

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**Volume Seven    Part Two**  
**JUNE 2010**



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



Can you help identify the guests and bridesmaids in this wedding photo? The bride is Hilda May Money; the groom is Frederick Albert Cornish. The groom's sister Elsie is standing to his left, and the groom's mother, Edith Cornish (nee Wigg) is sitting to the bride's right. Hilda and Frederick were married at St. Barnabas Church Norwich on 12 April 1931. It is thought that some of the guests could be from the Great Yarmouth area. (See page 75)

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***Current Rates for Membership:***

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

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**FRONT COVER** – Four daughters of Sir Thomas Greene and Susannah Barker his wife - St. Nicholas Church, Kings Lynn. This is, again, taken from Simon Knott's excellent website – [www.norfolkchurches.co.uk](http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk). The photograph of St. Mary's Church, Roughton on page 142 is also from this website.

## 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 June, 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 preferably be 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 July 2010.**

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



**From the Editor**  
**[ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk)**

June 2010

Dear Members

Another full issue! Many thanks once again for all your articles, notes, tips and information.

We have a lot of information for you this time, especially about websites. We plan to have a regular look at websites on your behalf, and have started with the British Origins website on page 137. In addition Edmund Perry has given an update on NORS on page 81 as well as an article on the Latter Day Saints / Mormon website on page 87. For information on other useful websites why not try the Federation of Family History Societies website at [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk) and look under Research Tips. If you have any particular websites that you find useful, other than FindMyPast and Ancestry, perhaps you would let us know and we can pass the information on to other members.

Other information to assist you is the Relationship Guide on page 116, sent in by Jackie Dillimore, and the Record Tip from Sheela Banham on page 132.

We have also had an offer of help with the Ingworth Parish Registers from Honor Jones, who lives in Canada (see page 78). Many thanks for your kind offer Honor, I am sure that this will be a great help to members who are searching for ancestors in the Ingworth area.

There is also a lot happening. The Rix Alliance and the Filby Association both have open days in June and July, see page 77, and we also have some dates from Friends of Hardwick cemetery on page 88, as well as our own regular meetings. Also watch out for our stall at Family History Fairs, dates will be on our website.

Can I draw your attention to the Help Wanted advert on page 139. If you can spare a Sunday morning to help out please contact me at the email address above, or write to me at Kirby Hall. Many thanks

***Denagh Hacon MN2671***



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



Dear Editor

I want to say a big thank-you for all the help and advice I received on my first visit to the NFHS last month.

Everyone I met was most helpful and supportive – pointing me in the right direction, and showing me what was available. I was amazed by how much material you have and most grateful for all the work done by local members on transcribing records, monumental inscriptions etc. which must be a boon to other members

The week went by so quickly, but I got a lot done and enjoyed my visit tremendously. Thank you all.

***Mrs Sylvia Steer, MN11755***

**Inside front cover** – The photograph was supplied by Mrs Jean Cressey, MN8365. Her parents, Frederick Cornish and Hilda Money, were married in 1931 at St. Barnabas Church, Norwich. However, Mrs Cressey knows that there are strong family connections with Gt. Yarmouth, so probably some of the people in the photograph will have come from Gt. Yarmouth for the occasion. If you can help please write to Mrs Cressey at 8 Pinder Close, Norwich, NR3 2EQ or you can send me an email. *Editor*

### **NORFOLK FAMILY SEARCH**

***Experienced Professional Genealogist offers a range of  
Research and Photographic Services***

Website: [www.norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk](http://www.norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk)  
Email: [enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk)

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

**DIARY of EVENTS**  
**June – September 2010**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Branch</b>
1 June	Edward Fawcett's lucky escape from the Great Gale of 1860 in Gt Yarmouth	Jane Inglesby	GY
8 Jun	Best Foot Forward (Cordwainers)	Ian Waller	Diss
9 June	Migration to and from West Norfolk: Sources for Family Historians.	Gill Blanchard	KL
11 June	The Village Craftsmen	Stephen Pope	NCH
9 July	Frolic, Fervour & Fornication	Pip Wright	NCH
13 Jul	The History of Medicine	Dr Paul Davies	Diss
14 July	Possible Church Visit		KL
10 Aug	TBA	Dr Simon Pawley	Diss
11 Aug	Members Evening		KL
13 Aug	Problem solving: The Friday night Committee		NCH
7 Sept	Member help member: Dead Interesting		GY
8 Sept	Rebels, Rogues, Crime and Punishment	Brian Jones	KL
10 Sept	Norwich Industries (Slide Show)	Peter & Rosemary Salt	NCH
14 Sep	Migration – when we are stuck.	Laurie Page	Diss

**Our stall will be at the Family History Fairs again this year. For 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)

## THE FILBY ASSOCIATION

The Filby Association will be meeting in **All Saint's Church** in the village of **Filby** in Norfolk at **2.30pm on Sunday 4th July 2010**.

All people with an interest in any spelling of the surname - Filby, Filbey, Filbee, Philby, Philbey, etc - will be welcome to come and join in our Family Service. There will be refreshments after the service, and we will have some of our Filby Association history and records, including electronic data, for people to look at.

Filby village is 15 miles east of Norwich, and 13 miles North West of Great Yarmouth. If you would like to attend, please telephone **Alan Filby on 01904 622650**, or email **[alan@filby.org](mailto:alan@filby.org)**, or by letter to **Mr. Alan Filby, 22 Aldwark, York, YO1 6BU**.

It is not the policy of the Filby Association to publish its many Family Trees. However, we help enquirers, whether Members or not, on an individual reciprocal basis. We have a web site **[www.filby.org](http://www.filby.org)**. The one Tree that we have on our web site is the Manager's own Tree, and every living person mentioned has given their permission to be named. We also have a link to the Guild of One Name Studies web site, where there are birth, marriage and death records.

**Ruth Smith, MN2506** 2 Barrington Close, Little Clacton, Clacton on Sea, Essex. CO16 9PN

## THE RIX ALLIANCE OPEN DAY

The RFA url is: **<http://www.rix-alliance.com>**. The Open Day will be held on **Saturday 19th June 2010 at Ketts Park Sports Hall, Harts Farm Road, Wymondham, Norfolk** (plenty of parking).

**Doors open at 10:00 a.m.** and the RFA AGM (usually quite brief) will take place during the afternoon. Anyone wishing to attend and requiring lunch (for a very reasonable price) should contact **Sheelagh Rix on 01727 832762** or **Sue Simpson on 01953 454404**. Doors close at 5:00 p.m.

All Rixs, Rix descendants, and anyone with an interest in the Rix Family name are most welcome to attend. Rix descendants may very well find remote, and sometimes not so remote, relatives to further their family knowledge.

## LOOK UPS IN INGWORTH PARISH REGISTERS For Burials Dec 4, 1709 - Oct 27, 1812

**These are taken from film privately purchased over 20 yrs ago, on condition that it is for personal use only.** However, I understand that Ingworth is not evident on the shelves of the library, so I can offer lookups in these transcripts for those who seek folks in this parish.

I am currently working on an index for the banns register 1758 - 1823 and will offer them in a future edition of Ancestor. I am also working on baptisms 1709/10 - July 1812, and marriages April 1758 - 1852. (The index for baptisms is longer).

**[Parishes close to Ingworth are Erpingham, Calthorpe, Blickling, Banningham and Aylsham]**

In order to eliminate unnecessary requests, below is the index for burials 1709 - 1812. The index runs in alphabetical order:-

ADKINS, ALDHOUSE, ATKINS, BARHAM?, BARNES, BEAUMONT, BELL, BIRD, BLACK, BLOOM(E), BOND, BREWELL, BULLEN, BULLEY, BULLEYN, BULLIN, BULLOCK, BURRELL, BURTON, BYGRAVE, CAMP, CHAPMAN, CLARK, CLERK, COLBY, COLLINS, COMER, COX, CROWE, CULLY, CURTIS, DAUBNEY, DIX, DOEMAN, DRAPER, DRIVER, DUCKER, DYBALL, EASTOE, EASTWICK, ELLIS, EMPSON, FARROW, FISH, GAY, GIRDLESTON, GOOCH, GOOSE, GOTTERSON, GOTTS, GRANGER, GRAY, GREENACRE, GROUT, HAGON, HASLOPE, HERNE, HERRING, HOOKER, JENNINGS, JOHNSON, JUBA, KEMPE, KNIGHTS, KNOTT, LAKE, LEMAN, LING, LOWND, LOWNE, MARSH, MARHSALL, MASH, MEEKFORD, MONEY, MOORE, MOUNTAIN, NEAL, NEWSTEAD, NUDD, OVERTON, PEARSON, PEELE, PEGG, PERT?, PEScott, POSTLE, PRIOR, PURDY, PYE, RANDAL, REEVE, REYNOLDS, RUDD, RYE, SALMON, SANDERS, SCOTTOE, SELTH, SEXTON, SIMPSON, SLAUGHTER, SPICE, SPICER, SPURRELL, STOREY, SUTTON, TICE, TURNER, TYSE, UNDAY ?, WADE, WAKEFIELD, WATLING, WATTS, WEBSTER, WILD, WILLIAMS, WINNETT, WOODROW, WRIGHT.

Requests can be either **by email** to me direct (see address below) or, if you do not have email, by sending a **written request to Kirby Hall**, making sure you include an English stamped return addressed envelope. Replies cannot be made without the English sae. On the outer envelope please mark **"Ingworth Look ups"**. Your letter should include your **membership number**. A volunteer will pick up these requests and communicate with me in Canada.

***Honor Jones, MN424 [honorable1@shaw.ca](mailto:honorable1@shaw.ca)***

## BOOK REVIEWS



**THE BROADS Through Time** by David Holmes, Amberley Pubs. 2009, Softback, 96 pages, £12.99

A collection of the author's photographs comparing old with new, not always of the same site or view but offering a personal insight into a man-made but very special and precious wildlife habitat. The images show the magic of the Broads and the profound changes which have taken place during the past century. There is an explanatory caption with each pair of photos, examining marshland, rivers, bridges, staithe, windmills, well-known streets and famous places. The book provides a reliable perspective on what is a unique cultural landscape and its local history.

**NORWICH Through Time** by Frank Meeres, Amberley Pubs. 2010, Softback, 96 pages, £14.99

180 photographs of which 90 are old, some sepia, others in colour, printed alongside a contemporary full colour photo illustrating the same scene/place, covering all sorts of buildings including houses, shops, schools, churches and streets. These contrasting views have individual captions and show how much the city has changed and developed over the past 100 years. Two major events are covered, the great flood of 1912 and the Second World War, both of which led to large-scale rebuilding and new housing developments. It focuses on specific themes such as A Walk along the River; Tombland; Commercial sites; the central Provision Market and two new shopping centres, Castle Mall on and underneath the site of the former Cattle Market, and Chapelfield on the site of Caley's factory. An engaging book which provides a new insight into the past and present history of a Fine City.

**Edmund Perry MN3181**

## NORFOLK RESEARCH

PARISH RECORDS CENSUS SEARCHES

CERTIFICATES

*£5 per hour*

Send SAE or IRC for details

**W. Hepburn**

**11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9JE**

## PROJECTS – by Edmund Perry

The following PRTs have been printed and shelved:

PARISHES	Baptisms	Marriages	Burials	Banns
<b>Baconsthorpe</b>				1897 -1904
<b>Braydeston</b>	1732 - 1794	1732-1812	1732 - 1778	
<b>Cranworth</b>	1813 – 1855			
<b>Havering</b>	1813 – 1880			
<b>Hindringham</b>	1762 – 1810 1891 - 2006			
<b>Oxnead</b>	1574 – 1812	1578 – 1900	1573 – 1809	1756 - 1889

Printed records of ATs and BTs have been transferred to folders with blue backs and are now shelved with the Parish Register Transcripts.

Following complaints about the arrangement of the transcripts on the library shelves we will be reverting to the old alphabetical arrangement of top left to top right followed by second shelf, left to right etc.

