

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUMES LVI & LVII

JANUARY 1962 TO DECEMBER 1963

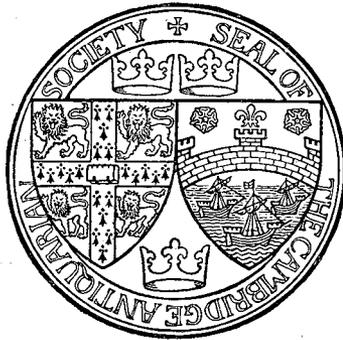
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DEIGHTON BELL

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THE FAVELLS OF PETTY CURY: A CAMBRIDGE FAMILY IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

BRUCE DICKINS

ON the wall of the south aisle of St Andrew the Great, Cambridge, is a black marble slab which commemorates by name eleven members of the Favell family—John and Elizabeth Favell and the nine of their sixteen children who survived infancy, in order of birth George, Samuel, John, Elizabeth, James, Thomas, Mary, Edward and William. The father John Favell, a house-painter, was born in 1739 or 1740, and Edward, the last of his children, died in 1854. Five of the seven sons had served in or with the Royal Navy or in the Army, and the three soldiers, Samuel, John the younger and William, all died of wounds received in action against the French.

Readers of Leigh Hunt and Charles Lamb will call to mind Samuel Favell, who was a contemporary of those authors at Christ's Hospital, as a decidedly touchy person, 'said to be a little too sensible of a humble origin'. In his *Autobiography* (I, 78-9) Leigh Hunt relates how 'Favell, a Grecian [that is a sixth-former], a youth of high spirit, when Boyer [the formidable headmaster] had struck him, went to the school-door, opened it, and turning round with the handle in his grasp, told him he would never set foot in the place, unless he promised to treat him with more delicacy. "Come back, child; come back!" said the other, pale, and in a faint voice. There was a dead silence. Favell came back, *and nothing more was done.*' Lamb too, in his essay 'Christ's Hospital Five and Thirty Years Ago', writes of Favell as 'dogged, faithful, anticipative of insult, warm-hearted, with something of the old Roman height about him', and as 'ill capable of enduring the slights poor Sizars are sometimes subject to—in our seats of learning'. Again, Favell is transmuted into the W— of Lamb's essay on 'Poor Relations', described as 'a fine classic, and a youth of promise, turned into a servitor of Oxford who fled from the University when his father, a house-painter, had set up shop in the city. . . . A letter on his father's table the next morning announced that he had accepted a commission in a regiment about to embark for Portugal. He was among the first who perished before the walls of St Sebastian.' Samuel Favell was the son of a house-painter and did obtain a commission in a marching regiment; the rest, as we shall see later, is fiction, based indeed on fact, but suitably heightened for dramatic effect. In the same way Lamb's 'Oxford in Vacation' describes Cambridge, which Lamb visited more than once and knew far better than Oxford.

The earliest reference to John Favell the painter is to be found in the Common-Day Book of the unreformed Corporation of Cambridge; on 31 October 1770 'John Favill [*sic*], late Apprentice to Mr Alderman Thomas Wiseman Burgess and Herald and House Painter, according to Ancient Custom, had the Freedom of this Corporation'. John Favell was almost certainly setting up as a master painter, after five or seven years as an apprentice and a further period as a journeyman; his father was not, nor ever had been, a burgess of Cambridge, but may have been the John Favell, carpenter, who was buried in St Andrew the Great on 3 March 1786.

About this time, or shortly after, John Favell the house-painter must have married, for his eldest son George (baptized on 12 January 1772) was twenty-six when he died of consumption on 31 May 1798. Where John Favell first set up shop is not known. His sons George, and a John who died as an infant, were baptized in St Andrew the Great, but from 1775 till 1779 he lived in St Bene't's parish, for the next three of his children were baptized in that church. Soon afterwards he moved to 2 Petty Cury, where he remained till his death on 14 May 1804, and the rest of his children were baptized in St Andrew the Great.

