

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



DECEMBER 2015



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

# Remembering Edith Cavell



OCTOBER saw the 100th anniversary of the death of Edith Cavell at the hands of a German firing squad. Norfolk has celebrated the life of one of its bravest and best loved daughters with a series of events and exhibitions.

In this edition of the Norfolk Ancestor, Edmund Perry goes back 150 years in time to look at Edith Cavell, the girl, and her Norfolk family roots. Cavell is known and respected in many parts of the world and pictured above are just two of the monuments put up to her memory. The one on the left is on the corner of St. Martin's Place near Trafalgar Square in London. The statue on the right is in the Tombland area of Norwich close to Norwich Cathedral. Edith Cavell is buried in Norwich Cathedral Close.

The photograph on the front cover is of the railway carriage which brought Edith Cavell's body back to this country for burial. The carriage is also associated with the body of the Unknown Warrior and formed part of a special exhibition outside Norwich Forum in October. The photographs for our cover articles this edition were taken by Anne and Peter Steward and Clive Broad.

# Norfolk Family History Society

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## The Norfolk Ancestor

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

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### Kirby Hall Library Opening Times

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday                            | 10.00am - 1.00pm |
| Wednesday and Thursday             | 10.00am - 4.00pm |
| First and last Sunday in the month | 10.00am - 1.00pm |

## Group Meeting Venues

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**DISS** Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss (AI066)  
SOUTH NORFOLK (2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm)  
£1 per member - £2 for non-members

**LONDON** Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road.  
London EC1M 7BA  
(Approximately every six months, 2.00 - 4.00pm)

## Kirby Hall Opening Hours Extended

WE are pleased to announce extended opening hours for Kirby Hall up to Christmas.

The Norfolk Family History Society Headquarters in Norwich will now be open from 10 a.m until 4 p.m on Thursdays. as well as Wednesdays. The new opening hours will continue throughout December and will then be reviewed. If you haven't had the chance, come and give us a look at Kirby Hall.

# Welcome to our December Edition



WELCOME to the December edition of Norfolk Ancestor. It is certainly true that time moves faster the older you get and this edition completes another year of the publication. I hope that you have found this year's magazines entertaining and informative and have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed editing them.

I particularly hope that you have enjoyed the photographs and information we have included on George Plunkett. I was delighted that George's son Jonathan allowed us such free use and access to his father's photography and I hope it brought back memories for some of our readers. We will feature more of George's work in the future.

It was 100 years ago in October that Norfolk heroine Edith Cavell was shot by a German firing squad. Norfolk, and Norwich in particular, have been commemorating her life with a series of lectures, displays and exhibitions and, in this edition of Ancestor, company secretary Edmund Perry turns the clock back 150 years to look at Edith's birth and early family life. In addition our covers feature more about Edith Cavell.

On a lighter note, I was reading an article in the Metro newspaper about a pensioner from Somerset who has listed 10,000 ancestors on his family tree including William the Conqueror, Alfred the Great and French nobility.

I know Ancestor readers like a challenge. So I would like to find out which NFHS member has the most extensive tree and if anybody has established famous ancestors. I would love to hear from you and publish some of the replies

I am pleased to announce that Roger Morgan has agreed to become assistant editor of the Ancestor. Roger will be taking up the voluntary post in the new year and will tell you something about himself in the March 2016 edition.

Our Facebook pages now have over 850 subscribers and I know many have found it invaluable in exchanging information. Again do let us know if you have traced any long lost ancestors or living relatives through this social media site. On Page 42 you will be able to read about a valuable new Facebook site which pays tribute to the bravery and heroism of women in the First World War. The owner of this site contacted us through our own Facebook pages.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**



# NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AGM

Reports by Edmund Perry, Peter Steward and Mike Dack



THE society's annual meeting was held at Kirby Hall on Saturday, October 17th, with 26 members attending. The business was preceded by a presentation by Dr Romola Davenport (pictured opposite), Senior Research Associate of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. Dr Davenport's

work involves long-run estimates of the population size, sex, and life-expectancy of children from 1541 onwards, much of which depends on local FHS data and county archives. Births and deaths of generations enables reconstruction of families and demographic rates for mortality and fertility. Her immediate interest is the use of individual level records to illustrate and understand the spread of smallpox in England.

She explained some of the history and how smallpox spread. Using maps and graphs, she showed there was a north-south divide in the 18th century. Cities like Manchester had a high infection in children aged one to four of which 70% died, with very few adults affected. Villages such as Aynho in Northants showed that 86% of cases were aged 10+. In London, with a population of 750,000, smallpox was endemic with burials every week but only 54.5% of one to four year olds were affected. Several explanations were put forward for this difference in infection between the North and Scotland (= large % of young children and few adults) and the South East (= only about 5% of adults and far fewer children).

The data is puzzling since commerce and transport should have spread the virus more evenly. Romola wanted to explain why smallpox didn't circulate more widely in South East England. Burial Records from several FHS (including Suffolk and Cambridge but not Norfolk) had been used to identify cause of death and age. Various methods could be used to classify smallpox cases and establish both geography and chronology.

She discussed the three main methods of prevention: inoculation, vaccination and avoidance. Although there were differences in methods used between cities and villages, Romola didn't think the North-South pattern was due to inoculation because the difference is similar in the 17th century.

Romola referred to smallpox as a "hideous viral" disease. Her talk underlined how firstly rather intrusive inoculation had been replaced by more efficient vaccination which was eventually enforced in 1871 and which eventually helped to wipe out the disease.

The removal of infected people to a 'Pest-House' away from the main inhabitation area, appears common in the South East. but not in the North. She wondered if this was the reason for the different rates but more data is needed which is why she would like access to the NORS burial records (but only the forename to establish sex and not the surname column).

In Norfolk there were a number of Pest Houses. One was on the present day site of Hales Hospital. This housed up to 20 people suffering from smallpox or other infectious diseases and was built in 1766. It no longer exists but it is likely it was built of wood so that it could be easily burnt in order to eradicate all remaining germs when it was no longer needed.

Due to the fact that contagious diseases like plague, smallpox and cholera were killers, it was essential to minimise the risk by isolating those who had not been protected by immunisation or subsequently vaccination. 'Pest' was an abbreviation for pestilence – a fatal disease or epidemic and the house was an early form of isolation hospital usually run in conjunction with the parish workhouse. At Dereham until 1776 the parish workhouse was down Holl Lane, now Swaffham Hill, but its 'pest-house' was a small cottage on Toftwood Common (Dereham Pest House inventory 1767. NRO PD.86/137).

Banham's town lands included a building called the Pest House, but in 1845 it had become rent-free accommodation for poor persons. (White's Directory 1845 p.422).

After the AGM, Romola spent some time with Mike Dack and Margaret Murgatroyd looking at and discussing the data for possible use in 2016.

At the AGM that followed the talk, society chairman Jean Stangroom reported on another successful year with 441 visits to the Kirby Hall library between January and September (not including heritage and open days). The society has extended its opening hours on Thursdays and will be open from 10 a.m until 4 p.m at



least until Christmas when the position will be reviewed.

The society has 40 volunteers, which has included seven new helpers in the library. The two Heritage Days attracted 67 visitors to Kirby Hall. Membership continued to be strong with a steady flow of new members and a total of 3,934.

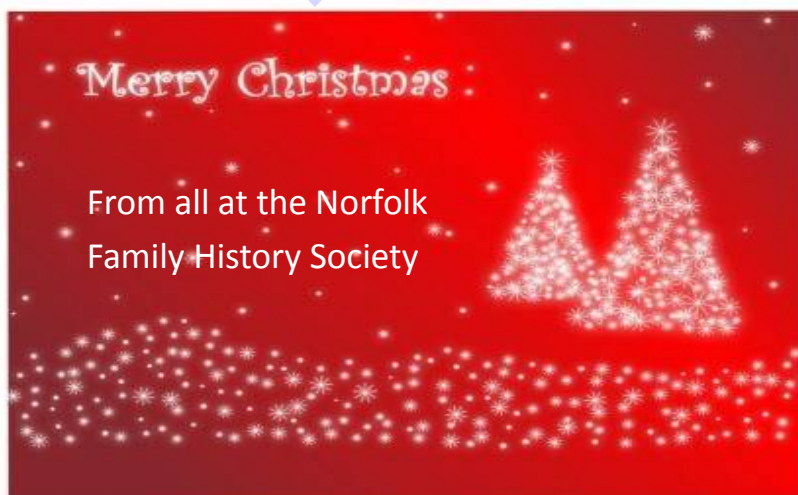
Treasurer Carole Taylor explained that every year, for a variety of reasons, up to 600 decide not to renew their membership. Either they have finished their research, checked the NORS database or are now looking elsewhere. She felt that "at £10 a year the NFHS is still extremely good value and we are bucking a trend which has seen other societies struggle to attract members. We are continually trying to put more information on the Society website".

One of the volunteers, Ellen Carr, thanked all the trustees and volunteers for the hundreds of hours of voluntary labour put in on behalf of the society.

Carole Taylor also put in a plea for more volunteers: "There are many things we would like to take on but we are limited in what we can do by the number of volunteers we have. We have some important roles to fill," she said.

It was also agreed that in the modern world the dynamics of the society would continue to change with more and more people visiting the society online rather than paying a physical visit to Kirby Hall.

The meeting formally adopted the society accounts and also re-appointed trustees Jean Stangroom, Carol Reeve and Peter Steward. A total of 143 proxy votes had been received through the post.



# Commemorating a Norfolk Heroine

EDITH LOUISA CAVELL (04.12.1865 – 04.10.1915)

**OVER** the past few months, Norfolk has been commemorating the Centenary of Edith Cavell's death, aged 49, at the hands of a German firing squad on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1915.

**There were 40 events in Norfolk including exhibitions at the Millennium Library (with the Cavell railway van which carried her body from Dover in May 1919); the Norfolk Record Office; Norwich Castle Museum and Norwich Cathedral; a festival in Swardeston village; lectures, concerts and recitals; church services and television programmes. In a special article, Norfolk Family History Society Secretary Edmund Perry goes back even further to look at Edith Cavell's Norfolk roots.**



December 4th is the 150th anniversary of Edith Cavell's birth but there was much more to her life than becoming an unwilling martyr.

This article attempts to provide background information about her family, her achievements as a teacher and as "a nurse who tried to do her duty", rather than dwell on those last fateful weeks. Edith didn't come from a Norfolk family. Her father, the Reverend Frederick V. CAVELL (born 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1824), was baptised at St. Andrew, Holborn, London, one of five children born to John CAVELL (1793-1863) and Margaret SCOTT (1794-1851). His paternal grandfather was Corry CAVELL (1746-1829) married to Mary STRUTT (1760-1831).

He trained for the ministry at King's College, London, and, whilst there, fell in love with his housekeeper's daughter, Louisa Sophia WARMING (born 1835). They married and Frederick took up the job of curate in the small village of East Carseton roughly four miles south west of Norwich.

After some years there, in 1863, he accepted the living at nearby Swardeston, a slightly larger village which has become famous as the birthplace of one of Norfolk's heroines. Frederick liked Swardeston so much that he remained there for the rest of his ministry, some 46 years. At first the Cavells lived in a temporary parsonage away from the church at the bottom of the large common. A new vicarage was built at Frederick's expense and local people said it practically ruined

him. He was always a 'poor parson'  
The family lived frugally which suited Frederick's puritan tastes but to manage a large house and keep up appearances, they employed staff on subsistence wages.

Scratched on an attic bedroom wall by a maid in 1876 are the words:  
"The pay is small, the food is bad, I wonder why I don't go mad." Nevertheless the family were concerned to help their even poorer parishioners: excess food from the Sunday lunch was given to hungry cottagers.

Edith Louisa (born 4<sup>th</sup> December 1865); Florence Mary (born 1867); Mary Lilian (born 1870); and John Frederick Scott (born 1873) were brought up at the vicarage in a safe and loving environment. It was a strict late Victorian household, without much fun and games although it is said that Rev. Frederick (when he wasn't marrying, baptising, burying, visiting parishioners or writing lengthy sermons) could be tempted to disguise himself as a bear and cause the Cavell children to shriek with delight.



**"Some day, somehow, I am going to do something useful. I don't know what it will be. I only know that it will be something for people. They are, most of them, so helpless, so hurt and so unhappy."**

Edith spent many happy hours wandering the large common, painting flowers, animals, the church and the vicarage. Soon she became an accomplished artist: Swardeston Church has two drawings of reindeer by her dated 10th October, 1882. A favourite winter pastime was ice skating by the ford at nearby Intwood, or on the moat at the Old Rectory where the water often froze in winter.

Other hobbies were tennis and dancing and she loved playing with the pet dogs. She described her childhood as a time when 'life was fresh and beautiful and the country so desirable and sweet'. When still a girl, Edith used her artistic talent to help her father raise money to build a church room as a Sunday School for the village children. She wrote to the Bishop of Norwich, John Thomas Pelham, asking for help.

He agreed provided the village could raise some of the cost. Edith and her sisters painted cards which were sold to help raise £300 to build the room adjoining the vicarage

Mrs Cavell taught Sunday School there as did Edith later on. Both women acted as Godmothers to a number of local children who were given signed copies of the Bible and Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.

The Cavell children received their early education at home – a very Christian upbringing which stayed with Edith all her life and consoled her at the end whilst in solitary

confinement awaiting execution. As a teenager in 1881 she temporarily attended the Norwich High School at the Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich, a walking distance of over four miles from her home.

Evidently she developed a romantic attachment to her cousin Eddie (E. D. CAV-ELL), but he decided not to marry her because of an inherited nervous condition. They appear to have been in love and Edith never forgot him, for she wrote on the fly leaf of her copy of *"The Imitation of Christ"* "With love to E. D. Cavell" on the day of her execution.

Possibly, this was the reason she was sent away, aged 16, to St. Margaret's Bushey – a boarding school for poor clergy's offspring in Kensington, London. Then to Clevedon near Bristol where she was confirmed (15<sup>th</sup> March 1884) Later, at Laurel Court, Peterborough, she continued her talent for painting and showed an aptitude for the French language, a skill which proved very useful for the rest of her life. There she learnt to become a pupil teacher and took several jobs as a governess, first to a clergy family at Steeple Bumpstead, then for a short time to some of the Gurney children at nearby Keswick New Hall and to the Barclay Family at Colney Hall. She was fondly remembered as full of fun, always smiling and kind to the children in her charge.

Left a small legacy, Edith decided to take a continental holiday visiting Austria and Bavaria where she was deeply impressed with a free hospital run by a Dr. WOLFENBERG. She endowed the hospital with some of the legacy and returned to Norfolk with a growing interest in nursing.

