

The Norfolk Ancestor



MARCH 2016



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



Spitfire Memories

NORFOLK Family History Society Trustee Mike Dack received an interesting enquiry from Belgium concerning a crashed Spitfire plane and the death of its Belgian pilot in 1942. The Spitfire was apparently flying low on return from a raid and was brought down by barrage balloons.

Mike spoke to a friend who lived in Oak Street, Norwich, during the raids and another who lived in Sprowston, but both were unaware of this crash and the plaque which is featured on our front page.



So Mike visited the scene and photographed the memorial plaque. As you can see the pilot had a Norwich road named after him. The plaque reads: "Sergeant Pilot Maurice RAES (Born 17th June 1921-KIA 13th June 1942). 350 (Belgian) Squadron RAF. Crashed near Sprowston Road on June 13th 1942 returning to Debden after a convoy patrol."

The close that is named in memory of Maurice is just off the A1151 Sprowston Road in Norwich

Maurice Raes was buried on June 18th, 1942, in the cemetery at Brookwood, but, after the war, his body was moved to Pelouse d'Evere. Maurice was killed under tragic circumstances.

Unfortunately his aircraft, which had lost touch with a convoy, was plotted as an enemy aircraft, and, with a cloud base of 200 feet, the Barrage balloons were sent up. One of the balloons spotted him heading south east very low and the police and air raid wardens said an explosion occurred in the air.

It is assumed that the Norwich balloon barrage was sadly effective on this occasion. He was buried with full military honours. A good biography of Maurice Raes can be found at: [www.350sqn.be/biography/Raes Maurice.htm](http://www.350sqn.be/biography/Raes%20Maurice.htm)

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For a full list of contacts with email addresses please see page 62

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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

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)

Extended Opening Hours to Continue

WE are pleased to announce that the extended opening hours for Kirby Hall will continue until further notice.

Kirby Hall in Norwich will continue to open on Thursdays from 10 a.m until 4 p.m. The decision has been made by the trustees following a trial period up to Christmas. Why not come and give us a look. A full list of opening hours is on this page.

Welcome to our March Edition



I wonder how many of our members made a New Year's resolution to really crack on with their family research in 2016. I know I did.

To me there are two areas to genealogy which are of equal interest. The first is obviously establishing exactly where you come from through finding out names, addresses and other details of ancestors. The second is putting them into the context of the times in which they lived and learning a little about how they behaved and what they were involved in.

I always think it is sad that, however much you find out about ancestors, you will never be able to hear how they spoke and how they behaved, although elderly relatives can often give some idea of the latter. I often wonder whether my ancestors (who primarily come from Norwich and Great Yarmouth) spoke with Norfolk accents. I think it highly likely that they did as I can vividly remember my grandfather and grandmother on my father's side being quite "Broad Norfolk."

In this edition of the Norfolk Ancestor, you will find all the usual mix of news and articles along with membership renewal forms. I am still very much a new boy with regards to membership of the Society but my first impressions on joining were what excellent value for money it is. I hope you agree.

I really enjoy reading the articles that you send and please keep them coming. The notes and queries section also continues to expand. So if you are stuck in tracing a particular family or just want to share pictures or information with other members please send information for publication to me at the following address ancestor@nfhs.co.uk. There is a small charge for non members. Details are on page 55.

Our Facebook page continues to be extremely popular with membership now approaching 900. I know a number of people have had success in tracing relatives and ancestors through the exchange of information. We will be featuring some of these successes in future editions of Ancestor. Finally many thanks to all those who have taken time to write to say how much you enjoy the magazine. Best wishes to everyone for the remainder of 2016.

Peter Steward MN 14801

Roger Signs In



AS mentioned in our last edition of the Norfolk Ancestor, Roger Morgan has joined the team as assistant editor. Here he introduces himself and tells you a little about his family history

I was delighted when Peter asked me if I would like to help out with the production of The Norfolk Ancestor. My interest in family history research began about five years ago when I started looking into my father's background in East Sussex. I

appear to be descended from an eighteenth century Welsh soldier who was sent to convalesce in Battle. My great-great grandfather James worked at a gunpowder mill, regularly delivering wagon-loads of powder to supply the army during the Crimean War. He died six months short of his 100th birthday. The future generations turned to shopkeeping and gradually moved along the south coast via Hastings, Bexhill and Eastbourne, finally settling in Seaford, a small seaside town close to the ferry port of Newhaven. My father was a greengrocer and fishmonger in the town for many years. In the nineteenth century several members of the family emigrated to America, Canada and Australia and I recently discovered a whole new branch living in and around Eagle River in Wisconsin. I also have numerous relatives in Ontario, Canada.

I recently retired from teaching, having spent 15 years working in Hornchurch, Essex, and a further 25 years as the Head of Science at a Norwich school. Currently I am researching my wife's family with the surnames of MARTIN and WALLER. They mainly lived and worked in the Golden Triangle area of Norwich. Her great uncle, Walter WALLER owned a small bedding and mattress-making factory in Stamp Office Yard in Norwich. Some of the WALLER family moved to London to become engineers on the railway. The MARTIN side has been a little more difficult to trace as some of the parish records were destroyed during World War Two. I have discovered her great grandfather, Henry MARTIN's grave in Earlham Cemetery but I am finding it more difficult to go back any further.

Roger will tell us more about his family in the June edition..

Remarkable Early Life of a Norfolk Gamekeeper

By Norman Fox

AS last Christmas approached and pheasants appeared in the countryside and butchers' shops, I recalled having a copy of *The Gamekeeper Magazine* dated October 1915. The subject of the cover article was my great grandfather, Robert EARLE, who was born in Suffield in 1860 and became head-gamekeeper at Honing Hall near North Walsham.

His father died young, forcing the nine-year-old to leave school and begin earning to help support the family. Remarkably, he managed to secure a junior position with Lord SUFFIELD, owner of Gunton Park which was one of Norfolk's most famous shoots. Robert quickly became familiar with the countryside and its wildlife. While still only nine he started driving in the game birds. Two years later he started work in the rearing field and, despite his still tender age, a year after that he was often working all night.



Mr. ROBERT EARLE
Head-gamekeeper to E. C. Cubitt, Esq., Honing Hall,
near Norwich.

Robert was clearly a diligent employee and would even find nests where the head gamekeeper had already searched. But 12 years after he arrived, Gunton was closed as a centre for rearing game birds and the staff dispersed. Robert moved into the employ of Sir R.W.P. BEAUCHAMP and spent two seasons with him before, curiously, he accepted a 'beat' for the London Cemetery Company in Surrey. Unsurprisingly it was not an ideal place for the rearing of game, let alone shooting. Robert soon left to become a London policeman on a different sort of 'beat', but the lure of country life was inescapable.

He returned to Norfolk and in 1883 was appointed head-gamekeeper to E.G. CUBITT, of Honing Hall near Norwich, and there he remained for the rest of his working life. He was immediately presented with problems, not least poaching. The best woods were on the boundary and there was a lot of common land easily accessed by local villagers who also used it for grazing cattle and geese. Robert set traps that were not just for animals! Many locals faced the magistrates for the first time and the first season's game bag after he arrived was trebled, with several hundred pheasant, partridge and 40 brace of snipe as well as woodcock,

duck and marsh rabbit. In 1915 The Gamekeeper Magazine reported: "Mr Earle was fifty-seven years of age in August, and we can congratulate him on retaining a robust health. In fact he is fit for many more years of hard work".

Major General Sir William CUBITT KCVO, CBE, great grandson of E.G. CUBITT, said the estate today is "reassuringly similar" to that described in the magazine but they no longer set traps for poachers or have nine-year-old boys driving in the pheasants!

The author would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any knowledge of the Norfolk EARLE family. His grandfather (Harold) was born in Crostwight but moved to South Wales and Kent to become a coal miner.

Norman Fox MN 15490 e-mail NAFox@tinyworld.co.uk

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, 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.

Time to Renew Membership

It is time to renew membership of the Norfolk Family History Society. The renewal forms can be found in the centre section of this edition of the Norfolk Ancestor.

The Society welcomes people interested in tracing their Norfolk ancestors and family history. We currently have around 4,000 members researching their ancestors in Norfolk, including members from as far afield as Papua New Guinea, Australia, U.S.A. and Canada.

Embittered and Autocratic

By John Harman

IN the June 2015 edition of Norfolk Ancestor, John HARMAN introduced us to the atrocious conditions existing in the Blofield area in the 19th century, including lack of toilet facilities for some tenants. In a second article, he offers some reasons behind Sir Henry Negus BURROUGHES' curmudgeonly and illegal refusal in 1864 to provide adequate toilet provision. It suggests some factors that might have influenced his character and attitudes: his position in society - local, county wide and national - as well as some family circumstances.

At the time of the 1851 census, Henry was living at Burlingham St Peter Hall with his wife, Jane, (née Jane Sarah HOOSTE, born in 1792), a younger brother, William, who was listed as a Justice of the Peace, and three children: his second son, Henry Negus Junior, who was then a lieutenant in the Royal Navy in reserve and on half pay, and two younger sons, Randall and Edward. Their upkeep required 11 live-in servants.

Probably more than half the entire adult parish of Burlingham St Peter served the Hall in 1851 - roughly the same as ten years earlier. There were 67 inhabitants in the parish over ten years of age. Eleven of these were living at the Hall; a farmer, a gamekeeper, a cowman and a gardener with their wives accounted for 10 others; and there were 11 further households, all headed by agricultural labourers, most of whom must have relied on the Hall for their wages.

By 1861 the pattern had changed a little. There were then 71 residents over 10 years old: with a similar number at the Hall, on the estate, a farmer, a farm bailiff, a dairyman, a gardener, two "team men" and a gamekeeper. Of the remainder of the male population, nearly all were agricultural labourers. One elderly lady was listed as a housekeeper, a young lady of 17 as a school teacher.

She probably worked at the Lingwood and North Burlingham School, a building owned by the BURROUGHES family, and supported by both of Henry's wives. In all respects, therefore, Henry was the Lord of the Manor that includ-

ed a “closed” village, which had developed little between 1841 and 1881.

Henry's eldest son, James Burkin BURROUGHES (named after Henry's father) was not at the Hall at the time of the 1851 census. Two other children, William, born in 1827 and Mary, born in 1823, had died before the census was taken. This was the sadder aspect of Henry's life. Sarah, his first wife, died in 1851, after the census, and, although he married Augusta Susanna PROCTOR, 30 years his junior, in 1854, he lived at Burlingham Hall for the last 18 years of his life with his wife, his only surviving child, the Reverend Randall BURROUGHES, and many sad memories.

At least Henry died rich. After his death, all of his estate was held in trust with Augusta still living at the Hall. Kelly's Directory, 1883 records:

“Burlingham Hall, the seat of Mrs. Burroughes, is a commodious mansion, situated in a well-wooded park. The trustees of the late H. N. Burroughes, esq. are lords of the manor and chief landowners. The soil is good mixed; subsoil, clay. The chief crops are wheat, barley and oats. The area (at the Hall) is 405 acres; rateable value, £913; and the population (of Burlingham St Peter) in 1881 was 64.

In total, though, the trustees controlled much more of BURROUGHES' property. In March 1876, for example, the Bury and Norwich Post Newspaper placed the BURROUGHES' trusted estate the 23rd richest in the county list: “Burroughes H. N. trustees: Burlingham Hall 7879 acres with a gross rental of £13,244”.

