

# **Francis Cupiss of Diss**

A man and his 'Constitution Balls'

**Nigel Peacock** 

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Whilst looking at some of my own family history I came across a man named Francis Cupiss. This Cupiss, a name I'd never seen before, piqued my interest and, having found the connection to Diss, it resulted in this short piece of research.

As it happened, I found that this man was actually nothing to do with my family!

Nigel Peacock July 2022

Please note that some of the weblinks point to sites where a fee-paying membership is required.

Some other references have enough information to allow you to find the data using free sites, eg: <u>FamilySearch</u>, <u>FreeCEN</u>, <u>FreeREG</u>, and many others.

Also I would encourage anyone interested in local or family history to become a member of <u>Diss Family History Group</u>.

Anyone who can add information to this please make contact by email to:

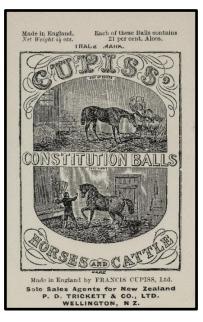
> Betty Morley (b.morley@btinternet.com) or Nigel Peacock (np781@btinternet.com).

(The photo on the front cover is part of an advertising poster for Cupiss's Constitution Balls.)

Thanks go to John from Cupiss Letter Press for Information about Francis and for permission to include some of his illustrations in this article, the booklet and on the website.

Cupiss of Diss It all started with the advertisement transcribed below:





In cases of Swelled Legs, Grease, Cracked Heels, Coughs, Colds, Broken Wind, Staring Coat, Influenza, Fattening, Conditioning, Loss of Appetite, Hidebound, Hove or Blown, Epidemic, Distemper, Scouring, Disordered Liver, Rot in Sheep, etc., etc., and in Scouring in CALVES and LAMBS are almost infallible.

They restore the healthy Functions of the Digestive Organs, and fortify and strengthen the constitution, give tone and vigour to the whole system, and prevent the injurious results of over exertion or improper feeding. Bullocks fatten much faster by occasionally having a Ball, and their frequent use. Young animals grow to a larger size and come to earlier perfection with the same quantity of food.

Prepared upwards of 50 years by the late

FRANCIS CUPISS, M.R.C.V.S. Diss, Norfolk. Author of the Prize Essay on the "Diseases of the Liver of the Horse."

Sold by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors in Packets at 1/9 and 3/6 each. 6 Small Packets 10/-, 6 Large Packets 20/-. 12 Large Packets 38/-; or direct from FRANCIS CUPISS, Ltd., The Wilderness, Diss, Norfolk, on receipt of amount.

### Cupiss of Diss The Man And His Wives.

The reference to Diss, Norfolk, and my involvement with the Diss Family History Group website, prompted me to find out more about this man, Francis Cupiss.



Francis Cupiss, 1859

Exploring the Census returns for our man, found that he was born in London in 30<sup>th</sup> Apr 1798<sup>1</sup>, possibly in a place called Bishopsgate, but certainly in a part of London. Looking further I found that Francis Cupiss was baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1798<sup>2</sup>, with parents Philip and Fanny, in St. Ethelburga Church, Bishopsgate, London.

Very little was then found until a marriage between Francis and an Elizabeth Biddell. A licence was granted by the Archdeaconry of Sudbury<sup>3</sup>, "279 - Francis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Find A Grave, Memorial Inscription, St. Mary's Diss Churchyard: <u>https://tinyurl.com/mzvr5j2n</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> FindMyPast, England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975: <u>https://tinyurl.com/2w2pxac6</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> FindMyPast, Britain, Marriage Licences: <u>https://tinyurl.com/2p94m5ns</u>

Cupiss, of Diss, s. m. [single male], & Eliz<sup>h</sup> Biddell, of Bradfield St. George, s. w. [single woman], at same. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug., 1826.", with a marriage at Bradfield St. George on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 1826<sup>4</sup>.

Elizabeth was born in Cockfield in Suffolk on 9 Mar 1799<sup>5</sup> and baptised there on 23 May 1799<sup>6</sup>. Her parents were given as William and Elizabeth (neé Chickall).

The Census in 1841<sup>7</sup> shows Francis living at Mere Street Diss, aged 43, occupation virtually unreadable but possibly something like chemist, living with his wife Elizabeth (42) and, presumably, their children Thomas (11), William (10), Emily (9) and Catherine (5). Francis's age coincides with his date of birth.