However, despite the example of Florence NIGHTINGALE, this wasn't viewed as a respectable occupation for young women. So in 1890, Edith took up the position of Governess to the FRANCOIS family in Brussels, staying there for the next five years with a growing fondness for the city. Summer breaks were spent back in Swardeston playing tennis and painting. Edith wrote to her cousin Eddy: 'I'd love to have you

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Swardeston  
in the County of Norfolk in the Years 1865 & 1866

| When Baptized.                   | Child's Christian Name.   | Parents Name.              |          | Abode.     | Quality, Trade, or Profession. | By whom the Ceremony was performed. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                  |                           | Christian.                 | Surname. |            |                                |                                     |
| Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup><br>No. 516. | Edith<br>Louisa<br>d/o of | Father<br>Louisa<br>Sophia | Cavell   | Swardeston | Clerk<br>in<br>Orders          | F. Cavell<br>vicar.                 |



visit, but not on a Sunday. It's too dreadful, family devotions morning and evening. And father's sermons are so dull.'

In 1895, when her father became very ill, Edith returned home, restoring him back to health. This act probably inspired her to pursue a career as a nurse. After spending a few months at the Fountains Fever Hospital, Tooting, London, she

was accepted in April 1896, aged 30, for training at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, under Eva LUCKES.



During the summer of 1897, an epidemic of typhoid broke out in Maidstone, Kent. Edith was one of six nurses sent to help the 1,700 people who contracted the disease (only 132 died) and received the Maidstone Medal for her efforts. However, she didn't immediately impress Miss LUCKES who wrote "Edith Cavell had a self-sufficient manner, which was very apt to prejudice people against her", she has "plenty of capacity for her work, when she chooses to exert herself" and that "she was not at all punctual" but then her hours were rather demanding (7 a.m. to 9 p.m. with half an hour for lunch) and the pay a miserly £10 per annum.

Edith went into private nursing in 1898 dealing with cases of pleurisy, pneumonia, typhoid and appendicitis. By 1899 she was back on the front line as a night superintendent at St. Pancras, a Poor Law Institution for destitutes, where many died of chronic illness. At Shoreditch Infirmary, where she became Assistant Matron in 1903, she pioneered follow-up work by visiting patients after their discharge.

In 1906, she went to Manchester as a nurse at the Ashton New Road District Nursing Home in a temporary position of assistant superintendent for three months. Her sister, Florence, followed her example and also became a nurse.

Our photograph on this page shows Edith Cavell with Dr Depage and nursing staff at the Clinique. In September, 1907, Edith went back to Brussels at the request of Dr Antoine DEPAGE to nurse a child patient of his. On 10th October, DEPAGE opened his pioneering 'L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées', at his Berkendael Institute on the outskirts of Brussels.



He asked Edith Cavell to run it, and train nurses along the lines of Florence NIGHTINGALE. Her training programme produced well-qualified nurses for three hospitals, 24 communal schools and 13 kindergartens. In doing so, Edith was responsible for raising the profile and standard of nursing and promoting it as a profession for women. Nevertheless she wrote home: "The old idea that it is a disgrace for women to work is still held in Belgium and women of good birth and education still think they lose caste by earning their own living." Queen Elisabeth of Belgium was impressed and asked for one of Edith's nurses to treat her broken arm.



Edith still found time to visit her mother who, after her father's death in 1910, lived in College Road, Norwich (she died 1918) and they often went on holidays to the North Norfolk coast. Edith was weeding her mother's garden when she heard the news of Germany's invasion of Belgium.

She could have stayed in England but felt it was her duty to help the wounded: "At a time like this", she said, "I am more needed than ever". By August 1914, she was back in Brussels at the Institute which became a Red Cross Hospital. She nursed injured personnel from both sides but went one step further in helping Allied soldiers get back to France and England, with tragic results for her.

The rest, as they say, is history.

The photograph on Page 12 shows Edith during her time as a governess with a young pupil and on this page is evidence that Edith was a very good artist, making many drawings at her Swardston home.

[with acknowledgements to the book Nurse Edith Cavell 1865-1915 A Norfolk Heroine]

**Edmund G. Perry MN 3181**

## **NORFOLK RESEARCH**

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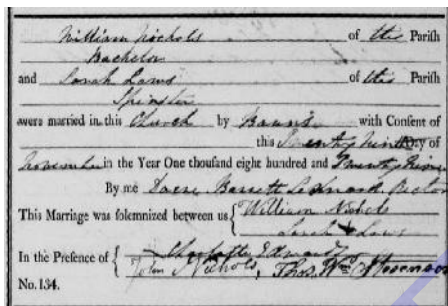
**Email: [willie.h.1945@virgin.net](mailto:willie.h.1945@virgin.net)**

# A Boy and his (Stolen) Horse

**David Culley looks at a fascinating family story which includes deportation and theft**

William NICHOLS, my great great great uncle, was born 'illegitimate' on January 6th, 1829, to Sarah LAWES and William NICHOLS and was baptised at St Martin at Oak, Norwich, on 11th January. In November that year, Sarah married William NICHOLS at St. Michael at Plea with William's brother John as witness. An extract from the St Michael at Plea register. is below.

The brothers were carpenters but, while John made a successful career as a builder, moving to London after 1841 and gaining prestigious contracts, Wil-



liam disappears from the record. His wife and various children are recorded in 1841, but there is no William. Neither have I found any record of him in newspapers or criminal proceedings. Sarah, his wife, is of independent means in 1841. Son William was 12 years old.

In 1847, a last child is born with William the father, 'carpenter', appearing on the registration. By 1851, Sarah is a widow, but the death of William appears not to have been registered in Norfolk. At the Norwich City Assizes on 29th July, 1844, William NICHOLS, age 15, was found guilty of larceny from the person, and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. Things got worse.

## From Norwich Quarter Sessions records: June 1846.

The Queen v William NICHOLS alias William LAWES aged 17 years.

In stealing one horse of the price of £5 the property of John ARMES. Judgment. -Is ordered and adjudged to be transported beyond the seas to such place or places as her Majesty by the advice of her Privy Council shall order and direct for the term of Ten years.

The alias above refers to William's illegitimate birth.

Seven years after his arrival at Port Phillip, Melbourne, William married a barely 16-years-old Margaret McCALL on

On Tuesday last a young man named William Nichols, of Pockthorpe, was brought before the City Magistrates by superintendent Abbott and police constable Dowe, of the rural police, on a charge of having stolen a horse, the property of Mr. Thomas Armes, farmer and dealer, of Hellesdon. The horse had been stolen from a field in that hamlet, and had been ridden to Dereham, where the prisoner offered it for sale to a Mr. Frost, who from the price he asked and from general appearances suspected it was stolen, and gave information to the police. The horse was identified by Mr. Armes, and the prisoner admitted taking it from the field. The Magistrates committed him for trial at the ensuing Sessions.





10th January, 1855, in Kyneton, a gold mining boom town. William is now described as 'farmer' and, ironically, on the birth certificate of their first child in October 1855, he is described as a horse trainer.

Margaret was from an Irish family, possibly refugees from the potato famine, who had arrived on the Aurora on 31st March, 1850.

William LAWES/NICHOLS signed his name on the registration of marriage where his father William is still described as carpenter. By 1865, they had six surviving children.

Opposite is pictured Sarah Jane NICHOLS, William and Margaret's second child, who was born in 1857. The marriage broke down sometime before 1870.

The birth registration of Margaret's daughter Elizabeth in July 1870 illustrates that the father is possibly not William NICHOLS but Patrick MATHERS. Patrick claims to have married Margaret McCALL in 1863. Other children of this union are alleged to be Selina aged six and George Henry aged three. Patrick is taking responsibility for Selina by recording her birth and a fictitious marriage,

| NEW SOUTH WALES   |                                     |                   |            | REGISTRATION NUMBER |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|
| BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995  |                                     |                   |            | 1887 / 003796       |
| MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE  |                                     |                   |            |                     |
| Date and place of marriage  | Names and surnames of parties       | Conjugal status   | Birthplace |                     |
| 56 17 <sup>th</sup> March 1887<br>Hay   | Patrick Mathews<br>Margaret Nichols | Bachelor<br>Widow |            |                     |
| <p>Married in the Church of St Pauls Hay</p> <p>According to the rites of the Church of England</p> |                                     |                   |            |                     |

whether or not he was her natural father. Curiously Selina was actually only four and threequarters in July 1870 and not six.

Another curiosity is that, had there actually been a marriage in 1863, (and Selina six years old) Patrick would have been about 16 and 15 at the time of Selina's conception. Margaret was more than 10 years his senior.

From the registration of Selina's birth, it appears her father was William NICHOLLS. This seems more likely to have been the case. There must have been a pressing reason for the falsifications, perhaps relating to Margaret's entitlement to care of her children as a mother separated from her husband.

The eventual marriage of Patrick and Margaret took place only nine years before Margaret's death: There were two further children to Patrick and Margaret, the last born in 1876.

The reason for the delay was that William Nichols was alive until at least July 1877. A marriage in 1863 would have been bigamous.

Below is the general record for William NICHOLLS.

---

### **CASTLEMAINE GAOL: Receiving and Personal Description Register.**

Public Records Office of Victoria: VPRS 5341, P0000, Unit 2.

Register No 14395: William Henry Nicholls (2 offences)

**Arrival:** *The Stag* 1867. [Error: should read: *The Marion*, 1848 ]

**Year of birth:** 1828 [age 49]

**Condition on arrival:** Free [Conditional pardon]

**Former colonial convictions:** Nil

**Personal description:** Height 5'5", make: stout; complexion: fresh; hair brown, eyes grey.

**Education:** Reads

**Particular marks:** Scars on forehead, left cheek, eyebrow, nose and back of neck, horse on chest, mermaid and fish right arm, anchor and cross.

**Native place:** England

**Religion:** Church of England

**Admitted:** 10 February 1877, from Sandhurst [Bendigo] Gaol.

**Purpose:** labor

**Offence:** False pretences.

**Date of conviction:** 2 February 1877.

**Sentence:** 1: 6 months hard labor, 2: 2 months hard labor (concurrent)

**How disposed of:** Discharged by remission 14 July 1877.

As far as I know, the second name 'Henry' is only used at the time of this conviction. It could be an erroneous insertion, but Henry was his grandfather's first name, so perhaps he had been informally named William Henry NICHOLS.

William's offence was to write two valueless cheques.

He said afterwards he had some £20 due to him by the executors of the late George McCALL, which should have been paid to his credit.' (*Inglewood Advertiser*, Wednesday January 31st, 1877).

Margaret's father George McCALL had three married daughters. He died in 1866. To two of the daughters he left £100 but to Margaret he left £40, to be paid as an annuity over 10 years. One explanation for this difference could be a lack of confidence in William NICHOLS.

What happened after William's release is unknown. Perhaps he had made enemies. Perhaps he never intended to return to his family with the young Patrick as surrogate father to his children in a house of Patrick's children including a baby and a wife who wanted nothing more to do with him.

As far as is known they never saw or heard of him again. Margaret is described as 'widow' in 1887. It isn't clear if she knew William was dead or if his death was assumed as there'd been no word of him for 10 years. If alive, William would have been 58.

William's mother, Sarah NICHOLS, survived in Norwich until 1886 when she was 79. In 1881 she was living with a married daughter at No.10, Rays Buildings, Norwich St. Augustine. She was still an annuitant. The source of her independent income which she'd had for at least 40 years is not known.

|                           |      |     |    |                       |                |                |
|---------------------------|------|-----|----|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Robert Brown              | Head | Man | 42 | Engineer (in Brewery) | Birmingham     | Bredon         |
| Mary Ann D <sup>o</sup>   | Wife | Man | 40 |                       | Stafford       | Stafford       |
| Ann L. D <sup>o</sup>     | Serv | Man | 16 | Milliner              | D <sup>o</sup> | D <sup>o</sup> |
| Hannah L. D <sup>o</sup>  | Serv | "   | 13 | Schooler              | D <sup>o</sup> | D <sup>o</sup> |
| William H. D <sup>o</sup> | Serv | "   | 9  | D <sup>o</sup>        | D <sup>o</sup> | D <sup>o</sup> |
| Edith L. D <sup>o</sup>   | Serv | "   | 3  |                       | D <sup>o</sup> | D <sup>o</sup> |
| Sarah Nichols             | Wid  |     | 79 | Annuitant             | D <sup>o</sup> | Stafford       |

Descendants of William and Margaret flourish in Australia today.

**David Culley MN 14645.**

## DIARY of EVENTS

From December 2015

| Date             | Event  | Location  |
|------------------|--|---|
| Dec 3<br>1-2 pm  | Norfolk Women Against War 1914-1919<br>with Frank Meers            | Norfolk Records Office                              |
| Dec 8<br>7pm     | The Origins and History of Father<br>Christmas                     | Diss Methodist Church,<br>Victoria Road             |
| Jan 12<br>1-2 pm | Starting Family History  | Vernon Castle Room at<br>Norwich Millennium Library |
| Jan 26<br>1-2 pm | Temperance   | Vernon Castle Room at<br>Norwich Millennium Library |
| Jan 28<br>1-2 pm | Norfolk Women and the Holocaust -<br>Frank Meers                   | Norfolk Records Office                              |
| Feb 9<br>1-2 pm  | The Norwich School of Artists                                      | Vernon Castle Room at<br>Norwich Millennium Library |
| Feb 22<br>1-2 pm | Last Hope Island - Polish Community<br>During the Second World War | Norfolk Records Office                              |
| Feb 23<br>1-2 pm | Health and Hospital Records  | Vernon Castle Room at<br>Norwich Millennium Library |

**The above is just a cross section of coming events. More events organised by the Norfolk Records Office and the Norfolk Heritage Centre can be found on Pages 58-61. Also check our web site for updates.**

## News From Kirby Hall

KIRBY Hall opened its doors for two special Autumn events. Firstly the Norfolk Family History Society took part in the annual Heritage Weekend organised by Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HART). The two days we opened saw 67 visitors and plenty of interest shown in the contents of the Kirby Hall library.

On October 3rd, we welcomed more than 40 members for an open day and social gathering with refreshments and a general look round our headquarters. As stated elsewhere in the Ancestor, we will be opening from 10 a.m until 4 p.m on Thursdays at least until Christmas. Please note that Kirby Hall will be shut for its annual Christmas break from our close on December 17th, re-opening on January 5th.