We know little of Henry's youth. It seems that he did nothing of note as far as the Norfolk newspapers were concerned. But he was born into troubled times locally. The Norfolk Chronicle article which listed the justices (including Henry's father) at a meeting in 1793 went on to report the purpose of the gathering as follows:

“Whereas there is great reason to apprehend that much sedition and dissatisfaction in the minds of the common people have been promoted by Clubs and Associations at Alehouses, in order to prevent such abuses in future, the Magistrates hereby require all Tavern keepers and Publicans to pay attention to Persons resorting to their houses, whose speeches or behaviour shall be conducive to sedition or disloyalty, and whenever it shall appear to the Magis-

trates acting in any particular district, that any such Rendezvous has been held at any Tavern Public house within the same district, and without intimation having been given thereof by the Landlord of such House, every such Person will be deemed improper to be trusted with a Licence in future.”

Broadly the message was that if you don't snitch on your more vociferous customers you will lose your livelihood. The report went on to show that the magistrates were determined to ensure that all Norfolk parishes recognised that it was their duty to see that their militia men were properly paid and instructed. Just in case, perhaps?

Henry was only two years old in 1793 when the Justices had that meeting, but his childhood must have been shadowed by this local concern as well as by the more national concern about outcomes of the revolution in France, which must have seemed to pose a threat to his family's life-style. His youth would have included anxiety about the rise of Napoleon and the possibility of invasion. Then, his majority achieved – he was 26 at the time of Waterloo – there followed, much nearer home, the agrarian riots of 1822 leading to a period of discontent that peaked in 1830s with the Swing riots, each involving rick burning, and the destruction of machinery, each prevalent in Norfolk, each calling for the use of the Yeomanry. Regular notices in the Norfolk Chronicle show that Henry was Captain of the Blofield and South Walsham Yeomanry from before 1817 to 1828, when the Bury and Norwich Post of the 31st December reports that he was presented with “a very handsome piece of plate” from his men.

He was involved in local affairs in other ways. In his mid twenties his period as High Sheriff had been, by others, considered contentious. In February 1818, the Bury and Norwich Post reports:

“The Rev. Archdeacon Bathurst, having pledged himself to lay before Parliament the improper conduct of the late High Sheriff of this county (H. N. Burroughes, Esq.) at the meeting held on the 13th ult., wrote to consult two Members of the House of Lords, and one of the House of Commons, upon the subject. The latter gentleman (presumably the Whig, Thomas William Coke) in his reply, intimated that “the present Ministers of the Crown have such an Augean Sta-

ble for him to cleanse, that he literally has not time to sweep the Norfolk Shire house.”

The “improper conduct” that had so incensed the Reverend BATHURST but had left one of the North Norfolk MPs entirely unmoved, was about two “Addresses” on the death of Princess Charlotte following the birth of her still-born son: one to the Prince Regent, her father (who had Conservative sympathies), the other to Prince Leopold, her husband. Princess Caroline, Charlotte’s mother, the estranged wife of the Prince Regent, herself a Whig supporter was not mentioned in either address.

The Rev. BATHURST deplored the omission and also the fact that the addresses were to be from only “The Nobility, Clergy and Freeholders”. “Were there no inhabitants in the County who were not freeholders?” he asked, democratically and absolutely rhetorically, “And had they no interest, no feeling, on the present occasion?”

Henry, the meeting’s chair, was less democratic. He tried to rule out of order discussion of any amendment to the wording of the addresses and of the addition, as signatories, of people other than the landed. Furthermore at the end of the meeting, packed on the occasion (for some reason?!) with non-freeholders, he ruled that only freeholders’ votes should be taken into account.

There is no doubt that Henry had become influential in the county and kept influential company. He was listed as one of the Vice Presidents at a meeting of an association in July 1819 at which the President was the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Norwich, incidentally the father of the incensed Rev. Archdeacon BATHURST. Henry’s fellow vice-presidents included the Right Hon. Lord Viscount ANSON, the Right Hon. Lord CALTHORPE, the Right Hon. Lord ROCKSAVAGE, the Hon. C WODEHOUSE, MP, T. W. COKE, MP. and others.

It seems, too, that like most Tories at the time he was against free trade and that he held a poor view of the agricultural labourers who worked his fields. There is some evidence that these opinions were commonly held in rural areas among those of the Tory persuasion. For example, press reports such as the content of Lord WODEHOUSE’S speech at the Fête Champêtre that Hen-

ry gave to celebrate his first election to Parliament in 1837 (not reported here), and, even earlier, the report of a meeting of the Blofield and Walsingham Hundreds Association that Henry chaired (in *The Bury and Norwich Post* of 18th March 1822).

Henry did not himself speak at the meeting, but the matters discussed are indicative of the mind-set of those present. Protection was claimed “against the foreign grower (of imported arable produce), for it was impossible in the present state of things for the British farmer to contend with the foreigner, in as much as the latter was almost wholly, indeed wholly, exempt from the imposts under which the former suffered.” Later in the report we find that, “the gentlemen farmers did not lose the opportunity to refer to the state of the poor – but not in any helpful way”.

For example, it was suggested, that “the thing most necessary was an increase in the consumption of malt, by causing it to be used by the poor as it was in former times (brewing). This could not be done, unless the duty upon it was taken entirely off, and even in that case the other necessities of life were so extremely dear as to allow little or no money to spend for their wholesome beverage.”

It was even thought “that some means should be pointed out for the employment of the poor, who were by their present habits of idleness ruined in their morals, and only rendered a useless burden. The best means to effect this change would be by bringing into cultivation a still larger quantity of arable land — by encouraging the consumption (i.e. of beer). The consequent increased demand for barley would mean more land under cultivation and require more labour to work them.”

In summary, then, Henry had been born into a rich, influential family. He had inherited the almost feudal position of lord of a “closed” village. As an adult he held further positions of authority in Norfolk surrounded by like-thinking land owners, and he served as a Member of Parliament for nearly 20 years. But he had experienced the death of his first wife and all but one of his five children. Small wonder that Henry had grown up to become a little embittered and entirely, and powerfully, autocratic.

John Harman MN 15027

Family History Software Report

By Brian Eaton

IN the second of his series on genealogy software, Brian Eaton looks at using Family Historian in a question and answer interview with Norfolk Ancestor.

How long have you been using Family Historian (FH)?

Since version two, over 12 years ago. It is now at version six.

What was it about FH that made you chose it?

I tried some other family history software but was not happy with how they recorded such things as source data. Right from the beginning (version two was the first release to the public) I found FH much better. FH is written by a UK software company and does not have annoying American idiosyncrasies. Data is stored in a 100% GEDCOM compliant file, media files are stored externally to the data file.

Do you get an instruction manual?

The boxed set includes an introductory manual which includes a tutorial that covers all of the basic data and source entry methods. There is a lot of built-in help information which is backed up by a message board and user help group. The user group is free to join and has a section devoted to helping new users.

Is FH easy to use?

Yes, it is a good idea to go through the tutorial first as it covers everything that a beginner needs to know. It is very easy to add citation and source data to which you can attach any type or size of file.

What about when you want to do something a bit more complicated?

It is very easy to correct errors including such things as changing the names of parents of a child. You can also merge people who you have entered twice. Illegitimacy, multiple marriages, partnerships and adoption can all be entered or changed at any time.

Can you customise the off-the-shelf version?

Yes, in lots of different ways that are too numerous to list in this article, but to mention a few: You can customise the form used to enter data about a person,

add fact types which can include a definition of an associated sentence for use in reports, and change the information and format of charts. The most powerful customisation can be done using what are called 'plug-ins'. These are extensions to FH that are almost limitless in power. There are many available in an on-line library. You can write your own, but do not have to. I think the most useful of these is 'Ancestral Sources' which has a series of standard templates that you use to enter census (separate forms for UK, Canada, USA, and Ireland that is also census-year dependent), baptisms, birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates or burial data. You can attach any relevant media file at the same time and then 'Save' the information which puts each item of data into the correct place in the FH data file, a GEDCOM file.

Are there lots of charts and reports?

Lots of them which you can customise, and there are more that can be created using 'plug-ins'. One of the most powerful features is the ability to extend your family tree by adding people when using a chart!

Can you add photographs to people?

Yes, as many as you like per person. If it is a group photo, you add it once, and link it to everybody in your tree that is on the photo, and also draw a box round an individual so that they are displayed when information about any particular person in the group photo is accessed. You can also add notes to any person, family or fact entry.

Does FH link automatically to any commercial websites?

You can work entirely offline, or display indicators that show the number of matches found in My Heritage. The display of these indications is optional. You can also search a number of websites, defined in a drop down list, for any individual that you have highlighted.

Does that mean that you are tied to MyHeritage?

No, you can use it if you want to, it is not mandatory. I personally only use it very occasionally.

Is there anything in FH that does not work well?

You can generate your own family tree website, it is fairly plain but does contain everything that you want it to and it is possible to exclude living people from it. The same process can be used to generate the data to load on a CD/DVD that works like a website, very useful for sending to other people.

What user support is there?

There is a very active messaging system run by Calico Pie, the developers of FH. Requests for help are answered very quickly by many of the very experienced FH users. They are prepared to help people who have just started using FH. There is also the 'Family History User Group' (FHUG) website that has a very big searchable knowledgebase plus user forum. This is run by and for FH users and covers new, basic, intermediate and very experienced use. There is a section devoted to helping users import data from other family history programmes. There is also a section devoted to running FH, which is only available as a Windows programme, on a Mac.

How much space does the data you enter take up?

FH itself takes up about 36 MB hard disc space. The data is split into two parts: The GEDCOM file, yes FH is 100% GEDCOM compliant, and an associated media files folder. The size for a Gedcom file for 425 people, 115 families and 35 sources that I have is 298 KB, whilst for another Gedcom of 6418 people, 1886 families, 773 notes and 3333 sources the size is 12.3 MB. The size of the media folder is dependent upon the types of files you add which can be documents, photos, scanned images, downloaded images, sound or video. My biggest one has 3716 media files and total size is 1.73 GB. This seems a lot but think how much space the paper equivalent would take. I can easily hold all of this information on my tablet computer, ideal for taking to Record Offices.

Would you recommend using FH?

Yes, I definitely would. To me it is a very comprehensive software program that can be used and customised to suit the individual's needs. The free on-line help is exemplary, plug-ins have been written to help users overcome problems besides really expanding its capability and making it even easier to use. You can download the full version for a 30 day trial, the only restriction is that you cannot run plug-ins. Please have a look at the Family Historian User Group (FHUG) web site if you have any worry about how to use it and need help to import data from another genealogy programme into FH.

Brian points out that there is a lot of help available regarding importing Family Tree Maker into Family Historian following the recent announcement that there will be no new releases of this software and that support for it will end on 1st January, 2017.

Free On-line Genealogy Course

A free online course helping students to develop an understanding of the basic genealogy techniques and how to communicate family history will be going live on March 14th. The course will consider how to effectively find and analyse sources and explore the potential of DNA testing as applied to genealogy. It will also help enthusiasts add historical context to family history and discuss how to record and communicate research findings in a clear fashion. Those taking part can also learn how to find and store information on their family trees.

The course will help to define what individuals want to research, and consider the best ways to go about finding and storing information on a family tree. The key challenge of genealogy – finding the right person among a number of possible candidates, with ever-changing spellings of surnames – will also be considered.

It will conclude by introducing the main types of tools genealogists use to communicate their research findings, including creating a family tree and looking at how to write a meaningful family history. There will also be the chance to share genealogy finds with learners worldwide.

