

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**Volume Seven    Part One**  
**MARCH 2010**



**The Journal of the Norfolk Family History Society**  
formerly Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society



Robert Kett under the Oak tree  
and  
Ketts Oak, Wymondham

(both images shown with permission of Norfolk County Council Library  
and Information Service)



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Overseas Single Life Membership: £200 Overseas Joint Life Membership: £300

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**FRONT COVER** – A relief featuring St. George and the Dragon, on the wall of the church of St. George Tombland, Norwich.

**BACK COVER** – a Mediaeval painting of St. George and the Dragon on the wall at St. Gregory's Church, Norwich.

Once again many thanks to Simon Knott for his photographs on the Norfolk Churches website, [www.norfolkchurches.co.uk](http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk). (*St. George's day is 23<sup>rd</sup> April*)

## NOTICES

### KIRBY HALL LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Tuesday	10 a.m - 1 p.m.	Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m - 1 p.m.	Sunday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

All CORRESPONDENCE to an Officer of the Society should be addressed to KIRBY HALL which is the registered address of the NFHS - please quote your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.

The Norfolk Ancestor is a quarterly Journal published in March, June, September and December. Opinions expressed in this journal are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of either the Editor or the NFHS, which cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of facts in the articles submitted.

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### GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**Articles for future editions always required - submit and see!** But please note, the Editor cannot guarantee the issue in which your article will appear. Every effort will be made to reproduce articles as presented but **the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary.** The Editor will assume that all necessary authorisation for attachments or photographs has been obtained and the NFHS will not be held liable in the case of a subsequent query.

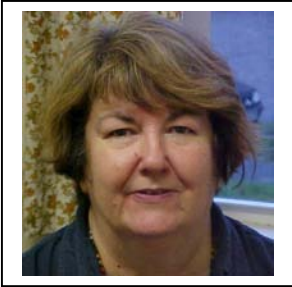
Articles should be preferably typed in a **10pt font for an A5 page with a 1.4cm border = about 450 words per page without photos.**

***Please keep articles to 4 pages maximum.***

E-mail or CD versions are most helpful.

All material from regular contributors for inclusion in the June issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall no later than **20th April 2010.**

Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.



**From the Editor**  
***ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk***

March 2010

Dear Members

There's a lot to talk about this in this issue.

Many of you will have had letters telling you about the launch of NORS, our new record search on our website. We are extremely "chuffed" about it, especially those who have spent weeks and months working on NORS. If you have not heard from us, please read page 12.

The new Membership Renewal Notice is in the centre of The Ancestor, so please remember to renew your membership. If you don't do it now, there will be another reminder in the June issue; after that your membership will lapse, and you will also lose access to NORS.

It would also be useful if you could please complete the Bankers Order section of the form. It will help with our admin, and in future you won't need to remember to complete the Renewal Form and send a cheque. We would also be grateful if you could complete the Gift Aid section. This will not involve you in any additional cost, but means that we can claim back a portion of tax on your donations/subscriptions.

Unhappily we are also losing two of our stalwarts; Webmaster, Terry Gray, who is standing down after looking after our website for the past few years, and Pat Mason, who is standing down as Company Secretary and Trustee. Terry, many thanks for all your work on the website, and also many thanks to Pat who has served the Society for many years, and is taking a well earned breather, although I expect that we shall see her at Kirby Hall.

There are adverts for both Webmaster and Company Secretary on page 54.

May I also say thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Ancestor. This is my seventh issue as Editor and I haven't yet been short of articles. However, a few articles I receive are very lengthy, and while I can edit them to size, that can be disappointing for the contributors. So please look at the Guidelines on the notices page, and adhere to them as closely as possible. Thank you.

***Denagh Hacon MN2671***

**Inside front cover – unknown photographs.** – The top two were taken at Edwards Photographer, 102 Leytonstone Road, London. The bottom two were taken at Shermans Pier Studio, Gt. Yarmouth. Any thoughts?



## ***Letters to the Editor***



Dear Editor

I enjoyed Mary Mitchell's reminiscence in December's Norfolk Ancestor which comes to the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society in Ballina, New South Wales, Australia in exchange for The Cedar Log.

As a young Australian on a working holiday in the UK during 1957-8, I had the good fortune to spend a memorable Christmas at Paynes Farm, Nazeing, Essex and was astonished when mail was delivered on Christmas morning. We later attended the Broxbourne church where a beautiful and touching service reminded me how far I was away from my home and family, and after a traditional dinner we listened to the Queen's Christmas message, exchanged gifts and played charades. I have never forgotten the hospitality of my hosts and the love that surrounded me on that day in your wonderful country. Nor have I forgotten the postman's delivery!

***Marie Hart, 6/82 Swift Street, BALLINA NSW, AUSTRALIA 2478***

### **NORFOLK FAMILY SEARCH**

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**Or write to: Norfolk Family Search, 14 Silver Street,  
Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 4TT, UK**

## DIARY of EVENTS

### March – June 2010

Date	Title	Speaker	Branch
2 Mar	The Good, the Bad, the Prostitute and the Leper in late C14 <sup>th</sup> Gt Yarmouth	Dr. Janka Rodiewicz	GY
9 Mar	The Foundling Hospital London	Dr Paul Davies	Diss
6 Mar	Members day – “Black Sheep or Local Hero?”		London
10 Mar	Writing Family Biographies	Geoffrey Lee	KL
12 Mar	A Norfolk Journey	Keith Skipper	Nch
6 Apr	How not to Destroy your Heirlooms	Sarah Norcross-Robinson	GY
7 April	Members Evening – “Have you killed them off?”		KL
9 April	Magic Lantern Show. Norwich + others 1860- 1910	Richard Fiddy	NCH
13 Apr	From Poacher to Pillar of Society (The story of a remarkable man)	Edith Morley	Diss
4 May	Member help member: <b>Roots, Branches and Twigs</b> Family Trees, Family History Computer Data Bases		GY
11 May	Hats to Hops (Industries)	Stephen Humphery	Diss
12 May	Lesser known sources for Family History	Eric Probert	KL
14 May	WW2 Lancaster Bomb Aimer.	Mike Wabe	NCH

**Out stall will be at the Family History Fairs again this year. Look out for us at the end of March at St. Andrews Hall. For further dates please look on our website.**

### BRANCH MEETING VENUES

<b>Diss</b>	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road Diss (A1066) SOUTH NORFOLK (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, at 7.pm)
<b>GY</b>	Middlegate Hall, Christchurch, King Street, Great Yarmouth, EAST NORFOLK (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm)
<b>Nch</b>	Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich NORWICH (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, at 7.30 pm)
<b>KL</b>	Thoresby College, South Quay Entrance, Kings Lynn WEST NORFOLK (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm)
<b>London</b>	Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd LONDON EC1M 7BA (approx, every six months, 2 – 4.30 pm)



## PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF SYDERSTONE

We are committee members of the Amy Robsart Village Hall, Syderstone who are trying to compile a photographic history of Syderstone, which we would like eventually to put on public display in the hall together with our ever growing number of local family histories and other Syderstone-related memorabilia. We have some photos but we need **LOTS** more.

### **In order to achieve this we please need YOUR help**

If you have any connections to Syderstone, past or present and have any photographs of family members, christenings, weddings, village scenes, working life, schooldays, sport, leisure or village events from any period and in any condition and would be willing to allow us to put them on public display we would love to see them.

We can copy your photos (and give them back to you if you do not wish to donate them to the hall). If necessary we can digitally enhance their condition. Please find those boxes of old photos - if you are not sure if they will be useful please let us know and we can go through them with you.

Get in touch with relatives or friends who may have moved away from the village but could have some hidden gems! It's very important that we save as much local history as possible before it is lost for ever.

**We hold an 'Old Syderstonians' Reunion every April and October. The next one is on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 2-6pm in the village hall.**

Come and meet old friends or relatives over a cup of tea, pour over the family histories and identify relatives from our photo collection. Everyone is welcome.

Please contact either  
Sheila Riches MN10855  
Tel. 01485 578171 [sheilarriches@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilarriches@btinternet.com)

or

Avril MacArthur MN9439  
Tel. 01485 578588 [avril.macarthur1@btinternet.com](mailto:avril.macarthur1@btinternet.com)



### **NORFOLK MARRIAGE REGISTERS VOL 1 CD from the 1899 transcripts**

A CD version of Phillimore's Marriage Index Vol1 (Price £9.95 inc UK postage)

A facsimile reproduction of volume I of *Phillimore's Norfolk Parish Registers: Marriages*. The contents are: Acle, 1664-1812; Hemblington, 1564-1812; Brundall, 1563-1812; Burlingham St Peter, 1560-1812; Burlingham St Andrew, 1540-1812; Upton, 1558-1812; Witton by Blofield, 1582-1812; Baydeston, 1623-1812; Strumpshaw, 1562-1812; Calthorpe, 1558-1812; Ingworth, 1559-1812; Southacre, 1576-1812; East Lexham, 1541-1812; Castleacre, 1710-1812; Langley, 1695-1812; Narborough, 1558-1812.

### **MARRIAGES RECORDED IN THE SACRIST'S REGISTER OF NORWICH CATHEDRAL 1697-1754** transcribed by T R Tallack and Frederic Johnson in 1902 (Price £9.95 inc UK postage)

This is a transcription of a publication of the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society in 1902. The marriages record people from all over Norfolk and many from Suffolk. They include people from a variety of social classes from soldiers and weavers to a Baronet. You can view this version on a computer using Adobe Acrobat Reader, and is searchable.

### **ONE GENERATION OF A NORFOLK HOUSE (CD)** by Augustus Jessopp (1879) (Price £8.95 inc UK postage)

This is the story of the Walpole family of Houghton at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Three branches of the family controlled a large portion of North Norfolk. The book examines how religious changes following the death of Henry VIII affected the daily life of the growing family. There are excellent notes giving source detail as part of each chapter. The writing is in the formal style of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and may be a little different from what we are used to. However the book gives an excellent insight to everyday life of one of a Norfolk family and its retainers.

### **THE REGISTER OF BIRCHAM NEWTON FROM 1562 TO 1743 (CD)** edited by Richard Howlett 1888 (Price £8.95 inc UK postage)

The introduction at the start of the book explains how the transcripts were arrived at and brief details of the incumbents. There is also a short history of

the village starting from its entry in the Domesday Book, and there are detailed notes of the various references to help with your own research.

There then follows some 700 entries from the baptisms, marriages and burials. The register is fully searchable.

The book finishes with a Terrier of the Glebe lands and a name index.

**MADE IN LYNN. The history of Scott & sons and events in the town 1871 to 1971** by Martin Scott Sunbeam Publications 2009 . Softback A4 214 pages . Price £ 11.99

In 1872, Thomas William Scott and his son William established Scott & Son, complete house furnishers at 89, High St, King's Lynn, as competition to Jermyn & Sons with whom T.W.Scott had once been a partner. In 1898 they expanded into Nos. 93 & 94 and then into a whole block of shops 91 to 97 at the corner of Purfleet St. They became one of the most important independent retailing establishments in K.Lynn, a traditional family firm with attentive knowledgeable, hard-working staff offering friendly helpful service. For many years much of the bedding and furniture they sold was made at their Lynn factory first in St. James' St. and later after 1902 in purpose built premises on the South Quay, with warehousing facilities in Purfleet St. Gradually they ceased to make their own furniture but bought in and provided a re-upholstery and repair service. Unfortunately, after one hundred years of activity the shop was closed and the works sold for redevelopment in 1971.

It is the history of a family business related against a background of significant events in the town including Coronation Parades, Barnum & Bailey's 'Greatest Show on Earth', several High St. fires, the two World Wars, the Great depression, civic functions, Royal visits, trades exhibitions, changing shopping patterns and other major developments. The book uses family resources, memorabilia from previous employees, local newspapers articles and sales catalogues, with which it is lavishly illustrated including many advertisements, catalogue pictures, maps plus photos of buildings and of former staff (including a section listing their names and recollections). Truly a nostalgic journey down memory lane.

***Edmund Perry MN3181***

## NORFOLK ONLINE RECORD SEARCH

**We are pleased to announce that our new Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) is now available online.**

In January we sent over 2,400 letters to members who have an email address registered on our system. Congratulations to C Mattocks (MN1054) who was the first member to log onto NORS. By the end of January there had been 1506 user logins and 6082 searches with Skipper, Smith and Hindry being the top search name. Also by the end of January we had received, and actioned, 298 email address changes and queries. The majority of the queries were due to members changing their email address and not advising us; and the remainder down to our inability to read your writing or to enter into our system correctly! If you have not yet received an access letter, and have an email address, please email us at [NORS@NORFOLKFHS.ORG.UK](mailto:NORS@NORFOLKFHS.ORG.UK) with your name, membership number and address and we will send you an email containing your User Name and Password.

