

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



JUNE 2016



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

# Binham Priory



BINHAM Priory is our featured Norfolk landmark in this edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

It is not only of great historical importance, but also an intriguing monument to the past with a fascinating history of scandal. Today the ruined Benedictine priory stands alongside the large priory church which has become the Church of St Mary of the Holy Cross and which is still used for worship. The remains of the priory are under the care of English Heritage.

The priory was founded in the late 11th century by Peter de VALDENES and his wife Albreda. Peter was a nephew of William the Conqueror and, after the Norman Conquest, was assigned lands in West and North Norfolk, among which was the entire village of Binham. The prior also became Lord of the Manor.

The history of the priory is deliciously scandalous and many of the priors proved to be unscrupulous during its 400 year history.

Binham was always a small priory with just 14 monks at its peak in 1320 and, in 1539 when it was dissolved under the direction of Henry VIII, it had just six monks. Turn to the inside back cover for more information on the priory.

# Norfolk Family History Society

A private company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England - Company No. 3194731  
Registered as a Charity - Registration No. 1055410

Registered Office address:  
Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS

## Headquarters and Library

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

Telephone No. (01603) 763718

NFHS Web site: <http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>

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

## NFHS Board of Trustees

<b>Jean Stangroom</b>	Chair and Membership Secretary
<b>Mike Dack</b>	Norfolk Online Record Search Admin
<b>Margaret Murgatroyd</b>	Transcripts' Organiser
<b>Edmund Perry</b>	Company Secretary
<b>Carol Reeve</b>	Volunteers' Co-ordinator
<b>Peter Steward</b>	Publicity Officer
<b>Carole Taylor</b>	Treasurer
<b>Phil Whiscombe</b>	Kirby Hall Maintenance

## The Norfolk Ancestor Editorial Team

<b>Peter Steward</b>	Editor
<b>Roger Morgan</b>	Assistant Editor
<b>Rob Reeve</b>	Proof Reader

## Current Rates for Membership

	Single	Joint	Single 10 Year	Joint 10 Year	Single Life	Joint Life
UK	£10	£15	£75	£112	£165	£250
Overseas Airmail	£12	£18	£90	£135	£200	£300

ISBN 0141 4505

© Copyright 2016 NFHS and Contributors

# CONTENTS The Norfolk Ancestor June 2016

Front and Inside Cover - Binham Priory	
Kirby Hall Opening Times .....	5
Editor's welcome to the June edition.....	6
Of Murderers and an Eccentric Doctor by Roger Morgan .....	7-10
A Trail to the Promised Land by Dr David Belson .....	11-14
Hundreds of Famous Forebears by Fiona Knight.....	15-18
From Zimbabwe to Syderstone by John Savory-.....	20-24
Ancestor Bookshelf.....	24-27
News From Around Norfolk - Syderstone and Wymondham.....	28-29
Helpful Hints with Ellen Carr.....	30-31
A Mystery Solved But One Remaining by Michael Dack .....	32-33
News From Norfolk Online Record Service by Michael Dack .....	33-34
New Members and Members' Interests.....	35-38
The Tale of A 12 Place Tea Set by Richard Wiggett.....	39-42
Letters, Notes and Queries.....	43-51
Obituaries - Roland Buggiey, Yvonne Bird, Jean Heffernan.....	51-52
Group Reports .....	53-58
South Norfolk Group.....	53-57
London Group.....	57-58
Family Trees with Pam Bridge.....	59
Guidelines for Submitting Articles.....	60
Norfolk Records Office Report .....	61
Memories of Bethel Street by Anne Youngs.....	62-64
Picture Special with Alan Harper .....	65
DNA and Family Research in Finland .....	66-67
Who to Contact in the NFHS and How to Contact Them.....	70
Inside Back and Back Cover - Binham Priory	



## 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.

All advertisements are commercial and their inclusion does not indicate endorsement by the Society, which accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered directly or indirectly by any reader or purchaser as a result of any advertisement or notice published in this journal.

No part of this journal may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the prior permission of the Society.

### 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)



## ALL IS NOT LOST!

Your torn, creased & faded family photographs

can be repaired and restored

For further details please contact

PPF Images, Millennium House, Gapton Hall Road,  
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NL

Tel: 01493 655222

[www.ppfimages.co.uk](http://www.ppfimages.co.uk)



# Welcome to your June Edition



Welcome to the June edition of Norfolk Ancestor. Please let me start by thanking everyone for their kind comments on the March edition.

A number of people have contacted us to say they would be happy not to receive a printed copy of the magazine and be happy with just the electronic version from our official web site. The Trustees have discussed this matter and agreed that having a two tier system wouldn't be workable or easy to manage and would produce even more work than at present involved in distributing the magazine. So I hope you all continue to enjoy the printed version. A reminder also that many of the photographs printed in black and white in the printed version can be seen in full glorious colour in the members' area of our web site.

Now the good news. You will notice a shortage of my ramblings in this edition. The reason is quite simple. I have received so many excellent articles on a variety of family history related subjects that I wanted to get as many of them in as possible.

I hope you enjoy the result and, if you are reading this and would like to submit your own article for the September edition I would be delighted to receive it. Guidelines for sending articles are elsewhere in this edition. Please note the suggested length for articles which can either be sent to me via snail mail at Kirby Hall or preferably e-mailed to me at [ancestor@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:ancestor@nfhs.co.uk)

Finally a reminder that we also have a very active Facebook page. At the time of writing we had over 970 people signed up and it is likely we will hit the thousand mark before the next Ancestor which will be out at the beginning of September.

I know there have been many successes via the Facebook site and people from all over the World have been exchanging information and stories. It is an excellent place to post old photographs, share stories and appeal for help in finding ancestors. We will be featuring some of the success stories in the September edition of Ancestor.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**



# Of Murders and an Eccentric Doctor

**Assistant Editor Roger Morgan lets us into some of his family secrets.**

When I was asked by a friend in New Zealand to research the Norfolk connection to her maternal great grandfather Herbert LEAMON, little did I know what a strange story I would find. A tale of an eccentric country doctor, fortunes made and lost, horrific murders culminating in a tragic suicide. Herbert Leamon was the son of Robert Leamon of Whitwell Hall near Reepham so I began my search by looking into the history of the hall.

The manors of Whitwell and Hackford were inherited in 1680 by Robert MONSEY who became Rector of Bawdeswell in 1683. However, in 1689, he refused to take an oath of allegiance to the new King William III and was forced to retire to Whitwell to live. He spent his time growing plants and planting trees, some of which are still alive today. It was here that in 1693 his son Messenger was born.

Messenger Monsey was taught at Whitwell by his father before getting a B.A. from Pembroke College, Cambridge, and returning to Norwich to study medicine. He practised at Bury St. Edmunds. One day he was summoned to treat the Earl of Godolphin who was taken ill with an 'apoplexy' on his way to his Newmarket home. The earl made a remarkably quick recovery and he was immediately impressed by the eccentric country doctor. He invited Messenger to go and live with him in London and obtained a post for him at the Chelsea Hospital.



Doctor Messenger Monsey (pictured above) quickly became one of the oddest physicians of the 18th century. He was described as being "uncouth, unwashed and capable of delivering the most outrageous remarks". He had appalling manners and a scathing tongue but he also displayed a great wit. He proved to be an instant success in the London social scene and became a great friend of Sir Robert Walpole. Messenger was reported as being the only man who would dare to contradict the famous Sir Robert or beat him at billiards. His method for removing an aching tooth was to tie some strong cat gut round it, attach the line to a perforated bullet and then fire the gun!

Lord Godolphin died in 1766 leaving Messenger with nowhere to live. He had no intention of moving back to Whitwell Hall and so spent the rest of his days living

in apartments in Chelsea. When he died aged 95 on Boxing Day, 1778, he left more than £16,000 (over £22 million in today's money). He left his body for dissection with the instructions that the remains should be thrown into the River Thames.

The Whitwell estate passed to his only daughter Charlotte. She too had no interest in Norfolk and the hall was occupied by tenants. Charlotte died in 1798, passing on the entire estate to her eldest daughter Caroline. She married John Bedingfield COLLYER the second son of Daniel Collyer of Wroxham Hall and the Whitwell Hall estate was quickly sold to Edward ELLIS. He lived in the hall for the next 20 years and on his death in 1821, left it to his nephew James Ellis. In the will there was also a bequest of £100 to Robert Leamon the Younger of Fakenham. Robert was appointed as sole executor and charged with the task of finding new tenants or disposing of the hall.

The estate was put up for auction in 1822 but no buyer was forthcoming, so Robert, a simple harness maker, decided that it was time to become a country gentleman and duly purchased the hall for himself. As well as the hall, he also bought its surrounding farmland and one of the Whitwell tanneries. Under



Robert  
Leamon

Robert's ownership, the tannery was enlarged and modernised and he built up a thriving timber business. His wealth and reputation grew rapidly and he completely renovated the existing hall.