The Electoral Roll for 1846<sup>8</sup> has Francis living in Mere Street, his qualification to vote is his ownership of a freehold house and land.

Still in Mere Street at the time of the 1851 Census<sup>9</sup>, Francis, aged 52, a chemist and druggist, is living with his wife Elizabeth (52), children Elizabeth (22, a daily governess) and Catherine (14, a scholar), Frederick HARPEN (20, an apprentice), and servants Eliza ADAM (25, a housemaid), Elizabeth SARE (22, a cook) and Eve DOWNING (61, a washer woman).

The 1856 Electoral Roll<sup>10</sup> has Francis, again, living in Mere Street, with qualification to vote being the ownership of a freehold house and land.

At the time of the 1861 Census<sup>11</sup>, Francis is aged 62, a chemist and veterinary surgeon, living with wife Elizabeth (62), children Elizabeth (32), Amelia (31, a governess), Thomas (30, a chemist and druggist) and Catherine (24), and servants Mary Ann RIVETT (20, a cook) and Ellis CATCHPOLE (19, a house servant).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> FindMyPast, England Marriages 1538-1973: <u>https://tinyurl.com/yc2jzxe4</u>
<sup>5</sup> Find A Grave: <u>https://tinyurl.com/23e5rr8y</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> FindMyPast, England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975: <u>https://tinyurl.com/2j3ndt88</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 1841 National Census: HO107 Piece 758 Folio 24 Page 9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Electoral Registers 1832-1915: <u>https://tinyurl.com/3e7ath7j</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 1851 National Census: HO107 Piece 1821 Folio 397 Page 9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Electoral Registers 1832-1915: <u>https://tinyurl.com/2uzva9dt</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 1861 National Census: RG09 Piece 1232 Folio 95 Page 13

Again the Electoral Roll, this time for 1866<sup>12</sup>, has Francis still living in Mere Street, with his qualification to vote still being the ownership of a freehold house and land.

Details from the 1871 Census<sup>13</sup> shows Francis is a widow, aged 72, a chemist, printer and veterinary surgeon, living with daughters Elizabeth (43), Emily (38) and Catherine (35), and servants Eliza GOTTS (19, housemaid) and Hannah U HUGGINS (20, cook).

Francis now being known to be a widow led to finding the death of Elizabeth on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1866<sup>14</sup> and her burial in Diss on 11<sup>th</sup> August<sup>15</sup>.

As a result of looking at the 1881 Census with Francis again married to an Elizabeth, it prompted the search for a further marriage. This was found between Francis and an Elizabeth Frost<sup>16</sup> dated 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1871, registered in Blything District<sup>17</sup> in Suffolk. Elizabeth was a widow upon marriage, her maiden name currently unknown. Elizabeth's birth was 19<sup>th</sup> Jul 1823 in Bath, Somerset, so some 25 years younger than Francis.)

(The Census for 1851<sup>18</sup> shows Elizabeth as a widow, aged 27, a schoolmistress living in Monkton Farleigh, Wiltshire. She was a governess (47), a boarder in the household of Edward J Alvis (31, Rector of Diss, magistrate and landowner) and his family and servants according to the 1871 Census<sup>19</sup>.)

By 1876 Francis, and presumably his new wife Elizabeth, had moved to Victoria Road in Diss, shown on the Electoral Roll<sup>20</sup>, with voting qualification by the ownership of a freehold house and land on The Wilderness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Electoral Registers 1832-1915: <u>https://tinyurl.com/bt7xudcn</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 1871 National Census: RG10 Piece 1834 Folio 77 Page 7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1866 Q3 Depwade Norfolk Vol 4B Page 131

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Burials: <u>https://tinyurl.com/2xkemdpm</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> FindMyPast, England Marriages 1538-1973: <u>https://tinyurl.com/hxzma8jk</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Civil Registration – Marriage: 1871 Q4 Blything Suffolk Vol 4A Page 1612

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 1851 National Census: HO107 Piece 1841 Folio 423 Page 1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 1871 National Census: HORG10 Piece 1824 Folio 95 Page 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Electoral Registers 1832-1915: <u>https://tinyurl.com/bt7xudcn</u>

By 1881, according to the Census<sup>21</sup>. Francis is aged 82, a retired chemist, living with his wife Elizabeth (57) and servants Frances GRIMWOOD (19, cook and domestic) and Ann PULFORD (18, housemaid). Their address was now given as Church Street, Diss. (The Wilderness is just off Church Street so may correspond to the address in the 1876 Electoral Roll.)