On 24 August 1778 he had been chosen one of the Common-Councilmen of the Corporation and was active in its affairs from 24 August 1781 till within a few weeks of his death. What he looked like in early middle age can be seen from an etching, anonymous and undated, of which there is a pull in the Fitzwilliam Museum (Pl. VI). John Favell was definitely in the swim. His second son Samuel was presented to Christ's Hospital by Mr John Purchas (the second of the name), a Cambridge alderman who had been Mayor for 1771-2; for him see J. Milner Gray, *Biographical Notes on the Mayors of Cambridge* (Cambridge, 1922), p. 51. Furthermore it can scarcely be doubted that the younger John's commission in the Cambridgeshire Militia owed something to his father's connection with the Corporation, then 'managed' by John Mortlock III, banker and country gentleman, in the interest of the Duke of Rutland, who had an estate at Cheveley. An active Common-Councilman would be a member of the Rutland Club which met, for uncommonly good dinners, at the Eagle and Child in Bene't Street and 'never had so disgusting a ceremony as being called on to pay the bill'. Those who knew Cambridge before 1914 may remember that the ducal connection with Cambridge was kept in memory by a little public house in Botolph Lane, the Rutland Arms.

After John Favell's death in 1804, we learn from Elizabeth Favell's announcement in the *Cambridge Chronicle* for 26 May 1804 that her husband had been in business for more than thirty years and that she intended to carry it on with the help of her sons. And so she did. At the celebrations to mark the Peace of 1815 she displayed in a transparency the sentiment 'I rejoice for my Country but mourn for my sons'. Mrs Favell died at the age of ninety-three on 13 October 1840, having survived all but two of her sixteen children, and the *Cambridge Chronicle* (17 October 1840) bore tribute to her as 'an exemplary Christian, and a warm supporter of the old and valued institutions of the country'.

John Favell the younger (baptized on 11 November 1777) survived his brother George for little more than a year. He was gazetted Lieutenant in the Cambridgeshire Militia on 25 April 1798, and, along with Lieutenant P. Robinson of the same Militia, was given a regular commission as Ensign in the 2/20th, or South Devonshire, Regiment (later the Lancashire Fusiliers) on 13 August 1799. Soon after he had joined his battalion, it embarked for Holland as part of the Duke of York's expedition and landed at the Helder on 28 August. The British forces had at first some success. In the second of the two engagements near Egmont-op-Zee (6 October 1799) both Ensign Favell and his company-commander Lieutenant Charles Steevens were picked off by the French riflemen.¹ They were carried to Egmont-op-Zee and when the British forces retired were made prisoner by the French cavalry. They were first taken to Alkmaar, and from there Steevens was moved to Breda. Before he reached Breda he parted with Favell who was dangerously wounded in the chest and unable to speak. Favell was left at Amsterdam where on 4 November he died of his wounds; he was buried in the Cathedral at Leyden, as the Favell slab records. Steevens, who told the story many years later in *Reminiscences of a Military Life* (Winchester, 1878), pp. 8-14, mentions that he was afterwards acquainted with Samuel Favell of the 61st Regiment, whose career is now to be described.

Samuel Favell, the second son, was baptized in St Bene't's on 5 November 1775 and was admitted to Christ's Hospital in April 1785. He proved an apt scholar and rose to be a Grecian. During his penultimate year at school he met again his older contemporary Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who inspired him, temporarily at least, with his own enthusiasm for Pantisocracy, the establishment of an ideal community on the banks of the Susquehanna; the locality was chosen for its excessive beauty and was warranted free from the danger of bisons and hostile Indians. On 1 September 1794 Coleridge wrote from London to his fellow enthusiast Robert Southey:

The younger Le Grice² (a sweet-tempered Fellow—he goes with me to Cambridge) and Favell, who goes to Cambridge next October twelve month—have intreated that they may be allowed to come over after us when they quit College. This morning Favell put this Sonnet into my hand—

SONNET

Flashes of Hope, that lighten o'er my Soul!
 Shapings of Fancy, than the Earth possess'd
 More lovely, more extatic! o'er my Breast
 What glittering Waves of visioned Rapture roll.

With silent sweet survey of tearful Joy
 I gaze the Vale, where bloom in fadeless Youth

¹ Sir John Fortescue (*A History of the British Army*, iv, 698 n.) cannot have seen Lieutenant (later Colonel) Steevens's book, for he says that not a single English person present, apparently, left any account of this action.

² Samuel Le Grice (1775-1802) went up to Trinity as a sizar with a Christ's Hospital Leaving Exhibition. He was admitted on 10 February 1794 and matriculated at Michaelmas 1795. He obtained a commission in the 60th Rifles and died in Jamaica.

