

Mid 19th Century Staffordshire Wild Rose Blue and White Transfer Printed Pearl Ware



This shard was found in debris removed from the North end of the house. The left centre of the plate is a depiction of Nuneham Park in Oxfordshire based on an engraving by W Cooke after a drawing by S Owen of the Vicarage of Nuneham Courtney. This design was a popular subject for manufacturers in Staffordshire from the mid 19th century. Transferware was created by heating an etched copper plate to which a dye has been added and transferring the image to thin paper. The paper was placed over the pottery and then the item fired in a low temperature kiln to produce an image on the plate. An example of an undamaged plate below.



Staffordshire Flow Ware



Found in the debris of the South end of the house examples of Staffordshire Flow Ware. Popular in the USA, the technique, dating from 1820, was possibly created from an error in the firing process when chemical contaminants were present in the kiln. The ink is deliberately allowed to run creating a blurred effect.

More Transfer Ware



Shards from the south building excavation and an example of a complete plate.

A Silver Spoon

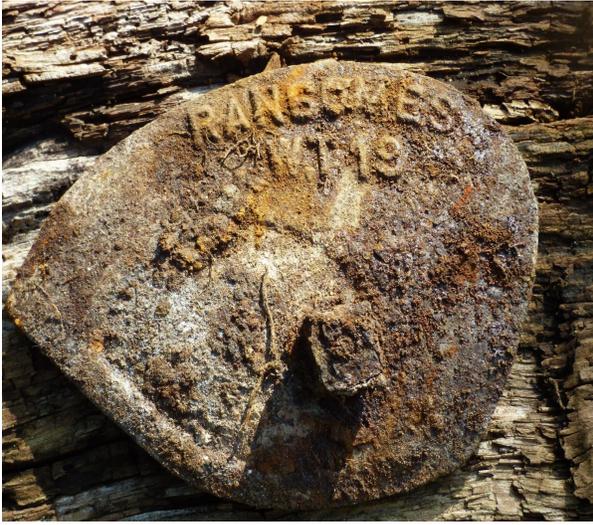


This little teaspoon was found in the debris on the East side of the chimney. It has a clear hallmark, Manufactured by James Payne in London, a Sterling Silver mark and with a date letter 'S' which equates to 1833. Duty paid is proven by King William IV's image in the final stamp.

Two bottles from Wilson's Chemist shop Stowmarket



Thomas Wilson registered as a pharmaceutical Chemist in 1863 and traded initially at Walsham Le Willows before entering a partnership with William Harvey in Stowmarket in 1879. He also traded at Sudbury. The business ceased trading in 1980. The clear glass bottle is clearly marked Stowmarket, but the green bottle, which may have contained Iodine, possibly came from Boots. Another clear bottle contained an unpleasant liquid which was believed to be a sheep dip solution.



Evidence of Machinery produced by Ransomes of Ipswich

The Ransomes engineering dynasty in Ipswich dates back to the birth of Robert Ransome in 1753. initially manufacturing plough

shares but through the years they have produced diverse products such as trolley buses, steam engines, astronomical equipment, lawn mowers, harvesters and aircraft that were used in the first World War. High quality Lawn Mowers are still produced in Ipswich. These two plates were buried in the house debris.



A plough blade manufactured by Woods & Co Stowmarket

James Woods started a smithy in Tavern Street Stowmarket in 1812 and continued with the manufacture of agricultural equipment and engines until 1914. This blade is clearly embossed with the maker's name (see the image right), and it was extracted from material in front of the fireplace.



A Cobbold Beer Bottle Top



The Cobbold brewery began in Harwich Essex in 1723 and the Cliff Lane Ipswich brewery in 1746. The Harwich brewery closed in 1876 and in 1880 The Tollemache brothers acquired the Ipswich brewery from Cullingham and Co. After another period of acquisitions in 1957 Cobbold and Co. merged with Tollemache's Breweries Ltd to become Tolley Cobbold. This screw thread bottle top was found in front of the fireplace.

A Victorian Potato Dibber



Bricks



The first record of brickmaking in Woolpit was in 1574. It was an important industry through the 16th and 19th centuries but production ceased at the outbreak of the second world war due to fears that the kilns could be seen from the air. An attempt to reopen in 1946 failed due to accidental flooding. Woolpit bricks were used in the Ipswich area and had a reputation of quality and durability and beauty close to that of white stone.

The second image represents the damaged, poor quality, contaminated clay bricks found at Orchard barn,

Apotropaic Marks or Taper Marks

A candle flame was held against the timber possibly during construction of the house to deter evil spirits.

The word apotropaic derives from greek 'avert evil'. There are several different forms of symbols in old buildings.



A Horse Collar

Found deep in the debris in front of the fire an almost complete but badly deteriorated horse collar. An early 20th Century photograph tantalisingly shows working horses on the farm with maybe the bridle shown here.