Francis died in Diss on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1888<sup>22</sup>, registered in Depwade District<sup>23</sup>, and was buried St. Mary's Diss Cemetery on 14<sup>th</sup> January<sup>24</sup>.



Two reports from the Ipswich Journal detailed the burial, emphasising just how well-liked Francis was in the town and the considerable regard for him as a businessman. See 'In the newspapers', 1 & 2.

Elizabeth was still living at The Wilderness, Church Street, Diss at the time of the 1891 Census<sup>25</sup>, a widow, aged 67, with an occupation of printer. With her was her stepdaughter Catherine (49, living on her own means) and servants

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 1881 National Census: RG11 Piece 1966 Folio 83 Page 22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Find A Grave, Memorial Inscription, St. Mary's Diss Churchyard: <u>https://tinyurl.com/mzvr5j2n</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1888 Q1 Depwade Vol 4B Page 177

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Burials: <u>https://tinyurl.com/37wx8nsj</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> 1891 National Census: RG12 Piece 1544 Folio 70 Page 16

Christina SCHOFIELD (24, cook domestic) and Edith COTTON (19, housemaid domestic).

The Electoral Roll for 1896<sup>26</sup>, Elizabeth is living in The Wilderness, Church Street, Diss, with her qualification to vote being the ownership of a house.

Church Street, Diss was where Elizabeth was living at the time of the 1901 Census<sup>27</sup>, a widow, aged 77, with no occupation. Staying with her was a visitor Annie C SNOW (single, aged 24, a governess) along with 2 live-in servants Kate NEWSON (27, cook domestic) and Annie NORMAN (25, housemaid domestic).

The Electoral Roll for 1903<sup>28</sup>, has Elizabeth still living in The Wilderness, with her qualification to vote being the ownership of a house.

Elizabeth died on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1904<sup>29</sup>, registered in Depwade Division<sup>30</sup>. She was buried<sup>31</sup> in Diss Cemetery on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1904.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Electoral Registers 1832-1915: <u>https://tinyurl.com/pznd44m7</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> 1901 National Census: RG13 Piece 1863 Folio 67 Page 18

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Electoral Registers 1832-1915: <u>https://tinyurl.com/4xec4vn4</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Diss Cemetery, memorial

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1904 Q2 Depwade Norfolk Vol 4B Page 146

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Burials: <u>https://tinyurl.com/nhdhubxj</u>

# His Family.

The parents of Francis Cupiss were Philip and Fanny (nee Statham) who married on 14 Jun 1788<sup>32</sup> in Barton Blount, Derbyshire.

From Census returns and parish baptism records these are Francis Cupiss's known children:

**Francis Philip** – b. c.1827, bap. 3 Aug 1827<sup>33</sup> (sometimes referred to as Franc<u>e</u>s Philip)

Francis Philip Cupiss became a Mason. His 'joining' on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1859, 'passing' on 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar, and 'raising' on 18<sup>th</sup> May. He is listed in the United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers<sup>34</sup> as living in Grimsby, a surgeon. For Francis, there are many other records relating to his education and medical career - an interesting person in his own right with links to general medical practice, St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Grimsby!

Perhaps worthy of note is the entry for Francis Philip in the London and Provincial Medical Directory of 1865<sup>35</sup>, "CUPISS, FRANCIS PHILIP, Great Grimsby, Lincolnsh. M.R.C.S. Eng. 1851; L.M. 1852; L.S.A. 1850; (St. Barthol.); Hon. Asst. Surg. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincolnsh. V. Artill.; Surg. Gt. Northern and Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnsh. Railway cos.; Grimsby Docks, and Grimsby Borough Police; Med. Ref. several Insur. Cos., formerly Res. Acc. St. Barthol. Hosp." – quite a list of responsibilities!