I would like to thank the following members for sending material to the Society and/or offering to work on registers: **Sally Canham** (Colkirk St. Mary); **Graham Crummett** (Norwich St. Stephen's C19th Baptisms and Tivetshall St. Mary); **Vicky Ellis** (Thompson); **Helen Few** (South Lynn All Saints); **Stephen Fisher** (South Lopham C19th Marriages); **Daphne Greenacre** (Royston cum Roxham); Elizabeth Wiggins (Kings Lynn All Saints); **Gerry Gunton** (Gt. Plumstead); **David Hallums** (Gt. Cressingham BMD); **Shirley Howell** (Fulmondestone); **Keith Jay** (offering to do Yarmouth Banns); **Honor Jones** (typing up ATs/BTs – sent Woolterton and Trimmingham); **Graham King** (Riddlesworth with Gasthorpe); **Peter Mayes** (Lakenham C19th Burials); **Pat Mason** (for 'tops & tails' on Registers); **Jim & Heather Mays** (Felbrigg) ; **Pauline Westgate** (Old Lakenham St. John the Baptist); **Susan Mooney** (Hardingham Baptisms); **Sally Canham** (Colkirk St. Mary); **Terry Miller** (Wymondham Marriages and now doing Burials pre 1845); **Margaret Murgatroyd** (typing up/top & tail Burgh-next-Aylsham, Burnham Thorpe, Oxnead and doing Carleton Rode); **Daphne Secker** (Saxlingham Thorpe and Nethergate); **John Proctor** (Shouldham); **Barbara Purdy** (Hemblington); **Eric Rivett** (typing up numerous Marriage Indexes); **Susan Roberts** (Yarmouth St. James Baptisms); **Reg & Nora Skipper** (Downham Market); **Peter Smith** (Heigham St. Phillip's Baptisms 1868-1936); **Jean Stangroom** (Shotesham

C19th Baptisms); **Sandie & George Willogs** (Norwich, St.Martin at Palace); **Eileen Wood** (Bawdeswell & Billingford); **Jill Wright** (Hethel Registers and the M.I.). Apologies to anyone missed – there are others in the pipeline.

Out of 4000 plus Membership only about 1% are actively involved in Transcribing Parish Registers (if we could increase this number it would help greatly). A List is being compiled of their names, addresses and the church work they are doing so as to avoid duplication and co-ordinate transcription work

## NORS

My thanks to Mike Dack for Admin and Uploads, Peter Spurgeon for Uploads, John Brundell and Rosalind Montague for cleaning and Paul Harman for designing a computer programme to assist with Transcripts. As of the end of April the site had 1,027 transcripts from over 300 villages (and more churches because these include non-conformists) with 1,175,141 Surnames and 1,964,338 First Names; and altogether 6,263,931 dataset items (information in the spreadsheet cells). So far Searches number 34,305 and the most popular name looked up is SMITH.

We have uploaded most of the electronic information on Villages A/B, L-Y, which leaves C to K and most of Norwich to clean/tidy and upload. This will take some time so Members will have to be patient.

If the village you are interested in doesn't appear it may be because the Society doesn't have a transcript (check Website PRT List) or it is in the queuing system.

NORS is only a search / finding tool – as good as the work of the original transcriptions. There are going to be errors/omissions – as with Ancestry, FindmyPast, FreeReg, etc. You need to cross reference with other sites to check the information on NORS (and you can use the Society's Look-Ups service).

If you cannot find the Surname you want in a specific village you could try typing in BLANK? and then go to that village and look at the Forenames and Parents' Names which come up and these may match the person(s) you seek; (we have used BLANK? in the surname column to replace unknowns, illegibles, missing names).

Happy hunting!

***Edmund Perry, Projects Co-ordinator***

## NON-CONFORMIST MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

([minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk))

Non-conformity has a long and strong history in Norfolk. The 1851 Census of Religious Worship for Norfolk lists around 650 chapels and churches of many persuasions, but those compiling this survey knew that it was likely not to have been totally comprehensive. There was no list or central organisation of these forms of Christian practice, as there was for the Church of England, and the organisers therefore had to rely on directories and information that was given to them. Many parishes, including those in rural areas, contained more than one such chapel. Whilst many of these chapels were founded in the years leading up to the census, at least 87 were founded in the 1700s and at least three in the 1600s. In the 160 years since this survey many of these chapels have disappeared, either demolished or converted to other uses. However, 'Chapels and Meeting Houses in Eastern England' by English Heritage in 2002 (which did not include Roman Catholic churches) listed nearly 250 that still remained in some recognisable form in the county.

The Norfolk Family History Society has copies of at least some MIs in 53 chapels and Roman Catholic churches. However many more chapels exist which are known to have monumental inscriptions that have not been copied. To gather this information would provide a valuable addition to the Society's resources. Many researchers into family history study omit to consider non-conformity as the possible repository of that elusive ancestor.

Lists of chapels identified in these two surveys published in 1851 and in 2002, together with a list of Roman Catholic churches existing now, have been prepared. These buildings and any associated burial grounds need to be surveyed. As a start, those MIs in the English Heritage survey have been listed; this amounts to 430 names. However there are probably thousands more because many chapels were not surveyed for this information and those that were tend not to be comprehensive. MIs listed are a selection of those that were of interest to historical architecture rather than to genealogy, and the information taken for each one is little more than a name and year of death. **This information is now available in the Society's library, where there are also over 90 non-conformist register transcripts.**

A full detailed list compiled by Graham Loveday King is available at Kirby Hall, but anyone who wishes to have more details of what Chapels and Churches were in a particular locality please feel free to contact the MI Co-ordinator, Mary Mitchell, by email or post. Mary would also be interested to hear from any volunteers who would be willing to carry out a survey of a Chapel.

**Mary Mitchell, MI Co-ordinator, MN3328**

## 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

ALDHAM	Shimpling, Norwich
BARWICK	Norwich, Bringham and North Norfolk
CORLEY	Stow Bedon, Caston, Rockland All Saints
DYBALL	Worstead, Sco Ruston, Reepham
HARPER	Horsham St. Faiths
HARRIS	Hindolveston, Bale, Binham
HARRISON	Saxthorpe, Corpusty
LAWS	Norwich
WHITBY	Harpley, Flitcham
WHITE(CD)	Thurne, Ludham, Gt. Yarmouth
WRENCH	Norwich, Aylsham, Hindringham, Binham

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***

## PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS

A programme of workshops providing an in-depth study of specific topics relevant to the family historian, ranging from the well known to the frequently underused.

The tutor will be professional researcher and qualified tutor, Gill Blanchard, BA. MA. PGCE (PCE). 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.

To book or to obtain more details, please contact Gill Blanchard. 84 Rupert St. Norwich. NR2 2AT.

Tel: 01603 633232. Email: [gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk](mailto:gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk)

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

To enrol please complete tick the number on list of workshops **opposite** and include your contact details. Or, fill in the slip below and send to **Gill Blanchard, 84 Rupert Street, Norwich. NR2 2AT.**

-----

I would like to enrol for the following Workshop(s)

**Workshop No. and/or Title**

**Cost £**

I enclose my cheque made payable to  
**Norfolk Family History Society** for £

Contact Details:

No	Day	Date	Time	Topic	Cost	To Book ✓
1	Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2010	9.30am – 2.30pm	Parish Registers	£17	
2	Monday	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	9.30am – 2.30pm	Making the most of Census Records	£17	
3	Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2010	9.30am – 2.30pm	Workhouse Records	£17	
4	Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2010	9.30am – 2.30pm	Illegitimacy	£17	
5	Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2010	9.30am – 2.30pm	Parish Registers	£17	
6	Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2010	9.30am – 2.30pm	Removal Orders, Settlement Certificates and Settlement Examinations	£17	
7	Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Wills and Administrations	£17	
8	Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	School Records	£17	
9	Monday	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Newspapers	£17	
10	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	9.30am – 2..30pm	Wills and Administrations	£17	
11	Monday	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Manor Court Records	£17	
12	Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Illegitimacy	£17	
13	Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Removal Orders, Settlement Certificates and Settlement Examinations	£17	
14	Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Prison and Court Records	£17	
15	Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	9.30am – 2.30pm	Workhouse Records	£17	

## LATTER DAY SAINTS (LDS- MORMON) RECORDS

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) remains the most widely used website for Parish Registers data based on the LDS Church's International Genealogical Index. This IGI consists of transcriptions and records (baptisms, marriages, deaths and other events for over 700 million individuals) roughly covering 1500-1885 submitted by the public worldwide, not just church members. It is a search and finding aid which does contain errors – one should verify any information gained from copies of original records wherever possible.

The Mormons have a huge collection of genealogical records stored at the Granite Mountain Record Vault in Utah. Public access to this is via the Fam.Hist.Library in Salt Lake City. You can browse the Salt Lake City's Library Collection and request to view any microfilm/fiche at nearest LSD Church FH Centre. To find out how to do this go to:

**[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ordering\\_Microfilm\\_orMicrofiche\\_from\\_a\\_Family\\_History\\_Centre](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ordering_Microfilm_orMicrofiche_from_a_Family_History_Centre)**

The Mormons have been microfilming and digitising records in the UK since 1946. They film the documents (usually Census, Parish Registers or AT/BT records), provide the record-holder with a copy and then circulate a copy to their LSD church centre for people to use and/or transcribe from. Their Hyde Park centre has a sizeable collection and many of the LDS Churches have their own selection of records. Documents have been filmed in batches and given numbers. The batch numbers and what they cover can be identified at

**<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hughwallis>**

The LDS Church has many on line developments planned: by end of 2010 it hopes to have another **billion records online using a new search engine. The Project to digitise 2.5 million rolls of film is** ongoing as is Family Search indexing.

**<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#>** will enable a search of those already indexed – volunteers are working on material for Cheshire, Essex, and Warwickshire.

Latest news of developments can be obtained at **<http://labs.familysearch.org>** including information about other services and access to 35,854 articles about genealogy from around the world.

Happy hunting!

***Edmund Perry MN3181***

## FRIENDS OF HARDWICK ROAD CEMETARY

Do you live in West Norfolk, or have ancestors who came from the area? The following are events for 2010. The family history days are for people who wish to find their family grave. The Friends ask for a small donation as charge, or free if you join the Friends of Hardwick Road.

Sunday 20 June	Guided Walk 2.00 pm
Wednesday 23 June	Family history/day/member day
Saturday 17 July	Annual Open Day
Sunday 18 July	Guided Walk 2.00 pm
Sunday 15 August	Guided Walk 2.00 pm
Saturday 11 September	Family history day/member day
Sunday 12 September	Heritage Day at Hardwick and Quaker Burial Ground
Sunday 19 September	Guided Walk 2.00 pm
Sunday 17 October	Guided Walk 2.00 pm

## USEFUL ABBREVIATIONS

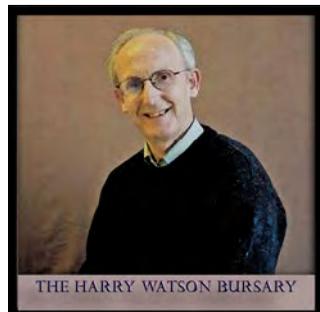
If you send off to Glasgow for your ancestor's forces record, you will also receive a 15 page list of Useful Abbreviations. I have picked out 10 of the more unusual and interesting ones in the hope that someone can enlighten me as to the work of the units listed, for example what ever did the Mobile Bath Unit do? Were any of your ancestors in any of the following units/corps? If so I'd like to hear from you; there are possibilities for some interesting articles here!

ABSD	Army Blood Supply Depot (RAMC)
A. CYC. CORPS	Army Cyclist Corps
C. OF A.S.	Corps of Army Schoolmasters
A. MULE DEPOT	Army Mule Depot
ECC	Emergency Cooks Course
ECT	Emergency Cooks Training
MBU	Mobile Bath Unit (Pioneer Corps)
N. CYC. BN	Northern Cyclist Battalion
SVC	Shanghai Volunteer Corps
ZION MULE C.	Zion Mule Corps

***Denagh Hacon MN2671, Editor***

## THE HARRY WATSON BURSARY

Harry Watson was a popular and hard-working former Norwich City Councillor and former Lord Mayor who died in May 2004 after a long illness. A respected Councillor, Harry worked tirelessly for the City of Norwich and was a passionate advocate for its heritage resources, having been a Director of the Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust and Chairman of the Norwich Preservation Trust



As a tribute to Harry's memory, endorsed by his family and close colleagues, **The Harry Watson Heritage Education Bursary** has been established by the Norwich Heritage Economic & Regeneration Trust (HEART). The Bursary provides annual grants for research and publication on aspects of the history of the City or for the undertaking of specific heritage projects.

