

1642	<p>James Clarke was overseer of the poor.</p> <p>Civil War Norfolk, together with Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire and the Isle of Ely were linked together under the Parliamentary forces for mutual defence in December 1642 (the Eastern Association), from which Oliver Cromwell raised the nucleus of his New Model Army. Parliament rejected from their livings any minister suspected of Catholic and/or Royalist sympathies. Since ours stayed in post, one assumes they kept their heads down. Iconoclasts were busy destroying any image of saints, angels or the Trinity. Maybe this is when the bishop in Ellingham lost his nose and the angel on his crosier.</p>	
1643	<p>Lowestoft, was then a small herring fishing town (population about 1,500) without a harbour, though sizable vessels could anchor off shore. The houses were on the cliff top. Yarmouth was a Parliamentary town; Lowestoft seems not to have had strong attachment either way. Informants told Cromwell, then at Norwich with 5 troops of Eastern Association forces, that there were Royalists fortifying at Lowestoft. He set out the next morning, probably at dawn, so would have arrived about noon and drew up, together with a force from Great Yarmouth that had cannon. The resistance which Lowestoft presented was to block roads in (except where they had placed 3 cannon dragged up from the battery at Ness point and placed at the top of Rant Score to cover the market place and High Street) and put a chain across to stop a cavalry charge. Cromwell ordered the town to give up the strangers, town and army or take the consequences. They agreed to give up the strangers but not the rest. Norwich dragoons slipped under the chain and threatened the cannoneer with their pistols. He ran away, and the town gave up without further resistance. The Royalist strangers (who apparently had a cash of firearms) were taken to Cambridge, one of whom was a son of Sir Richard Catelyn the member for Norwich, possibly Neville.</p> <p>Order from Parliament for burning the Book of Sports.</p>	
1644	<p>Stockton maintained one soldier, so it seems likely that Ellingham and Kirby Cane did likewise.</p> <p>Some were volunteers, but two from Stockton were pressed. Not every man was happy about this. John Bird of Stockton had to have minders to stop him running away. The parish still had to pay them and support the families while they were absent. He and fellow impressed man, John Rivett, both came back maimed from the Battle of Naseby.</p> <p><i>“The saints solemne covenant with their God as it was opened in a sermon preached at Beccles in the countie of Suffolk, at the taking of the Nationall Covenant there, by the ministers and other officers of that division”</i> preached by John Brinsley (1600-1665) and dedicated to Sir John Wentworth, Sir John Rowse and the rest of the Right Worshipfull Commissioners for the County of Suffolk.</p>	<p>Thomas Smith, His Majesty's Farmer v. Thomas Potts, clerk, as to manor and soke of Stockton, and the wastes and commons belonging, and the parsonage of Kirkby Cane. Meets and bounds. Right of fishing, etc.</p> <p>Richard Catelyn was a member of parliament for Norwich, but in 1644 he was disabled from sitting because of his prolonged absence. He had sympathies with the Royalist cause, though he did not take his seat in the Kings parliament, and eventually retired to Kirby Cane. He married first Mary Houghton who died without issue, then Dorothy, daughter of Henry Nevill of Berkshire by whom son Nevill and 4 daughters, one of whom, Anne, married Thomas Leman of Wenhaston.</p> <p>Richard Catelyn's estate was sequestered, but in 1645 he applied to compound for it. Clearly he was in ill health and unable to travel, as he did so by proxy. He is recorded as being married to his second wife and having 8 small children at this time. His eldest son, Thomas, openly espoused the King's cause. He was involved in the Lowestoft affair and as Knevett's fellow-prisoner at Windsor. He was killed at the 2nd Battle of Newbury (as was Thomas Leman) and buried at Speen.</p>