**Elizabeth Fanny** – b. c.1828, bap. 18 Aug 1828<sup>36</sup> (Diss), m. 17 Jul 1871<sup>37</sup> (Henry John CASE, Diss, 1831-1902), d<sup>3839</sup>. 5 Jan 1926

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> FindMyPast, Dioceses Of Lichfield & Coventry Marriages, 1636-1893: <u>https://tinyurl.com/z9bj4d5u</u>
<sup>33</sup> Norfolk Family History Society - NORS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> FindMyPast, England Freemason Membership Registers: <u>https://tinyurl.com/mw6d8442</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Ancestry, Medical Directories, 1845-1942; <u>https://tinyurl.com/ubuaf8rz</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Banns And Marriages: <u>https://tinyurl.com/ys8ehcvw</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1926 Q1 Norwich Norfolk Vol 4B Page 159

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> National Probate Calendar: 1926 Page 536

In 1841 according to the Census, Elizabeth then 12 years old, was at school in Palgrave, in what appears to be a small school for young ladies. Also there was her sister Amelia.

Henry John Case was a farmer in Thorndon, Suffolk and in 1881 was living on Hill Farm, Thorndon All Saints, with Elizabeth and 2 servants. By the 1891 Census Henry had retired and, with Elizabeth, was living at Chester Place, St Giles Road, Norwich, and were both still there in 1901.

**Amelia** – b. 28 June 1829 (Diss), bap<sup>40</sup>. 20 Jul 1829 (Diss), d<sup>41</sup>. 18 Oct 1864, bur<sup>42</sup>. 25 Oct 1864 (Diss)

In 1841, Amelia was at school in Palgrave with her sister Elizabeth. She became a governess to the children of Alfred Stead, Rector of Ovingdean, Sussex, as shown on the 1851 Census. Still listed as a governess, Amelia was living back in Diss with her parents in 1861.

**Thomas** – b<sup>43</sup>. 5 Sep 1830, bap<sup>44</sup>. 23 Sept 1830 (Diss), m<sup>4546</sup>. 2 Oct 1861 (Rose PARVIN, Melton Mowbray), m<sup>47</sup>. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1881 (Mary Ann WINSALL, Lambeth London) , d<sup>48</sup>. c.1911

William – b. c.1831, bap<sup>49</sup>. 16 Dec 1931, m<sup>50</sup>. c.1875 (Sarah Elizabeth BLEAY), d<sup>5152</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> Apr 1914 (Liverpool)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1864 Q4 Depwade Norfolk Vol 4B Page 171

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> FindMyPast - Norfolk Burials : <u>https://tinyurl.com/mrxajxdu</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> FindMyPast, Leicestershire Marriages: <u>https://tinyurl.com/mry2ntje</u>1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Civil Registration - Marriage: 1861 Q4 Melton Mowbray Leicestershire Vol 7A Page 507

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Civil Registration – Marriage: – 1881 Q4 Lambeth London Vol 1D Page 639

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1911 Q2 Rochford Essex Vol 4A Page 315

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Civil Registration – Marriage: 1875 Q2 Pancras London Vol 1B Page 197

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Liverpool Mercury, 9<sup>th</sup> Apr 1914

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Civil Registration – Death: 1814 Q2 Toxteth Park Lancashire Vol 8B Page 240

CUPISS-April 4, at his residence, 62, Mulgrave-street, Liverpool, in his 83rd year, William, the beloved husband of Sarah Elizabeth Cupiss (late of the "Liverpool Mercury"), and youngest son of the late Francis Cupiss, M.R.C.V.S., of Diss, Norfolk. Was interred at St. James's Cemetery on Tuesday.

Liverpool Echo, 9<sup>th</sup> April 1914

**Emily** – b. c.1833, bap<sup>53</sup>. 21 May 1833 (Diss)

Very little can be found about Emily – on-going research .....

**Catherine** - b<sup>54</sup>. 8 Sep 1836, bap<sup>55</sup>. 16 Sep 1836 (Diss), m<sup>56</sup>. 12 Sep 1895 (Horace WOLTON, Diss), d<sup>57</sup>. 30 May 1931

WOLTON Catherine of 31 Unthank-road Norwich widow died 30 May 1931 Probate Norwich 1 September to Arthur Ormiston Lyus solicitor and Clement Gaze auctioneer. Effects £8319 17s. 5d.