Love, Beauty, Friendship, Poesy, and Truth.
 My Brethren! O my Brethren! then I cry—
 And you, Ye mild-eyed Forms! a Brother's Kiss
 Give me! that I may drink of your love-bowl!
 And mix in every draught the high-wrought Soul,
 And pluck from every Bank the Rose of Bliss!—
 Mock me not, Phantoms! lest my poor fond Heart
 Outcast for ever into madness start!—

The sonnet¹ was coming into fashion again after a long period in eclipse; but Favell's was poor stuff, even for a schoolboy. He was no more cut out for a poet than Coleridge for a Light Dragoon.

Samuel Favell was awarded the Leaving Exhibition from Christ's Hospital, as Coleridge and Le Grice had been before him. He was admitted to Pembroke Hall as a sizar on 24 April 1795 and matriculated at Michaelmas the same year. A sizarship served a valuable purpose in the days before entrance scholarships were offered by colleges. It enabled many poor boys who later became distinguished scholars to work their way through the university. Notable examples from a single college are James Wood, Master of St John's (1815-39), and John Hymers, President (1848-52), whose mathematical works brought both of them fortunes which they put to good use; they are coupled in a line of Calverley's *Carmen Sæculare*:

Circum dirus Hymers nec non inutile Lignum.

Sir Isaac Newton and Richard Bentley, Master of Trinity (1700-42), were both admitted as subsizars, and Newton matriculated as a sizar of Trinity in 1661. Cambridge had no such rule as had Christ Church, Oxford, which excluded William Stubbs, who had been a servitor, from a Studentship of the House. Sizars were often the sons of unbeneficed clergy, wretchedly poor and shabby, sometimes uncouth as well. A sizar had rather a disagreeable status, feeding on broken meats and wearing a distinctive gown, even less prepossessing than the pensioner's 'bum-curtain'. But Richard Watson, later Bishop of Llandaff, who had come up as a sizar of Trinity, thought it had stimulated him to work hard and win a scholarship at an unusually early stage of his academic career.

Whatever may have been the reason, Samuel Favell went down from Pembroke prematurely and of course without a degree, exchanging the gown for the sword. It is unlikely that a letter to the Duke of York unsupported by someone of influence would have procured for him the commission of an Ensign, without purchase, in the 61st, or South Gloucestershire, Regiment (4 March 1797). His battalion (later the 2nd Gloucesters) sailed for the Cape of Good Hope, which had recently been taken over from the Dutch, and spent two years there. Four of its companies were posted to India but were diverted to the Red Sea. They landed at Kosseir, and Samuel Favell was one of those who made the fearful desert march to join Sir Ralph Aber-

¹ That beginning 'No more my visionary soul shall dwell', and attributed to Favell in Southey's letter of 19 October to his naval brother, is certainly by Coleridge (E. L. Griggs, *Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 1, 104).

cromby's force in Egypt. The 61st were too late to take part in the battle of Alexandria (21 March 1801), in which Abercromby was killed, but remained on garrison duty in Egypt till 1803 when they embarked for home. They got no further than Malta. Samuel Favell, who had been promoted Lieutenant, again without purchase, on 8 December 1801, must have gone for a time on half-pay, since on 11 July 1803, when the short peace that followed the Treaty of Amiens had come to an end, he was gazetted back to full pay. In June 1806 the battalion was in garrison at Messina, keeping the French from landing in Sicily, the last foothold of the King of Naples. Its flank companies¹ landed in Calabria and shared in Sir John Stuart's victory at Maida (4 July 1806), which was brilliant but of absolutely no strategic importance. It is best known for having given its name to a London suburb, Maida Vale.

