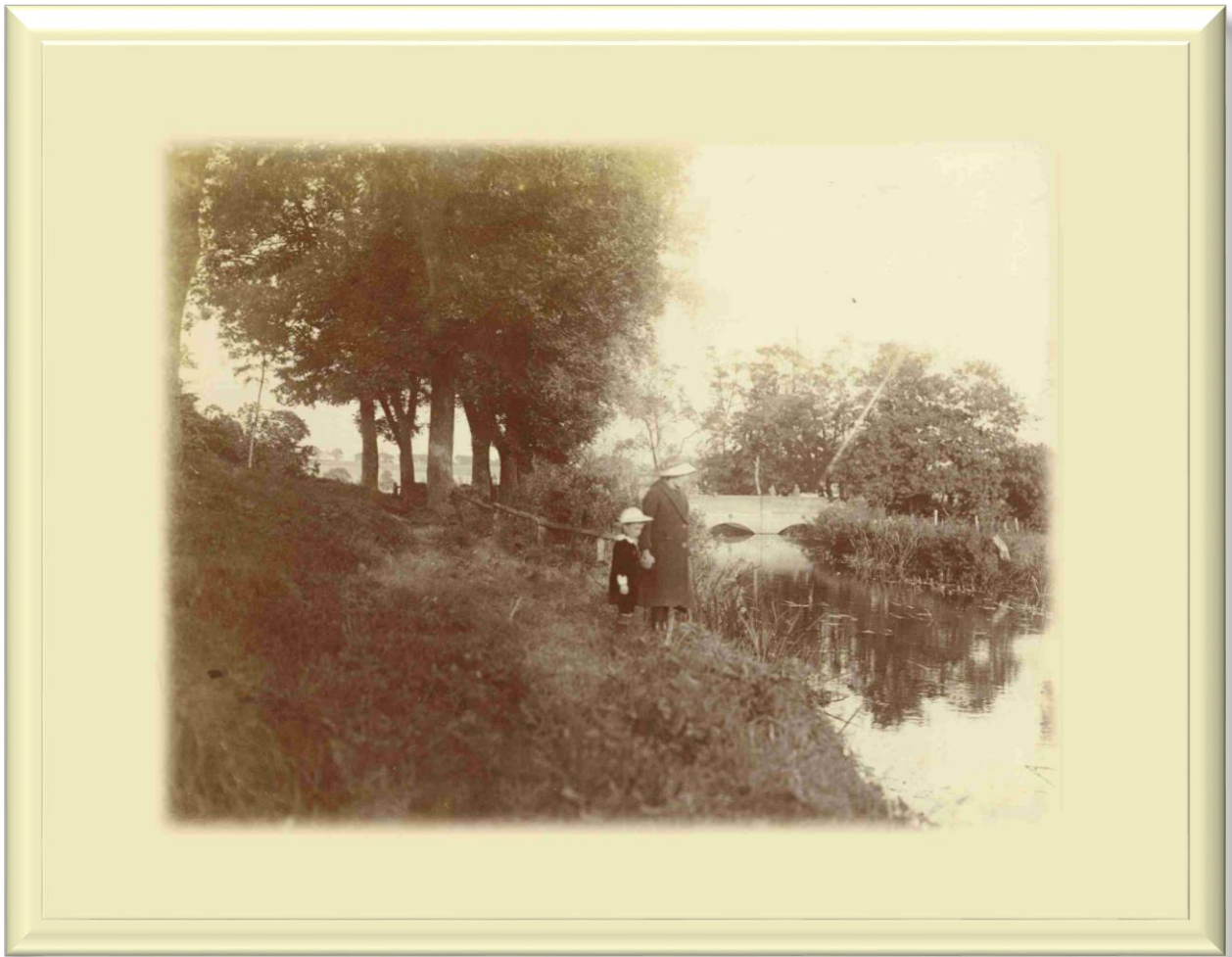


# A Short History of Markshall



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This short history can best be divided into three; The Deserted village, Markshall Farm and the cottages along Markshall Farm Lane.

## The Deserted Village

**Cropmarks** on aerial photographs north of Markshall Farm show field boundaries and a possible enclosed Roman farmstead or settlement and a Bronze Age barrow cemetery including a 26m ring ditch of Bronze Age origin to the west of the River Tas. Roman coins, tweezers and a steel yard were found by metal detectorists early this century. Towards the line of the Southern bypass excavations revealed Neolithic pits, a possible Saxon grave and medieval and post-medieval ditches. Some of these crop marks could be the evidence for the deserted village.