National Probate Calendar - 1931

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

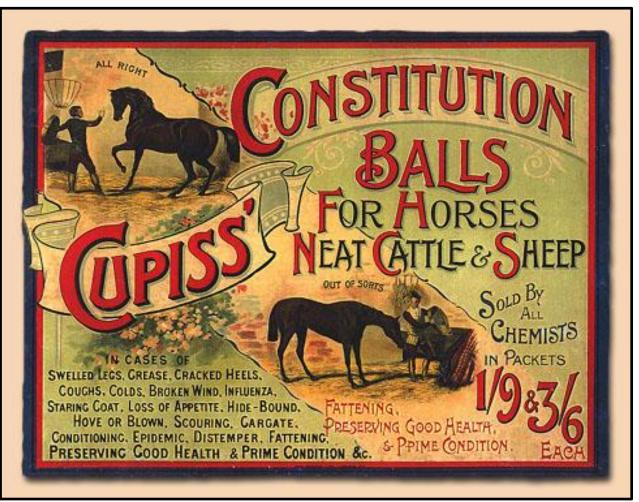
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Norfolk Baptism Project – Diss St. Mary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> FindMyPast, Norfolk Banns And Marriages: <u>https://tinyurl.com/w39evbxb</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> National Probate Calendar: 1 Sep 1931, 1931 Page 492

From the records available, Francis has had the given occupations of chemist, printer and veterinary surgeon. To date no premises have been found where he had a chemist's shop; maybe this was conducted from his home in Mere Street. No doubt his chemist knowledge went a long way to bring about the formulation of "Cupiss's Constitution Balls", probably what he is best known for.



Advertising poster

As a chemist Francis was knowledgeable about many drugs and "potions". His wife Elizabeth suffered from 'great delicacy of the chest'. He was recorded as endorsing "Roper's Royal Bath Plasters". See in the newspapers, 3.

Francis's involvement in the printing business, "Francis Cupiss found that he needed to wrap and pack his products, as well as advertise them, so he decided

to incorporate a printing section into the business in 1830."<sup>58</sup> Some links to information are:

http://cupissletterpress.co.uk/ https://britishletterpress.co.uk/2021/06/francis-cupiss-diss/ http://www.franciscupiss.co.uk/



The Wharfdale Press

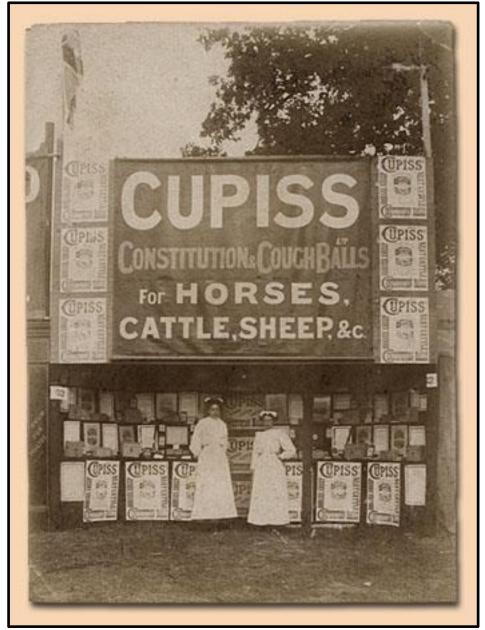
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Cupiss website: http://www.franciscupiss.co.uk/



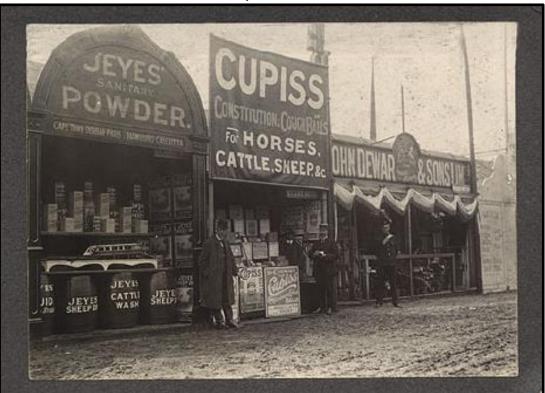
**Columbian Eagle Press** 

The business is about to close, another trade lost to history. Much greater information can be foundat <u>http://www.franciscupiss.co.uk/</u>

Francis was a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, joining on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1822. His work on, and production of, his "Cupiss's Constitution Balls", made from "Roots, Herbs and Minerals from various parts of the world", is probably what he is best known for along with his "Ewe's Friend" and in a book he wrote called "Essay on the Diseases of the Liver of the Horse". Newspapers all over the British Isles carried reviews and adverts for them. See two local transcribed examples in In the Newspapers, 4 & 5.