After a further spell in garrison, this time at Gibraltar, during which Samuel Favell was promoted Captain of a Company (4 April 1809), the 1/61st (which will henceforward be styled simply the 61st, since the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment was at home throughout the Peninsular War) joined Wellington's field army, posted to Cameron's brigade in Sir George Sherbrooke's First Division. This was just before the defensive battle of Talavera (27-28 July 1809) against Marshal Victor's army. On the second day Cameron's brigade occupied the right-centre of Wellington's position, holding part of the eastern slopes of the Cerro de Medallin, at the foot of which flowed the Portiña brook. Sebastiani's French division, almost twice as strong as Sherbrooke's, moved down to the brook and, having crossed it, brushed aside a thin screen of British light troops. On Sherbrooke's orders the French were allowed to approach to within 50 yards. Then the British regiments delivered a single shattering volley and charged. The French were thrown back across the Portiña. Cameron, very sensibly, halted the 61st and 2/83rd but on either of his flanks the pursuit was reckless, with the result that might have been expected. A heavy French counter-attack pushed the whole of Sherbrooke's division back over the Portiña and, in that part of the field, the day was barely saved by Mackenzie's infantry brigade of the Third Division and Sir Stapleton Cotton's brigade of light cavalry, which had been in reserve. Both the 2/83rd, which had to be sent back to Lisbon after the battle, and the 61st suffered heavy casualties. Samuel Favell escaped without a wound, but his battalion lost in killed three officers (including its much loved C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Barlow) and 46 other ranks, in wounded 10 officers and 193 o.r. and in missing 16 o.r. After Bussaco (27 September 1810) the 61st was transferred to the Fourth Division as part of Sir Edward Pakenham's brigade, and six weeks later (17 November 1810) to Hulse's brigade of the Sixth Division, newly formed under the command of Archibald Campbell. Hulse had the brigade till after Salamanca, when it was taken over by Hinde, who was succeeded by John Lambert on 2 July 1813. With the Sixth, under various divisional commanders, the 61st served till the end of the Peninsular War.

¹ That is, the Grenadier Company, which contained the tallest and best built, and the Light Company, which included the most active men, called flank companies because they took respectively the right and left of the battalion in line.

Wellington's divisions were given nicknames, some complimentary, as the Fighting Division (Sir Thomas Picton's Third), some the reverse, as the Mongrels, applied to the latest formed Seventh Division which had a preponderance of foreign battalions. The Sixth was known as the Marching Division, most probably, as Sir Charles Oman argued, because between Talavera (1809) and Salamanca (1812) it accompanied all Wellington's movements from north to south and from south to north, yet was never seriously engaged. It missed the battles of Bussaco (27 September 1810) and Fuentes de Oñoro (5 May 1811), and the bloody but successful assaults on Ciudad Rodrigo (19 January 1812) and Badajoz (6 April 1812), for none of which did it gain battle honours. At Salamanca (22 July 1812) however the battalion was in the thick of it. After the Fourth Division had lost the Arapiles the 1/11th and the 61st of Hulse's brigade marched steadily up a steep slope under heavy fire. When they were within striking distance they halted, fired a volley, and charged with the bayonet. The French were driven from the heights and a counter-attack was shattered, but the 61st lost close on two-thirds of its effectives: 5 officers and 39 other ranks were killed, 19 officers and 303 o.r. wounded. Captain Samuel Favell was mortally wounded while leading his company to the charge. On 29 July the list of officer casualties in the battle was drawn up and Captain Faville [*sic*] of the 1/61st Regiment was reported 'severely wounded (since dead)'.

Uno avulso non deficit alter 'One torn away, a second fills the gap', or, if you prefer it, the more literal 'fails not a second'. For in the same issue of *The London Gazette* in which Lieutenant George Maclean is promoted Captain of a Company *vice* Favell (dead of his wounds)—Favell, Gent., is commissioned Ensign in his brother's regiment (24 November 1812). This was the youngest of the Favell brothers, baptized William on 28 October 1788 but usually styled William Anthony. How soon he joined the 1st Battalion in Spain or Southern France is difficult to determine. Between Salamanca and Toulouse the 61st gained four battle honours, the Pyrenees, Nivelles (10 November 1813), Nive (9 December 1813), and Orthez (20 March 1814), but only in the two battles of Sorrauren (28 and 30 July 1813), in which Soult's counter-offensive in the Pyrenees was defeated, was it heavily engaged. Before the end of the 1814 campaign Wellington had pressed deep into France, and Toulouse was his last battle before Waterloo. A battle is a confused and confusing affair, as anyone who has taken a part, however insignificant, in one does not need to be reminded. I will try to make this clear, emphasizing the role of the 61st on 10 April. The battle of Toulouse was not one of movement but, as Sir Charles Oman remarked in the last volume of his *History of the Peninsular War*, the storming of an entrenched position. Wellington's forces had enveloped the city on all but its southern side. East of Toulouse is Mont Rave (Montrabe on the modern map), a high ridge which overlooked the Royal Canal and the city walls beyond. In the hands of a besieger it commanded the city, and Soult had constructed a series of strong-points connected by trenches. These were, in order from north to south, the Great Redoubt (held by Villatte's division), the Colombette and the Mas des Augustins (that is, the