Throughout the course, students will follow the story of Chris, as she uncovers her own family history, and those taking part will be encouraged to share sources and ideas particular to their area of genealogical interest and geographic focus.

The course will not concentrate on a specific country's records or how to source these, so it will be useful to anyone around the world.

"Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree" is being organised as part of the British Open University's online free courses on Future Learn and has been brought to our attention by Norfolk Family History Society member Reg Smith.

It is hoped that the knowledge gained from the course will prompt those taking part to explore family history research more deeply or even consider a career as a professional genealogist. To read more about the course and register to take part visit www.futurelearn.com

For those wishing to take their genealogy even further, the University of Strathclyde has an online MSc in Genealogical Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies.

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DIARY of EVENTS

From March 2016

Date	Event	Location
Mar 8 7pm	Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree, (Blacksmiths) - Speaker: Ian Waller	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss
Mar 12 1pm	Conserving King's Lynn's Past	Trinity Guild Hall, King's Lynn
Mar 12 2pm	London Branch members day with an open theme	Society of Genealogists
Apr 12 7pm	Whatever happened to the Norwich Industry? - Speaker: Rod Spokes	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss
May 10 7pm	What Grandad Did In The Garden - Speaker Shirley Hall	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss
June 14 7pm	Farming with Horses - Speaker: Ray Hubbard	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss
Aug 9 7pm	General Registration - Speaker: Simon Pawley	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss

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 56-59. Also check our web site for updates.

Buckinghamshire Open Day Event

Buckinghamshire Family History Society is holding an Open Day on Saturday 23rd July from 10am to 4pm at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

Research facilities including the names database (over five million entries), parish registers, people, and places libraries,. parish register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. There will also be expert advice; guest societies from around the country; local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

Admission is free, with free parking at the venue. Further information, including a full list of organisations attending, can be found at www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Editor's Corner

By Peter Steward

BEING interested in genealogy has always just been one part of my interest in history in general. Whilst researching a particular family name it is more than likely that you will come across interesting people with the same surname who may or may not be related to you.

I have always enjoyed finding out about these people and their history and have come across some interesting and engaging characters. Of course there is always the chance that I might be related to them but haven't quite established an actual link.

It was whilst taking an Australian family around Hethersett Hall that I came across the name of Sir William Arthur STEWARD who was the last owner of the property before it was turned into a residential home for the elderly. Research showed Sir William to be a very interesting character as is the history of the hall. Below, the two are intertwined and I hope you find what follows at least of passing interest.

Sir William STEWARD was born on 20th April, 1901. It was some time after 1976 that he became the owner of

Hethersett Hall, a substantial building which is now just off the B1172. It was built by John Luke ISELIN who was born in Basel, Switzerland. A stone on the floor in the nave of Hethersett Church bears the inscription – in memory of John Luke ISELIN.

The Hall's first occupier was Thomas BACK, a Norwich solicitor. An undated newspaper cutting I have in my possession describes Hethersett Hall as "an outstanding country house standing in one of the most beautiful parks in the area, overlooking open countryside and grazing land to its private lake."

At the time of the cutting, Hethersett Hall was being offered for sale through Temples Estate Agents for a price in the region of £200,000. It was further described as "a grand Georgian house, standing about six miles from the city (Norwich) off the London A11 road (now the B1172) in about 43 acres of land."

The Eastern Evening News of 3rd April, 1979, had an article entitled "King Curry sells his Norfolk home." There was a picture of Sir William STEWARD standing in front of the hall.

Sir William STEWARD was the son of Mr and Mrs W. A STEWARD. His father was head gardener in Norwich Cathedral Close. He was educated at the Norwich Model School and privately and, during the Second World War, served as a senior catering officer with the Royal Air Force, reaching the rank of Squadron Leader.

Sir William was an expert in the field of curry foods and became the owner of the famous Veeraswamy's Indian Restaurant in London. Later he became owner of a company manufacturing canned curry products.

His story is a classic rags to riches tale. Born in Norwich, he rose from an office boy earning five shillings a week to become the owner of the internationally renowned restaurant. He became an expert on curries by travelling over 200,000 miles to research the subject and his expertise in the field led to him being nicknamed "King Curry."

After working as an office boy, Sir William sought his fortune in London at the age of 19. He was articled to a firm of chartered accountants, was secretary of three restaurant companies by the age of 22, and at 28 became a managing director and at 30 chairman of those companies. In 1935 he became chairman of Veeraswamays. He had taken over the restaurant in 1930 and was married to one of the top sing-

ers of the time - Greta GAYE . Unfortunately I haven't been able to find anything about her.

Throughout the 1930s, trade was very difficult but the couple used great resourcefulness and came through the challenging times. In the 1940s and 1950s the restaurant became a great success. The first ever curry in a can was introduced under Veeraswamy Food Products brand in the early 1950s. After he sold the restaurant in 1967 the food products business under the Veeraswamy name continued to be owned by the couple until his death.

He was subsequently made a freeman of the City of London and was a member of London County Council from 1949 to 1952 and a Master of the Worshipful Company of Distillers from 1953 to 1959. He was also a member of the Council of the Caterers' Association.

He became a Member of Parliament when he won Woolwich West for the Conservative Party in 1950, holding the seat until he retired nine years later. He had previously stood for the parliamentary seat of Southwark Central in the 1945 election but had failed to gain election. He was elected chairman of the London Conservative Union in 1953.

While an MP, Sir William was chairman of the Kitchens' Committee in the House of Commons and was the first

Chairman for 100 years to make the department profitable. He was knighted in 1955 at the age of 54. He maintained close links with Norwich and was a keen supporter of Norwich City Football Club.

When Norwich City were promoted to the Second Division in 1933, he gave a dinner at Romano's, the restaurant he then owned, for the directors, manager and players.

Sir William was also a trustee of the Great Hospital in Norwich and this is recorded on a board in the main hall.

Going backwards in my research I found that in the 1911 census William STEWARD was aged nine and de-

scribed as a schoolboy. His address was given as 49 Cathedral Close and the remainder of his family consisted of father William Steward (37), mother Clara Steward (37) and brother George Steward (11).

I have also established that the Veeraswamy Restaurant is still in existence at 99-101 Regent Street. It was opened in 1926 by Edward PALMER, the great grandson of an English soldier and an Indian Princess.

In its early years it served Anglo-Indian cuisine but now serves more regionalised Indian dishes. The restaurant is preparing to celebrate its 90th birthday this year.



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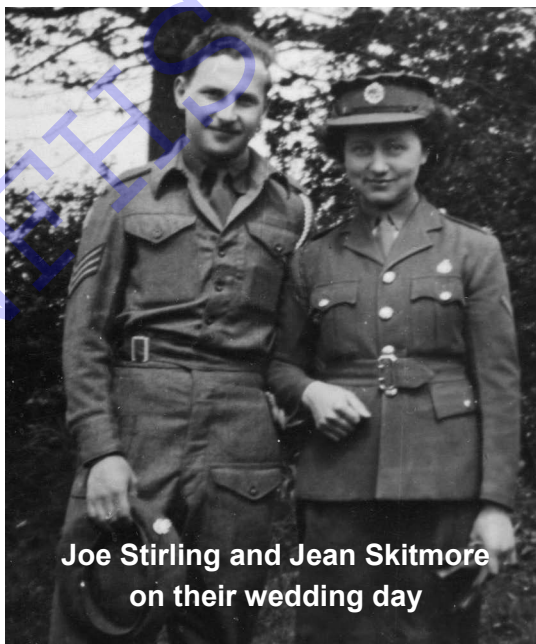
By Phyllida Scrivens

Phyllida Scrivens is a recent post-graduate student with an MA in Biography from the University of East Anglia and lives in Thorpe St Andrew just outside Norwich. Her debut biography, “Escaping Hitler: A Jewish Boy’s Quest for Freedom and His Future” has just been published by Pen and Sword Books with a special launch in Jarrold’s department store in Norwich in February. In this special article Phyllida tells the unique story of her research into a fascinating tale.

ON 21st May, 1946, a young couple were married in St Mary’s Church in Attleborough, proudly wearing their British Army uniforms. Inside the sacred Norman building, both bride and groom were on unfamiliar territory; she born into a strict Brethren family, the groom a German Jew who entered England as a fourteen-year-old refugee on a Kindertransport some seven years earlier.

There were no family members on his side of the church. In 1944 his superior officers had changed his name from Stern to Stirling, officially retaining his given name of ‘Günter’.

The boys in the Glasgow barracks were having none of it and dubbed him ‘Joe’. Nearly 30 years later Joe Stirling would become the Sheriff of Norwich. I



**Joe Stirling and Jean Skitmore
on their wedding day**

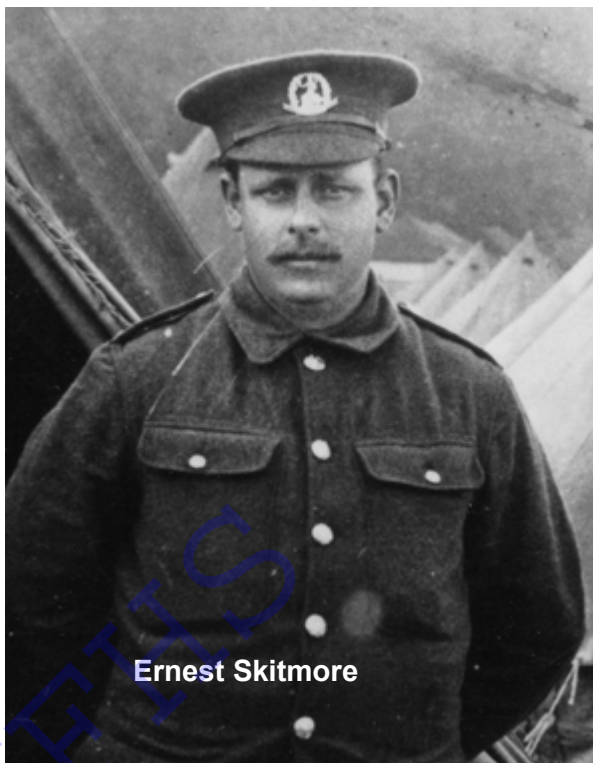
met Joe quite by chance in December 2011 during a Human Library event at the University of East Anglia. He was telling the story of his early life in Nazi Germany. Within minutes I knew he would be an inspirational subject for my

postgraduate studies in Biography. I began to visit his home regularly and as his stories developed I resolved to research his remarkable 90 years of life.

Over four years I interviewed 35 people who had connections with Joe, studied family trees on Ancestry.com, acquired Joe's Army records and contacted World Jewish Relief who uncovered the Kindertransport file on young Günter Stern. Most exciting of all I experienced a 'footstepping' research trip to Germany in 2013, finding Joe's birthplace, the flat in Koblenz where he and his mother fled following Kristallnacht, and retracing the route of the boy's desperate walk across Northern Europe in 1939 in his own attempt at escaping the Nazis.

Pen and Sword Books accepted my proposal and have now published this biography as "Escaping Hitler: A Jewish Boy's Quest for Freedom and His Future."

'No man is an island' (John Donne 1624) and so it proved. The people whose lives had touched Joe's were as fascinating as the man himself. During 2013, while researching Joe's early marriage, I was introduced to members of his late wife's relatives, descendants



Ernest Skitmore

of the SKITMORE family of Attleborough, two of which were keen family historians. Excited by my project, both generously gave me access to their personal research material, documents and original photographs.

