachments of the sea, and the decay of the town, but prospering in their new homes and founding families of repute and standing. It is interesting to see how, centuries later, a descendant is pleased to regain touch with the queer old home of his ancestors on the

SUFFOLK COAST.



SHADDINGFIELD HALL, SUFFOLK.

### SHADDINGFIELD HALL, SUFFOLK.

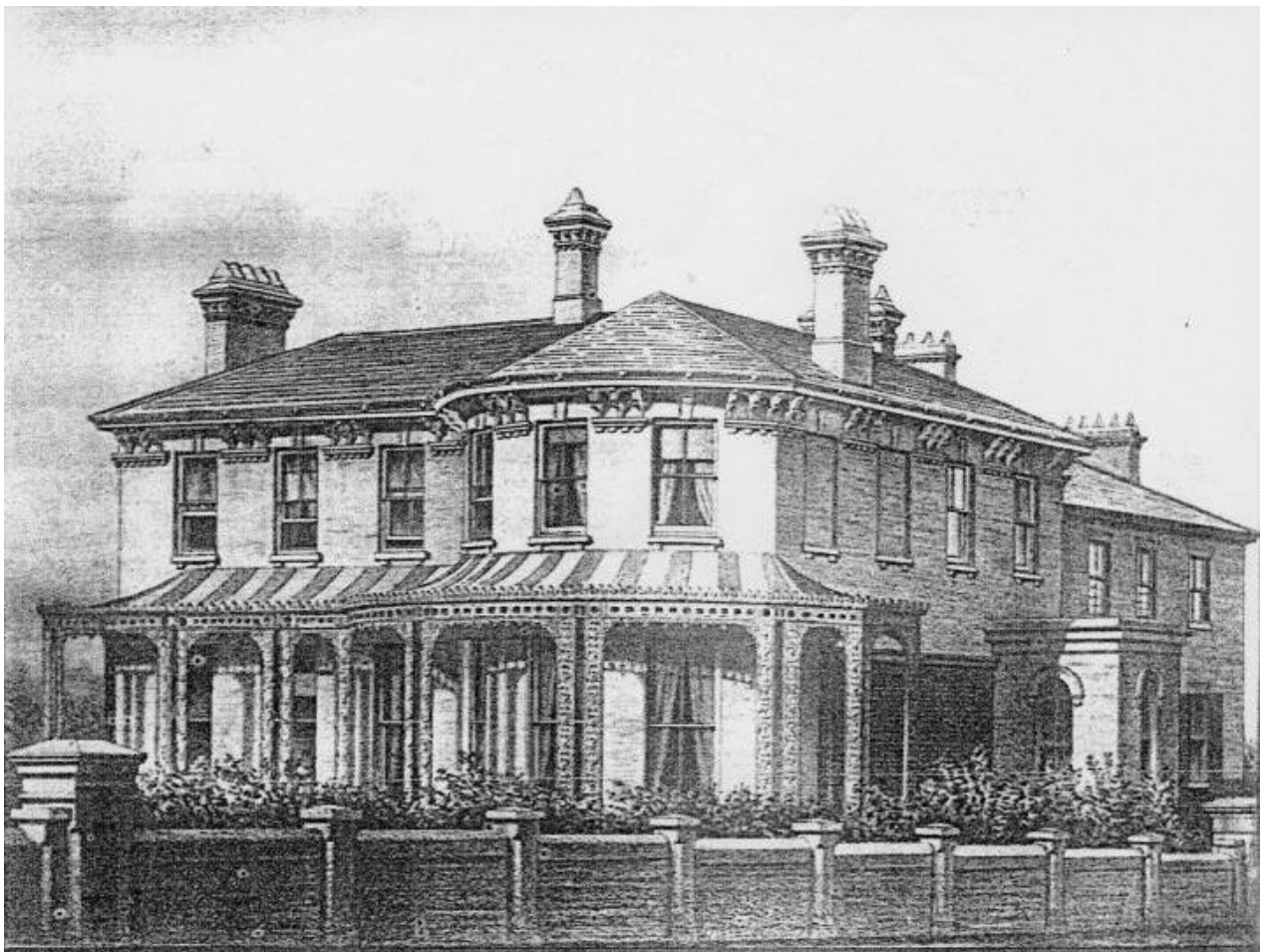
IT is always a matter of regret when a specimen of ancient architecture is destroyed, especially when there is anything unique or uncommon in style or design, as in the case of Shaddingfield Hall, the subject of our illustrations, which was demolished at the beginning of this century. Fortunately, before its demolition several sketches were taken of