South-west of Markshall Farm crop marks reveal possible ditches, boundaries and track ways of Iron-Age to Roman date and a very small ring ditch (Bronze Age barrow or later prehistoric or Roman roundhouse.) It is clearly an area of occupation over several centuries.

**The Domesday Book.** The earliest written references include the Domesday entry which names the manor as "Markeshalla":-

*HENSTEAD H(UNDRED). In Caistor (St. Edmund) (there are) 5½ free men of Godwine's at 42½ acres of land. And (there are) 2 acres of meadow. (There has) always (been) half a plough. And it belongs to Markshall. In Caistor St Edmund there is also 1 curacate. In demesne (there is) half a mill and it is in the value of Markshall.*

An archaeological dig of 1949 found a structure, dated to 1500, of a yeoman's small holding but no other medieval finds or features have come to life. Chapel Hill is thought to be the site of Markshall Church, desecrated in 1695. In 1525 William Paston presents William Woodward as priest to a free chapel there. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Henry V111's reign it was demolished and the glebe seized. In Ogilby's

road book of 1675 it was "a roofless, towering building on Chapel Hill" referred to as Merkshall. When desecrated in 1695 the living was consolidated with Caistor St. Edmund. A visit by Tom Martin in 1737 to the ruined church noted it had no steeple, no roof, a nave 8 yards by 8 yards, a chancel 5 yards wide and 10 yards long, with the nearest house, a farm, a quarter of a mile south. By 1806 Blomefield in his "History of the city and county of Norwich" records it was known as Merkshall Church dedicated to St. Edmund with some ruins still visible.

Finds made on Chapel Hill when the railway was being built in 1845 included Roman coins and two years later a stone cyst/coffin, Roman pottery and seven skeletons. Other finds over the years are an opaline vitreous paste bead and in 1857 a mid-Saxon gold coin. In 1929 grey pottery sherds were dated to the Iron Age by C.F.C. Hawkes.

By 1881-2 when the first O/S (Ordnance Survey) was carried out, the east wall of the ruined church stood 3ft high and 8ft long. The south wall was 7ft 6" long and 1ft 6" thick but the north wall was rubble only. There was a hexagonal bay on the east wall, the south-east face of which was 4ft long. The exact location of streets, houses or other buildings of the deserted village have never been identified and only the romance and mystery survive.

## The Manor of Markshall

In 1568 Thomas Pettus (1519 - 1598), merchant, sheriff and mayor of Norwich, bought the manor of Caistor Netherhall and Markshall from the Godsalue Family who had been granted the manor of Caistor in 1553 by Queen Mary. Caistor Overhall is recorded in 1606 as having been purchased by Thomas. This cannot be correct as he died in 1598, so probably his son John was the purchaser. It was John who built Caistor Old Hall in 1612. His son and grandson, Sir Thomas (1605-1654), inherited the estates which included the manor of Caistor Marketshall alias Markshall and the manor of Caistor St. Edmund, but in 1633, he leased the manor of Caistor, the manor of Caistor Netherhall (Marketshall) and the manor of Hardwick to John Pendleton of Norwich for 5 shillings.

He also bought "lands, tenements, meadows and pastures in Caistor St. Edmund, Stoke, Holycrosse and Amringhall from Edmund Gostlings for £480. He purchased further lands and tenements in Caistor St. Edmund, Stoake Holy Cross, Friston and Marketshall in 1643.

Some Caistor lands were still owned by the family as John Pettus (1640 - 1698), Thomas' fourth son who inherited the baronetcy after his elder brothers died without having any male heirs, sold off Caistor lands in his will for his own younger children's legacies. These lands do not refer specifically to Markshall and no further reference is given to Markshall in the Pettus papers. However, not all the Caistor lands could have been sold as stated in John's will because his daughter Mary, who never married, left all her messuages and tenements in Caistor St. Edmund and Stoke Holy Cross when she died in 1742. (N.B. Spellings of place names are as per source material)

## Markshall Farm

The farm referred to in 1737 by Tom Martin a quarter mile south of the ruined church was probably Markshall Farm built, with barn, in 1716. In 1977 it was thought windows from the ruined church of Markshall had been reused in the farmhouse's east wall but E. Rose speculated their more likely use may have been in two summer houses in the wood to the west of the house. These summer houses were marked on the 1885 O/S map in the grounds of the farm but had disappeared by 1913.