# More About the Belson Family

## *Dr David Belson continues the history of his family*

Richard Bell BELSON (The Norfolk Ancestor Vol.10 Pt.4, Dec. 2013 p.190) was my fourth cousin, three times removed. That means he and my great grandfather, Robert BELSON (1849-1897) were fourth cousins, not that they would have known each other as by then the Belsons had split into two branches. My line were the illiterate agricultural labourers; Richard's line were the prosperous yeoman farmers. Our common ancestor was William BELSON (1679-1754), my 6x-great grandfather who married Sarah MARSTON (ibid p.189). William and Sarah had five children of whom only two married and had issue.

William BELSON (1710-1767) was my ancestor and Richard BELSON (1717-1783) was Richard Bell BELSON's. Both families lived in Repps-with-Bastwick at this time. Richard and his descendants can be traced in manorial court records, as tenants and owners of land in the local manors, for at least four generations.

The other branch of the Belsons settled elsewhere, starting with my 4x-great grandfather John BELSON (1750-1838), who moved to Potter Heigham, where he married his first wife, Elizabeth BRUNDISH. They had three children, all born in Potter Heigham, but the two eldest died aged three and eight and were buried in Repps with Bastwick. Despite having been born in Potter Heigham, Elizabeth was buried in Repps with Bastwick after her death in 1780. My 4x-great grandmother was John's second wife, Mary NEWTON, whom he married in Potter Heigham in 1785. Pedigrees illustrating the splitting of the Belsons are described below.

William BELSON (1710-1767) married his first cousin, Elizabeth BELSON of Acle, at Repps-with-Bastwick in 1735. On the front cover of "Terrier of Bastwick Estate," 1736, in the Norfolk Record Office is the statement that information was "taken from Wm Bellson, Tennent, by Saml Moss". The freestyle spellings are all Saml Moss's. The William BELSON (who is not mentioned inside the Terrier) would be either the one born 1710 or his father.

John BELSON (1750-1838) is shown as occupier of a narrow strip of land to the west of the village of Potter Heigham on a map of the estate there belonging to the Bethel Hospital. Dated 1808, the map is in the Norfolk Records Office. He was the last of my ancestors to sign his name on his marriage certificate until my grandfather did so in 1911. John BELSON had 11 children by two wives and died at the age of 87.

Richard BELSON (1790-1879) was born, married, died (at the age of 89) and was buried in Potter Heigham; all his ten children were born there.

Zachariah BELSON (1818-1874) was the eldest of Richard's children. Although born in Potter Heigham, he was baptised in Catfield, the home parish of his mother (Susanna nee ROGERS).

The family were living in Potter Heigham in the 1851 census and the third of his five children was born there later that year, but they had moved to East Ruston by the time the next child was born in 1855. Zachariah BELSON had a short life, at least compared to his father and grandfather. He died of apoplexy in East Ruston, aged 57.

Robert BELSON (1849-1897) died even younger, at the age of 47, of leuchaemia (sic). He married twice. His first wife, Rhoda nee SADLER, died only two months after the marriage in 1874. He married his second wife, Mary Ann nee BURTON, in 1877 and she bore him five children. Mary Ann married William SMITH in 1904 and was known to my father and all her other grandchildren, with glee, as "Granny Smith".

Richard BELSON (1717-1783) of Bastwick appeared at the meeting of the General Court Baron of the Manor of Fastolfes on the part of Repps with Bastwick held on 4th November, 1778. He acknowledged that "he holds of the Lord of this manor certain freehold lands and tenements which he purchased of Henry NOCKOLDS". He agreed to an annual rent of 10d in lieu of working for the lord. At another meeting earlier that year, Copyhold Tenants and Principal Inhabitants of Repps with Bastwick were enrolled to donate aid for the poor. Among the signatories was Richd. Belson, Overseer.

Richard BELSON (1761-1809) is mentioned in the Manorial Court Records of Fastolfes and Oby on 12th June, 1805. He was granted a licence to enclose three roods of land on which to build a cottage, at an annual rent to the Lord of the manor of 7s 6d. On 26th June, 1806, he surrendered the same land etc "to the use and behoof (need) of William BELSEY", who appears to have been the Lord of the Manor. The name Belsey has no connection to Belson.

After his death, his widow Elizabeth (nee HOWES) appeared at the meeting on 4th June, 1810, of the court of the manor of Fastolfes on the part of Repps with Bastwick and acknowledged that she held the freehold lands and tenements formerly her husband's (and before Nockolds' - see above). The annual rent was still 10d. Elizabeth made several land transactions, some with Elizabeth BRANSTON of Stetchworth, Cambridgeshire, widow, the then Lord of the Manor. Elizabeth BELSON died ca. 1818.

Richard BELSON (1793-1835) was the only surviving son of Richard and Elizabeth. Aged only 16 when his father died, he had to wait to inherit until his mother passed



away. On 16th December, 1820, letters of administration were granted to Richard by the Episcopal Consistory Court of Norwich. In the MCR of the manor of Fastolfes on the Part of Repps with Bastwick on 2nd June, 1823, he acknowledged that he held the family freehold lands and tenements.

Richard BELSON married Mary Bell ENGLISH on 22nd May, 1822, at Repps with Bastwick. They had three sons, Richard BELL (ibid p.190), William BELL and Robert Daniel BELL. William Bell BELSON died in 1837, two years after his father. As the other two brothers were only 13 and seven when their father died, their mother inherited the family property. In fact, in the will of Richard BELSON, he left all property to his wife "until his youngest child or youngest child living shall have attained the age of twenty-one years."

As it happened, Mary Bell BELSON died in 1841, when the boys were still only 18 and 13. She left no will and application for probate was made on 11th January, 1842, by three executors including Robert Howes BELSON of St Peter Mountergate, Norwich, plumber and glazier (her brother-in-law).

Robert Howes BELSON was named as "Guardian, Tutor and Curator of persons and estate personal" and presumably he presented the letters of administration with the probate of the will of Richard BELSON at the court of the manor of Fastolfes etc on 17th June, 1843. In his will, Richard BELSON directed that "I give my estates unto all my children and their heirs, severally as tenants in common".

Richard Bell BELSON (1822-1912) and Robert Daniel BELSON (1828-1904) inherited the family property jointly, but when is not known. In the manorial court records of 1843, Richard BELL (aged 20 years and 6 months) is shown as a chemist and Robert Daniel (15 years and 3 months) as a farmer.

On the birth certificate of Richard Bell BELSON Junior, dated 11th April, 1844, his father (21 years and 5 months) is a gentleman, resident in Norwich. Robert Daniel reached the age of majority in 1849. In the census of 1851, Richard Bell BELSON, farmer, is resident at Steeple Farm, Bastwick, and was there in every census up to 1881; (in the 1881 census, the address is given as No.3, Belson Road!). Robert Daniel BELSON must have come to some sort of financial arrangement. In 1851, he was a master miller in Burgh St Margaret; in 1861, a farmer in Martham; in 1871, a carrier and coal commission agent in Southtown (Yarmouth); and in 1881, a house decorator in Orpington (Kent). Thereafter, he retired to Great Yarmouth.

With Richard Bell BELSON (junior) going off to work on the railways, his elder sister and her husband took over Steeple Farm, Bastwick (ibid. p.193).

**Dr David Belson MN7538**



# ANCESTOR BOOKSHELF with Edmund Perry



**Her Price is Above Pearls: Family and Farming Records of Alice Le Strange Edited by: Elizabeth Griffiths 376 pp. 2015 (published by the Norfolk Record Society)**

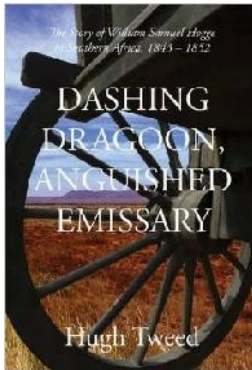
Lady Alice, the wife of Sir Hamon Le Strange of Hunstanton, is a 17th century phenomenon. Her husband paid tribute to her role as farmer, estate manager and guardian of the family finances, noting 'her price is above pearls'. To illustrate the range of her abilities and her achievement, a selection has been made from her vast archive at the Norfolk Records' Office. This includes her sheep accounts, the early records she kept for her own estate at Sedgeford and her summary of the family finances, covering the years 1617-1656 She developed grazing regimes and crop rotation, drawing up rentals and field books and commissioning surveys. – a model adopted for the whole estate. Up to page 60 is an interesting explanation, followed by transcriptions, of the accounts –a rather esoteric and academic study. However, the Index lists all the references to numerous tenants and transactions, something most useful to the family historian.



**Divided by the Bounty by Alan Adams, paperback 133 pp £8 2010**

The author kindly donated a copy to our Kirby Hall Library. It is an interesting account of the lives of two brothers, John and Jonathan ADAMS (from Hackney London) and their descendants. John became a mutineer on the Bounty and then a fugitive on Pitcairn Island, whilst Jonathan remained in London, giving rise to Alan's family.

It is a well-researched and fully illustrated account of both sides of the family. The Norfolk reference and connection is on page one which mentions Alice DYE, Alan's paternal Grandmother, whose family came from North Walsham in the 19th century. Nonetheless an enjoyable read which includes the social history of the age as well as a re-telling of the Mutiny on the Bounty story.



## Now Available As An E-Book

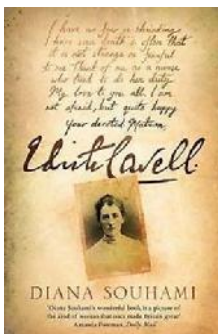
A few months ago we carried an article by Hugh TWEED about his ancestors, taken from the book "Dashing Dragoon Anguished Emissary." The book is now available as an E-Book for downloading on devices such as Kindles, Ipads, Apple iBooks etc

"Dashing Dragoon, Anguished Emissary" is about a former cavalry officer from Bedfordshire in England sent by the British government to Southern Africa in the mid 19th century to try to bring about peace in the troubled lands outside the boundaries of Cape Colony. William Samuel

HOGGE'S crowning achievements, the signing of the Sand River Convention with Boer leaders at the beginning of 1852, and accords with Moshoeshe I, paramount leader of the Basuto people, brought peace, for a time, to this part of the African continent. The drama is made more poignant by Hogge's early death in the furtherance of his duties. This story, much of which is told by Hogge himself through letters to his adored wife, is about great personal sacrifice and will appeal to anyone interested in one man's struggle against adversity as well as to students and followers of Victorian era politics and military history, both in the UK and South Africa. To find out more about this book, and buy it, click on the link below and follow the links to your preferred E-retailer.

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**Edith Cavell by Diana Souhami .paperback 432pp £8.99 new (but can be purchased at reduced price on amazon and ebay )**



One of the problems of writing a biography about a martyr, is falling into the trap of eulogy. Edith Cavell has been portrayed as an heroic, innocent nurse, a paragon of virtue, stoically dying for her Christian beliefs and her country. It is hard to get beyond the propaganda which exploited her execution. This centenary reissue, paints Edith as a genuinely 'good' woman, ethically consistent, whose actions in rescuing stranded soldiers were part of her long-standing commitment to nursing, a duty to saving life. The Telegraph review said Souhami "evidently regards her subject with the utmost sympathy, she struggles with Cavell's habitual

reticence" but that's partly due to Edith's sketchily documented life. As a result the book fails to unravel Cavell's character and her puzzling silence during the trial and ten weeks' imprisonment. The text is often padded with scene-setting, social commentary and general history which intrudes upon the narrative force of the story, but at least it plays down the themes of martyrdom, patriotism and 'salvation through sacrifice'. A worthwhile revisionist read.

# THE MYSTERY AGE OF A NORFOLK PARSON?

THE parish of Denton is just north of Harleston and the Suffolk border. Its Parish Registers go back almost to Queen Mary Tudor's day (1559). The priest at this time was John PORTER who signs every page of the register as minister and appears to continue registering births, marriages and deaths until 1638.

Assuming nobody was put in charge of a parish, however small, before the age of 20, John was still working at the age of 99 or older.

With Queen Mary only dead the previous November, John would most likely have had a Roman Catholic training and be celibate. Would this differ much from Elizabeth's Church, and would priests have been flexible? The BMDs are certainly in English.

John's birth is not known. His burial is January 17th, 1639 in Denton when he is, described as Parson of Denton.

His first baptism was on January 12th, 1560, the last burial on November 12, 1638. But, we need an element of caution. A few burial records in early 1639 appear to be in his hand, yet cannot be. Perhaps his earliest are also not his? Well he signs a page ending in 1561 and all the entries look like his. A John PORTER was present then for 78 years.

What other PORTERS are registered? Thomas was baptised January 22nd, 1576 and Benjamyn was baptised April 4th, 1587. The former's parents were John/Anne; the latter's John/Ano. Two Joane PORTERS were married September 25th, 1563 and June 13th, 1566, followed by Margaret PORTER on May 20th, 1628. Women tend to be married in their own parish but none of these were registered in Denton at birth. Finally burials:

Anne July 20th, 1576 - the wyfe of John PORTER Parson of Denton

Anne April 4th, 1587 - no details

Joane February 27th, 1619- the wife of John PORTER

Rebecca September 1st, 1626 no details

Thomas March 25th, 1637 the son of John PORTER parson of Denton

So no celibate cleric here, at least one wife and probably two. How far away were they married and when? A son by the first wife, Thomas would have been 61 at death, and was born 16 years after his father took over the parish. His father outlives him by nearly two years.

The register does, however, undermine the case for a near centenarian. John PORTER is "instituted" twice (April 2nd, 1562 and July 26th, 1570) the second event refers to the "resignation of last Incumbent". Rather reluctantly one has to concede there may have been two men with the same name. Their signatures certainly look identical.

The following hyperlink by Julia Hynes' is interesting for investigating possible centenarians.

<http://www.demogr.mpg.de/Papers/Books/Monograph2/the%20oldest.htm>

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# Hereward the Wake's Norfolk Connection. A Story of Kings, Rebels and the Feudal System



HISTORY incorrectly records HEReward, the man who resisted William the Conqueror, as the Wake. The epithet comes from the WAKES who claimed much later that his daughter married into their family (Wikipedia). During his life he was called The Exile and the Outlaw.

What we know about him mainly comes from the monks' version, *Gesta Herewardi*, but what became of HEReward after his defeat is not known.

Of the theories about what became of him, my preference is that he was captured and made to swear an oath to the Conqueror not to cause any more trouble.

MORCAR, the former Saxon earl of Northumberland, who joined HEReward in Ely, was imprisoned but released by The Conqueror on condition of an oath of allegiance but he broke it and was subsequently executed.

My theory is that HEReward kept his word and virtually disappeared with his second wife ALFTRUDA to another part of the country. Also that he was called HEReward ON KOBBI and HEReward COBBA ("big leading man") by the common folk which eventually turned into the surname of COBBE.