In April 1844,  
Robert was called to  
the house of William  
FROST, one of his

tannery workers. When he arrived he found Frost sitting handcuffed in the kitchen with the police inspector in attendance. Upstairs in the bedroom were the bodies of three of Frost's children, Harriet(5), Charlotte(3) and Eliza(18 months). He had murdered them all by hitting them over the head several times with a large, heavy hammer. Frost had also drowned his baby daughter Louisa by pushing her head-first into a large earthenware pot full of water. Robert Leamon interviewed Frost who admitted using the hammer to kill the children and washing the blood

**HORRIBLE TRAGEDY AT WHITWELL.**  
On Monday morning last the parish of Whitwell, near Reepham, was thrown into a state of excitement, in consequence of a man named Wm. Frost having murdered four of his children in his cottage. He is a journeyman tanner, about 35 years of age, and has worked for Mr. Leamon, of Whitwell, for the last 15 years. Having been for some days in a state of excitement, he had killed his three elder children by beating them on the back of their heads with a large heavy hammer. The youngest, an infant, he put headforemost into a large earthen pot full of water. On the following morning the Coroner's Inquest was held at the Falgate public-house, when the following evidence was given:—  
Sarah Allen deposed: I live in a cottage adjoining to William Frost's. His four children's names were Harriet Frost, about five years of age; Charlotte Frost, three years old; Eliza, eighteen months; and Louisa, ten weeks. Yesterday morning, about nine o'clock, I saw Martha Frost, the mother, go out of her own gate. She returned, I think, in about five minutes, and we stood together some little time, and then she went in. Immediately after I heard her call out violently, and I ran into her house as fast as I could. Mrs. Frost was calling out, "Oh! my children." I took hold of her, and asked, "What is the matter?" She was unable to explain what had occurred. I looked into the pantry, and there I saw Eliza Frost lying dead. I then went up stairs, and there I saw Harriet Frost and Charlotte Frost lying on the floor quite dead, and a quantity of blood. I then went



off afterwards. He said that he hoped that his children were now much closer to heaven. He was a member of a Methodist sect called the 'Ranters', later known as the 'Revivalists' for whom he was a preacher. Frost was sent for trial for wilful murder under the influence of fanaticism. Robert spoke up on his behalf and Frost was later committed to an asylum.

Robert was an extremely kind and caring master and did all that he could to improve the well-being of his workers. He was highly regarded by all and, when he died in 1878, he was equally generous in his will. Every worker with five or more years of service received £5 (equivalent to over £400 today). In total he bequeathed £200 to his work force (over £16,000 in today's money). All business in Reepham was suspended for the funeral and nearly 150 people attended the reading of the will.

Robert was succeeded by his eldest son, also called Robert, who was an equally enlightened employer. He was described as being 'a frank, easy, open, generous-hearted man'. He took the Leamon family through a period of great financial prosperity. He secured a lucrative contract to supply timber to the Royal Navy. Robert was very highly regarded in the county and held a high position. He was also politically very active, sponsoring the famous Norfolk MP Clare SEWELL READ. He was secretary of the committee set up to raise funds to pay for the erection of the large Corinthian column in memory of Thomas COKE at Holkham Hall. He was a leading campaigner for the repeal of the malt tax because he thought that the tax penalised the ordinary man by raising the price of beer.

In 1874 disaster struck. His tannery was hit by a massive fire which burned for three days, destroying many stacks of tan bark and buildings. The bark was not insured, so Robert had to borrow money to rebuild and update the business. He faced increased competition from larger urban tanneries and his response was

to invest in modern, more mechanised processes. He encouraged the extension of the railways, selling land to build Whitwell Station so that hides could be transported more quickly. Despite all of the extra investment, business did not improve and he faced serious financial problems. This had a very bad effect on Robert and drove him to a 'serious affliction'. The family were unwilling to commit him to an asylum and he was cared for in





the hall. However, on one night in August 1878, he was left unattended in his bedroom. The following morning his coachman found him dead, hanging from one of his ward-robres.

His son Philip Leamon was unable to stop the decline and the whole enterprise was declared bankrupt in 1883.

Philip went to India in a vain attempt to revive the family fortunes

but unfortunately failed. His wife Elizabeth stayed at Whitwell Hall until 1887 when they were forced to leave. She went to live in Norwich, leaving her six children in the care of relatives. Sadly the strain of these years was too much of a burden for her and she ended her life in an asylum.

The children of Robert Leamon spread far and wide, with some moving to Scotland, some to the Midlands and one to the United States. Herbert was a commercial traveller and moved to Birmingham. He had seven children including another Robert Leamon who died when he was only 14 years old. His fourth child was Howard Leamon who was the grandfather of my New Zealand friend.



The Leamon family was large and the descendants are now widely spread throughout the world. In the Whitwell Road cemetery there is a large memorial to the second Robert Leamon, his wife Mary and their 11 children.

Whitwell Hall today is a country centre set in 40 acres of Norfolk countryside, offering educational experiences to youngsters from schools or colleges. It is also

available for hire for private functions including weddings. Little remains of the Leamon's tannery but the millpond is still in evidence. The impressive Georgian-style building owes much to the hard work and endeavours of one of Norfolk's most enlightened country gentlemen. Some of the family memorials are included on this page.



# A Trail To The Promised Land?

By Dr David Belson

---

THE Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) had established a base in Norwich early in the 19th century. This newly founded religion from the USA was regarded by many people as a cult and its adherents often suffered religious intolerance, even finding it difficult to obtain employment.

This resulted in many people emigrating to "The Promised Land" in Utah, at the then westernmost frontier of colonisation of North America - "the Wild West" indeed. Brigham YOUNG, the second president of the LDS Church had, in the 1830s, established the Utah Territory as an independent state to be run on Mormon principles, and he actively encouraged Mormons from other countries to make their way there. Prospective migrants were given every support and the whole journey could be arranged for them.

William STIMPSON, an uncle of my great-grandmother, Mary Ann BELSON nee BURTON, was baptised on 16th June, 1821, at Hempstead with Eccles, having been born the previous day. His parents were William Stimpson and Mary his wife (nee SMITH). On 17th November, 1848, he married Rebecca LUBBOCK in the parish church of East Ruston. They settled in Ridlington and had three children there. The first, unnamed, was born on 31st May, 1849, but died the same day. The others were Frederick Stimpson, born on 15th June, 1852, and William Buckingham Stimpson, born on 1st December, 1854. William Stimpson had become "involved with" the Mormons in the 1840s. He decided to take his family to The Promised Land in 1856.

The Stimpson family boarded (in Liverpool) the SS Horizon on 5th May, 1856, along with around 500 other Mormon settlers. They arrived in Boston on 30th June, 1856, and from there travelled by train to Iowa City, which they reached on 8th July, 1856. At that time this was the western terminus of the line. Having made their way to nearby Nauvoo, Illinois, they were met by representatives of the companies who were to escort them along the 1000 mile Mormon Trail from there to Utah. Up until then, the journey had been made by wagon trains hauled by horses or oxen, but this was expensive and it had been decided to use hand-carts instead. These weighed 60 lb. unladen and were designed to carry 500 lb. of provisions and equipment. They were to be hauled by the settlers, who were to walk the whole way. The route involved crossing the Rocky Mountains and, if

the trek were started too late in the year, winter would set in. The settlers would be obliged to stay in winter quarters for months. These had been established at Florence, Nebraska. It was therefore necessary to start on the trail by a certain date, which put pressure on the handcart manufacturers and the carts were hastily put together.

The Stimpsons set off with the Martin Handcart Company in early August, 1856, Rebecca being pregnant. By the time the party reached Florence in mid-August, the carts were showing signs of wear and tear and required extensive repair work. This put the party further behind time and their guides urged them to remain in winter quarters for the approaching winter. The church elders, including William Stimpson, sought divine guidance and voted to continue, a decision which was to prove disastrous.

The Martin Company left winter quarters on 27th August in hot sunshine and high spirits. They reached Fort Laramie, Wyoming, by early October only to find there was no re-supply of provisions and they traded a lot of their cold-weather clothing for food. However, there was not very much available and a ration of 10 lb per person was imposed.

The church leaders in Salt Lake City, Utah, were concerned that neither of the two companies had arrived there and the winter was setting in, so a large rescue party – 250 wagons and supplies – was sent out on 7th October to meet them. On 19th October, the Martin Company crossed the Platte River near Fort Casper, Wyoming, where there was a ferry, but many of the company crossed through the shallow, freezing waters on foot. On the other side, they were met by a severe blizzard, causing them to seek shelter immediately.

They made camp at Red Butte, where they were forced to stay for nine days, completely snowed in and many suffering from hypothermia and frostbite. When scouts from the rescue party reached Red Butte on 28th October, they found that 56 of the pioneers had died during those nine days. Two-year-old William Buckingham Stimpson had been the first.