The Farm was built in 1716 most probably for a member of the Pettus family and is shown on Faden's map of 1797. The land was presumably in the manor belonging to the Pettus family but it was in 1698 that the will of Sir John Pettus stated that the Caistor estate should be sold and no mention of who built the farm can be found.

A letter dated April, 1731, from Lady Elizabeth to her sister reveals her shock and depression over the sudden death of her husband, Sir Horatio Pettus (1673-1731.) She goes on to relate that her husband had recently built a dairy but we do not know where. Also a barn at Caistor that was falling down had been rebuilt with her initials "E.P. 1744." This barn was still standing in 1976, but collapsed in a windstorm some years later. It is an exciting assumption that the initials "1716 H.P.E." on the present day Hatchery Barn



adjacent to Markshall Farm, and until recently a chicken hatchery, should refer to Sir **H**oratio **P**ettus and his wife **E**lizabeth.

**The census returns list the following occupants of Markshall Farm:**

Census Years	Head of Household
1841	Cyrus Gillett
1851	Sarah Gillett (widow)
1861, 1871, 1881, 1901	Thomas Allen
1901	Thomas Allen
1911	Thomas Philip Allen (son of previous)

Further information about the inhabitants of Markshall Farm from:

**Kelly's Norfolk Directories**

Head of Household	Directory Year
Cyrus Gillett	1845
Thomas Allen	1854, 1864, 1872, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1902
Thomas P Allen	1908
Thomas Philip Allen, son of previous	1912
Herbert John Skinner (Who was shown as a farmer in Bungay in the 1912 Kelly's Norfolk Directory)	1916, 1922, 1925, 1929, 1933, 1937,

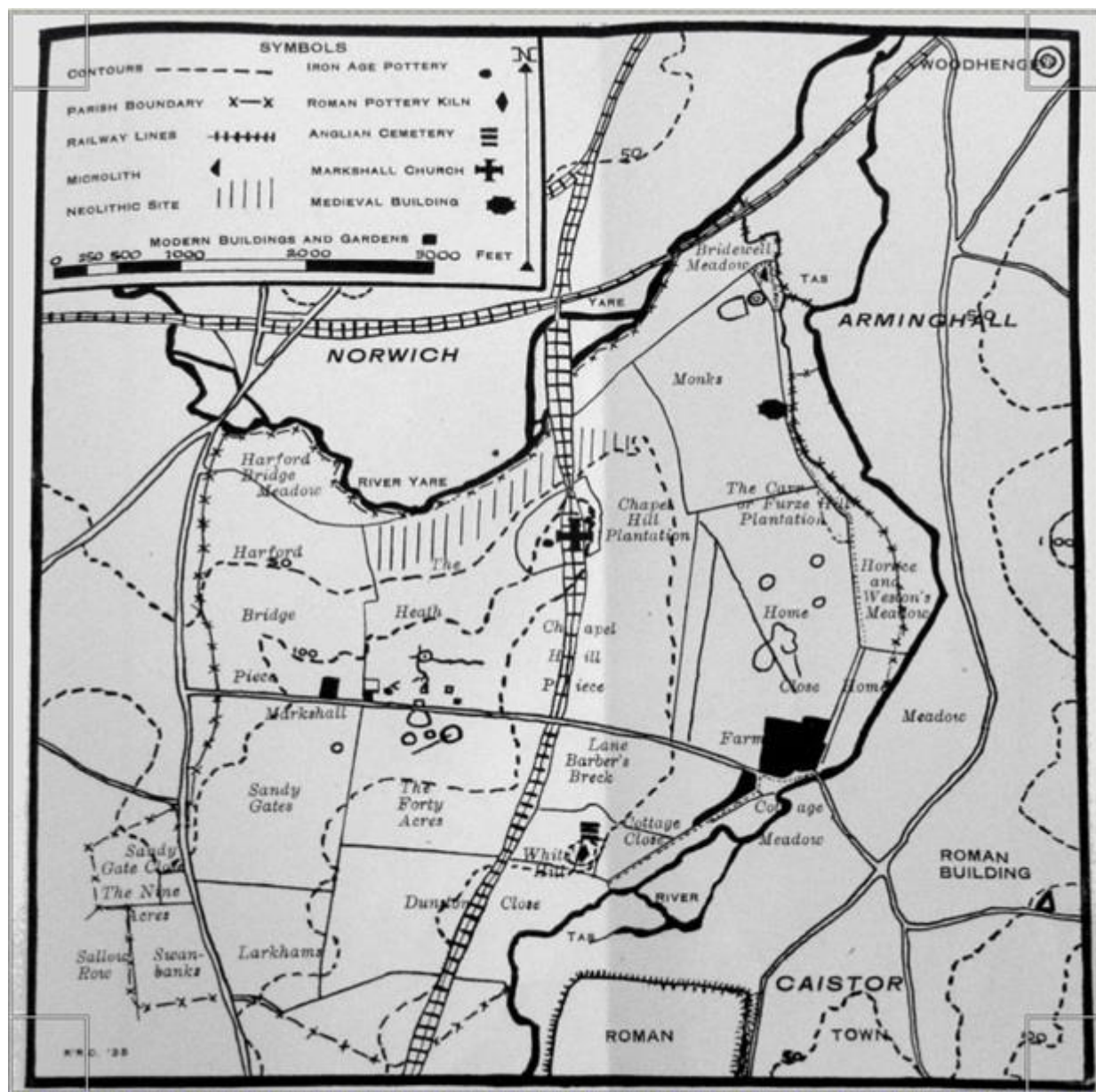
In 1948 the farm was bought by G. H. Daniels. The farm is still in the hands of the Daniels family.

