

Usefully educated...

Exploring Sarah Garrard's 1825 sampler

Sarah's sampler graces the cover of this year's Book of Days thanks to the goodness of a dear friend. Little did we know that we were both trying to purchase her a few years back. Once we realized this, Lynn O'Neill graciously offered to share it with us—and ultimately with you—so that we can enjoy the simple beauty of her 1825 composition. She's on the short list to be reproduced.



Although searches for Sarah's school proved fruitless, we did stumble upon the Bramford Local History Group. Secretary Beryl Sims was kind enough to reply, providing information about the history of the town in Suffolk, England. Interestingly enough, while Rev. Naylor is known in local history as a nineteenth century vicar who formed a Sunday School, Reading Room and Parish Room on Raven's Lane, records of his School of Industry are scant. Chances are that it may have been housed in a small garage-like building that was destroyed in the storm of 1987. We believe that a Sarah Garrard (also spelled Garrod) born in 1813 likely is the maker of this sampler.

We are grateful to St. Mary's Church in Bramford for kindly permitting us to use the likeness of Rev. Naylor at right. We look forward to uncovering more pieces of the puzzle before we reproduce Sarah's sampler later in 2021. Giving life to these pieces of the past is an honorable and a humbling process. We are always seeking more information to help shed light on sampler makers, their surroundings and their history. At times the trappings of technology can be confounding; but overall, being able to communicate via email, having access to electronic records and using modern printing technology are enhancements to our passion for preserving the past. V & M



Rev. George Naylor, 1795-1854



A Needlework Enthusiast's

2021 Book of Days

Sarah Garrard usefully Educated at the Rev.
Geo. Maylors School of Industry Bramford

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1825

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Welcome to Bramford, Sarah's home town!



Although the community has grown, little has changed on the main street of Bramford since Sarah's time. The photo at left shows the Angel Pub (left), and the cottages (right) where Sarah and her family may have lived. According to Beryl Sims, the town was quite small and everyone would have known their neighbors.



Rev. George Naylor, 1795-1854



The above image shows the Bramford town pump. At right is a photograph of the Bramford School that was built in 1860, after Sarah would have been a student.



A newspaper clipping found by the Bramford History Group chairperson reports the 60th celebration of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837. The article discusses a tea held in the Parish Room for the school children at 4pm, followed by a 5pm tea for adults. At that time, Miss Eliza Mee, who was born in the village and was blind, was the organist in the village Church. At the celebration, she presented a poem, 'Victoria,' which she had previously recited in that same room 59 years earlier. Although she might not have known Sarah, Beryl believes that Sarah would definitely have known the blind organist. The Parish Room had earlier been the school room.

Going back to this history seems to confirm that a building destroyed in the storm of 1987 was in fact the school in the 1830s, so it would almost certainly have been the school which Sarah attended.

The 1920 map of Bramford at left shows the railroad that came through the town in 1846.

Special thanks to the Bramford History Group for information on this page.