The Bursary is managed by Norwich HEART and administered by the School of History at the University of East Anglia. Funding for the Bursary is provided on an annual basis by HEART, the City Council and the Town Close Charity.

- Preference will be given to individuals and groups living and based in Norwich and Norfolk.
- The maximum individual grant in any one year will be £3,000 but we would consider applications for smaller amounts.
- From July 2009 application will be considered twice yearly – in July and February. The deadlines for application are June 30<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> respectively.
- It is a condition of the Bursary that HEART will be entitled to publish the results of the research.

Applications for the bursary should be in writing (no more than 2 pages of A4) giving details of the subject that will be covered and how the bursary will be used and sent to:

**Michael Loveday**  
**Norwich HEART**  
**PO Box 3130, Norwich, NR2 1XR**

If you want to discuss an application informally before applying please contact Nick Williams or Michael Loveday at HEART - [nickwilliams@heritagecity.org](mailto:nickwilliams@heritagecity.org), [michaelloveday@heritagecity.org](mailto:michaelloveday@heritagecity.org) or call 01603 305575.

## NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC DATING

Directories of early studios can be of great help when trying to date old photographs, but coverage of Great Britain is patchy. What's more, the directories that exist can be costly or hard to find. So it's something of an event when (like long-awaited buses) three free directories come along together.

A-Z directories of early photographers in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, compiled by Robert Pols, can now be found on his *Early Photographic Studios* website at [www.early-photographers.org.uk](http://www.early-photographers.org.uk). Each covers the period from the earliest known commercial studio to the First World War (1843 – 1916 in the case of Norfolk, and 1844-1916 for Suffolk and Cambridgeshire). Each draws on a wide range of trade directories along with a variety of other sources, including specialist studies and photographic mounts.

Trade directories often contained uncertainties and discrepancies, and additional notes point out where these occur. But, in a departure from the usual practice of photographic directories, sources are recorded for every studio that is listed. This means that, where there seems to be a problem, researchers can consider the compiler's comments but also make their own judgements about the reliability and interpretation of evidence.

In the case of many photographers, extra biographical or background information has also been added to their entry.

A further feature of the Early Photographic Studios website is a page of links to other free directories of Victorian and Edwardian photographers. This will enable family, local and photographic historians quickly to identify and access the range of information that's available. It will be added to as more such directories come online.

### **Editors note:**

Robert Pols has been writing about early photography for nearly twenty years. His most recent books are *Family Photographs 1860-1945*, *Dating Nineteenth Century Photographs* and *Dating Twentieth Century Photographs*. His next book *Dating Old Army Photographs*, is due out later this year.

He has written articles for *Ancestors* and *Practical Family History* and produces a regular *Photo Detective* feature for *Family History Monthly*.

He can be contacted at [robert.pols@early-photographers.org.uk](mailto:robert.pols@early-photographers.org.uk).



## 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)

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### **West Norfolk Branch report Brenda Leedell**



The February meeting was cancelled due to a combination of illness and the weather. This talk will be rescheduled early in 2011.

In March we welcomed back Geoff Lee who talked about the various ways of writing up our research into biographies. He discussed various methods and suggested ways of illustrating the biographies with photographs, postcards etc. Overall, a thought provoking and constructive talk.

Our April Members Evening was themed to discuss death records, however, as the conversation and questions veered onto the discussion of various web-sites, which some of our newer members had not heard of, we didn't have enough time to fully cover death records and will come back to that theme at another meeting.



## ***Norwich Branch Report Roy Scott and Roger Peck***

**February** : Due to unforeseen circumstances the scheduled presentation for February entitled 'Norfolk Regiment Territorial's Battalion' did not take place. The presenter Neil Storey was very apologetic and promised he would re-schedule the talk for a later date. This was an ideal opportunity to have a member's participation evening based on a walk down memory lane; a suggestion made by Jim Barwick. Jim led the event with Christine Avery with their recollections of life during the Second World War. It wasn't very long before many of the members joined in and shared their memories of Norwich, Norfolk and incidents that they had experienced. It resulted in a very interesting and relaxing social evening for over thirty members. It would seem that this would be a subject we could return to at a later date and no doubt expand. If we planned such an evening in advance we could bring along some memorabilia to make it even more interesting; there are surely many more subjects we could discuss at future evenings and any suggestions would be very welcome. Special thanks to Christine and Jim for stepping into the breach at such short notice.

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2010.** A Norfolk Journey. A packed Kirby Hall welcomed the speaker, local author and broadcaster Keith Skipper, with a birthday cake and a chorus of "Happy Birthday to You." This clever bit of research by branch organiser Jim Barwick left Keith speechless, for 42 seconds; I know because I timed it. The meeting was then treated to an evening of laughter as Norfolk tales and anecdotes were delivered with the ease of a true professional. The members present were not only greatly entertained but also educated for an hour and a half, when the voices, thoughts and the humour of the old boys and mawthers who were our Norfolk ancestors came to life in Kirby Hall.

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2010** Agatha Christie, David McDermott: Richard Fiddy's Magic Lantern Show was cancelled because of sickness. David McDermott stepped into the vacant slot at short notice to give a talk entitled The Life of Agatha Christie. The talk though not strictly family history, did give the meeting an insight into the life story of this prolific author. David gave several instances where the characters and unusual story lines in some of her novels mirrored people and events from her own life



## ***South Norfolk Branch Report Laraine Hake and Yvonne Billin***

In **February**, we were joined by Paul Blake who had journeyed to Norfolk to tell us about “Some Twentieth Century Property Records”. Now that more and more people are looking at records from the 20<sup>th</sup> century (last century!) this was of particular interest, and new, to many of us.

First we heard about “Lloyd George’s Domesday”. This is actually the Valuation Office Survey created under the 1909-1910 Finance Act and was created because of the tax on the increase in the value of property in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The money raised was intended to pay for various things for the poorer section of the population under the Liberal government, but it resulted in an extremely comprehensive nationwide survey on which every property had to be identified. This is housed at The National Archives. It can be quite a complicated business identifying the specific property, but very worthwhile for the successful researcher.

Second, Paul talk about the National Farm Survey of England and Wales 1940-1943. This came about because of the need to know what food could be produced internally as the importation of food had stopped. The survey has a bad reputation because the whole point was to find out whether the farms were acting efficiently. The register of the all the properties is at local record offices.

Paul also went on to discuss Sales Particulars that can be available, particularly those of large properties which were broken up and sold off between the wars. Many may even include photographs.

In **March**, Paul Davis came to talk to us about The Foundling Hospital in London.

A ‘Foundling’ or a deserted infant in the mid 1700’s did not have a very high chance of surviving. Before the establishment of the hospital many were just abandoned on the streets or in churchyards, coming from very impoverished families or being illegitimate.

Thomas Coram pressed for the establishment of a Foundling Hospital when he saw such a high level of child mortality. Children were baptised on admission, usually with the names of well known dignitaries of the time or past, so if you have ancestry that links to a William Shakespeare then there’s every possibility that it’s not THE William Shakespeare! The anonymity of who was handing over the child was guaranteed and the likelihood of tracing ancestry back from a foundling is slim.

The Hospital was supported by many members of the establishment. Handel performed his 'Messiah' there to help raise funds and Hogarth, Reynolds and Gainsborough all contributed pieces of art for the gallery exhibitions. Hogarth even designed the children's uniforms and the coat of arms for the Hospital.

Life in the hospital was not lavish but would have been better than what many experienced outside. Meals were routine and education was kept to a basic level because they were expected to become servants, members of the army or navy or become apprentices. Reading was taught so that they could read the Bible not so that they could advance their lot. 27,000 children passed through the Hospital between 1739 and 1954 when it closed and children were then put into foster care.

Today there is the Foundling Museum at 40 Brunswick Square, London. While some important documentation dealing with the children's lives is on display here most is contained in the Foundling Hospital Archives housed at the London Metropolitan Archives. The museum website is: <http://www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk/>

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### ***London Branch Report Mary Seeley***

The next meeting of the London Branch will be on Saturday October 23, at the Society of Genealogists, when our speaker will be the Else Churchill, who will talk on Lost ancestors in London.

The meeting will take place between 2 and 4, and there will be refreshments provided afterwards in the SoG Common Room. Dates for 2011 will be announced as soon as bookings can be made.

The London branch met at the Society of Genealogists on 6 March for a Members Day on the theme Black Sheep or Local Hero?

There was a good turn-out, and the attendees included some new faces who had joined the Society only the previous week at the Who do you think you are? show at Olympia.

Let say there were more black sheep than heroes among our examples, although John PYMER revealed that as there was a Pymer Lane in Norwich and there are also roads in South London named after a Sir John Pymer who gave money to Sir John Alleyne to fund the foundation of Dulwich College.

Mr Pymer also had an ancestor who was transported to Australia in 1836, but who made good and became a prosperous sheep-farmer.

Incidentally, Mr Pymer would like to hear from anyone else with interests in PYMER (or PYMAR) families. His address is 40 Weavers House, New Wanstead, London E11

Les CROME had a complicated tale of possible bigamy in 18th century Dorset, involving James ABRAHAM and his wife, Sarah MILLER. The parish records of Evershot suggest that James may have taken a second wife, Mary ORCHARD, whilst Sarah was still living, and that Sarah herself had had a daughter as a result of an extra-marital affair. Such solutions were frequently employed by ordinary people who could not afford a divorce after a relationship broke down.

Les story triggered a discussion on wife-selling and marital status and how people regarded marriage in the past.

Mary GRISDALE had more from her BRADFIELD family, who had featured in Broadfields and Long Alleys at last year Members Day. In this case it was a sad little story of a squandered inheritance among the Stoke Ferry branch of the family.

Susan PORRETT had brought in the transcript of the 18th century will of her 4x great -grandfather William PORRETT's widow Martha (nee HIPKIN) – a fascinating document, as Martha meticulously distributes the entire content of her house and wardrobe among relatives, friends and servants - nothing is too small to be accounted for. She makes bequests of snuff-boxes, teaspoons, crockery and a net handkerchief. However, there is a sad story bound up in the codicil - as it seems one of the beneficiaries in the main will, the mother of an illegitimate child, has since been confined in an establishment called The Red House, which would seem to be a private lunatic asylum.

We also heard the story of Henry GROOM, hanged for robbery and murder at Norwich on May 1851, whose death-mask survives in the local archives, and Marion ATTEW told us of research into her family that had revealed illegitimate children, more suspected bigamy and a wife's love affair with the lodger!

So, when modern politicians complain about single parents, disintegrating marriages and crime rates, our ancestors have ably demonstrated that nothing is new and that in many cases Victorian values left a lot to be desired!



The **February** meeting was the usual cold damp evening, but our member help member session gave us all a warm glow. Our original remit was to work though a guide to genealogical research but we got focused on the benefit to family historians of researching Poll Books, Land Tax Assessments ,Militia Lists, Seafencibles, Invasion Census, and Bishops Transcripts.

From here we fell into talking about NORS and who had used it, who needs to send in their email address and how easy it was to use, or not. One member was thrilled that his email address was corrected within 24 hours, and not the 28 days the communication from NFHS had stated.

I shared with the group my positive experience of using the Dorset Online Parish Clerk last year. I have since learned that other counties have their own version. [Cornwall OPC](#), [Devon OPC](#), [Dorset OPC](#), [Essex OPC](#), [Hampshire OPC](#), [Kent OPC](#), [Leicestershire OPC](#), [Somerset OPC](#), [Sussex OPC](#), [Warwickshire OPC](#), [Wiltshire OPC](#).

One of our members posed a question about where we would deposit 20 volumes of a family war diary. They had originally been deposited in an archive, but have since been retrieved after a request to see them brought to light the fact that only one could be found, and the whereabouts of the others was unknown until some time later. Based on our own experience of using archived material we mustered a range of answers, but none I fear that a professional archivist would want to hear.