**The population of Markshall from the Census:**

Census year	Population
1841	24
1851	18
1861	34
1871	32
1881	54
1891	47
1901	48
1911	52

**The number of Cottages in Markshall from the Census:**

Census year	No of Cottages
1841	3
1851	3
1861	3
1871	3
1881	6
1891	7
1901	8
1911	9



MAP OF MARKSHALL showing chief archaeological sites. Principle crop-markings inserted from air photographs 1928-1933, and field names from Tithe Award Map, 1839-1940.

The farm and nine brick-and-tile cottages on the Markshall Estate were auctioned in July 1941 by Francis Horner & Son, presumably to Harold Pointer, as another auction in September 1945 took place with his name as owner. The reserve price of £9000 was not reached. The 1945 auction had vacant possession as H.J. Skinner's tenancy expired in the October but whether this referred to the whole or part of the estate is not yet known. It was later sold by Edward Bush in April 1948 to Geoffrey Daniels who lived in Ipswich Road, Norwich, where the "Maid Marion Bar and Restaurant" now is. References to the family linger, as in Daniels roundabout on the A140 and the old Daniels Garden Centre close by, now called Notcutts. Geoffrey died in 1986 but his son, James, still lives in the farm and another son in one of the cottages.

(Two cottages on the Markshall estate in the auction were further along Markshall Farm Road out of Markshall towards the Harford roundabout so it is assumed there were 7 along by the river in 1941.) In 1999 an archaeological watching brief before the construction by May and Gurney of a reservoir near the farm failed to find anything of historical importance from five trial pits, 150m north-west of the River Tas. Outbuildings by the farm, including the Old Hatchery Barn, were sold off in 2012.

## Cottages along Markshall Farm Lane

Faden's map of 1797 shows Markshall Farm and its outbuildings but no cottages along a track leading south-west towards the site of the Roman town and no track across the river to the village of Caistor. However, Bryant's map of 1826 shows not only the farm but two squares (indicating buildings) along the same track and also a track from the village green area in Caistor towards the farm. No bridge is shown over the River Tas but there is one marked on a 1795 map of "the parish of Caistor with part of Stoke in the county of Norfolk" which is held in the Record Office. By the 1840 Tithe Map a row of three cottages are clearly marked with four strips of land behind them. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Kelly's Directory notes one house and 7 cottages in Markshall. By 1911 one house and 9 cottages and by 1912 it notes one house and 11 cottages.

The number of cottages does not change between the O/S maps of 1905 and 1937. By 1971 they are reduced in number to 3. The first three were converted into one. The clay-lump cottage, remembered by one resident between what are now number 2 and number 4, had disappeared by the 1980s, and two cottages had been converted into one (present day number 4).