Members have responded positively and, despite there being limited information currently available, several have already found 'lost' relatives.

We have almost 1,500 members who have not registered an email address with us so we are expecting a high volume of emails so, please, bear with us if it takes a while to get back to you. ***Any telephone enquiries, letters or emails regarding access sent to any other NFHS email address will NOT be answered.*** We know you are all keen to access the site but we have limited volunteers so if you do not receive an immediate reply please wait 4 weeks before sending a reminder.

A **User Guide** and list of **Frequently Asked Questions** are included in the pages of the main Society website. Please take time to review these before contacting the Society if you encounter any difficulties.

At present the project has focussed on making Parish Church of England Baptisms, Banns, Marriages and Burial Transcripts available online to enable a surname search. Over time it is hoped to provide members with access to additional material which is currently available at Kirby Hall. Currently there are over 600,000 records covering more than 200 parishes. This does not mean there is full coverage of all years for all types of transcripts for all these parishes. NORS is an ongoing project and it is not possible to set an end date. We are reliant on volunteers to transcribe and check data, print the transcribed data, add the data to our electronic database held at Kirby Hall and finally, upload and check to the website. In addition, we have to set-up, and amend, email addresses for new and existing members - and this is just one aspect of the Society's activities. If you feel you could help us in any way please contact [secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk).

## PROJECTS – by Edmund Perry

While NORS continues to be the main focus at present, many other activities continue. Our thanks to transcribers for the work they continue to send in. We intend to print more Transcripts for the Library shelves (taken on by Margaret Murgatroyd who has just produced an up-to-date List of what is available – see Website) and to add electronic versions to the Kirby Hall Database. Printed transcripts occur in various versions but we have tried to standardise the electronic by using Excel templates. Differences between the two resources abound. Cleaning/tidying Transcripts to prepare them for uploading onto NORS has created new .csv versions. Eventually these will replace the Excel so that the electronic will be the same for both the website and KH Library, but for the moment the latter has far more data available.

Mike Dack has taken over the Admin. of NORS; he and Peter Spurgeon are uploading. The greatest need is for volunteers to 'clean/tidy' transcripts to keep the site supplied. We are grateful for offers of help but there are problems with this labour-intensive and time-consuming work. Without the experience of actual transcribing from fiche/film/cd it is quite difficult to read and fully understand the Notes/Instructions sent out. It is possible to receive transcript spreadsheets, to clean/tidy at home, and return them back to Kirby Hall, using email. These can be checked and uploaded onto NORS. Anyone willing and able to offer help and who feels they have the right background for this work, please contact me direct: [transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk). The same applies to anyone offering general help or wishing to transcribe. If you haven't received a reply after a fortnight, feel free to jog my memory.

Over the years various disagreements about transcripts have led some members to offer their services and work to other organisations. This is understandable but disappointing to come across printed transcripts at the Norfolk Record Office and work on FREEREG (both produced by our members) of which we do not have a copy. I would urge members who have done work such as Transcripts, Memorial Inscriptions, Family Trees, to send these to the Kirby Hall Library so that the Society can increase the resources and make them available to other members. NORS has the capacity to include M.I., data, scanned documents and photographs. The long term aim of the NFHS will be to make available on line as much material as possible.

**Edmund Perry, Projects Co-ordinator**

## FROM THE LIBRARIAN

As a Society we are privileged to have at our disposal a fine collection of records. Most members who visit the library appear to search Parish Registers and Census records without looking further along the shelves. With this in mind I shall write occasional articles on the many interesting records at your disposal. This quarter I shall start with Police records.

### **SHELF M3 NORWICH SECTION**

#### **List of Executions at Norwich 1250-1951**

#### **Police Charge Book 1836-1838**

#### **Norwich Police Personnel 1914-1924**

#### **Norfolk Deponents in Chancery 1649-1714**

#### **A Force Remembered: An Illustrated History of the City Police Force.**

**The List of Executions at Norwich:** gives a comprehensive list of names and crimes committed.

The last man to be publically executed in Norwich was Hubbard Lingley in 1887 and in 1886 George Harmer was the last person executed in Norwich Prison. Executions ranged from: for Circumcision of a Christian Child in 1240, name: Diaia Le Cat.

In 1635 Tirval and one other executed for Witchcraft [they were possibly burnt at the same time as eight rioters]

Many executions were for [by todays standards] petty crimes. These records are worth researching for that long lost forebear.

### **Norwich Personnel Register**

This gives a fascinating glimpse of promotions and dismissals within the Norwich force. Examples include: Frederic J. W. Hill who was appointed Police Constable Probationary class on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1852, October 7<sup>th</sup> 1853. He was promoted 2<sup>nd</sup> class and on December 30<sup>th</sup> fined for intoxication to be discharged on repetition of the offence. He was again reprimanded in 1884 for neglect of duty for gossiping in the street. He was promoted 1<sup>st</sup> class and subsequently suspended for being drunk on night duty, fined 11 shillings [55pence] pay during suspension.

There is an exhaustive list of names and potted histories of Policemen in the 1800s

## Norfolk Deponents in Chancery 1694-1714

These records are of people who gave evidence in Norfolk to local commissioners, evidence that was needed in Lawsuits which were pending in the court of Chancery in London, and gives Christian name, surname, year, address, occupation and age of each deponent noted.

They are worth researching, I found eight Drake's unknown to me, that may be of use in later research

*Example:*

At Outwell Norfolk 1639.

Richd Drake Gent V Walter Annyson Gent

Deponents

John Cherry of Neatshead, Norf	Husbn	76
Richd.Oaks of City of Norwich	Gent	50
Thomas Wench of Crostwick, Norf.	Saylor	88
Thomas Parmenter of Witton, Norf.	Gent	49
Nicholas Lynsted of Felmyngham, Norf.	Yeoman	72

In some of the cases up to 43 people gave evidence covering many different occupations and locations

There is an exhaustive index. The official name of these records in the PRO is C22.

We are indebted to the members who compiled and donated these records.

### **DONATIONS**

It is some time since I have thanked those members who have donated items to the Library. May I apologise for the delay and assure you that we are grateful for your generosity and that items donated have been catalogued and filed on our shelves.

I have spent some time in up-dating the records on our data-base; this has meant checking records from 2001 to 2009, these and earlier records are on our main catalogue:

**'LIBRARY CATALOGUE FRONT DESK USE'** can be viewed by members showing items with their position on the shelves.

***John Drake, Librarian, Kirby Hall***

## MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

At this time of year surveying a churchyard and writing down all the inscriptions is the last thing most people would want to do, especially with the snow we have just been experiencing. However, although it isn't the weather for doing a survey, maybe it is the time to think about doing one as there has to be some preparation before starting a survey.

A look at the list of Monumental Inscriptions surveys on the NFHS's website will let you know if a survey has been done and, if so, how long ago it was done. Once you have chosen a particular Norfolk Church you should approach either the Vicar or churchwarden of the Church to explain what you would like to do and, I have found it useful to invite them to come along to the churchyard when you first go there, so that they can see what you will be doing. The NFHS is always happy to give a copy of the survey to the Church to keep, so do mention this. When you have agreed to carry out the survey please let me know so that I can make a note of it. I will also help you with any questions you have about recording the survey on computer.

When a survey has been completed it is useful to compare the details with the burial record for the particular church. If the NFHS has a transcript of the burial register we are happy to provide a copy of it, but, if there is not one, it is worth doing a transcript yourself (a job for the winter months and before you do the survey, if possible) or asking me if I could find someone to do it for you. It is often difficult to read some gravestones so a burial record is often a useful tool in working out names and dates.

If you do decide to do a survey I am sure you will enjoy the experience as most churchyards are peaceful places with plenty of wild life and beautiful scenery to observe. You just need to find a dry day with pleasant sunshine – not something you will find very often at this time of year!

**Mary Mitchell, MI Co-ordinator, (MN3328)**  
([minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk))



## FAMILY TREE APPEAL

The NFHS requests FAMILY TREES (even if incomplete) to add to its large collection. These have proved very helpful to other members. Since the last Ancestor Family Trees in respect of the following names have been received and lodged at Kirby Hall. A number of other contributions are currently being processed.

### SURNAME

### AREA

<b>Aldous/Blackburn</b>	Old Buckenham
<b>Allison</b>	Acle, Litcham to USA
<b>Andrews</b>	Norwich
<b>Blyth</b>	Mattishall, Marsham, Gt. Yarmouth
<b>Chapman</b>	Buxton
<b>Cooke</b>	Garboldisham
<b>Everard</b>	Westacre
<b>Matthews</b>	Buxton
<b>Matthews</b>	Buxton to Middlesex and Yorkshire
<b>Moffat</b>	USA to Norwich
<b>Moffett</b>	Yorkshire to Norwich
<b>Pearmain</b>	Northwold to London
<b>Pointer</b>	Horsham St. Faiths
<b>Ringer</b>	Norwich to London
<b>Shorten/Emmerson</b>	Sunderland to Blakeney

Areas shown indicate where the earliest generations or main concentrations of the family occurred.

**Attention of Members submitting a Family Tree is drawn to Copyright Law.**

Family Tree compilers are not restricted to any particular format. However the **FAMILY NAME** under which the Tree should be recorded must be emphasised.

**Members' full postal address and Membership Number must always be included.**

Full details can be found on our website.

***Pam Bridge Family Tree Co-ordinator MN3292***

## COURSES AT KIRBY HALL

**Gill Blanchard** is returning to the Norfolk Family History Society to run two new courses after Easter: **'Writing Your Family History'** and **'From Computers to Records: How to develop your research beyond the Internet'**.

Gill is a professional researcher, author and qualified tutor, with a post graduate certificate in education in teaching adults. She has run many family history courses at all levels over the years and worked as a full time professional researcher for nearly 20 years, including 6 years at the Norfolk Record Office.

**Booking is essential as places are limited.  
Booking slip can be found on the facing page**

To book or to obtain more details, please contact Gill Blanchard at the address on the booking slip or via telephone on 01603 633232 or email at: [gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk](mailto:gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk)

### **Writing Your Family History**

6 Practical Workshops

Fortnightly on Sunday afternoons. 1.30–4.30 pm **Cost £70**

Dates: 11<sup>th</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> June

Concentrating on how to bring your ancestors to life and present your family history as a written story.

These workshops guide participants through different phases of writing and editing. The students will engage in writing and producing their family history. At the end of workshops the students will either have a body of work ready for publication/display, or to be a significant way towards that.

## **From Computers to Records: How to develop your research beyond the Internet**

8 Week Course. 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> June  
Thursday evenings 6.30 – 8.30pm

**Cost £65**

Starting out or just wanting to improve your research skills? Gain a thorough grounding in using and understanding online, local and national family history resources.

Including databases; birth, marriage & death records; census returns; parish registers; directories and electoral registers and more!

Course content will be flexible in order to meet the needs of the students.

### **All cheques should be made payable to Norfolk Family History Society**

To enrol please complete the slip below and send to Gill Blanchard.

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To: **Gill Blanchard, 84 Rupert Street, Norwich. NR2 2AT.**

I would like to enrol for the following course (please tick):

**Writing Your Family History.                      Cost £70**

**From Computers to Records: How to develop your research beyond the Internet.                      Cost £65**

I enclose my cheque for £

made payable to **Norfolk Family History Society**



## BRANCH REPORTS

**Correspondence about individual branches and meetings should be addressed to the following branch organisers**

**East Norfolk:** Mrs Patricia Wills-Jones, Email: [patricia.willsjones@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.willsjones@btinternet.com)

**South Norfolk:** Mrs Edith Morley, 'Thwaites', Fersfield, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2BP

**West Norfolk:** Mrs Brenda Leedell, Email: [kgbj@dell4277.plus.com](mailto:kgbj@dell4277.plus.com)

**Norwich:** Mr and Mrs Jim Barwick, Mr and Mrs Roger Peck

**London:** Miss Mary Seeley, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Rd, London N16 8SB E-mail: [mary975@btinternet.com](mailto:mary975@btinternet.com) (home) and [ms28@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ms28@soas.ac.uk) (work)



### **South Norfolk Branch Report** **Laraine Hake**

#### **November**

In November, Geof Lee gave us an interesting talk on the History of Family Houses. Starting with houses in the Bronze Age, he worked through the eras explaining the evolvement of the homes and houses bringing us up to the modern era, all pictorially illustrated. Many of those present were able to enjoy recognising the houses of the various decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and, although nobody amongst us claimed to have traced their ancestry back to the Bronze Age, we had to agree that we would all have had ancestors who lived at that time! It was fascinating and helped to put flesh on the bones of our family trees.