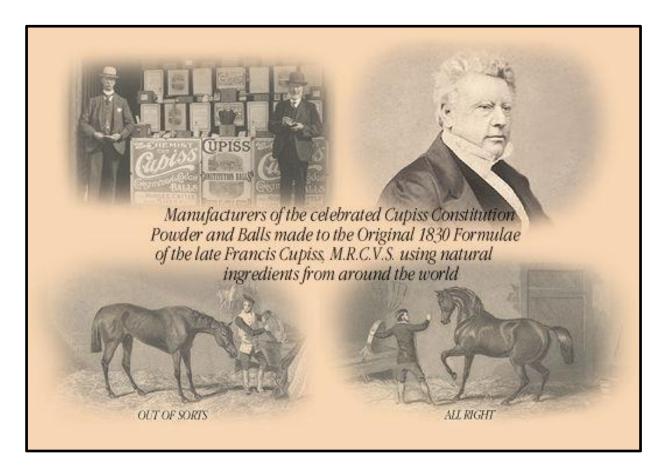


Cupiss Trade Stand



**Cupiss Trade Stand (c. 1910)** 

Newspapers all over the British Isles carried reviews and adverts for them. He was seen at many Trade and Country shows.



Francis, possibly eager to retain the trade name of his Constitution Balls, saw a bull named "Sir Cupiss Ball" winning prizes at an agricultural show so he wrote to the bull's owner. This exchange gave rise to a newspaper report. See In the Newspapers, 6.

# (2761) . SIR CUPIS BALL. Red with white face, calved June 29, 1863; bred by the late Mr. James Rea, Monaughty Knighton, the property of Mr.

P. J. Kearney, Miltown House, Clonmellon, Ireland; got by Sir Benjamin (1387), dam (Sultana) by Grenadier (961), g.d. (Gaylass) by Canute (890), g.g.d. (Gaylass) by Confidence (367), g.g.gd. — by Charity (375).

The bull was listed in the "Ayton's Herd Book of Hereford Cattle", Volume 6<sup>59</sup>, T. Duckham, 1865, shown above.

Besides these businesses, Francis was involved with financial services. He was the treasurer of the Diss Provident Society, an association of people who pay regular dues or other sums in return for old-age pensions, sickness benefits, etc., and also an agent for the Eastern Counties Permanent Benefit Building Society, which after several mergers it became part of the Britannia Group which is now part of The Co-operative Banking Group). See In the Newspapers, 7.

There is no doubt that Francis was a character; innovative, inventive, helpful. He was an interesting person to research, a side-line from another enquiry!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Google Books, Ayton's Herd Book of Hereford Cattle, Volume 6: https://tinyurl.com/mvtw4vuh

### Cupiss of Diss In the newspapers (transcripts).

There were a great many references in newspapers to the Francis whilst living in Diss. The Bury and Norwich Post, The Diss Express and other papers often had articles with reference to him. Some are:

## 1. The Ipswich Journal, Friday, 13 Jan 1888, page 6

### DISS.

DEATH OF MR. FRANCIS CUPISS. - One of our oldest and most respected townsmen has been removed from our midst in Mr. Cupiss, who was for many years in business as a chemist, and achieved a world-wide reputation for his renowned horse medicines. Mr. Cupiss was also well known as a printer, notably as having published the first 'Suffolk Stud Book." On relinquishing the business of chemist some years since he retired to a properly in Church-street, Diss, which was afterward demolished by fire, on which occasion a subscription list was opened, and many friends showed substantial sympathy by raising a considerable fund, which was presented to Mr. Cupiss. A handsome residence was erected on the same site, a tablet being inserted with an inscription to the effect that the original building was burned down. The printing branch is still carried on here. The deceased gentleman took the greatest interest in local charities and institutions, whose funds were considerably augmented by his donations. For the past fifty years parish matters received bis attention, his signature appearing on the Diss Terrier for 1831 He was Town Warden from 1855, to 1861, and has held the office continuously since 1876. being also known for many years as manager of the Diss Branch of the Eye Savings Bank, and chairman of the Diss Gas Company, which office he resigned only last year in consequence of declining health. Since that time he has gradually become more enfeebled, and an honourable and successful career, extending over a period of 89 years, and marked by quiet unobtrusive Christianity, peacefully closed on Wednesday evening. The funeral will take place on Saturday in Diss Churchyard.