I drove home from the **March** meeting on a real high, after listening to Janka Rodewicz deliver her paper on life in late 14<sup>th</sup> century Great Yarmouth. I won't pretend I took everything on board, as there was so much new material. We are so lucky that this young lady chose to transcribe one of the most complete rolls in the country and base her Doctoral Thesis on this particularly unique set of records. At the time there was a male dominated court structure with women subordinate to men. Men and women were treated differently in the courts. Women unusually appear in the Great Yarmouth records as many of the husbands are at sea. Interestingly many female servants were freer than the women they worked for, and appeared in court with the backing of their employer.

There were four bailiffs and no Mayor, 28 burgers with many sub bailiffs who did most of the work.

For the **April** meeting Sarah Norcross-Robinson came to talk to us about conserving our heirlooms. Damp, extreme heat and woodworm are the undoing of most heirlooms and should be avoided at all costs. Various plastics wallets etc are available for the conservator, but the surprise was, that the properties of the plastic of an empty Ferreo Rocher box make an excellent storage container. Unfortunately I don't have much to preserve that is that size.

#### **FUTURE OF THE BRANCH:**

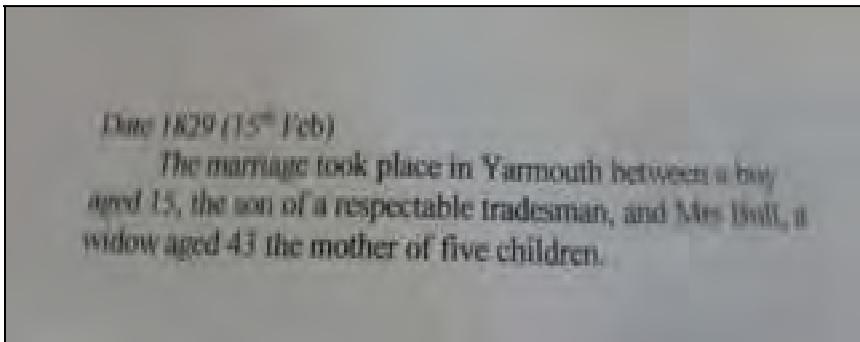
It is with regret that I am unable to continue to run the branch on a regular basis, even with Susan Roberts help. It is proposed, however, that the occasional member help member evening is held, in the hope that someone will come forward and take over the branch meetings.

#### **CUBITT MEDALS**

Many thanks to the members who got in contact re the whereabouts of the above medals. Your information is leading me on an interesting journey.

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**Editor's Note:** *Patricia Wills Jones found the following gem at an exhibition at Sidestrاند.*



*It says*

*"Date 1829 (15<sup>th</sup> Feb)  
The marriage took place in Yarmouth between a boy aged 15, the son of a respectable tradesman, and Mrs Bull, a widow aged 43 the mother of five children."*

## NORFOLK RECORD OFFICE REPORT FOR THE NORFOLK ANCESTOR

### New Parish Register Accessions 19 January–April 2010

Illington	baptisms	1813-1983
	burials	1813-1978
Middleton	burials	1859-2009
Little Plumstead	marriages	2005-2009
Thurne	baptisms	1917-2009
	burials	1813-2009

### Free Access to the 1911 Census returns to Norfolk

As part of a continuing partnership arrangement with The National Archives, in collaboration with UK-based family history website findmypast.com, a second phase of free public access to the 1911 census for NRO visitors began in late March. The Norfolk Record Office is the only archive in the East of England to have this facility, which has proved very popular. Access is *via* two computers in the NRO's searchroom and copies of census images can be printed at our usual charges.

### Exhibitions at The Archive Centre

*Norfolk and its North Sea World in the Late Middle Ages* continues in the Long Gallery until 13 July. For a taster, go to the NRO website, click on 'The Longer Gallery', then on the exhibition title. Roger Paxman, a Lynn merchant who was one of Jeremy Paxman's ancestors, is one of the people mentioned in a Lynn document relating to the national crisis of 1385-6, when England was threatened with a French invasion. Norfolk was in the front line of defence against a threat more serious than from the Spanish Armada two centuries later.

### Lunchtime Talks

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

Wednesday, 9 June. 'Sea, Sand and, sometimes, Sunshine: Seaside holidays in Norfolk'. Victoria Horth

Tuesday, 15 June: 'Princes, Paupers - and a Pope: a thousand years of refugees to Norfolk'. Frank Meeres

Friday, 18 June: 'Bitterness, Anger, Resentment, Contempt and Disillusionment': Anglo-Polish Relations after Yalta'. Clive Wilkins-Jones

Wednesday, 23 June: 'Henry Ainsworth of Swanton Morley', about the Separatist scholar whose Book of Psalms went out on the Mayflower and was used in America by the Pilgrim Fathers. David Stone

### **Other Refugee Week Events in Norwich**

Wednesday, 16 June, 2 p.m.-3.30 p.m.: 'Norwich, City of Refuge': a walk through the centre of Norwich with Frank Meeres, looking at the lasting impact made on the city landscape and environment by refugees over many hundreds of years.

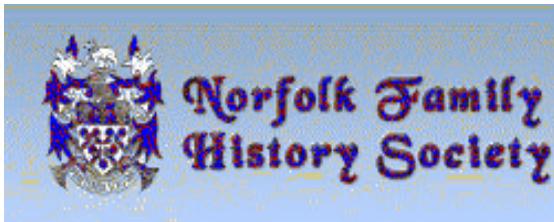
Free of charge, but places are limited: please book on (01603) 222599.

Throughout the entire week (14-20 June), a display of six panels outside the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library at the Forum will highlight the history of refugees to Norwich from the sixteenth century to the twentieth. Each will include information on the history of some of these refugees, along with images of a museum artefact, a library object or a document from the Norfolk Record Office, to illustrate their story. Opening times are: Monday- Sunday, 7 a.m.-12 midnight.

### **Summer Holiday Activities**

In July and August, the NRO will be running more of our free holiday activities for children and accompanying adults. Scheduled so far is 'Beaming through the Blitz: Life in Second World War Norfolk', (run by Melissa Hawker of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, it will include object handling, army drill and a meeting with a member of the Home Guard) on Monday, 2 August, from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., but more dates and topics will be announced soon. Places are limited on these popular sessions, so advance booking is essential.

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:** 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) –passwords dealt with by Judith Parks

### 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'.

**Look-ups:** 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:** a. 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.



## New Members and Members Interests June 2010

Email: [membershipsecretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

**Compiled by Jean Stangroom, Membership  
Secretary**

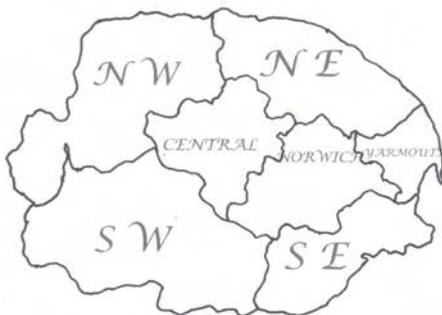
We regularly receive calls and emails from new members whose name and address have been published, but not their interests.

A new member's name and address may be received before the print deadline and therefore appear in one issue of the Journal, and their interests received after the print deadline and are therefore printed in the next issue.

We make every effort to keep this slippage to a minimum, but to make it easier for you to check your details and interests, the information on New Members and Members Interests will be in the middle of the Journal on tinted paper. You can then easily remove and keep these pages for future reference.

If we have made an error with your name or address please contact us as soon as possible so that we can correct the error.

**NB Please remember to supply your POSTCODE with your address.**



N = Central  
NE = North East  
NC = Norwich & District  
NW = North West  
SE = South East  
SW = South West

YM = Gt. Yarmouth

***Other areas are identified by  
Chapman codes; a copy of  
these can be obtained  
from Kirby Hall***

## 2. CHELSEA PENSIONER

In the March edition of the NA it was interesting to read about an ancestor who was a Chelsea Pensioner. Our research has uncovered an ancestor who was also a Chelsea Pensioner.

His name was William **Bateman**, our 3xGreat Grandfather. He was born in 1786 in Saxthorpe and his parents were Thomas Bateman and Judith **Neale**. He joined the West Essex 56th Regiment of Foot in 1804 and left in 1827. I obtained his discharge papers from the National Archives and they make fascinating reading. He served in India and Mauritius, protecting the island from the French.

He returned to Saxthorpe and married Ann Wade **Potter** around 1830. The family is mentioned in the 1851 census as living at Fulling Mill, Saxthorpe. Their daughter Charlotte was born in 1835 and she married Peter **Harrison** in 1867 in Horton, Northumberland. Peter had moved north to work in the coal mines. William Bateman died in 1869 in Corpusty. He must have had an amazing life surviving fighting, heat and diseases whilst in the army and then as a farm labourer in Saxthorpe.

*Peter Harrison, MN10769 4 Willow Heights, Lydney, Glos, GL15 5LR*

### DIANA SPELMAN BA

Norfolk Research Specialist  
(since 1982)

Medieval to Modern  
Family & Local History  
Latin translation  
Document transcription  
Manorial records  
Photography



*member*

74 Park Lane  
NORWICH NR2 3EF  
Tel: 01603 664186  
Email: [dianaspelman@waitrose.com](mailto:dianaspelman@waitrose.com)

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# 10 GENERATION RELATIONSHIP GUIDE.

	Parent	Grandparent	great Grandparent	2 x great Grandparent	3 x great Grandparent	4 x great Grandparent	5 x great Grandparent	6 x great Grandparent	7 x great Grandparent	8 x great Grandparent
<b>8 x great Grandparent</b>	7 x great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 8 x removed	2nd Cousin 7 x removed	3rd Cousin 6 x removed	4th Cousin 5 x removed	5th Cousin 4 x removed	6th Cousin 3 x removed	7th Cousin 2 x removed	8th Cousin 1 x removed	9th Cousin
<b>7 x great Grandparent</b>	6 x great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 7 x removed	2nd Cousin 6 x removed	3rd Cousin 5 x removed	4th Cousin 4 x removed	5th Cousin 3 x removed	6th Cousin 2 x removed	7th Cousin 1 x removed	8th Cousin	8th Cousin 1 x removed
<b>6 x great Grandparent</b>	5 x great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 6 x removed	2nd Cousin 5 x removed	3rd Cousin 4 x removed	4th Cousin 3 x removed	5th Cousin 2 x removed	6th Cousin 1 x removed	7th Cousin	7th Cousin 1 x removed	7th Cousin 2 x removed
<b>5 x great Grandparent</b>	4 x great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 5 x removed	2nd Cousin 4 x removed	3rd Cousin 3 x removed	4th Cousin 2 x removed	5th Cousin 1 x removed	6th Cousin	6th Cousin 1 x removed	6th Cousin 2 x removed	6th Cousin 3 x removed
<b>4 x great Grandparent</b>	3 x great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 4 x removed	2nd Cousin 3 x removed	3rd Cousin 2 x removed	4th Cousin 1 x removed	5th Cousin	5th Cousin 1 x removed	5th Cousin 2 x removed	5th Cousin 3 x removed	5th Cousin 4 x removed
<b>3 x great Grandparent</b>	2 x great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 3 x removed	2nd Cousin 2 x removed	3rd Cousin 1 x removed	4th Cousin	4th Cousin 1 x removed	4th Cousin 2 x removed	4th Cousin 3 x removed	4th Cousin 4 x removed	4th Cousin 5 x removed
<b>2 x great Grandparent</b>	great Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 2 x removed	2nd Cousin 1 x removed	3rd Cousin	3rd Cousin 1 x removed	3rd Cousin 2 x removed	3rd Cousin 3 x removed	3rd Cousin 4 x removed	3rd Cousin 5 x removed	3rd Cousin 6 x removed
<b>great Grandparent</b>	Grand Uncle / Aunt	1st Cousin 1 x removed	2nd Cousin	2nd Cousin 1 x removed	2nd Cousin 2 x removed	2nd Cousin 3 x removed	2nd Cousin 4 x removed	2nd Cousin 5 x removed	2nd Cousin 6 x removed	2nd Cousin 7 x removed
<b>Grandparent</b>	Uncle or Aunt	Cousin	1st Cousin 1 x removed	1st Cousin 2 x removed	1st Cousin 3 x removed	1st Cousin 4 x removed	1st Cousin 5 x removed	1st Cousin 6 x removed	1st Cousin 7 x removed	1st Cousin 8 x removed
<b>Parent</b>	Brother or Sister	Nephew or Niece	Grand Nephew/Niece	great Grand Nephew/Niece	2 x great Grand Nephew/Niece	3 x great Grand Nephew/Niece	4 x great Grand Nephew/Niece	5 x great Grand Nephew/Niece	6 x great Grand Nephew/Niece	7 x great Grand Nephew/Niece

Quick guide: 1) To find the relationship between two people find a common ancestor.