#### **December**

This year our usual successful festive celebration was further enlivened by Pip Wright and his guitar! He told us about his new publications, in particular *Death Recorded – Capital Punishment in Suffolk 1732-1900*. Apparently this book started off as a means of finding when and where Assize Courts were held in Suffolk but it has ended as a fascinating series of stories and anecdotes with which we were regaled as we ate and drank mulled wine, finishing off with a song! We also thoroughly enjoyed the quiz and festive raffle provided for us by members. Many thanks to all, with a special thank you to Betty, our stalwart organizer.

The **January** meeting was cancelled because of the severe weather conditions.



**West Norfolk Branch report  
Brenda Leedell & Leanne Bailey**

Our speaker on the **11<sup>th</sup> November** was none other than a rather nervous Brenda Leedell, more used to organising speakers, but on this rather appropriate occasion speaking about War Memorials. After initial teething problems with the computer and projector not working for her, Brenda began by telling us where War Memorials could be found before a whistle stop photographic tour of War Memorials, both in Norfolk and abroad. We heard about the Cross of Sacrifice, in cemeteries containing more than 40 war graves.

We then heard about how her personal interest spawned into a massive research project into the men named on the Watlington War Memorial, including information gleaned from numerous sources and including the discovery that one man's death certificate had been corrected by statutory declaration, leading to alterations being made to CWGC records and the erection of a new headstone in Watlington Churchyard.

There was no meeting in December.

In **January**, Andrew Ingram came again to show us one of his wonderfully illustrated talks on Fenland Railways. Despite being a snowy and windy night, 23 members and 1 guest attended the meeting. Andrew started with the old Hunstanton station and proceeded with pictures of now defunct lines, stations and signal boxes on many routes around the Fens. He then brought in pictures and names of many people who had worked on the railways in the past. As usual Andrew was entertaining and informative – we are always pleased to welcome him back. Our guest by the way was the father of one of our members who was an railway engine driver in the days of steam, before the Beeching axe and had several amusing anecdotes of his own to add to the evening.



**Norwich Branch Report  
Roy Scott**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Mike Quinton, Chairman of Norwich Freeman's Committee and until recently Chairman of the Town Close Charity gave us the benefit of his extensive knowledge on the subject of the "Freemen of Norwich" an institution, which dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries. We were informed that the qualification for being enrolled as a Freeman of the City of Norwich is to be the son of a Freeman or to be an

apprenticed to a Freeman. Recent attempts to enrol females have been denied.

Town Close, a large triangular area of land, between the Ipswich & Newmarket Roads in Norwich, was originally bequeathed to the Freeman of Norwich to provide free grazing for their livestock. This land has been well managed and now developed with expensive housing, provides income to the Town Close Charity which is used for the benefit of needy Norwich Freeman.

Since this talk was given the Norwich Evening News reports on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 that the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 makes an amendment to the previous Local Government Act of 1972 by stating: "Where the son of a freeman of a city or town may claim to be admitted as a freeman of the place, the daughter of a freeman may likewise claim to be admitted".

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

The normal monthly meeting was cancelled on this evening in favour of a Christmas Social Event. Members attending contributed towards a fine spread of seasonal food. Competitions, quizzes and puzzles were tackled enthusiastically by teams of members. The evening was a huge success and a vote of thanks, roundly applauded, was given to the hard working branch organisers, Jim & Maureen Barwick and Roger & Brenda Peck.

Due to the bad weather the speaker booked for **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010** was cancelled.

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### ***East Norfolk Branch Report – Patricia Wills-Jones and Susan Roberts***

At the November meeting we welcomed Gill Blanchard with her slide show entitled 'All is not lost'. The title reflects that many Great Yarmouth records were lost during WW11 when the parish church was badly bombed.

Great Yarmouth is the biggest Parish in Norfolk and people migrated in and out over the centuries. The sea and inland waterways dominated how people travelled and it facilitated trade. It was easier and safer for families to move along coastal waters, than moving to Norwich. The trigger for the move was often romance or to find work.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century a lot of people moved to America. Book 25 of the Norfolk Record Society, is a compilation of the passengers who sailed from Great Yarmouth from 1537 onwards who came from all over East Anglia again indicating the importance of Great Yarmouth as a port. The book should be available at the heritage library and the NFHS Society, along with a recent release highlighting Kings Lynn as a Port.



The 1818 map shows the river Yare and the new cut. NRO Case 16e/V1/182 includes owners and occupiers who would be affected by the new cut. The first rail route in Norfolk was from Great Yarmouth to Norwich and NRO Case 16E V1/81 shows the proposed route on the Norwich Corporation Map, listing landowners and the people that would be displaced by the route. With the line in place villages grew or faded. (The Parliamentary Archives... see History Detectives, elsewhere in the journal, held books and maps on a similar vein). The only pauper list that survives for great Yarmouth is NRO Y/L/6/8 List of Paupers 1756-1855; the original was previously kept in Great Yarmouth library. It is now available on film and the Appendix includes many names missed out. Gill stressed the importance of Trade Directories as they discuss Parishes, local charities, trades people; Alms Houses, Blind Institutes and can lead to other sources.

Colin Tooke's slide show at our Christmas meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, covered Great Yarmouth and Gorleston in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and was jam packed with delightful images that were well remembered.

Our meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> of January on Old books and Printed Ephemera was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Encyclopedia of Ephemera: Guide to Fragmentary Documents of Everyday Life for the Collector, Curator and Historian by Maurice Rickard, ISBN 0712346791 price £40. Ephemeron is essentially any written or printed-paper and includes bus tickets, parking tickets, birth certificates and newspapers.

## **YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010**

**YORK RACECOURSE  
KNAVESMIRE EXHIBITION CENTRE  
10.00 am to 4.30 pm**

**All the usual stalls with such a major event**

**FREE CAR PARKING – ADMISSION £4.00 – CAFETERIA FACILITIES**

*Further details from  
Mr A Sampson, 1 Oxgang Close, Redcar,  
Cleveland, TS10 4ND, England  
Tel/Fax (01642) 486615*

## A COMPUTERISED INDEX TO THE SOCIETY'S QUARTERLY JOURNAL

Thirteen years ago, as the Society's Projects Officer, I initiated a project to compile a detailed Index of the contents of the Norfolk Ancestor from 1985 to the present. A simplified Index to the years prior to 1985 had already been made. By the Spring of 2000 my team of volunteers had extracted the data from past editions but it took several more years to consolidate this material and standardise its format (there were other important projects in hand at that time and computer expertise was not commonplace as it is today).

This process was still incomplete when I stood down from supervision of Projects in 2003 but I undertook to carry the work forward alone and periodically supply Kirby Hall with the results. This has been done and for the past 5 years I have added to the Index as each new Journal appeared.

Changed personal circumstances mean that I must now 'call time' on the Ancestor Index Project which has been something of a hobby, certainly at times a challenge, for the past 13 years! I shall miss the discipline of working with spreadsheets but it gives me great satisfaction to be able to announce that I have consolidated the entire output of the Project and deposited it at Kirby Hall (as a CD).

The Index covers 93 Journals from Dec. 1985 to Dec. 2008 inclusive. It consists of a 'Quick-start guide' and 5 separate sub-indexes (or data-sorts) i.e. Authors / Subjects / Surnames / Towns & Villages / Consolidated Topics. In total there are in excess of 23,000 entries. Although I eventually settled on the MS Office Excel spreadsheet program with which to build the Index, I have converted the results into Pdf format for ease of use by the volunteers and visitors at Kirby Hall and for whatever further display or distribution the Society Trustees might decide upon.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge the particular contribution of Jeremy Woolsey who designed the method and structure for the index and Pam Bridge who supervised the team of volunteer Society members tasked with extracting data from many earlier editions of The Ancestor. To everyone who helped me in those years and all engaged in the Society's current projects I send greetings and good wishes.

***Malcolm Palmer MN4220 (Projects Officer 1996-2003)***



## NORFOLK RECORD OFFICE REPORT FOR THE NORFOLK ANCESTOR

### New Parish Register Accessions 10 October 2009 – 18 January 2010

Acle	burials	1918-1984
Barford	baptisms	1886-1967
	marriages	1927-2000
	banns	1913-1992
Breckles	banns	1824-1989, 2008
Carleton Forehoe	baptisms	1813-2009
	burials	1813-2009
	banns	1823-2009
Drayton	marriages	1989-2003
Morton-on-the-Hill	baptisms	1813-1955, 1981
Norwich St John Timberhill	marriages	1837-1949
Scottow	marriages	1971-2001
Stow Bedon	banns	1824-1919

### ***Exhibitions at The Archive Centre***

*Norfolk, People and Parliament*, an exhibition produced in conjunction with the Parliamentary Archives, continues in The Archive Centre's Long Gallery until 27 March. Documents cover topics such as crime and punishment, debtors, the suffragette movement, and the parliamentary enclosure of land. The display also incorporates documents on loan from the Parliamentary Archives. These include the oldest surviving act of parliament, which relates to Norfolk and dates from 1497, and the 'Cat and Mouse Act' of 1913, which controversially allowed hunger-striking suffragettes to be released if their lives were thought to be in danger, and then rearrested as soon as they were well enough to return to prison.

This exhibition will be followed by *Norfolk and its North Sea World in the Middle Ages*, which opens in April and runs for three months.

## **Free Access to The National Archives' Documents Online Service**

The National Archives is providing three months' free access to its Documents Online service at the NRO until some time in April. This invaluable resource includes Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, 1384-1858, First World War medal index cards, and Royal Navy seamen registers, 1853-1923, as well as other collections not available on other websites. Access is *via* two computers in the NRO's searchroom. Copies of documents can be printed off at our usual charges.

## **Lunchtime Talks**

These are held in the Green Room at The Archive Centre, 1.00 – 1.45 p.m., and are free of charge

Thursday, 4 March, 'Art in Parliament'  
Melanie Unwin, Curator's Office, Parliament

Thursday, 11 March, 'The Great Fire of Westminster'  
Caroline Shenton, Parliamentary Archives

Tuesday, 16 March, 'Lynn, People and Parliament'  
Susan Maddock, Norfolk Record Office

Monday, 22 March, 'Norfolk and Parliament: what we discovered by working together'  
David Prior, Parliamentary Archives

Wednesday, 14 April, 'A HARD RAIN: Air Raids in Norwich, 1940-5'  
Frank Meeres

Wednesday, 28 April, 'The *Hanse* in Norfolk Records'  
John Alban

Wednesday, 12 May, 'The Haven of Lynn across nine centuries'  
Susan Maddock

## ***Norfolk Record Office Workshops and Evening Classes***

### **Improvers Palaeography Course**

*Records of Property*: a six-week course on reading and interpreting key types of deed and manorial record, held at The Archive Centre on Tuesday evenings, 13 April to 18 May from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Places on this course are limited, so please book in advance to secure a place. The cost is £36 for the course. Payment may be made in advance or at the first meeting.

We regularly run palaeography courses (on reading old handwriting) for both

beginners and improvers during the year. For details of dates for the next beginners' course, contact Tom Townsend at Norfolk Record Office or check our website.

### **Saturday Workshops**

Each will involve a workshop at the Record Office between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, followed by a walk between 1.00 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. Cost is £12 per Saturday.

13 March *Mousehold Heath, Saint William of Norwich and Robert Kett*  
The dramatic history of one of the city's greatest assets.

10 April *Crime and Punishment*  
A look at changing attitudes over the centuries

8 May *Julian of Norwich: who was she and why does she matter?*

12 June *Norwich, suffragette city: Norwich's rôle in women's struggle for the vote.*

### **A Greater Norwich**

The suburbs of Norwich have a fascinating history and character of their own. We look at each suburb in turn, first with a workshop at the Record Office, followed the next week by a walk through the area with a local expert. The sessions are on Wednesdays, 7.00 p.m.-8.30 p.m. The cost is £15 per suburb (two sessions) or £80 for all twelve sessions.

The dates for each suburb are:

14 and 21 April	Heigham
28 April and 5 May	Catton
12 and 19 May	Lakenham
26 May and 2 June	Earlham
9 and 16 June	Eaton
23 and 30 June	Thorpe Hamlet.

Places are limited on these courses and workshops, so please book in advance by telephoning the Record Office on 01603 222599 or emailing [norfrec@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:norfrec@norfolk.gov.uk).