## 2. The Ipswich Journal, Monday, 16 January 1888, page 5

### DISS.

FUNERAL OF MR. CUPISS. - The parish church and churchyard were the scene of an impressive ceremony on Saturday when the remains of the late Mr. Cupiss were laid to rest. The cortege started from the "Wilderness" at 2.45 p.m., being joined by a large number of gentlemen and tradesmen, amongst them being Mr. F. Taylor. M.P., Mr. G Lyus, Mr. G. Lyus, jun., Mr. H. O. Lyus, Mr. H. E. Garrod. Mr. T, E Amyot, the Rev. E. L. Savory, Mr. T. W. Gaze, Mr. C. Farrow, and the Rev. C. U. Manning. Nearly all the shops in the town were closed. The procession was received at the south gates by the Rev. C. R. Manning (rector) and the Rev. A. A. Wilkinson (curate), the former gentleman reading the opening sentences of the burial service. The coffin was of plain oak, with massive brass furniture, and was covered with handsome wreaths of white flowers. The service was choral, and the 19th Psalm having been sung, the lesson was read by the Rev. A. A. Wilkinson. The hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er," was also sung. and whilst the funeral cortege was leaving the church Beethoven's " Marche Funebre " was played by the organist (Mr. A. Hemstock) The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. C. R. Manning. The coffin plate bore the inscription: - "Francis Cupiss, Died January 11th, 1888, aged 89 years. Amongst the members of the family and friends present were Mrs. Cupiss, Mr. Wm. Cupiss, Mr. and Mrs. Case, Miss Emily Cupiss, Miss K. Cupiss, Mr. Herbert Cupiss, Mr. Manfred Biddell (Playford), Mr. G. A. Biddell (Ipswich), Messrs. Herman, A. B. and J. L. Biddell (Playford), Mr. C. Harvey (Stretham). The servants and employees at the printing works also followed in the procession.

## 3. Hampshire Advertiser, Sat., 19 Jan 1867, page 9

## **ROPER'S ROYAL BATH PLASTERS.**

NOTHING BRINGS ON NERVOUS DEBILITY, PRE-MATURE OLD AGE, AND SHORTENS HUMAN LIFE, MORE THAN DISEASES OF THE CHEST.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCIPAL NOBILITY.

ROPER'S ROYAL BATH PLASTERS for Coughs, Asthma, Hoarseness, Indigestion, Palpitation of the Heart, Croup, Hooping Cough, Influenza, Chronic Strains, Bruises, Lumbago, or Pains in the Back, Spinal and Rheumatic Affections, Diseases of the Chest, and Local Pains. ....

From F. Cupiss, Esq., M.R.V.C., Author of the Prize Essay on the Diseases of the Liver of the Horse.

Diss, Norfolk, March 22. 1851.

Gentlemen, - For the last three winters Mrs. Cupiss has felt a great delicacy of the chest, accompanied with occasional pain, cough, and hoarseness. Having had your valuable Roper's Royal Bath Plaster recommended to her, she made a trial of one, and it was attended with the most beneficial effect, in consequence of which she has made frequent use of them, and invariably with the same good results.

I remain, FRANCIS CUPISS.

#### Cupiss of Diss 4. The Ipswich Journal, 13 Mar 1852, page 4

## **IMPORTANT TO**

Proprietors of Horses and Neat Cattle.

AT this Season of the Year, when the changes of the atmosphere render it more productive of Disease, not only In Horses, but also in Neat Cattle, it is of the greatest importance to know of a remedy that may he used with safety and of never-failing efficacy.

CUPISS'S CONSTUTITION BALLS

most eminently possess the power of Cure, and by putting the System Into good health, prevent most of the common diseases to which Horses and Neat Cattle are subject.

> PREPARED ONLY BY FRANCIS CUPISS, M.R.C.V.S., DISS;

And Sold by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors, in Packets of Six Balls, at 3s.6d. each Packet, with proper Directions and a Pamphlet of Testimonials from many Gentlemen who have used the Balls in various Complaints.

