

# Wivenhoe House: A Tale of Two Lost 18th Century Mansions and the Sea-Captains who Built Them

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## Introduction

Wivenhoe is an attractive riverside town sited on the east bank of the River Colne, in north-east Essex. The major land holders in the eighteenth century were both descended from incoming families from the Low Countries: the Corsellis family who purchased the manorial estate in 1567; and the Rebow family who purchased a large estate to the north of Wivenhoe by 1734 (Fig. 1),<sup>1</sup> a property which is now known as Wivenhoe Park, the site of the University of Essex. If you visit the University today you will see the red brick-built mansion situated in a prominent position in the university grounds overlooking the lake. The house was built in 1759 by Isaac Martin Rebow and subsequently remodelled in the mid-19th century. It became known as 'Wivenhoe House' when the much expanded estate was purchased from the Gooch family in 1962 to form the grounds of the university in the early 1960s.<sup>2</sup>



*Fig 1: T. Barber's 1835 print of Wivenhoe Park showing Wivenhoe House, as it was later to be known, is thought to give a good impression of the house as it was originally built  
ERO I/Mp 411/1/2 by courtesy of Essex Record Office*

What is less well known is that there were two other 18th century mansions which were also referred to in their life-time, or subsequently, as either 'Wivenhoe House' or 'the Wivenhoe house' resulting in some confusion in later years as to which house was which. Both houses are referred to quite distinctly by Wright who comments on: 'a large mansion formerly belonging to Matthew Martin' which 'deserves to be noticed'; and a 'handsome modern white brick mansion' occupied by William Brummell, the brother of 'Beau Brummell', the regency dandy. Each house was built by a locally born captain who mingled in the same social circles as the Corsellis and Rebow families. These were: a) Captain Matthew Martin, a captain working for the East India Company, who achieved fame when he evaded capture by three French ships of war as he was outward bound with a valuable cargo; and b) Captain Daniel Harvey, renowned as the commander of a series of revenue cutters called the *Repulse* which scoured the north-east coast of Essex to prevent the illicit activities of smugglers. This paper intends to unravel some of the confusion surrounding the two houses and explore the history of both who the captains were, and how their successful exploits at sea enabled them to acquire property and status and build two fine mansions in the town.

## The Wivenhoe Landscape in the Early 18th Century

The pen and ink copy of the original 1734 Hayward Rush Map of Wivenhoe (Map 1) made by Harry William Hook and presented to St Mary's Church at Easter 1929 gives a vivid impression of what Wivenhoe looked like in the second quarter of the 18th century. It shows the entry road to the town (now the Avenue) and the old road to Colchester (now Belle Vue Road). The river and wood are clearly marked as are the large areas of Wivenhoe and Whitmore Heaths to the north-east of the parish. The managed landscape consists mainly of

scattered farms, comprising arable land, paddocks, meadows, and orchards, mostly owned by the lord of the manor. The population at this time consisted of about 110 families.<sup>3</sup>

The map shows the cluster of houses to the north at the junction of two roads known locally as the Cross, which appear far more numerous at this time than the settlement round the quay, which is barely indicated. It also shows the main streets to the east and west of the High Street, one called West Lane ('vulgarly known as Hogg lane') and the other called East Street ('vulgarly called Love lane'). Particularly noticeable is the large square-ish parcel of land to the north which is noted as 'A Park belonging to Isaac Lemying Rebow of Colchester'. This is hardly surprising because the map was specifically made for the Rebow family to display their ownership of this newly acquired country estate. It also itemises property owned by other persons of consequence in Wivenhoe society including: (A) the Manor House [to the north-west of the church of St Mary's] which is of 'Great Antiquity' and 'formerly the Seat of the Lord Oxford but now the Seat of Nicholas Corsellis, Esq'; (M) The Parsonage [on what is now known as Rectory Road] 'built by the Revd Mr Cawton in 1638 but now the residence of the Revd. Thomas Goodwin who has done great reparations to the said house.' (D) the 'House of Mr John Cardinal, a Malster who built the Same'; and [somewhat disparagingly], (C) the House of Peter Robinson - 'a Common Brewer' [to the east of the High Street]. Most importantly, for the purposes of this paper he refers to B) the Seat of Captain Matthew Martin Esq [to the south of the Manor House], Late Member in Parliament for the 'Antient Borough of Colchester who built the same and Resides here when spared from the East India Company of which he is Director'. Martin's house is shown on the map because his daughter, seventeen year old Mary Martin had married Isaac Lemying Rebow in 1729, a connection which would have mutual benefits for both families in terms of increasing their wealth, status and position in society.

### **The Tale of Captain Mathew Martin (1676–1749) and his Mansion where he Resides 'when he is Spared from the East India Company of which he is Director'**

The 1734 map makes it clear that Matthew Martin was a gentleman possessed of both position and wealth. Morant intimates that he may have had connections with the Martin family of Saffron Walden<sup>4</sup> and this suggestion was taken up by later historians who believed that he may have been a descendant of Richard Martin, the goldsmith who became Lord Mayor of London in the late 16th century.<sup>5</sup> No evidence of this has yet been found and it may just have been tempting to believe that he had a historical connection to a notable family. It may even have been a contributing factor to the marriage between his daughter, Mary and Isaac Lemying Rebow. What greater credibility could be lent to a relatively recently incoming family from abroad than a connection with a descendant of a former Lord Mayor of London?

What can be confirmed is that Matthew Martin's father was Samuel Martine (sic) (1640-1694) of Wivenhoe and his mother was Mary nee Parker (? – 1710).<sup>6</sup> Samuel was also a mariner as he touchingly states in his will of November 1689 that he is '*att present outward bound for sea and knowing the uncertainty of this Transitory life*' commits his body '*to the sea or earth wherewith it shall please God to dispose of it*'. He may indeed have never returned from this or a subsequent voyage as he died at the relatively young age of fifty-four, and his will was proved at Canterbury on 23 August 1694.<sup>7</sup> He left three surviving sons, and in this same will he leaves his 'dwelling house' to his eldest son, Samuel and another tenement and property he owned in Wivenhoe to his second son Matthew, who was born and christened at St Mary's Church.<sup>8</sup> Another house with grounds in the town of Stratford, in Essex, is left to their brother George. He also refers to his own three brothers, Francis, Thomas and Jonathan Martin in the will. Intriguingly there is a memorial in the church of St Anne and St Laurence, in the neighbouring parish of Elmstead in Essex, which states 'Here Lieth the boody (sic) of

Mr Thomas Martin, Rector of Alesford and Vicker of Elemsted, who Departed this Life, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January in the yeare of our Lord 1672 (sic)<sup>1</sup>. There may be well have been a close connection between the two families, most particularly as Captain Martin was later to acquire land in both Elmstead and Alresford.

In about 1702 he married Sarah Jones (1683-1738), the daughter of 'An eminent East India Commander' who lived in Stepney, Middlesex (?-1713).<sup>9</sup> In 1710 he inherited the family dwelling house in Wivenhoe, following the death of both his mother and his brother Samuel in the same year. By now he was a captain in the East India Company's service 'wherein he acquitted himself with great success and reputation'.<sup>10</sup> He commanded the 480-ton merchant ship the *Marlborough*, one of the company's largest ships with 96 crew and thirty-two guns and made a number of voyages between Madras, Bengal, and on one occasion, China between 1711 and 1721.<sup>11</sup> On 30 November 1711 the ship was commissioned to seize any pirates who might be seeking to illegally acquire lucrative cargoes from company ships<sup>12</sup> and one year later, at some point between 6 October and 24 November 1712, when Britain and France were on opposing sides during the long war of the Spanish Succession, the *Marlborough* was attacked by three French ships.<sup>13</sup>

His successful escape from the French, was lauded by contemporary writers. Morant states that he defended the *Marlborough* for 'three successive days against three French ships of war, and brought her safe to Fort St George; her cargo valued at £200,000, for which great service he had a reward of £1000 and a gold medal set around with 24 large diamonds'.<sup>14</sup> This report is taken up again in 'The British Critic' of 1804 which, reciting the reasoning behind the granting of armorial honours 'for naval and military triumphs', uses the distinction awarded to Captain Martin as an example. The stratagem by which he escaped the pursuing ships by setting a cask adrift in the dark with a lantern at its peak is described with great relish.<sup>15</sup> The enemy followed the cask believing it was his ship, thus giving the *Marlborough* time to escape their pursuit. This became so fixed in the maritime imagination that a similar ploy was recently re-created in the film 'Master and Commander' starring Russell Crowe. Martin's portrait was painted at this time (Fig. 2) and shows what must be the



Fig 2: Black and white print of Matthew Martin's portrait 1712 by courtesy of Essex Record Office



Fig 3: Matthew Martin's coat of arms

*Marlborough* in the background and by his right hand the gold medal studded with diamonds.<sup>16</sup> Although reports of his triumph were often seamlessly patched together with the fact that he was awarded a 'Patent for bearing Arms' the patent was not actually granted until ten years later on 18 September 1722, and it is possible that this honour was directly purchased by Captain Martin in a purely mercenary exchange rather than received as an discretionary honour.<sup>17</sup> According to the Lancaster Herald at the College of Arms, Captain Martin's coat of arms (Fig. 3) was similar to that of the Martin family of Saffron Walden but the difference in colours indicated that the family connection was left open – that is that the connection had not been confirmed.<sup>18</sup>

Following his brother Samuel's death Captain Martin must have taken possession of the original family dwelling house as described by his father. On 19 June 1722 he writes to William Holman the Essex historian, saying that he hopes to see him shortly in Wivenhoe, and refers to the purchase of Alresford Hall in the previous autumn.<sup>19</sup> He may have already decided to build a mansion in Wivenhoe prior to this, encouraged by the receipt of the £1000

reward, and his accumulating profits as a company trader. His will of 1727/8 makes it clear that Wivenhoe is still his main residence and contains the first known reference to his 'mansion house' as well as the statement that he wishes to be buried in the vault that is to be built, or prepared, for his family in St Mary's Church.<sup>20</sup> There is also an early 19th century note of inquiry which refers to the 'faculty for two pews' in Wivenhoe Church, granted to Matthew Martin and his family in 1727, for the duration of their ownership of a mansion in the parish<sup>21</sup> and at some point he also donated a clock with a bell (recently located in the Turret Room at Tymperley's Clock Museum in Colchester) to the church (Fig. 4).<sup>22</sup>

It seems that the 1720s and early 1730s were good times for Captain Martin. He appears to have been a popular figure and was described as being 'much esteemed for his affability, integrity and generosity'.<sup>23</sup> Like many country gentleman of the age he entered politics and stood as a Whig MP from 1722-7, becoming Mayor of Colchester in 1726.<sup>24</sup> He was aware of his duties to others and his name appears: in connection with the Wivenhoe workhouse,<sup>25</sup> as a governor at St Thomas's Hospital, London from 1732-44,<sup>26</sup> and as a member of Trinity House.<sup>27</sup> He owned a tidy portfolio of property holdings and his 1727/8 will itemises these. The status of the Wivenhoe mansion house is illustrated by the fact that he leaves it to his eldest son Samuel, together with other property in Peldon and Elmstead. The manor of Alresford, including Alresford Hall is left first to his brother 'George Martin of Wivenhoe', and then to his second son, Thomas. He refers to: his house in Duke Street, Westminster which is left to his wife for her life; property in Meeting House Alley in Wapping;<sup>28</sup> and a house in Colchester, which may be the property referred to in the marriage settlement between his daughter Mary and Isaac Lemying Rebow in 1729.<sup>29</sup> A much later deed infers that he may also have owned the Falcon Inn,<sup>30</sup> just north of St Mary's Church, a property which included a warehouse, brewery, and a bowling green; town meetings and auctions were held there and the landlord organised cricket matches and dances and ran a post chaise service.<sup>31</sup>



*Fig 4: The clock which Matthew Martin donated to St Mary's Church courtesy of Steve Yates*

His status in the county must have been at a peak when the marriage between his seventeen year old daughter, Mary Martin I (1712-1776),<sup>32</sup> and Isaac Lemying Rebow (1705-1735) was arranged just a few years before the latter purchased 'the Park'. However the success of his life at this period must have been tempered by the loss of so many of his other children. Although two of his daughter's, Sarah (1703-?), and Mary I survived to make good marriages, only three of his sons survived to adulthood: his eldest son, Samuel (1706-1765), never married and had no issue; his second son Thomas (1710-1776), was called to the Bar on 5 May 1731<sup>33</sup>, and subsequently became Kings Counsel (KC); and his third son George (1718-1741?), followed in his father's footsteps by going to sea.