The earliest occupants of the cottages appear to be the Tungate family as shown on the 1840 Tithe Map. They are also listed in the 1841 census returns for Markshall. 19<sup>th</sup> century census returns show the family names but do not indicate who lived in which cottage.

From the Tithe Map of 1840 it looks like Edward Tungate lived in what is now number 4 Markshall Cottages. The cottage was originally two semi-detached cottages and has now been made into one. Blocked up doorways are clearly visible. The current owners know that water originally came from a well, and the toilets were in the back garden. The present owner of number 4 recalls a farm worker called "Teddy" who worked for Mr. Daniels and lived all his working life in one of the cottages.

### Head of households for the cottages in the Census:

1841	Edward Tungate
	Daniel Church
	Samuel Johnson

1851	Edward Tungate
	George Cunningham
	Robert Hall

1861	William Hannant
	Robert Hall
	Edward Tungate

1871	Stephen Scott
	John Harden
	Thomas Fisher

1881	John Harden
	George Rose
	Stephen Scott
	Thomas Wallage
	Charles Rose

1891	Samuel Scott
	John Harden
	George Rose
	Harriett Scott
	Peter Scott

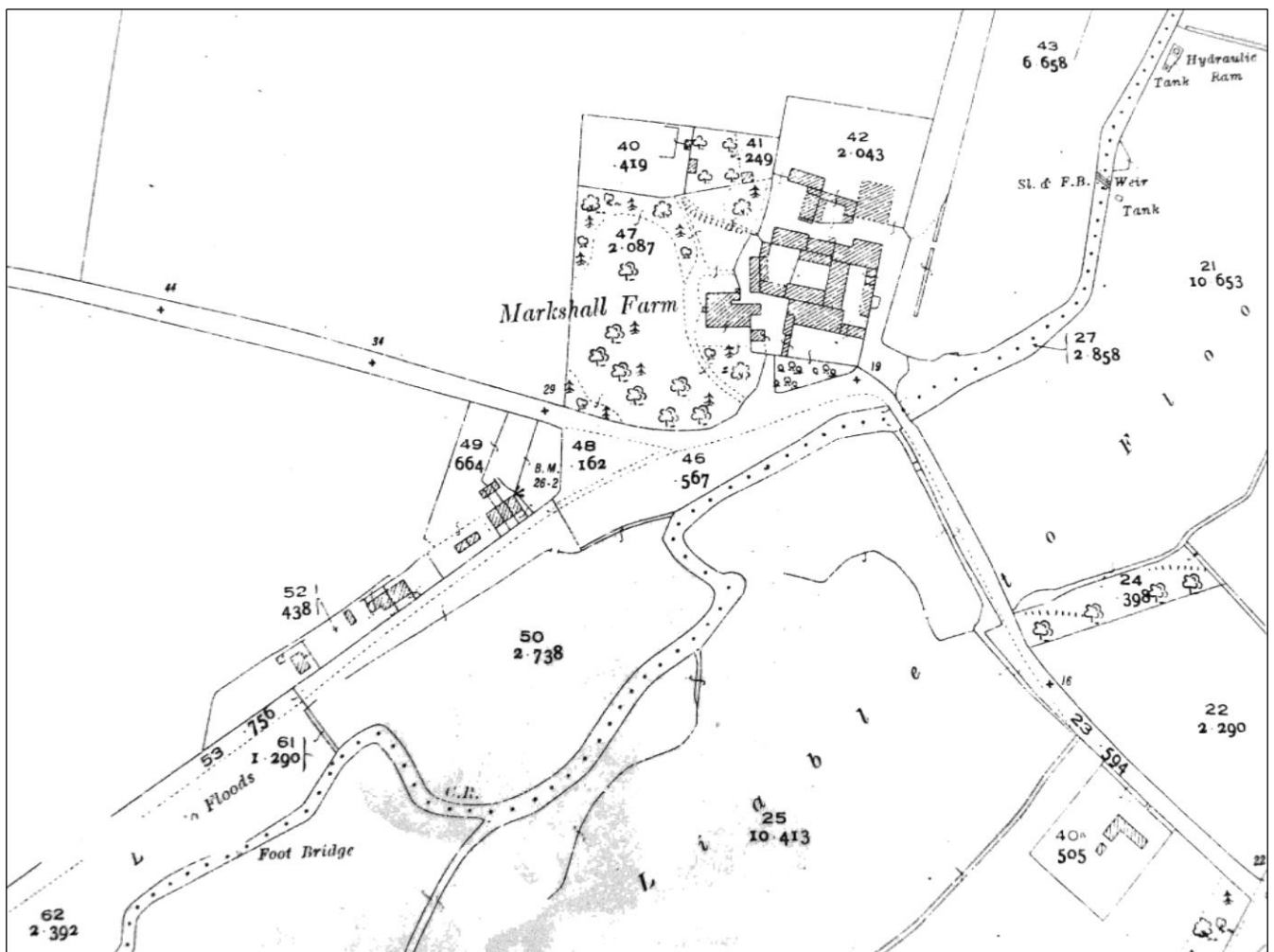
1901	Charles Rose
	George Rose
	Emma Wallage
	Harriett Scott
	William Matthews
	John Harden
	Samuel Scott
	Old Toll House - Albert Hurrell
Note	(Kelly's Directory notes 7 cottages in Markshall in 1901)