### ***Talks and Workshops held elsewhere***

#### **Family history workshops at Norfolk Heritage Centre**

There are regular family history workshops at the Heritage Centre, based in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich. The workshops are all free of charge. Each monthly session consists of an introductory presentation

where participants learn how to use civil registration and census returns to trace their family tree, followed by a choice of three internet sessions (each of the latter is the same) which will explain how to use the FreeBMD and Ancestry websites effectively. A basic understanding of computers (e.g., knowledge of using a keyboard/mouse) is preferred. Places can be booked by contacting the Heritage Centre on 01603 774740 or emailing [norfolk.studies.lib@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:norfolk.studies.lib@norfolk.gov.uk).

Dates are as follows:

#### March (Thursdays)

Introduction, 4 March, 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Internet sessions: choice of 11 March (2.30 p.m.-4.00 p.m.), 18 March (10.30 a.m.-12 noon) or 25 March (2.30 p.m.-4.00 p.m.).

#### April (Wednesday evenings)

Introduction, 7 March, 6.00 p.m.-8.00 p.m.

Internet sessions: choice of 14, 21 or 28 April, all 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.

#### May (Saturdays)

Introduction, 1 May, 10.00 a.m.-12 noon

Internet sessions: choice of 8, 15 or 22 May, all 10.30 a.m.-12 noon.

#### **Introduction to Family History taster sessions at Great Yarmouth Library**

These 90-minute courses aim to help participants to start tracing their family tree, and also enable them to use Ancestry.com. The sessions are on 3 March at 1.30 p.m.-3.00 p.m. and 3.30p.m.-5.00 p.m., and on 10 March at 3.30 p.m.-5.00 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m. Places are limited so booking is essential; contact Great Yarmouth Library on 01493 844551.

For further information about workshops and evening classes, and for details of other events at the Record Office, see our website <http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>, telephone us on 01603 222599, or look out for posters at the Record Office.



**WEBSITE**  
[www.norfolkfhs.org.uk](http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk)

**CHECK IT OUT**

## WHO TO CONTACT AND WHERE TO REACH THEM

All written correspondence should be addressed to the Kirby Hall address at the front of this magazine.

**Family Trees/Pedigrees:** a. Address correspondence to Karen Ainger  
b. By email: [secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating the nature of your enquiry.

**Members Interests Lookups:** a. Address correspondence to: Peter Spurgeon  
b. By email: [membersinterests@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membersinterests@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating 'Members Interests Lookup'.

**Membership:** a. Address correspondence to: The Membership Secretary (Jean Stangroom)  
b. By email: [membershipsecretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

**Monumental Inscriptions:** a. Address correspondence to: MI Coordinator (Mary Mitchell)  
b. By email: [minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating 'Monumental Inscriptions Enquiry' including your postal address in the message

**NORS:** [nors@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:nors@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

### Projects

a. Volunteers wishing to assist with transcriptions and project administration, etc. are welcome to contact: The Projects Coordinator (Edmund Perry)  
b. By email: [transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating 'Projects Enquiry'.

### Publications and Bookshop:

a. Address correspondence to: Publications Secretary (Christine Abery)  
b. By email: [nfhs@paston.co.uk](mailto:nfhs@paston.co.uk) stating 'Bookshop Enquiry'.

**Research:** a. Address correspondence to: Alan Bullard  
b. By email: [research@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating 'Research Enquiry' including your postal address in the message.

**The Ancestor:** a. Address correspondence to the Editor (Denagh Hacon)  
b. By email: [ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** a. Address correspondence to the Treasurer (Carole Taylor)  
b. By email: [treasurer@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

### Trustees and Branch Representatives

a. Correspondence to relevant Trustee or Branch Representative, c/o Kirby Hall  
b. By email: [nfhs@paston.co.uk](mailto:nfhs@paston.co.uk) stating the nature of your enquiry in the email Subject

**Website Matters;** . Address correspondence to: NFHS webmaster  
b. By email: [nfhswebmaster@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:nfhswebmaster@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating the nature of your enquiry.

### Other

The following should be used for those topics not covered by the above.

a. Address correspondence to: The Company Secretary  
b. By email: [secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk) stating the nature of your enquiry.

## A CHELSEA PENSIONER IN THE FAMILY

I put off tracing the Parker branch of my family tree for many, many years. Parker is a common name and I felt I would not be able to trace that branch with any degree of confidence.

However, I have made some progress. The marriage of my gtx2 grandparents, Esther Rebecca Parker and William Riseborough, took place in 1815 at St. John Maddermarket Church; I traced the marriage through the Norwich Marriage Index. I also traced PR entries for Esther Parker and her siblings. Additionally, census returns for Esther's siblings recorded the exact parish where they were born, i.e. St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich and not just Norwich.

One census return gave me food for thought. Under occupation for James Elias Parker it said "Weaver (Chelsea Pensioner)".

Chelsea Pensioners live at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and are very visible in their smart red uniform whenever I visit the Chelsea Flower Show. But as James Elias Parker was living in Blundell's Court, Norwich how could he be a Chelsea Pensioner?

According to the Wikipedia entry: "*During the reign of King James II, the Royal Hospital was still under construction, so he introduced a system for distribution of army pensions in 1689. The pension was to be made available to all former soldiers who had been injured in service, or who had served for more than 20 years. By the time the Hospital was completed, there were more pensioners than places available. Eligible ex-soldiers who could not be housed in the Hospital were termed **out-pensioners**, receiving their pension from the Royal Hospital but living outside it. **In-pensioners**, surrendered their army pension and lived within the Royal Hospital. In 1703, there were only 51 out-pensioners. By 1815 this figure had risen to 36,757. The Royal Hospital remained responsible for distributing army pensions until 1955.*

So James Elias Parker was an out-pensioner. Where had he served? Using the Military section of findmypast, I traced him to the Peninsula Medal Roll 1793 – 1814. He had served in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Foot and received clasps for action in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

I feel quite pleased that I have found information on one of Esther's brothers, but will I be as lucky with John, William, Robert and Benjamin.....? I have no intention of trying to find Esther's sister Mary Parker!

**Denagh Hacon MN2671**

## THE SANCROFT BAKER FAMILY OF NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

### THE BAKER FAMILY OF KIRBY CANE AND DITCHINGHAM

My wife and I started working on our family trees nearly ten years ago, and have accumulated a huge amount of data on many branches of the family, including **SANCROFT**. This name has been used as a middle name for all descendants, both male and female, of my **BAKER** family ever since the two families intermarried in 1788.

My paternal family of **BAKER** lived in Norfolk from about 1700 to 1850. My grandfather, who died in 1960, had compiled a family tree which showed his earliest known ancestor to be Abraham Baker, born in 1668, who was Rector of Kirby Cane [1700-1733] and Ditchingham [1718-1751]. He was also Rector of All Saints, Chedgrave from 1717 but resigned from there in 1718. Abraham married Margaret **PYCROFT** who was the only daughter of Rev. Samuel Pycroft, Rector of Ditchingham from 1654-1709, and his wife Margaret nee **DAVY**. When Margaret died in 1718, her sister Sybil, wife of the Rev. William WALL, presented the living of Ditchingham to Abraham Baker. His name, together with that of his father-in-law Samuel Pycroft, is displayed in one of the south-facing windows in St. Mary Ditchingham church. There are also ledger slabs there for members of the Pycroft and Davy families, which include their coats of arms. Between Kirby Cane and Ditchingham there is a road named Baker's Lane, and I wonder if it was named after Rev. Abraham Baker who may have used it to travel between the two churches where he was simultaneously Rector.

Abraham Baker and Margaret had married in 1705 at St. Andrew, Norwich, and they had seven children born between 1706-1715, who were all baptised at All Saints, Kirby Cane. These were Abraham, Mary, Samuel, Margaret, Abraham, Charles and John. Of these only Samuel and Charles survived to adulthood. Samuel Baker also became a clergyman and he took over as Rector of Kirby Cane in 1733 following his ordination in 1732, when his father resigned. This is probably the reason for Abraham's death being erroneously reported for that year in the Alumni Cantabrigienses.

In 1776 Samuel resigned from Kirby Cane and became Rector of the consolidated parishes of Homersfield (South Elmham St. Mary) and South Elmham Saint Cross (St. George), Suffolk, the latter had formerly been known as the Parish of Sandcroft. Samuel died in 1787. The other surviving brother Charles Baker became a merchant in Ditchingham. He married Catherine **CLARKE** in 1734 at St. Mary, Haddiscoe and they had eleven children born at Ditchingham, of whom at least five died as infants.

In 1733 the Rev. Samuel Baker (my 5xgt grandfather) married Mary **WORTS**, daughter of John Worts, Gent. of Knapton, and Elizabeth Baker (of unknown origin) at St. Mary's, Hickling, where Mary's brother John was the Rector (he was also Rector of Erpingham). Samuel and Mary had seven children, born between 1734-1751 and baptised at Kirby Cane. These were Mary, Mary, Davy, Samuel, John, Elizabeth and Joshua (my 4xgt grandfather). Of these only the two Marys died young, and only Joshua married. He was a merchant and malster in Ditchingham, and in 1788 he married his 1<sup>st</sup> cousin Catherine **SANCROFT**, daughter of James Sancroft and Catherine Baker (daughter of the above Charles) at Ditchingham. James Sancroft, who was originally of St. Peter Mancroft parish, Norwich, painted & gilded the dial at Ditchingham church in 1765. He had gilded a picture of the church the year before.

Joshua's brother Davy Baker was a solicitor at Hedenham (where he is buried) and he was given this name because of a clause in the will of his great grandaunt Sybil Wall. This clause specified that Samuel Baker should change his children's surnames to DAVY but this did not happen, and it seems that Davy Baker's christian name was a compromise to this request.

Joshua's other two brothers Samuel and John lived at Gillingham, Samuel living as a gentleman and John working as a silk mercer in Bungay. Examination of Samuel's Will revealed a family scandal.

It showed that he had fathered a daughter Elizabeth by an Elizabeth **BROADWATER** and that she (the daughter) took the name of Baker before she married James Shaw of Gillingham at St. Mary's, Ditchingham in 1813. Further investigation showed that Elizabeth Broadwater married John Bacon Schutz in 1782 at St. Paul Covent Garden, Westminster London. I believe that the Schutz family lived at Gillingham Hall, inherited by the marriage of John's father Francis Matthew Schutz to Susan Bacon in 1765. It is situated near St. Mary's church at Gillingham, where Samuel Baker, the two Elizabeths, James Shaw and other members of the Shaw family are buried.

Joshua Baker and Catherine Sancroft had two children, Samuel Sancroft Baker and Joshua Sancroft Baker, both born and baptised at Ditchingham. They married respectively Elizabeth Perkins **BOULTER** (in 1713) and Sarah **BOULTER** (in 1716), who in my grandfather's tree are shown to be sisters.

However, whereas I have found the baptism of Elizabeth at Ludham in 1791, daughter of James Boulter (possibly of Great Yarmouth) and Elizabeth Perkins of Hoveton St. John, I cannot find one for Sarah in 1787.



It may have been in Great Yarmouth where three possible elder brothers were baptised (it is known that some of the registers for St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, were badly damaged during WW2). The two brothers Samuel S. and Joshua S. Baker were both farmers, at Knapton and South Elmham All Saints respectively. However, Joshua's wife Sarah died childless in 1718 and Joshua moved to Gimingham, presumably to be nearer to his brother. He died there in 1725, leaving his estate to his brother Samuel.

Before moving on to Samuel S. Baker and his family this is an appropriate moment for me to mention some relevant facts about the Baker family burials. Abraham Baker and his wife Margaret (nee Pycroft) and all of their children except for Charles are buried at Kirby Cane. There is a ledger slab in the north chancel for Abraham, Margaret and three of their children (unnamed) which has a coat of arms at its head for Baker and Pycroft. An adjacent slab is for Abraham's son Samuel and his wife Mary (nee Worts) and this also has a coat of arms at its head.

The main Baker family burial plot is at St. Mary, Ditchingham churchyard, near to the north wall of the church at its eastern end. The Rev. Samuel Baker's brother Charles Baker, his wife and children who died as infants, are buried there, as are another twelve Bakers. These include three 2xgt grandsons of Rev. Abraham Baker. Also in the churchyard are related Pycroft, Davy and Bedingfield family members. Several of Charles Baker's descendants are buried at St. Mary, Bungay, Suffolk.