this interesting old manor house, the ancient seat of the Cuddons, one of the oldest county families in Suffolk.

The old hall, built (on the site of a still older dwelling about the beginning of the 16th century, was a fine specimen of an English mansion of former days, and had several points worthy of note. The gables, like some other old houses in East Anglia, were castellated, which seems to betoken Dutch influence, the finials being very curious, as well as the rounded columns ending in pointed ornaments, flanking the gables. The windows had pointed lintels, which were possibly meant to repeat the design of the pointed gable. The general effect is varied without being diverse, and harmonious without being monotonous. The twisted chimneys of good design, the different elevations of the roof, the unequal height of the gables, the narrow gable over the front door, the distribution of the windows, give a pleasing variety, while the style of the whole building is in perfect agreement. The porch is bold and simple, surmounted with an escutcheon, bearing the Cuddon arms, viz., arg. a chevron gu. on a chief az., three bezants, above which is a sun dial. A wall for purposes of defence ran round the house inside a moat, pierced with squints for the discharge of arrows. A part of the wall still remains, with one of these squints, examples of which are said to be very rare.

The old hall must have exhibited a most picturesque appearance, framed in by fine old trees, and surrounded by the moat in the midst of a well-wooded park. The accompanying drawings are taken from photographs and water-colour sketches in the possession of the Rev. J. E. Reid-Cuddon, of Ashon.

H. Q.



SHADDINGFIELD LODGE, GREAT YARMOUTH.

The Marine Villa

of

James Cuddon Esq., of Somerton Hall, Norfolk,

where H.R.H. the Prince of Wales

honoured him with a visit

June 1872.

Information obtained on 7/4/1950 by me Montgomery Fulcher from Miss Elizabeth Cuddon aged 85.

her father went to school in Gifford's Hall. The school was run by Mr. (i.e. Father) North.

Her grandfather James Cuddon lived at the farm on the opposite side of Withermere Green (west side) and used to go to Mass in a room over the stables at Gifford's Hall. He was born 1794 and died 1860. His mother was the first one to be buried in our churchyard. He married twice. His first wife Elizabeth Smith he married in the Catholic Church at Bungay. Then they went to the Protestant Church there for the Protestant ceremony in order to make the marriage legitimate according to the laws then in force. His second wife Thame Mayston he married either at Bury or Coldham Cottage.

Statement by Elizabeth Cuddon (1864-1958), recorded by Fr. Montgomery Fulcher, February 7, 1950.

The Church of St. Peter - Brampton.

6. TALBOT. (The chevron voided and charged with a roundel).  
Crest : TALBOT (As in 5).

John Talbot, late of Brampton, who died 14th September 1768 aged 70.

7. LEMAN, impaling : covered, but assumed to be **CUDDON** (as 8). Crest : LEMAN

Ellenor, wife of Thomas Lemman, late of this parish, and daughter of Robert Cudden of Shadingfield Suffolk who died 23rd March 1725 aged 47. Also Robert Lemman son of Thomas and Ellenor Lemman, who died 22nd April 1788 aged 84.

8. LEMAN, impaling : ARG. a chevron GU. on a chief AZ. three bezants.  
**CUDDON** of Shadingfield, Suffolk. Crest : LEMAN.