Originally from Little Ellingham, Jean's father, Ernest William SKITMORE (born 29th May 1886) was conscripted into the 10th (Reserve) Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment in June 1916 and spent some time in France. Ernest stood only five foot two inches, with a girth disproportionately wide. He was not suited for combat and in September was transferred to the Agricultural

Company of the Eastern Command Labour Corps, based in Norwich. This was an ideal posting for the poorly educated former gardener at Attleborough Hall, the ancient seat of the MORTIMER family.

On 8th May, 1915, at the Chapel of the Primitive Methodists in Rockland St Peter, Ernest had married Lucy LEACH, born in Great Ellingham on 5th October, 1889, an assistant cook at the Hall. The couple's first daughter Joan was born during December 1916.

They would go on to have three further children, Marjorie in June 1918, Jean Mary on 23rd August 1920 and a late arrival, Gordon in November 1928.

I was honoured to meet with the irrepressible Kathleen BIDEWELL, daughter of Joan SKITMORE, now well into her nineties. In her room at Quebec Hall, a retirement home for Christians, she eloquently shared her memories of life in Norwich as the daughter of a Brethren preacher during the early decades of the 20th century, as well as her recollections of the German born young man who had married into her extended family shortly after the end of World War II. It became clear that the Brethren faith held an integral role in

Lucy Skitmore



the story of Joe STIRLING'S early married life. In October 2013 I posted an online appeal on the Norwich and Norfolk Christian Community Website, asking if anyone remembered the Attleborough Brethren.

I was delighted to be invited to the home of David JACK, who introduced me to others who remembered the SKITMORES worshipping together in the tin Gospel Hall in Hargham Road, Attleborough. They taught me much about the beliefs and traditions of the Brethren, enabling me to add invaluable contextual interest to my narrative.

Headstrong and determined, Jean rejected the restrictions and rules of her

parents' religion in 1934 when leaving school. Her job in the Briton Brush Company in Lady's Lane, Wymondham, exposed her to the pleasures of youth; a drink after work, music and away-days with her colleagues, all of which were forbidden to her.

In an effort to break away, Jean first joined the Salvation Army where she could more freely engage with the community and then, in 1942, aged 21 and legally beyond the control of her parents, left Attleborough to join the British Army and train as an Ammunition Examiner in Bramley Camp near Basingstoke in Hampshire.

Had the SKITMORES been members of the Exclusive Brethren sect, it is likely that her family would have denounced her. But fortunately for both Jean and later for Joe, Ernest and Lucy were followers of the Open Brethren and, although disappointed, did not reject their youngest daughter.

Joe's army career led him to Bramley in February 1945. He was soon attracted to the Norfolk girl, four years older than him, her diminutive figure making her appear deceptively youthful.

When comparing my research findings into each of their backgrounds, I realised that Joe and Jean were remarkably similar, possibly explaining their immediate empathy for each other. Joe, the only Jewish child in the school in the rural Catholic village of Nicken-

ich, gradually rejected and outcast by neighbours, teachers and friends; Jean a Brethren girl in her village school, 'different' from the others. Both the STERNS and the SKITMORES were from humble rural backgrounds, both families knowing hardship and poverty.

When Joe first met Jean's parents in Attleborough, he was relieved to find that they lived modestly in two disused railway carriages in Leys Lane, without electricity or mains water, the toilet some way down the garden, keeping farm animals and growing vegetables. It was a familiar existence.

His concerns about the possibility of prejudice from Jean's Brethren parents, in view of his nationality and Jewish background, were unfounded. Ernest and Lucy welcomed him into their home with open arms, Lucy offering tea from her best Royal Vale bone-china pot.

"Escaping Hitler: A Jewish Boy's Quest for Freedom and His Future" (ISBN 978-1-47384-346-4) by Phyllida Scrivens explores all aspects of Joe's long life from his childhood in Nazi Germany; school years as an evacuee in Gloucestershire; his time in the British Army; his move to Norfolk and Norwich; the development of his pioneering business, Stirling Holidays; his year as Sheriff of Norwich; his continu-

ing charitable work as a senior member of Lions Clubs International and how he came to travel the world before retirement.

from the author at www.escapinghitler.com, or from Norfolk bookshops and Amazon.co.uk.

Published by Pen and Sword Books, signed copies by both the author and Joe Stirling are available direct

We will have a full review of Phyllida's book in the June edition of Norfolk Ancestor

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Recording for Future Generations

By Mary Mitchell

Monumental Inscriptions co-ordinator Mary Mitchell looks at the best ways to record these monuments from Norfolk Churches and Churchyards for future generations.

THE Norfolk Family History Society has a fairly large number of Monumental Inscription surveys that have been recorded over the years and these are available to view in Kirby Hall. Many of them are also on NORS where you can search for an individual who you think may have been lucky enough to have a gravestone or memorial erected in their memory.

Many of the MI surveys the society has were recorded many years ago by Walter RYE and Walton DEW back in the late 1800s. The Women's Institute recorded many churchyards in 1980 and 1981 and we have copies of them as well. They are also available to view on FamilySearch. However, there are many Norfolk churchyards and churches which have not been recorded or need to be updated.

I realise that recording a churchyard can be a daunting task to undertake so I have been wondering if there are members of the society who live in Norfolk who would be happy to go round their churches and churchyards and take photographs of the gravestones and memorials.

I now do this as I record a churchyard and church as they are a valuable source for people who cannot get to see their ancestor's gravestone or memorial. It also helps to check if there is a query on what has been transcribed – sometimes details on the memorial do not agree with what we know about the individual.

The other reason for having a photograph is because the gravestones are quickly becoming unreadable. Hopefully with a photograph we can transcribe what can be read and then have records (in Kirby Hall and on NORS) that can be searched by people looking for their ancestor.



The two photographs above show how gravestones quickly become unreadable. The gravestone of Fanny Frances CHAPLIN was originally photographed when I visited Geldeston Churchyard in about 1993 when my daughter was studying at the UEA and we lived in Edinburgh. I used a camera which had film in it – no digital cameras in those days!

The latest photograph of the same gravestone was taken in 2014 with a digital camera. It is obvious that there has been a large deterioration due to the weather and lichen has started to cover the stone.

What would be ideal is if everyone (who can) could go out and photograph their local church memorials and churchyard gravestones. Once the photographs have been taken they can either be emailed to me at minscriptions@nfhs.co.uk or put on to a CD and posted to me at Kirby Hall.

If anyone has any questions for me or if they would prefer to do an actual survey do please contact me via email, giving your telephone number so that I can ring you back, or by ringing Kirby Hall on a Wednesday when I

am usually there from about 11 am until 4 pm.

I wish everyone good luck with their research this year.

Mary Mitchell MN 3328

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The Poor of Pockthorpe - From Our Facebook Pages

At the time of writing, our Facebook page has 887 signed up members. Over the past few months our Facebookers have been sharing reminiscences, seeking out family history information and finding new relatives and friends. In each edition of Norfolk Ancestor we will take a look at interesting discussions taking place starting with a request from Evelyn Chrystal from New South Wales, Australia.

Evelyn was looking for details about the ANNISON family from Pockthorpe, an area of Norwich. She had heard that Pockthorpe was a poor area of the city. Most of her family were stonemasons, plumbers, plasterers and painters.

Through the power of Facebook came back numerous details about Pockthorpe. NFHS chairman Jean Stangroom pointed out that thousands of people lived in the Pockthorpe area, most in small yards with several families in each yard sharing facilities. Most of the area was demolished and taken over by a brewery although St James Church is still standing. St Paul's Church was bombed in the second world war.

Mandy Cockaday explained that Pockthorpe was a vastly inhabited area around what is now Barrack Street in Norwich. "My husband's ancestors were all living there at some time or other. Most married next-door neighbours so most will be related in some way," she added.

Dianne Hammond did some digging and came up with the following information: "I found St James Church, Pockthorpe, is now Norwich Puppet Theatre. It is situated on Barrack Street which was widened in the 1930s. Nelson Barracks were at the other end of Barrack Street but closed in 1990s. In the early 1970s The Inner Link Road was created with the Magdalen Street Flyover which joins Barrack Street."

Deborah Hart Stock pointed out that there are plenty of records relating to St James' Church, Pockthorpe, at the Norfolk Record Office at <http://nrocat.norfolk.gov.uk/searches/nroquick.htm>. "Type St James Pockthorpe in the search box, and it will bring up a whole list with coverage dates so you can see what might be relevant."

The full thread of this discussion can be found on the Norfolk Family History Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk/>

See the back inside cover for an image of the Pockthorpe area of Norwich.

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A Wealth of Social Information

Liz Mann looks at the importance of Deanery Magazines

WHEN tracing family, clues can be found in an endless variety of sources. Currently being added to digitised information (in Unclassified Archives) are names and dates from the Deanery Magazines for 'North Brisley and Toftrees' and 'Lynn and Marshland' for two periods which together spread from the First to after the Second World Wars.

Whilst extracting this information, from fragile papers, I have come across a wealth of social background for this rural area. The articles were written by the clergy and although, in the main, they are pre-occupied with exhorting parishioners to attend church, be generous in their contributions (balancing the accounts a wonder to read), and bemoaning the constant failing of the fabric of the churches, they also provide an amazing backdrop to life in a much simpler age.

Health: The 'North Brisley and Toftrees Deanery' magazines cover the period 1919 to 1926 and illness was a regular topic, with every year comments concerning epidemics that closed schools, such as this example for Whissonsett in July 1923: "renewed outburst of scarlet fever in the villages, the school had to be closed again". In a later month the scarlet fever was mentioned as having been in the parish from February to October.

Services: Other startling entries (for services we take for granted) date the beginning of the Hospital Contributory System and the coming of the County Library Scheme. In August 1925 it was recorded that, "the library van visited Helhoughton School – for the County Library Scheme to be explained", and for Weasenham parish, also in August 1925: "With the financial help of Carnegie it has been possible to open a branch of the County Library in this parish".

Parish Treasures: These are items of parish importance, the origins of which may have been forgotten such as for Rougham: "14.02.1920 – a presentation of 43 walking sticks, with inscription, was made to the men of the parish who served in the war".

Amenities: Examples of their "modern" life also made me sit back and reflect: Whissonsett with Horningtoft in 1925, "surely there are not many villages of our size that possess nearly a dozen wireless installations", in Tilney in August 1934, "the dance after the fete had to be cancelled, due to the armature of the wireless convertor burning out, a part not in stock in Lynn and so irreplaceable at short notice", and in Terrington St. John in March 1946, "The King's Lynn Corporation are now busy laying a cable (electric) along Church Road, so we will have to consider wiring the Church".

Nothing in life is new, for the extremes of weather are mentioned regularly, and even the development of the Library system was not without its problems, as this

entry from Marshland St. James for February 1933 indicates, "Mr Stephenson, the Hon. Librarian, reports that from his branch two books are missing – if any borrowers are holding these books will they kindly return them at once, otherwise a levy will have to be imposed on each outgoing book until the loss is made good".

In October, 1920, Brisley with Gately parish recorded, "that children are now required by law to remain at school until the end of the session in which they attain the age of 14, anyone who employs a child before his leaving date is liable for prosecution". From 1939 the school system was gradually reorganised from Church to County and more rules applied, such as this entry in August 1949 for Walpole St. Andrew, "We have been asked by the Norfolk Education Committee to go for our Sunday school outings during the school holidays".