## **The Location of Matthew Martin's Mansion**

Butler states that Martin's house which he refers to as 'Wivenhoe House' stood to the south of the manor on the west side of the High Street in the vicinity of the now named Chapel Street above the Tendring Hundred Railway cutting which cuts through the town from west to east.<sup>34</sup> However the positioning of the ornate lettering (B) on the 1929 copy of the Hayward Rush map (Map 2) appears to indicate that the mansion was on the east side of the High Street approximately to the east-south-east of the manor. This led to a dilemma about whether the indicated house was actually the second mansion described in this paper; the 'Wivenhoe House' built by Captain Daniel Harvey which was situated slightly to the north of

this position. The only way to clarify this was to look at the original map held at Essex Record Office. They were reluctant to produce the faded and fragile map but eventually provided a digital copy.<sup>35</sup> It then became obvious that some licence was taken in positioning the numbers (A) to (D) on the copy as on the original map (Map 3), it was clear that Matthew Martin's mansion (B) was indeed sited to the west of the High Street as Butler had claimed. Drawings of the East and South Prospects of Wivenhoe are also present on the Hayward Rush Map, and these indicate the position of Captain Martin's mansion (Fig. 5). Confusingly, the side view of the house marked (B) on the South Prospect (a view of the town looking north from the River Colne) shows what looks like a very modest building. Whereas the front view of the mansion, also marked (B) on the East Prospect (looking towards the town from the east of the High Street) shows a building which appears to rival or even exceed in size the manor house (Wivenhoe Hall) to the north, marked (A). Butler states that (according to oral tradition) Martin's house was reputed to be three storeys high with fifty two windows and wrought-iron gates, although no written records have yet been found to confirm this.<sup>36</sup> Its grandeur may have been exaggerated but the impression given is of an imposing house facing east where there would have been fine views towards the River Colne.

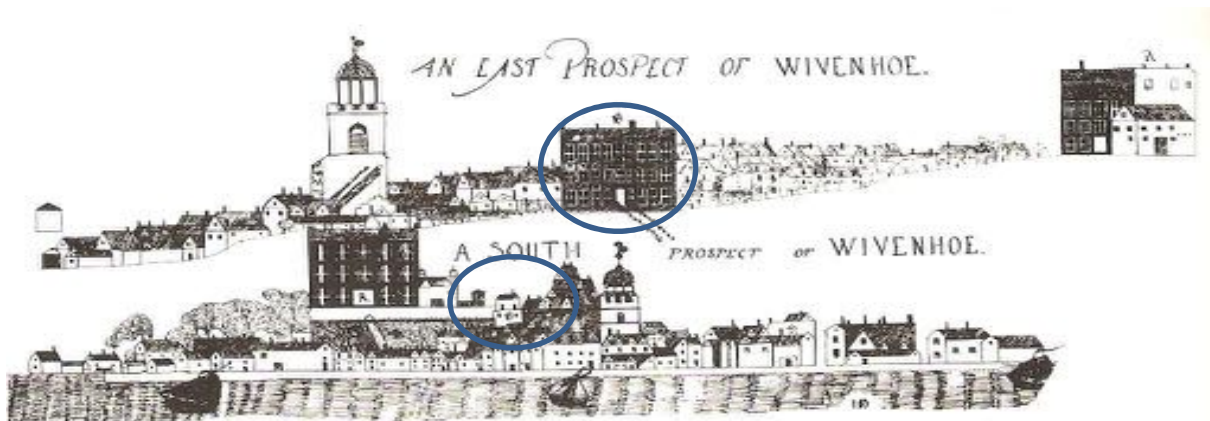


Fig 5: The East and South Prospect of Wivenhoe as shown in the Hayward Rush Map of 1734

It was not known whether Captain Martin built his new mansion on the same site as the original family dwelling house or whether he bought new land for the purpose. A search for relevant deeds revealed two that were of interest. The first was a marriage settlement made on 12 March 1715/16 referring to the conveyance of property between Matthew Martin's brother George, George's wife Hannah, and others, to Matthew Martin, which included various parcels of land, including a farm in Peldon and part of a property in Wivenhoe known as the Hinds Head.<sup>37</sup> The second was a *final concord* or *feet of fines* document of 3 November 1715 which referred to the exchange of property comprising '3 messuages, 7 barns, 7 gardens, 7 orchards, moiety of messuage, barn, garden, orchard; all in Wivenhoe'<sup>38</sup> between Matthew and Sarah Martin and Percivall (sic) Pott.<sup>39</sup> Unfortunately neither deeds described the location of the properties and the general run of *feet of fines* do not accurately represent either the size or nature of the property which is being exchanged, although this latter document could have been referring to property which Matthew Martin acquired in order to build his new mansion.

Other maps were consulted to try and find a more specific location for the house and an enlargement of a section of the Chapman and André map of 1777 offered a suggested siting which tied in neatly with the fact that Dorothy Adams, Matthew Martin's son Thomas's second wife, is listed as owning that same parcel of property (No. 51) on the 1799 Survey Map of Wivenhoe.<sup>40</sup> This supported the suggestion that this parcel of land was the likely site for the mansion. There are two buildings on the 1777 map (Map 4), the more southerly of which is definitely in the right position to be the mansion. However on the 1799 map (Map 7) the more southerly building is not shown and the list of properties included on the map refers

to parcel 51 as the 'Blue Boar, etc', which sounds more like an inn or a public house than a mansion.

### **Matthew Martin's Move to Alresford Hall, Leaving his Son to Take up Residence in the Wivenhoe Mansion**

Records from the mid-1730s onwards hint at a more problematic time for the Martin family. Mary I's marriage to Isaac Lemyng Rebow was of short duration as he died 'of a Lethargy, being so very fat, as scarce able to breathe' in February 1735.<sup>41</sup> She was left to bring up her three year old son Isaac Martin Rebow (1731-81) until he was of an age when he could inherit 'the Park'. On 13 March 1736 the *Country Journal* reported the case of Captain Matthew's third surviving son George who, while serving as the Second Mate of the *Middlesex* an India-man,<sup>42</sup> was accused of striking a sailor causing him to lose the sight of one eye. Although several witnesses swore that Mr Martin had behaved in a 'courteous civil manner', he was found guilty and obliged to pay £200 in damages.<sup>43</sup> This unhappy event was followed by the death of Captain Martin's wife, Sarah who died on 6th January, 1738.<sup>44</sup> By this time the family must have left the Wivenhoe mansion<sup>45</sup> and taken up permanent residence at Alresford Hall, as Sarah was buried in the family vault now erected by Matthew Martin in the chancel at St Peter's Church, Alresford (see Figs. 6 and 7).<sup>46</sup> It seems likely that Samuel, his eldest son was now living in the Wivenhoe mansion while his brother Thomas, was pursuing his career as a barrister in Chelsea.<sup>47</sup> There is a suggestion of other family troubles as In 1741 Thomas's name is mentioned in connection with a marriage settlement which involved a huge transfer of stocks and annuities to his cousin, Hugh Osborne, who seems to have got himself into debt, a situation that appears to have continued for some time until the settlement was revoked in 1771 (the year of Thomas's second marriage).<sup>48</sup>



Fig 6: The ruins of St Peter's Church, Alresford, destroyed by fire in October 1971, by courtesy of the author



Fig 7: The Martin Family Vault in St Peter's Church by courtesy of Dr E. Wake

Captain Martin died on 8 July 1749<sup>49</sup> and was buried as requested in the family vault. His final will of 1748<sup>50</sup> seems more cautious than earlier wills and this time he leaves his property in Wivenhoe, Alresford and Elmstead to the care of trustees: Captain Richard Micklefield, the co-owner of his ship the *Wager*,<sup>51</sup> and Daniel Cock of Colchester.<sup>52</sup> He even leaves Captain Micklefield the famous gold medal studded with 24 diamonds, a gold mug and a gold salver and all the apparel of his late wife on condition that he permits his son Samuel to use and enjoy the same during the term of his natural life. In 1765 his son Samuel died at the age of 59 'after a long ill state of health' and was buried in the family vault at Alresford erected by his 'later honoured father'. Most of his property was left to his 'well beloved' brother Thomas, including the house (presumably the mansion) at Wivenhoe, other property in Wivenhoe (which was previously owned by Daniel Cock), his tenement farms at Alresford Lodge, and his yacht *Britannia* with the sails rigging and appurtenances.<sup>53</sup> His will was

signed by John Harvey, who may well have been the father of Captain Daniel Harvey who will be referred to in the following section of this paper.

By this time Thomas was a widower with two surviving daughters Sarah (1733?-1807), who married William Fraser of Rathen, Aberdeenshire and Mary II (1738-1804) who later married her first cousin Isaac Martin Rebow, the son of her aunt Mary I,<sup>54</sup> after a long and at first clandestine courtship.<sup>55</sup> Mary II lived with her father in Chelsea until on the morning of 2 January 1771, she discovered that her father had crept out taking his 'Night and Morning cap and has left ten Guineas in a little bag in ye harpsichord drawer'<sup>56</sup> to marry a young woman who was apparently beneath him in terms of social class; her name was Dorothy Scofield (1750-1812). In the meantime, although the work on Isaac Martin Rebow's fine new mansion had been completed by 1762,<sup>57</sup> Mary I was in residence and was reluctant to be re-located. Butler states that in August 1770, she indicated that she would like to move into 'the Wivenhoe house' as Mary II called it, which he assumes was Matthew Martin's mansion which had become available following her uncle Samuel's death. However, in spite of much alteration and refurbishing of the house, of which apparently Mary I was 'prodigiously pleas'd' (sic) she did not move in until 1772,<sup>58</sup> the same year that the young couple were finally able to marry.<sup>59</sup>

### **The Demise of the Mansion and the Martin Estate**

Mary Martin I 'of Wivenhoe' died in May 1776,<sup>60</sup> only a few weeks after her brother Thomas who died at Queens Row in Knightsbridge and was also interred in the family vault at Alresford.<sup>61</sup> As the only male heir, Isaac Martin Rebow then took possession of Alresford Hall as well as 'the Park'. He commissioned the services of Richard Woods, the landscape gardener, who remodelled the house and the grounds of 'the Park' in 1776-1780 and at the same time executed a number of 'very fine scale drawings' for a banqueting hall and anteroom at Alresford Hall, including specifications for a Chinese Temple.<sup>62</sup> Unfortunately, Isaac Martin did not live long enough to reap the pleasure of these improvements as he died on 5 October 1781 leaving three young co-heiresses. The eldest Mary Hester Rebow (1776-1834), married General Francis Slater (1770-1845) in 1796 and he assumed the name of Rebow and became the owner of 'the Park'.<sup>63</sup> Alresford Hall reverted to Thomas's daughter Mary II but later the property, was made over to her father's widow Dorothy Martin who subsequently married again in 1777 to John Adams, of Holborn, who died in 1809.<sup>64</sup>

Since Dorothy Adams had no issue from either marriage the property, which had previously belonged to the Martins, descended to her nephews and nieces, the children of her unnamed sister who had married a Mr Higginbotham. In due course Mary Higginbotham<sup>65</sup> and her sister Harriet inherited both Alresford Hall<sup>66</sup> and the property in Wivenhoe where the Martin mansion is thought to have stood. The 1838 Tythe Award<sup>67</sup> map of Wivenhoe (Map 8) confirms that the three parcels of property numbered 369 to the west of the High Street, are owned by Mary Higginbotham although they are listed as one property described as a 'Garden' on the accompanying transcription.<sup>68</sup> Two adjacent plots numbered 370 and 371 which front onto the High Street, are both marked only as a 'House and Yard', with no owner cited, but these were almost certainly previously part of Martin's property. The house on plot 370 appears to be quite large and stands on the suspected site of the Martin mansion.

