

privations which were his hard lot to encounter in domestic life'. Were they marital or financial? His daughter, Hannah Waldo Black, died in Woodbridge, unmarried in 1848, aged 52 years. She was his youngest and last surviving daughter.

Perpetual curacies usually related to benefices owned by such as Butley Priory before the Dissolution, and curates were paid only the small tithes, not amounting to much money. There was no vicarage in Butley until much later in the nineteenth century when the Priory Gatehouse was inhabited by at least one clergyman. So John Black had to travel from Woodbridge to conduct Sunday services and other ceremonies. Reference to the parish registers reveal that he conducted marriages in Butley church from 1792 to 1807, but sometimes the ceremony was carried out by others, usually Samuel Mortimer. Once however the name Isaac Clarke, clerk was inserted. He was the village blacksmith! Perhaps he merely filled in a blank in the register where the curate had forgotten to sign. When it comes to banns of marriage Samuel called them most of the time before 1801, showing that John Black didn't fulfil his curacy duties regularly. It should be borne in mind that there were few marriages in Butley during these years and that banns were called on three successive Sundays.

In November 1800 there was an advertisement in the Ipswich Journal for a Master for the Free School in Woodbridge, paying £40 a year with the provision of a large house and garden. It would be for day students until the house could be adapted to accommodate ten boys as boarders. Applications were to be made to the Rector, Thomas Carthew or one of the churchwardens. John Black was chosen and thanked 'the worthy inhabitants of Woodbridge for his election'. He declared he had lived in the town for 21 years, but clearly there had been opposition to his appointment because he hoped 'the quiet of the town be speedily restored, and he laments that he has been the cause of exciting any contention'.

There were other schools being promoted around 1800, one being a boarding school on Market Place where English, grammar, penmanship, arithmetic and 'measurement' were taught with land surveying and navigation in addition for amounts, in guineas, over and above the 17 or 18 guineas per annum payable for boys both under and over the age of ten years.

In 1803 John Black was appointed Chaplain to the army camp at Bromeswell, but the barracks in Woodbridge were being built that same year, so it is unclear whether he retained the chaplaincy. When he died in 1813 his obituary referred only to his two curacies and did not mention other positions.

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Near the beginning of the eighteenth century two brothers, Reginald and Zephaniah Eade served Butley church as perpetual curates at various times, the former succeeding the latter. They were also rectors of either Blaxhall or Chillesford where they must have resided. The brothers were the subject of some gossip related by letter to Dudley North, MP for Suffolk and later Orford, by Daniel Wayth. He was a merchant with ships trading from Aldeburgh and Orford, who acted for North in a number of matters. These included negotiating tithes with Reginald Eade for turnips, still in the ground at Blaxhall Hall, which was owned by North. In his letter of November 1723 Wayth set out the competing values for the tithes and added that 'he (Reginald) is not perfectly Well of his wounds given him (as was said) by a fall from his Horse but was in truth given him by his Brother at a little Alehouse in Woodbridge being pretty much Ingaged with the glass.' Wayth added, 'R.E. attempted to come whom that night but his Horse and he parted as they come homeward.' Wayth did not know what happened to Reginald but his horse was found two days later in Melton.

**Sources:** The Suffolk Garland (1818)  
The Ipswich Journal,  
Butley parish registers (on fiches)  
Correspondence – Wayth to North, Ipswich Record Office, reference HC49/C2/5/2.