

NOTES FROM THORNHAM

Last month I wrote about Edward Carbold of Thwaite who was arrested in 1740 for smuggling and after his release in 1741 returned to Thwaite where he died in 1776.

His brother John was less fortunate. He was tried for 'tax offences', meaning smuggling, at the Old Bailey on 11th September 1751. *The Proceedings of the Old Bailey* reported the case in detail and are all online. John Carbald (as he is then known) was tried jointly with Edward Brook, another member of the same gang.

The trial was based on a run in 1747. Orders and payment had been placed at the Buck's Head for a 'crop of goods' to be purchased in Flushing (Vlissingen) in Holland and shipped via Felixstowe and Claydon back to Thwaite. Thirty men, some armed with carbines, and 50 horses were involved. Perhaps this run was noteworthy because the landlord of the Falcon in Claydon was suspected of informing and badly beaten up. A smuggler called Pring was granted a pardon in exchange for giving evidence about the accused.

Carbold and Brook were found guilty and sentenced to death. Carbold was hung at Tyburn but Brook was reprieved and transported for life to America. In 1752 he sailed with 103 other convicts on board the *Thames*, bound for Annapolis, Maryland, and if they survived the journey, sale into slavery.

John Carbold is easily confused with two others of the same name, both of them smugglers and publicans from Norfolk, one known as Giffing Jack, the other as Cock Eye. They were tried, one in February and the other in December 1750 and sentenced to death for not handing themselves in within 40 days of being declared outlaws.

Three John Carbolds, unrelated and from the same region and following the same occupations, being tried in two years could be too many to be a coincidence. Perhaps there was mistaken identity and confusion and the authorities were more concerned with making an example than minor details of identification.

JUNE EVENTS IN THORNHAM ● Friday 9th: Village Hall, Thornhams Get Together ● Friday 27th: Village Hall film, *Manchester by the Sea*, £5



The smugglers' tub man, shown here on a cigarette card of 1932, is carrying two half-ankers of spirits. His job was to get the barrels to a safe hiding place a little inland from the beach. The barrels were equipped with ropes for carrying by man or horse. On the back of the card it says he was 'paid 1/- a night, and 5/- if the run was successful'.