World War Two: Unsurprisingly references to war-time conditions occur extensively in the 'Lynn and Marshland' magazines which cover the period 1926 to 1949, and the following are a selection which range from amusing to sad to incredible:

Clenchwarton in November 1940: "We have had a further contingent of women and children from the bombed areas of London, and for that reason we have placed several families in our Church School".

Walpole St. Andrew in October 1940: "we are also asked (urgently) for clothing of any kind for those rendered homeless by the London raids – the Parsonage will be a receiving depot".

January 1942 for West Walton (but also other parishes), "we have had an appeal for fresh vegetables for H.M. Mine-sweepers. Please send any that can be spared to the Rectory on Thursday, Jan 1st & Jan 15th for immediate despatch. This is a real need for the health of men engaged in very dangerous work", and later they report, "The vegetables sent have been much appreciated so the collection will continue".

July 1942 for Walpole St. Andrew: "the fruit growers have the prospect of an excellent crop this year. The W.V.S. which produced so much good jam for the Village "Stores" last year is ready to receive (at the Parsonage) any surplus fruit for a similar purpose" (which resulted in 344 lbs of jam).

Finally, the Vicar of Walpole St. Andrew who was also the Rural Dean reported in January 1944: "Our churchyard railings were threatened by the invasion of a removal party. They were not on the schedule at the M.R.D.C. offices, nor on that sent to the Vicar by the ministry at Cambridge. We thought his attitude rather too much like that of a Gestapo agent; but he did not get away with them".

The magazines are in poor condition, but available to read with care, and these extracts with others for each parish are typed and deposited with the 'Village Boxes' in Kirby Hall.

At The Turn of the Century

By Peter Steward

IN the December 2015 edition of Norfolk Advertiser we carried an article by Jo Gooderham based on rural school log books from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It reminded me that a number of years ago I transcribed a number of log books belonging to Hethersett National School which subsequently became Hethersett Middle and is now Hethersett Junior School. Again these give an insight into education. The following are extracts from the log from the last month of 1899 through to the summer of 1900.

1899

December 1st

Rev Canon Collett came in on Wednesday morning. Notice received from the local authority of two cases of scarlet fever. Attendance still below the average.

December 8th

The wet weather this week has lowered the average in the infants department. Rev Canon Collett came in this morning and Mrs Norgate paid a visit this afternoon - Ellen Carter has been absent since Monday as she is suffering from sore throat.

December 15th

Rev Canon Collett came in on Tuesday afternoon. A fall of snow on Monday morning and the continuance of severe weather throughout the week has greatly diminished the attendance in the infant class. The attendance officer called yesterday.

December 20th

Owing to the illness of Mrs Stace the school closed on Wednesday for the Christmas holidays instead of on Thursday, the day originally fixed.

December 22nd

The following report on the result of the pupil teachers examination has just been received. Mary E Curson 2nd year, passed fairly.

1900

January 8th

School re-opened this morning.

As Mrs Stace is not able to come in to school at present, the time table will not

be strictly followed this afternoon. Arithmetic will be taken instead of the lessons arranged. Mrs Norgate came in this afternoon.

January 15th

The attendance officer called on Tuesday morning. Rev Canon Collett visited on Wednesday afternoon. The needlework on Wednesday and today was taken by the P.J. Standards 1 and 2 have been in charge of monitors.

January 19th

The wet weather and prevalence of sickness has affected the attendances during the past week. Rev Canon Collett came in on Thursday morning and brought a clock face for the use of the infant department.

January 26th

Mrs Norgate came in on Monday and Rev Canon Collett on Tuesday morning. Several of the older children have been absent this week through illness. Mary Curson, the pupil teacher was not able to come today.

February 5th

As the master was suffering from influenza the school was closed for a week.

February 9th

The usual monthly exam was held yesterday but owing to the week's holiday and the absence of teachers during the month, the results are not as good as could be wished.

February 14th

The school was closed this afternoon owing to a heavy fall of snow.

February 21st

The stormy weather of the past three days has had a very bad effect on the attendance.

The remainder of the month of February seems to be dominated by bad weather and illness amongst the teachers and children and the log rambles its merry way through spring and becomes interesting again in May.

May 16th

All of the girls of the 3rd and 4th year standards left the school at 2.30 this afternoon to attend the funeral of Ivy Bennett, a little girl in the fourth standard who was present on Friday morning last and died after a short illness on Sunday morning.

May 17th

A half holiday was given this afternoon as the greater number of the children

were desirous of seeing a wedding.

May 25th

Report of the Diocesan Inspector.

Singing was marked with care and reverence. The writing out of prepared portions of the catechism was excellently done.

The tone and discipline of the school are excellent.

The school was further inspected in June (it does not say by whom) and the following comments made.

Hethersett National School

Mixed School. The order and instruction are very satisfactory and the school is making good progress.

Infants Class. The Infants room is crowded and it is hoped that the managers will see their way to enlarge it at an early date. The discipline and instruction of the infants are very commendable.

A flavour of the teaching curriculum at the school is given by an entry from June 29th, 1900.

The following list of lessons has been approved by Her Majesty's Inspector for the current year:

Infants: Birds, birds nests and eggs, ducks and geese, the Swallow, pigeon, insects, the ant, butterfly, Honey Bee, fish, the Herring, the Salmon; corn, barley and wheat, hay and straw, trees, stone fruit, cherry, plum, the apple, cabbage, onion, peas and beans, the potato, rabbits and hares, the frog, hair, fur and wool, umbrellas, railway stations, shops, the grocers, the farm.

Standards 1 to 111: A bird, the Duck, the Rook, Robin, Heron, beaks of birds, feathers of birds, birds' wings; parts of flowers, the Primrose, the Daisy, shapes of flowers, pollen and its work, fruits and seeds; the House Fly, the Hive Bee, House Fly, the Spider web, roots of plants, how root plants are nourished.

Standards IV to VI - Geography of Europe, History - Tudor period.

Standards III and IV - Geography of British Isles.

Standards I and II - Definitions of Geography.

And finally an interesting entry from July.

July 7th

Ernest Yull was badly stung by a wasp while on the way to school and his face was so much swollen that he was sent home.

His sister Beatrice was sent home with him and her attendance was cancelled.

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 email details so that other members can contact you. Non-members can also raise a query for a small payment.

Don't forget that you can use our Facebook site to request and receive help

MYSTERY PHOTOS



I wonder if any of your members could help in identifying the two men in the enclosed photograph. A relative gave the photo to me but we don't know who they are or where they are, but there is probably a connection with DOY or GILLINGWATER families in the Great Yarmouth or Loddon area. I am also attaching another photo of a family group on the beach either at Great Yarmouth or Gorleston. I am particularly

interested to know who the lady is on the right-hand side of the photo in the dark-coloured dress.

Ros McCormack MN 6539

roseliza@btinternet.com

A CONTRADICTION

WHILE transcribing marriage registers for the Norfolk Family History Society I came across an entry which is not correctly shown on Free BMD and Find My Past. On Family Search in East Dereham marriages 8th January, 1879, on page

441 of 502 it is clearly shown James KIRK marrying Alice Mahala SCOTT. Both Free BMD and Find My Past have used transcribed pages which shows Alice as TUCK. I have to disagree. Look at the original register and make up your own mind.

I would also like to pose the following question: How prevalent was it for a widower to remarry as a bachelor and by the same token a widow to remarry as a spinster? The years in question were 1821 in Essex and 1829 in Norwich

Over the years I have come across many in the census who were involved in "pianoforte." Another recent find in the 1891 census referred to "Pianoforte Bellyman". This was new to me, so off to Google. I was pleased that I did as I found the below website which, believe it or not, is based in Great Yarmouth.

The site includes many pictures of Victorian pianos and many other choices.

<http://www.pianogen.org/genealogy.html>

Brian Margetson MN5434 brian.margetson@googlemail.com

MORE MYSTERY PHOTOS

I have an Identity Card and some portrait photos of William F GREER of Wisbech which were found during the tidy-up of Kirby Hall. There is no family tree or pedigree in the library to which they might be attached and it seems a





shame to dispose of them without offering them to relatives. I found somebody online with WFG in her family tree but the connection was so remote she did not want them.

We would like to offer them to anyone interested for just the cost of postage. I can be contacted at margaret@nfhs.co.uk

Shown in this article are two photos from our archive. The one on the previous page is entitled "Earl of Cardigan, Sunday morning drive ca 1935" and above shows the "St John de Sepulchre Annual Outing 1913". If anyone can identify any of the people in these photos we would like to hear from you. We can send copies by email to anyone interested.

Margaret Murgatroyd

DACK FAMILY RESEARCH

In June 2014, Norfolk Family History Society member Tony DACK passed away. For more than 25 years Tony and his wife Jean had been unbelievably thorough in researching Dack families with roots emanating in Norfolk with many branches spreading worldwide.

Tony had methodically documented all his findings from wills, census, news articles and the multitude of official BMD certificates he purchased for definitive proof, plus regular visits to the National Archives with an annual 'pilgrimage' to Norfolk, visiting the record office and many churchyards. All this information

together with the hundreds of hand-written pages was filed in dozens of hard folders. I know that Tony had helped many researchers from his impressive records, including myself.

Tony wished for his many years of research to be donated to the NFHS. As it is impracticable for the society to store all these folders, I am now in possession of them and am in the process of scanning every page in every folder, most of which are handwritten and tabulated and not suitable for OCR (optical character recognition). At the time of writing, only 20 folders have been fully processed. Some of these Dack lines are already computerised and now in book form on the pedigree shelves at Kirby Hall.

If any member with close Dack family association is willing to help convert this information into a full electronic family tree or a pedigree document, please contact me and I will forward a complete folder in PDF format. By also quoting any known ancestors with dates and location I may be able to scan and provide a relevant folder, please also quote which programme is likely to be used in creating a family tree.

I desperately want to preserve Tony's many years of dedicated in-depth research for the future and may later create a 'one-name' website.

I am also researching the YALLOP/YELLOP/YALLUP, etc. surname for which I believe, but have not yet proven, that every one worldwide emanates from Porland/Poringland in Norfolk, I cannot trace back any prior to Porland. Please contact me if you know otherwise.

Michael Dack MN. 11670.....mike.dack@nfhs.co.uk

FAMOUS ANCESTORS

I have just been reading my Ancestor and saw your challenge about the person with 10,000 ancestors including William the Conqueror and Alfred the Great. He must be related to me! My list of famous forebears started with what I describe as a randy Scottish peer, who fathered a child with a local maiden.

That led to several years' research some 20 years ago using mainly Burke's various books, Peerage, Landed gentry etc until I had to look overseas for ancestors.

In the process I have found such illustrious ancestors as Llewellyn the Great of Wales, John of Gaunt, Robert the Bruce and his rival the Cummyn family, Kings of Man, Charlemagne, and royalty from France, Spain, Portugal, Russia.

Often I have found that lesser known people were often merely listed by first name if they were lucky, or just "wife" if they were really unlucky.

I uncovered one woman who married four different men and changed sides

according to which husband had been killed in battle. It was quite exciting to see her figuring in four different lines, even if it was hard to keep track of them on paper.

Fiona Knight MN 8706 - Wellington, New Zealand

We are delighted to say that Fiona has agreed to write a full article about some of her famous and infamous ancestors.

CALLING ALL ALLENS

WE have been contacted by Dr Eric Allen who is secretary of schools in Alton, Missouri. He is looking to contact as many people worldwide as possible with the surnames ALLEN, ALLAN, ALLYN, ALLIN or any other variations.