House of the Austin Friars), which are sometimes lumped together as the Calvinet Redoubt, an unnamed redoubt lying south of the road to Lavaur, and the Sypière Redoubt; all these last four were held by Harispe's division of thirteen battalions. Soult's precautions added considerably to the strength of the position. Wellington ordered holding attacks west of the city, one of which was pressed needlessly hard by Picton's Third Division and resulted in heavier losses than those suffered by the Fourth Division which shared in the main assault. This was entrusted to Sir William Beresford who had Clinton's Fourth Division and Cole's Sixth Division under his command. An attempt by Freire's two Galician divisions to outflank the ridge from the north failed with heavy loss, and Beresford could count on no effective support from them. An hour or so later the Sixth and Fourth Divisions deployed in three lines, on the right Pack's brigade of the Sixth supported by Lambert's and by Douglas's Portuguese, on the left William Anson's brigade of the Fourth Division with Ross's and with Vasconcellos's Portuguese in support. Soult, who took charge in person at the threatened point and had posted Taupin's division in column on the western slopes of the ridge, now brought it up for a counter-attack, Rey's brigade on the left and Gasquet's on the right. As the British troops were struggling up the steep and muddy slope, Taupin led Rey's brigade down in close column enfiladed to some extent by Anson and masking the fire of the French battery near the Sypière Redoubt. Taupin then gave orders to halt and deploy. At that moment a few Congreve rockets fell among the French and, like all new weapons, were more damaging to morale than their effectiveness warranted. The leading brigades of the Sixth and Fourth Divisions opened fire. Taupin fell mortally wounded, and Rey's brigade ran. The 61st occupied the Sypière Redoubt virtually without resistance and Gasquet's brigade, which had scarcely been engaged, retreated down the western slope of the ridge. The French line when re-established showed a broad salient, roughly oblong in shape, and Wellington determined to assault it at the angles. The Spaniards made a second and more determined attack from the north, but were again repulsed from the Great Redoubt. Further south Pack's brigade delivered the assault, the 42nd on the Mas des Augustins, the 79th on the Colombette. The 42nd were badly handled by their C.O., a pedantic Highlander, and suffered heavily in needless manœuvres, but carried the Mas at the first rush. At the same time the 79th took the Colombette. A fierce French counter-attack drove the 42nd from the Mas and the 79th had to abandon the Colombette. The 91st (Pack's reserve battalion) and the 12th Portuguese from Douglas's brigade recovered both the strong-points, but were soon thrown out again and Lambert's brigade (1/11th, 1/36th and the 61st) had to be brought up to restore the situation, suffering heavily in the process. At 4 p.m. Beresford's guns had been dragged up the muddy slopes and had opened fire. The Great Redoubt was now untenable. Late in the afternoon it was abandoned by the French, who fell back to the line of the Royal Canal, holding however a bridgehead on the eastern bank. By that time Beresford's batteries had fired their last round; but once sufficient supplies of ammunition could be brought round across the River Garonne the city was at their mercy. This took the whole of the

11th, and on the 12th Soult marched out of Toulouse, to the immense relief of the inhabitants. The British cavalry had almost reached the bridge of Baziège by which he meant to retreat to Carcassonne, there to join forces with Suchet whose army had occupied north-eastern Spain. All the bloodshed at Toulouse had been to no purpose, for on the very day of Soult's retreat messengers from Paris reached Wellington's headquarters with the news that Napoleon had abdicated.

All the battalions in Lambert's brigade had suffered heavily outside Toulouse. The 61st lost rather more than the 1/11th and the 1/36th and came out of the action commanded by a subaltern, Lieut. Bace the Adjutant. Their C.O., Lieut.-Colonel Robert John Coghlan, was killed and 18 officers wounded—Lieut. Henry Arden and Ensign W. A. Favell mortally. Of other ranks 16 were killed and 136 wounded, many of them seriously, for after the battle the scarlet coats of dead and wounded strewed the field in such numbers that they gained for the 61st the nickname of 'the Flowers of Toulouse'. Actually their losses had been heavier both at Talavera and at Salamanca, but Toulouse struck the imagination deeper and was remembered above all others in the history of the 61st, which was linked up with the 28th, or North Gloucestershire, Regiment in 1881. The Gloucesters, unlike the Devons and the Dorsets, the Berkshires and the Wiltshires, retain a separate existence as a battalion of the Wessex Brigade.