THOMAS Lemman gent, patron of this parish who died 12th October 1717 in his 51st year. He married Ellenor, daughter of Robert Cudden of Shadingfield, by whom he had issue Robert and Sarah.

9. In a losenge - LEMAN. Partly covered.

Mary, daughter of Robert Lemman and Mary his wife, late of this parish, who died 7th February 1807 aged 82.

10. LEMAN, impaling : AZ. a fess nebuly between three crescents ERM. WELD.  
Crest : LEMAN.

John Lemman gent. died 8th December 1670, and Ann his wife, daughter of Thomas Weld, who died 7th December 1670, both in the 37th year of their age.

11. In losenge - ARG. a chevron GU. between three cross crosslets SA.  
SMYTH of Marlesford, Suffolk impaling : LEMAN.

Margaret, the relict of Thomas Smyth gent. of Marlesford, Suffolk, and daughter of Thomas Lemman gent. of Wetheringset, Suffolk. She died 27th October 1670.

Heraldry in Suffolk Churches.

Press cutting in the church of Sacred Heart, Nayland log book, Started December 18, 1902.

**Opening of a New Church.**—The new Church of the Sacred Heart which has recently been erected at Nayland was opened for public worship on the 18th ult. The opening service was performed by the Rev. G. H. Miles, the priest of the mission, assisted by the following clergy : Very Rev. Canon Rogers (Ipswich), Revs. John Freeland (Ely), Augustus Peacock (Sudbury), E. O'Hagan (Stowmarket), and Father Bede, O.S.B. (East Bergholt). The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Freeland. Missa Cantata was celebrated by the Rev. Father Miles, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Peacock and O'Hagan. In the evening there were devotions to the Sacred Heart, sermon, and solemn Benediction. The services were well attended, many non-Catholics being present. The church, which has been built by the generosity of Mr. Samuel Thomas Cuddon and family, of Nayland, assisted by many kind and generous friends, is 42 feet long and 22 feet wide, and is divided into four bays, having at the south side a sacristy 12 feet by 11 feet 6 inches, and at the entrance a porch 11 feet by 6 feet 6 inches. The building is of the best Suffolk red bricks, pointed with black mortar, the windows, doors, and dressings being of Monks Park and Fairleigh Down stone. The roof is an open timbered one of pine stained, and consists of three bold principals springing from stone corbels, the other timbers being left to show. It is covered with Portmadoc slates. The style of architecture is the decorated Gothic. The building is lighted on each side by cusped and traceried windows, and there is also a quatrefoil window in the west gable. The gable ends of sacristy and porch, and the east and west gables of the church, are carried up and finished with stone coping and apex stones. A stone Latin cross surmounts the north and south apexes of the roof. The flooring is of pitch pine wood blocks, laid in herring bone fashion. The floor of the porch is laid with 4-inch Wooliscroft red tiles. All the windows are glazed with cathedral tinted glass. The high altar is raised on steps from the floor level, and is made of polished Sicilian marble resting upon four carved capital columns and moulded bases. It is open at the base and is decorated with a marble figure of the Sacred Heart, crowned with a cross, the emblem of man's salvation. On each side are the Greek letters Alpha and Omega—"I am the beginning and the end." On the south side of the altar is a small orcedence table of Sicilian marble, supported by one carved capital column and base, corresponding with those supporting the altar. The benches are of pitch pine. The work, from his own designs, has been ably carried out by Mr. Geo. Stephenson, of the firm of Messrs. Downe and Stephenson, of Hadleigh, and gives more than satisfaction to Father Miles and Mr.