Returning now to Samuel Sancroft Baker of Knapton [1790-1850]. In 1830 he was a churchwarden at St. Peter & St. Paul, Knapton, where his name is inscribed on one of the church bells. In 1833 he was Master of Knapton Harriers, and in 1838 his friends in the hunt presented him with a portrait of himself on his horse "Old Billy". This picture is shown in the "Sporting Magazine" of 1839, together with a page of text. The original picture is still in the family, as are the original portraits of the Rev. Abraham Baker, his wife Margaret, and their son Rev. Samuel.

My grandfather's family tree indicated that Samuel owned Knapton (Old) Hall, but his death record in 1850 showed that he lived at Beeston St. Lawrence, and it seems (from another source) that he was probably working there as a farming steward for Sir Jacob Preston, who was one of his hunting companions. Samuel's grave in Knapton churchyard is situated near to the church porch on the right hand side of the path as one approaches it but the inscription is now barely readable. However, his wife Elizabeth Perkins (nee Boulter) who died in 1833, is buried inside the church, together with two John Worts, Samuel's father-in-law and brother-in-law. Details of the three are described on a confusingly worded ledger slab.

Samuel Sancroft Baker and Elizabeth had three children, all born and baptised at Knapton between 1813-1816. The eldest was Elizabeth S.B. who married Lt. Col. Edward Baker of the Madras Native Infantry. His family coat of arms is displayed on the sign on the public house "The Baker Arms" in nearby Bayford village. They married at St. Peter Parmentergate, Norwich in 1839 and had three children born in India, the only one surviving to adulthood being Emily Maria Grace Baker, who in 1839 married the Rev. George Godfrey, who was Rector/Vicar of Redbourne, Lincolnshire from 1689-1930.

The second child, Catherine S.B. married Benjamin Massey of St Augustine' parish, Norwich, in 1845 at St. Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London, and they had two daughters and a son, Samuel Gurney Massey. Samuel was Managing Director of 'The Economic Bank Ltd.' in 1905 when it became bankrupt. After this he was convicted of inducing people to invest by means of false statements and imprisoned for a year. Benjamin Massey's mother was Sarah **GURNEY**, a Quaker, also of St Augustine's parish, Norwich. She was a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, twice removed of the famous Penal Reformer, Rachel Elizabeth Fry.

Samuel S.B.'s only son, also named Samuel Sancroft Baker, moved to Croydon, Surrey, thus ending the family's residence in Norfolk.

**Terry Sancroft Baker MN8472 – [terrystbaker@hotmail.com](mailto:terrystbaker@hotmail.com)**

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\*\*\*\*\*

*Family Histories Compiled  
Parish Registers Transcribed*

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## DISCOVERIES AT TAVERHAM CHURCHYARD

Work carried out to tidy up our churchyard has brought to light some memorials that have been hidden for many years.

The tomb of Samuel Pratt was discovered when undergrowth was cleared at the southern end of the churchyard. Samuel was born in Norfolk about 1810. At the age of 30 he was living with his wife Leonora and son Horace at Church Farm, Taverham, along with two male and two female servants.

Leonora, a daughter of James and Mary Bunn, was born about 1815 at Morton. James, her father, was a Butcher/Farmer. Son Horace was born about 1835. Samuel died on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1850, aged 40, and was buried on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

There are probate papers dated 1850 mentioning Leonora and James Bunn. The census of 1851 shows widow Leonora still at Church Farm and described as a farmer of 300 acres employing six agricultural labourers and four boys. Also listed at Church Farm are a servant, a labourer and five visitors. Horace is not there. After this there is no sign of Leonora or Horace in the Taverham church records. They probably moved away – Leonora may well have remarried.

As far as the farm is concerned, it seems that the owner/tenant in 1861 was John Cross. In 1871 the Bunnns are there – is this Leonora's family?

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The memorial stone for the Burton sisters had lain covered with earth for over 28 years. It was not visible in 1981 when the WI carried out the first churchyard survey.

Frances Sarah died 29<sup>th</sup> October 1929 aged 81. Elizabeth died 6<sup>th</sup> March 1932 aged 86 years. They were born in Peckham. By 1851 the family had moved to Norwich and they were living in Upper Close, St Mary in the Marsh (near the Cathedral).

The 1871 census shows them at Taverham Rectory with their parents Robert Clerke Burton MA and Sarah. Robert was Rector of Taverham between 1850 and 1888, he was born in Northamptonshire about 1802, and his wife Sarah was born in Barbados in about 1808. They are buried nearby in the churchyard.

Taverham has a comprehensive collection of church records, which may be of interest if you are researching your family history with connections in the area.

Email [Tony.Morgan@ukgateway.net](mailto:Tony.Morgan@ukgateway.net) October 2009

**A STRAY IN ROTHERHAM**  
**DEATH OF REV. S.B. REYNOLDS**  
**“The Grand Old Man of Rotherham”**

This was the heading of the Obituary which first caught my eye in an archive copy of the Rotherham Advertiser of July 1910. **REYNOLDS** is one of my ‘names’ and, as always when they appear you like to read further. I was not disappointed as I uncovered the stirring story of someone with enough dynamism and personality to leave his mark in an industrial centre far from his rural county.

Samuel Bartholomew Reynolds’ death at his home in Lindum Terrace, Rotherham in his 85<sup>th</sup> year was a great shock and surprise to his many friends. It was felt that his work for Primitive Methodism in the town would remain as a monument to his memory as no minister had ever worked harder or shown more influence than he did. The Obituary tells that he was born in Norfolk on St. Bartholomew’s Day, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1825, the son of a farmer, who received a village education before entering the Primitive Methodist Ministry when he was 24 years old. He arrived in Rotherham in 1889 when the population was growing rapidly and his ‘wonderful personality infused into the circuit a new spirit of unity and enterprise’. He was apparently a big, strong man who, when speaking, ‘gave his words power and fire which impelled attention’. ‘He was a thoughtful and eloquent preacher with a fine flow of language and a store of scriptural quotations at his command.’ Also he ‘was no less vigorous as a speaker on the political platform being a sturdy Liberal, an advanced educationalist and was foremost locally in the Passive Resistance Movement’. Quite obviously he was a man of some strong beliefs!

Looking firstly at the 1901 census, Samuel B. Reynolds, 75 years, born in Buxton, Norfolk, lived with his wife Clara A. who was 48 years and a single sister-in-law, Margaret Spink. Clara Anne died in 1905 and her gravestone stands in Rotherham’s Moorgate Cemetery where later Samuel was also buried. The 1881 census however shows him aged 55 years and as a Primitive Methodist Minister in Castleford. His wife at this time is Phoebe, aged 68 years and born in Knottingley, Yorkshire, a stepdaughter, Lavinia Cawthorne, 47 years, an adopted son Herbert F Reynolds, 17 years old and a Solicitor’s Clerk and Sophie A Johnson, a boarder and Ward in Chancery lived with him in Cambridge Street, Castleford. It appears Phoebe died in 1887 and was buried in Hunslet, aged 78 years, on 12 November 1887, and that Lavinia also died and was buried there in 1906. Looking back to the 1871 census he was unmarried and in Thoralby, Yorkshire, with a family

called Hammond who were farmers, and he is named as a Primitive Methodist Minister.

The Rotherham Advertiser ran an article on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1900 celebrating the Jubilee of the Ministry of Samuel B Reynolds and calling him the 'Grand Old Man'. Under his Superintendency three Chapels were built and it was to his favourite, the one on Wellgate which was completed in 1893, that the funeral service took place. This was attended by Civic Dignitaries and members of the different churches in the town who wished to show their respect for this well-known figure.

The monumental inscription on the grave in Moorgate Cemetery reads:

Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord  
CLARA ANNE  
The dearly beloved wife of the  
Rev S.B. Reynolds  
(of Rotherham)  
Born April 16<sup>th</sup> 1854  
Fell asleep in Jesus  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1905  
For so He giveth unto His beloved sleep Ps 121, 2RV  
Also of the above name  
SAMUEL BARTHOLOMEW  
REYNOLDS  
Primitive Methodist Minister,  
Born August 24<sup>th</sup> 1825  
Fell asleep in Jesus July 26<sup>th</sup> 1910  
For me to live in Christ – to die is gain

Just to add some confusion, two other Samuel Reynolds were living in Rotherham at the time of the 1881 census, both born in Norfolk, one from the village of Crostwick and the other from Scottow. Not one belongs to my Reynolds family, who show up in Plumstead by Holt and nearby villages! I would have been quite pleased to have laid claim to Samuel Bartholomew!

***Janet M Bye MN3713, 12 Hall Grove, Rotherham, S60 2BS***

*Acknowledgements: 'A Journey Round Old Rotherham' by Freda Crowder; Rotherham Advertiser; Ms Patricia Goral; Mrs J. Worrall*

## THE MYSTERY OF ELLEN MORTON

Does anyone know **ELLEN MORTON**, born c1863 in either Thetford or Wymondham?

I would like to know because she is connected with the history of my grandmother's sisters, **ANNA** and **MIRANDA MINNS**. They were two of the daughters of George and Jemima Minns, agricultural labourers, and were born in 1861 and 1859 respectively, in Morley St. Botolph, near Wymondham, Norfolk. My father remembers his aunt Anna, visiting her in Newbury, Berkshire, and meeting some of his cousins. She had married someone called **GREENSLADE** who drove a carriage and horses, wearing a top hat and a coat with tails, and collected passengers from Newbury railway station to take them wherever they wished, to the racecourse, for instance.

My father lived in Tooting, South London, so Newbury, with the countryside nearby with the Kennet flowing through, was like a paradise to him. He had talked about a fishing trip there with his father long before I became interested in family history. I thought it would be straightforward to find the date of Anna's marriage in the G.R.O. index but, no, I couldn't find it at all. I couldn't find Anna on any of the censuses after 1871 either. She just seemed to have disappeared. When the 1911 census came on line, I looked for any Greenslades living in Newbury and, eureka, I found **GEORGE GREENSLADE**. He worked as a groom in livery stables and some of his children's names matched those that my father had mentioned. This was surely the man my father remembered. But, a big but, his wife's name was not Anna but Ellen. She was about the same age as Anna and had been born in Wymondham, Norfolk. Because the census entry recorded how many years they had been married, it was quite easy to get their marriage certificate, dated April 12, 1883. George's bride's name was **ELLEN MORTON**, she was 21 and her father's name was George Morton, a gardener. Both of them were living at the same address, 20 North Bank, Marylebone, London, an address that I recognised.

Years earlier, I had found the marriage in 1896 of the other sister, Miranda. Her husband was a retired major general, **GEORGE MARKHAM CARTER**, and living at 20 North Bank. At the time of their marriage, he was 74 and a widower and Miranda was 37. I had a copy of General Carter's will in which George Greenslade, his groom, was left a legacy but I just thought it was a coincidence that a man named Greenslade worked for the general. It seems as though Ellen worked for him also and she and George were still living at North Bank in 1891 according to the census, but had moved to Paddington by 1901. However, Ellen's birth place was given on both censuses as Thetford, not Wymondham.

I got the birth certificate for **FREDDIE GREENSLADE**, one my father's.

It confirmed his mother's name was Ellen Morton. However, another cousin my father remembered was REGINALD. The last time my father had visited Newbury was for his funeral. My father said he had been in the Navy. I found the certificate for his death in 1922 and, yes, he had been in the Navy. I was certain that this was the family that my father knew.

Perhaps Ellen had been a friend of my grandmother, Rosa, and she was called "aunt" from friendship. But my father would surely have realised by the time he was 14 the difference between an aunt who was his mother's sister and one who was a friend. Anyway, the name was different. Perhaps there had been what my father (now 101) called "hanky panky" when I told him about it. Perhaps Anna was using a different name.

I tried to find out more about Ellen. I looked for anyone called Ellen Morton born in Norfolk in censuses before 1883, before she had married, and found just one. In 1871, ELEN MORTON, aged 15, was a servant in Kings' Lynn and in 1881 she was a cook in Stockport, Cheshire, but her estimated year of birth is 1856, 6 years older than the Ellen of 1911 and she had been born in Pentney, Norfolk. I also looked through the G.R.O. birth indexes between 1860 and 1865 for Ellen with no success. I doubted this was the woman who had married George.

Perhaps George married Anna after Ellen died. But I found no record of such a marriage. As I was looking through the G.R.O. deaths index to find the death of George, hoping that he might have made a will that would solve the mystery, I found Anna's name instead. I immediately ordered the certificate. Anna Greenslade was the wife of George Greenslade and he had reported her death in 1939.

I am becoming more and more convinced that Ellen and Anna are one and the same. The obvious question then would be, why? I believe the general did not want his family and friends to know that his wife's sister was married to his groom. A clue could be in the information he provided for the 1901 census. Instead of recording his wife's name as Miranda, it was Lillian, the name of another of her sisters. If he could change his wife's name, perhaps he changed other names.