If this house *is* the mansion, that would tie in with Wright's indication that it was still standing in 1836, but it was almost certainly demolished shortly after this as it no longer appears in subsequent maps and is not referred to in White's Directory for Essex of 1848. The 1838 map also shows that Mary Higginbottom owned parcel 312 to the east of the High Street, described as a 'Garden, Plantation, etc' which appears to be, if not the Falcon itself, then the land which was attached to it (possibly where the bowling green stood?) and parcel 300, described as a 'Paddock', to the east of the Falcon. This ties in with the suggestion that the

Martin's had also owned the Falcon as mentioned earlier. By this time Alresford Hall, the other family property, was in the hands of William Warren Hawkins, Esq who is named as the beneficiary in Mary Higginbotham's will.<sup>69</sup> Mary Higginbotham<sup>70</sup> died in the autumn of 1856 and some of the land to the west of the High Street was sold in July 1863<sup>71</sup> by her sister, Harriet Higginbotham to the Tendring Hundred Railway company to enable the deep cutting to be made through the town as part of the process of extending the railway from Wivenhoe to Weeley and Walton.<sup>72</sup> Some of the same land was sold back to a purchaser as surplus to requirements on 18 October 1864 and Clifton Terrace which looks over the railway was later built on the plot.<sup>73</sup>

### **The Tale of Captain Daniel Harvey (1722/3-1794), Commander of the *Repulse* and his Acquisition of Property which was Later to Form the Core of the Wivenhoe House Estate**

A separate investigation of the history of the Wivenhoe House Estate revealed the pre-existence of the 18th century mansion which is the second subject of this paper. A set of deeds from 1811–1865<sup>74</sup> cited the acquisition of various parcels of land by Edward Sage, an Irish linen factor who was conveying the estate onward to William Brummell, who happened to be the brother of Beau Brummell, the famous Regency dandy. At the core of the estate was a parcel of property named as the 'Mansion and Pump Fields' which had been acquired by Edward Sage from the trustees of Daniel Harvey's estate in 1795.<sup>75</sup> The name of Daniel Harvey is a familiar one in Wivenhoe because he is cited in many local books on the history of smuggling. However very little was known about his background, particularly as he appeared to have no connections to the well-known local Harvey family whose history has been documented elsewhere and there appeared to be no supporting evidence to connect him with the Wivenhoe House Estate other than the fact that his name was mentioned in the deeds.

It took some time to find his family connections but eventually a reference to his father was found. This was John Harvey (1686-1777), the son of John and Elizabeth Harvey, baptised at St Mary's Church in Wivenhoe on 11 April 1686.<sup>76</sup> A note in the *Pedigree Register* of September 1911, describes him as the Captain of the Custom House cutter *Jean-Baptiste*.<sup>77</sup> He married Deborah Bail in Colchester at St Mary at the Walls on 23/25 January 1715,<sup>78</sup> and his son, Daniel was baptised in Wivenhoe on 12 February 1722/3.<sup>79</sup> He had an elder sister, Martha, baptised on 29 July 1717<sup>80</sup> and two brothers, both called John who did not survive to adulthood. There are few references to Daniel Harvey's early life but local records show that his mother died of a fever and was buried at Wivenhoe on 21 March 1755.<sup>81</sup> By 10 July 1756, seven years after the death of Captain Matthew Martin, he is recorded as being the commander of the *Princess Mary*, one of the largest custom vessels in the country, a ship of 80 tons and with a crew of 24, cited in the Registers of Declarations for Letters of Marque (against France).<sup>82</sup> Letters of Marque were issued by the Admiralty and authorised privateers or private ships to capture merchant vessels without being prosecuted for piracy just as Captain Martin had been licensed to capture pirates in 1711.

Daniel Harvey was still a young man when Captain Martin died but as mariners in a close-knit community, their families must have known each other. Harvey did not have Captain Martin's advantages of superior wealth and status which resulted from his career as a captain, and later as a director in the prestigious East India Company, where fortunes could be made. Instead he followed in his father's footsteps by working for the Customs Board which was another side of the prolific merchant trading coin in the 18th century. Later he took out a license to work as an independent privateer<sup>83</sup> and from 1774 onward he commanded a series of six revenue cutters, all named *Repulse*, each one larger than the last, and acquired using the profits from his previous endeavours. Smuggling was a flourishing enterprise at this



time; it has been described as an illegal trade that was tolerated, condoned and carried out by otherwise respectable and generally law-abiding people of all classes and creeds.<sup>84</sup> It was particularly rife on the coast of north east Essex and local affluent families may not have been averse to taking advantage of the forbidden goods provided by the trade, such as tea, tobacco, French brandy, gin and fine silk, which were very expensive to obtain by legitimate means from the merchant traders of the East India Company. Harvey's share of the profits in one particularly successful period totalled in excess of £14,000<sup>85</sup> but he also had to pay for all damage sustained in action and not quit his allotted station in search of captures, something that he did not always comply with.<sup>86</sup> According to Leather the cutter 'used the Colne as an anchorage but ranged far afield in pursuit of smugglers and pirates'.<sup>87</sup> There is correspondence in the National Archives between Daniel Harvey and the Treasury with regard to the detention of an American schooner in Colchester in January 1776,<sup>88</sup> and in May 1778, when the French and British were at war, Daniel Harvey lost the third *Repulse*, after chasing a smuggling cutter too close to the shore near Calais and he was deeply criticised by the relevant authorities for exceeding his remit.<sup>89</sup> The ship had run aground and been captured, and his men imprisoned in a Calais gaol. For a time the cutter was used as a French privateer but was eventually recaptured by the British and returned to Captain Harvey.<sup>90</sup>

Scouring the seas to capture smugglers was a lucrative, but also a dangerous business which not only involved the physical violence involved in seizing smuggling vessels, but also violence from local villagers who were often antagonistic to revenue men and frequently viciously attacked or assaulted them in the pursuance of their duty.<sup>91</sup> Some idea of Daniel Harvey's reputation is revealed by the uncovering, in October 1780, of a sensational plot mounted by French-commissioned smugglers and privateers with the object of capturing the fourth *Repulse*.<sup>92</sup>

## **The Harvey Family Property Holdings**

Although it had been noted that Daniel Harvey owned the mansion which later became subsumed into the Wivenhoe House Estate, no other evidence of him owning property in Wivenhoe had been found. However a breakthrough came with the discovery of another bundle of deeds held at Essex Record Office. These related to the ownership of an 18th century coal yard ostensibly owned by 'Daniel Eyre' who owned a mansion in Wivenhoe and died in 1794.<sup>93</sup> This seemed to be too much of a coincidence and on closer investigation the deeds indeed proved to relate to Daniel Harvey's family and they have now been re-catalogued. Two abstracts of title deeds from this collection revealed that Daniel's grandfather, John Harvey, held at least two enfranchised pieces of property in Wivenhoe in the early to mid-18th century: one referring to a messuage called The Ship [a local inn] and the other to a coal yard.

In the first abstract pertaining to The Ship dated 28 March 1722, John Harvey surrenders The Ship with the 'Stables and Edifices thereto belonging' and a 'piece of Land whereupon a Messuage had been lately built called the Wood Yard' to his son John and his wife Deborah.<sup>94</sup> On 9 June 1747, now referred to as a Gentleman, he surrenders property described as 'All those Customary Messuages or Tenements Wharf Granary Warehouses' in Wivenhoe 'with the houses Outhouses, Yards Gardens and Appurtenances to the same (part whereof was then used as a Warehouse for his Majesty's Services)' to his son and his wife. On 13 April 1757 John Harvey (Daniel's father) surrenders this same property to his wife and Daniel Harvey, the only surviving 'well beloved' son and heir, who acquired the above property by virtue of his father's will of 8 July 1767.<sup>95</sup>

According to the second abstract of deeds the Coal Yard, property which is referred to as 'the Old Storehouse or Wood Yard and key (sic)', was transferred out of the family by a deed dated 6 April 1763<sup>96</sup> and by 1784 the new owner refers to it as 'my freehold house wherein I

now reside together with the premises thereto belonging and also a Coal Yard and Granary, a Gardeners Shop and Small Warehouse with my right to the Quay facing the same' plus a number of' dwelling houses.<sup>97</sup>

However it seems that Daniel Harvey, retained possession of The Ship until his death in 1795 when the property was sold by his trustees to Daniel Blyth<sup>98</sup> who also purchased the Coal Yard property in 1798.<sup>99</sup> A later affidavit signed by Joseph Martin, described as 'late an Officer in her Majesty's Customs', and dated 15 December 1832 confirms Captain Daniel Harvey's ownership of a warehouse formerly standing on the site of a coal yard 'nearly opposite the old jetty', which he recollects to have often heard was formerly a public house.<sup>100</sup> It has been suggested that this property may have stood on the site of The Ship at Launch public house at the foot of Bath Street (also formerly known as The Woolpack) on the upstream section of the quay. However although a deed for that property refers to it as also having 'Storehouses, Granary and Warehouse, theretofore converted into a Stable and a Bath',<sup>101</sup> the names cited in the deed do not appear to agree with the names of the owners cited on the deeds of the former Harvey property.

### **The Acquisition of the Land on Which Daniel Harvey Built his Mansion**

It was now understood that Daniel Harvey's family owned property in Wivenhoe and that he, himself, had been accumulating both position and financial resources from his chosen vocation as Commander of the *Repulse*. He also appeared to have some modestly well to do family connections in other parts of the country, which may have brought him additional income. His sister, Martha, had married William Thompson, a surgeon and apothecary, of St Katharine by the Tower in London.<sup>102</sup> When he died in 1775 'Daniel Harvey of Wivenhoe in the County of Essex, mariner' was cited together with William Thompson's son of the same name as a trustee in his will and was devised 'the sum of One thousand five hundred pounds four per cent Consolidated Bank Annuities of the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty two upon Trust' on the understanding that they paid the interest and dividends to Thompson's second wife Ann during her life, and for as long as she remained a widow and unmarried.<sup>103</sup> His name was also noted in a marriage settlement between Elizabeth Thompson, William's niece on her marriage circa 1783 to Torry Elston, a farmer of Holbeach, and merchant of Wisbech.<sup>104</sup> Daniel Harvey also cited members of the same family in his own will.