*Catholics of Nayland June 1899.*

Samuel Thomas Cuddon 69	Nayland Colchester
Elizabeth	35
Indy	34
Bertha	28
Sarah J.	26
Ada C.	25
Emily M.	24
Gertrude	22
Thomas Cuddon 32	Hillside Nayland
Ada 9	33
Maryilda	5
Gertrude Constance	3
Venerable Music	11 male
Raymond Cuddon 99	The Gravel Nayland
Hale Adelaide	30
May Adelaide	3
Flora Catherine	2
Ed Samuel	1
Sarah Webby 72	Little Horsham Colchester
Martha Hullock 53	
Alfred	18
Lily	16
Emily	14
Heather	12
Stephens Moss 75	Great Horsham
William Wilson (master) 75	Nayland
George	plumber & glazier
Mary	watch maker & publican
ages between 50 & 60, all married	
Baroline Wylth about 60	Nayland
(widow)	

List of Catholics in Nayland Sent to the Bishop in 1899.

Mayland  
Colchester

June 16<sup>th</sup> 1899

The Right Rev<sup>d</sup>  
Lord Bishop of Northampton  
My Lord,

For some years it has been the earnest wish of the Catholics of Mayland to have a Church in their parish. We number 24 practical Catholics & there are several born & baptised

Catholics who do not practise their religion chiefly owing to the long distance from Church. Lately a London firm have bought a factory in the village & doubtless have brought Catholic workmen. There has also been purchased 93 acres of land in the parish for the building of a large sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives possibly there will be

Catholic patients.

Feeling sure my Lord that when you knew the circumstances you would sanction and bless this undertaking I started a fund some time ago. Do you not consider the priest at Stoke could do duty also here so the Church would not be a burden to the diocese? —

On Sunday I shall drive two children to

Sudbury for Confirmation and shall be glad my Lord if you will give me a few minutes private audience, when I will give you further particulars.

Trusting you will grant this petition.

I am,

My Lord,

Your obedient child in J.C.  
Elizabeth Cuddon.

Mayland  
Colchester

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1899

The Right Rev<sup>d</sup>  
Lord Bishop of Northampton  
My Lord!

All your little flock at Mayland thank you most heartily for giving your consent for a little Church. — We have waited so long for one now we must really try to have it before the winter.

My Lord, I am sending you the list of Catholics as you requested, and what do you wish me to do next?

Hoping you will remember us in your prayers.

I am,

My Lord,

Your obedient child in J.C.  
Elizabeth Cuddon.

Letters to the Bishop of Northampton from Elizabeth Cuddon, June, 1899.

Seat Rents 1841-1885

The bearer hereof is  
duly authorised to col-  
lect the seat rents for  
the Catholic Chapel at  
Stoke.

J. C. North.

John J. Blendale  
6 Sept. 1850.

Seat-rents

	Received	£	S.	d.
August. Mr. Minster	1	..	..	..
Mr. J. Hooy	2	..	..	..
Mr. Hooy	1	..	..	..
Nov. Mr. Power	..	11	..	..
Mr. Hooy	1	10	..	..
Mr. Thum	3	..	..	..
Miss Hooy	1	..	..	..
Mr. Wm. William	3	..	..	..
Mr. Cuddon	1	..	..	..
Mr. Baxter	C.	..	..	..
etc.				

By direction of the Trustees of the Will of Thomas Cuddon, deceased.

## NAYLAND

Particulars and Conditions of Sale

OF

### Freehold Properties

COMPREHENDING

- Lot 1 "Fieldside," Newlands Lane.
- Lot 2 "The Gables," Church Lane.  
With Vacant Possession.
- Lot 3 Field, O.S. No. 274, Newlands Lane.
- Lots 4 to 14 Eleven Fannages on the Common  
Meadows of Nayland.

WITH

*Fenn, Wright & Co.*

Will Offer for SALE by AUCTION

At the Board Room, Corn Exchange, Colchester  
On Saturday, May 11th, 1935  
at 4 p.m. precisely

Vendors' Solicitors: MESSRS. ELWES, TURNER AND SMITH, 3, High Street, Colchester.  
Auctioneers' Offices: 14b, High Street, Colchester.