After burying the dead (according to contemporary accounts, in the river, wrapped in tree bark and weighed down with rocks as the ground was too solid and frozen to dig), the party moved on. Rebecca Stimpson then miscarried and the premature child was buried at Independence Rock, the half-way marker for the Mormon Trail. On 4th November, 1856, the Martin Company survivors reached the Sweetwater River but again the weather worsened and they were forced to set up camp, in a sheltered valley. The valley became known as Mar-

tin's Cove. It was there, on 9th November, after all her suffering, that Rebecca Stimpson died – surely a blessed release. The company stayed at Martin's Cove for five days; meanwhile the main rescue party were sheltering just two hours away, but oblivious to the plight of the settlers. After the two parties finally met, the survivors - in 104 wagons of the search party - finally reached Salt Lake City on 30th November, 1856. Of the original 400 or so people who started the trek three months previously, 145 had perished.

William Stimpson and his remaining son Frederick settled in Riverdale, Weber County, Utah, where William became a farmer. On 1st May, 1858, he married Edna HINCHCLIFF, a widow and also an immigrant from England. She was three years his junior. On 16th March, 1867, he married Ann Mary CHRISTENSEN, a single woman 21 years younger than him. She was born in Denmark. Now this was bigamy, but polygamy was encouraged by the Mormons for religious reasons (Brigham Young married 55 women, but did not live with them all). William and his two Mormon wives between them produced 13 more children.

In 1857, the Utah Militia was called up in defence of the Territory against the United States. One third of the US army was despatched to Utah in response to a perceived rebellion by Mormon settlers. During the winter of 1857/8 the Militia, including William Stimpson, took to the hills, prepared defences and practised guerilla manoeuvres. However, common sense prevailed and the matter was settled amicably. Eventually, Utah gained statehood and its citizens were expected to obey federal law. A number of prominent citizens were imprisoned for polygamy. This included William Stimpson who, in 1886, served eight months in prison and paid a fine of \$300 for “unlawful conduct”.

William made the front page of the Ogden Standard Examiner of 25th October, 1904, with the following: “William Stimpson, a prominent citizen of Riverdale, was the victim of a serious runaway on Twenty-sixth Street”. William was driving a cart and horses when his team became frightened and bolted, colliding with a telephone pole.

The wagon was smashed and “the driver was precipitated to the ground”, suffering serious injuries. The doctor was called and “the victim was removed to his home and made as easy as possible”. Presumably he recovered, before dying on 12th January, 1907, of pneumonia, aged 85, with old age being a contributory cause. He and his two Mormon wives are buried in the cemetery at Ogden, Utah.

The Mormon Trail was used from 1846, when Brigham Young and his followers left Nauvoo, travelling west to establish the new home for the Mormon Church. The handcart pioneers traversed the trail from 1856 to 1860.

Use of the Trail ceased in 1869, which saw the completion and opening of the First Transcontinental Railroad and this became the method of travel for pioneers the whole way from the East Coast to Salt Lake City.

Most of the information in this account was obtained from "The Trail of Tears", a story from "Utah since Statehood" – see [trees.ancestry.co.uk](http://trees.ancestry.co.uk).

**Dr David Belson MN 7538**

## VOLUNTEERS

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

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

We are particularly in need of people to staff Kirby Hall on Tuesday mornings, although any help at any time will be very welcome.

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

## NORFOLK RESEARCH

**PARISH RECORDS**

**CENSUS SEARCHES**

**CERTIFICATES**

***£5 per hour***

***Send SAE or IRC for details***

**W. Hepburn**

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

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



# Hundreds of Famous Forebears

**By Fiona Knight**

WHEN I read the latest NFHS Ancestor magazine and saw the challenge about the person with 10,000 ancestors including William the Conqueror and Alfred the Great, I thought "he must be related to me!" I have those chaps in my line, too, plus a few more who were not mentioned.

My list of famous forebears started with what I describe as a randy Scottish peer, who fathered a child with a local maiden. My cousin, who had been researching the family line for many years more than me, dropped the casual comment: "There's a rumour that we are descended from the Earls of Perth." Poor chaps was my first thought but it presented a wonderful challenge - could I prove it and who else was in the line? I spent several years researching this "peerage" connection in the days before the Internet, so I spent hours in the local library with Burke's various books: "Peerage," "Landed Gentry," "Dormant and Extinct Peerages," "The Titled Nobility of Europe" etc. They are not just a record but are simply delightful to read.

It was an easy deduction to make about James LUNDY, the father of my known ancestor (another James Lundie) . But how could I prove he was in my line? Fortuitously, my husband and I were travelling to Scotland soon after, so the first step was the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh. The custom in Kilrenny, where James Lundie was baptised in 1735, was that women who bore illegitimate children were sat on a stool and interrogated by the church elders. I have read many of the inquisitions at that time and the elders spared no punches.

But there was no sitting on the stool for James' mother, Elizabeth PHILP. So I enlisted the help of the Records Manager, who was delighted to accept the challenge. After checking other documents and with several people head-scratching, he deduced that the father's family were indeed the Earls of Perth and could pull rank to stop there being a damaging record of what led to the baby's conception and birth. James Lundie, the father, was born in 1707 to Robert Drummond Lundie, whose father, John Drummond, first Earl of Melfort, had married the heiress, Sophia Lundin and, with the money, came the change of name. The Drummond ancestry descends father to son for 14 generations from Malcolm Beg Drummond, SENESCHAL of Scotland in the early 13th century. He married the daughter of Malcolm, Earl of LENNOX (wives' names were seldom recorded

in those days). According to Burke, Malcolm was the great-great-grandson of Maurice Drummond, “a native of Hungary”, who accompanied Edward ATHELING and his two sisters to Scotland in 1068. Through this relationship, Drummond acquired “large possessions” in Scotland, and was made steward of Lennox. More very interesting ancestry came through the various wives of the Drummonds. The Drummonds made good marriages, marrying heiresses and the daughters of prominent and/or wealthy men, kings, grand-dukes, nobles, as well as a few ordinary folk. It has been an interesting experience to research ancestral families who fought each other in the various famous Scottish battles. It was both distressing and exciting to find one woman who married four different men and changed sides according to which husband had been killed in battle, even if it was hard to keep track of them on paper.

The names of the families that the Drummonds married into include CAMPBELL, DOUGLAS, DUNBAR, ERSINE, KEITH, LINDSAY, MURRAY, RUTHVEN and STEWART. While these all sound very Scottish to our ears, many of these families are as polyglot as ourselves and have ancestors coming from a range of exotic lands and histories. The original lairds of the Ruthven family were Vikings: Sweyne was a Viking chief in the eleventh century. Sir Malcolm Drummond was married in 1445 to Mariot, daughter of Sir David Murray of Tullibardine who was descended from Freskin, a “Pictish noble of the old race of Moray”.

The Lundin family forbears included the MAITLAND, FLEMING, SETON, DURIE and Ruthven families as well as Drummond and Lindsay. James 3rd Earl of Perth married Anne GORDON in 1639. As daughter of the second Marquis of Huntly, she brought into the family tree the families of Campbell, Stewart, SINCLAIR and SOMERVILLE. Her line includes King Robert II and the BEAUFORT family, and she shared Seton and Crichton ancestors with her husband. More interestingly she descends from King Henry VII of England, the Duke of Ingolstadt of Bavaria and Count Peter of Luxembourg.

Jean KER, wife of John, 2nd Earl of Perth, brought FLEMING, MAITLAND and DOUGLAS ancestors. Patrick, the first Earl of Perth and the 3rd Lord Drummond, married Elizabeth LINDSAY, who brought with her more Douglas, Campbell ancestors as well as ERSKINE and KEITH families. By this stage I was getting used to the intermarriage of the earlier generations and had devised a manual system to cross-reference back to previous research on the same family lines. Oh, for the current computer programmes! David, the second Lord Drummond married into the Ruthven family too, but brought some new ancestral

families for me – the HALIBURTON and LIVINGSTONE families. John Drummond, created first Lord Drummond in 1487, married Elizabeth Lindsay of the Crawford clan, who also descended from King Robert II of Scotland and his wife with the delightful name of Euphemia Rose. The Lindsay's interesting ancestry includes Raoul de Toeni I, castellau of Tilliers in 1027.

King Robert II himself came from the house of Stewart, the high stewards of Scotland, who also descend from Sweyne as well as Flaad, the steward of Dol in Brittany. According to legend, King Robert's 28x great-grandfather Ceretic (Coroticus) the Gwledig, King of Strathclyde, was reproached by St Patrick himself, though what the offence was is unrecorded. Other ancestors of note include King Robert II of France, himself a descendent of Alfred the Great.