I cannot find MIRANDA MINNS in the 1881 or the 1891 censuses but the general's entry in 1881, shows that he had a visitor at 20 North Bank, MIRANDA NELSON, a housekeeper, born in Norfolk and the same age as my great aunt. The general's father had been an admiral and I think that the general was playing with the connection between Norfolk and Nelson. I can't find another Miranda Nelson of that age in any of the records. My Miranda must have been something like a housekeeper to enable her to meet someone in a class so much higher than her own. However, there is a flaw in my solution as George Greenslade married his wife, whoever she was, 11 years before Miranda and the general married.

Miranda's story is worth mentioning. George Markham Carter died in 1904 at the age of 78, leaving her most of his money. Seven months later, Miranda slipped away to Portsmouth to marry ERNEST BROWN BOWEN **ROWLANDS**, who had reported the general's death. He was a barrister at law, who had been divorced several years earlier having left his wife after only a few months' marriage. My grandmother would never mention his name, only saying he was somebody "famous in the papers". He did write newspaper articles and had tried to sue "The Observer" and Argus Press for libel in 1925 in connection with a review of a book that he had written. But this marriage was not successful. Did Miranda's origins disappoint him or did he marry her just for her money? I have found out recently that he was bankrupt. My grandmother claimed that he had more or less cheated Miranda out of the money left to her by the general and then abandoned her. I did hope to find them on the 1911 census to see if they were living together then but can't find either of them. Miranda has again avoided detection.

She and two or three others of my grandmother's sisters were census shy. My father remembers her visits when he was a small boy. She gave him some drawing materials that had belonged to the general and one Christmas, she borrowed £1 from his mother, bought him some toy soldiers and, getting down onto the floor, joined in my father's game. She was found dead, May 3rd 1925. As there was an inquest the result of which was death by natural causes there is no record of who reported the death but she is still noted as Bowen Rowland's wife.

I would be interested to know if anybody is researching the name Ellen Morton and thinks she married George Greenslade, or if anyone can think of another explanation for this mystery.

**Marion Williams** (MN6474) ([marionwilliams@lineone.net](mailto:marionwilliams@lineone.net))

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## The History Detectives



Not content with researching our own family history, Jean Palmer and I, along with others from around Norfolk (including NFHS members), took part in a community activity in July 2009. The 'Connecting with Communities Project', involved both Norfolk Record Office (NRO) and the Parliamentary Archives. Our group became history detectives for a week, when we explored people of Norwich who appeared on the Land Tax Act of 1821. The results are on the Living History website below. On the 15th of January we attended the launch of the 'Norfolk People and Parliament' exhibition in the gallery of the NRO which included some of our findings. Enjoying the thrill of our research we have signed up for 'History Detectives 2' in February, not as detectives this time, but as mentors for another group on a project about Prisons.

[http://www.parliament.uk/about/livingheritage/transformingsociety/taxation/case\\_study.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/about/livingheritage/transformingsociety/taxation/case_study.cfm)

***Patricia Wills-Jones MN6738***

### **Offers invited for the following publications of the Norfolk and Norwich Genealogical Society, as new**

Vol 12	Attleborough Parish Registers 1552 – 1840
Vol 13	Norfolk Pedigrees part 3
Vol 14	Index to Norwich marriages 1813 – 37
Vol 15	Norfolk Hearth Tax Assessment 1664
Vol 16	Norfolk Peculiar Jurisdictions 1416 – 1857
Vol 17	Norfolk Pedigrees part 4
Vol 18	Rosary Cemetary MIs 1821 – 37
Vol 19	Parish Registers of Diss 1551 – 1837

**Contact: Mr D Pearce, 2 Old Kennels Close, Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hants, S022 4LB**

## TALES FROM THE VESTRY

Many newer members of the Norfolk FHS will be unaware of the efforts we older (in both age and membership) members had to put up with when researching our forbears. The International Genealogical Index, published by the LDS Church, was an invaluable prop if your parishes had been recorded. It was freely available in LDS churches and public libraries, but it is disappointing for Norfolk. As the information now on the internet was unknown to us, a visit to the relevant Record Office was inevitable – and expensive if you lived out of county. When I began researching my forbears in the mid 1980s many parish registers, Poor Law Records etc. were still held in the parishes – whilst BMDs, census records and Wills were all held in different parts of London.

My first foray into Family History research was to a parish near Norwich. The parish priest lived in 2 or 3 rooms in a large house, the rest was empty. When I asked for the parish records I was taken to a pantry. 'Can you climb those shelves?' he asked. Being young I was able to climb the shelves, feel around amongst the cobwebs until I found several books of various shapes and sizes – the long-forgotten parish registers!

On another occasion my wife and I sat in the pews of another parish church examining the collection of books and documents stored in the Parish Chest – a genuine iron-banded box with the traditional three locks for the key holders - the priest and two church wardens. The temperature in the church was only just above freezing. The parish priest insisted on being present so while we worked he sat, wrapped in a voluminous cloak, reading in the choir stalls. On yet another occasion the verger provided us with a hurricane lamp so that we could read the registers kept in a cupboard in the vestry.

There were many stories told about why the registers were missing – sheer neglect, damage or destruction by leaking roofs or hungry rodents were some. A vicar's widow, having to vacate the vicarage, made a bonfire of all her husband's books. Another wife needing templates for her patchwork found that the parchment leaves of 'an old book' were just what she needed. Such stories may well have grown in the telling there is no doubt that Lord Teviot's Bill has gone a long way towards preserving these unique records. Lord Teviot, himself a professional genealogist, presented the Bill which obliged parish councils and their clergy to deposit their Registers in County or Diocesan Record Offices. If the registers are kept in the parish then their storage conditions must be inspected by archivists regularly.

It is a pity, however, that nowadays we are deprived of the pleasure of handling these records, despite the difficulties of reading bad or faded handwriting. Now we can only see them on film.

***D. H. Pearce MN360***

## ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF MR A. A. HASTINGS

### County Press November 26th 1892

A sad and startlingly sudden fatality occurred near St Germans Railway Station on Wednesday. **Mr A. A. Hastings**, Market Gardener of St Peters, drove to the station in the afternoon with a load of produce which was duly loaded. He was afterwards returning and had not proceeded far when it is supposed that he met with his end.

When found he was lying under the wheels of his conveyance, but what could have been the cause of his being in that position no one knows, as there was no witness of the sad event. An Inquest will be held today (Friday).

Mr Hastings, who was only about 29 years of age, leaves a wife and four children. He took an active part in the public life of this district. He was an energetic and prominent and highly respected member of the Prince of Wales Lodge of Oddfellows St Germans, and also held the important position of Provincial Grand Master and this is the first case of a P.G.M being killed by accident while in office.

His loss by all is greatly lamented and deep sympathy is felt for those he has left behind. At the funeral the various lodges of the district will be represented.

### The Inquest: Sat Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1892

The Inquest on the body of Mr A. A. Hastings of St German whose death was reported last week was held at the home of Mr Robert Hastings, Wiggenshall St Peters on Friday before Mr R A Wilkin, Coroner. **Mr Edward Enns** was the foreman of the Jury. After the jury had viewed the body:

**George Bocking** deposed - I am a porter in the G E R at St German's Siding. I knew the deceased. About 9.50 on Wednesday morning the deceased arrived at my siding with a load of vegetables for the north. I asked him if there was any more stuff that he was going to send on, he said he should bring some more in the afternoon. At that time the deceased appeared to be in his usual health. He backed his horse and van to the side of the track, and I, in the truck, received the vegetables from him. Whilst we were unloading the deceased asked me how long the train would be before it was due and I said 'It will not be long'. The Signals are off and if we look sharp we shall be able to empty before the train gets here.

"We hurried on with the unloading and after we had got the last sieve of vegetables out of the van and into the truck, the deceased got down to go to

the horses' head and prepared the reins for driving. Whilst he was so engaged the train passed. I then heard the horse galloping away and I jumped over a fence in the direction that it had gone. As I could not see the deceased I jumped over the drain and then discovered him lying on the road. He was on his side; his feet in the wheel track on the nearside of the road, and his head lay in the contrary direction from that in which the van was going. He was conscious.

I lifted him up to his feet and he said to me "Oh George" four separate times, in great agony. I said to him "For Gods sake get to my house," which was about 30 yards off, and he replied "No go after the mare" I then asked him to lie down and he repeated to me go after the mare and said I will lie down on the grass a minute or two." I called out to my wife and went after the mare I overtook her and the van after going about three quarters of a mile. I noticed that the reins were broken and also the harness was very much disarrayed. I then turned the mare around and proceeded back to where I left the deceased. When I got back I found him in Mr Radford's cart which ultimately conveyed him here.

**Thomas M Drafed** deposed: - I am a duly qualified medical practitioner practicing at Watlington. Shortly before 11 am on Wednesday I was sent for to see the deceased. I was informed that he had been run over and was unconscious. I found him dressed and quite unconscious. He had no pulse and in examining his heart I found that it beat but once and then failed.

I resorted to artificial respiration on which I persevered in for 20 minutes but my efforts were ineffectual. When life was extinct I proceeded to examine the body. I found no marks of external violence on the body save that one of the lower ribs was fractured on the left side. I then examined the head and found a cut over the bridge of the nose and blood coming from the nose. There was also a bruise over the left eye. I could detect no fracture of the skull. I have heard the evidence given and that coupled with my own examination; lead me to the conclusion that the deceased died from compression of the brain caused probably by haemorrhage resulting from the accident described.

**Elizabeth Hastings** deposed - I am the wife of **Robert Wiseman Hasting** of St Peters. The deceased was my son. He was 26 years of age.

The Coroner then summed up and expressed his sorrow that a young man in the prime of life, working hard for an honest living, should be struck down without a word of warning and hurried out of this world. The jury returned the verdict that "Deceased died from injuries received, from having accidentally fallen from his van near St Germans Station.

## **The Funeral.**

The remains of the late Mr A. A. Hastings were interred in the Church Yard of Wiggenshall St Peter on Sunday and owing to the lamentable manner by which he met with his death, much sympathy was felt for his bereaved widow and four little children and his parents. A large concourse of people mustering about 500 assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to the deceased. There was a strong representation of Oddfellows.

The procession marched to the residence of Mr Hastings's Sons at St Peters where they lined the road on each side to allow the Watlington car and two mourning coaches to pass, the procession following to the church where the first portion of the church burial service was held effectively read by the Rev. Legge. The church was crowded and many were unable to gain admission – further description of service and news.

***Transcribed from papers in the collection of the late Dr. Greer, kindly donated to NFHS by his wife Mrs Sally Greer***

## **VACANCIES**

**The NFHS invites applications for the following important positions now vacant. Anyone willing to be considered should write to the Chairman Colin Skipper, at Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles St, Norwich NR2 1LS**

**COMPANY SECRETARY of NFHS:** the Trustees thank Pat Mason who is resigning from this position and from being a Trustee. The general tasks are creating the Agenda and taking Minutes at the Trustees Meetings; answering mail and ordering stationery; dealing with outside agencies. Also, there is a legal responsibility of keeping up-to-date with changes in Charity and Company Law and informing the Trustees accordingly. Such a position requires working at Kirby Hall and becoming a Trustee of the Society.

**WEBMASTER of NFHS site:** the Trustees wish to thank Terry Gray who has held this position for several years, created much of the present layout and uploaded the content as supplied by those responsible for the various activities. However, due to personal circumstances he is no longer able to continue. We are seeking a Member with an understanding of HTML, CSS and web design techniques. Familiarisation with Javascript and .ASP would also assist as the website uses some client/server-side scripting. The role would only require a few hours a month, mainly for updating existing database lists and general maintenance. If any member is interested in taking on this role and developing the Website then the Trustees would be pleased to hear from you and to discuss your ideas.

## A NORWICH PARISH 500 YEARS AGO – BEATING THE BOUNDS

I recently discovered a book written in 1905 by the vicar the Rev. Dundas Harford M.A. entitled "A Norwich Parish 500 years ago". This is a sketch of St. Stephens in 1405. My grandfather was married in this church in 1909. I found the article about beating the bounds in 1405 most interesting and what follows is a précis of that article.