Copy of letter written to  
my sister.  
Nayland,  
Colchester.

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1906.

My dear Bessie,

So welcome our  
conversation of this morning.  
I maintain that Father Miles  
has been extremely rude to  
Mary & myself which we  
justly resent.

As this is our home equally  
as it is yours, Pally's, Ada's  
Daisy's, and Gertrude's, I consider

we have every right to  
object to any person's presence here.  
We ask, therefore, that F. Miles  
no longer comes to this house  
as before.

In case you forget I will  
remind you that F. Miles  
ordered Mary out of Church  
for yawning. He offered her  
an apology of a sort afterwards.  
He has also told her  
in her own home that she  
was not worth speaking to.

Ada called me (at F. Miles' request)  
out of dear Father's sick room  
& he told me 'I was the cause  
of my Father's illness' - this  
remark he has denied making  
but he did say so.

You have said that he is  
not a gentleman but I maintain  
it is not our duty to teach  
him manners. His snuff-taking  
at table is sometimes sickening.  
I maintain also that his  
manners & conversation  
have been a source of great

annoyance to Mary.  
Some people here overlooked  
the fact that Mary, also,  
has lost her Father & that  
she deserves consideration  
& respect as well as others.

Mary & I have resented  
the way Father Miles has spoken  
of & treated those belonging  
to us and to you.

He never called nor went to  
see our brother's child after  
her serious accident

Nayland,  
Colchester.

His paltry excuse was  
'he was not asked'.  
He used to walk in & out  
of Raymond's house when  
he liked -

Father Miles has said in our  
dining room that dear Father  
never gave him a penny.

That is not the truth.  
He has also said that the  
Church in Nayland has

been made over to the diocese  
she has or had the papers.  
That also is not the truth.

Now I ask you to put yourself  
in our place - How would  
you feel towards a man  
who had treated you thus.

Do not forget the incident in  
the dining room when F. Miles  
put his thumb to his nose  
at Mary - Not a word  
of apology has been offered  
for such a gross insult.

I also ask you to try & realize  
that there are two sides to  
every question.

that you do not hear all,  
partly because you are  
deaf & partly because people  
know in what a firm place  
you place a point.

that a priest can do wrong.  
that unity & happiness in a family  
is most essential to the  
well-being both spiritually  
& temporally of that family.

that when possible the discordant  
element should be  
removed from that family.

Finally I ask you to remember  
that neither Mary nor myself  
wish Father Miles any ill whatsoever  
quite the contrary -

All we ask is - that he no  
longer makes this house his  
home when he comes to Nayland.  
You asked me to mention his good  
qualities - No doubt he has many  
but how he behaves in our house  
is all that need concern us -

his private life is not our business.  
Hoping you will put the matter  
clearly to his Lordship the Bishop.

I am  
Your affectionate sister  
Bertha

Letter of complaint from  
Bertha to her sister Bessie.



I, BERTHA CUDDON of 21 Fleetwood Road Felixtowe in the County of Suffolk Spinster DO solemnly and sincerely declare as follows :-

1. I am and have been since the death hereafter mentioned of my sister Mary Cuddon of Nayland in the County of Suffolk Spinster the owner of freshold land situate in New and Lane Nayland aforesaid and which is more particularly delineated in the plan annexed hereto and thereon coloured pink.
2. The said land was (with other land) devised to my said sister Mary Cuddon in fee simple by the Will dated the Seventh day of May One thousand nine hundred ~~1908~~ and three of my father Samuel Thomas Cuddon of Nayland aforesaid Brewer who died on the Fifth day of September One thousand nine hundred and five and Probate of J. 1905 whose said Will was on the Tenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and six granted out of the District Probate Registry at Bury St. Edmunds to Thomas Cuddon and Raymond Cuddon the Executors therein named.
3. My said sister Mary Cuddon died on the Eighteenth day of September One thousand 1907 nine hundred and seven seised of the said land in fee simple free from incumbrances having by her Will dated the Seventeenth day of September One thousand nine hundred and seven and proved in the Bury St. Edmunds District Probate Registry on the Third day of December One thousand nine hundred and seven by Thomas Cuddon Raymond Cuddon and myself the Executors therein named devised the said land to me this declarant absolutely.
4. The said land so devised to me as aforesaid and stated to be in the occupation of Walter Webb is the land at Nayland aforesaid which I intend to convey by way of gift to the Diocesan Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church Northampton And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