It may be that in his late forties, he decided to purchase property to the north-east of the busy quay with a view to building a new mansion which would reflect his increasing status. This decision was possibly influenced by his friendly relationships with the Rebows, the Martins and the Corsellis family. An Act of Parliament dated 6 February 1771<sup>105</sup> cites that Daniel Harvey was desirous of purchasing property from Nicholas Corsellis V (1745-1826) which comprised a messuage and diverse cottages, land, tenements and hereditaments in the parish of Wivenhoe and Elmstead. However the transaction did not run smoothly because Nicholas Corsellis IV (1697-1761), the latter's father had published a will on 7 November 1760 which had not been subsequently amended. He had left the 'Manor of Wivenhoe'... and 'all his farms, lands, woods and real estate lying and being in the parishes of Wivenhoe and Elmstead, and other near adjacent parishes, commonly called the Wivenhoe Estate' to his eldest son, Nicholas Corsellis V and his male descendants. If he had no issue the estate would go to the testator's youngest son, Nicholas Caesar Corsellis (1747-1806).

Not only was the property entailed so that it could not be otherwise disposed of; it had been used as security to raise mortgages. There were now several principal sums amounting all together to £3,200 due and owing on the mortgages and securities. Since Nicholas Corsellis V's six children, were all infants under the age of 21 years, an Act of Parliament was required in order to vest the estate in trustees so that parts of it could be sold to raise the sum of £3,250 'to discharge encumbrances'; £3,200 to discharge the sums due and the remaining

sum of £50 would be paid into the account of Nicholas Corsellis for the purchase of the timber and wood to which he would be entitled as a 'Tenant for Life'. As the principal sum of £3200 exceeded the annual produce of the said premises it was decided that it would be convenient to sell the property.

Following the Act of Parliament<sup>106</sup> Daniel Harvey was finally able to purchase the itemised parcels of land. He appears to have paid £3,200 to the trust and all debts were thereby discharged. On the reverse of the copy of the Act kept at Essex Record office, two contemporary freehand sketch maps (Maps 5 and 6), with accompanying spidery notes, show where someone at a later date has been trying to decipher and list the various parcels of the estate which Harvey bought and disposed of in the subsequent twenty years. There is a reference to his purchase of the Pump Fields (eight acres) for the sum of £300 in 1772 (at this point containing only a cottage with a barn); the Great Mill Hangings and Piece of Meadow in Elmstead (five acres) for the sum of £150 in 1776; part only of Anchor Meadow and part only of the Park and the Gravel pit for £150 in 1791.

The mansion house must have been built after the purchase of the land in 1772 and most probably by 1777 although it is not shown on the Chapman and André Map of that date (Map 4). It was certainly present by the time Edward Sage acquired the property from Daniel Harvey following his death in 1794, as the deed of conveyance clearly refers to the 'mansion house with the coach house stable and other out offices erections and buildings erected and built by the said Daniel Harvey deceased', on a parcel of land which is now referred to as the 'Mansion House and Pump Fields'. It also is shown on the 1799 Survey Map of Wivenhoe (Map 7), circled in green).

He may have moved into his new mansion in the same year that he married Elizabeth Draper at Saint Bride Fleet on 23 December 1777, when he was fifty-five years old.<sup>107</sup> On 22 July 1778 Mary Martin II (now Mrs Isaac Martin Rebow) writes that 'Fan and I dined at Captain Harvey's yesterday, there was (sic) the Corsellis, Mrs. Goodall, Frank Smythies and his wife, a Mrs. Bliss and a Mr Finch who has a tender at Wivenhoe and seems to be the true honest Jack Tar, for he calls the French every odd name and says he is certain they will never invade us...'.<sup>108</sup> This dinner may well have taken place at the new Harvey mansion.



*Fig 8: Richard Wood's 1765 Map of Proposed Additions to the Park ERO T/M 271 by courtesy of Essex Record Office*

Smith described the mansion as '... a brick house ... elegantly fitted up and furnished in the present taste ... in 20 acres',<sup>109</sup> which ties in with Wright's description of the house, sixty years later, when he refers to it as 'A handsome modern white brick mansion'. Cowell also states<sup>110</sup> that there is correspondence between 'Captain Daniel Harvey', a neighbour of Isaac Martin Rebow,<sup>111</sup> which indicates that Richard Woods, the landscape designer who carried out work for the Martin's at Alresford Hall and at 'the Park' for the Rebows (Fig. 8)<sup>112</sup> spent three days with Daniel Harvey in Wivenhoe in 1777. This raises the interesting possibility that Harvey may have invited Woods to his newly built mansion so that he might suggest some designs for the garden and he may even have submitted the suggestion that the Brook which ran through the estate be engineered into a canal-like feature with a bridge passing over the centre. This feature can clearly be seen in some of the later estate maps (Map 9).<sup>113</sup>

## Captain Harvey's Decline

Rather like Captain Martin in his youth, Captain Harvey, must have been a romantic and dashing figure in the town. But by 1787 his affairs took a turn for the worse. It was revealed that he had been in continuous trouble for overspending and desertions amongst his crew,<sup>114</sup> and finally the Customs Board carried out a number of investigations which revealed fraudulent behaviour by certain owners of its contracted revenue cutters. Harvey was one of those accused of travelling light of mariners but claiming for a full complement, as well as presenting accounts for 'unnecessary, excessive' expenses not allowable within the terms of his contract.<sup>115</sup> Following these investigations the number of cutters was reduced by the Board and in January 1788 Captain Harvey was removed from the command of the *Repulse*, which must have been a terrible blow after his earlier years of success when the *Repulse* was deemed to be one of the most successful and profitable cutters.<sup>116</sup> Even before this there had been suggestions that Daniel Harvey had been incurring debts and in his will dated 25 March 1787, he requests that his property be sold to pay off his debts and legacies and that his funeral be 'as frugal as decency will permit'.<sup>117</sup> It may be that he was trying to tidy up his affairs at this time as there is an account kept at Essex Record Office which enumerates some of the transactions between himself and the Reverend Nicholas Corsellis V over a period of twelve years from 1782-90 which are now being settled.<sup>118</sup>

He died on 21 February 1794,<sup>119</sup> and on 1 and 2 April 1795, fourteen months after his death, an Indenture of Lease and Release was made between i) Sir James Eyre,<sup>120</sup> Stephen Martin Leake, late of Bombay in the East Indies, and Samuel Ennew<sup>121</sup> (the trustees of his estate), ii) Elizabeth Harvey (Daniel's widow), and iii) George Daniel Harvey (the only son and heir of the deceased) and iv) Edward Sage [an Irish linen factor with premises at Cheapside]<sup>122</sup> who is purchasing the 'Mansion House coach house stable and other erections and buildings and the Gardens Paddock Plantations and the several Closes or fields of Meadow or Pasture Land' pertaining to the property.

It seems that Daniel Harvey's family left Wivenhoe after his death. His wife, Elizabeth moved to Great Stanmore in Middlesex and her youngest daughter Harriot's (sic) marriage to William Parry is recorded on 3 March 1795.<sup>123</sup> Her mother Elizabeth is named in the marriage settlement as is Stephen Martin Leake who was one of the trustees for Daniel Harvey's will. Her only son, George Daniel Harvey also married in Great Stanmore on 8 October 1803;<sup>124</sup> he became a barrister and a Commissioner of the Court of Common Pleas – possibly with some assistance from that same Sir James Eyre (1734-1799), Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1787, and later Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who was one of the other trustees of Daniel Harvey's estate.

## The Development of the Wivenhoe House Estate Following Daniel Harvey's Demise

The people who acquired the mansion following Daniel Harvey's death did not appear to have any particular local connections. Defoe, writing in the 18th century suggested that plenty of wealthy merchants looked for either investment opportunities or a quiet country retreat in Essex,<sup>125</sup> and this probably continued into the 19th century. When Edward Sage purchased the mansion house, he may have had investment on his mind because he moved on to purchase at least nine other properties in the town between 1795 and 1801: the Baytree; 'the underset to the Baytree'; the Malting Office on property formerly known as Cross Keys; Burrs and Harsoms; land at the Cross; Pupletts; part of the Park belonging to Cockaynes or Elmstead Lodge Farm; Anchor Meadow; and The Rose. Later he disposed of some of the properties he had bought, but others he retained, to create the discrete parcel of property which became the Wivenhoe House Estate; an estate with the Mansion House at its core, which stretched southward from the corner of what is now Belle Vue Road and the High

Street, behind the pre-existing properties which sat directly on the High Street itself, until it met up with the boundary of the land owned by Mary Higginbotham, to the north of the Falcon. The 1799 Survey Map (Map 7) shows the Mansion (encircled in green) and Pump Fields identified as parcel 52 on the east side of the High Street approximately opposite to the Hall.

After owning the house for twenty years, Edward Sage decided to move on and by 1815 was renting The Minories, on East Hill in Colchester;<sup>126</sup> later moving into a house he had purchased in the parish of St Mary on the Walls.<sup>127</sup> On 4 July 1811 the property was transferred to William Brummell (1777-1853) of Hadleigh in Suffolk and his trustee. It may be that William had chosen to avoid the notoriety of his brother Beau, by pursuing the life of a country gentleman in Essex with his elegant wife Anne (1778-1857),<sup>128</sup> and their two daughters: Georgina Anne (1802-1886), who first married Sir Thomas Piggot on 24 October 1831, and later married John Frederick Baillie (of Ley's Castle); and Frances Amelia (1801-1862), who married Mathew Dawson Duffield, the Vicar of Stebbing. The latter couple were both present in Wivenhoe according to the 1841 census, as was William's wife, Anne (aged 63) and Georgina Anne's children, Charles Robert Piggot (6) and Mary Elizabeth Piggot (3). The estate at this time must have looked much as it is shown on the 1838 Tythe Award Map for Wivenhoe, with William Brummell cited as the owner of parcels Nos. 243-244, 262, and 292-299. The mansion is clearly shown in parcel 298 on the enlarged section of the Map (Map 8). William Brummell died on 5 May 1853 in Wyvenhoe House (sic) and was buried in a box tomb in St Mary's Churchyard in Wivenhoe. Although he had stated in his will of 1 June 1816<sup>129</sup> that the Wivenhoe estate, which he was leaving in the care of trustees, should be sold 'with all convenient speed after my decease', his widow Ann continued to live in the house until her death on 16 February 1857.<sup>130</sup>

### **The Dismantling of the Wivenhoe House Estate by Thomas Harvey**

When the Wivenhoe Estate came up for sale in the late 1850s, Thomas Harvey (1803-1885),<sup>131</sup> a well-known local ship-builder stepped in to dismantle the estate. He owned the upstream shipyard and had forged his reputation by building, in particular a series of small schooners which brought fresh fruit and other perishable goods from Spain and the eastern Mediterranean to England. He also built racing and cruising yachts for wealthy clients and as a sideline had acquired the Black Boy pub circa 1832.<sup>132</sup>