Of the fourth son, James Favell, I only know that he was baptized on 23 November 1781, that he was an Admiralty Clerk, and that he lost his life while taking part in what Christopher Lloyd has justly described as 'one of the supreme achievements of the Navy in the nineteenth century'. This was Captain W. F. W. Owen's survey (1822-6) of the coasts of East Africa, Southern Arabia and West Africa, which covered in all some 30,000 miles of virtually unknown coastline in 300 large charts delivered in duplicate. For much of the commission the climate was deadly, and the naval surgeons, who might have been reasonably deft at whipping off an arm or leg (sometimes not even at that), knew little how to treat cases of tropical disease. They tried copious bleeding and frequent doses of calomel, and it is not surprising that Owen lost two-thirds of his officers and half of his crew, among whom was James Favell. He had embarked in Owen's ship, the 28-gun frigate *Leven*, which left Cowes Roads on 13 February 1822, and died from the effects of the East African climate on 11 April 1823. He is not mentioned in either of the published narratives of the voyage, that compiled from Captain Owen's papers (1833) or that written by Thomas Boteler, one of the best of Owen's officers (1835). The Favell slab states that James died at Delagoa Bay on 13 April 1823, but *Leven* was already in harbour at Simon's Bay near Capetown when Owen wrote his letter of 7 April to the Admiralty, and a week later he includes in his list of casualties James Favell as having died on the 11th. It is pleasant to note that Captain Owen, who was promoted Rear-Admiral in 1847 and Vice-Admiral in 1857, the year of his death, is not forgotten in the Navy, for H.M.S. *Owen* returned from a survey of the Indian Ocean only a few months ago.

The fifth son, Thomas Favell, was baptized on 12 May 1783 and died a Commander, R.N. Most of his service was in little ships, brigs, sloops and cutters, in which there was less 'spit and polish' than in big ships. There was less comfort too, for when the famous Lord Cochrane, a tall man, commanded the ironically named *Speedy* brig and wanted to shave, he had to open the skylight above his cabin and use the sacred quarterdeck as a toilet-table. Thomas Favell served in no great action which might have brought him promotion—or an early death—and he did not get far forward in his profession. Yet it may not be unprofitable to describe his career in some detail; it shows how much can be learned from Admiralty papers (now in the P.R.O.) of an obscure sea-officer of humble birth to whom Marshall gives only a few lines and who died too soon to be included by O'Byrne.

Once again it is not easy to equate the information on the Favell slab with official records. The slab notes that Thomas Favell served for 39 years in the Royal Navy, which would suggest that he went to sea for the first time not later than 1796, whereas in a Memorandum of his services chiefly in his own hand (Adm. 9/11, Folio 3713) the first entry tells that he served as a Volunteer, 1st Class, as an A.B. and as a Midshipman in *Achille*, a unit of the Channel Fleet, from July 1798 till November 1799. *L' Achille* 74 was one of the six prizes taken in Howe's victory of 1 June 1794, glorious indeed but failing in the object of the exercise, the interception of a consignment of American grain that was sorely needed by the French. *L' Achille* was brought safely into Plymouth, but she had been badly knocked about in the action and was for years in Cleverley's shipyard at Gravesend. She was eventually commissioned as a Third Rate in the Royal Navy. Thomas Favell had joined her as a Volunteer, 1st Class, that is as a 'Young Gentleman' who might reasonably expect to become a lieutenant in due course. This suggests that he could command some slight influence in naval circles. Captain Henry Edwyn Stanhope (1754–1814), by whom *Achille* was commissioned, was a sea-officer of considerable experience who had been a Post Captain since 16 June 1781; he was to reach flag-rank on 1 January 1801 and to die as Admiral of the Blue. Thomas Favell was generally fortunate in the captains under whom he served, for though Stanhope was only a few months in *Achille* his successor, Captain George Murray, was almost equally experienced. In the battle of Cape St Vincent (14 February 1797) Murray had commanded *Colossus* 74, which was wrecked on Scilly while bringing from Naples a large part of Sir William Hamilton's valuable collection. The antiques went to the bottom, but no lives were lost and no blame attached to Captain Murray who was at once appointed to *Achille*. He was not long in that ship, being transferred to the command of *Edgar*, which led the way in at Copenhagen (2 April 1801). Murray, like Stanhope, died an admiral. Thomas Favell had left *Achille* in November 1799 and does not appear to have gone to sea again till five years had elapsed, when he joined as Midshipman the 10-gun sloop *Zephyr* (Commander A. Abdy) in the Downs (November 1804–September 1805).