1911	David Dawson
	James Fiske
	John Harden
	George Rose
	Arthur Woodhouse
	Frederick Clark
	Thomas Wallage
	Charles Rose
	Marshall Allen (Kelly's Directory notes him as bailiff to Thomas Philip Allen of Markshall in 1912)
Note	(Kelly's Directory notes 11 cottages in Markshall in 1912)

Further down Markshall Farm Lane, beyond the cottages, metal detecting and field-walking between 2000-2013 recovered prehistoric worked flints, pottery sherds from Iron Age to post-medieval date, and other finds: Roman (coins, brooches, knife handle, harness fittings), Saxon (hanging bowl, brooch fragments), Medieval (coins, dress accessories, a furniture fitting, key) and Post-medieval (sword belt mount, hinged book clasp.) Aerial photographs also revealed a double-ditched enclosure with a central pit. This is an area adjacent to the remains of a Saxon cemetery and Roman kilns excavated in 1814-1831.

The memoirs of Eddie Holden, written in 2007, a resident in the 1920s and 1930s of the 'Black House' in Markshall Lane, (so called because it was painted with tar), reveal the existence of a footbridge across the river by an old oak tree beyond the last cottage. On the O/S map of 1905 a footbridge is marked and remains marked until 1937. It is remembered as a tree trunk with uprights and a hand rail. A solitary tree, which may be the oak tree, is shown in this position on the first O/S map surveyed in 1881 but no footbridge.

Further down the lane a Derby Peak runner stone was discovered by the river bank indicating Caistor may have had a water mill at some time.



1937 Ordnance Survey map which shows the footbridge (near bottom left corner of map).

[Local newspapers](#) are a rich source of information and here are some snippets of interest to the area of Markshall and its inhabitants:

Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1848

*"Wilful damage ---- William Self, 16, and Thomas Key, 15, both of Peafield, Norwich, were charged by Mr. Cyrus Gillett of Markshall, farmer, with having on the 3<sup>d</sup> inst. at Markshall maliciously committed damage and injury to a tree growing in a plantation in his occupation. They were each ordered to pay 7s. and discharged."*

Diss Express, Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1907

*"The Norfolk coroner, H.R. Culley, on Tuesday held an inquest at Markshall, relative to the death of Samuel Scott, aged 42, cowman in the employ of Thomas P. Allen, who was found drowned on Sunday morning. Cyril Eugene Scott said that the deceased had an illness 7 or 8 years ago, since when he had always been delicate, and subject to giddy fits. Witness thought it probable deceased fell into the water in one of these fits. James Fiske, milkman, said he saw deceased about 7.30am on Sunday morning. Just before 11 o'clock deceased's wife asked if he had seen him, as he had not been home to breakfast. Witness went to the sheep fold and found deceased in the river near the place from which he was in the habit of getting water for the sheep. Deceased's head and legs were buried in the mud. He must have been suffocated. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death."*

Diss Express, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1901

*"The funeral of Mr. Thomas Allen, a well-known agriculturalist and ram breeder of Markshall took place on Saturday. The funeral cortege left the residence of the deceased at Markshall shortly before 2pm and processed to the church at Caistor where the service was conducted by the rector, Rev. A.S. Moore. The congregation not only included the family, the servants, and the personal friends of Mr. Allen, but many who had had business relations with him, and most of his farm hands."*

Thomas Allen died June 1<sup>st</sup> 1901 at the age of 74. On the 1901 census, both Allens are named as farmers. The census would have been in April and Thomas died in the June.