Purchasing the estate must have seemed like a golden opportunity. The first auction of 'valuable freehold land' was advertised on 24 April 1857, and by 1859 the estate was in Thomas Harvey's hands. In 1861 a second auction was advertised and now the estate was divided into 80 plots.<sup>133</sup> Mortgages were taken out to enable houses to be erected on what was now seen as prime building land. At the same time Harvey began to literally dismantle what had once been Daniel Harvey's mansion and sell off the fabric of the house at auction. A tantalising glimpse of what the mansion may have looked like can be gained from the advertisement for the sale which took place on October 1861.<sup>134</sup> This included '*All the valuable MATERIALS comprised in the above Mansion which is about to be taken down, consisting of a large quantity of sashes and frames, French casements, boxing shutters, mahogany, marbled and other doors with architraves and joints complete, capital oak and deal floors in excellent condition, statuary and other marble chimney pieces of beautiful designs, stoves, handsome stone and other staircases a large quantity of stone pavings, window cills, copings, black and white diamond floors, etc., being the entire internal fittings of about 30 rooms. The external parts of the building comprising about 600,000, RED AND WHITE BRICKS, SLATES AND TILES, etc will be sold at a later date.*'

In the next few years the plots were snapped up and transformed into neat rows of terraced cottages of various sizes, depending on whether they were for the use of mariners or local

sea-captains. New roads were built and were named: Park Road, Queens Road, Paget Road, Anglesea Road and Colne and Denton's Terrace. However, Thomas Harvey may have over-stretched himself. The ship-building business, which Thomas made over to his son, John, when he retired to Brightlingsea in 1865, was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1872 and John, together with his brother, Thomas junior, were declared bankrupt in the same year.<sup>135</sup> Interestingly, in the report of the bankruptcy in the Essex County Standard of January 1873, John states that when his father 'came to grief' (presumably with financial troubles), that same William Hawkins who had inherited Alresford Hall and later become a Director of the Tendring Hundred Railway had supported John Harvey by supplying him with credit to enable him to carry on with the business.<sup>136</sup>

## Conclusion

By the turn of the nineteenth century the landscape of Wivenhoe had dramatically changed. The two important land-owning families who had dominated Wivenhoe in the 18th century had failed. The manorial estate owned by the Corsellis family was in the hands of the Receiver and was sold by 1899.<sup>137</sup> In 1902/8 Hector John Gurdon-Rebow<sup>138</sup> was financially ruined and sold the estate to C. E. Gooch (1870-1937), whose son Charles (d. 1983) sold it on to Essex University in 1962. The population which in 1725 had consisted of 100 families had expanded to 1,672 persons by 1851 and 2,424 by 1901,<sup>139</sup> particularly influenced by the growth of the yachting industry and the coming of the railway. Following enclosure, the lovely old place names described in the 1799 Survey Map had been replaced by more prosaic names such as Two Acre field or Ten Acre Field. The handsome mansions built by the two local sea-captains had disappeared, lost in a wave of Victorian development suitable for lesser mariners. Most of Matthew Martin's land had been swallowed up by the railway cutting in 1863; Daniel Harvey's mansion had been dismantled in 1859 and the contents sold on. Possibly part of the fabric of his house may still exist in some of the larger houses built on Park Road in subsequent years, and the landscaped Brook which ran through his property still runs under the Valley Road estate built in the 1960s and under the bridge on Queens Road to the outlying marshes of the River Colne.

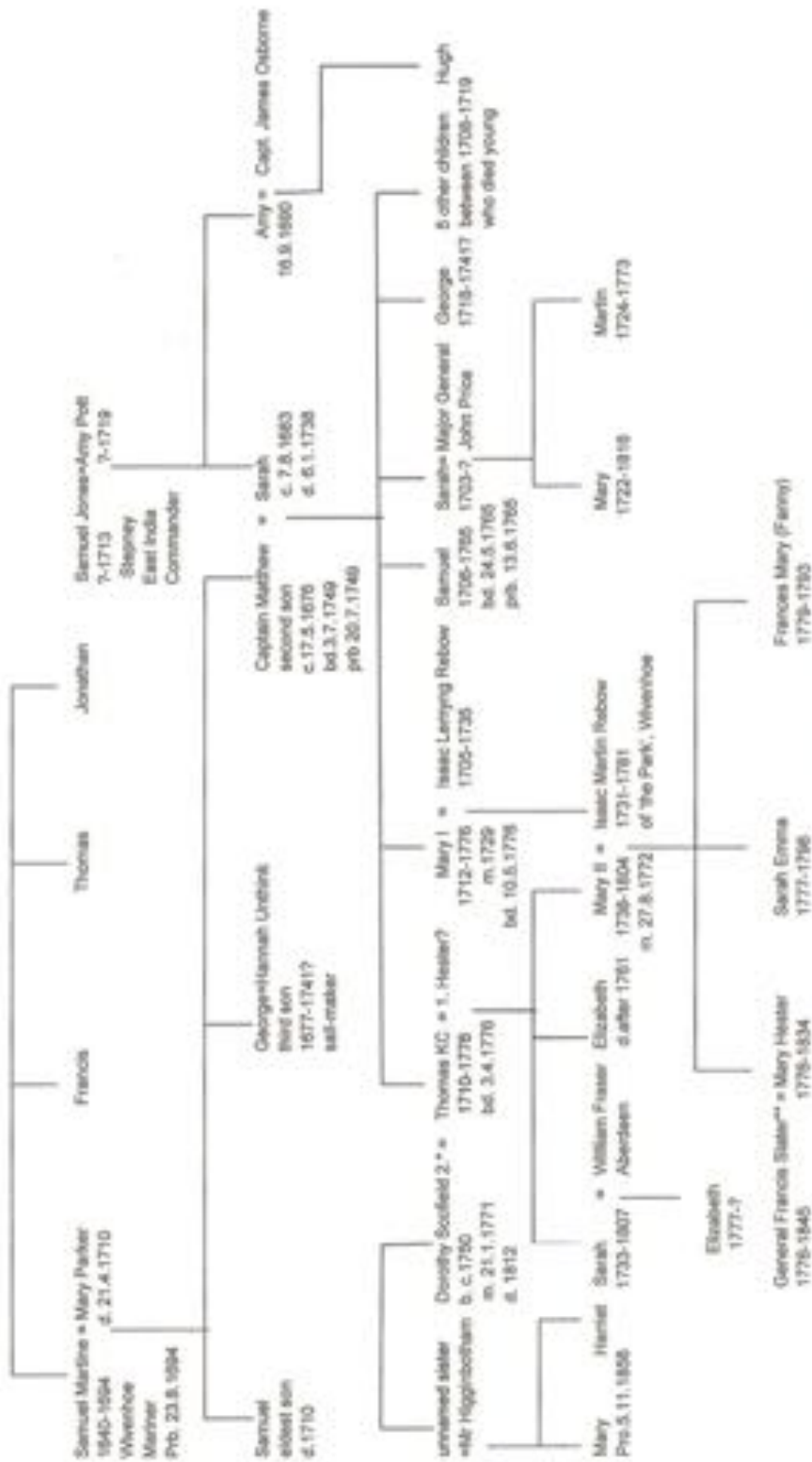
Only the fine house at 'the Park' now known as Wivenhoe Park remained. In 1977 it became a conference centre at the university and was later used as a hotel and a venue for social events. At the time of writing, plans have been announced which will 'transform the historic Wivenhoe House into a fully operational country house hotel, refurbished to the highest standards, with the home of the Edge Hotel School. Returning the house back to something of its Georgian and Victorian finery, the refurbishment will reinstate the grand staircase and put the rooms back to their original uses.' In these days of recession one could be cynical about this, but at least the house will survive in its new incarnation, whereas the mansions of Matthew Martin and Daniel Harvey have been lost forever.

Pat Marsden, Wivenhoe, February 2011

## Acknowledgments

*Particular thanks go to Chris Goddard, Sue Glasspool, Ben Marsden, Michael Morson, Robert Noel, Bruce Neville, Anna Popkin, John Stewart, Ele Wake and the Essex Record Office for their help in researching this article.*

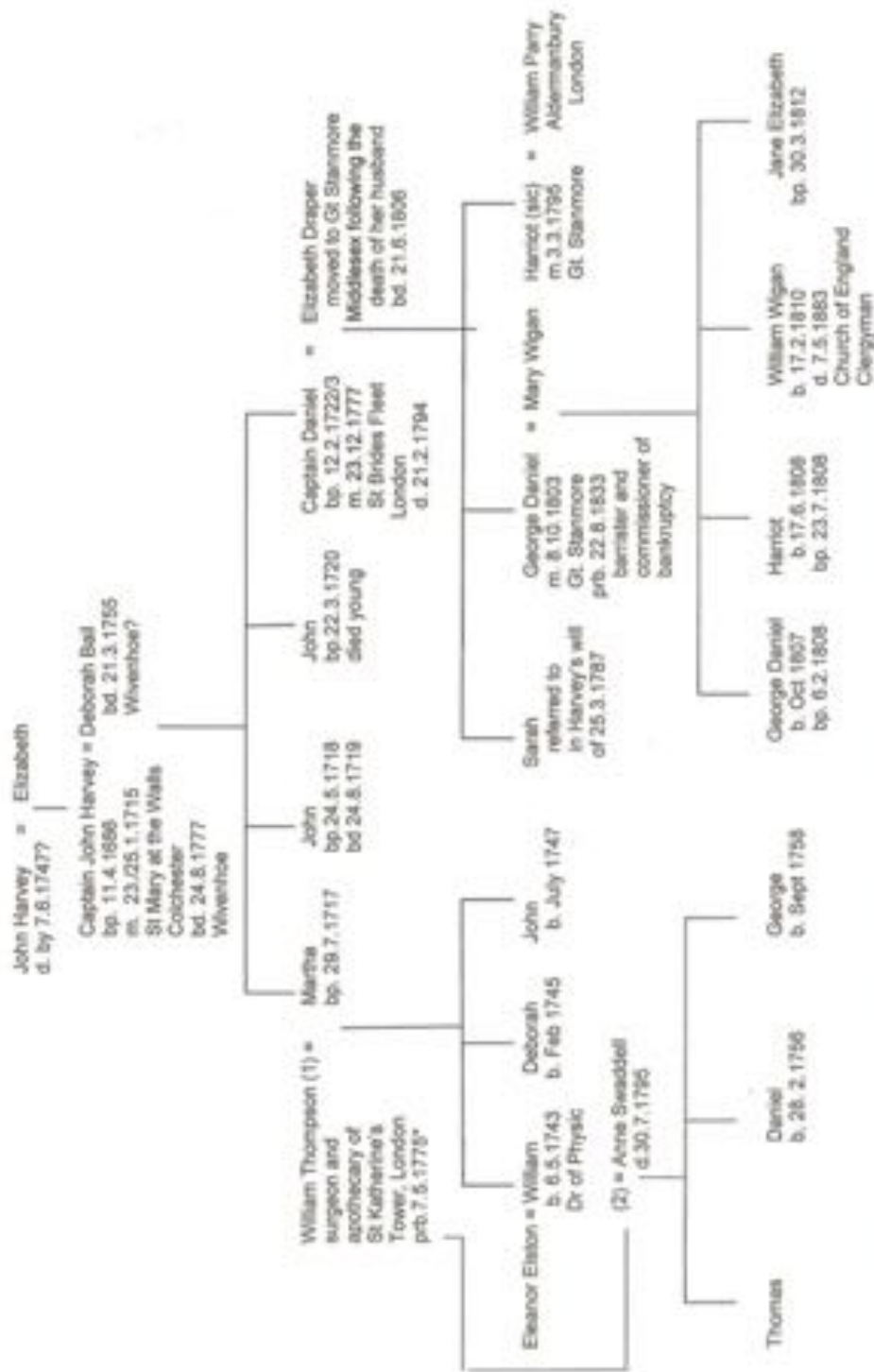
### Captain Matthew Martin's Family Tree



\*Dorothy Scofield married John Adams in May 1777 about a year after Thomas Martin's death but as John Adams died in 1800 and there were no children from either marriage the Wivenhoe and Alford properties once owned by the Martins passed down in due course to her sister's daughters Mary and Harriet Higginbotham.