The Lindsay ancestry also includes the Earls of Huntingdon, and King Malcolm III. He married the daughter of Edward Atheling, whose ancestry includes Alfred the Great, Ceolwulf King of Mercia, Ealhmund King of Kent and a lady with the intriguing name of Sexburga, daughter of the King of Anglia. I've already mentioned Robert the Bruce. Born in 1274, he was also descended from Duke William of Normandy in different lines as well as King Henry I of France through the Earls of Huntingdon. Another of his antecedents, King Aidan of the Scots of Argyll was reputedly consecrated by St Columba, his cousin.

His wife, Isabella of Mar, had Welsh ancestry with Llewellyn the Great being her 2x great-grandfather. His recorded line brings in some wonderful names: Idwal VOEL (the bald), Rhodri MAWR the Great, Mervyn VRYCH (the freckled) and Coel HEN (Old King Cole of nursery rhyme fame). Isabella's French forefathers probably considered themselves even more illustrious – Kings Henry 1 and Robert II of France, Alfred the Great and Jaroslav, Grand-duke of Kiev.

Isabel Campbell, daughter of Colin 1st Earl of Argyll, married William, son of the first Lord Drummond (William who was not himself a Lord Drummond, but still descends in the straight line of descent from Malcom Beg Drummond) . Isabel brought with her a strong French ancestry through the Beaufort family. My husband groaned when I asked him who John of Gaunt was. This family's tree is probably fairly familiar to readers, and would constitute an article by itself. Suffice it to say that various ancestors include Charlemagne; kings of Aragon such as Navarre, Leon, and Castile; Vladimir I Grand-duke of Kiev, Dukes of Bohemia; the Margaves of Austria; kings of Hungary, Croatia, and Serbia; Enrico DANDOLO the Doge of Venice from 1193 – 1205, and Peter II of Courtenay, Emperor of Constantinople for the fourth Crusade (although he did not get a

chance to actually rule Constantinople). And who would have thought that King Bela III of Hungary would be descended from King Harold (died 1066)? The wives certainly travelled more to find husbands than I had anticipated. It's been a fun exercise, and I am not bothered if it turns out that the Scottish Records Manager back in the 1980s got it wrong and my James Lundie was some-one else. I learned so much about the history of the various countries and marvelled at what a small world it was back then. I am sure many readers will also fit into my family tree somewhere, and I recommend you take up the challenge.

**Footnote:** Mary Stewart, whose mother was Arabella/Annabel Drummond , married 1st (c1397) George Douglas, 1st Earl of Angus (died 1402); Married 2nd (1404) Sir James Kennedy the Younger (died 1408); Betrothed to Sir William Cunningham (1409 – 1413); Married 3rd (1413) to Sir William Graham of Kincardine (died 1424); Married 4th (1425) Sir William Edmonstone of Culloden and 1st of Duntreath Depending on the source she had between nine and 16 children.

Fiona Knight MN 8706

## ***cine – slides – video*** 2 **DVD**

Have all your treasured  
Memories transferred to disc

- 8mm & 16mm cine films converted to DVD
- VHS & camcorder tapes converted to DVD
- 35mm slides, negatives & prints scanned and saved on disc. These can also be compiled into a slideshow with music and transferred to DVD for viewing on your home TV

Contact Michael on:  
01708 735810



[www.slides2disk.co.uk](http://www.slides2disk.co.uk)

# FAMILY, HOUSE AND LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH

Professional  
Researcher,  
Qualified  
Historian  
and Tutor



Record  
Office and  
Freelance  
since 1992

## GILL BLANCHARD

AUTHOR OF "TRACING YOUR EAST ANGLIAN ANCESTORS: A GUIDE FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS" AND "TRACING YOUR HOUSE HISTORY"

BA (HONS) HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY • MA HISTORY AND POLITICS • POST.  
GRAD. CERT. ED (ADULTS) • CERT. ARCHITECTURE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Suite 14, Meadow View House, 191 Queens Road, Norwich, NR1 3PP  
01603 610619

Email: [gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk](mailto:gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk) • [www.pastsearch.co.uk](http://www.pastsearch.co.uk)

Family History Courses, Workshops and Personal Tuition available  
locally and online

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Lincolnshire  
All other areas considered

# From Zimbabwe to Syderstone (part one)

**By John Savory**

---

MY family and I left Zimbabwe following the purging of white farmers by Robert Mugabe and arrived in Norfolk. We found ourselves living in Syderstone in North Norfolk where we continually came across people with the same name together with some prominent SAVORY gravestones in the local cemetery.

As a result, the origins of the African Savory family gradually became a source of interest and, with help from relatives Terence WILLSON and Marylee BANYARD, we have been able to come up with a disjointed lineage going back certainly to 1725 and with a bit of supposition before that.

## **In The Beginning.**

Terence and Marylee suggest that we originate from France where the family were Huguenot Protestants, possibly evicted from the country following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV in 1685.

Terry's comments: "I remember my mother saying that the Savorys managed to take a considerable amount of money out of France. This was, of course, not permitted for fleeing Protestants. However, as very successful milliners, I think it probable that international business contacts could have assisted. (Tradition has it that the Savorys held the monopoly for the manufacture of cardinals' hats, although how they could have managed this as Protestants I cannot imagine!)"

Marylee tells me that the original French spelling of "Savory" was "Savorie." If this is the case, the family probably originated in the Savoie area of France fairly near the Swiss border. (Savoie is a French region east of Lyon and borders Italy).

After examining files held by the British Huguenot Society, Savory and Savary (but not Savorie) are recognised French Huguenot names and feature in their lists in Spittlefields, London, and also Belfast, Northern Ireland. Indeed Sir Douglas Lloyd Savory was MP for County Antrim, Ireland, and President of the Huguenot Society. There is no trace of the names Savory, Savorie or Savary, in the known group of Huguenots who settled in Norwich, but as no specific list as such was drawn up at the time of immigration there could be more.

There are also records for Joseph Savory, born 1646 at Montpellier, France. He came to England and his son Joseph married Mary Caroline BRAITHWAITE -



granddaughter of George Ambrose LLOYD, the founder of the international Lloyds Banking Group. Their great grandson became Lord Mayor of London in 1889.

General Rene Savory is recorded to be on Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's staff during the Prussian Campaign 1806-1807 during which he accepted the surrender of Hamelin, Germany (the town of rats and the Pied Piper) and is widely detailed in Bonaparte's memoirs as the French Consular Envoy to the court of the Emperor of Spain 1808-10. (Some references have his name as Savary, others as Savory, Bonaparte uses Savory.) He wasn't at Waterloo.

Unfortunately we must throw a bit of doubt on these family recollections as there are many baptismal records of Savorys going back as far as that for Anie Savory, daughter of John Savory, 17th December 1565, in the Parish of East Carleton, on the outskirts of Norwich. In addition, there are recorded baptisms for Savorys around Gloucester, Northampton and in Wales with the earliest seen being Thomas, son of Joan and Robert Savory, 1548, in the Parish of Hannington, Northamptonshire. There are records of Savory's in Syderstone itself dating from 1638, Bridget, daughter of Thomas and Frances. (English Parish records)

There are therefore records of "Savory's" on both sides of the Channel going back before the Edict of Nantes of 1685. Although the French connection has a marvellous romantic ring to it, regrettably I am tending to have the opinion that we are from an old English line which happened to make good for a short period - perhaps with a marriage to a French émigré somewhere along the line, possibly with the elder Coulsey, (see next paragraph), as £5000 is a lot of money to suddenly come up with as there is no record of a prosperous Savory prior to that and no mention of Coulsey Savory has been found in records prior to 1725. The question is - where did he come from and which way did the Savory name go - from France to England or vice versa? Either is feasible with the regular movement of mercenaries during the middle ages. That is simply my personal opinion.

## **Documented Evidence.**

The earliest documented evidence of an ancestor of the African Savory family in the UK is the purchase of Twyford Estate, Twyford, Norfolk, by Coulsey Savory from the Reverend James ANTHILL on 1st June, 1725, for £5000. Using the website, <http://www.measuringworth.com/>, this could equate to as much as £7.8 million today. Figures available do vary considerably but I've compared it to the rump of the estate with no productive arable land so basically just the house and 70 acres that is currently on the market for £2.2 million, compared to current land



values and extrapolated from that. Included in the 1725 sale was about 1700 acres of arable land, the hall itself, the Falcon Inn and several cottages. In order to purchase a similar portfolio today, I am

confident that you will be looking to outlay in the region of the amount suggested.

The next transfer of title on this property occurred on 8th. November, 1755, from Coulsey to his son Henry Savory who married Frances Coulsey of South Creek, 3rd. March, 1739. (This surname looks a bit odd but there are records of people with the surname Coulsey in the area so I assume it was a simple coincidence). Unfortunately birth and death records are very limited before 1800 (the first complete census only took place in 1841) so I've been unable to establish any other siblings. His wedding took place at Syderstone so I'm thinking that he is related to Nicholas, John and Charles - mentioned later.