The Allen DNA Project is a USA based group, but is interested in expanding its membership to other countries including England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Mainland Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or anywhere else on the planet.

Eric is offering free yDNA 37 marker testing for anyone with an Allen (or any of its alternative spellings) tree who would like to be part of the Allen y DNA project and the Allen Guild of One Name Studies.

More information on the project is available on the two web sites listed below.

The tests will be made available to any males carrying the surname to at least the participant's great grandfather. In addition the Allen/Allan project is setting up a sub group to oversee international members. More information on the project is available on the following web sites:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/allan/dna-results> and http://one-name.org/name_profile/allen/ Dr Allen can be e-mailed at ericallen@alton.k12.mo.us

WATTS REQUEST

Walter WATTS (1838-1905) and Rose Hannah (Sadd) WATTS (1840-1923) are my great grandparents.

Both were born in Norwich, where they met and married in 1857. In 1861 Walter was living in Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire: Rose was still in Norwich, she and the children living with her mother.

Soon Rose and the children joined Walter in Yorkshire, where they lived for a number of years, until they returned to Norwich, where they were recorded on the 1901 Census. Walter died in 1905.

Walter's daughter, my grandmother, Rose Hannah Watts (Jr) and her husband,



Alfred Gabriel SCOTTER emigrated to Canada in 1907. Along with their other belongings they took with them to Canada a large picture of Walter, Rose's father.

As is noted above, Rose Hannah (Sr) died in 1923. I have no picture of her, even though she died 18 years after Walter, when photographs would have been more common.

Besides Rose Jr, Walter and Rose had the following children who lived to maturity: Gabriel Theophilus Richard (1860-1910 died in Ipswich); George Watts (1867-1931); Walter Watts (1873-1952); Elizabeth Ann Watts (1877-1946) Sarah Ellen Watts (1880-1950); John William Watts (1882-1921 emigrated to the USA)

I am hoping someone will recognise this family and make it possible for me to be able to obtain a picture (copy would be fine) of my Great Grandmother Rose Hannah Watts. It would be lovely to contact a cousin.

Kimberley Pratt MN 12817 email kimquilts@shaw.ca

PRAISE FOR ANCESTOR

I write to say well done on your production of the December edition of the Norfolk Ancestor. It was good to see the article on Edith Cavell and also the images of Gressenhall - I recall going there in 1991 and realising how realistic it was at conveying the feel of the workhouse without the actual physical hardship.

Kevin George MN 1176

TIMELY ARTICLES

I recently sent for the will of Mary DOE, widow of Norwich, 1793. She was born at Ketteringham 12th April, 1793, daughter of John REDHEAD, farmer. John was the brother of my 7x grandparents William and Joanna Redhead, who married siblings Benjamin and Judith TUTTELL. I am descended from both couples.

I knew Mary was John's daughter as she had inscribed a nave slab at Ketteringham in her father's memory. I hoped her will might provide a few more details about the family, with bequests to the next generation. However, apart from leaving £50 to her brother William Redhead of Cranworth, everything was left to "the only friend I have" Elizabeth BRUNTON, wife of John Brunton Esq,

manager of the Theatre Royal, Norwich. Elizabeth was her sole executor.

I knew I had recently read something about the Brunton family – there were the two fascinating articles by Lyn Offord in September and December.

This is a first for me – I've had wills where I knew nothing about an executor, but I've never read about one in a magazine! So thank you very much Lyn, your articles were most enjoyable and very timely.

Linda Johnson MN 495

READER ENQUIRY

I am Derek William FISHER born in Berkshire in 1943 and now an American living in Naples, Florida. I am descended from the READER Family of Swaffham, Norfolk. I think I know the people and dates and places but nothing about the people, how they lived and their employment etc. John Reader, born 1614, emigrated to New York but, if I have the story right, he left his son in Swaffham in the care of others. I am very much hoping that somebody might know something that would help me.

derekfisher70@gmail.com

A BELSON EXPLANATION

Dr David Belson MN 7538 has contacted us following the publication of his article in the December 2015 edition:

Corrigenda and Addenda In the article entitled "More about the Belson Family", on page 22 of the Dec. 2015 issue of The Ancestor, there are some typographical errors. When only the forenames of the sons of Richard BELSON (1793-1835) were used, the second forename was shown as BELL rather than Bell. This was not a surname.

Why Richard Bell BELSON and William Bell BELSON should have been given this part of their mother's name is a mystery! Please note that the third son, Robert Daniel BELSON did not receive it.

Richard BELSON's wife used the name Mary Bell ENGLISH on their marriage certificate and used those two forenames subsequently. She was actually christened Bell ENGLISH (12 Sep 1796, Ormesby St Michael).

She was the base born daughter of Mary ENGLISH. When Bell chose to add her mother's forename is not known. Bel(l) was a commonly used abbreviation for Isabel(l) or Christabel(l). Perhaps surprisingly, the name Richard Bell BELSON was perpetuated. Robert Daniel BELSON gave it to his son and he passed it on to his.

David can be contacted at dbelson43@btinternet.com

News From NORS

By NORS Administrator Mike Dack

IT is difficult to know what to publish here without repetition while remembering each issue of Norfolk Ancestor will be received by many new members.

For those, I would point out that issues of The Norfolk Ancestor back to 1992 can be accessed from the NFHS website once logged in.

If anyone has questions or proposals for future articles about NORS, please send an email to norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk

- In November 2014, Manorial Indexes were added to NORS, comprising summaries from a variety of records such as tenant lists, conveyances, mortgage agreements and deeds. Preparing this database is an ongoing slow process as the documents are variable, often very large and difficult to read.
- The database is a guide only to the contents of the original documents.
- Copies cannot be made of the original documents because of their size and fragility.
- Original material which requires archival storage is transferred to the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) and indicated thus on the database.
- The 'Look-up service' for members is not available for documents transferred to the NRO.
- A selective search of NORS can be found at bottom of the 'Browse Records' listing, however, any such instances will also be shown in results following any 'Person search' for a surname.

Reminder: Forgotten NORS password also forgotten NFHS Website passwords can be replaced by clicking 'Forgotten password?' next to each respective login box and entering user name (membership no+first 3 characters of surname).

An auto-generated password will be emailed by return, providing of course that the registered email address is up-to-date. Wait a few minutes before logging in and using the new (case sensitive) password.

These are two separate websites. It is not necessary to first login to NFHS website if the only intention is to login to NORS.

Mike Dack MN.11670

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

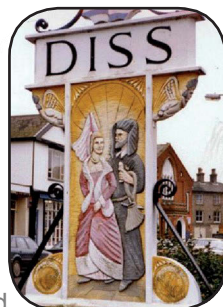
London: Mary Fisk, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Road, London N16 8SB

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

South Norfolk Group Reports by Betty Morley

"THE Last Horsehair Weavers" was the title of the talk given to the Diss branch of The Norfolk Family History Society by John Miners. It was the story of John Boyd Textiles Ltd. who have been weaving horsehair in Castle Carey in Somerset since 1837. We all know that horsehair has been used in the furniture industry for centuries, but woven into fabric? That was a surprise.

John's early childhood was spent in London but, when his father found employment with Courtaulds in Halstead, Essex, the family moved into one of its rented factory cottages so he grew up opposite the fabric mill and it was with this company that he decided to take up an apprenticeship when he left school instead of going to college as originally planned. He did consider one or two options in the engineering industry but said, with a smile, that the close proximity of his house to Courtaulds meant a lot of extra time in bed in the morning, a no-brainer for a 16 year old. After the three year training period he moved into the furniture fabric division and is now self-employed as a consultant in the restoration of furniture, advising bodies such as English Heritage as well as private individuals.



By the middle of the 18th century wool weaving was in decline in many parts of England as they could not compete with the industrial might of Yorkshire, but there was still a strong demand for other woven products such as twine, sailcloth and horsehair fabric which were still woven in homes. Horsehair fabric is particularly durable and was the preferred upholstery choice of many of the major furniture manufacturers of the time such as Chippendale and Hepplewhite. It was also used in



crinoline making. As it must be procured from the tails of live horses, the animal not being cut at all, it is a renewable source.

Castle Carey had been an established textile town since 1327 and when the 22 year old John Boyd, a travelling draper, arrived there from Scotland in the early 1830s he quickly



spotted its potential and set up his own horsehair weaving business in his cottage. It was a wise move. By 1837, business was booming and he was actually employing enough workers to warrant moving the operation into a purpose built factory. By the late 1850s the working horses were disappearing from the British landscape as the face of agriculture was changed by mechanisation but, fortunately the Great Western Railway had now reached Castle Carey so it became possible to import tail hair from Siberia and China.

The 1870s brought more challenges as the Education Act required all children to attend school, leaving John Boyd without the youngsters who were employed to pick and sort the tails. So he installed the 50 or so water powered looms and mechanical pickers, driven by overhead belts. So sensitive are the looms that they can detect if a hair is missed and stop. Today John Boyd Ltd. is still producing horsehair fabric on the original looms and there are no others like this in the world. So if a repair is needed old ones are sought out and parts cannibalised to fit the Boyd's looms.

It is a process that cannot be speeded up or improved and all that differs from the original process is that the hair now comes from Mongolia via hair brokers, the warps are now made of cotton instead of linen and the range of colours is amazing. The tails are hackled over a spiked board after being picked through, then washed at 90 degrees and, while the white ones are bleached prior to dyeing, the dark ones are dyed black. Surprisingly not all the fabric is plain but available with exquisitely embroidered patterns.

Horsehair textiles are a high end product and retail from £150 to £175 per metre and there is a market for it in areas other than restoration. Trendy designers use it for handbags and even shoes. It is used for lampshades and upholstered wardrobe panels and exported all over the world. John Boyd was a nonconformist Liberal, a philanthropist who built houses for his employees and cottages for the elderly. Sadly he died leaving no family but his company lives on.

The evening concluded with a film showing the production process from beginning

to end and John produced samples for us to handle. It was such an interesting evening and he received great applause.

Twenty members of the Diss Group enjoyed an extra unusual and spooky event On Friday, 16th October, we went to Thetford to take part in a Ghost Walk organised by Leaping Hare, Thetford's Tourist Information Office. Betty had booked a minibus and driver from Borderhoppa, a community operation which is available for hire to non-profit making organisations, while those of us who live closer to Thetford made our own way to the assembly point in St. Peter's Church, a listed building, which has been refurbished for use as a venue for local events.

Our spirit guide, so to speak, was an old friend, Mike Wabe, one of our regular speakers. Dressed all in black, with top hat and cane, he was accompanied by three of Leaping Hare's staff wearing high viz jackets who ensured the safety of the group. It was a wheelchair friendly walk and nowhere was inaccessible to wheelchair users. The walk finished back at St. Peter's Church where we enjoyed tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits while Mike entertained us with a spine chilling story before we departed for home.

It was interesting to learn that many of Thetford's ghostly sightings have actually been investigated by independent people who have interviewed witnesses where possible and there are one or two buildings, including a couple of public houses, I shall certainly give a second glance in future and, on second thoughts, maybe I will avoid the Priory ruins and grounds altogether

November 2015 Meeting

The windmill has been an integral part of England's pastoral heritage for centuries and on 10th November the Diss Group welcomed Amanda Rix of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service to talk about the various types of mills, their functions and how they had evolved from their earliest form, the post mill. Their origins are somewhat obscure but historians think that they first appeared in Persia between the 7th and 10th centuries. The first recorded windmill in England appeared in Wigston Magna in 1169 and from then on they spread rapidly across the land.