\*\* Francis Staler assumed the name of Robow and became the owner of 'The Park'.

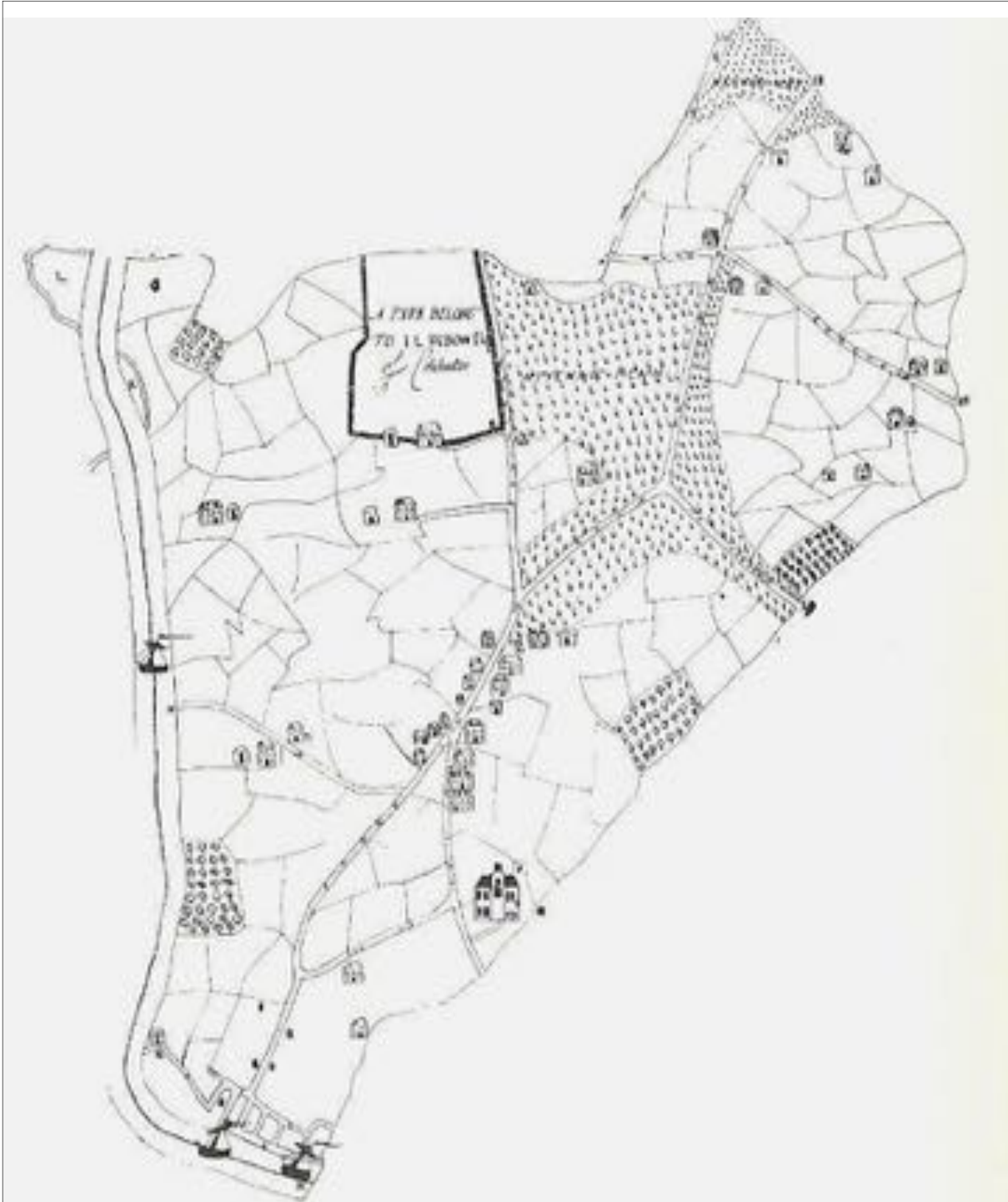
## Captain Daniel Harvey's Family Tree



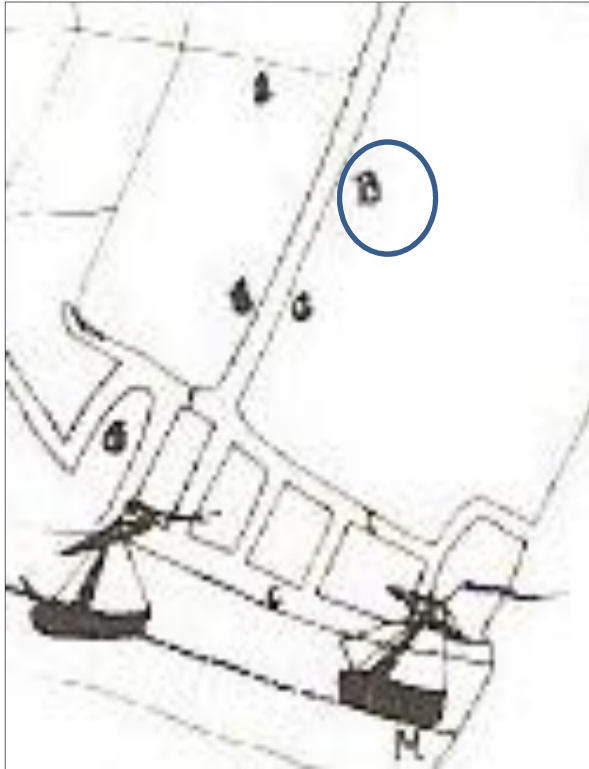
\* William Thompson refers to Daniel Harvey of Wivertoe in his probated will of 1775 and Daniel Harvey also refers to the Elston family connection in his probated will of 7 March 1794.



Maps



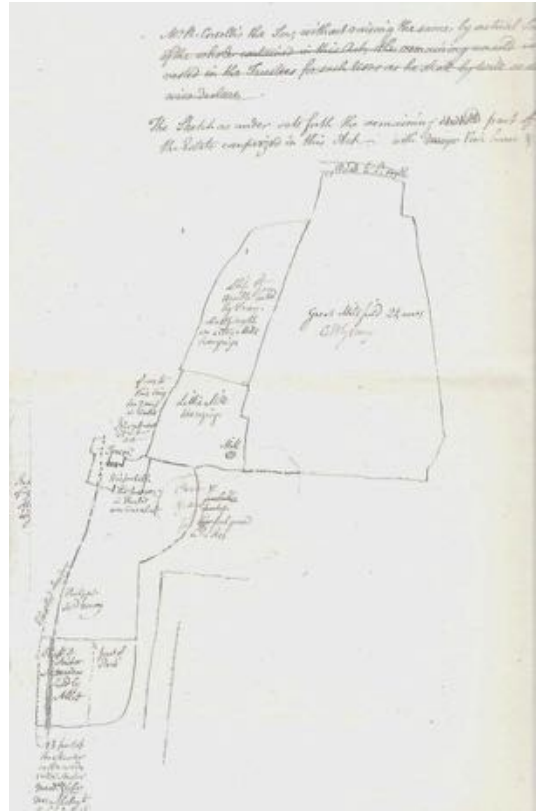
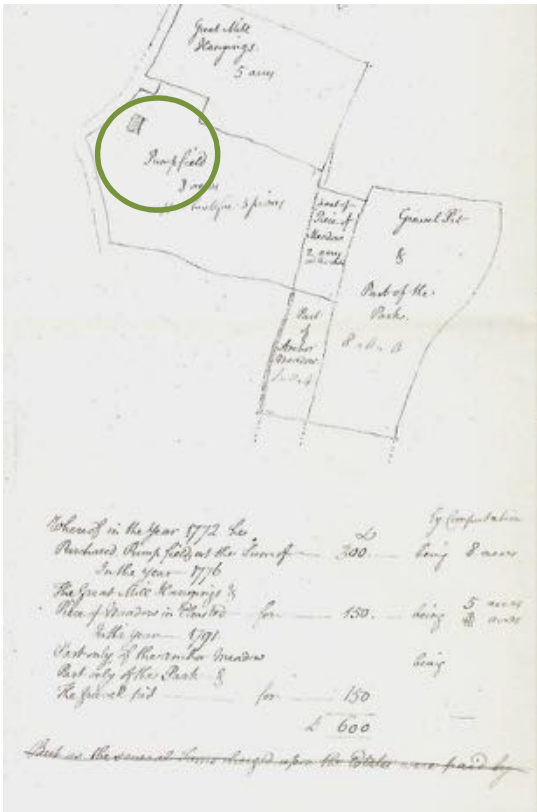
Map 1 Harry Hook's 1929 copy of the 1734 Hayward Rush Map by courtesy of Essex Record Office



Maps 2 and 3 An enlarged section of the 1929 copy of 1734 Hayward Rush Map showing the site of Matthew Martin's mansion (encircled in blue) with the same section from the original map reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record Office