The longest spell he had in any ship was as Master's Mate in *Minorca*, a new 18-gun brig commissioned at Chatham on 21 August 1805 by Commander the Hon.

Henry Duncan, a younger son of the victor of Camperdown, and ordered to the Mediterranean Station. In *Minorca* Thomas Favell served in the Western Mediterranean and off Cadiz from October 1805 till February 1809, under Duncan, the Hon. G. G. Waldegrave and Phipps Hornby, all officers of some note. Hornby, who got command of *Minorca* early in 1807, 'came into frequent contact with the enemy's [that is Spanish] gunboats and batteries, both in the vicinity of Cadiz and while employed in the blockade of Ceuta', the Spanish port on the Moroccan coast just opposite Gibraltar. Between February and May 1809 Favell was Supernumerary in the 32-gun frigate *Ambuscade*, the 18-gun sloop *Elwin* and the 16-gun sloop *Orestes*, and in the latter month passed for Lieutenant. That did not necessarily mean that he would receive an immediate appointment in the rank, and in fact from May to July 1809 he had another spell off Lisbon as Master's Mate in the 18-gun brig *Nautilus* and again, off Lisbon and Ferrol, in *Barfleur* 98, wearing the flag of Vice-Admiral the Hon. G. Berkeley and commanded by Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy—Nelson's Hardy—till 14 October 1809.

On that day Favell obtained acting rank as Lieutenant in *Triumph* 74 (Captain S. H. Linzee), and from that time we can check his own record of service by the Full Pay Register (Adm. 24/28, no. 47), which tells us that his quarterly pay as Lieutenant was £25. 4s., less deductions. His appointment was confirmed on 9 December 1809 and he served in *Triumph* till 9 August 1810 when he was transferred to *Armada* 74 (Captain A. Mackenzie), cruising in the Channel, off the Basque Roads and in the North Sea till September 1811. Favell was on half-pay from October 1811 till 3 June 1812 when he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 16-gun brig *Sparrow* (Commander Joseph Needham Tayler); he appears as such in the Navy List from 1 June 1812 till 1 February 1813, but he was only in *Sparrow* from 3 June till 30 September 1812. *Sparrow* operated on the north coast of Spain and in the Bay of Biscay, looking into the ports, French as well as Spanish, harassing the enemy's movements along the coast, and destroying his shore works—services that have not been sufficiently recognized in histories of the Peninsular War. Needham (1785–1864) was, like Cochrane, a most enterprising and scientific officer who twice forced his way into the harbour of Santander and, though dreadfully wounded while directing naval co-operation at the siege of San Sebastian (24 July 1813), lived to become an authority on naval gunnery, to reach the rank of Rear-Admiral, and to invent in 1846 the floating breakwater proposed to be constructed at Brighton. This sounds like a precursor of Mulberry.

By this time the Navy had on its hands the American War as well as the French, and, after another spell on half-pay, Thomas Favell was appointed 1st Lieutenant of the 16-gun brig *Épervier* (Commander Richard Walter Wales). In her he served in West Indian and North American waters from 5 February 1813 till 7 January 1814, when he was relieved by Lieutenant John Harris. This was luckier for Favell than for Harris, since *Épervier* was neither well found nor well manned. After returning to Halifax, Nova Scotia, with an American prize, the privateer *Alfred* which had been taken without resistance (23 February 1814), Wales reported that his

crew was not to be trusted, and on his next cruise *Épervier* was forced to strike to the more powerful and better manned U.S. sloop *Peacock*; Lieutenant Harris was badly wounded in the action (29 April 1814). By then Thomas Favell was in the 32-gun frigate *Success* (Captain Thomas Barclay), in which he served from 16 January till 9 July 1814. He returned to England from Halifax in *Goliath* 56 (Captain Frederick L. Maitland) and went again on half-pay on 11 October 1814, when it was thought that Napoleon was safely out of the way on the Isle of Elba.