2) Find the common ancestor to person A down Column A.

3) Find the common ancestor to person B along Row B.

4) Where the two lines intersect is the relationship between the two people (A & B)

## THE AMYS FAMILY – EARLY DAYS

The name **AMYS** is probably French in origin – from *Ami*, a friend, maybe derived from the Latin, *Amicus*, a friend or lover. It appeared in England after the Norman invasion of 1066 and has its roots in East Anglia and mostly in Norfolk, where the name still exists.

The first **Amys** I meet is in the latter part of the twelfth century – he is a clerk employed by the monasteries and worked primarily for Bishop **William TURBE**, who died in 1174. His name is variously **Amis**, **Amicus**, **Amyas** and his name appears at the end of several of the early monastic deeds. If a young man wanted education in the twelfth century it was to the Church and the monasteries that he turned and **Amys** was a bishop's clerk or chaplain – the terms appear often to have been used interchangeably.

The wealth of the county at this time - through agriculture and through trade – is reflected in the amount of religious houses that were founded; there were a minimum of 150 religious houses, which included five nunneries. The first Benedictine monastery in Norfolk to be founded was **Saint Benet's Abbey**, re-established near the Broads, at **Ludham**, by King Canute in 1016 and the next most important Benedictine House was the one that was attached to Norwich Cathedral.

However, monks were easily outnumbered as witnesses to deeds by secular clerks and chaplains so I did not know at this stage whether **Amys** belonged to a religious order or was a secular clerk.

His name appears as a witness in a deed from **Lewes Priory** in 1161-73, which concerned the confirmation for the monks of the Church of All Saints, **Foulden** and another from the same Priory about general confirmation for the monks of their possessions in the diocese of Norwich. In the same period also he witnesses a charter from St Mary's Abbey, **York** which is a grant to the monks for the use of the Church of Banham with provision for a vicarage.

Then in a deed for **Castle Acre Priory**, written between 1166 – 70, which was a notification of the settlement of a dispute between Prior **Henry** and the Convent and **Ralph de Playz** concerning the advowson of Methwold Hythe, his name appears as a witness – **Amicus** clericus, and his name is at the end of a deed for **Binham Priory** in 1171 - 4, which was a general confirmation for the monks of their possessions – here again he is **Amicus**, clericus.

In the same time frame there are two deeds of Norwich Cathedral Priory where his name appears – one is about the confirmation for the monks of the

Church of St Peter, **Hoxne** and the other about a grant in perpetuity to the monks of half of all the assarts made or to be made in **Thorpe**.

Then he witnesses a much later deed from probably circa 1178 – 1189, under **Bishop John** of **Oxford**, concerning **Castle Acre** Priory and the institution of **Roger the Clerk** to the perpetual vicarage of the Church of St. Mary, **Great Dunham**.

However the deed that most pertains to him, written probably in 1188 – 1189, appears to confirm that he is now a parson. It is concerned with the institution of **Robert**, clerk of **Wymondham**, to the perpetual vicarage of the church of St Andrew, **Colton**, at the presentation of Master **Amyas**, parson of the Church, with the assent of Prior **DONATUS** and the convent. He should render to the parson an annual pension of four marks and to the monks two marks as a benefice. So maybe he was always a chaplain rather than a secular clerk.

My trawl through the thirteenth century netted very little except that the name was around in East Anglia – this century unfortunately is out of the reach of most Manorial Court records. There was for instance a **Robert Amis** living in Suffolk in 1221 who was known as *the Frenchman* and there was a **Rogerus filius Amis** mentioned in the Chartulary of **Ramsey Abbey** in Norfolk circa 1250.

In the Hundred Rolls of 1273/4 there is an **Adam Amys** in Cambridgeshire and in Lothingland, Suffolk. They record: *Osbert son of Lena, in the time of King Henry the Elder held of him in chief one gersumary socage fee in the same town, at the annual rent of 12d, whereof Robert son of Alan holds by inheritance 2 acres and 1 rood paying for the same yearly to the lord King 6d; Alice daughter of Amis and Emma her sister, the co-heirs of the aforesaid socage, holds 2 acres of land, paying for the same yearly to the lord King 6d; and there are others who hold the residue of the aforesaid socage fee of the aforesaid Robert, Alice and Amis.* And further on they record that *Osbert son of Lena held 1 socage fee for 12d a year, whereas Robert son of Alan and Alice daughter of Amis hold 4 acres and 1 rood for the same service, and others hold the residue from the aforesaid Robert, Alice and Amis.*

The fourteenth century I found much more profitable – there was an **Amys** family living in the Launditch Hundred, west of Norwich, not too far from **Colton** where Master **Amyas** had his parish. In 1307 there was a *feoffment* by **Walter Amys of Skerningg** (Scarning) to his son **John** in tail of a messuage which he acquired from **Emma** his sister there; rent 1d at

*Michaelmas Wednesday before the apostles Simon and Jude (October 28<sup>th</sup>)  
1 Edward II.*

Then in 1315 a case was brought before the Launditch Criminal Court: *Walter Bradenham was taken on the appeal of the aforesaid Reginald son of Hamon, hanged approver, who appealed him of being in his company at night + for stealing from Henry Gurewhant at Beeston one red horse + then leading it to the home of Walter in Bradenham. He also appealed him of stealing twenty lambs from Edmund Bretoun at night in Sparham Necton. He comes and is returned to prison because of the default of the jury. Afterwards he is released on bail. One of the jury was Robert Amys.*

In another case *John Peppe was taken on the appeal of Reginald hanged approver who appealed to the same John of being in his company when they stole seven sheep from the fold of Uphalle at Ashley. Christine, wife of John the same approver, accused of receiving the stolen seven sheep. Gilbert Wyther of Honton, Richard Wither, John Wither and John Rokyn of Swaffam were taken on the appeal of the same approve for several crimes. They are released to the bailiff of Mitford Liberty. John Peppe and Christine are tried at the suit of the King. They are returned to prison because of the default of the jury. Afterwards they are released on bail. Again Robert Amys was one of the good men and true of this jury.*

In the following year there is a *Release by John, son of Walter Amys of Skerning to his brother William of his right in land there. Friday after the Translation of Thomas the Martyr (July 7<sup>th</sup>).* This is followed by the *Foeffment by William son of Walter Amys of Skerning to Robert son of Adam Shepherd (bercatori) dwelling there and Maud his wife of a piece of land with buildings in Skerning. Friday after the translation of Thomas the Martyr.*

Then in 1327 there is the first glimpse of my earliest proven ancestor, **Henry Amys**, in the Lay Subsidy Roll for Barton Turf.

These Subsidy Rolls are yet another example of quite amazing survivors. When **Edward III** ascended the throne in 1327, after the brutal murder of his father, **Edward II**, he immediately demanded money for his Scottish wars – hence this subsidy tax. The Subsidies were a personal property tax paid by the lay inhabitants on the value of goods surplus to those regarded as necessities. Clergy and religious institutions were assessed only where property was held in a personal capacity or had been recently acquired.

The Subsidy for 1327 was one twentieth. **Henry Amys** was taxed for 18d, which means his personal goods were worth 30 shillings – quite respectable

for the village he was living in where the majority of villagers were taxed 6d. The next Subsidy tax was in 1332 where the Subsidy was levied at the rate of one fifteenth. Henry was taxed for 2 shillings so again his goods were worth 30 shillings.

There was also another Henry on the village list – **Henry Mayes** who was taxed on 16d, with goods worth £1. The Mayes family certainly came from the Broadland area, so there is a possibility I had two ancestors in the same village.

I met Henry Amys twice more; **Anthony NORRIS**, the well-known eighteenth century antiquarian, who himself lived in Barton Turf and is buried in the Chapel of Saint Thomas, writes *The first of this family of the Amys's that I meet here in Barton was Henry Amys in the year 1334 from which time I meet with them frequently to Edward Amys in 1505 + Christopher Amys in 1506 (both sons of Thomas Amys who died in 1495)*. The second is in a deed of 1338 where he is purchasing land in Hoveton Saint John:

*Memorandum that Thomas NORMAN came to full court in Norwich on the Monday nearest to June 18<sup>th</sup>... in the twelfth year of our lord King Edward III after the Conquest. And has granted and by this single present charter confirmed that Henry Ameys, John de Haddon of Netesherde, chaplain, and John BOYTON of Horningge and to their heirs and assigns all his messuages as well as the demesnes, buildings and also the appurtenances that... abut onto the King's Highway towards the south and up to the Royal river towards the north to have and to hold by the aforesaid Henry, John and John + their heirs + assigns from the chief lords of that fee by the services thence owed by custom in this recent charter.*

**Peter Mayes MN3420**, Nut Tree House, Bloxham, Oxon, OX15 4PH  
email: [petermayes@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:petermayes@tiscali.co.uk)

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## NORFOLK NATIVE DIES AT INFAMOUS US CIVIL WAR PRISON

When he was fourteen-years-old, **James BRETT**, my 2xgt uncle, came to the United States. At twenty-four years old, he died at the Confederate Prison Camp at Andersonville, Georgia. The young man, born in Swaffham, had come a long way to lose his life at a tender age at this infamous site in the U.S. Civil War.

James BRETT was the grandson of **William BRETT** and **Elizabeth RICHES** of Swaffham. William and Elizabeth's son, **Thomas BRETT** married **Martha HAYLETT** on 8 Dec 1823 in Great Dunham and had seven children, all baptized in Swaffham. James was born 27 August 1839, the youngest of the seven children. After his mother died in 1850, James came to the U.S. arriving at New York on 27 July 1854. With him were his father, Thomas Brett; and other family members; sisters Eliza Brett and Hannah Brett Parsons; Hannah's husband, John **PARSONS**; their children, John H, Ben and Rosetta; and brother Thomas Haylett Brett. They joined another sister and her family in Niagara County, New York.

While the three daughters stayed near the famous Falls, the 1860 U.S. census shows that Thomas and his two sons moved to Illinois where they farmed. James' brother, Thomas Haylett Brett married Mary; and had a son, George H. in Ashkum, Iroquois County, Illinois. James Brett married Marie Antoinette AYRS 3 November 1860, and they had a daughter, Henrietta, born 30 August 1861.

James joined the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry in the late summer of 1862. He was five feet four inches tall with fair skin, light hair and blue eyes. As a private, his pay would have been about \$13.00 or 8 pounds per month. Advanced pay and bonuses enticed people like him to enlist.

On Sept 4, 1862, the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois was ordered to go to Louisville, Kentucky where they organized themselves with similar units from nearby states. In October, the regiment saw battle in Kentucky, and over the New Year it was fighting in Tennessee. In Sept 1863, it was in Georgia and joined the Chickamauga campaign where James Brett was taken prisoner on 20 Sept 1863, the second day of the Battle of Chickamauga, the last major Confederate victory.

The Civil War prison at Andersonville did not open until February 1864 so James was held somewhere else before then. Most Confederate prison camps were near the Confederate capitol, Richmond, Virginia, a location that became less secure as union troops pressed south. In the early months, 400 prisoners a day were sent to Andersonville by train. A stockade fence enclosed about 16.5 acres, thought by the commanding officer to be enough room for 10,000 men. By June, there were about 20,000 prisoners, and it was decided to enlarge the space by 10 acres. Over 33,000 prisoners were

held in the bigger 26.5 acre prison camp by August, but James did not live to see this scene. He died of scurvy on 25 July 1864 and was buried in grave number 3940, one of the 13,000 men who died during the fifteen months it operated.

Overcrowding was not the only issue that made this camp a symbol for the atrocities visited on prisoners of war. Lack of food and the means to cook and distribute it were contributing factors. On the very day, James died, Andersonville's commanding officer reported to his superiors that he had 29,400 prisoners, guarded by 2650 troops and 500 negroes and laborers and no rations. He requested that a ten day supply of food be on hand at all times, but the regular Confederate troops were rationed only one day in advance, so this was going to happen. The camp did not have a central kitchen, although there was a bakery for a short time. The men were divided into smaller units or messes of about 90 men, and they were expected to cook their own food, but the wood needed was in short supply as well. As conditions in the South deteriorated, the grain or cornmeal given the inmates came with husks still on it and is thought to have contributed to deaths from intestinal complaints such as dysentery and diarrhoea.