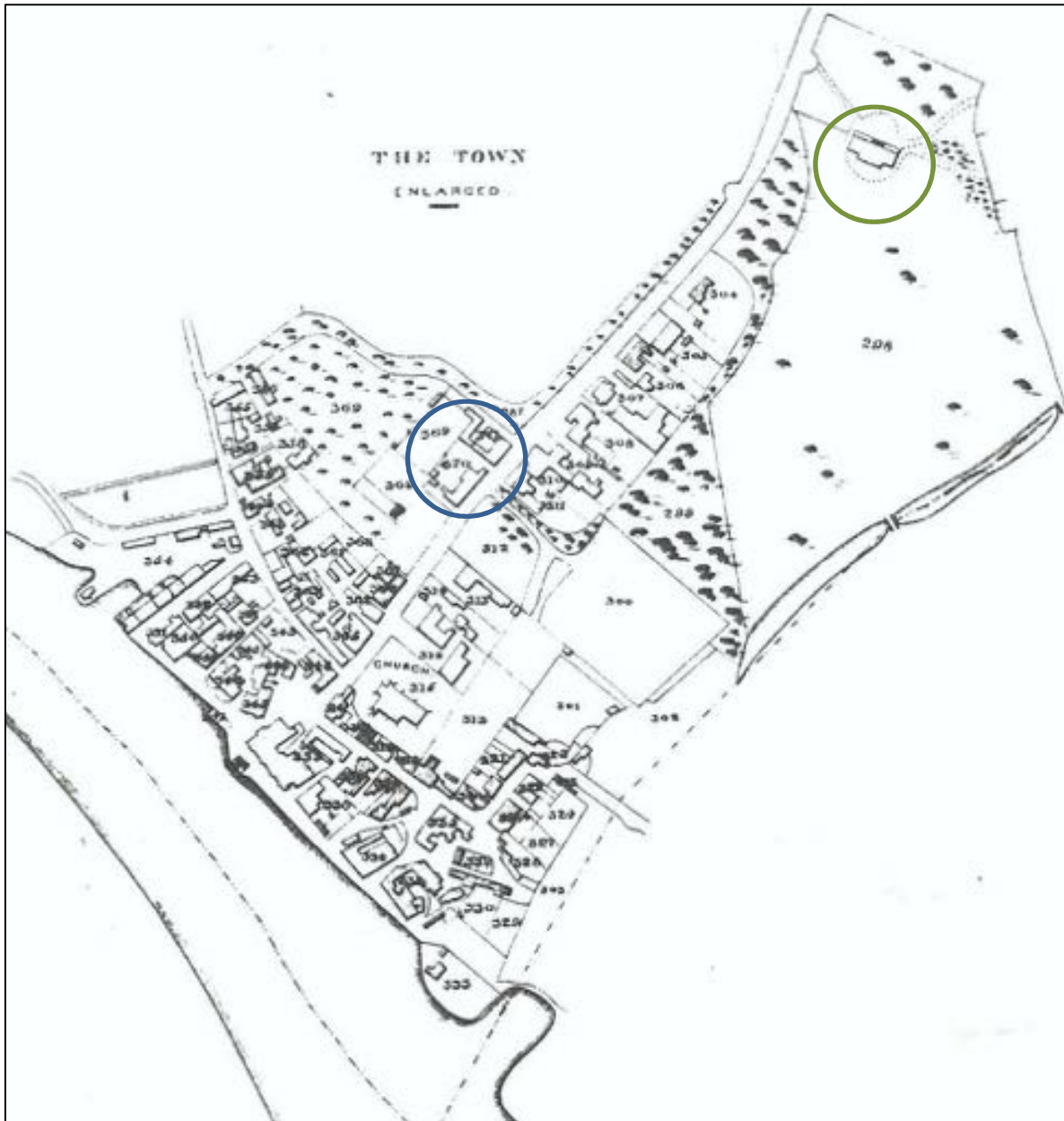
Maps 4 An extract from the 1777 Chapman and André Map showing the site of Matthew Martin's mansion (encircled in blue). *See also* Map 7 showing an enlarged section of the 1799 Survey Map of Wivenhoe.



Maps 5 and 6 Freehand sketches attached to D/DU 457/13 showing land purchased by Daniel Harvey between 1772-1791, by courtesy of Essex Record Office



Map 7 An enlarged section of the 1799 Survey Map of Wivenhoe showing the site of Matthew Martin's mansion (encircled in blue), and Daniel Harvey's mansion (encircled in green), reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record Office



Map 8 An enlarged section of the 1838 Tythe Map for Wivenhoe showing both the former property of the Martin family and the suggested site of Matthew Martin's family (encircled in blue) and part of the Wivenhoe House Estate with the site of Daniel Harvey's mansion (encircled in green) by courtesy of Essex Record Office



Map 9: Wivenhoe House Estate Map D/DU 225/10 27 July 1859 showing the site of Daniel Harvey's mansion by courtesy of Essex Record Office

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## Notes

ECS=Essex County Standard  
ERO=Essex Record Office  
HCA=High Court of the Admiralty  
IOR =India Office Records  
NA = National Archives

<sup>1</sup> This is believed to be the parcel of land known as Swaynes and this is borne out by the 1799 Survey Map of Wivenhoe, V.C.H. *Essex* X. 281.

<sup>2</sup> The detailed history of the building and alterations to the Rebow house has been fully outlined in R. Feesey in *Wivenhoe Park*, Benham & Co, Colchester, 1963.

<sup>3</sup> This grew by 1758 to 161 families being eligible for window tax and 182 houses in 1766, V.C.H. *Essex*, X. 277.

<sup>4</sup> P. Morant, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex*, Vol II, 1768, London, reprinted by E. P. Publishing, Wakefield, 1978, 188.

<sup>5</sup> *Notes and Queries* Vol V 3rd S. (121) Apr 23 1864, 349.

<sup>6</sup> Her will was proved on 21 December 1710 leaving her estate to 'my two sons' Matthew and George Martin, [www. webrarian.co.uk](http://www.webrarian.co.uk).

<sup>7</sup> NA, Prob/11/142.

<sup>8</sup> Baptised 17 May 1676 at St Mary's Wivenhoe.

<sup>9</sup> [www.webrarian.co.uk](http://www.webrarian.co.uk).

<sup>10</sup> Morant, Vol II, 188.

<sup>11</sup> NA, IOR 1600-1948, IOR/L/MAR/A-B 1605-1856.

<sup>12</sup> Note by Tho. Wooley, Secretary of the East India Company, concerning the Company Ships, the *Marlborough* and the *Mary*, NA, SP 34/16/140, footnote 238.

<sup>13</sup> A. F. Farrington 'Catalogue of East India Company ships journals and logs', 1600-1834, British Library, London, 1999.

<sup>14</sup> Morant, Vol II, 188-9.

<sup>15</sup> *The British Critic*, Vol XXIII, 1804, 277-9.

<sup>16</sup> ERO hold a black and white print of the portrait but it has not so far been possible to trace the original painting.

<sup>17</sup> Discussed in a conversation with Robert Noel, the Lancaster Herald at The College of Arms, in January 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Morant describes Martin's Arms, Vol II, 188. The illustration shown in this paper (Fig 3) and accompanying account also appears in De La Motte, Philip, *The Principal, Historical, and Allusive Arms, borne by Families of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with their Respective Authorities*, J. Nichols & Son, London 1808, 184-7. The hatchment used to be displayed in St Peter's Church, Alresford but unfortunately this was lost when the church was destroyed by fire in October 1971.

<sup>19</sup> ERO D/Y 1/1/130/1.

<sup>20</sup> ERO D/DB 61.

<sup>21</sup> ERO, D/P 277/6/1, 1829 and V.C.H *Essex* X, 290-292.

<sup>22</sup> [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

<sup>23</sup> *The British Critic*, Vol XXIII, 1804, 277-9.

<sup>24</sup> E. Mason, 'Captain Matthew Martin', *The Essex Review*, Vol X1, 1902, 158-162.

<sup>25</sup> ERO, D/P 277/25/20.

<sup>26</sup> [www.londonlives.org](http://www.londonlives.org). List of Governor Takers-in of Patients 25 March 1732 and 25 December 1733, 18<sup>th</sup> March 1741, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1743

<sup>27</sup> The body which looks after lighthouses and the welfare of mariners.

<sup>28</sup> Possibly inherited from his wife's family. His father-in law, Samuel Jones, refers to property in Stepney according to his will which was probated on 9 March 1714. The parish was sometimes known as Wapping-Stepney.

<sup>29</sup> This refers to a messuage called Headgate House in the parish of St. Mary at the Walls in Colchester, ERO, D/DB23

<sup>30</sup> Referred to in a pre-nuptial settlement between Dorothy Martin and John Adams, May 1777, ERO D/DU 381/41

<sup>31</sup> A Brown, *Essex at Work 1700-1815*, Chelmsford, 1969, 125.

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<sup>32</sup> To avoid confusion Mary Martin I refers to the daughter of Captain Mathew Martin; Mary Martin II refers to his granddaughter. They both married into the Rebow family.

<sup>33</sup> *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, part 1, Vol III, 153

<sup>34</sup> N. Butler, *The Story of Wivenhoe*, 1989. 42

<sup>35</sup> ERO, D/DU 27/1

<sup>36</sup> Butler quotes Mr. L. H. Martin as his source.

<sup>37</sup> ERO. D/DC 5/121/2 conveying various messages, including a meadow called Tent's Meadow in Colchester, property in Tollesbury and Tolleshunt D'Arcy, a farm in Peldon called Samptons or Abbotts Wicke or Samptons's Wicke and part of a property in Wivenhoe known as the Hinds Head.

<sup>38</sup> ERO, D/DJoM27.

<sup>39</sup> He may have been related to Matthew Martin's wife as her mother's maiden name was Pott or Potts.

<sup>40</sup> The only available copy of the 1799 Survey Map of Wivenhoe is a poor photocopy held by ERO. The itemisation of the parcels of land is almost illegible in parts. ERO did once possess the original copy but this was apparently returned to the owners some thirty years ago and the owner's name has been lost. Even the British Library only hold a similar poor copy.

<sup>41</sup> His death was reported in the *Daily Post & General Advertiser*, London, 26 February.

<sup>42</sup> An East Indiaman was a merchant ship operating under charter or license to any of the [East India Companies](#) of the major European trading powers of the 17th through the 19th centuries. Details of the *Middlesex* can be found at the National Archives GB/NNAF/C26824.

<sup>43</sup> *Country Journal* or the *Craftsman*, London, 13 March, 1736. It is thought that George died by 1741 because, although he was named in Matthew Martin's will of 1740, his name does not appear in succeeding wills of 1743 and 1748. The death of a George Martin is recorded in the Burial Records for Wivenhoe dated 26.1.1741 although it would have been expected that Matthew Martin's son would have been placed in the family vault at Alresford. The entry may instead have referred to Mathew Martin's brother.

<sup>44</sup> Died 6 January 1738. Will proved at Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 5 March 1739

<sup>45</sup> It appears that no family vault was ever built for the Martins at St Mary's in Wivenhoe.

<sup>46</sup> The Church contained a monument to her memory, with the following inscription: '*Near this place lieth the body of Sarah Martin, wife of Matthew Martin of Wivenhoe, Esq, Lord of the Manor, a Member in Parliament, High Steward and Alderman for ye Borough of Colchester, a Governor of St. Thomas's Hospital, and an Elder Brother of Ye Trinity House etc., who died much lamented, as she lived much beloved and esteemed for her Conjugal, Maternal, and Social Virtues. She departed this life the VI. of Jan. Anno Domini MDXXX VIII. Ætat LVI*', Ernest N. Mason and published in the *Essex Review* vol. XI, 1902, 158-162.

<sup>47</sup> *Notes and Queries*, Vol 5, 3rd S. (115) Mar 12 1864, 222.

<sup>48</sup> The marriage settlement involved a transfer of more than £17,000 worth of stocks and annuities to Hugh Osborne of Alresford, esq and his wife Ann Standert, sister of Frederick Standert, a London merchant, ERO, D/DB T1526. The settlement was later withdrawn in 1771 by a deed of revocation ERO, D/DB T1527. It sounds as if Hugh Osborne's troubles continued for as late as 23 June 1772 Thomas's daughter, Mary Martin II, writing to her now husband, Isaac Martin Rebow, speaks of her father's visit to her after receiving a letter from Mr Standert in which she says that he has made it clear that 'he can by no means Approve or Consent, to y lessening Mr Osborne's Income to pay y Son's Debts'.

<sup>49</sup> Alresford St Peters, Register of Burials 1742-1812, D/P 336/1/1.

<sup>50</sup> Will dated 23 May 1748, ERO, D/DHt/T303/4, NA PROB 11/772.

<sup>51</sup> Records relating to Captain Micklefield in the Admiralty Registers of Letters of Marque held at The National Archives in Kew, dated 6 April 1744, refer to his co-ownership with Captain Martin of the *Wager*, which had a crew of 99, and *Godolphin* which had a crew of 96; another record dated 22 May 1744 refers to his co-ownership of the *Northampton*, which had a crew of 99, NA, HCA 26/4/22. 23, 86.