Any Gentleman using the Balls may consult the Proprietor gratuitously, either personally, or by letter, post-paid.

## 5. The Bury and Norwich Post, Wed., 14 Feb 1855, page 1

## TO FLOCK-MASTERS.

#### F. CUPISS

# RESPECTFULLY calls the attention of Flock-Masters to his EWE'S FRIEND,

For preventing Straining and Draining in Sheep after Lambing, which so often proves fatal.

One dose will frequently prevent it coming on, and two or three doses will cure almost any case, however severe, if taken in time.

CUPISS'S EWE'S FRIEND was first introduced amongst his private friends, who found it so valuable a Medicine, that he is induced to make it generally known; and he doubts not but a fair trial will convince the public of its great utility.

The Ewe's Friend is prepared only by F. Cupiss, Chemist, Diss, Proprietor of the Constitution Horse Balls, and sold in packets, from Is. to 5. each, with proper directions.

Also GANGRENE OILS, a safe and efficacious remedy for Sheep at the time of Lambing, and an excellent application for fresh wounds in horses, and every Kind of Cattle.

The above preparations may be procured of Messrs. Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon-street, and of all the Wholesale Patent Medicine Venders in London, and Chemists in the Country.

#### Cupiss of Diss 6. Bury and Norwich Post, 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1867, page 2

At the DUBLIN AGRICULTURAL SHOW of 1867, the celebrated Bull, named "SIR CUPISS BALL" obtained the FIRST PRIZE. Mr. CUPISS, of Diss, Norfolk, thinking the name might have reference to his world-famed CONSTITUTION BALLS, wrote to the Proprietor of the Animal, asking him the question, and was gratified by receiving in reply the following flattering testimonial:-

Miltown House, Clonmellon, September 21th, 1867.

Sir, I found your note here on my return from the Continent, on Saturday evening last. With respect to my bull " Sir Cupiss Ball," that name was given to him owing to your medicines having, in my opinion, saved his life. I bought him, looking very badly, with his dam, at the monthly sale, and on his arrival at my place, he was in a most delicate state; it was then discovered that his dam didn't give him one-tenth of the milk required to keep him in health, and we could not get him to take any other milk, and he would only use the smallest quantity of roots, no cake. A friend of mine then advised me to try your Balls, making four parts of one at first, and increasing gradually until he was able to take an entire one. In a short time his appetite improved, and soon he became able to use as much cake and roots as was necessary; from this period he throve apace, and I never had an animal easier to keep in condition. I exhibited him four times, and he obtained six 1st prizes (that is, four 1st as best of his class, and two 1st as best Hereford Bull shown). I am bound in gratitude to give you any information you require in reference to " Sir Cupiss Ball."

Feeling grateful for the benefit received,

I am, your obedient servant,

To Mr. Cupiss, Diss, Norfolk.

P. J. KEARNEY.

The Constitution Balls are prepared by the Proprietor,

FRANCIS CUPISS, MR.V.C.S.,

Author of the Prize Essay on the Diseases of the Liver of the Horse.

Sold by all chemists and medicine vendors, in packets with directions, at 1s. 9d. and 3s. 6d. each; or seven large packets for One Guinea or seven small for Half-a Guinea. Any gentleman using the Balls may consult the Proprietor gratuitously, either personally or by letter, post paid.

#### Cupiss of Diss 7. The Bury and Norwich Post, Sat., 10 Mar 1868, Page 2

## MONEY

£50 TO £5000 Advanced on Freehold, Copy hold, or Leasehold Property ; repayable by monthly installments extending over 7, 10, or I3 years, at the option of the borrower, full particulars of Mr. J.PEARCE, Manager of the EASTERN COUNTIES PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, 2, Prince's-street, Ipswich; or of Mr. Fras. Arnold, Debenham; Mr. H. W. Collins, Woodbridge; Mr. Fras. Cupiss, Diss; Mr. V. Frewer, Bury St. Edmund's; Mr. R. A. King, Beccles; Mr. Robt. Lambert, Framlingham; Mr. W. W. Scrivener, Hadleigh; Mr. Henry Payne, Stowmarket.



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For more information on Diss and other local places please view: https://www.tharston-past.info/