

IPSWICH SCENES

Gainsborough's House



Like most towns, Ipswich has had its famous people. Thomas Gainsborough, English landscape and portrait painter, was born in the town of Sudbury, about twenty-five miles away. He lived for several years in Foundation Street, Ipswich, now celebrated by a wall plaque. Here he became a member of the Musical Club. In his youth he copied Dutch landscapes, but moved to Bath in 1759 in the progress of his fruitful career. His pencil sketch, *Shipbuilding in Ipswich*, is with some of his other works in the Victoria and Albert Museum, Kensington.

The forebears of the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer were vintners in London. John had a tavern at the corner of Tower Street, Ipswich, and he became known as John le Chaucer because of the *chausses* which some vintners carried as deck cargoes on their wine-ships. The surname of John's son, Geoffrey, resolved easily into Chaucer.

Horatio Nelson bought 'Round Wood', Ipswich, for a home. In 1800 the Borough chose him to be High Steward, but in that year he and his wife Frances parted and the property was sold. Coprolite (see street name) was found beneath Ipswich and the Gipping valley in the eighteenth century, and the resultant enterprise by local men has made the name of Fison well known worldwide for the supply of fertilisers. Coprolite (now imported) is the fossilised dung of extinct animals, and rich in minerals.

The diversity of talent among men is quite astonishing. Genesis 4 alone has a shepherd, an agriculturist, a keeper of cattle, and a musician, expert with harp and organ. There are kings, poets, priests, fishermen, a host of occupations and skills, and the talented Hiram (1 Kgs. 7:13-51), all with attributes from God their Creator, Whose limitless knowledge, wisdom, power, skill and righteousness exceed them all.

—Derrick Banyard