The early post mills had no round house and the entire structure turned to face the wind. A housing of wood was added later on and eventually the post mills were superseded by the smock Mills which were constructed of wood and brick, the sails being connected to a cap at the top which turned with the wind, but it had its limitations. In 1745 Edmund Lee invented the windmill fan tail, a small windmill mounted at right angles to the sails at the rear of the mill, which turned the cap to bring it into the wind and then in 1879 Steven Hooper devised a method of setting the sails without having to stop them. In 1808 William Cubitt improved on this by inventing the technology which enabled all four sails to be set at once. By now the brick built tower mills were beginning to dominate the

landscape, some having as many as seven storeys and three pairs of grinding stones.

Windmills were not just used to grind corn but had many uses of a more industrial nature, being used for producing oil from seed, crushing stone and clay, processing organic materials, starch and coffee. There were bone mills, oak barking mills and there was even a snuff mill in Norwich.

They could be used for drainage as was the skeleton or trestle mill at Horning. The Hollow Post Mill was used for lifting water and irrigation and sometimes a mill was built as a combined mill, i.e. powered by wind and water as was the one at Little Cressingham in Norfolk.

Amanda structured her talk around the mills of South Norfolk and the meeting was well attended, a number of members and guests having a particular interest in the subject while some actually had miller ancestors in Norfolk. Diss itself could boast of having had a number of windmills.

There was a six storey tower mill situated on Victoria Road, one of the first to be built with eight sails which operated three pairs of French burr stones. There was a smock mill and a post mill at Stuston Road. At Rose Lane stood a composite mill, similar in appearance to a Post Mill but lacking the central post and erected on a roundhouse. There was a post mill at Chapel Street, dismantled in 1847 and moved to Roydon and another at Cherry Tree Lane which was demolished in 1873.

It would seem that the life of a miller was not the idyll that some people imagine. A few are recorded as committing suicide, one being the miller at East Harling, and fires were commonplace because when wooden stocks were in use a high wind could whirl the sails round so quickly that the friction caused them to burst into flame and flour itself can be an explosive.

In fact one member's grandfather was unfortunate enough to be in two mill fires. Mills were quite vulnerable in gales and many were blown down, but of course if there was no wind the mill stood idle and money wasn't made. They were generally built by a landowner or someone who could afford it and they employed the miller who may have moved around as circumstances dictated.

As we all know, by the 20th Century the windmills had had their day and many disappeared for ever. Some have been converted for residential use and luckily some have been saved by the intervention of the Norfolk Windmill Trust and are now listed, as was Billingford Windmill near Diss, a five storey tower windmill which was the last commercial windmill operating in Norfolk until it was blown down in September, 1959.

The discussion following Amanda's talk was particularly interesting given the personal interest and knowledge of some of the group, and she received much applause.



January 2016 Meeting

Our speaker on 12th January was our own member Michael Hall and his intriguing talk was entitled "Did the motor car kill the village or was it dying anyway?" It turned out to be a fascinating potted history of the village of Scole.

Scole (or Osmondiston) was a significant Roman town and an important crossroads on the Norwich/

Ipswich and Yarmouth/Bury St Edmunds roads. There is evidence of settlement here until the fourth century with burial sites and iron workings. In the 17th century up to 40 coaches a day passed through the village and to serve these in 1695 John Peck, a woollen merchant from Norwich, built the White Hart Inn. This has always been known as Scole Inn and at one time a great arch built by John Fairchild spanned the road here. This was removed in about 1750 as it was considered dangerous.

At one time, Scole was the main postal centre for this part of Norfolk but when the railways came Scole was bypassed and the small town of Diss benefitted.

A notable Scole resident was William Pretty who set up his garage business and was the first to put reverse drive into a gearbox. He also invented the Variomatic Drive which was used by Daf and Volvo.

Scole of course was still an important crossroads and by the 1990s the vast increase of cars had made the village something of a bottleneck. The A140 Bypass was built and has given Scole some welcome relief.

Michael's talk was illustrated with some excellent slides and generated some interesting and useful discussion.

Betty Morley

News From the London Group

The next meeting of the London Group will take place on Saturday 12th March at the Society of Genealogists and will be a Members' Day for those present to share research and stories, and bring along artefacts such as photos or memorabilia to discuss.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Articles for future editions are always welcome . Please note, the Editor cannot guarantee the issue in which your article will appear. Every effort will be made to reproduce articles as presented, but the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary. The Editor will assume that all necessary authorisation for attachments, photographs, etc., has been obtained and the Norfolk Family History Society will not be held liable in the case of a subsequent query.

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 **June 2016** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER** than **7th April**. 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:-

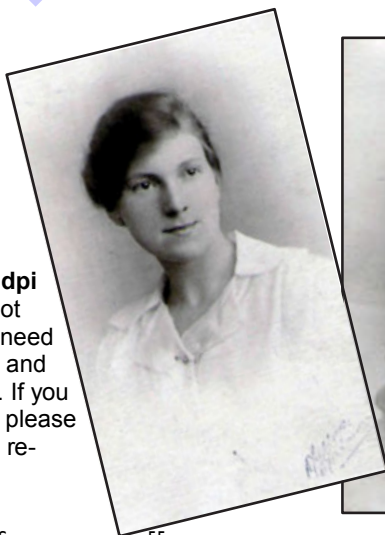
The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.

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.



Norfolk Record Office Report

Upcoming events at the Norfolk Record Office include:

Introduction to NRO's Searchroom

Have you always wanted to use the NRO searchroom but are not sure where to start? This session is for you. Aimed at complete beginners we can take you through the first steps to using the searchroom, from what materials to bring, to how to use microform. For this event the searchroom will be closed to other members of the public, allowing you to build up confidence before you start your research.

Wednesday 27th April, 5-6.30 pm at The Archive Centre. Booking required on 01603 222599 or www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events. Free of charge.

Lunchtime talks (1-2 pm at the archive centre)

Friday 18th March - Changing Words - Dr Christopher Kemp asks what the words included in documents such as diaries, letters and deeds actually meant when they were written.

Wednesday 25th May - Norwich and the Consumer Revolution. Ian Smith investigates how and why the consumption of 'luxury' goods took off in the late 17th and 18th centuries and considers the impact they had on lifestyles and shopping habits in Norwich. No booking required. Free of charge.

Behind the Scenes Tours

Our ever-popular tours return for another year, giving you backstage access to our Strongrooms, Conservation Studio, and a chance to view some of our more unusual, colourful and interesting documents. This is one you won't want to miss!

Dates include: Wednesday 16th March 2-4pm, Tuesday 19th April 10am-12 noon, Friday 20th May 2-4pm, Tuesday 21st June 2-4pm at The Archive Centre. Booking required on 01603 222599 or www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events. Tours cost £5 per person, payable on arrival.

Norfolk Women in History - Tuesday 15th March at the Archive Centre

As a follow-on to the Heritage Hour talk for International Women's Day (8th March), visit us to find out about inspirational Norfolk Women from the last 700 years. These include famous women such as Mother Julian, to less well known women such as Margaret Fountaine, a diarist, lepidopterist and adventurer. You will get a chance to look at original documents relating to some of the women included in the Norfolk Women in History website, and there will also be a screening of films made by students on the UEA Film, Television and Media course. The website itself will also be available to browse. Booking required on 01603 222599 or www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events. This event is free.

Thursday Evenings

April 14th- Researching the Old Courts and Yards of Norwich

Join Frances and Michael Holmes to learn how they researched their latest book "The Old Courts and Yards of Norwich," and discover how you can use the documents concerned to help discover ancestors who lived in the yards. The evening will include a talk by Frances and Michael detailing the NRO sources used in their research, a chance to see the original documents, and a small exhibition showcasing some of the stories from the book. Runs from, 5.15-6.45 pm at the Archive Centre. No booking required, free of charge.

May 26th - The Magic of the Lantern Slide

Join us to find out more about the lantern slides of Frank Delf. Collected over many years, the slides include images of Norfolk in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The evening will include a look at how the slides have been conserved, a display showcasing images of Norfolk not seen for many years, and a chance to find out how to look after your photographs at home. Runs from 5.15 to 6.45 pm at the Archive Centre. No booking required. Free of charge.

More details about each of the evenings will be available on our website closer to the event, www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events.

New Parish Register Accessions, October-December 2015

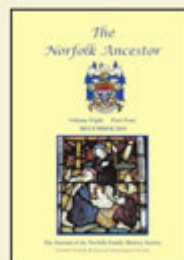
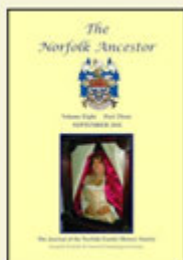
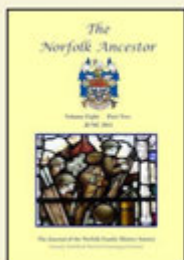
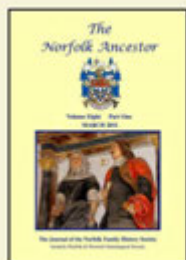
Roughton

burials

1922-2001

Victoria Draper Education and Outreach Officer

Scanned Ancestor Copies



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

Norfolk Heritage Centre Upcoming Events

Norfolk Heritage Centre Events for April to June

Heritage Hour

This takes place every other Tuesday 1-2 pm in the Vernon Castle Room on the second floor of the library. These are free drop in events.

April 5th	Stories of Lynn
April 19th	Meet the Norfolk Record Office Conservation Department. This heritage hour is followed by a visit to the NRO Conservation Department on Wednesday April 27th 2-3.30 pm. Please book ahead on EventBrite or heritagecen@norfolk.gov.uk
May 3rd	Viking Norwich
May 17th	The Map collections of the NHC and NRO
May 31st	Ancestors at Sea
June 14	Poor Law Records
June 28th	Images in the Archives

Family History Day Courses

All run from 10.30 am-12.30 pm and 2-4 pm and cost £10. Saturday courses take place at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in the Millennium Library. Thursday courses take place at the Norfolk Heritage Centre from 10.30 am-12.30 pm and at the Norfolk Record Office from 2-4 pm. 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 19th May. 10.30-12.30 at NHC and 2-4 at NRO.

Next Steps Sessions:

April 16th: Next Steps Military History (NHC)

June 16th: Next Steps Probate and Cemetery Records (NHC and NRO)

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 or telephone 01603 774740. Appointments are usually available on Tuesdays 1-2 pm and 5-6 pm and Saturdays 11 am-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.

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

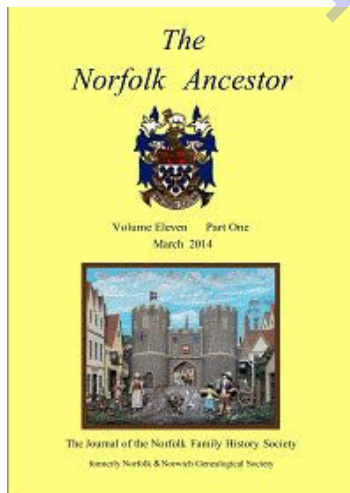
Orla Kennelly - Archive Specialist for Norfolk Record Officer

FAMILY TREES added to Kirby Hall Library

BENNETT	Upwell to Spalding
BOND	Norwich
LAMBERT	Beccles, Great. Yarmouth, Blofield, Tunstead (Large)
WADE	Wymondham to Australia
WYNDHAM	Norwich (Large)

Pam Bridge, MN 3291 Family Tree Co-ordinator

ADVERTISEMENTS in *The Norfolk Ancestor*



Single one-off advertisement

Cost: ¼ page	£12.50
½ page	£25.00
1 page	£50.00

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for their support**

ACTIVITY AT KIRBY HALL

The Norfolk Family History Society relies on an army of volunteers. Here we highlight the recent work by many of them.