At some point Henry has acquired Barmer Farm, Syderstone. I was unable to find the transfer of this as there is a huge amount of paper to wade through and decipher, all hand written. There is a will (dated 1767) by his father in law (Samuel Coulsey) where everything is left to him and Francis. This could have provided the means to purchase the property. The will indicates Henry is the second son of the elder Coulsey.

Barmer Farm is recorded as being owned by a Mr Edward GLOVER, latest date 1780 so it would have occurred sometime after this. Two of Coulseys' (this Coulsey is Henry's son - mentioned next) children were born at Syderstone from 1782, indicating he was tasked with running the farm. It is recorded that a Nicholas Savory farmed the land adjacent to Barmer Farm and a Charles and John Savory lived in Syderstone at the same time. All three were obviously well regarded as their graves are within the church building at Syderstone. (It was these graves that started me looking.) How they are related is not known but I feel they are, as John witnessed Henry's marriage.

Coulsey Savory (NB: there are three Coulseys in this narrative) was the fifth

child born to Henry and his wife Frances on 17th. June, 1756. Other children: Henry (1744-1747), Anne (1745-1799, married Edward CASE 1767), Samuel (1747 - no date of death found) and Henry (1755- 1759). Henry and Frances died within days of each other in October 1795, Frances on the 15th and Henry on the 27th. All these events occurred at Syderstone. (Norfolk Parish Records)



On 29th October, 1791 both Twyford and Barmer are transferred to Coulsey and his children as "joint tenants". As all the children (Coulsey Jnr, Samuel and Edward) were at that stage minors it would have been a simple matter for Coulsey to assume direct legal control of the whole estate - especially as he was the sitting magistrate at the time.

Twyford Estate was quite a substantial piece of ground and together with Barmer Farm would have made the Savory family an important entity. As a result of this, Coulsey is recorded as

being Lord of the Manor from 1787 to 1795. This essentially means he was the regional magistrate and would have received a salary from the crown.

Coulsey married Charlotte STANFORD (Born 1758 to Samuel and Mary Stanford from the Parish of Little Massingham) on 5th July, 1779 at Syderstone. Looking at the painting of Charlotte (above), the family were clearly well off and Charlotte was an attractive woman. According to Terry there was a corresponding painting of Coulsey but this was destroyed, reportedly by Charlotte, probably in a fit of anger over the disgrace that was to follow.

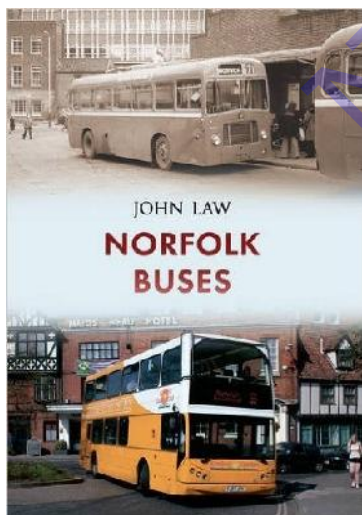
Whilst we do not know if Coulsey inherited debts, it is clear that by the early 1800s he was in deep financial trouble and was declared bankrupt in October 1805 (London Gazette). The reason for this insolvency is not documented. Terence was told by his side of the family that he was a less than salubrious person and did not manage the estate to the best of its potential, being rather partial to gambling and evening activities. He speculated heavily to finance this dissolute lifestyle, losing the family fortune in the process and Savorys have been poor ever since. His bankruptcy notice in the Norwich Chronicle 24 January, 1807 describes him as a "dealer and chapman." The word chapman had come to be applied to an itinerant dealer or pedlar. Quite how these describe him I am

not sure.

The bankruptcy proceedings took four years to wind up and resulted in the whole of Barmer Farm being sold to Thomas KERSLAKE for £8,500. Portions of Twyford Estate were also sold in order to clear the debt - 90 acres to Colonel John FRANCIS, two cottages and 20 acres to Edmund Savory, the Falcon Inn, Bintry to George BAYFIELD, 100 acres to James TAVENER, 40 acres to John MOORE. The house seems to have been retained and there is now some confusion. We know Coulsey was still alive but there are documents commencing from 1807-1822 detailing the lease of Twyford Hall by Samuel Henry Savory (who by this stage was Rector of Twyford Parish) from Coulsey Savory Jnr. (Norfolk Archives, Norwich) Why the younger Coulsey would have the rights to the hall is not known. The hall is recorded as being bought by Colonel Henry Packe in 1830.

Coulsey died at Bixley, October 23rd, 1837 aged 82, Charlotte died in Twyford, February 10th, 1846 aged 88 years.

## ANCESTOR BOOKSHELF



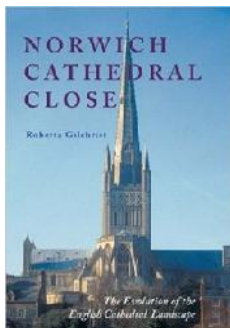
**Norfolk Buses by John Law.** Amberley Publishing. Paperback 96 pages

If like me you are fascinated by all modes of transport, this book will be a delight. John Law has painstakingly produced a volume of photographs that take us back in time to the days when the first motor bus services in East Anglia were operated by the Great Eastern Railway Company. The Eastern Counties Omnibus Company was formed in 1931.

John Law has been photographing buses since the early 1970s. He beautifully takes us on a journey that will bring back many memories for those of us born and bred in Norfolk and for others will

act as an interesting historical publication.

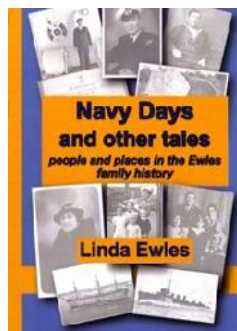
**Peter Steward**



**History of the Savoy family in the Savoy Palace and English Cathedral Landscape by Roberta Gilchrist.** Boydell Press, 2005, 294 pages. Size: 24.4 x 17.2. Paperback 2016 £20

An impressive and important work which, when first published as an expensive hardback was out of reach of most readers. Moreover, the archival, archaeological, and architectural breadth, made it somewhat scholarly and esoteric. However, this new edition is good value and contains many interesting facts about the Cathedral and especially its surroundings. Norwich Cathedral is one of the most important buildings in medieval England. The author uses archaeological, visual and historical evidence to reconstruct the landscape and buildings of The Close, from its foundation in 1096 up to c.1700. Emphasis is placed upon the layout of the monastery, and the ways in which sacred, public, private and functional spaces were used and perceived by different social groups. Professor Gilchrist explains the various religious ideas and beliefs and social influences which have shaped this familiar landscape. Patterns observed at Norwich are then placed in the context of other cathedral priories, allowing a broader picture to emerge of the development of the English cathedral over six centuries. A well written and a rewarding read which will appeal to any reader with an interest in cathedrals and their role in medieval life.

**Edmund Perry**



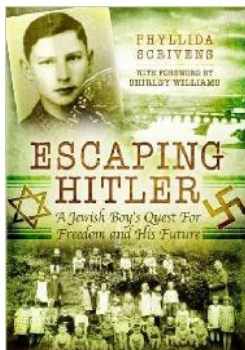
**Navy Days and Other Tales: People and Places in the Ewles Family History by Linda Ewles** Minuteman Press, Paperback 228 pages

This story of people and places in Linda's life has two parts. The first is the memoir navy days, about the life of her father, Lieutenant Commander Stanley Ewles from a boy aged 15 in 1926 until his retirement at 50. It includes moving descriptions of World War Two and the Korean War.

Part two concerns her paternal ancestors back to the 1720s. Great Grandfather John Ewles (1808-1859) was a blacksmith and parish clerk at Potter Heigham in Norfolk, some of whose grandchildren moved to Northumberland towards the end of the 19th century. Linda's grandfather was William Ewles (1875-1930) who married Isabella May Hopkins from Portsmouth. It is a journey of discovery with help of relatives and friends who shared information, photos,

family trees, memories of ordinary people, sailors, blacksmiths, agricultural labourers, engine drivers, factory workers, domestic servants and parish clerks. Altogether an interesting and well illustrated family history. Linda Ewles has also published a companion volume about her maternal forebears, "Lives before Mine: people and places in the Morris family history," and her autobiography "Skein of Life."

**Edmund Perry**



**ESCAPING HITLER. A Jewish Boy's Quest For Freedom and His Future by Phyllida Scrivens.** Published by Pen and Sword 2016. ISBN 978-1-47384-346-4

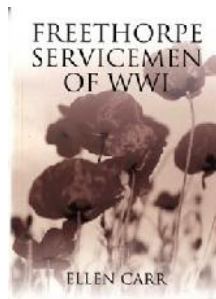
Anyone expecting from the title a story of adventure and daring will be disappointed, as the escape of 14 year-old Gunter Stern from Nazi Germany is only a small but very significant part of this biography of a remarkable man. What shines through is the determination, adaptability and courage of "Joe" Stirling to repay his new countrymen for the welcome and kindness he received as a penniless refugee

with no English.