DECLARED at Felixtowe in the County of Suffolk  
 this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May  
 1936.

*B. Cuddon*

Before me

*J. Thompson*

A Commissioner for Oaths.

Nayland Church.

The land upon which this church is built was undoubtedly the property of Miss Mary Cuddon - it was formerly part of a meadow the whole of which was bequeathed to Mary Cuddon by her father, Samuel Thomas Cuddon.

The cost of building the church was borne by:

Elizabeth Cuddon	£ 200
James Cuddon	20
Philip Cuddon	10
Samuel Thomas Cuddon	
- the balance -	

The contract for building was £ 400.

The land upon which the Church was built is valued at £ 5 -

The value of the church as a building is £ 150. -

## NAYLAND

**FUNERAL OF MISS CUDDON.**—The death occurred at her residence "Lorretto," on April 2 of Miss Ada Florence Cuddon, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Cuddon. Miss Cuddon's family have been highly respected in the village for over a hundred years. The deceased lady, together with another suggested some years ago that Nayland should have a district nurse, and this suggestion soon after took practical form. Hence the formation of the Nursing Association she has served on its committee and other interests in the village also had her practical sympathy and support. The funeral took place on Saturday morning, April 6, Requiem Mass being said in the Catholic Church by the Rev. Father Geraghty, the interment taking place in the Catholic Burial ground at Stoke-by-Nayland. The immediate mourners were the Misses E. S. E. H. Cuddon (sisters), Mr. J. S. Cuddon (nephew), Miss M. E. Cuddon (niece), Mrs. Norris (niece), Mr. and Mrs. Cuddon Smith (nephew and niece), Mr. and Mrs. Sandle (cousins), Miss Angela Cuddon (cousin) and Mrs. Oliveri (niece). The large congregation included: Mrs. Donnelly, Miss Westlake, Mr. Froggatt, Mrs. Sykes, Miss Blowers (representing Miss Algar), Mrs. and Corporal Davis, Mrs. Macbeth, Mrs. and Miss Halsey, Mrs. A. Richards, the Misses Peebles, Mr. Nevard, Mr. Mills (representing Nursing Association), the Misses Scowen, Miss Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. King, Miss Goodall, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Padgett, Mr. H. Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. Barfoot, Miss Firman, Mrs. Hargreaves, Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher and many others. Floral wreaths and crosses were numerous, including those from the four sisters; Mr. Harry and Misses Sandle; Miss Algar; Mr. and Mrs. Froggatt; Lt. and Col. and Mrs. Sykes; Mrs. Donnelly and Miss Westlake; Mrs. Syrett; Miss Rundle and Miss Fenn; Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher; Mr. and Mrs. Barfoot; Mrs. and Miss Halsey; Miss and Messrs. S. W. Deaves and Sons; Mrs. Roberts and family; Mrs. Webb and family; Doris; Miss Elizabeth Kurster; Mr. H. Spooner; and others.

**VESTRY.**—The Easter Vestry meetings were held in the Mission Room, the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Cliff, presiding. The Vicar re-appointed Lt.-Col. Rundall as his warden and Mr. W. Deaves was unanimously re-elected people's warden. Mrs. Sykes and Mrs. Gray were re-elected as representatives to Ruridecanal meetings. Brigadier-General Caulfield was elected a member of the Parochial Council. The Vicar thanked all the church workers for their services and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the vicar.