There is an ancient deed in the National Archives (ref. E40/1907 - transcription in British History Online) which includes the name of HEReward COBBE. It is a document that appears never to have been dated and explained by scholars. Either it is a forgery or it is remarkable because it contains names that could be linked to the famous HEReward.

For example Walter DE FALAIS. Normans were already living in England before the Conquest. One was the family of FULBERT and DODA FALAIS, grandpar-

ents of William the Conqueror. Although their home was in Basse-Normandie, they had a daughter born in Leicester and a son Walter FALAISE.

Another example is HUCHTRED. The name might come from the family of UCHTRED the BOLD, Earl of Northumbria, who ruled from Bamburgh Castle. There is PETER DE AUTOBOIS who might be PETER DE ALTO BOSCO or HAUTOBOIS mentioned by BLOMEFIELD.

SENLE is a place in the deed which could be SENLIS. There was an ALICE DE SENLIS who married Roger, son of Sir William DE HUNTINGFIELD, a Magna Carta surety and High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

My theory is that HEReward quietly withdrew to Suffolk. There a son was born, Leofirc COBBE of DARSHAM, not far from Huntingfield. He was known as "The Fat" and "The Cook", a perfect cover for the family's past, as HEReward would have wanted.

LEOFRIC of DARSHAM is in the Domesday Book but he was said to be associated with other places, including Westleton, one of the HUNTINGFIELD'S properties. After three centuries of low profile, the COBBE family was still in Suffolk but with connections in Norfolk.

John and Alyssandra COBB (named in the will of John COBB of Babbingley) had two sons, William and Geoffrey. William COBB married Maud, daughter of John DE BRISTON who lived at Wolterton Hall, a manor in East Barsham, Norfolk. A likely sister of Maud was Katherine who married John DE FINCHAM. His grandfather had been Attorney-General to EDWARD II and EDWARD III.

Geoffrey COBB married Eleanor FRAUNCEYS, widow of Sir John De NORWICH, 2nd LORD NORWICH, and descended from Sir William DE HUNTINGFIELD. They lived in a moated Wimpole Manor House, the site of which still exists as Cobb's Wood. The brothers were to resurrect the spirit of HEReward by challenging the injustice of the nobility.

It came about after the Black Death had reduced the population and the peasantry had tried to demand higher wages and reduced hours. Some wanted freedom from serfdom and to move to find a better employer. In 1351, the nobles brought in the Statute of Labourers which prohibited these endeavours.

The method of taxation was a property levy imposed on communities and an individual's payment according to means was decided by the Lord of the Manor.



This was changed to a levy on every adult (4d). Then, in 1380, the Poll Tax was increased to three groats (one shilling or 5p).

The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 began in Essex and spread to other counties where William and Geoffrey COBB decided to join the rebels.

William COBB and his men went to guard the causeway at Stuntney (which could have been known to HEReward) to prevent men belonging to the King or Bishop from passing. He was joined by Robert TAVELL who had caused havoc in Bury St Edmunds. TAVELL and COBB, with their fellow rebels, then headed for Ely, Huntingdon and, eventually, Ramsey

Meanwhile, Geoffrey COBB, "with a band of retainers," in alliance with John HANCHACH, had headed towards Cambridge "with reckless violence." To cut a long story short, when Wat TYLER, Jack STRAW, John BALL, John WRAWE, Geoffrey LITSTER and others were executed after the rebellion was suppressed, William COBB, with Robert TAVELL and Geoffrey COBB, with John HANCHACH were put on trial. The result was that TAVELL and HANCHACH were beheaded and the COBBS were pardoned.

My theory is that Geoffrey COBB's wife Eleanor had interceded for them during the trials, perhaps pleading with William UFFORD, 2nd Earl of Suffolk, who played a leading role in putting down the rebellion and who was related to her. Also, stretching the imagination, possibly some nobles remembered up to this time that the COBBS were somehow connected with HEReward. Having kept their heads, the brothers went home.

Geoffrey and Eleanor COBB had a son, John, who did not marry and his line died out. William and Maud COBB are credited with establishing COBB of SANDRINGHAM by heading up the Visitation of Norfolk in 1563. By this time perhaps the family's earlier history had been forgotten.

Just as the reason that they chose "double canting" arms (double punning) granted by the Herald William BALLARD in the 15th century was forgotten. My theory is that the two "cob swans respecting" represent William and Geoffrey, the arms being used by the family before that time (Walter RYE).

After all the family should have been proud that, although the Peasants Revolt had been brutally crushed, there were long term achievements for the people. Parliament gave up trying to control wages and the labourers' freedom. The hated Poll Tax ended and the old system of taxation was resumed. The nobility



had more respect for their workers, some admiring the speed of communication between the rebels. The feudal system came to an end.

Surely HERWARD would have been proud of the part played by the brothers.

Alf Cobb MN 2623 cobb@cobbnut.plis.com

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## New Members and Members Interests to October 13th, 2015

Compiled by Jean Stangroom  
Membership Secretary  
email:membership@nfhs.co.uk



Welcome to the December Issue of The Norfolk Ancestor. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

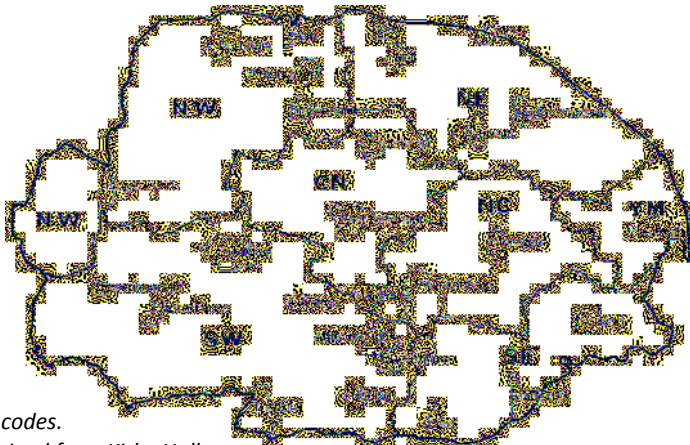
I would like to remind all members that you can insert/update your members' interests on the website by logging in as a member in the top right corner and then going to the membership drop down menu. Then click on members' interests.

Please keep your names to one cell only, but you can include up to 10 names. Using Chapman Codes is limited to Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Lincolnshire and Essex only due to space in the magazine. If you have a problem please email Peter Spurgeon or myself (see contact list).

## Members Interests Search Area Codes

### KEY

CN = Central  
NC = Norwich & District  
NE = North East  
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.*

## New Members to 13th October, 2015

The Society welcomes the following new members

|       |                   |     |       |                             |     |
|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|-----------------------------|-----|
| 15684 | Mr P. Savory      | UK  | 15730 | Mrs D. Newman               | UK  |
| 15685 | Mr A. Betts       | UK  | 15731 | Mr R.T. Scott               | UK  |
| 15687 | Mrs M. Tindle     | USA | 15732 | Miss S. Peters              | UK  |
| 15689 | Mrs S. Stirk      | UK  | 15733 | Miss I Hunter               | UK  |
| 15690 | Ms E. Chrystal    | AU  | 15735 | Mr T. Walker                | UK  |
| 15692 | Mrs K. Chapman    | UK  | 15736 | Mr S. Beckett               | UK  |
| 15693 | Mrs J. Childs     | UK  | 15737 | Miss S. Neale               | UK  |
| 15694 | Mrs J. Hoarau     | AU  | 15738 | Ms P. Collins               | UK  |
| 15695 | Mr W. J. Mortimer | UK  | 15739 | Ms T. Harvey                | CAN |
| 15696 | Mrs R. Greenwood  | UK  | 15740 | Mr J. Blackburn             | CAN |
| 15697 | Ms K. Richardson  | AU  | 15741 | Mr M. Stokes                | UK  |
| 15698 | Mrs A. Wallis     | UK  | 15742 | Mrs M. Verrall              | UK  |
| 15699 | Mrs A. Grodecka   | UK  | 15743 | Mrs D. Ray                  | UK  |
| 15700 | Mrs J. E. Watson  | UK  | 15744 | Mr D. Baines                | UK  |
| 15701 | Miss K. Jones     | UK  | 15745 | Mr C.C. Campbell            | USA |
| 15702 | Mr R. Black       | USA | 15746 | Rev D.V. Grimshaw           | UK  |
| 15703 | Mr J. Dutton      | UK  | 15747 | Mr A Radgick                | UK  |
| 15704 | Mr N. Brooks      | UK  | 15748 | Mr P. and Mrs S.J. Marrison | UK  |
| 15705 | Mrs L. Yates      | UK  | 15749 | Mrs J. Duval                | UK  |
| 15706 | Mrs H. Wilkins    | UK  | 15750 | Mr G. Folger                | USA |
| 15707 | Mrs J. Russell    | UK  | 15751 | Mrs A.M and Ms K.J McErlain | UK  |
| 15708 | Mr A.N. Brockett  | UK  | 15752 | Mr S. Irons                 | UK  |
| 15709 | Mr R.H. Mason     | UK  | 15753 | Mr I. Jackson               | UK  |
| 15710 | Mrs M. Hunt       | AU  | 15754 | Mrs P.J. Jolin              | UK  |
| 15711 | Miss L. McNally   | UK  | 15755 | Mrs B. Estreich             | AU  |
| 15712 | Mrs F. Teesdale   | AU  | 15756 | Mrs D. Johansen             | UK  |
| 15713 | Mrs S. Taylor     | UK  | 15757 | Mr T. Cox                   | UK  |
| 15714 | Mrs S. Shaw       | UK  | 15758 | Miss T. Burden              | UK  |
| 15715 | Mrs J.E Colquhoun | UK  | 15759 | Miss J. Hengstberger        | AU  |
| 15716 | Ms J. Grey        | UK  | 15760 | Mr P. Read                  | UK  |
| 15717 | Miss K. Fulcher   | AU  | 15761 | Mr J. Bird                  | UK  |
| 15718 | Ms N. Smith       | UK  | 15762 | Dr M. Goodyear              | UK  |
| 15719 | Mr D.A. Warnes    | UK  | 15763 | Mrs A. Dowdall              | UK  |
| 15720 | Mrs D. Maxwell    | UK  | 15764 | Dr S. Leverett              | UK  |
| 15721 | Mr I. Mahoney     | UK  | 15765 | Mr C.N. Southgate           | UK  |
| 15722 | Mrs M.E. Roberts  | UK  | 15766 | Ms D.E. Newson              | UK  |
| 15723 | Mrs G. Walters    | UK  | 15767 | Mr C. Took                  | UK  |
| 15724 | Mr M. Chenery     | UK  | 15768 | Miss J.S. Eames             | UK  |
| 15725 | Mrs S. Linger     | UK  | 15770 | Mr E. Roberts               | UK  |
| 15726 | Mrs J. Hart       | UK  | 15771 | Mr R. Armes                 | AU  |
| 15727 | Mrs A. Pearce     | UK  | 15772 | Mrs K. Webster              | AU  |
| 15728 | Mr S. Pipe        | UK  | 15773 | Ms C. Howard                | UK  |

|       |                               |    |       |                  |     |
|-------|-------------------------------|----|-------|------------------|-----|
| 15774 | Mrs C. Rash                   | UK | 15796 | Mr B. Hunt       | UK  |
| 15775 | Mr M. Kempson                 | UK | 15797 | Mr M. Shildrake  | UK  |
| 15776 | Mrs M. Harris                 | UK | 15798 | Ms S. Wilby      | AU  |
| 15777 | Mrs L. Howe                   | UK | 15799 | Mrs C. Pendry    | UK  |
| 15778 | Mrs C. Barringer              | UK | 15800 | Mrs K. Cooper    | AU  |
| 15779 | Mr P. Jenkins                 | AU | 15801 | Mr D.R. Parfitt  | UK  |
| 15780 | Mr B.J. Skipper               | UK | 15802 | Mrs L. Wake      | UK  |
| 15781 | Ms C.A. Cooper                | UK | 15803 | Ms H. Dickinson  | IRE |
| 15782 | Mr J. Wright                  | UK | 15804 | Mr M. Green      | UK  |
| 15783 | Mr B.J. Grant                 | UK | 15805 | Miss K.R. Rowe   | UK  |
| 15784 | Mr R. Johnson & Ms B. Simmons | UK | 15806 | Mr P. Gout       | UK  |
| 15785 | Mr J. Bridger                 | UK | 15807 | Mrs D. Rodenburg | USA |
| 15786 | Mr P. Lewis                   | UK | 15808 | Miss D. Bartram  | AU  |
| 15787 | Mrs F. Underhill              | UK | 15809 | Mrs K. Muffett   | UK  |
| 15788 | Mrs C. Hiscock                | UK | 15810 | Mr T. Peeke      | UK  |
| 15789 | Mr M. Duffy                   | UK | 15811 | Mr L. Sellwood   | CAN |
| 15790 | Mr S. Abel                    | UK | 15812 | Mr D. Brigham    | UK  |
| 15791 | Mrs K. Swinson                | UK | 15813 | Mrs P.D. Hoskins | UK  |
| 15792 | Mr M. Knowles                 | UK | 15814 | Mr P. D. Brigham | UK  |
| 15793 | Miss J. Skipper               | UK | 15815 | Mr A.G. Kerr     | UK  |
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| 15795 | Mr S. and Mrs B. Baker        | UK |       |                  |     |



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## Members Interests to 13th October 2015

| MN    | Name       | Area | County | Period  | MN    | Name       | Area | County | Period  |
|-------|------------|------|--------|---------|-------|------------|------|--------|---------|
| 15395 | ALDIS      | NC   | NFK    | 16C-18C | 15577 | DOLMAN     | NW   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15573 | ALDRED     | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     | 15577 | DYE        | NW   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15573 | ATKINS     | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     | 15788 | EASTER     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15707 | BASHAM     | CN   | NFK    | 15C-18C | 15714 | ELDEN      | ALL  | NFK    | 17C-18C |
| 14020 | BAYES      | NC   | NFK    | 18C-19C | 15387 | EM(M)ERSON | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15713 | BECKETT    | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15577 | EWEN       | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15752 | BEEVOR     | NC   | NFK    | ALL     | 15703 | FABB       | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 14230 | BETTS      | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 10099 | FABB       | YM   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15573 | BLACKSELL  | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     | 10099 | FABB       | NC   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15573 | BLAXXEL    | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     | 10099 | FABB       | SE   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15577 | BOND       | NW   | NFK    | ALL     | 10099 | FABB       | NE   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15711 | BONE       | SW   | NFK    | 17C-18C | 790   | FISHER     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15761 | BORRETT    | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15810 | FLACK      | ALL  | ALL    | 15C-19C |
| 15395 | BOULTER    | ALL  | NFK    | 16C-18C | 15810 | GATHERCOLE | ALL  | SFK    | ALL     |
| 15573 | BRACE(E)Y  | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     | 13250 | GILBERT    | ALL  | NFK    | 18C     |
| 15573 | BUNTON     | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     | 15573 | GOLDER     | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     |
| 13982 | BURBRIDGE  | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 13982 | GRIMSTON   | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15577 | BURRELL    | NW   | NFK    | ALL     | 15387 | HABBERTON  | ALL  | NFK    | 17C-19C |
| 15566 | CAMPLING   | NC   | NFK    | 19C     | 15573 | HARVEY     | ALL  | ALL    | ALL     |
| 15713 | CASSIDY    | ALL  | NFK    | 19C-20C | 14020 | HINCHLEY   | NC   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 10099 | CHAPMAN    | YM   | NFK    | ALL     | 15738 | HOWE       | CN   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 10099 | CHAPMAN    | NW   | NFK    | ALL     | 15810 | HOWES      | ALL  | NFK    | 17C-19C |
| 10099 | CHAPMAN    | NE   | NFK    | ALL     | 15387 | HOWMAN     | ALL  | NFK    | 17C-18C |
| 15069 | COLEMAN    | ALL  | NFK    | 16C-19C | 15564 | KING       | SW   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 14340 | COOK       | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15764 | LEVERETT   | ALL  | NFK    | 16c-19c |
| 14340 | COOKE      | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15764 | MAKINS     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 10099 | COOKE      | YM   | NFK    | ALL     | 15711 | MALLOM     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 5447  | COPEMAN    | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15738 | MELTON     | CN   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15566 | CULLINGTON | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 10790 | MOY        | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 5447  | DALTON     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15703 | NEALE      | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |

### To contact other members researching the same Surname.

First login to the NFHS Website (success indicated by 'Logout' top right), then under the 'Membership' / 'Members Interests' menu select the required Surname from the drop-down list and click on "Contact".