*"On the larger stage of national history, England was in a chronic state of war with France, Scotland, and Wales, and life was full of change and movement in Norwich and St. Stephens.*

*In 1402 a new vicar, Master Richard de Caister, was appointed at St. Stephens, and it would appear that in the year 1405 a more formal beating of the parish bounds took place. It was the custom to take small boys with the party around the parish, to impress the debatable points of the boundaries upon their memories and awaken tender recollections when returning to the sites.*

*In 1405 Richard de Caister the "Good Vicar" as he was known, was accompanied by two ex-bailliffs of the city, Robert Brasier and John Daniel. On the appointment of the first city mayor in 1404 they had been elected the first two Sherriffs of Norwich. Both Robert in 1407 and John in 1410 were eventually chosen as Mayor of the City. In addition John's brother Walter succeeded to the mayoralty in 1406 and again in 1410 was present with a Mr. Thomas Cock the mercer."*

The route was as follows: *"Setting out from the north porch of St. Stephens Church they crossed the Horse Market (Rampant Horse Street) and went a few yards down Church Street to where there are "leads" on the right hand wall.*

*They turned right and crossed Abraham's Hall before coming out into Brigg Street, and then turning left (along the tram lines 1905) through Orford Place to Orford Hill.*

*Afterwards the boundary lines run a short way south and then zig zag to and fro at the back of Red Lion Street before coming out into St. Stephens Plain marching with the bounds of All Saints parish.*

*They cross south east opposite Messrs Buntings door and perhaps follow the course of the "Cocky" an ancient watercourse to come out into the back of Surrey House and Surrey street before entering All Saints Green near "Jack's Pit," a spot bounded now (in 1905) by the residences of prominent*

*medical men. They then go up the hill, up the Swyne market, to the Brazen Doors (or as men would say now to the "Lame Duck").*

*Charming country views were seen across the fields of Lakenham as they skirted the outside of the old city wall as far as St. Stephens Gate. Turning in at the Gate they passed up what is now Coburg street, and zig zag to the west of the site of Caley's works, and round the church and collegiate buildings of St. Mary-in-the-Fields, before passing through what is now Theatre Square.*

*Finally, they went a short distance down Theatre Street and proceeded up a little passage opposite Chantry Court and coming back to Church Street and the north porch of St. Stephens Church."*

Geography-wise it is difficult to plot the precise route that the beating the bounds walkers took in 1405, but I am sure one of your members will be able to solve it.

**Mike Lishman MN11530**

## THE BOSTON COUNTERFEITER

I read your branch report about Dr. Nick Aber's talk on 19<sup>th</sup> century prisons. It would have been interesting to have heard Dr. Aber's talk as that is where my great grandfather resided in 1899 - but in the US.

Although he grew up in Nova Scotia after emigrating with his family from Enfield in London, he was a counterfeiter in Boston, Mass. He was the fellow actually printing off the 1897 Canadian \$2.00 bills which were then shipped north to the Maritimes for distribution. I only found this out a few years ago when I went to Salt Lake and found his divorce records.

There in one paragraph in the 50 some pages it told how he was then in Charlestown prison in Boston. I found out what I thought to be the whole story in the Halifax newspaper, but I then sent a query into the Canadian television show "Ancestors in the Attic" (corresponding to Who Do You Think You Are.)

They sent a film crew to Edmonton from Toronto and did a section of the show on him - then presented me with a framed picture of the bill he counterfeited as well as his mug shot just prior to being sent to prison AND over 100 pages of the daily agent notes typed up by US Secret Service Agent Owen Owen (yes that was his real name) who tracked down my great grandfather and his mistress.

**Rob Milson**

## BRAZEN HALL

My interest in Brazen Hall is that my 2xgt Grandfather was a servant there at least between 1861 to 1871. Brazen Hall was in the parish of Tattersett, Norfolk and references have been found to the Hall in the period from 1826 to 1911. The spelling has also sometimes been shown as Brazon.

The earliest date found is that the Hall is shown on "Bryant's Map of Norfolk in 1826" (Published by the Larks Press). This map shows the Hall to be just over 1 mile from the centre of the village in an approximate northeast direction. It was off the north side of the Rudham Road. On a visit to Norfolk Record Office some years ago no information on the Hall could be found. Therefore most of the details have been found in the censuses between 1841 and 1911.

In the 1841 census the Hall appears to be occupied by the Green family. It must be remembered in this census ages have been rounded down to a multiple of 5. In the order shown – Dunham Green, age 55, Sarah Green 55, Alice Green 25, Hannah Green 20, Frances Fox 20, Susan Gilham 15, Mary Spooner 15, Thomas Abraham 40, Charles Read 25, James Lewis 15, John Brown 15, Thomas Padgett 15, John Tubbs 30, Lucy Tubbs 30, Lucy Tubbs 4, and Joseph Tubbs 0. It can be deduced that there was a considerable number of servants.

The later censuses are more informative and the 1851 census shows Dunham Green to be the Head, 69 and a Widower. He was a Farmer with 650 acres and employing 19 labourers; he was born in Fakenham. His daughter, Alice Case Green, was 37, unmarried and Housekeeper; she was born in Sculthorpe.

In the 1861 census the Palmer family were living in Brazen Hall. Arthur Palmer was the Head and aged 40. He was a Farmer of 648 acres employing 13 men, 7 boys and 4 women. He was born in Yarmouth. His wife was Mary Ann and born in Briningham. There were six children, Thomas A 12, Ellen 9, Arthur W 8, Mary 6; these four were born in Briningham. The other two were Catherine 4, and Emily 1, they were both born in Tattersett; this indicates that the Palmers moved into the Hall in about 1855. Six of the employees are servants and live within the Hall. They are – **John Kirk**, 60 a widower and was the Farm Bailiff, Benjamin Claver, 20 and is a Groom, Elizabeth Woodhouse, 31 and was a Nurse Maid, Anne Smith 16 and also a Nurse Maid, Sarah Smith 22 and was a House Maid, Elizabeth Armiger 21 and a Cook and Dairy Maid.

In the 1871 census Arthur Palmer now 50 was still in Tattersett although there is no direct evidence that it was Brazen Hall. He was still given as a



Farmer of 660 acres employing 16 men, 5 boys and 3 women; his wife Mary was still with him. There were now only two children, his son, Arthur W now age 18 and a daughter Edith M 7. There was also a brother John Palmer 52 who was a Merchant and a nephew, Alfred A Palmer 25 and was a Landowner. There were now only three servants. One was still **John Kirk** 73 and still the Farm Bailiff. Another was Anna Waters 20 and was a Dairy Maid. The last one was Mary Parker 19 and was a Domestic Servant.

By the time of the 1881 census the Palmer family had left the Hall and were living in Yarmouth. The Head at the Hall was now Walpole Chamberlayne 47 and was born in Great Dunham, Norfolk. He was shown as a Farmer of 647 acres, employing 17 men, 3 women and 6 boys. His wife was Marianne 41 and was born in Scarning, Norfolk. There was a daughter, Helen Hannah age 4, born in Great Bircham, Norfolk. There was also a nephew, Walpole Vassar 19. There were two servants; one was Ellen Pitcher a Nurse and the other was Rosanne Lown a Housemaid. It was also noticed in this census that there was a Brazen Cottage; the Head there was Matthew Langley.

In the 1891 census the Head of the Hall was Herbert Brereton 24 and unmarried. He was given as a Farmer with no further details. He was born in Flitcham, Norfolk. There were two servants, one was Elizabeth Bart 33, the Housekeeper and the other was Elizabeth Jarvis 14, she was a General Servant. The Head of the Brazen Hall Cottage was a Herbert Walker who was an Agricultural Labourer.

In the 1901 census no connection is shown between Brazen Hall and farming. The Head of the Hall was Maria Verey 43, born in Yorkshire [Doncaster]. She was married but her husband was not there. There was a daughter, Vera Verey 9 and born in Transvaal, South Africa. Maria's father, Thomas [Woodhouse] Neale was there. He was 73 and was born in Norwich, Norfolk. There were two General Domestic Servants, Alice Collison 14 and Lilly Collison 13. The Herbert Walker family was still living in Brazen Hall Cottage. He was a Team Man on farm.

In the 1911 census four families have been found in Brazen Hall, none are shown as Farmers although three of the Heads appear to work on a farm. The Head of the first family was James David Homes 57, born in Bradley, Worcestershire. He was shown as a 'Clergyman Established Church'. His wife was Sarah Jane 60, born in Carmarthen. There were two servants, one was Walter Charles Tucker who was a Groom and the other was Edith Rachel Hunt who was a General Servant. The Head of the second family was Herbert Walker 49, born in Tattersett. He was a Horseman. This is the same Herbert Walker who was living in Brazen Hall Cottage in 1891 and 1901. His wife Alice was 48 and born in Hindolveston. There were seven children all born in Tattersett. They were Eleanor 24, Frederick William 22, Ernest 12, Rebecca 10, Alice Florrey 8, Mabel Emily 6, and Sidney George 3.

The Head of the third family was Harry Gymer 40, born in East Rudham. He was a Team Man on Farm. His wife Minnie was 39 and was born in Hillington, Norfolk. There were six children, the first was Maud, 15 and born in West Rudham, the other were all born in Tattersett. They were Ruth Elizabeth 13, George William 10, Dorothy 7, Walter Charles 3 and Grace 10 months. The Head of the fourth family was Belding Colman 37 and a Yardman. He was born in Ketterstone, Norfolk. His wife, Alice Mary was 30 and born in Shipdham. There were seven children, the first was Donald Victor 10 and born in Coxford Abbey, East Rudham. The other six were all born in Brazen Hall. They were Belding 9, Violet May 8, Cyril 5, Evelyn Winifred 4, Percy William 2 and Charles Edgar 1.

No mention of Brazen Hall has been found after 1911. RAF Sculthorpe airfield was constructed in 1942 and the Hall position would have been within the boundary of the airfield. The Hall may have been demolished at that time or sometime earlier. The history of the RAF Sculthorpe site can be found on the internet; see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF\\_Sculthorpe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Sculthorpe)

**Ivor Kirk, MN5976**

[ivorokirk@ntlworld.com](mailto:ivorokirk@ntlworld.com)

## HOLME HALE TO LAFAYETTE, COLORADO

**Paul Savage** of Holme Hale married **Sophia Brame** of Ashill in 1872. Sophia's sister, **Jane Brame** married **Paul (Bob?) Taylor** and the Taylors later emigrated to farm in Lafayette, Colorado.

The Savages had Mary (1874), John (Jack (1876), Sarah Jane (21 Sep 1882), Arthur (1884) and George (1888) while living in Norfolk.

In February 1893 Paul Savage and his son Jack sailed to join the Taylors in Lafayette. Sophia and the remaining children followed several months later and arrived in New York on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1893.

Sarah Jane Savage later became Sarah Jane Billhard. She lived to a great age and in 1982 **SARAH – her 100 years** was published. Now the Lafayette Miners Museum Newsletter is reprinting the story of Sarah's life in instalments.

I have been sent a copy of the Spring 2009 Newsletter, containing five A4 pages of information about Sarah, and two photographs, by a correspondent in Lafayette, and will be pleased to share this with any Brame, Savage or Taylor descendents

**Moya Leighton MN9753**

## Notes & Queries:

### Guidelines for Contributors

**QUERIES** predominate but offers of help and items of information and general interest may be included. Entries as brief as possible please, preferably less than 150 words, typed in a 10pt font.

Addresses given in full (an email alone is insufficient as this may limit responses). **Membership number should be included.** Non-members should include a cheque for £6 (drawn on a UK Clearing Bank) made payable to 'The Norfolk Family History Society', for each item intended for publication.

Address correspondence to: **The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles St, Norwich, NR2 1LS.**

E-mail: [ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

### DUNGAR/DONGAR

My ancestor **William DUNGAR (DONGAR)** was born in Little Massingham 20 April 1819. His father was an agricultural labourer. He married **Ann Shallow** at St. Margaret's, Kings Lynn on 8 August 1841. In all the census records he is a shipwright. I would like to know whether he would have had to be apprenticed to a master carpenter or did he learn on the job unofficially? If anyone has information about the status of shipwrights and how they were trained, I would be most grateful.

**Teresa Smith MN10171**, 292 Rio Drive South, Kelowna, British Columbia, V1V 2B1, Canada, email [tmsmith.rio@shaw.ca](mailto:tmsmith.rio@shaw.ca)

### FAMILY BIBLE

A family bible has come into my possession. It was handed in to the Cancer Research shop in Colchester having been found in some business premises. Being from Norfolk myself and also very much into Family History I was allowed to bring it home to see if I could find a good home for it. The person it was given to originally was a **Henry Nicholas Savory** by his father **John** in 1862. It has a list of birth, marriages and deaths, some recent ones in the 50 to 60s era.

If anyone is interested in the details in the bible, I am happy to provide them for a small donation to the Cancer Research charity.