An energetic and innovative worker and efficient organiser, he founded and ran a successful business, raised a family and participated in numerous charitable activities as a city councillor, youth worker and member of the Norwich Lions Club. He never talked about his youth until later in life, when he developed an interest in genealogy which introduced him to distant relatives and enabled him to discover the fate of his parents. With its bite-sized sections headed with words from Joe and his family this is a very readable book.

**Margaret Murgatroyd**

(Editor's note - An article by Phyllida on her book appeared in the March, 2016, edition of this magazine)



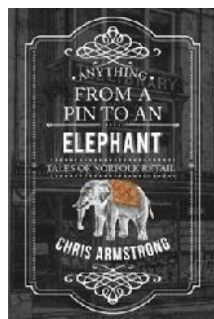
**FREETHORPE SERVICEMEN OF WWI by Ellen Carr, 2015**  
Softback A5 size 115 pp

Written by one of our Kirby Hall Volunteers, this neatly produced book is dedicated to the men from the village of Free-thorpe in Norfolk who fought in World War One and to the families they left behind. Based upon names on the local war memorial as well as others born in the village, this book covers 48 servicemen: their family backgrounds; the units they



joined (mainly Norfolk Regiment Battalions); the military action they experienced; their injuries, deaths or survival along with details of where they are buried, where memorialised; and medals awarded. The author has spent years researching service records, medal roll index cards, family letters and memorabilia including photographs which illustrate the text. The story of Sidney Cecil Alexander, who after emigrating to Canada enlisted in their Overseas Expeditionary Force, was featured in the Ancestor Journal Vol. 11 parts 1 and 2, 2014. An interesting and thought-provoking, commemorative publication. A fine example of what can be achieved and what is much needed in recognition of the sacrifice given by servicemen from numerous villages and towns across Norfolk 1914-1918. The book is available from the author: ellenwcarr@yahoo.co.uk

**Edmund Perry**



**Anything From a Pin To An Elephant : Tales of Norfolk Retail by Chris Armstrong.** Amberley Publishing. Paperback 128 pages, 80 illustrations £12.99

Norfolk boasts a remarkable collection of genuinely independent stores which have survived wars, bombs, fires, recessions, depressions, family squabbles, takeover bids and a succession of modernising changes in the retail market. Often this depended upon the resilience and strength of character of individuals and families. Arnold Roy was hailed as 'the Norfolk Napoleon' and an extraordinary appearance on the BBC's In Town Tonight in the 1930s gave rise to an avalanche of letters from ladies wishing to marry him, as well as the title of this book (which was his answer to the question of what was sold in his emporium).

The author has painstakingly researched the fascinating history of five of Norfolk's most iconic department stores, unearthing many previously unheard stories and meeting some genuinely eccentric characters. Along with Roys of Wroxham there are chapters on Palmer's of Great Yarmouth; Aldiss of Fakenham; Jarrold and Sons of Norwich; Bakers & Larners of Holt, and Break's chain of charity shops.

Attention is drawn to the impact of massive changes in the retail market, from out of town stores to the growth of internet shopping. A book which celebrates all that is best and admirable in the Norfolk retail scene.

**Edmund Perry**

# News From Around Norfolk

## Syderstone Family History Day

Syderstone will be holding its third family history day in the Amy Robsart Village Hall on Saturday, 6th August from 10 am until 5 pm. Entry is free and refreshments will be available. The event is ideal for anybody with family connections to the village or with a general interest in genealogy.

The local group has been collecting photographs, documents, maps and memorabilia and preparing family trees/histories of many Syderstone and district families. In addition, the Syderstone World War One Project, comprising biographies of Syderstone soldiers/sailors is in progress and additional information is always needed.

In addition, the group has several interesting books for sale written by local people detailing their lives in and around Syderstone. All this information now forms part of a community archive which is housed in the hall.

"The family history day gives us the opportunity to put on display what we have amassed so far and to give anyone with an interest in genealogy and/or the Syderstone area in particular, the chance to come along to see how much we have achieved and perhaps even discover a long lost relative/friend.

"In turn, you may be able to help us by bringing along any photos you may have of Syderstone and district, people or events, from any era, however obscure you may think they are. They can be in any condition as we can copy and enhance them if required. If you have any interesting stories, please write them down and we can add them to our collection. You can combine this event with St Mary's Church Flower Festival," one of the organisers, Sheila Riches, said.

More information is available from either Sheila Riches MN 10855 Tel. 01485 578171 [sheilarriches@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilarriches@btinternet.com) or Avril MacArthur MN 9439 [avril.macarthur1@btinternet.com](mailto:avril.macarthur1@btinternet.com)

## Wymondham Town Archive

Wymondham Town Archive contains a large collection of historical documents, photographs, maps and information on Wymondham and its surroundings from various sources including the town council. Some years ago the archive re-

ceived a large number of documents from the long standing Wymondham solicitors, Pomeroy and Sons. The company originated in the mid-18th century and had accumulated a considerable quantity of documents in its premises in Vicar Street. On a move to new premises the documents were to be disposed of, and the archive obtained many of them. A lot of the documents refer to property transfers, especially manor admissions and surrenders before the enfranchisement legislation. There are also wills, both final and drafts, sale particulars, accounts and letters.

A group of volunteers has been cataloguing the 'Pomeroy' collection of documents and extracting basic information such as a brief description and the main people and places mentioned. This information was initially entered into a custom built Microsoft Access based database but has now been transferred to an online database, which continues to be added to.

The database currently contains over 12,000 documents, predominantly, but not exclusively, related to Wymondham, and almost 20,000 names. The people named are mostly from Wymondham and the nearby villages but also from further afield, especially the city of Norwich. Even Lord Byron, the father of the poet, held property in Wymondham. The database is freely accessible and searchable to the general public via the Wymondham Town Archive website:-

<http://wymondham-archive.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

Eventually information on other collections within the archive, for example the photographic catalogue, will be added to the database.

**Terry Miller MN 7760**

## **WANTED FOR A NEW PROJECT**

Join our friendly team of volunteers at Kirby Hall to contribute to a new project on wills in our collection.

The task will involve transferring details of testators and beneficiaries onto a prepared template ready for uploading to NORS.

Ability to use a computer is necessary but training in using the template can be given and there is always somebody available to help with problems or difficult hand-writing.

The work can only be done at Kirby Hall on our usual opening days. If you can help please contact Trustee Carol Reeve at [volunteers@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@nfhs.co.uk)

# Helpful Hints with Ellen Carr

In a special article, NFHS volunteer Ellen Carr gives some helpful tips for family history research.

“Do Different” as we say in Norfolk!

If you are having difficulty finding the birth registration of an ancestor, try looking at the maiden surname of the mother.

I was asked for help in finding the birth of Constance GUNN around 1867 in Heacham, Norfolk. I could find no trace in the Parish Registers or on FreeBMD (for any parish) although it was stated in the 1891 census that she was born there. Her ‘father’ was William Gunn and mother Ann (late KITERINGHAM)

However, searching under the surname of Kiteringham brought up a Constance whose birth was registered in Downham in the September quarter of 1868. In the 1871 census she is listed as living with her grandparents, Thomas and Sarah Kiteringham in Marham. They had a daughter, Ann.

William Gunn and Ann Kiteringham married in the June quarter of 1875. William might have been Constance’s father although he was not named when her birth was registered.

So, if you are having trouble finding a specific birth, try searching using the maiden name of the suspected mother.

When searching for details of our ancestors, we are so used to using our eyes to find the evidence, that we sometimes neglect our other senses!

A member asked me to check an entry in the Skepton Parish Register. An ancestor, Jemima COOKE, was buried in the village in 1825 but on Ancestry the only likely transcription was for a Gemiah COOKE. Knowing that mistakes can be made in transcribing, I looked at the original register which has been photographed and is on Familysearch. The entry was indeed clearly for the strangely named Gemiah.

However, if you actually say the name ‘Jemima ‘out loud – and especially with a Norfolk accent – it does indeed sound like Gemiah. At a time when many people were illiterate, they would rely on the person recording the information to write down what they said without being able to check it.

So, it is often useful to actually speak names out loud and then be more open-

minded with entries that could be similar.

While researching and recording our family history we are reminded constantly to take care when recording so our records are accurate. This was not always the case though, especially before the majority of people were literate.

While searching the common Norfolk surname of CARR, I have come across various spellings including CARR/CARRE/CAR/KARR/KARRE/KERR/KER and each time it was the same family. When looking at old records, it is useful to be flexible with the spelling and make allowances for past generations.

\* \* \*

Ellen is available for one to one sessions to help with family history research for members of the society. Sessions of up to one hour during Kirby Hall opening times can be arranged and are ideal for beginners or people who have hit a dead end in their research. Ellen is able to help with using computers.