An e-mail address or postal address will then be forwarded to you.

| MN    | Name       | Area | County | Period  | MN    | Name       | Area | County | Period  |
|-------|------------|------|--------|---------|-------|------------|------|--------|---------|
| 15654 | NEAVE      | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15564 | RICHARDSON | SW   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 11713 | NEWMAN     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 12919 | RIVETT     | NC   | NFK    | ALL     |
| 14020 | PALMER     | NC   | NFK    | ALL     | 15810 | ROOKARD    | ALL  | NFK    | 16C-19C |
| 15696 | PARKER     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15764 | SEAGER     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15810 | PEACHEY    | ALL  | SFK    | 15C-20C | 15566 | THIRTLE    | NC   | NFK    | 18C-20C |
| 15712 | PEAR(C)E   | NC   | NFK    | 18C-19C | 15713 | THURSTON   | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15713 | PEARCE     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15713 | TILLET     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15714 | QUAINTRELL | ALL  | NFK    | 17C-18C | 15566 | WARD       | NE   | NFK    | 18C-20C |
| 15711 | RANDALL    | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 15295 | WIX        | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15711 | RANDEL     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 1629  | WYMER      | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |
| 15711 | RANDES     | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     | 1629  | WYMER      | ALL  | NFK    | ALL     |

## Going to Australia

A recently released CD Rom will be of interest for Norfolk Genealogists re-searching ancestors who settled in Australia. The CD gives full details of employment and dispersal lists of assisted passengers arriving between 1848 and 1854 at Moreton Bay, Port Phillip, Sydney and Twofold Bay

The project contains 23,262 transcriptions including an index of the records . They have been extracted from the New South Wales Governor's Despatches with the exception of the general and disposal list of the female immigrants on the Culloden which is from the NSW Colonial Secretary's In-Letters. The immigrant details include name, age and occupation and there are also births and deaths with dates for each and, for deaths, the cause is given in most cases.

When available, reports have been included for these lists and the names have been compared with those on the shipping lists and variants of surnames, fore-names and in many instances ages have been included in the remarks. The CD is fully researchable and compatible with Windows XP to Windows 8.

The transcription work has been undertaken by Aileen Trinder of the Pastkeys organisation. It can be ordered online from the bookshop of the Society of Australian Genealogists using a credit card with secure online payment. Their web-site is [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au) and the web address for this CD in their bookshop under Australian CDs is: <http://www.sag.org.au/shop/australian-cds/employment-dispersal-lists-cd-detail.html>.

CDs can also be ordered directly from Aileen at 5, Garbala Road, GyMEA, New South Wales. She can be e-mailed at [pastkeys@tpg.com.au](mailto:pastkeys@tpg.com.au)

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# GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

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Articles should preferably be typed. **Please keep articles to 3 pages maximum - 1200 words approx.** Electronic versions are most helpful.

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **March 2016** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER** than **7th January** Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.

## Notes and Queries

We welcome Notes and Queries, offers of help and items of information and general interest. Entries as brief as possible please, preferably less than 150 words. **Membership number and email address 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:-

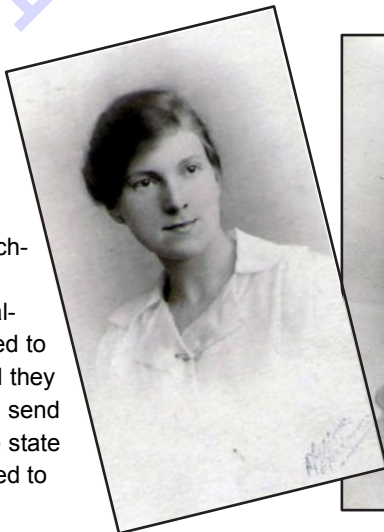
**The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.**

or by email to:

**ancestor@nfhs.co.uk**

## Photographs

Photographs are always welcome, they liven up the layout. Preferably send in your photographs by email as a **JPEG** attachment (**Please scan at 300dpi if possible**). Photocopies do not always reproduce well as they need to be scanned into a computer and they lose clarity in the process. If you send in an original photograph please state whether you wish it to be returned to you.



# Then and Now



The top photograph is of Gressenhall Rural life museum taken on July 1991 and below during its Apple Funday celebrations in October 2015. The museum was originally built as a workhouse

# A CHANCE HISTORICAL FIND

**It is always a delight to come across an historical find when you are least expecting it. NFHS member Jo Gooderham was researching for a book when she stumbled across two rural school log books that have given an insight into education and life in the late 19th and early 20th century. Here Jo tells us the story of her find.**

I CAME across two school log books by chance whilst researching for a book on the history of three interconnected parishes:- Woodbastwick, Panxworth and Ranworth - hereafter shortened to WBW, Px and R for brevity. I was looking for material from the period 1870 to 1920, which would be more informative than census records. I found that, though incomplete, the books gave a wonderful insight into village life. As they were written by the teacher, the handwriting is usually very easy to read.

## **Education:**

There were pupil names, though these tended to be due to either excellent or very poor behaviour or achievement. These names sometimes differ from the baptismal or census records, making it difficult to follow a particular student.

The educational progress of pupils affected the size of grant to the schools. R and Px pupils were adjudged so unsatisfactory in all subjects that from 1879 to 1885 the full grant was never paid. In fact when schoolmistress Miss MALLETT left, the Inspector was moved to report that under her "the school had done very badly for a number of years." There followed a gradual improvement, though in 1893 the inspector still noted that "the urinal needs

attention," and thought that the infants should be able to add up without the help of their fingers. A harmonium, purchased that same year, was replaced by a pianoforte in 1906. The logbook notes, underlined in red, state: "The pianoforte (Broadwood) in this school is the joint property of the teachers and children of the Parish of Ranworth". Clearly, it was an object of envy.

Similar poor reports were recorded at WBW in 1882 and, though it improved over the next six years, it accrued another spate of poor reports and withheld grants until the school moved to new premises in 1905 when Alice CALVER resigned and the school had new staff. After that the chief criticisms seem to be about the building - "the office (toilet) accommodation for girls and infants is insufficient 25 girls and 12 infants share 1 closet. There should be 3".

Interestingly the Diocesan inspector of WBW always found the school "good".

The details of day to day activities were fascinating, especially the list of subjects for special study called Object Lessons. Although these were specified by the Board of Education, sometimes a local event would provide a topical subject, as when, in 1901, the Norfolk Artillery were encamped in WBW Park and the whole school taken

to visit it. The school inspector reports show the gradual move from drilling the facts to requiring the pupils to think, and eventually to expect teachers to make the lessons interesting. Standards were further raised by giving assistant teachers time off to attend college to gain their certificates (something the teacher to whom they were assistant often did not have).

I had to check out the history of education to make sense of some of it. There is an excellent summary online at <http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/view/NCC098548>

School hours and holidays changed over time, most dramatically in response to war and lighting regulations. In 1917 the school year began in January. A week's holiday (haysel) was given for haymaking, and in October for blackberry picking. Businesses began to target school children and Cadbury Brothers sent every school a book about cocoa (1899)

### **Health:**

The period I was looking at was from 1880-1920, the early days of State education for the rural poor. It took some time before my parish schools began to find their feet; attendance was poor, caused not least by the waves of illness that seemed to sweep the population two or three times a year: whooping cough, waterpox (chickenpox), influenza, scarlet fever, diphtheria and measles.

The way the logbooks were kept varied between the schools and the person recording events. Sometimes a child's absence pre 1914 was only recorded as "illness". It is likely that no doctor

saw these children, as most of the population were agricultural labourers. Doctors cost money and there did not seem to be one nearer than four miles away, and then not until 1911. Most children caught childhood diseases and, until around 1910, there was a national average of around 60% fatalities, compared to one or two per cent today.

Yet there seem to have been few fatalities among those aged four to 14 that I can link to epidemics. Of the 26 children under 16 who died between 1880 and 1914, over half were under one year old and, of the rest, six out of 10 were five years old or under. Many of those constantly ill during their school years lived to be senior citizens.

The rise of health services to the school populations can be traced through the addition of Swedish Drill to the curriculum in 1898 and the recorded visits of the nurse, often involved in bestowing malt and codliver oil (1950s) on the undernourished, and checking for head lice. From around 1911, medical inspections were introduced, and medical certificates were required for a child to be away from school.

### **Weather:**

In our well insulated clothes, buildings and transport, we tend to overlook the enormous impact of the weather on our forebears. In 1901 the school was closed for six days because of snow.

The inspector notes (1912) that the three windows facing the Broad must be intolerably draughty.

Very wet or snowy weather could reduce attendance drastically as there was only one fireplace, and nowhere

for the children to dry sodden clothes, forcing them to sit in them all day.

### **Village Events :**

School logs are also a good guide to village festivities. There were days off for national holidays, often accompanied by a school fete or concert, and gifts from the Lord of the Manor (e.g. The Jubilee Fete 1887, the Coronation treat in August 1902) and for local festivities (the Wroxham Regatta 1882, Water Gymkhana of 1923).

The local gentry often closed the school to mark some personal landmarks: including weddings, the majority of a son and heir (WBW), or return from the Boer War.

They often required the older boys to pick up at shooting parties (the Royal family were often guests at WBW Hall) , and absences from class were justified by activities such as stone,

acorn and rosehip picking, crow scar-ing and help with harvest. The gentry were generous, providing buns on special days and a treat to the circus at Norwich (WBW 1884), though less ready to remedy faults found by school inspectors in the fabric and teaching of the establishments they patronised. WBW School closed on a regular basis for a Clothing Club (1884 ). I discovered the existence of a choir (mixed, but only the boys had surplices).

The Archive Centre had no school photographs, although architectural plans for R and Px Schools can be viewed. Despite a general call for photographs for my chronology of the three parishes to be published in support of the refurbishment of Panxworth Tower, I have only one from 1925 and it had a relative of mine on it, the Infant teacher.

**Jo Gooderham MN 9095**

## **One Name Event**

THE Guild of One Name Studies will be holding a seminar entitled "The 20th Century is Now" in Cambridgeshire in the new year. The event will look at the records of the 20th century that may be utilised in a one-name study: The day will include a number of speakers including freelance archivist and researcher Nigel Lutt on "20th Century Archives - Their Potential and Problems," family and local historian and author Dr Janet Few on "Discovering Your One Name in the 20th Century," Find My Past's Alex Cox on, "School Records and Electoral Rolls, Chair of the Association of Genealogist and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) Ian Waller on "Adoption and Divorce" and Norfolk based historian, researcher, tutor and author Gill Blanchard on "Writing Up Your One Name Study." The seminar will take place in the Colonel Dane Memorial Hall, Church Street, Aswalton, Cambridgeshire PE7 3UU from 10 a.m on Saturday 13th February with registration from 9.30 a.m and the seminar starting at 10 a.m.

More information is. Available at [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org) or on 0800 011 2182. Bookings close on 31st January 2016.



# Editor's Corner

## An Informative New Web Site

I thought I would use Editor's Corner this time around to mention three interesting Facebook pages which may well help members with their research and which look at different aspects of history.

It was whilst browsing our own Facebook page that I was made aware of a very interesting new page intriguingly entitled "Remembering Women on the Home Front in World War One."

The page was started by Debbie Cameron who also subscribes to the Norfolk Family History Facebook page. In her introduction, Debbie states that the site is "A page to remember all of the women on the Home Front in WW1 - mothers, sisters, sweethearts, daughters - on whose love, devotion and sacrifice the post war UK was built. I"

It was set-up in memory of Debbie's grandmother - Emily Cameron - and already includes a host of stories, photographs and even posters from the period and underlines the vital part that these women played a century ago. The page is accessible at the following address:

[www.facebook.com/groups/1468972083412699/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1468972083412699/)

Meanwhile our own Facebook page continues to be popular with a number of successes in putting people from various parts of the world in touch with each other. Our pages can be accessed at

[www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk](http://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk)

Sometimes we can wrongly assume that all our members know our county and in particular the beautiful and historic city of Norwich. Of course this may not be the case as many of our overseas members may be tracing their Norfolk ancestors without having set foot in Norfolk.

There are of course many excellent web sites celebrating Norwich and Norfolk but another Facebook group may be of particular interest to historians. It's entitled "Norwich in the Good Old Days from the 1960s" and discusses numerous topics including genealogy, as well as old buildings and sights. This is accessible at

[www.facebook.com/groups/218246314891662/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/218246314891662/)

If you know of any Facebook or web sites that would be of interest to members, please let me know and we will feature them in coming editions of the Norfolk Ancestor

**Peter Steward MN 14801**





## Images of Norwich Hippodrome

WE conclude our series of photographs taken by renowned Norfolk photographer George Plunkett with two images of Norwich Hippodrome. The photo on the left was taken on 26th November, 1934, and that on the right on 24th September, 1932. The Hippodrome, in St Giles' Street, opened as the Grand Opera House in 1903, became a music hall in 1904 and a cinema in 1930, before returning to variety in September, 1937. In 1958 it became the Norfolk Playhouse Repertory Theatre but was demolished in 1966 to be replaced by a car park!