**Barbara Arnold – email [barbrel@btinternet.com](mailto:barbrel@btinternet.com)**

## **WILLIAM PARTRIDGE CUBITT**

**Patricia Wills-Jones (MN6738)**, a Trustee of the Bacton Shipwrecked Mariners Charity, would be interested to hear of the whereabouts of the medals awarded to William Partridge Cubitt in the late 19th century by the RNLI. The charity was set up by Mr Cubitt in response to a tragedy off the Bacton coast in 1897.

## **BLOY**

I am looking for the birth/baptism of **RICHARD BLOY**, died in Morningthorpe in 1773, "aged 65". Richard was of Morningthorpe parish at the time of his first marriage in 1733 to Catherine Potter and his second marriage in 1755 to Phoebe Fearnall. I have no information on him prior to 1733. Can you help?

**Neil Bloy MN1929**

## **MARY ANN NOBBIN(S)**

**Mary Ann NOBBINS** baptised her illegitimate son **John NOBBIN** (my 2xg grandfather) at Hoveton St Peter on 07/02/1819. A **Mary Ann NOBBINS** married **David SPOONER** 25/02/1822 at St Clement Norwich. In the 1841 census Mary Ann SPOONER is matron of the Union Workhouse Horning, and David & Mary SPOONER with their six children are living at Old Hall Beeston St Andrew. Both Mary's have stated ages of 40 in the census - does anyone know if either of these Mary's is the mother of John?

**Gillian Holman, MN11876**, 17 Boundaries Road, Feltham, Middx, TW13  
5DR E-mail: [wandgholman@aol.com](mailto:wandgholman@aol.com)

## **ALLARD/ELLARD FAMILY**

I have been trying to find out the parents of **William ALLARD** born about 1766. He lived to be 92 and according to the 1851 census was born at Sidestrand in Norfolk. I have drawn a blank for this parish and surrounding areas. He married **Jemima Swan** in Gimingham, Norfolk in 1790 and had a son called Frances born 1792, also at Gimingham. William was a farmer at Gimingham and died at Gimingham in 1858.

He may have had brothers, John born 1760 who lived at Tunstead/Neatishead, Francis born 1762 of Filby. There may have been other brothers, Gregory born 1763 and Paul born 1772 and a sister Elizabeth born 1765. Other siblings may have existed. Can anybody help please?

**Michael Allard MN10976**, 44 Massingham Road, Norwich, NR3 4BS  
Email: [honkyhorn@btinternet.com](mailto:honkyhorn@btinternet.com)

## **HARPER & DEBBAGE**

I have been working on my family tree for several years. The **HARPERS** come from **Halvergate** and **North Burlingham** and the **DEBBAGES** from **South Walsham** and **Ranworth** and surrounding areas. I have managed to trace both sides back to about 1795. I would be interested to hear from any members who are connect with either family and especially if they have copies of any documents, farm accounts, photographs, property deeds or any other information that will provide me with some context of the family apart from named and dates. I have been unable to locate either family back further than c1795.

I would be grateful for any additional information or pointers to possible information. Information can be sent to me via email or post.

**Kristopher Harper MN9064** 33 The Ridgeway, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 4ND.  
[Kristopher@tanter.plus.com](mailto:Kristopher@tanter.plus.com)

## **ANNA FRANCIS AND EDWARD FRANCIS**

My great x2 grandmother **Anna FRANCIS** was born in the Sutton by Coltishall district in 1781. Her parents were **James and Elizabeth Francis**. She has a sister Elizabeth and a brother John. I would be very glad to know her mother's maiden name. In 1817 Anna had an illegitimate son, **Charles George Francis**, my great grandfather.

We know the father's name was **Edward Francis** (he and Anna were not related, so far as I know) but his identity is a mystery. The most likely candidate is Edward Francis baptised at St. Stephens, Norwich in 1781. There is no firm evidence that he was the father, except that Charles George was also baptised there in 1817. Anna and Charles are later found living in Whitechapel, London.

I would be grateful for any information about Anna's mother or the illusive Edward – and pleased to supply other details of this family to interested members.

**Rev. Ken Francis, MN11177**, *The Mine House, Bolingey, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 0DQ, email [kandyfrancis@btinternet.com](mailto:kandyfrancis@btinternet.com)*

*Editors note: Sutton by Coltishall is only known as such in the IGI. The village of Sutton is near Catfield and Stalham. It might be worth taking a look at Catfield and Stalham records.*

## **George REGISTER**

George was bapt Swaffham Norfolk, 1787, [supposedly] married Bettaner /Sarah unknown, born c1780 of Hatcher/Hatchel, Norfolk. Both died Hampshire. Hatcher may once have been part of a forest south of Swaffham. I would like any information re wife's surname, Parish, marriage date & whereabouts of Hatcher. Information taken from Census, Death Certs & Will.

***J F Parker, MN7027** 17 Burden Street, Blenheim 7201, New Zealand. Email [joykeith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joykeith@xtra.co.nz)*

## **BIRD AND VINCENT**

I am looking for information on my great x2 grandfather, **Robert BIRD**, born 1818 in Scottow, died 1897 in Scottow.

He married **Sarah Vincent** in 1851, Scottow and was innkeeper at the Three Horseshoes Scottow 1851 – 1861, overseer and estate steward at Scottow Hall some time between 1883 and 1893 and Parish Clerk around the same time.

He is also in the 1881 census as having a farm of 150 acres, employing 5 men and one boy.

I would love to know if there are any records available to support what I have already been able to find out. If anyone has information on him I would be very happy to receive it.

***Mrs Marjorie Blake, 78 Springbank Close, Farsley, Leeds, LS28 5EW**  
Email [Marjorie.blake1@ntlworld.com](mailto:Marjorie.blake1@ntlworld.com)*

## **THOMAS SPRINGALL (1767 – 1840)**

**Thomas Springall** is my 4xgreat grandfather who married **Lydia West**. They had at least 2 sons and 4 daughters. Daughter Lydia married **John Wilson** 1827. Daughter Charlotte married **William Hubbard** 1830. Son Edmund married **Eliza Hudson**, 1830, Lyng. Son William married **Elizabeth Cory(?)** 1838 (?) and secondly married to **Mary Ann Blyth(?)** 1852(?) I am trying to find the parents and birthplace etc. of Thomas Springall and would be very grateful of any help or interest.

***Mrs G Hassall MN11951, 28 Massey Close, Hardingstone, Northampton, NN4 6DW**  
Email: [gb.hassall@o2.co.uk](mailto:gb.hassall@o2.co.uk)*

## THE FRAMINGHAM PIGOT FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Those of you who watched the final episode of 'Garrow's Law' in November, learned how the government of the day were highly suspicious of 'corresponding societies' which they saw as a threat to national security. Having some sympathy for the French revolution then currently wreaking havoc amongst the French elite, and not without their own, if only modest political agenda, it was perhaps natural why such secret societies could be seen as a threat. Although secretive to a small extent, the Friendly Societies posed no threat. They were in fact nothing more than groups of local people getting together to provide financial support and social intercourse for its members. Nevertheless as a safety measure, government legislation was brought in against them. The Friendly Society Act of 1793 required all such societies to have a formal set of rules and be approved by a magistrate. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, illness or unemployment could mean penury for the whole family of the breadwinner and unless there was support from other family members, the threat of the workhouse ensued. The idea of a Society which anyone could join, paying weekly contributions towards any future impoverishment spread rapidly across the country. Insurance policies did not normally cover this section of society. Members usually met at the local inn and were supposed to live within walking distance.

It is not known for certain when the Framingham Pigot Friendly Society was formed, but the earliest extant register from 1843 with only 25 members, suggests this may have been the formative year. It was formed as The Royal Perseverance Lodge No 3662 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity Friendly Society and met at The Gull Inn, Framingham Pigot. Founder members came from both of the Framinghams, Poringland, Shotesham, Bergh Apton, Topcroft and Bramerton with more from Rockland and Hethersett later in the year.

They included the families of Bennett, Blake, Blazy, Blyth, Chittock, Culling, Doughty, Ewing, Forder, frost, Hawkes, Holmes, Lawrence, Long, Merry, Pitchers, Reeve, Smith, Sones, Steward, Taylor, Warren and Wickham.

Payments were not always regular, Some paid weekly, fortnightly or three-weekly, some making up arrears and often in varying amounts, thought at this time 1/3d or 1/8d per week seems to have been the norm. By 1855 with membership approaching 70, the weekly rate was settled at 2/-. By 1865, the qualification of membership by residence must have long since been abandoned as some of their 105 members were listed from Norwich, Lowestoft, London and Ipswich, no doubt following the practice of admitting members from other lodges. Growth in later years was phenomenal. Membership by 1881 had risen to 160, by 1889 to 229, by 1897 to 356 and by 1909 to 502 – obviously not all meeting at The Gull.

Subscription registers are complete for every week from 1843 to 1890. I have not compared any of the names with census records to analyse the social structure of the Lodge members, though a spot check with the 1864 Norfolk Directory revealed that members included a teacher, a cordwainer, a shoemaker, a shopkeeper, a blacksmith, a gardener, a farmer, a victualler, a bricklayer, a cattle dealer and a beer retailer.

Unfortunately we learn nothing about the workings of the Lodge until 1880 when the first extant minute book shows that some ceremonial was involved and as the Society grew, more and more emphasis was placed on their social needs having occasional dinners, and an annual sports day. In 1880 the following officers were elected to serve during 1881:- (Chairman) Robert Aldis, (Vice Chairman) Richard Coe, Secretary Leonard Forder, Treasurer George Adams, Trustees: Josiah Chaplin, William Landsdale, William Smith, John Watson, Warden Elijah Aldis, Minute Secretary Leonard Culling; Auditors: Josiah Chaplin and James Taylor. Members, known as 'Brothers', followed the normal practice of meetings by electing and admitting members, allocating funds and generally administering the Lodge affairs. By 1880 entrance fees encouraging early joining to maximise the longevity of contributions were set at:

18 – 23 years	5/-	24-26 years	7/6d
27 – 29 years	10/-	30 – 31 years	15/-
32 – 36 years	£1		

Extra annual contributions were also levied according to age ranging from 6d if under 24 to £1 if over 36. Under the Friendly Society Act, the Lodge now had to keep separate accounts of the contributions received towards sickness and funeral expenses and another record for management and medical attendance. Extant registers for the former cover the period 1885 to 1909.

All of the above records are held in the Society's Library. Searches can reveal the week-by-week contributions of an ancestor until his death or resignation. They can reveal places of residence, particularly useful if the ancestor frequently moved, but still retained his membership. Occasionally occupations are mentioned. The Minute Books can be another useful source if an ancestor held office, or is mentioned in the deliberations of the Lodge meetings.

### ***Patrick Palgrave-Moore MN001***

#### **Sources:**

Perseverance Lodge Subscription Books 1843 – 1890 (4 vols)  
Perseverance Lodge Sick & Funeral Ledgers 1885 – 1909 (2 vols)  
Perseverance Lodge Minute Book 1881 – 1897  
White: Norfolk Directory 1864  
Logan, Roger. *An Introduction to Friendly Society Records (FFHS)*



## THANK YOU BARRY

It was with deep sadness that I learned of the death of Barry Forster in the December 2009 issue of 'The Norfolk Ancestor'.

My late father, Mr Harold Kett, was always adamant that we were related to Robert Kett 'leader of the Norfolk Rising 1549' but there was no paperwork to prove this.

I joined NFHS and was able to consult the Kett family pedigrees but there appeared to be a gap in our family line. With Barry's expertise and help I was able to prove that there is an omission in one of the pedigrees and trace my family history back to Thomas Kett, younger brother of Robert and William 1500 - 1553.

A few months later, Barry telephoned me to say that a lady from Kent, Claire Marsh (MN11342) had paid a visit to Kirby Hall. With her sister Mary Howard (membership number unknown) she had also traced her very interesting but complicated family history back to Thomas Kett and would I like to contact her? I did so and we realised that my family line descended from Thomas's son, Adam Knight, alias Kett, born about 1540 and hers from Thomas's daughter Barbara, who married Loy Agas of Wymondham.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the anniversary of Robert and William Kett's deaths, Claire and I met for the first time, visiting Norwich Castle and Wymondham Abbey. While reading the plaque outside Beckett's Chapel in Wymondham commemorating the events of 1549, we were thrilled, quite unexpectedly, to be involved in a visit by pupils from Robert Kett Junior School who lay flowers each anniversary commemorating the rebellion. A truly memorable day and the start of a surprising friendship. Thank you Barry.

***Linda Guttridge (nee Kett) - MN11259***



More unknown photographs for you,  
see bottom of editorial page