In 1941 the Markshall Farm, estate and cottages were sold by auction and again in 1945. Three years later they were in the hands of the Daniels family.

From 1977 - 1989 students from UEA and the Art School were living in some of the cottages. In April 1989 Sanders Builders had possession but by August 1991 number 4 was sold to the Ormes as a private dwelling. Maddy Orme was one of the art students who had rented number 4. One of the Daniels children lives in another of the cottages.

Another reference to Markshall's history can be found on the end cottage, originally three smaller ones, where a stone is built into an old doorway. On this stone is inscribed:

J.R. Dashwood Esq.  
Landlord  
1815  
W. Mitchell  
Tenant



It is not known exactly where this stone came from. John Richard Dashwood married two of Sir Horatio Pettus' daughters, Elizabeth and then Charlotte. He moved to Caistor Hall around 1795-1797 when the Hall was built. A more precise date of it having being built has not been found yet.

In 1746 Elizabeth Pettus, wife of Sir Horatio (1673 - 1731) living in Old Caistor Hall died and in her will bequeathed £6000 to her youngest daughter, Anna-Maria Pettus (1711 - 1750) to purchase an estate for life. In 1740 she had married Jarrett Dashwood, a merchant in the city of Norwich. He died in 1741/2. They had two sons, John Richard the elder born in 1742 and Jarrett.

John Richard Dashwood married Elizabeth Pettus, granddaughter of the above Elizabeth Pettus, and his own cousin. They had one son, Richard, who died in 1824 in London, unmarried. After the death of Elizabeth, John Richard Dashwood married her sister, Charlotte Pettus, three years younger than her sister. By his second marriage (there is a discrepancy here as Pettus book based on J.R. Dashwood's will says they are children to his first wife, and Rye's book "Norfolk Families" says they are children to his second wife) to Charlotte he fathered two children, Horatio and Anna-Maria. Anna-Maria dies unmarried in 1850. These two sisters and wives of Dashwood were the sole beneficiaries of their father's will in 1772. He had gone to live in Cley when the family home at Rackheath had burnt down in 1746, one year after Elizabeth was born, and as he had no male heirs the baronetcy of the Pettus family died out. There was some family disagreement concerning the executors as R.J. Dashwood was one originally but this was revoked in October, 1771, while the father was still living, to prevent R.J. Dashwood from controlling Elizabeth's estate!

In Easter 1793 there is another dispute between the Dashwoods (J.R. Dashwood, his wife and son, Richard) and someone called Francis about Caistor lands and tenancy, which is settled in London in the Dashwood's favour. This was an important document as it is sealed, a copy of which is in the Record Office. It is about this time when Caistor Hall was built.

There is a building shown on the Faden's map of 1797 and also on Bryant's where it is called New Hall. John Richard Dashwood died in 1818, and his wife before him. This is the Dashwood referred to on the stone in the wall of one of the present day cottages. In 1806 Rev. Horatio Dashwood, their son, leases Caistor estates for 5 shillings from his step-brother, Richard, and then later in 1811 buys the Caistor estates from him. Rev. Horatio marries Harriet Louisa Warren in 1821 and is the incumbent of Caistor St. Edmund's church from 1803 till his death in 1828. After his death Harriet continues to be lady of the manor residing in Caistor Hall until her death in 1880.

The link with Old Hall continued as by 1880 when Harriet Dashwood dies, New Hall passes to her sister, Mary Louisa Arthy, and when she dies a few years later in 1886 her niece, Harriett Louisa Green inherits. All these women were descendants of William Warren who bought Old Hall from the Pettus family in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

As mentioned previously, the engraved stone embedded in the cottage wall shows Dashwood as the lord of the manor in 1818 just before his death. It is thus assumed Markshall Farm and cottages were part of the Dashwood estate. The last Dashwood living at Caistor Hall was Harriett who died in 1880.

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Front cover picture courtesy of Nigel Orme

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