

Dumpling Bridge Lane.

What's in a Name? Bridge Lane, Dumpling Bridge Lane or Angling's Lane?

It's likely that there was a path into the fens here a long time before it was called Bridge Lane which may have its origin in the early medieval period. Fishing in the many fen pools and wildfowling on the small islands was part of village life.

*Before the Lakenheath Fen was finally drained in the 17th century most villagers had small boats. The fish and wildfowl of the fens were important contributors to the economy of Ely Abbey, not to mention the villagers' diet. There may have been an earlier track which led to the fen edge. Later, in the 17th century, the lane led to a bridge over the new Lode which gave access to the drained farmland which was similar in some ways to what we see now. The photograph shows the bridge as it was in the early 20th century. Its height allowed the passage of barges along the Lode en-route to the river The Little Ouse. The bridge in the photograph may well have been the original one.

*J T Munday. 'How We Lived in Lakenheath 600 Years Ago'.



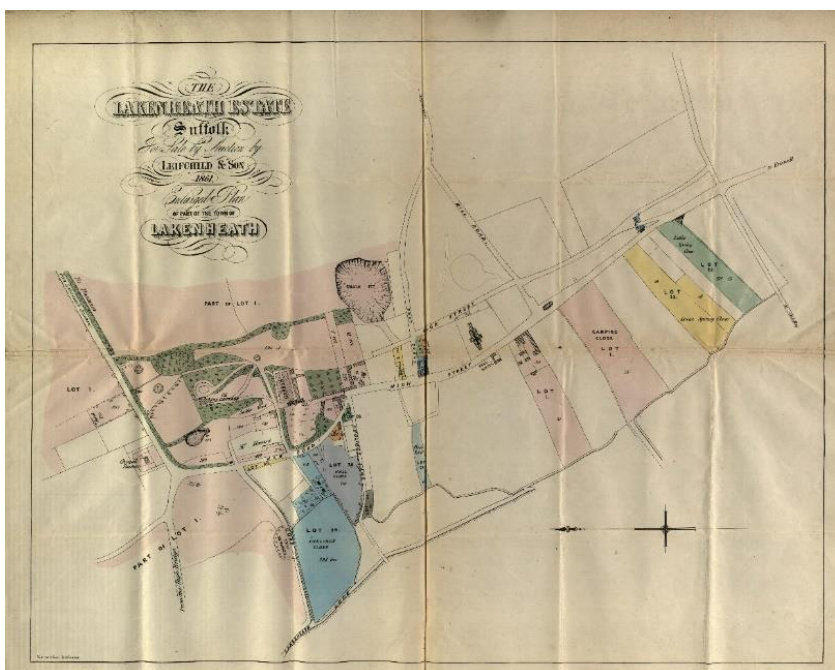
The bridge in Dumpling Bridge Lane. circa 1900.

But this might not be the whole story!

Our research into the medieval Lakenheath Manor and the later the Lakenheath Hall Estate has clearly identified a different name for the lane: 'Anglings Lane' on the estate map below:

The Sale of Lakenheath Hall Estate. 1861.

This front cover of a sale catalogue was discovered in Suffolk Archives, Bury St. Edmunds.



Map of Lakenheath Hall Estate Sale Catalogue. 1861.

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In 1861 the Lakenheath Hall Estate was put up for sale following the earlier death of William Graham Eagle in 1854.

The catalogue map of the estate shows that Dumpling Bridge Lane was then known as Angling's Lane; the apostrophe suggests that it belonged to someone. Nearby is a largish piece of land called Angling's Close which abuts Lakenheath Lode. In more recent times another large piece of nearby marshy land was known as 'The Hanglings'.

The map also shows other differences from today's road names: the High Street is only the High Street as far as the entrance to the old hall drive, then it becomes 'New Road', not Station Road, even though the station was in existence by this time. The Hall grounds are also shown in some detail and the 'Yards End' lode is simply called 'Quay'. The site of the medieval hall is also clearly shown.

Angling's/ Hanglings: The Angerstein Family.

About 1747 John Julius Angerstein (1732-1823) arrived in this country from Russia, aged 15. He became very wealthy through his association with what eventually became the world-famous insurance underwriters, Lloyds of London. Like many rich men he invested his wealth in land speculation and industrial developments across the country including land which eventually became part of Grimsby Docks. He also owned a significant part of Brandon. Later members of the Angerstein family also owned Weeting Manor and Wangford Manor. The London Metropolitan Archives show the incredible extent of the Angerstein family's dealings and legal affairs, amongst which at some time in the late 18th/early 19th century, was Lakenheath Manor.

An extract from the Angerstein family archive shows a file titled:

'Bargain and sale, and abstract of title, of the Manor of Lakenheath, Suffolk'. F/ANG/173.

The precise date and details of this document are not readily available.

It is at least possible that the lane now known as Dumpling Bridge Lane was then Angerstein's Lane, which local usage pronounced as 'Angling's' Lane. This, together with 'Angling's' Close, shows a link to the Angersteins, and that the 'Hanglings' also shows a lingering name from a previous time.

John Julius Angerstein died in 1816 an incredibly wealthy man. His art collection was purchased for the Nation and became the foundation of The National Gallery which was first located in his house, 100 Pall Mall, London.

19th and early 20th centuries.

Dumpling Bridge and Death's Lanes formed a close-knit community where the necessity of living 'cheek by jowl' and the sharing of sanitation must have required considerable cooperation between neighbours. The two lanes feature in the Times Remembered section of the web site, particularly in Cyril Matthews and Margaret Morley's contributions. Click on the links below.

[My Story.](#) Cyril Matthews.

[1936. My Last Christmas down Dumpling Bridge Lane.](#) Margaret Morley.

Most of what we know comes from information handed down in families and, in particular, from the Moncton Copeman report of 1892 into the provision of housing in the village. The article in the Free Press and Post of Saturday Feb. 16th 1935 which is summarised below clearly sets out the situation.

The reported inquiry took place in 1933 and the investigation included ten cottages in Dumpling Bridge Lane and presumably in the adjacent track then locally known as Death's Lane.

Slum Clearance at Lakenheath.

Ministry of Health Inquiry.

Mildenhall.

Thirty-nine Cottages Affected

“Tremendous overcrowding of houses, each with a very limited space.”

“The usual ash pits and closets were right on top of the cottages which was prejudicial to health.”

“The ‘block’ was much too congested and unsuitable for human habitation with no water supply.”

“The houses were not habitable, were damp, and had insufficient window space and were very low.”

“There was a disused well which the people would not use, and water had to be obtained from the Lode 200 yards away”.

“The only system drainage to the two blocks of houses were two slop sinks which were exposed. (outside). Conditions were shocking”.

Mildenhall Rural District Council. Proceedings under the Housing Act of 1930

The lane in 1983. The grassed area is the site of the demolished houses.

Photo, Roy Silverlock.



The bottom of Dumpling Bridge Lane.