Today all that remains of the Hippodrome are memories and a blue plaque which includes the following words: Norwich Hippodrome also known as the Grand Opera House. The Hippodrome opened in 1903 and hosted a multitude of famous acts including Laurel and Hardy and the young Archie Leach before he went on to become the more famous Cary Grant." We are extremely grateful to George Plunkett's son Jonathan for permission to reproduce his work.

# Letters, Notes and Queries

**This is the area given over to society members. If you have a query or a nugget of interest please send it to us along with your membership number and e-mail details so that other members can contact you. Non members can also raise a query for a small payment. Details of this can be found on page 38.**

## **SISTERS OF BLOFIELD**

I have been researching my family history from my home in Staffordshire and traced my earliest ancestors to Blofield in Norfolk which I had the pleasure of visiting for the first time in May. My Great Great Grandfather Isaac SISTERN was born to John and Sarah Sintern and christened on 18th April, 1790, in Blofield and I have traced the family upwards from there but have been unable to find anything else about Isaac's father John and his wife Sarah who I suspect may have lived elsewhere in Norfolk before moving to Blofield. Has anyone else been researching the Sintern family in Norfolk and been able to trace John and Sarah? I would love to hear from anyone who has.

**David Sintern MN 15481 e-mail [davidsintern@btinternet.com](mailto:davidsintern@btinternet.com)**

## **GUILTY AS CHARGED**

It does seem a little careless that twice in the same article on pages 39/41 of September's Norfolk Ancestor the word "descendant" is used when the reference is clearly to an ancestor!

**John Knights MN 15458**

Thanks to John for pointing out my obvious mistake - Editor

## **ANCIENT ANCESTORS**

Many thanks for the latest "Ancestor" – excellent value still for only £10 a year. The arrival of the magazine, as I was busy "weeding" out old books etc, reminded me that I have copies of the Ancestor from Volume One onwards, that is from September 1977 to the end of Volume Five of the New Series in 2008, there are 125 items. They are loose and not bound. My purpose in writing is to ask if anyone would like to have the 125 items? I suspect I have the earlier Gestetnered ones somewhere too. I'd love to browse through them all again but time and space are running out.

**Michael Watts MN 145**

## **THURLOW APPEAL**

Could the person who lodged the THURLOW family tree from Kenninghall, Great

Yarmouth etc in May 2015 please contact me. The tree concerns the ancestors of Bertie Edward THURLOW and, as he was my father, I am most keen to discover the sender of the tree. Who knows I may have an undiscovered relative! The society seems to have no record of who presented the tree to them so have been unable to help me to find the originator. Can anyone help?

**Bev Moore MN 13691 bevmoores@hotmail.co.uk or 214 Moss Delph Lane,  
Aughton, L39 5BJ**

## **BRIDGE BUILDER**

I am looking for descendants of Faithful Charlotte BRIDGE born 1880 Norwich, daughter of John BRIDGE and Julia TURNER. She married Charles MORTER on 21st December, 1902, in the Methodist Church, Dereham Road, Norwich. Her address at that time was 63, Cowgate Street, Norwich. Charles' address was Caernarvon Road, Norwich, and he was a bricklayer. Faithful was a cardboard box maker.

**Pam Bridge MN3292 email pambridge4@tiscali.co.uk**

## **DNA AND THE SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF EVE**

Further to Chris WOODROW'S article in the September Issue of The Norfolk Ancestor and his query on my DNA test, what Ancestry say in their information is "The Ancestry DNA test uses microarray-based autosomal DNA testing which surveys a person's entire genome at over 700,000 locations" So this is covering both male and female DNA.

The book "The Seven Daughters of Eve" by Professor Bryan Sykes is rather controversial, and it's not universally accepted. His claim is that all people in Europe and the Near East have only seven lines of descent, but I think that he is pushing things too far. It assumes that all other lines of descent have died out, but why should this have happened? There are around 900 million people in the above areas and the number of samples taken, relative to that number, is close to negligible. Who knows what may be lurking in the rest of the population?

I don't think I can go along with this Seven Daughters idea and certainly the end of the book is an exercise in the imagination. The Professor is a chatty and plausible writer – could he be "flying a kite" to see what the reaction might be?

**David True MN 3518**

## **BIRD WATCHING**

I am seeking information on my maternal line of Mary BIRD. I wish to find her parents. They were possibly James and Rebecca BIRD whose daughter was baptised 1692, Wormegay. I haven't found James or Rebecca's christening or marriage. I am looking for any other Mary BIRDS christened around Watlington

parish of the right age. Mary BIRD married Thomas GRIMPSON in 1724 and was buried 1761 at Watlington. Three daughters - Mary, Elizabeth and Susanna - were born there between 1725 and 1732.

Previously Thomas was married to Susanna HUDSON, 1714, at Gayton Thorpe. She died 1723. Also in 1714, Tom is recorded on the Poll tax roll at Watlington. Their children were christened and buried at Watlington with one surviving, Ann, marrying in 1738 at Runcton Holme. I would like to also find Thomas GRIMSTON (E)/GRIMPSON'S christening. He was buried in 1750, Watlington, no age listed.

Mary and Tom's daughter Susanna was baptised 1732 and married John FARMER 1762 at King's Lynn. He died a few months later. Susanna remarried 1766 at Watlington to Richard GAGER a widower. Richard was previously married 1764 to Ann STANFIELD (a widow of John NELSON whom she married 1759 at Tilney). I haven't found John Nelson's burial. Richard and Ann Gager had one son, John 1765.

John GAGER married Isabella MACINTOSH 1786, in King's Lynn. Their children died young except for maybe Elizabeth baptised 1788, burial or marriage not found. Also I haven't found the wife, Isabella's, burial; John possibly, John GAGER buried Surrey 1805.

Richard and Susanna GAGER'S children were, Elisabeth 1768 (what happened to her is unknown], Mary 1772 and Ann 1774. Richard died 1779 King's Lynn and Susanna in 1786, no ages given. Richard GAGER'S christening isn't yet found, although one in Bury St Edmund's Suffolk may be him, but I have no location link.

The remaining daughters married in Middlesex. Mary to Joseph BEAVITT in 1794 and Ann to William WATTS 1796. I can find no further trace of the Watts' family. May my ancestor was transported in 1816 taking four children and leaving one behind. This one child may be either Martha BEAVITT c. 1809 or Susanna Eliza BEAVITT c. 1812 at St Giles London. I haven't found a burial or a marriage for either child. Any missing information welcome

**Karen Hodges MN 15290 e-mail [rowantreek@gmail.com](mailto:rowantreek@gmail.com)**

## **PARENTAL ANCESTORS**

As I live in Colchester, Essex, I find it very hard to get to Norfolk records office but I am looking for information on Robert Piggin born 1818 in Norwich Norfolk. His parents were Robert Piggin and Mary Tungate. She was born in Upton, Norfolk I am trying to find Robert PIGGIN'S parents and Mary TUNGATE'S parents.

**Joyce Herbert.**

## Leaving the H Out

I'm a new member who has just received my first copy of the Norfolk Ancestor and I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed it. It is so interesting to read about the history of a town that I've never visited, but that my grandfather and his family lived in up until 1903. I am so hoping that I will be able to learn more about his family and the family he left behind there through your society.

I just wanted to let you know that my name was listed in the journal as a new member as Umperson, but that it is actually UMPHERSON (a common mistake ). I'm not sure whether it was an error in the journal itself or on the membership form.

**Julie Umpherson**

## HELP NEEDED

My great great grandmother was Harriet GOODBODY, born 18th August, 1832 in King's Lynn. (date taken from Family Bible). She married George James SHARP/E on 24th August, 1856 in Lambeth, Surrey. Father's name on marriage certificate looks like Thomas GOODBODY, a bricklayer and one of the witnesses shows the mark (x) of what I think is Ann GOODBODY.

Harriet remained in London until her death in 1910, having had seven children and a good number of grandchildren. However, I have not been able to go back any further (apart from the above) than the 1861 census where she is already married to George SHARP/E. Any help on Harriet's earlier life would be appreciated.

**Helen Brown MN 15410 e-mail: [controlcare508@btinternet.com](mailto:controlcare508@btinternet.com)**

## DNA REQUEST

We're trying to make contact with ELMERS, ELMORES and AYLMERS interested in genealogy and or genetic genealogy. We would like to connect back across the pond. Some of our family trees place us in Norfolk before leaving for the Americas in the early 1600s.

We're trying to recruit Y DNA testers since people have been looking at this for a hundred years or more on this side of things and haven't made much progress on documentation. We've recently sorted ourselves out after 1610 through Y DNA testing and have identified several markers that would be shared by our common ancestor and his relatives back home.

**Mike Thompson MN e-mail [uneventhompson@gmail.com](mailto:uneventhompson@gmail.com)**

**Don't forget that you can use our Facebook site to request help and give help to others.**

# More Famous Thespians

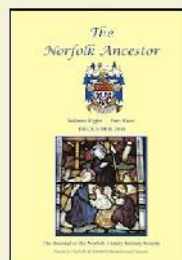
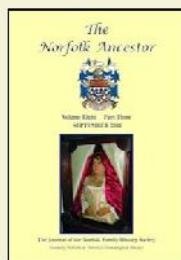
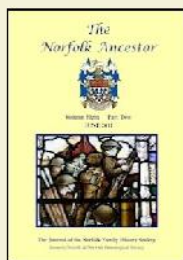
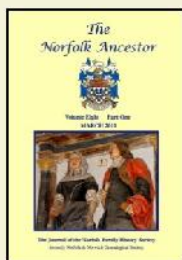
IN the last edition of Norfolk Ancestor, Lyn OFFORD gave us the history of her ancestor John BRUNTON and his theatrical links. Here Lyn features her fifth Great Grand Aunt Anne BRUNTON (1769-1808) and her sister Elizabeth (1771-1799) both of whom had an outstanding life in the theatre.

Anne BRUNTON was born on 30th March, 1769, in Drury Lane, St Martin in the Fields, Westminster. She made her stage debut at Norwich Theatre Royal in 1780 and in February, 1785, she made her stage debut at Bath as Euphrasia in the "Grecian Daughter". The theatre engaged her for three years, at a salary of £12 a week.

On 17th October, 1785, she made her debut at Covent Garden as Horatio in "The Roman Father", aged 16. As an actress, she was rated second only to the world famous Mrs SIDDONS. Between 1785-1800, she is mentioned continuously in the collected letters of Samuel Taylor COLERIDGE who was very enamoured of her.

On 26th August, 1791, she married Robert MERRY (1755-1798) at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster. He was the eldest son of Robert MERRY, Governor of the Hudson Bay Company and a direct descendant of Sir Henry MERRY who was knighted by James 1st in 1621. His grandfather Captain MERRY sailed in search of the North West passage and discovered and named Merry Island. Ann left the stage to marry Robert after a serious disagreement with the manager Mr HARRIS over "A picture of Paris". They became engaged in June, 1791, finally marrying after the wedding was postponed from 7th July due to her future husband's embarrassing financial state. On 13th September, 1791, Mrs

## Scanned Ancestor Copies



Copies of the Norfolk Ancestor from 1992 onwards are now available to NFHS members on the Society's web site.



THRALE commented on the marriage in her diary “Della Crusca is married at last to Miss Brunton it seems, a pleasing young actress of purely unsullied character, well! She may help maintain, if tis too late to reform him. Poor girl! I’m sorry for her.” Mrs THRALE thought him a very unpleasant man.

MERRY was the leader of the Della Cruscan movement and a writer of verse and dramatic works. Cambridge alumni 1261-1900 comments that his wife appeared in many plays and he “grew fat and indolent”. His income was inherited from his father and squandered. He lost £17,000 at cards and the rest through his lifestyle and expensive affectations.

On 12th September, 1791, she returned to Covent Garden under her new name of Mrs MERRY as Miss Courtney in “The Dramatist”. Numerous performances followed that can be found in any good theatrical dictionary. On 1st June, 1792, she gave her last performance at Covent Garden playing Mrs Stickland in “The Suspicious Husband”. She entered into retirement forced on her by the Merry family

On 19th September, 1796, she emigrated to New York, aboard “The Samson” accompanied by Thomas WIGNELL and William WARREM both of whom she would later marry. She arrived in New York on 19th October, 1796. On 5th December, 1796, she made her debut on the American stage at Philadelphia’s Chestnut Street Theatre. She returned to the stage because of her husband’s reduced fortune, signing with Wignell. In August, 1796, the Monthly Mirror reported that in America Mrs Merry would have £500 a year and two free benefits.

She played Juliet in “Romeo and Juliet” and met with great success. A review in the Philadelphia Gazette on 7th December said she could not fail “at once to establish her own fame, and to reflect honour on American drama”. In 1797, she made her New York debut and became the reigning female tragedy actress on the American stage. On 24th January, 1798, her husband Robert died suddenly whilst walking in the garden in Philadelphia of apoplexy (stroke) at 1pm. See Wayne S TURNEY’S “A glimpse of theatre history” for a graphic description of his death and many reminiscences of his friend.

On 1st January, 1803, Anne married Thomas WIGNELL in Wignell’s house on the north-east corner of Soul Street and Samson Row, Philadelphia. The New York Marriage Magazine extracts 1801-1880 (Barber collection) states: “Thomas Wignell to Mrs Anne Merry. Anne was the 33 old widow of Della Cruscan writer and dilettante Robert Merry.” Thomas WIGNELL built and ran the Chestnut Street Theatre and was joint proprietor of the Baltimore Theatre, Maryland, with Alexander REINAGLE. He was also a comic actor.

In 1803 Thomas WIGNELL died of complications from an infection of the arm after a phlebotomy, aged 50. He was buried at the Episcopal Church of St Peter in Philadelphia. He and Anne had one daughter Elizabeth born in Philadelphia in 1803 after her father’s death. She lived in Warren’s care after Anne’s

death until she married Peter BENSON. On her husband's death Anne managed the Chestnut Street theatre with his partner Alexander REINAGLE. In 1806 she married William WARREN (1767-1799) in Baltimore, the young provincial actor who had travelled to America with her aboard the Samson.