Anyone interested in using this service should contact Ellen at look-ups@nfhs.co.uk.

Situated in the centre of Norwich, we have a large selection of new, second-hand and antiquarian books on Norfolk, Suffolk and the Broads.



*We always seek  
to purchase  
small and large  
libraries in any  
subject*



**THE CITY BOOKSHOP**

**10 Davey Place, Norwich, NR2 1PQ**

**TEL: (01603) 626113**

**[www.citybookshopnorwich.co.uk](http://www.citybookshopnorwich.co.uk)**

# A Mystery Solved But One Remains

By Mike Dack

---



IN 1986, when my great uncle Mark YALLOP died in Rockland St Mary, among his possessions was the ID bracelet (pictured opposite) of an American serviceman inscribed "William T Sites 13192388." The inner side of the bracelet was inscribed "Mildred to Bill".

I had often searched online and while discovering military records including an event at Wendling airfield, Norfolk, where Pte William T SITES was awarded the US Soldiers Medal for heroism, I remained unable to dis-

cover any possible contact details – until March 2016 that is! Not only did I locate the serviceman's niece Barbara, but I discovered that the soldier is alive and well at the grand old age of 94, living with his son in Pennsylvania. Sadly his wife Mildred died in 1986.

This result became possible once Barbara created an online family tree. The photo over the page shows 'William T Sites receiving the US Soldier's Medal following an incident at the 'Mighty Eighth' USAF base Wendling, Norfolk, where he pulled a crewman from a burning B24 Liberator before helping move the plane away from nearby fuel tanks.

The plane was totally destroyed as can be seen online at <http://www.b24.net/support/10thStation.htm> – Wendling is about 30 miles from my former home in Rockland which adds to the mystery. It was with great pleasure I was at last able to post the ID bracelet to it's rightful owner – finally returning it after more than 70 years.

The final photo shows 94 year old US army veteran William T Sites looking at his ID bracelet. Unfortunately one big mystery still remains for me and I have now accepted that it may never be resolved – 'How did my great uncle, a market gardener in rural Norfolk, come to be in possession of that ID bracelet, keeping it in





a tin moneybox with some old coins and his father's 1887 Met-Police medal?' Did my father Cecil Dack who was a corporal in the RAF (although not at Wendling) find it and bring it home?

My family was living with my great uncle

Mark during the war. 'Bill' Sites, the old soldier is unable to offer an explanation and does not recall the name of my great uncle or my father or in fact, losing the ID bracelet! A big plus side to my efforts - my recent contact in the USA, soldier's niece Barbara, has provided me with documentary references of an early US pioneer Robert Yallop who in 1632 registered land patents in Accomacke County, Barbara has said that if she visits Maryland she will look up details of a Giles Yallop who is recorded as immigrating with two servants in 1667.



I believe this to be the Giles Yallop with a memorial slab dated 27th July, 1714, in Potter Heigham Church, Norfolk, Giles being his mother's surname and could Robert be Giles' brother who become Sir Robert Yallop in 1664 although Robert was a name frequently used in the Yallop family?

**Michael Dack MN 11670**  
**mike.dack@virgin.net**

## News From Norfolk Online Record Search

**By Michael Dack**

I was recently surprised to discover that several members were not taking full advantage of their membership with the society, in fact some members were completely unaware of NORS! This has prompted me to publish the following

question and answer feature which I hope will help.

### **What is NORS?**

Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) is a database providing members with online access to the Society's collection of over 3.4 million transcribed records.

### **What records are available?**

Transcriptions from Norfolk Parish Registers of Banns, Baptisms, Burials and Marriages, inscriptions recorded from gravestones and memorials in many Norfolk churches, churchyards and cemeteries, information extracted from BMD certificates donated to the society and other similar useful research information. This is an ongoing project and not all records are yet available for every parish.

### **What does it cost?**

Nothing! – It is freely available to all members having registered an email address. Index-listings only of current online records are available to view by non-members.

### **How is NORS accessed?**

From the NFHS website <http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk/> select the 'NORS' drop-down menu where a 'user guide' is available as is the 'Login' link for NORS. This is a separate website, so no need to firstly log into NFHS website if only intention is to search NORS where a separate login is required.

### **Password is unknown or forgotten! What Can I Do?**

Providing the email address registered with the society is up-to-date, by selecting 'Forgotten?' a new password will be emailed, wait a few minutes before logging in. Should problems persist contact [nors@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:nors@nfhs.co.uk).

Hints: Use 'quick search' to see distribution of a surname throughout Norfolk  
Use 'find a person' search for more useful results, minimum requirement is a surname with at least three letters, control search with 'between dates' if known.

The % wildcard can be used to replace one or more potentially variable letters. To search a particular parish or event use the 'find a source' menu (tick 'Record details' and use quotes around phrases such as "Death Returns") or use the 'Browse Records' menu on left of screen.

**Michael Dack, NORS Administrator - [norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk)**

## New Members and Members Interests to April 11th, 2016

Compiled by Jean Stangroom  
Membership Secretary  
email: [membership@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:membership@nfhs.co.uk)



Welcome to the June issue of the Norfolk Ancestor. I hope you will enjoy the mix of news, features and information. I would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership over the past few months. There are a number of ways for renewing membership and details are on our web site.

We welcome all our new members and hope you feel that being a member of the society is both worthwhile and value for money.

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

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

An email address or postal address will then be forwarded to you.

## Members Interests Search Area Codes

### KEY

CN = Central  
NC = Norwich & District  
NE = North East  
NW = North West  
SE = South East  
SW = South West  
YM = Gt Yarmouth



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

## New Members to 11th April, 2016

The Society welcomes the following new members

15923	Mr S. Day	UK	15965	Mrs L. Ostler	UK
15924	Mr P. Mignaud	UK	15966	Mrs C. Ramsbottom	UK
15925	Mr S. Lendrim	UK	15967	Mr S. Prentice	UK
15926	Mr W. K. Moore	UK	15968	Mr P.J. Bamford	UK
15927	Mr W. Eyres	UK	15969	Mr J. H. Warren	UK
15928	Mr M. Woods	UK	15970	Mr M. Kirk	UK
15929	Mrs M. Mahon	UK	15971	Ms A.J.C. Marcham	UK
15930	Mr J. Lyons	UK	15972	Mr P.M. Pratt	UK
15931	Mrs M. Cobbold	UK	15973	Mr R. Fuller	UK
15932	Mr I. Eyres	UK	15974	Mr D. Blakely	UK
15933	Mr J. Farmer	USA	15975	Mr G. Boatright	USA
15934	Mrs R. Flather	UK	15976	Ms L. Bridson	NZ
15935	Mr G. Forder	USA	15977	Ms L. Bircham	UK
15936	Mrs A. Stansfield	UK	15978	Mr M. Comer	UK
15937	Ms V. Roberts-Bell	AU	15979	Mr C. Haines	UK
15938	Mr K. Brighton	UK	15980	Mr J.C. Bunn	UK
15939	Mr I. G. Richardson	AU	15981	Mrs T. Diaz	USA
15940	Mr L. Barraclough	UK	15982	Mr G. Tice	UK
15941	Mr B. S. Leithhead	AU	15983	Mr R. White	UK
15942	Mr R. Bryenton	UK	15984	Mr A. Crawford	UK
15943	Mr S. Hawes	UK	15985	Mrs P.E. De Pury	UK
15944	Mr P. G. Tovell	UK	15986	Mr R.A. Harvey	UK
15945	Mrs S. Phillips	UK	15987	Mrs Y. Baker	UK
15946	Mr M. D. Seymour	UK	15988	Mr A. Lingley	UK
15947	Dr J. Robinson	UK	15989	Mrs C. Moss	UK
15948	Miss T. Waller	UK	15990	Mr J. Holliday	UK
15949	Mr C. Francis	UK	15991	Mr R. Goldspink	UK
15950	Mrs K. De Paolis	FRA	15992	Ms D. Feldtmann	AU
15951	Mr P. Sutterby	UK	15993	Mr P. Brooker	UK
15952	Mrs P. Littrell	USA	15994	Mrs P. Bell	NZ
15953	Mr J. M. Wilson	UK	15995	Mr M. Calcluth	UK
15954	Mr J. Davis	USA	15996	Mr K. Blyth	UK
15955	Mr S. Rimmer	UK	15997	Mrs S. Davis	UK
15956	Mrs S. Wright	UK	15998	Mr J. Stebbings	USA
15957	Mrs T. Peck	UK	15999	Mr J. Fitch	UK
15958	Mrs L. Alexander-Pye	UK	16000	Miss S. Lewis	UK
15959	Mr B. Pye	UK	16001	Ms K. Thorpe	CA
15960	Mr J. Levey	UK	16002	Mrs K. Wallace	UK
15961	Mrs M. Jacomb	AU	16003	Mr T. Shearer	UK
15962	Mrs D. Jarvis	UK	16004	Ms L. Timpson	USA
15963	Mrs G. Drummond	UK	16005	Mrs D. Insley	UK
15964	Mrs J. Collins	UK	16006	Mr D. Reece	UK