Steve Tarttelin has joined the Parish Register Transcript team to do the administration work while Margaret Murgatroyd continues with checking and transcribers' problems.

Mary Mitchell continues to improve the MI records and has been busy surveying churchyards in the summer and taking photographs of gravestones and monuments.

Martin Bashforth has taken over management of the pedigrees and is updating the catalogue.

A large number of BMD certificates have been donated to the Society recently. Liz Mann has been extremely busy entering the details onto templates for upload to NORS.

After nearly two years of effort, Val Parsons has updated the Strays records on NORS. Assessing and entering a collection of Strays records donated to the Society will be her next project.

Manors records have been uploaded to NORS. The preparation of these records is both difficult and time-consuming because of the old handwriting and the verbose legalese. Liz Mann and Margaret Murgatroyd have been working on these as their other work allows.

The Family Tree collection is being tidied up by Pam Bridge and Pauline Westgate after a big influx of material from the Jenny Edmonds legacy.

Wills records are in the capable hands of Ellen Carr as is the Look-ups Service. Judith Kilbourn has received and catalogued some interesting material for the Village Boxes.

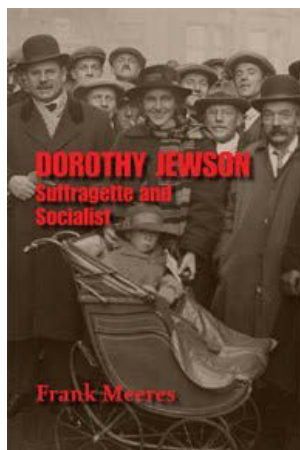
Work has started on an Unclassified Archive of material which does not fit into any of our present categories. Some Friendly Society records, Oddfellows records and material on a variety of subjects collected from leaflets and articles in the Library have been put onto a database which will be searchable by surname when uploaded to NORS later this year.

The Society thanks all the people who have contributed to this work which helps researchers worldwide as well as those able to visit our library.

Margaret Murgatroyd

ANCESTOR BOOKSHELF

With Edmund Perry and Peter Steward

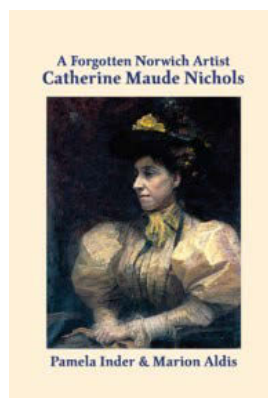


Dorothy Jewson - Suffragette and Socialist by Frank Meeres Paperback, Poppyland £10.95

Born 1884, a daughter of the Norwich Building Supplies family, educated at Norwich High School for Girls, and student at Girton College, Cambridge University, where she developed a lifelong commitment to caring socialism and feminism. She was an early member of the Women's Social and Political Union and organised a meeting in December 1912 at St. Andrew's Hall for Emmeline Pankhurst to speak. Dorothy was committed to working for the disadvantaged through direct action. During WWI as a Christian pacifist she was part of the anti-war movement and organised workshops making toys. Dorothy stood as an early women parliamentary candidate, being elected in 1923, but it was short-lived

as McDonald's minority Labour Government fell in 1924. Dorothy tried again and again but wasn't successful although she served ten years as a Member of the City Council, providing relief for the unemployed by helping create several City Parks using Government Grants. In the 1940s she promoted birth control and the Family Allowance (Child Benefit). A first biography of a remarkable and determined woman.

Edmund Perry

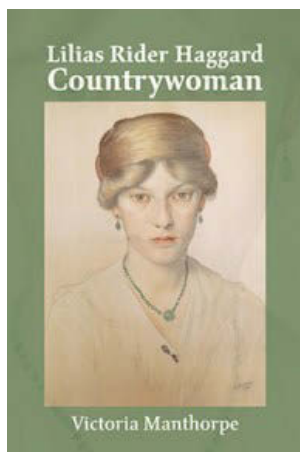


A Forgotten Norwich Artist: Catherine Maude Nichols by Pamela Inder & Marion Aldis Poppyland 202 pages £14.95

This is an interesting book about someone who became an important and successful Norwich artist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Catherine was a painter and etcher born in 1847 but much of her private life was deliberately hidden, particularly her early years. The authors have made a valiant attempt to bring her character to life, expanding on the one chapter devoted to Catherine in their previous title, '*Nine Norfolk Women*'. As early as 1880, Catherine had exhibited *Pilchard Boats, Newlyn* but her major subject matter was the countryside around

Norwich (rustic scenes), the city itself and the Norfolk Broads. After an active exhibiting life she died aged 76 in Norwich, on 30th January, 1923. A well illustrated biography with some interesting chapter headings.

Edmund Perry



Lilias Rider Haggard: Countrywoman by Victoria Manthorpe, Poppyland Paperback 190 pages £12.95

Born 1892, daughter of Marian Louisa Margitson and the popular novelist, Sir Henry Rider Haggard, author of *King Solomon's Mines*. She, and the *Allan Quatermain* adventures.

Lilias, was an accomplished authoress in her own right, a columnist for the *Eastern Daily Press* and wrote for a range of national publications.

She had a privileged upbringing travelling. After experiencing WWI as a VAD nurse she returned to her Norfolk home with a new depth of compassion and a determination to affirm rural life, which soon found expression in many articles and books on the countryside.

Lilias edited 'I walked by Night,' being the life and history of the King of the Norfolk Poachers, 1935. She also edited 'The Rabbit Skin Cap,' 1939, a tale about George Baldry, a local inventor and poacher in the early C20th.

With Henry Williamson she wrote 'Norfolk Life' in 1943 followed by a biography in 1951 of her father entitled 'The Cloak That I Left.' Lilias died January 1968 in Norwich and is buried in St. Mary's churchyard, Ditchingham.

Edmund Perry



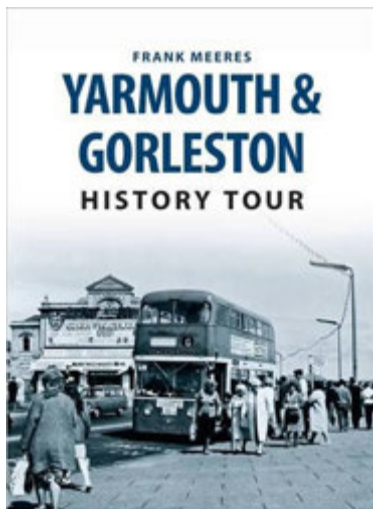
Norfolk Place Names by Anthony Poulton-Smith. FeedARead publishers, Paperback 252 pages £7.99

The author examines and explains the origins of familiar place names of towns, villages, districts, hills, streams, woods, farms, fields, streets and even pubs, often with surprising results.

Some of the definitions give a glimpse of activities in the earlier days of the settlement; many are supported by anecdotal evidence, bringing to life the individuals and events which have influenced the places and the way their names have developed.

A useful compendium, not simply a dictionary but a social history which will prove invaluable not only to those who live and work in the county but also visitors and tourists, historians and former inhabitants, indeed anyone with an interest in Norfolk. Available directly from the author.

Edmund Perry

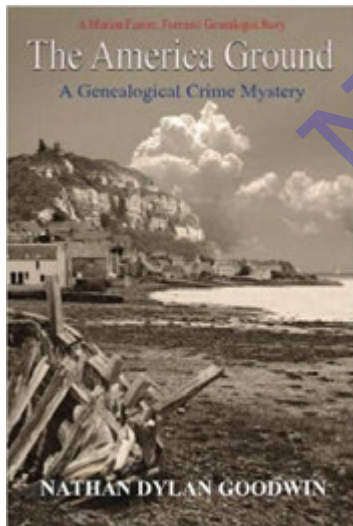


Yarmouth & Gorleston History Tour by Frank Meeres, paperback, Amberley Publishing, Gloucestershire. £6.99. Available from bookstores and online

THIS is an interesting, if rather slim volume, that is an aid for a walk through Great Yarmouth and Gorleston rather than an in depth look at the history of the two Norfolk towns. The book will slip comfortably into a handbag or pocket. Towards the front of the book are two maps which identify the 43 places of interest outlined. The book claims to be “a unique insight into the illustrious history” of the towns. At times the descriptions are very short and lacking in depth. The old photographs that adorn each page are useful to conceptualise the places as they were in the towns’

historic pasts. I would suggest that this is a good starting point for anyone interested in the heritage of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston and it could act as a catalyst for more in depth studies of the areas. Places covered include St Nicholas’ Church, the Fishermen’s Hospital, the Market Place, The Rows, The Toll House, The Pleasure Beach, Britannia Pier and many more.

Peter Steward



The America Ground - A Genealogical Crime Mystery by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing and available from Amazon and other sources.

THIS is the third in the series of genealogical crime mysteries written by Nathan Dylan Goodwin who is a member of the Norfolk Family History Society . It features forensic genealogist Morton Farrier and this can be taken as a stand alone story as well as part of a series.

The writing is pin sharp and there is plenty of suspense in an excellent novel which makes me want to return to the first two in the series. Farrier is researching his family history when he becomes involved in trying to uncover the killer of a woman. Nothing unusual there in detective style fiction, but the murdered woman just happens to be 180

years old. This leads to a number of added twists which turn this into a very unusual novel. Before turning his hand to fiction, Nathan wrote a number of history books based around his native Hastings, St Leonards and Battle

Peter Steward

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

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Bookstall	Bookstall	Bookstall	bookstall@nfhs.co.uk
Copy Request	Family trees, pedigrees and wills	Judith Parks	copyrequest@nfhs.co.uk
Fairs	Fairs organiser	Fairs	fairs@nfhs.co.uk
Family Trees	Donations of family trees, pedigrees and BMD certificates	Pam Bridge	familytrees@nfhs.co.uk
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Webmaster	Web site	Webmaster	webmaster@nfhs.co.uk
Wills	Donations and Indexing of Wills	Ellen Carr	wills@nfhs.co.uk
Enquiries	For topics not covered in above list	Enquiries	enquiries@nfhs.co.uk

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

Memories of Pockthorpe



THE photograph above is of the Steward and Patteson Brewery in the Pockthorpe area of Norwich. This shot is taken from the George Plunkett collection and is dated 24th August, 1974.

You can read more about the area, which was highly populated, in an article about our Facebook site on page 32.

COMING IN JUNE

Assistant editor Roger Morgan tells us the story of an eccentric country doctor, the history of Whitwell Hall near Reepham and the link to a New Zealand friend.

NFHS member Paul Savory arrived in Norfolk in 2000, having been forced to leave his home in Zimbabwe. He arrived with just five suitcases and £2000, a wife and two children. Paul and his family rented accommodation in Syderstone and were intrigued to see several graves in the local church containing their surname. Paul describes his search to find his family's history and numerous surprises he came across on the way.

In addition we will have all the usual news and features. Articles for publication are always welcome and can be sent to ancestor@nfhs.co.uk.

Then and Now



Three images of the Queen's residence at Sandringham which was built in 1870, although other structures had previously been on the site. The top two pictures were taken by George Plunkett in 1934 (front of house shot) and 2002 (east front) and the bottom shot of the front was taken by the editor in 2014