<sup>52</sup> Daniel Cock was involved in the marriage settlement of 1715 which appears to indicate that he married Hannah, George Martin's daughter.

<sup>53</sup> Will of 7 September 1761, NA, PROB 11/909.

<sup>54</sup> Isaac Martin married late in life but in his youth he had a relationship with his first cousin on his father's side, Sophia Christina (de) Hoppman (1733-1799), the daughter of his father's sister, Rachel Rebow (1705-1744), who had made a good marriage in 1721 at the age of sixteen to Baron Johan Gerhard (de) Hoppman from Horley, in Surrey. This resulted in an illegitimate child, named George Edwards who was brought up in Kent. When Isaac Martin did marry a Private Act was passed to

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enable him to take and use the surname of Martin pursuant to the Will of Mathew Martin.

<sup>55</sup> In one of Mary's earliest known letters she begs him to 'Be Cautious'. In a letter dated 28 February 1767 and sent from her father's address she addresses him with careful formality in the mode of the time as 'Dear Sir' but hints that she 'shall come down y Mall o' Monday sennight at exactly Twelve o'clock', J. A. Manning, 'The Mary Martin Rebow Letters 1767-1772', an Essay, Part 1, *The Record*, 1972.

<sup>56</sup> Letter to Isaac Martin Rebow dated 3 January 1771.

<sup>57</sup> Butler, 33.

<sup>58</sup> Butler, 36.

<sup>59</sup> 27 August 1772 at St Margaret, Westminster, Boyds Marriage Index 1538-1840.

<sup>60</sup> ERO, D/P 336/1/1

<sup>61</sup> Thomas's burial on 30 April 1776 is recorded in the local burial register where he is referred to as being the Lord of the Manor of Alresford; the next entry of 10 May in the same year records the death of his sister, Mary I who is described as Mrs Rebow of Wivenhoe. ERO D/P 336/1/1. His death at Queens Row is also recorded in the *St James Chronicle* or the British Evening Post, London 18 April 1776 and the *London Gazette* 2/3 May 1776 where he is described as being formerly a Barrister at Law and noting that he had been interred in the family vault at Alresford.

<sup>62</sup> ERO, D/DHt B1, Feeseey, 14/16

<sup>63</sup> Miss Rebow, co-heiress of the late Isaac Martin Rebow of the Park, near Colchester, married Major Francis Slater of the 60<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, *True Briton*, London, 31 March, 1796. Major Slater assumed her name and arms by Royal Licence in the same year, Feeseey, 21. It was he who commissioned Constable to paint the Park in 1816.

<sup>64</sup> A prenuptial settlement of 1, 2 May 1777 record the transfer of property including land in Alresford and Elmstead (no details) and the inn called the Falcon in Wivenhoe, ERO, D/DU 381/140.

<sup>65</sup> White's *Directory of Essex* 1848 records that Mary Higginbotham of London holds both the manor of Alresford and Cockayne.

<sup>66</sup> The painter, John Constable, painted the Quarters at Alresford Hall (now in the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia) at about the same time that he painted Wivenhoe Park in 1816 on a social visit to the Rebows, J. Bettley and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of Essex*, New Haven & London, 2007.

<sup>67</sup> ERO, D/CT 406B.

<sup>68</sup> ERO, D/CT 406A.

<sup>69</sup> NA, PROB 11/2241.

<sup>70</sup> The surnames are spelt in different ways at different times.

<sup>71</sup> Elizabeth Eade 1.7.1863.

<sup>72</sup> P. Brown, *The Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea Railway*, 1985,1995, 9-10.

<sup>73</sup> Indenture of 1 July 1863 between Harriet Higginbotham and Elizabeth Jones and Tendring Hundred Railway Company (THRC) and later Conveyance of 17 October 1864 relating to the sale of surplus property between THRC and F. B. Philbrick, ERO, Q/RUo 24

<sup>74</sup> ERO, D/DU 225/6-15

<sup>75</sup> Release and Conveyance of an Estate at Wivenhoe and Elmstead in Essex between Edward Sage Esquire and William Brummell Esquire and his Trustees, 4th July 1811, ERO, D/DU 225/7

<sup>76</sup> There is an entry in the parish records of St Mary the Virgin at Wivenhoe which confirms the baptism of John Harvey, the son of John Harvey and his wife, Elizabeth, on 11 April 1686.

<sup>77</sup> *The Pedigree Register*, Sept. 1911, An Official Organ of The Society of Genealogists of London, edited by George Sherwood, Vol 11, London 1910-1913.

<sup>78</sup> ERO, D/P 246/1/4.

<sup>79</sup> IGI, Film No.170628, page number 940, reference no. 34976, and St Mary's parish register of births and baptisms 1689 – 1751, D/P 277/1/2.

<sup>80</sup> Baptism Records, St Mary's Parish Church, D/P 277/1/2.

<sup>81</sup> She was circa 63 years old according to the St Mary's Register of Burials, D/P 277/1/3.

<sup>82</sup> NA, HCA 26/5/88.

<sup>83</sup> G. Smith, *Smuggling in Essex*, Newbury, 2005, 79.

<sup>84</sup> Smith, *Smuggling in Essex*, 7. Daniel Sutton (1767-?), from Wivenhoe, a solicitor and later Town Clerk of Colchester was a noted smuggler, H. Benham, *The Smugglers Century*, Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, 1986, 85.

<sup>85</sup> Smith, *Smuggling in Essex*, 159.

<sup>86</sup> H. Benham, *Once Upon a Tide*, London, 1971, 174.

<sup>87</sup> J. Leather, *The Salty Shore*, 1979, 76.



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- <sup>88</sup> NA, T 1/522/84-5.
- <sup>89</sup> Adverse opinions and related correspondence on memorials by Daniel Harvey, for compensation for a cutter lost to the French while trying to capture a smuggling vessel, NA T 1/551/176-185.
- <sup>90</sup> S. Jarvis, *Smuggling in East Anglia 1700-1840*, Newbury, 1987, 99-100.
- <sup>91</sup> In July 1729 Captain Robert Martin presented a surgeon's bill to the Colchester Collector from Dr Horace Flack of Wivenhoe for payment on account for the treatment of three seamen 'injured in a fight with smugglers', and several of his men were knocked down and wounded after a desperate engagement' with nine smugglers, which was reported in the Ipswich Journal, 24 March 1739, Smith, *Smuggling In Essex*, 150.
- <sup>92</sup> Benham, *Once Upon a Tide*, 174.
- <sup>93</sup> ERO D/DEt T27.
- <sup>94</sup> ERO D/DEt T27/20.
- <sup>95</sup> There is a discrepancy between his mother's reported death and the date of this deed and there is a query about the date of her death on the same deed.
- <sup>96</sup> ERO D/DEtT27/21 Surrendered to William Webb who left them in his will to his wife Susannah, at which point the will specifically mentions a coal yard, granary, gardener's shop and small warehouse, right to the quay facing it and three houses.
- <sup>97</sup> ERO D/DEt T27/21.
- <sup>98</sup> ERO D/DEt T27/20.
- <sup>99</sup> ERO D/DEt T27/21.
- <sup>100</sup> ERO D/DEt T27/27.
- <sup>101</sup> Butler, 43 referring to an Indenture of 30 May 1828 recording the transfer of the Ship at Launch held by John Stewart.
- <sup>102</sup> *Notes and Queries*, Eleventh Series, Vol XI, Jan-June 1915, 2 Jan, 8.
- <sup>103</sup> NA PROB 11/1008 dated 27.05.1775.
- <sup>104</sup> *Pedigree Register*, 182-3.
- <sup>105</sup> ERO D/DU 457/13.
- <sup>106</sup> D/DU 457/13 Private Act of Parliament (11 George III, c.79).
- <sup>107</sup> *Pedigree Register*, 182-3.
- <sup>108</sup> A. F. J. Brown, *Essex People 1750-1900*, ERO Publications No. 59, 1972, 66.
- <sup>109</sup> Smith, *Smuggling in Essex*, 167, believed to be in a letter written by Mary Martin but not yet found.
- <sup>110</sup> F. Cowell, *Richard Woods (1715-1793) Master of the Pleasure Garden*, Woodbridge, 2009, 175
- <sup>111</sup> Married Mary Hester
- <sup>112</sup> ERO D/DEL B19. Woods prepared a plan for the improvement of Rebow's estate in 1765, although work did not start until 1776. Apparently Thomas Martin was also a client from 1772-6, Cowell, 176.
- <sup>113</sup> ERO D/DU 225/10 Attached to deed dated 27 July 1859.
- <sup>114</sup> Benham, *Smugglers Century*, 42.
- <sup>115</sup> Benham, *Smugglers Century*, 42.
- <sup>116</sup> Smith, *Smuggling in Essex*, 159.
- <sup>117</sup> NA PROB 11/1243, 7 March 1794.
- <sup>118</sup> ERO, D/DHt A9.
- <sup>119</sup> His obituary in *The Pedigree Register* of September 1911, 182-3, suggests that he was 71 years old at the time although *The Gentleman's Magazine*, March 1794, 279, states that 'Captain Daniel Harvey, formerly commander of the Wivenhoe custom-house cutter, stationed there' died 'At his house at Wivenhoe, near Colchester, in Essex, aged 76', 279.
- <sup>120</sup> Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1772-81, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas 1794-9, *Alumni Oxoniensis*, 1715-1886, Vol 2 E-K, 1888, 441.
- <sup>121</sup> He was the town clerk, recorder, and clerk of the peace for the county, V.C.H. *Essex*, IX,135-147.
- <sup>122</sup> Directory of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark, 1794.
- <sup>123</sup> [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) IGI Batch number M048611. Her death as Harriet Parry is recorded at NA PROB 11/2006 dated 4 October 1844.
- <sup>124</sup> <http://oxforddnb.com>
- <sup>125</sup> D. Defoe, *Tour Through the Eastern Counties*, Ipswich, 1984, First published in 1724.
- <sup>126</sup> ERO, D/DU 554/1 referring to the pre-nuptial settlement between James Boggis and Mary Cecelia Stephenson attested 1822.
- <sup>127</sup> National Archives, PROB 11/1590 dated 11 March 1817.
- <sup>128</sup> *The Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol 70, Part 1, 589, Obituary in *Ipswich Journal*, 21.2.1857.
- <sup>129</sup> Will dated 13.1 1854, NA, PRO 11/2176.
- <sup>130</sup> Will dated 19.12.1857, NA, PRO 11/2261.

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<sup>131</sup> No family connection to Captain Daniel Harvey has yet been discovered.

<sup>132</sup> V.C.H, *Essex*, X, 280.

<sup>133</sup> Wivenhoe House Estate auction particulars, D/DU 225/14, 5-6.

<sup>134</sup> Announcement of sale of 'Building Materials' from Wivenhoe House, to be held on 9/10 October, *ECS*, 3 October 1861.

<sup>135</sup> *The London Gazette*, 3 April, 1874.

<sup>136</sup> *ECS*, 29 January 1873.

<sup>137</sup> Butler, 139.

<sup>138</sup> V.C.H, *Essex*, X, 281-2, footnote 9.

<sup>139</sup> V.C.H. *Essex*, X. 277.

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