Anne died aged 38 on 28th June, 1808, in Alexandria county, Virginia at 4pm after giving birth to a stillborn son on 24th June during a southern tour. She was buried in June 1808 in Christ Church Alexandria, Virginia, in the churchyard on the corner of North Columbus and Cameron Streets. Her well preserved sarcophagus is the most elaborate in the cemetery and reads "Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Mrs Anne Warren daughter of John Brunton Esq of England and wife of William Warren Esq one of the managers of Philadelphia and Baltimore theaters. By her loss. the American stage has been deprived of one of its brightest ornaments. The unrivalled excellence of her theatrical talents were only surpassed by the many virtues and accomplishments, which adorned her private life. In her was combined the affectionate wife the tender mother and the sincere friend. She died at Alexandria June 28 1808. Aged 39 years."

Anne MERRY was remembered in the book "The career of Mrs Anne Brunton Merry in the American theatre" by Gresda Ann Doty with a list of 150 roles played in her lifetime.

### **ELIZABETH BRUNTON (1771–1799)**

Elizabeth was baptised on 27th March, 1771, at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster. She made her stage debut on 5th May, 1790, at Covent Garden at her sister Anne's benefit. She also acted at Norwich. Charles Edwin NOVERRE 1916 describes her in his notes as "another distinguished actress". Her portrait by Gainsborough was sold at Christies in 1888.



On 4th February, 1708, at St Stephen's, Norwich, by licence she married Peter COLUMBINE (born 1771) who was resident in St George's Tombland, Norwich at the time of his marriage. Witnesses at the marriage were John BRUNTON, Harriet BRUNTON, Francis NOVERRE, and Louisa BRUNTON. His presentation portrait by STOPPELACE hangs in St Andrew's Hall, Norwich. Peter COLUMBINE can trace his descent through the MARTINEAU family back to the MIDDLETON family, forbears of Kate MIDDLETON who is married to Prince William. The family is heavily linked with the Walloon church in Norwich.

Elizabeth died on 10th November, 1799, in Norwich. The Gentleman's Magazine of November, 1799, reported that she had died in childbirth. The book "The Incomparable Siddons" page 169 says of her "Although London at large did not confirm the enthusiasm of Bath, Miss Brunton was acknowledged to be a capable actress."

# Do You Recognise These Men?

WHILE we were re reorganising the library at Kirby Hall, the photograph below turned up. If anyone recognises any of the young men we would love to hear from them. The caption underneath the photograph is "Young men of Heigham after visit to the museum on Sunday afternoon 1934." Any information can be sent to [transcripts@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:transcripts@nfhs.co.uk)



YOUNG MEN OF HEIGHAM AFTER VISIT TO MUSEUM  
ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
1934

# Group Reports

**Correspondence about individual groups and meetings should be addressed to the following organisers:**

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

**London:** Mary Fisk, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Road, London N16 8SB

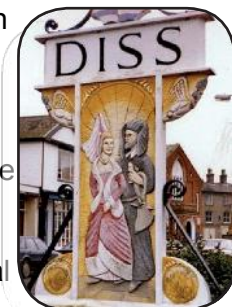
Email: mary975@btinternet.com (home) and ms28@soas.ac.uk (work).

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## South Norfolk Group Reports by Betty Morley

IT is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since Dr. Simon Pawley gave his talk 'Gone to Look for America' at the meeting of the Diss branch of the Norfolk Family History Association and it was with great pleasure we welcomed him back on 11th August to hear his new talk 'Alice and her Sisters – Seeing our Ancestors' Families as they Saw Them'

This was based, as was the last, on the contents of a file which quite literally fell from a shelf in a record office onto Simon's head like a bolt from the blue. It had contained a miscellany of legal documents and personal letters, many of which related to the PAWLEY family of Leicestershire. Of particular interest to Simon were the letters between William PAWLEY, Robert WRIGHT, James LEE and John WALK which spanned a number of years and were domestic and affectionate in their nature. They addressed each other as Friend or Brother, mentioned sisters and children but Simon could not make out the connection between the four men and was intrigued. He was a young man at this time in the 1980's when family history was not such a popular and accessible pursuit, a time when far less information was indexed and available and there was certainly no internet. It was all down to legwork and time consuming searches and it would be 30 years before he unravelled the mystery.



Simon began with an explanation of the word epistemology, a study or theory of the nature and knowledge of belief, which basically asks the question how do we know what we know and do we really know it at all? As he continued we began to realise the relevance of that word in relation to family history.

He began with William PAWLEY of Whetstone, Leicestershire, a wool comber, born in 1738 and married to Alice WRIGHT. Robert WRIGHT was Alice's nephew and one of the documents in the file was an official

agreement with Robert whereby William signed away his goods and chattels in return for the promise of care in old age and the payment of any debts. But who was John WALK? There were a few clues. He mentioned in a letter to Robert that his father Edward, who lived in Sheerness, was to be superannuated when he left his work as a mast maker at the Naval Dockyard. From that Simon found that John had left his apprenticeship there to join the Horse Guards as a Quarter Master, a rank which was classed as an officer in the Horse Guards but not in other regiments. All regiments had different rules so no wonder Simon couldn't find him in the army lists.

John had purchased his officership through an agent which was the common practise at the time and notices of all these transactions appeared in The London Gazette. The Horse Guards then were not engaged in combat but were a presence and usually the troops were based in Leicestershire. At the age of 16 in 1768, he married Ruth but Simon was unable to find any record of this so did not have a surname for the bride. In 1796, John writes to Robert telling him that he is going to live with his father in Sheerness.

James LEE was a butcher at Greens Norton in Northants, 40 miles from Leicester. He married a Quaker girl although he did not convert, fathered eight daughters, joined the local militia and was a land tax recorder for the hamlet of Bengal in Northamptonshire.

Simon had found out a lot about these four men but, interesting as it was, he still hadn't found the link between them until he came across the death of James LEE'S wife and naturally looked for another marriage and, when he found it, things dropped into place. The widowed James had married a Sarah WRIGHT in Whittlebury in Northamptonshire. She was Alice WRIGHT'S sister. Further research revealed that Ruth, who had married John WALK, was also Alice's sister. So there it was, a set of family relationships not apparent in the letters because of the conventions of the time. It was then customary for the men of the family to write letters as in this case and when the writers referred to their sisters and brothers it included their sisters and brothers in law. The terms brother in law or sister in law would have been used in relation to a step brother or step sister.

As Simon asked: 'Do we really know what we think we know?'. This is a question which we should all ask ourselves regularly when doing our research. It was a lively and informative talk and we look forward to seeing Simon next year.

**Betty Morley MN 2797**

# London Group Reports By Mary Fisk

## Napoleonic records at the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum

With 2015 being the bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo, we sought a Napoleonic connection for our October talk. We were pleased to welcome Joseph HOYLE from the Norfolk Teaching Museum for a fascinating talk about Napoleonic records at the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum.

It should be noted that there are no surviving records for the Norfolk Regiment (or the 9th Foot, as it was in the early 19th century) prior to the beginning of the 19th century as all their documentation was lost in the wreck of a ship called the Ariadne in 1805.



Joseph began by outlining the broad history of the Napoleonic Wars – stressing that the conflict should be seen as a continuation of the Revolutionary Wars (1792-1802) and that it was a truly global conflict with fighting between England, France and their allies spreading beyond Europe to India, the Caribbean and the Americas. By 1815, the war was that of the “7th Coalition” against Napoleon.

The 9th Foot did not serve at Waterloo, but were instead part of the army of occupation that arrived in Paris on 9th September, 1815. They remained in France until 1818.

However, the 9th Foot had served with distinction in earlier fields of conflict – the operations in Holland (Bergen in 1799 and Walcheren in 1809) unfortunately saw heavy losses as much to disease as to active conflict, but the 9th Foot distinguished themselves in many of the key battles of the Duke of Wellington’s campaigns in the Peninsular War after initially suffering the hardships of the retreat to Corunna.

After Napoleon’s first abdication in 1814, the 9th Foot were in Canada and North America, campaigning along the St. Lawrence River at Quebec and Montreal, among other places. Joseph pointed out that they were the only regiment who did not have any men desert to join the American forces!

### Resources at the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum

The bureaucracy of war has left plentiful records for the family historian along with letters, journals, maps, medal rolls and of course, the Regimental History. Staff and volunteers at the museum have indexed a large number of the correspondence, journals and medal rolls, so named individuals can be traced in



these records.

Joseph drew our attention in particular to the letters of Colonel CAMERON, which give a general overview of the day to day life of the regiment and regimental administration, as well as his private letters, which are more descriptive. The letters have been brought together and published. Likewise, the journal of James HALE, a sergeant in the 9th Foot provides a vivid account of the rigours of the Peninsula campaign, including the retreat to Corunna.

Books of maps give battlefield topography and the positions of troops.

The Waterloo Medal for all soldiers who fought in the battle was not issued until 1847. Lists of those men who applied for and received the medal (over 30 years after the event!) can be found in the Military General Service Rolls.

Clothing Books (1805-1821) record what items of clothing were allocated to individuals. Sometimes there are notes and comments against the names of particular soldiers. These have been indexed, so the family historian can easily check these for a specific person.

The Officers' Book gives details of all officers of the 9th Foot from the period of the Napoleonic Wars to the merger of the Royal Norfolks with the Royal Anglians (with listings up until the mid 20th century).

There is the four volume Regimental History, which is a good source for places and dates where the regiment has campaigned, and lists casualties. Officers are named, but rank-and-file are only given as numbers.

Overall, Joseph reminded us that records of individuals are unfortunately piecemeal and need to be cross-referenced with other sources to put the evidence in context. The national and local archives, Ancestry.com and the Ogilby Trust for information on the records of other regiments are all good places to continue your research, along with newspaper and war memorial archives.

As it is the Waterloo centenary, there is a connection to the battle for the 9th Foot – one Captain William SIBORNE, who had joined the regiment as a half-pay lieutenant after the battle. In 1830 he was asked to make a model of the battlefield, which he researched by interviewing officers of the Allied forces. His finished model is displayed at the National Army Museum (due to reopen next year) and his research is archived at the British Library

For more information, contact: [regimental.museum@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:regimental.museum@norfolk.gov.uk)

Dates for your diary: the London branch's 2016 meetings will be on March 12th and October 15th. The programme will be announced at a later date. Watch for the website and listings in the Ancestor.

**Mary Fisk (formerly Seeley)**

# Plea For More Norfolk Newspapers to be Digitised

THE Norfolk Family History Society is backing a campaign to have more Norfolk papers placed online by the British Newspaper Archive. We were contacted by Christopher Marsden who outlined his aims

"I am disappointed that still no Norfolk newspaper after 1870 is included. All other English counties have later coverage. The most recent now being 1955. For example Cumbria has coverage to 1898, Oxfordshire to 1900, Merseyside to 1918, Cambridgeshire to 1920, Leicestershire to 1939, London to 1945, Cornwall to 1950, Bedfordshire and Durham to 1954. and Suffolk to 1955.

"As there is an agreed wish that the BNA should offer a representative range across geographical areas and time periods I believe this discrimination against Norfolk is unwarranted.

"That said, a senior BL curator has been in touch with its contractor, DC Thomson Family History / Find My Past, and they report that the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal (later the Norfolk and Suffolk Journal and Diss Express) for 1866-1955 is on their schedule for future digitisation, though it is not possible for them to say exactly when this might be.

"There will be other Norfolk titles coming up for certain –DC Thomson Family History / Find My Past hopes to have digitised up to 40 million newspaper pages by 2020, and they have only done 11.5 million so far.

"I have been invited to let Find My Past know of particular Norfolk newspapers titles in which I am interested.

"I would like the King's Lynn paper online but I write to ask if the NFHS would have titles that it would like to see online. They won't be able to promise anything for sure, but I am told having recommendations from knowledgeable users will always be useful to them," Christopher said.

Obvious newspapers to be digitised would include the Eastern Daily Press, the Eastern Evening News (now the Norwich Evening News) and the Norwich Mercury, the latter which goes back to the early days of the 18th century. There are also many other weekly newspapers either previously or still in existence in Norfolk and North Suffolk that would help both historians and family history devotees in their research.

## VOLUNTEERS

The Norfolk Family History Society relies on the work of an army of volunteers and we are always looking for more.

If you can spare anything from a couple of hours a week, or even a month, to come into Kirby Hall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday or require further information, please email [volunteers@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@nfhs.co.uk), please include your membership number.

NB. It may be possible that some tasks could be undertaken at home. Any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

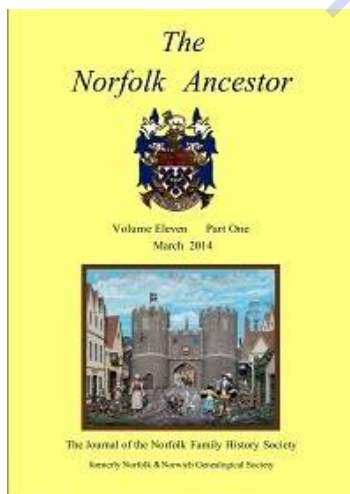
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# Norfolk Record Office Report

## New Parish Register Accessions, July-September 2015

|                                      |           |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Castle Acre                          | marriages | 1984-2014             |
| Flordon                              | marriages | 1966-2000             |
| Old Lakenham St John with All Saints | marriages | 1998 (one entry only) |
| Mulbarton                            | marriages | 2002-2012             |
| Mundford                             | marriages | 2000-2015             |
| Narborough                           | marriages | 2011-2015             |
| Norwich St Andrew                    | marriages | 1959-2011             |
| Pentney                              | marriages | 1989-2015             |
| Roydon (near King's Lynn)            | marriages | 1839-2013             |
| Southrepps                           | marriages | 1990-1992             |
| Sprowston                            | marriages | 1995-2003             |

## New Nonconformist Register Accessions

King's Community Church (Norwich) marriages 2009-2012

## Coming Events

### Free lunchtime talks at Norfolk Record Office: The Archive Centre

Women Against War: Norfolk Women Campaigning for Peace, 1914-19 **Thursday 3rd December** with Frank Meeres

Keep the Memory Alive': Norfolk Women and the Holocaust **Thursday 28th January** with Frank Meeres

Last Hope Island: The Polish Community during the Second World War **Monday 22nd February** with Frank Meeres

All talks take place 1-2pm. and last approximately 45 minutes, with 15 minutes at the end for questions. There is no need to book and the talks are free.

## NRO Research Bloggers 2016 Monday 18th January, 2-4pm at Norfolk Record Office Archive Centre,

Become an NRO Research Blogger and get the chance to carry out research and learn new IT skills. Volunteers will get training in how to carry out research at the

Norfolk Record Office, how to write a blog post and how to use Word Press to publish their blogs. Once you have attended the training session you are welcome to carry out your research at a time convenient to you. Booking is required but there is no charge.