Federal General Sherman occupied nearby Atlanta, GA in Sept so the rebel army began moving prisoners from the camp, and there were some signs of better treatment. Before Christmas, they began to move some men back, and the prisoners numbered about 5000 until the end of the war in April 1865.

After the war, Thomas BRETT moved back to Niagara County, NY and died at the home of one of his daughters, Rachel BARKER, in March 1875. His second son, Thomas Haylett BRETT lived in Ingham County, Michigan from at least 1870 onward. James' widow, Marie remarried James CLOKE on Christmas Day, 1870 and had five more children.

### **Susan Well, MN4004**

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## POISONING AT OUTWELL

At Norwich Assizes on Friday week (c11th August 1850) Hannah Neale, 29, a woman of dubious aspect, was charged with the wilful murder of Wm. Neale her husband at Outwell. She pleaded not guilty, Mr Tozer appeared for the prosecution and Mr Naylor defended the prisoner.

**Hester Neale** the sister of W. Neale claimed she was living with them last July. William and Hannah had been married ten years and had three children living with them plus an Aunt Elizabeth Neale, who is deaf and dumb. An Uncle of hers, Mr Lent was also living in the house in June. She saw him take something out of his pocket, "I believe it was mercury. He was afraid his housekeeper was going to poison herself. It resembled a white powder and was put on the mantelpiece but I did not see the prisoner with it. She'd said she had thrown it away. My brother was taken ill on July 16<sup>th</sup> after that the prisoner sent me for half a pint of beer. I fetched the beer, which she boiled and then put with it an egg which she said she thought would do him good. The prisoner gave it to him. He had not taken it long before he threw it up again. I saw some more given to him by the prisoner on the following Saturday night. He threw it all up again. On Sunday she'd made him some bread gruel. He threw that up also. I remained in the house till my brother died on Wednesday between three and four o' clock in the afternoon. On the previous Saturday he was weak enough to go to his work. In addition to the sickness there was considerable action on the bowels".

Hester went to the lockup after Hannah was taken into custody. Hannah asked her what she had been saying. Hester told her she hadn't been saying anything about the mercury. Hester admitted she had been at the Doctor's on Tuesday night before her brother died, and bought some white looking medicine home. "I got a teacup and she poured out two tablespoonfuls of that medicine and gave it to my brother. She gave him his medicine only once or twice I generally gave it to him." The witness was cross examined for some considerable time and spoke of the ordinary attention of a wife to a sick husband having been paid by the prisoner.

**John Butcher** of Outwell, apprentice to Mr Whittaker a grocer and general dealer, gave evidence that Hannah purchased on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July a penny worth of arsenic which she said she wanted to kill mice with.

**Henry Whitaker** corroborated the above and said he knew the deceased and had heard that he was suffering from a disease for which mercury (which was often called arsenic) was used.

**Mary Ann Feast** of Outwell deposed to selling Hannah on the 21<sup>st</sup> July some arsenic. She said it was to kill black beetles with.

**Hannah Yallop** deposed that the prisoner had requested her to sell her some arsenic but she declined

**John Neal** father of the deceased said he went to his house and during his illness his wife appeared to take care of him and attend to him, "I was with him shortly before he died and a good deal before his death. During the whole time that I was there she did every thing for his comfort. I recollect him speaking about dying".

**Frances Hazel** old woman, wife of the parish clerk at Outwell offered corroborative evidence: as did also **Elizabeth Butterfield** and another witness.

**Charles Priest** a policeman said he took the prisoner on July 23rd and she remained in custody until July 31<sup>st</sup>. Her parents came to see her and said "it is a pity my girl that you should suffer for your husband killing himself". She said "Well mother if I am hanged for it I never gave him anything but what the doctor ordered."

**Mr John Tubbs** surgeon of Upwell, attended William during the illness which caused his death and applied analytical tests to the intestines of the deceased, as the result of which he found arsenous acid which he restored to arsenic in a metallic state.

**Mr C W Thurgas** and **Mr G W Frith** both Surgeons of Norwich, gave evidence to the effect that they had submitted a portion of the remains of the decease to chemical analysis and had discovered unequivocal traces of arsenic in them.

**Mr Naylor** then addressed the jury for the defence.

His Lordship summed up at great length, dividing the evidence very clearly into that which was in favour of and that which was against the prisoner. The grounds of suspicion will be seen in the evidence for the prosecution. The principal circumstances in her favour were her general kindness to the husband, the absence of any haste, the number of persons who had access to the arsenic, coupled with the careless manner in which it was laid about the house and lastly the fact that the bottle from which the prisoner was supposed to have administered the poison was found with some small portion of fluid in it and this contained no metallic poison. The medicine was almost always given when other parties were present.

The jury after ten minutes deliberation returned a verdict of 'Not Guilty'

[In the above case the learned judge Lord Campbell directed that the sum of five pounds shall be handed to Mr Tubbs for his attention in the making and explaining the chemical analysis which amount that the gentleman has since received.]

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

## NARBROUGH, NARBOROUGH or De NARBURGH ?

I have been researching my family history for several years now, especially since retiring early some three years ago. With roots in England but having lived in Scotland for about forty years, this has meant much use of the internet. Thank heavens for broadband! I started with a rough family tree my cousin began years ago, by visiting Somerset House. On-line and with a few certificates from the GRO I have worked this up as far as I can, coming to a halt with my 4x great grandfather William **NARBROUGH** born in Birmingham in 1757. The approach I followed was to trawl any and all records I could find and enter them into a Brother's Keeper database. I also made contacts and received useful information from people contacted through Ancestry & Genes ReUnited, but nothing helped me get further back from William Narbrough in Birmingham.

A nephew's visit to Narborough a few years ago mirrored something my late father had said many years earlier. They both reported there had been a family called de Narburgh associated with Narburgh/Narborough in Norfolk in the late 12<sup>th</sup> Century. My database contained references to some of them as well as a tree starting with Gregorie (or Gregory) **Narborough**, father of John, later Admiral Sir John **Narbrough**, one of three Norfolk men who worked in turn with Samuel Pepys building the foundations of the Royal Navy during the Stuart period. I also had an extensive tree commencing with Thomas **Narborough** (Narbrough, Narboro or Narbro) born around 1787 in Terrington St Clements in Norfolk.

The inescapable observation I had to make was that virtually none of the individual records I had found originated from anywhere other than Norfolk. So the time had come to visit Birmingham and Norfolk, but I felt Norfolk promised more and would start there. I had joined NFHS and looked at their on-line index, just as I had with Norfolk's County Archives at the Archive Centre. I had checked that NFHS would have a number of books and references available at Kirby Hall for me to see before buying. The assistance I received at Kirby Hall and at the Archive Centre was tremendous and I must thank all concerned at both venues for their help and advice.

One of the books I purchased was "The Book of Narborough" by David Turner. He talks about the De Narburgh family and how their name as Lords of the Manor of Narborough died out when Ela de Narburgh inherited the manor and married Thomas Shouldham, then Henry Spelman, Recorder of Norwich. Ela's son, also Thomas Shouldham, bequeathed the manor to his half-brother John Spelman. The Spelman's controlled the manor until their name married out into the Marriott family. The De Narburghs and Spelmans were apparently settled in the manor for around six hundred years.

There were a few other de Narburghs around at this time, including Hugh, vicar of Narborough in 1308-9 and Joan (Johanna) de Narburgh, Abbess at Marham Abbey at least from 1446 to 1471. Narborough's church has been extensively remodelled and has little clear evidence of the de Narburgh family apart from the 13<sup>th</sup> century tomb to Dame Agatha de Narburgh, who died in 1293, leaving instructions for her heart to be buried there. David Turner suggests that "although no more de Narburghs are recorded in the village, it is thought that branches of the family settled in Norfolk". He suggests that Admiral Sir John Narbrough was a descendant from one of these branches, but none of his male offspring survived to have children. I too think this is the only logical conclusion, but I do not have any firm evidence yet, just open branches on existing trees or parts of trees.

My recent visit to Norwich and to Narborough, has provided much useful information in my search for connections. I found more than one version of the De Narburgh-Spelman family tree and references to both the Freemen and Constables of Norwich, which often mention who was the father of the particular individual. Feoffment and Apprenticeship documents have helped identify fathers and sons as well as the occasional wife or daughter, but far and away the most helpful sources have been wills and probate documents, apart from those in Latin! So now in my database I have got my own family tree *i.e. that of William Narbrough b.1757 in Aston, Birmingham*, the tree of Thomas Narborough b.1787 in Terrington St. Clements, Norfolk, a tree beginning with Gregorie Narborough whose son John Narbrough was baptised in 1640 in Cockthorpe, Norfolk and a variety of "bushes" or small family groups in the period from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. I think that one of these Norfolk based Narbroughs or Narboroughs, as the de Narburghs became, must have moved to Birmingham in or by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

The challenge now for me is to try to find more links between the individual records and then to try searching in the archives in the Aston & Birmingham area. If any one has information, however small, relating to the names De Narburgh, Narburgh, Narbor(r)ow, Narbro, Narboro, Narbrough & Narborough I would greatly appreciate it.

Even within my own direct family both Narbrough & Narborough are used, thanks to one individual who joined the Army underage and became Narborough. Producing a birth certificate to correct the spelling wasn't an option and would have influenced his pension rights. I will be sending copies of the significant trees I have to Kirby Hall. Additionally, I would welcome any advice about the movement of people from Norfolk towards the Midland and Birmingham, particularly associated with metal working since my earliest blood relatives were involved in trades like wire-drawing and later even in gun-making.

**Steve Narbrough MN12089 – [Narbrough@btinternet.com](mailto:Narbrough@btinternet.com)**

## ROGER DOWNING OF LOPHAM – a Cautionary Tale.

I am descended from the **Downings** of Diss and the general area around, including Roydon and Bressingham. My earliest identified ancestor was Thomas **Downing**, who married Katernyn **Cooper** in Diss on October 15<sup>th</sup> 1568.

I was therefore somewhat excited to find a reference in *The Genealogist*, Volume 29, 1913, “*Grants of Arms*” by Arthur J. Jewers, stating that a Grant of Arms had been made to a Roger Downing of Lopham, Norfolk, in 1576. Since Lopham is just a few miles from Diss (more precisely North and South Lopham), and people with Arms are often well-documented, I thought that if I could find a connection with Roger it might lead me to some new ancestry. A puzzling fact then came along – it appeared that the same Arms had been granted the same year to Arthur Downing of Lexham, Norfolk. Lexham is about 25 miles north of Lopham.

Both Grants are referenced in “*Dictionary of Suffolk Crests*” by the late Joan Corder, Suffolk Records Society/Boydell, 1998, which includes some data about Norfolk because of the proximity of the counties:

**DOWNING, Roger**, of Lopham, co. Norf.; Grant by R. Cooke, Clar., 14 August 1576. *Grants & Certificates (Stowe 700)*. An arm embowed habited in mail Proper tied round the wrist with a riband Or [or Or and Vert] holding in the hand an arrow Argent barbed and flighted Or.

**DONNYNGE, DOWNING, DOWNYNG**, of co. Norfolk. '**Arthur donnyng**', MS Knight's Visitations, Norf.\*. Muskett. I.96. An arm embowed armed (mantique?) Proper (eschafroned?) towards the sinister Vert holding in the hand a broad arrow Argent plumed and pointed Or.

This was even more promising, because Arthur Downing is well documented, being connected with the family of Sir George Downing (1623-1684) which has been extensively researched. The fact that the two Grants were of the same Arms must surely mean that the two men were connected, I reasoned – maybe brothers. However, the more I looked for Roger, the more I couldn't find him in any records.

Eventually I wrote to the College of Arms, who offered to research the Grant (for a suitable fee). In due course they reported that the Grant to Roger had indeed been made, but they did not have a copy because they didn't keep these until 1673; however the original Grant was in the British Library in the collection *Stowe 700*. They had no further information about Roger, but Arthur was listed in “*Burkes Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies*”, 1844.

