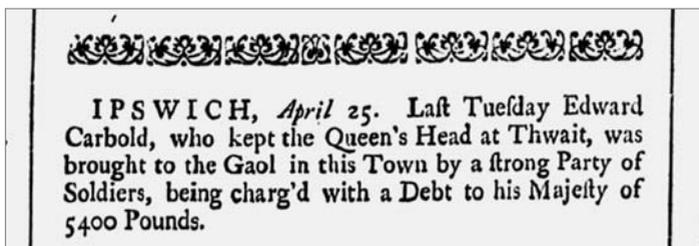


## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

This news item appeared in the *Ipswich Journal* of 26th April 1740. It is one of the few references I have found to the Queen's Head (or Thwaite Low House), which was dismantled and shipped to New York in 1911 and used in building a Tudor-style house overlooking Long Island. I wrote about this in March last year.

Edward Carbold (the family used various spellings such as Carbald and Carbould before settling on Cobbold) was being arrested for smuggling. At that



time each member of a gang was held responsible for the entire gang's unpaid duty, and the unpaid duty was considered a debt to the King.

This is an enormous sum of money, but smugglers were bringing in frequent and large cargoes of goods (usually tea and brandy) from Holland to the secluded beaches of Suffolk, for sale to shopkeepers or local gentry and clergy.

Tea was in 25lb waterproof oilskin bags and brandy in small portable barrels called ankers. Brandy was shipped just as it came from the still: over-proof, clear and lethal. Before use it was diluted with water and coloured with caramel.

Edward and his brother John kept the Queen's Head and the Buck's Head, both establishments associated with cock fighting and smuggling. Cock fighting was at this time considered an acceptable sport, and offered valuable prizes of perhaps five guineas per battle and 50 guineas or more for the final winner. Even greater sums were gambled, and cock fighting was often associated with smugglers as well as gentry, both categories being awash with cash and keen to wager. Doubtless, on these occasions deals were struck for the financing and supply of contraband, and the loan of horses, premises and labour.

After his arrest Edward was fortunate. In March 1741, although accused of joint possession of 6,000 lbs of tea, he was released 'on giving security not to be concerned in smuggling, &c'. After his death in 1776 a three-day sale at the Buck's Head was necessary to dispose of his belongings.

Brother John had been less fortunate, ending up at Tyburn on 23rd October 1751. I will write about him next month.

**MAY EVENTS IN THORNHAM** ● **Mon 1st:** Estate Spring Party, 10.30-4  
● **Sun 7th:** Village Hall Dog Show, 2pm ● **Sun 14th:** Concert, Magna Church, <http://musicatthornham.org.uk> ● **Tues 16th:** Magna Village Meeting, 7.30pm ● **Sat 20th:** Blossom Day, Walled Garden, 10-4, free ● **Friday 26th:** Village Hall film, *Lion*, £5