### **Seal Sock Sewing Bee Wednesday 10th February, 10am-12 noon at Norfolk Record Office Archive Centre,**

We are always in need of more seal socks for our precious documents! During the afternoon you will learn how to make the socks, get a chance to see some of the seals they are keeping safe, and have a go at making some yourself. Sock-making is really straightforward and requires only basic sewing skills. Booking is required but there is no charge.

### **Introduction to Tudor and Stuart Palaeography Every Tuesday: 19th January to 22nd March (10 week course), 1-2pm at Norfolk Record Office Archive Centre,**

Tom Townsend, Archivist at NRO, will be exploring English palaeography through records of the poor, the riotous, nonconforming and downright criminal parts of Tudor and Stuart Norwich.

The course is aimed at anyone who needs or wants to use original, historical texts in their research, such as tracing the history of your community or house. Booking is required and the cost of the full course is £50.

### **Exploring Your Community: Conference 2016 Saturday 27th February, 10am-4.30pm At Norfolk Record Office Archive Centre**

Aimed at members of local history groups, the day includes a chance for you to tell us how you would like the NRO to help you. A session on how to use the University of East Anglia's and Community Action Norfolk's 'All Our Stories' Heritage DIY toolkit for project planning.

The opportunity for your group to give a presentation on a current or recent project, or something you would like to do in the future.

### **The inaugural Hassell Smith Memorial Lecture, by Professor Carole Rawcliffe.**

We have a limited number of presentation slots, please contact the Norfolk Record Office by Friday 31st January 2016. Each delegate will receive a one-day photography permit for NRO. Lunch included. Booking is required but there is no charge.

**Victoria Draper Archive Education and Outreach Officer**

# Norfolk Heritage Centre Upcoming Events

## Norfolk Heritage Centre Events for January to March 2016

### Heritage Hour

This takes place every other Tuesday from 1-2 pm in the Vernon Castle Room. The room seats 45 on a first come first served basis. Coming events are:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| January 12  | Starting your Family History   |
| January 26  | Temperance   |
| February 9  | The Norwich School of Artists  |
| February 23 | Health and Hospital Records (NRO Sources)<br>This talk is followed by a workshop |
| March 8     | Women in the Archives – Different Stories, Different Lives                       |
| March 22    | Irish Ancestors  |

### Family History Day Courses

These run from 10.30 am-12.30 pm and 2-4 pm and cost £10

Please note lunch is not provided and transportation between the Norfolk Heritage Centre and the Norfolk Record Office is not included.

### Introduction to Family History Courses:

These introductory courses introduce you to the primary sources for researching your family history - census returns, civil registration material, parish registers and Archdeacons and Bishops' Transcripts.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January** 10.30 am -12.30 pm at the Norfolk Heritage Centre and 2-4pm at the Norfolk Record Office

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> March** 10.30 am-12.30 pm and 2-4 pm at the Norfolk Heritage Centre.

### Family History Next Steps:

**Poor Law:** This course explains how to use documents from before and after the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834.



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February** 10.30 am -12.30 pm at the Norfolk Heritage Centre

## **Ask the Archives**

Book a free one to one appointment with an archive specialist. See <http://norwichmillenniumlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk> for exact dates and get in touch with the Heritage Centre to book [heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk) or telephone 01603774740.

Appointments are usually available on Tuesdays 1-2 pm and 5-6 pm and Saturdays 11am-12 noon. We can help with family history conundrums, introduce you to new sources for your university research or enable you to discover more things about your local area.

## **Museums at the Library**

A series of evening events with the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum Trainees with topics from Victorian Norwich to the French Revolution.

Further details will be available from December on

<http://norwichmillenniumlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

## **International Women's Day 2016 -Norfolk – Different Stories, Different Lives**

We will be celebrating IWD 2016 in the Forum on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be talks and activities in the Forum and in the Heritage Centre we will be taking a look at the "Different Stories, Different Lives" theme through some of the women in the archives. Join us for talks, hands on sessions with documents and a women's history workshop.

For further information please visit

<http://norwichmillenniumlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>

Book events on EventBrite or at the Norfolk Heritage Centre, alternatively contact us on

[heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk) or 01603 774740.

The Norfolk Heritage Centre also welcomes visits from schools, community groups and research collectives. Please get in touch to arrange your group visit.

**Orla Kennelly - Archive Specialist for Norfolk Record Officer**

# Praise for NFHS Web Site

We received the following message from Trish Bennett:

As I have not been on the nfhs site for a while, I would like to say that the home page looks so good with the photograph of Kirby Hall. I had always imagined it was situated somewhere out of town, but it is really near the town by the look of it. I can imagine why your web site is highly commended. I think all the staff are to be commended, as in all the years I have been a member I have always found that your team are always ready to help should I have any queries. Living in Sussex it is comforting to know that I have your support. Congratulations to you and all the team. Well done!

**Editor's Note:** Kirby Hall is indeed very close to Norwich City centre. For those who do not know our beautiful city of Norwich, it is in the St Giles area, just a couple of minutes' walk from our historic marketplace and our award winning Forum which houses the most visited library in the country.

The Forum is built on the site of the old Norwich Central Library which was devastated by fire in 1994, destroying many books and precious documents and forcing its closure.

The site lies at the heart of an area known in The Middle Ages as The French Borough. The Borough was established as a colony of French traders after the Norman Conquest, between 1071 and 1075.



***Norfolk Family History Society chair Jean Stangroom pictured in the library at Kirby Hall.***

# FAMILY TREES added to the Library

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ABLE                  | Hethersett                                       |
| ALDERSON              | Norwich  |
| ALDRICH               | Great.Yarmouth, Norwich (early)                  |
| ALLCOCK               | Lammas (early)                                   |
| ALLEN                 | Colby, Banningham (early)                        |
| AMYS/AMIS             | Barton Turf, Norwich, Neatishead, Pulham St.Mary |
| ANGUSH                | Foulsham (early and short)                       |
| APPLEGATE             | Binham, West Newton, Dersingham (mostly early)   |
| ARCHER                | Fakenham   |
| ARMES                 | North Elmham, Langham, Norwich, Yaxham           |
| ARMESBY               | Hardley, Blofield                                |
| ATTOE                 | Yelverton, Postwick, Catton and Thorpe (Norwich) |
| BAISPOOLE             | Raveningham, Worstead (early)                    |
| BARKER                | Aylsham, Norwich (early)                         |
| BELL                  | Oulton, Aylsham (early)                          |
| BENNETT               | Norwich, Hevingham                               |
| BUCKLE                | Wymondham, Norwich, Ditchingham (early)          |
| BULWER                | Aylsham (early)                                  |
| BURTON                | Wreningham, Loddon, Colton                       |
| CHAD                  | Thursford, Aylsham (early)                       |
| CLAXTON               | Norwich, Aylsham, Whitlingham (early)            |
| COPEMAN               | Aylsham, Itteringham                             |
| COTTER                | Aylsham, London (early)                          |
| CROPPE                | Aylsham, Southrepps (early)                      |
| DOUGHTY               | Aylsham (early)                                  |
| DRURY                 | Thurgarton, Aylsham (early)                      |
| DYE                   | North Walsham, Great Yarmouth                    |
| ELLIS/GARRARD         | Shelfanger, Diss                                 |
| ELWIN                 | Tuttington, Booton, Aylsham (early)              |
| GAY                   | Oulton, Aldborough, North Walsham                |
| GUNTON                | Briston, Aylsham to USA                          |
| HOLLEY                | Aylsham, Thornham                                |
| HUNT                  | Hempshead, Hevingham, Aylsham (early)            |
| HUNT                  | Foulsham, Hindolveston, Sharrington (early)      |
| JEWELL                | Aylsham, Northrepps, Trimmingham (early)         |
| KENNY                 | Norfolk to Australia                             |
| LEIGH                 | Hevingham, Tuttington (early)                    |
| OLLINGTON/A(O)LDERTON | Thetford to Tasmania, Norwich, Intwood           |
| PETERSON              | Wickmere, Aylsham (early)                        |
| SAPWELL               | Aylsham from Wolverhampton                       |
| TOMLING/COOK          | Aylsham  |
| TOMLINSON             | Cley, Matlaske, Marsham                          |
| WYETH                 | Aylsham, Great Yarmouth (early & short)          |
| WALKER                | Aylsham, Harpley (early)                         |
| WRENCH                | Norwich, Aylsham (early)                         |
| WYNDHAM               | Felbrigg, Aylsham                                |

**Pam Bridge, MN 3291 Family Tree Co-ordinator**

# Norfolk Family History Society

## Let Us Know What You Think



WHAT articles do you enjoy reading in the Norfolk Ancestor and what would you like to see more of? We would like to hear from you.

With your help we can make the magazine more vibrant. We would welcome any comments (good or bad). They can be sent to the editor via e-mail at the contact address on page 66 of this edition or can be sent to him at Kirby Hall.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Don't forget that there's lots more information on our official web site.

**<http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>**

## Full Colour Experience

IF you want to see the Norfolk Ancestor at its best, just visit our web site where members can view this publication and many of its photographs in full colour mode.

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Email: [enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk)

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**Norfolk Research Specialist**  
**(since 1982)**

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Latin translation  
Document transcription  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**Family Histories Compiled  
Parish Registers Transcribed**

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# NFHS Contacts and how to contact them

Please state the nature of your enquiry in the email subject box and quote your **Membership Number**

| <b>Title</b>                       | <b>Responsibilities</b>                                   | <b>Name</b>         | <b>email address</b>   |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| <b>Ancestor Editor</b>             | Editor  | Peter Steward       | <a href="mailto:ancestor@nfhs.co.uk">ancestor@nfhs.co.uk</a>                 |
| <b>Bookstall</b>                   | Bookstall   | Bookstall           | <a href="mailto:bookstall@nfhs.co.uk">bookstall@nfhs.co.uk</a>               |
| <b>Copy Request</b>                | Family trees, pedigrees and wills                         | Judith Parks        | <a href="mailto:copyrequest@nfhs.co.uk">copyrequest@nfhs.co.uk</a>           |
| <b>Fairs</b>                       | Fairs organiser   | Fairs               | <a href="mailto:fairs@nfhs.co.uk">fairs@nfhs.co.uk</a>                       |
| <b>Family Trees</b>                | Donations of family trees, pedigrees and BMD certificates | Pam Bridge          | <a href="mailto:familytrees@nfhs.co.uk">familytrees@nfhs.co.uk</a>           |
| <b>Look-ups</b>                    | Look up queries   | Ellen Carr          | <a href="mailto:lookups@nfhs.co.uk">lookups@nfhs.co.uk</a>                   |
| <b>Members Interests</b>           | Members Interests   | Peter Spurgeon      | <a href="mailto:membersinterests@nfhs.co.uk">membersinterests@nfhs.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>        | Membership  | Jean Stangroom      | <a href="mailto:membership@nfhs.co.uk">membership@nfhs.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Monumental Inscriptions</b>     | MI Co-ordinator   | Mary Mitchell       | <a href="mailto:minscriptions@nfhs.co.uk">minscriptions@nfhs.co.uk</a>       |
| <b>NORS errors &amp; Passwords</b> | NORS Errors and Password assistance                       | Judith Parks        | <a href="mailto:nors@nfhs.co.uk">nors@nfhs.co.uk</a>                         |
| <b>Projects</b>                    | Projects Co-ordinator                                     | Paul Harman         | <a href="mailto:projects@nfhs.co.uk">projects@nfhs.co.uk</a>                 |
| <b>Secretary</b>                   | Company Secretary   | Edmund Perry        | <a href="mailto:secretary@nfhs.co.uk">secretary@nfhs.co.uk</a>               |
| <b>Transcript Organiser</b>        | Transcript allocation and co-ordination                   | Margaret Murgatroyd | <a href="mailto:transcripts@nfhs.co.uk">transcripts@nfhs.co.uk</a>           |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                   | Treasurer   | Carole Taylor       | <a href="mailto:treasurer@nfhs.co.uk">treasurer@nfhs.co.uk</a>               |
| <b>Village Boxes</b>               | Village Boxes   | Judith Kilbourn     | <a href="mailto:villageboxes@nfhs.co.uk">villageboxes@nfhs.co.uk</a>         |
| <b>Volunteers</b>                  | Kirby Hall Volunteers Co-ordinator                        | Carol Reeve         | <a href="mailto:volunteers@nfhs.co.uk">volunteers@nfhs.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Webmaster</b>                   | Web site  | Webmaster           | <a href="mailto:webmaster@nfhs.co.uk">webmaster@nfhs.co.uk</a>               |
| <b>Wills</b>                       | Donations and Indexing of Wills                           | Ellen Carr          | <a href="mailto:wills@nfhs.co.uk">wills@nfhs.co.uk</a>                       |
| <b>Enquiries</b>                   | For topics not covered in above list                      | Enquiries           | <a href="mailto:enquiries@nfhs.co.uk">enquiries@nfhs.co.uk</a>               |

**Or by post to the appropriate person at  
Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS**



# Hidden Norfolk



THE first bomb to be dropped on Britain in the First World War didn't fall on a major city but on the Norfolk seaside town of Sheringham. This is just one of the little known facts about our county and in 2016 we will be featuring some of these interesting historical snippets on our cover series.

The plaque pictured above marks the spot in the town where that bomb landed in a yard in the evening of January 19th, 1915. On the morning of January 19th two German Zeppelins set off with the intention of attacking the Humber area of England. They were foiled by bad weather and switched their attacks to Norfolk coastal towns. Samuel SMITH in Great Yarmouth became the first British citizen to be killed by aerial bombardment. Martha TAYLOR was also killed and three others injured. But it was Zeppelin L4 that dropped the first bomb on Sheringham, after banking over Brancaster. Fortunately the bomb didn't explode and was taken away by a local resident who placed it in a bucket. A second bomb dropped on Sheringham did detonate but caused no damage.

More Norfolk hidden gems on the back cover.

# On Beeston Hill



MANY visitors to Norfolk climb Beeston Hill near Sheringham to get glorious views of the North Norfolk coastline. Few know until they get to the top that Beeston Hill (known affectionately as Beeston Bump) played a vital part in code breaking in the Second World War.

The hill was the location of a Y Station. Standing 207 feet above sea level, the hill was left behind when glaciers retreated northwards at the end of the last ice age between 15,000 and 10,000 years ago.

During the war, a network of Y Stations collected material to be passed to the code breakers at Bletchley Park. The stations intercepted wireless communications sent from German E Boats. The coded messages, which helped to pinpoint the location of enemy shipping, were taken either by couriers or later passed on by teleprinter.

The photograph above was taken on Beeston Hill at the end of October and shows quite clearly the octagonal concrete base of the Y Station with the sea and town of Sheringham in the background.