Some time after this I got a “Eureka” moment - maybe Roger and Arthur were the same person! Lexham and Lopham could easily be mistaken for each other, and maybe if the writing is bad enough so could the two given names.

A couple of years passed during which I thought of visiting the British Library, but living near Southampton I never got round to it. During 2009 I finally got motivated and investigated the BL website to find out if and how I could see *Stowe 700*. It didn't look promising – you have to apply in person for a Reader's Ticket, undergo an interview to see if you are suitable, and if the document you want to see is an illustrated manuscript you probably won't be allowed to see it anyway; that and the fact that some documents take 48 hours to produce meant that I could spend a lot of time and money getting nowhere. I therefore e-mailed the BL explaining what I wanted to research, and they sent a very helpful reply, saying that *Stowe 700* is a large collection of documents, that Roger Downing is not indexed in the list of contents, and politely suggesting that I should employ a researcher versed in reading old documents, giving me a list of suitable people. (As I had always suspected, the scenes on TV documentaries with David Dimbleby carelessly meandering through the vaults of the British Library plucking volumes out of the shelves are total eyewash).

I contacted one of the researchers, who quoted a cost that wasn't much more than it would be for me to get to London for two day trips, and decided to go ahead.

A few days later I got an excited e-mail from her, saying that I was right, the name in *Stowe 700* had indeed been mistranscribed; it does actually say Arthur of Lexham, although she said that with hindsight she could see how the mistake could have been made.

So there never was a Roger Downing of Lopham!

I feel somewhat miffed that the College of Arms is happy to be paid to quote third party research without checking the veracity; after six months I have yet to hear any comment from them after I told them of the error. Always check your sources they say – how far should/can you go?

I am left with an uncomfortable feeling though – my new source is still a third party researcher, and I can never see the document for myself, but the conclusions do make sense. I could never understand why two different men would be given the same Arms at the same time, and the College of Arms couldn't explain this to another Downing researcher who asked the same question, but it didn't seem to bother them. So - Caveat Emptor.

**Adrian Abbott MN7465**

## The TRACEY and BLAIZIE Conundrum

**TRACEY** is my mother's maiden name and from this I was able to trace her branch back to my gtx2 grandparents on the 1851 Census for Banham, Norfolk, James TRACEY born Brentwood, Essex about 1812 and Sophia born Banham about 1813. By obtaining a copy of the birth certificate for their child, Eliza TRACEY born 25 May 1838, Sophia's maiden name was confirmed as **REVELL**.

The TRACEY family can be seen on all Banham censuses to 1911 and my gtx2 grandparents disappear after the 1881 census when they were shown as still living in Banham. During my searches of electronic records (I live in Germany and therefore searching Parish Records was not practical), there were a number of obvious 'gaps' in the data:

- JAMES and SOPHIA TRACEY could not be traced on the 1841 Census
- The registration of the birth of my gtx2 grandfather Alfred TRACEY born Banham about 1859 was not found
- The registration of the deaths of James and Sophia TRACEY could not be traced.

In September 2009 I visited Norwich and spent some time examining parish records for Banham and started with the earliest proven fact I had, the birth of Eliza TRACEY. I examined the baptismal records and found a Mary TRACEY born 17th February 1836 and christened on 19th February 1836 with father and mother shown as James TRACEY and Sophia. This was followed by Eliza BLACEY born 25th May 1838 and christened 7th June 1838.

As I had a copy of her birth certificate, I thought little of this difference between parish record and what was actually registered by the parents.....until I got to child number 9, Caroline TRACEY christened 25th February 1854. After the entry, the Vicar had written "(properly BLAZY)".

Immediately I looked at the parish records for the marriage of James and Sophia. What I found was that James BLAIZIE married Sophia REVELL in Banham on 9th May 1831. I then went back to search baptism records again from this date and found James BLAIYCE christened on 8th June 1834, with father and mother James and Sophia (late REVELL).

Later, from electronic records I found that Mary TRACEY married as Mary BLASEY in about December 1862, and that my gt-grandfather was registered for birth as Alfred John with the informant shown on the birth certificate as Sophiar BLAZEY. Further, by obtaining death certificates, I found that James TRACEY'S death was registered as James BLAZEY, who

died Banham 23rd April 1888, although the transcriber has entered this as BLAZER. Sophia's death certificate shows her registered as Sophia BLAZEY, who died 3rd January 1890 in Banham.

I finally found their 1841 census entry by searching the whole of the Banham census, and then could only find it initially on Findmypast.co.uk. It appears as an entry for James BLAGER, but knowing the name I looked for was BLAZEY it was obvious this had been mis-transcribed. I still do not know how to access the entry on the Ancestry site direct. I find it by accessing the data for someone else on the same page.

The mystery is - Why did the family change from BLAZIE (or one of the other spellings) to TRACEY and why, while they lived almost their entire married life in Banham as TRACEY, are there intermittent registrations in the original family name?

**David Howes MN11649**

### **TWO MEN FROM LYNN – BURIALS**

Burials at Dalton-le-Dale, Co. Durham extracted from the Bishop's Transcripts (Durham Diocese) found on the Family Search Website ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) under "Pilot Record Search" from the drop-down menu under SEARCH. Unfortunately Dalton-le-Dale appears as Calton-le-Dale.

**SOCKBURN** John – 5 August 1835, aged 31 (PBT/2/70/128).

There is a note beneath his name "Master Mariner (fell overboard and was drowned in Seaham Harbour)."

**SINGLETON** Thomas – 11 June 1837, aged 19 (PBT/2/70/196)

**M Bolam MN10407**

### **RECORD TIP**

With the next English census imminent and others across the world taking place this year we all will be receiving forms. These will need to be completed and returned to a Government Office where data is extracted and the document archived away for the prescribed time period before being released to our descendants at a cost; be typed cynically.

Why not treat it as family document, copy it and file the copy with your certificates.

**Sheela Banham MN8948**

## THE SOFTLY FAMILY OF WESTACRE: SCHOOL RECORDS NEVER LIE!

Although I cannot (annoyingly) pinpoint the one event which first kick-started my quest to trace my family history, it may well have been a family day trip when I was about 9 years old, from our home in Bury St Edmunds to the small, picturesque village of Westacre, about 5 miles North-West of Swaffham. I have a photograph of me and my younger sister standing either side of a large headstone in the churchyard on this beautiful summer's day. The subjects of this gravestone are my gtx2 grandparents Robert (1846-1934) and Sarah Ann (1846-1916) **SOFTLY**, and after having explored other Softly family gravestones, we walked the short distance to the old forge where, my father told us, Robert Softly had lived and worked as blacksmith with his family. Looking back it is clear that this visit to my ancestors' village left a huge impression on me, as it has on every subsequent visit. Westacre is so unspoilt that it seems to exist in a time warp.

When I first started my family history research, it did not take me long to build a fairly comprehensive tree of the Softly family of Westacre. Thankfully (and unlike some of my more disobliging ancestors), the Softly family had remained in the same village from the 1770s (and probably earlier) until the late 1900s. The parish registers and the various census returns provide a clear picture of the family moving up in the world from Thomas Softly (c1776-1844) the lowly agricultural labourer to his son John (1810-1876) and his two sons after him - John (1849-1923) and Robert, my gtx2 grandfather - skilled blacksmiths and respected working class members of the small village community. All branches of the family had the usual fairly large (by today's standards) broods of children. Unfortunately no photographs exist of the Softlys in Westacre and so I had used my imagination to build up a picture of their life in this rural Norfolk village. Regrettably, also, there are few extant further village or parish records apart from the admissions register and log books of the National School which opened in Westacre in 1876 and served the village and outlying hamlets until its closure in 1951. And so my attention was naturally drawn to these records which proved a treasure trove of information about my ancestor's daily lives including a few surprises.

School log books are widely recognised as a useful source to verify genealogical information gleaned from family reminiscences, GRO certificates and census returns. The Westacre National School log books proved no exception. Brothers Robert and John Softly must have been delighted at the opening of a new school in the village. Both had started a family with their wives (Sarah Ann née **Noller**, my gtx2 grandmother, and Susan née **Williamson** (1845-1910) in the late 1860s and early 1870s, and they were now able to give their children the opportunity of more than basic literacy as well as allow the girls to learn some important domestic skills

such as sewing. According to the first log book and admissions register, Robert and Sarah Ann's two eldest offspring, Robert (b.1869) and Harriett (b.1872), were among the school's very first intake of fifty-nine pupils when it opened its doors on 23rd October 1876. They were followed barely a week later by John and Susan's eldest daughter, Edith Rose (b.1872) known as Rosa.

From information contained in their entries in the new school's admission register all three children had been enrolled previously in the Dame School in Westacre. Clearly the National School, whose timetable was to be regulated and the work subject to yearly inspections, offered a better standard of education than the children's former school (which had probably taught the basics of reading and writing only). The elder Softly children were soon followed by a procession of the two families' other children, most starting in the infants' class at the tender age of three.

As well as providing essential information for each pupil such as full name, date of birth, date of admission, name and address of parents, and date of leaving, the Westacre admission register (completed in a pre-printed book and therefore standard to all National Schools of the time) also serves as a record of the various standards of attainment each pupil reached (and had reached at any previous school attended). For example, this transcription of the entry for my great-grandmother reads:

<i>Date of Admission:</i>	<i>4 March 1878</i>
<i>Full Name:</i>	<i>Sarah Ann Softly</i>
<i>Date of Birth:</i>	<i>23 February 1873</i>
<i>Name and Address of Parents:</i>	<i>Robert &amp; Sarah Softly, Westacre</i>
<i>Last School Attended:</i>	<i>[None]</i>
<i>Date of Presentation in Successive Standard:</i>	<i>III October 1884</i>
<i>Date of Leaving:</i>	<i>November 1885.</i>

While Sarah Ann (1873-1940) could not be considered an outstanding scholar, she was certainly the first of her siblings and cousins to attain such a high standard. However her level was soon matched and bettered by younger siblings. But it was one of their cousins, Ethel (b.1888), who surpassed them all by passing the sixth standard in 1902. Given the time, it would be interesting, perhaps, to follow the careers of the Softly children through the available records to see whether academic success such as Ethel's allowed her to secure a better-paid or more respectable job.

School log books are one of my favourite genealogical sources as they usually contain a detailed account of the life of the community in which the school was situated as well as providing some interesting information about particular pupils. As might be expected in an agricultural community, the Westacre National School log books are littered with entries of children -

mostly boys - being absent for short periods of time for work in the fields (and some "illegal" - presumably under-age - according to the teacher). The log books also follow the various sicknesses to sweep the village, including mumps, measles and scarlet fever, some so widespread and infectious that it caused the school to be closed so as to avoid further infection. Female pupils came and went, temporarily "minding baby" or permanently for other such reasons such as:

*20th September 1895: Bridget Softly left, her mother having the New Post Office wanted assistance; and*

*30th March 1900: Violet Softly left – wanted at home.*

Despite the academic successes of some of the Softly children, they were clearly a mixed bunch, as might be expected within large families. The following entries may seem harshly worded but clearly summed up the teacher's frustration: *13th November 1891: Moved children up to a higher class and commenced their new Standard Work. Mary Softly and Sydney Baxter (III) have not been advanced, as they are dull and backward – consequently not fit to be put up a class; and*

*2nd November 1894: Transferred 1<sup>st</sup> Class Infants to First Standard, and with three exceptions (I Softly, E Bailey & L Nobbs), who are very dull and backward) moved each Standard up to its new work.*

Oh dear! What an embarrassment it must have been for the Softly parents for their children to be singled out in such a manner. Happily, though, the admissions register tells us that both girls (Mary (b.1881) and Ida (b.1901)) went on to pass their fifth Standard. However, one begins to wonder whether the teacher did not altogether take to the extended Softly family as the following rather alarming entries occur a few years before:

*25th July 1888: Sent W Softly and several others home on Tuesday morning after their school fees;*

*10th August 1888: Sent W Softly home for his school pence (second week). He has not attended school since. This family is very troublesome concerning the payment of fees. Yet there is no excuse their father being a blacksmith; and*

*22nd March 1889: Wm Softly left for field work, his attendance has been very unsatisfactory for several months past.*

Siding with my ancestors - as I might be expected naturally to do - the reference to a whole family being nothing but trouble seems rather unfair. Despite the log book being a comprehensive blow-by-blow account of such problems, no reference can be found to similar occurrences by other

members of the family. So perhaps William (b. 1877) was just the black sheep of the family - the admissions register shows him as only having attained his first standard by the time he left. Nevertheless, he provides another possible interesting avenue for further exploration when time allows.