On 1 March 1815, however, Napoleon landed on the Riviera and the Hundred Days had begun. Half-pay officers could hope for employment. After the landing of British troops at Ostend, which began before March was out, Commander Edmund Denman of the 10-gun sloop *Redpole* surveyed the anchorages outside the port and a little later commanded a light squadron in the Scheldt which co-operated with the Dutch for the protection of Cadzand from surprise attack. Thomas Favell was appointed 2nd Lieutenant of *Redpole* on 27 April, but he received full pay only from 2 June and it appears unlikely that he took part in more than the operations in the Scheldt. Waterloo was fought on 18 June, and Napoleon's attempt to escape to the United States was foiled by the naval blockade. After his surrender to Captain Maitland of *Bellerophon*, a favourite subject for historical painters, *Redpole* joined the squadron that escorted him to Saint Helena and returned to England with the dispatch in which Sir George Cockburn reported Napoleon's safe delivery to his island prison. *Redpole* was then laid up at Plymouth, and Thomas Favell was on half-pay again from 28 December 1815, this time for a few weeks only.

On 15 February 1816 he was appointed 1st Lieutenant of the 10-gun sloop *Jasper* (Commander Thomas Barclay) and paid as such from 17 February to 15 September 1816, when he was relieved. *Jasper* had just returned from Gibraltar bringing the dispatch of 14 August in which Lord Exmouth reported that his squadron had set sail for Algiers, where it was to bombard the pirate stronghold and force its ruler (the Dey) to hand over the many hundreds of Christian captives held in slavery. Once again this was lucky for Thomas Favell, for on 19 January 1817 a furious storm drove *Jasper* from her moorings in Plymouth Sound and piled her up on the Bear's Head at Mount Batten; all but two of the 67 persons on board lost their lives in the wreck. After another period on half-pay Thomas Favell commanded the 10-gun cutter *Pioneer*, on Particular Service (whatever that may have been) at Sheerness, from 12 February to 25 September 1822. His final appointment was as Lieutenant and Commander of *Bramble*, a 10-gun cutter completed in 1822. Based on Plymouth, then on Falmouth and again on Plymouth, he held the command, presumably on coastguard duties, from 21 June 1824 till 1827, his successor having been appointed on 10 August of that year. After this he never went to sea again. He was promoted Commander on 27 September 1827 and for his few remaining years lived on the half-pay of his rank—8s. 6d. a day, which was sufficient at that time to keep a middle-aged bachelor in modest comfort. He died in London on 31 July 1835, after a lingering illness borne with great fortitude and resignation (*Cambridge Chronicle* for 7 August 1835).

Apart from the eldest son George, who had died in 1798, none of the Favell brothers made his home in Cambridge but Edward the sixth son (baptized 5 April 1787). He carried on the family business, appearing in the Cambridge directories from 1839 onwards as plumber and glazier in St Andrew's Street.¹ After his death on 5 June 1854, his firm carried on for a good many years as Favell and Ellis, first at 2 St Andrew's Street and later at 2 Petty Cury, where John Favell had set up shop about 1780. The firm, by that time styled Favell, Ellis and Kirkman, of 5 St Andrew's Street, was still in existence in the early 'twenties; it last appears in the Cambridge directory for 1924-5.

Two of the Favell girls had lived to grow up—Elizabeth (baptized 14 September 1778), who died in Petty Cury and was buried on 16 February 1834, aged 55, and Mary (baptized 5 July 1785), who died also in Petty Cury, and was buried on 18 November 1843. There is no evidence that any but Edward of the nine brothers and sisters ever married and he left no children by his wife Elizabeth Ayrton.

In conclusion, none of the Favell brothers reached high rank, nor particularly distinguished themselves in the Services, but their careers show that commissions in the Navy and Army were not wholly the preserve of the nobility and gentry, though to get one's foot on to the ladder needed in general the support of some influential person, and it was always useful to have 'interest' at the Admiralty or the Horse Guards.²

¹ Once the enthusiasm for the reformed Corporation had evaporated, he was elected Councillor for St Andrew's Ward on 1 November 1843, becoming an Alderman in 1844; on 4 June, H. R. Wiseman was elected in his place as Councillor.

² For access to the manuscript material on which this paper is largely based, I am indebted to the Vicars of St Bene't and of St Andrew the Great, to the authorities of the Cambridge City Hall, and to Commander M. Godfrey of the Public Record Office.

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