I am pleased, however, to end with a rather more happy entry from the log book:

*15th July 1898: On Monday afternoon time began half-an-late [sic] to enable Master to attend Church at the marriage of Sarah Softly (an old scholar).*

At least the whole family were not in such bad odour; it was a delight to find such a reference to what was, I am sure, the happiest day of my great-grandparents' lives when Frederick Charles **Booker** (1874-1962) married Sarah Ann **Softly** in her parish church with former school friends and family looking on.

**Sarah E Doig** MN12258  
sedoig@btinternet.com

#### **Sources:**

Westacre National School admission registers: October 1876 - October 1945

NRO Reference: C/ED/4/8 (on microfilm)

Westacre National School Log Books: 1876 - 1922

NRO Reference: C/ED/2/18 (on microfilm)

## *CHARLES FARROW RESEARCH*

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Charles W. Farrow FinstLEX  
9, Drayton Hall Lane,  
Scarning, Dereham NR19 2PY  
Phone: (01362) 699398

*e-mail: CharlesFarrowResearch@btinternet.com*

## USEFUL WEBSITES

We have been looking at some websites that might prove useful to our members. The plan is to include commentary on one or more websites on a regular basis. Not all members will have access to the internet, so it is worth asking at your local library whether you can access some of these websites. We are making a start with **www.britishorigins.com**.

This is part of the Origins Network website, [www.originsnetwork.com](http://www.originsnetwork.com) which also covers Irish Origins, Scots Origins and National Wills Index. Scots Origins is free, but the other three are subscription only. However, the subscription fees are reasonable, with a £47 annual charge for Origins Total Access, but also a 72 hour charge of £7.50 and monthly charge of £10.50. The 72 hour and monthly charge for Irish Origins, British Origins and the National Wills Index (separately) are slightly lower.

Let us know whether you find this site useful.

*Editor*

**British Origins includes:** 1841, 1861 and 1871 censuses and Association Oath Rolls 1696 with over 21,500 names. Also

**Marriage records**, including Boyd's Marriage Index 1538-1840 with over 7 million names, St Andrew Holborn Marriage Index 1754-1812 with over 75,000 names, Marriage Licence Allegations Index 1694-1850 with over 670,000 names and Dorset Marriage Index 1538-1856 with over 500,000 names.

**Apprenticeship records:** London Apprenticeship Abstracts 1442-1850 with over 486,000 names and Apprentices of Great Britain 1710-1774 with about 350,000 indentures.

**Court records:** London Consistory Court Depositions Index 1700-1713 with over 3,200 names, Inheritance Disputes Index 1574-1714 with over 26,000 lawsuits and Charles I Chancery Index 1625-1649 with 82,000 cases.

**Burial records:** London Burials Index 1538-1872 with over 311,000 names.

**Militia records:** Militia Attestations Index 1886-1910 with over 110,000 names.

**Passenger Lists:** British & Irish Passenger Lists 1890 with over 193,000 names.

**General records and images:** Boyd's Inhabitants of London and Boyd's Family Units 1209-1948

**Poor Law Records** 1742-1868 - 12,000 names

**Teachers' Registrations** 1870-1948 - 100,000 names

**Trinity House Calendars** 1787-1854 - 6,500 names

**Somerset & Dorset Notes and Queries** 1890-1980

**England & Wales Gazetteer** published 1895

**England & Wales Gazetteer Maps & Plans** published 1895. All counties.

**British Origins Library** (9 collections, 18th & 19th centuries)

## 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)

### **BLOY (reprint)**

*(With apologies to Neil Bloy, I forgot to print his contact details)*

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.

**Neil Bloy MN1929, PO Box 13560, Cascades 3202, SOUTH AFRICA**

### **JARVIS - SALTHOUSE**

I am seeking information about the marriage of **John & Martha JARVIS** who had the following children baptised: Thomas (1744 Sheringham), Martha (1746 Sheringham), John (1748 Salthouse), Thomasine (1750 Salthouse), Lewis (1753 Cromer), Alice (1758 Salthouse), Mary (1762 Salthouse), Prudence (1764 Salthouse) and Martha (1767 Salthouse). I have more information to share.

**Robin Jarvis MN6706** 33, Northfield Lane, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1QE  
E mail: [robinj@talk21.com](mailto:robinj@talk21.com)

## **RUDD and EVERARD**

I would be pleased to hear from anyone researching the Rudd and Everard families (either or both!) in Norfolk.

**Mrs Sylvia H. Steer MN11755**, 344 Lower Luton Road, Wheathampstead, St. Albans, Herts, AL4 8JQ

**John HOWLETT & Sarah "Suzannah" MATTHEWS.** He was born around 1805 possibly in Norwich & married Sarah prior to 1826. She was born in 1804 most likely in Norwich. He may have been last of 18 children & one of twins.

They moved to Paris prior to 1826 where their second child was born - they had 9 children. His background or family could have been involved with horses or driving carriages because he became coachman for Marquis of Hertford in Paris in 1835. Can anybody shed any light on these people please ?

**Peter HOWLETT MN12116** 7/48-80 Settlement Rd. Cowes. Vic. Australia  
3922 [howlett.p@aanet.com.au](mailto:howlett.p@aanet.com.au)

## **ANNA FRANCIS AND EDWARD FRANCIS**

Another apology must go to Ken Francis MN11177 who pointed out that I had incorrectly copied his email address. It should read

"kandvfrancis".

So if you are trying to contact him re Anna and Edward Francis please retry the correct email address. *Editor*

## **HELP WANTED**

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday opening of Kirby Hall. Kirby Hall opens at 10.00 to 1.00 every Sunday morning, apart from the Christmas stock-take fortnight and Easter weekend.

Anyone willing to help should contact the Editor, Denagh Hacon, stating how often you can help. You can reach me either via

**Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles St, Norwich NR2 1LS,**

or you can email me at [ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk)

## SPURRELL COURT MANTUA

One cold, sunny morning late in January I had the opportunity to look at a dress that forms part of the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection at Kensington Palace, London.

Several members of my family had told me about the dress over the years, and this was my chance to see it for the first time, although it is not currently on public display.

The dress is over 250 years old. It consists of two main parts: a mantua (loose outer gown) and a petticoat. It is made of oyster-white silk brocade, possibly made at Spitalfields in London, and has a number of blue, yellow, pink and purple flowers woven on it. The colours are amazing and the dress is in perfect condition considering its age and the fact that the Victorians a century later liked to add frills and other embellishments to such dresses or use the material to make other clothes.

This particular mantua is a court mantua, which means it would have been worn by a lady when she was presented at court. Therefore, despite all the money and hard work that would have gone into making it, it would have been worn on only a few occasions.

The reason I wanted to see the dress is that it was probably worn by a member of my family in the 1750s. Nobody can say for certain who wore it, but the most likely candidate is **Mary ELLIS**, who was born in Banningham, Norfolk, in 1718. By the 1750s she had married **James Flaxman**, a farmer who held property in the nearby villages of Felbrigg, Roughton, Hanworth, Gimmingham and Southrepps.

Indeed, I believe that it may have been the Felbrigg connection that led Mary to be presented at court. The Windhams of Felbrigg Hall were the main landowners in the village, but James Flaxman also had a substantial amount of property there and would have had a certain status among the local yeoman families. James was undoubtedly known to the Windhams. In 1757, for example, William Windham of Felbrigg Hall leased a "*messuage and cottage called Barret's, in Felbrigg, 18 a[cre]s close in Cromer, [and a] foldcourse on Felbrigg Heath*" to James Flaxman for seven years.

At this time, William Windham, who had inherited the Hall on the death of his father, Ashe Windham, in 1749, was making numerous alterations and improvements to Felbrigg Hall. He obviously had the money to do so and was well connected, so it is possible that the Flaxmans were presented at court through their acquaintance with the Windhams.

James Flaxman had three sons and two daughters. Nothing is known about his youngest son, Benjamin, but the other two sons, James and William (who between them held land in Felbrigg, Roughton, Hanworth and Sidestrand), died in 1811 and 1818 respectively, leaving the majority of their property to the sons of their sister Elizabeth, who had married John Spurrell of Bessingham.

This explains how the dress could have ended up in the Spurrell family, as there were no more Flaxmans to inherit the family property or possessions. Interestingly, Flaxman was used as a first or middle name by several Spurrells throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The dress remained in the Spurrell family's possession until the 1990s when it was acquired by Kensington Palace. At some point in the past somebody must have decided to store the dress in a safe place in the loft and – like many things stored in safe places – it was forgotten about over the years. When the current owners of Thurgarton House inherited the house in the 1990s, they were surprised to come across not only piles of old papers and books, but also a box containing the dress.

This is only one theory, of course, as to the possible original owner of the dress. There was a John Spurrell who was Mayor of Norwich in 1737 and who may therefore have had reason to attend court functions. But although he left two gold coins to Spurrells at Thurgarton, it is not clear if he was related to them, so it is unlikely that a dress his wife may have worn would end up at Thurgarton. Furthermore, the dress could have belonged to any other of the families that married into the Spurrells over the years (Dewing, Dix, etc) and could have been stored in the loft by them and subsequently forgotten.

Once the historical importance and the rarity of the dress had been established, it was decided that the dress would be sold at auction. Soon after the auction, Kensington Palace contacted the dealer who had made the successful bid and, with a £30,000 grant from the Art Fund, acquired the dress for the nation (the total cost being £78, 862).

It is so rare to find this particular style of mantua in its original condition that there is only one other such dress in the collection. It was worn by the wife of the second Marquis of Rockingham when her husband was made Prime Minister in 1765.

The Spurrell court mantua was put on display for a while, but as there are over 5,000 items in the Dress Collection, Kensington Palace regularly rotates its displays, and it is not on view at the moment. However, when I visited, I was informed that it is likely to be on display again in a couple of years as part of an exhibition on eighteenth-century dress. I for one will certainly be

going up to London to look at it, and I hope that some other NFHS members will also get to see this small piece of Norfolk history when it is next on display.

I would like to thank the staff of Kensington Palace for taking the time to show me the Spurrell court mantua and explain the history and context of such dresses in the 1750s.

© **Jonathan C Spurrell, 2009 MN10543**

### Sources:

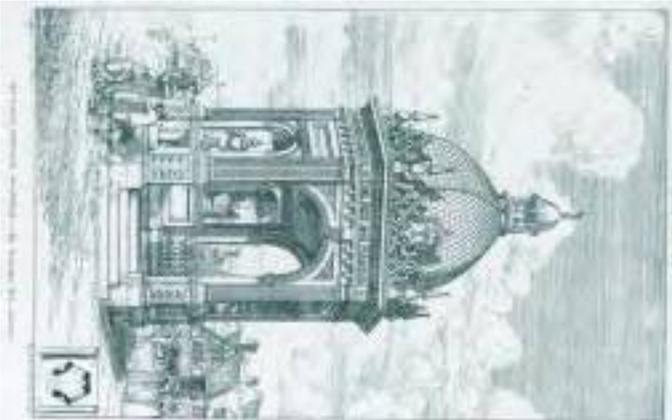
1. Flaxman family tree in *A Selection of Revised and Unpublished Norfolk Pedigrees*, Norfolk and Norwich Genealogical Society (1974).
2. Wills of James Spurrell, proved 1811 (National Archives ref. PROB 11/1523), and William Spurrell, proved 1818 (ref. PROB/11 1605); also Flaxman memorial tablet at Roughton Church, Norfolk
3. *The Mayors of Norwich 1403-1835*, Cozens-Hardy and Kent
4. NRO ref. ANW MF 338
5. Christie's, 15 November 1994, lot 165
6. *Art Quarterly*, National Art Collections Fund No. 24, Winter 1995
7. Kensington Palace Factsheet: *The Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection: The Court Mantua*



St. Mary's Church, Roughton, from the Norfolk Churches website



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Bagge Memorial Cross, Swaffham  
c1800s

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



Swaffham Market Place c1910



Station Street Swaffham c1930