16007	<b>Mr B. Allen</b>	UK	16053	<b>Mrs J. Burton</b>	AU
16008	<b>Mrs S. Craddock-Bennett</b>	UK	16054	<b>Mrs. B. Townsend</b>	USA
16009	<b>Mr A. Turvey</b>	UK	16055	<b>Mrs A. Gold</b>	UK
16010	<b>Ms P. Bezant</b>	UK	16056	<b>Mr P. Taylor</b>	AU
16011	<b>Mrs B. Myers</b>	UK	16057	<b>Mrs R. Odore</b>	AU
16012	<b>Mrs L. Wahlsten</b>	AU	16058	<b>Mrs S. Barker</b>	UK
16013	<b>Mrs D. Wetherell</b>	UK	16059	<b>Mrs J. Dunigan</b>	USA
16014	<b>Mrs J.E. Hammond</b>	UK	16060	<b>Mrs G. Wilson-Waring</b>	NZ
16015	<b>Mrs E.A. Anderson</b>	UK	16061	<b>Mrs J. King</b>	UK
16016	<b>Mrs S.R. Rouse</b>	UK	16062	<b>Mrs S. Spencer</b>	UK
16017	<b>Mr R. John</b>	UK	16063	<b>Mr C.R. Rowland</b>	UK
16018	<b>Miss K. Holland</b>	UK	16064	<b>Miss S. Scarlett</b>	UK
16019	<b>Mrs P. Freeman Gordon</b>	USA	16065	<b>Mrs P. Reay</b>	UK
16020	<b>Mrs A. Spall</b>	UK	16066	<b>Mrs K. Ferguson</b>	UK
16021	<b>Dr M. Veenstra</b>	USA	16067	<b>Mr R.H. Heath</b>	UK
16022	<b>Mrs E. Grubb</b>	AU	16068	<b>Mr B. Riches</b>	UK
16024	<b>Ms S. Gall</b>	UK	16069	<b>Mr W. Kennedy</b>	USA
16025	<b>Mrs L. Thornton</b>	UK	16070	<b>Mrs P. Floyd</b>	UK
16026	<b>Miss J. Tuck</b>	UK	16071	<b>Dr A Mosher</b>	NETH
16027	<b>Ms L. Steele</b>	UK	16072	<b>Mr K. Clingo</b>	UK
16028	<b>Ms J. Stallwood</b>	UK	16073	<b>Mr G. Dimmick</b>	UK
16029	<b>Mr P. Hubbard</b>	UK	16074	<b>Mrs V. Hatcliff</b>	UK
16030	<b>Mr R. Wriglesworth</b>	UK	16075	<b>Mr R. Stebbings</b>	UK
16031	<b>Mrs J. Smith</b>	UK	16076	<b>Miss R. Thomas</b>	UK
16032	<b>Mr M. Hammond</b>	UK	16077	<b>Dr C. Bold</b>	UK
16033	<b>Mrs A. Ellis</b>	UK	16078	<b>Mr C. Stewart</b>	AU
16034	<b>Mr G. Ford</b>	USA	16079	<b>Mr M.J. Hammond</b>	UK
16035	<b>Mr C. Nunn</b>	UK	16080	<b>Mr B. Bennell</b>	UK
16036	<b>Dr K. Stanford</b>	USA	16081	<b>Mr M. Softley</b>	UK
16037	<b>Mrs A. Bull</b>	UK	16082	<b>Mrs T. Scoggins</b>	UK
16038	<b>Mr M. Bone</b>	UK	16083	<b>Mrs M. Murphy</b>	UK
16039	<b>Mrs M.R. Bisset</b>	UK	16084	<b>Mrs E. Howe</b>	UK
16040	<b>Mr N. Dew</b>	UK	16085	<b>Mrs L. Cass</b>	UK
16041	<b>Mr K.J. Tanner-Bly</b>	AU	16086	<b>Ms L. Shelton</b>	CA
16042	<b>Mrs S. Koch</b>	UK	16087	<b>Mrs J. King</b>	UK
16043	<b>Miss J. Potter</b>	UK	16088	<b>Mrs C. Brennan</b>	USA
16044	<b>Mr J. Bohun</b>	UK	16089	<b>Mrs G. Brice</b>	UK
16045	<b>Miss A. Horlock</b>	UK	16090	<b>Mr D.E. Bush</b>	AU
16046	<b>Mrs C. Rushton</b>	UK	16091	<b>Mrs E. Page</b>	CA
16047	<b>Ms B. Bazylewski</b>	CA	16092	<b>Miss C.L. Candy</b>	UK
16048	<b>Mrs C. Jones</b>	UK			
16049	<b>Ms K. County</b>	AU			
16050	<b>Mr J. Ford</b>	USA			
16051	<b>Mr D.G. Wolfe</b>	UK			
16052	<b>Mr N. Couchman</b>	UK			

## Members Interests to 11th April 2016

MN	Name	Area	County	Period	MN	Name	Area	County	Period
15921	<b>SADD</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16009	<b>SCOTT</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15921	<b>MANN</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16009	<b>SNASDELL</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15921	<b>DEARN</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16009	<b>STARLING</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15921	<b>EDINGS</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16009	<b>HOWSE</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15930	<b>EKE</b>	CN	NFK	18C-20C	16009	<b>GARWOOD</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15941	<b>AUFRERE</b>	ALL	NFK	16C-18C	16009	<b>CATTON</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15941	<b>NORRIS</b>	ALL	NFK	16C-18C	16009	<b>FITT</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15948	<b>LAYTON</b>	NC	NFK	19C	16010	<b>BEZANT</b>	ALL	NFK	17C-19C
15948	<b>HALL</b>	NC	NFK	19C	16010	<b>WORTS</b>	ALL	NFK	17C-20C
15948	<b>FROSDICK</b>	ALL	NFK	18-19C	16010	<b>HOUGHEN</b>	ALL	NFK	18C-20C
15959	<b>PYE</b>	CN	NFK	ALL	16018	<b>SMITH</b>	SE	NFK	18C-20C
15965	<b>LINCOLN</b>	ALL	NFK	18C	16018	<b>SMITH</b>	NC	NFK	18C-20C
15966	<b>STEBBINGS</b>	SW	NFK	ALL	16018	<b>WRIGHT</b>	ALL	SFK	18C-20C
15966	<b>GORE</b>	SW	NFK	ALL	16018	<b>WRIGHT</b>	SE	NFK	18C-20C
15966	<b>GOTTS</b>	SW	NFK	ALL	16035	<b>OSWICK</b>	ALL	NFK	15C-19C
15966	<b>HUBBARD</b>	SW	NFK	ALL	16038	<b>BONE</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15966	<b>HOWLETT</b>	SW	NFK	ALL	16055	<b>CLARK/E</b>	CN	NFK	16C-18C
15969	<b>WARREN</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16055	<b>DUNHAM</b>	CN	NFK	16C-18C
15974	<b>BLAKELY</b>	ALL	NFK	19C	16056	<b>EASTICK</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL
15974	<b>BLAKELY</b>	ALL	SFK	18C-19C	16059	<b>WINDSOR</b>	ALL	NFK	19C-20C
15974	<b>RIX</b>	ALL	SFK	17C-19C	16059	<b>CAREY</b>	ALL	NFK	18C-19C
15974	<b>GREY</b>	ALL	SFK	15C-17C	16059	<b>MOORE</b>	ALL	NFK	18C-20C
15980	<b>COOPER</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16071	<b>KEMPE</b>	ALL	NFK	15C-17C
15980	<b>COOPER</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16076	<b>SCOTTER</b>	ALL	NFK	17C-19C
15982	<b>TICE</b>	ALL	NFK	18C-19C	16076	<b>SCOTTO (W)</b>	ALL	NFK	17C-19C
15982	<b>TICE</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL	16076	<b>WILD (E)</b>	ALL	NFK	17C-19C
15984	<small>TUFFS/TUFTS/SMITH/ BARTEL/TOLADAY</small>	ALL	NFK	15C-19C	16076	<b>LILL(E)Y</b>	ALL	NFK	17C-19C
15987	<b>HUNT</b>	NC	NFK	ALL	16085	<b>SWATMAN</b>	NC	NFK	18C-19C
15987	<b>HUNT</b>	SE	NFK	ALL	16085	<b>SWATMAN</b>	NW	NFK	18C-19C
16001	<b>GRIMES</b>	NW	NFK	ALL					
16009	<b>WYER</b>	ALL	NFK	ALL					

# The Tale of a 12 Place Tea Set

By Richard Wiggett

---

MY mother Joyce WIGGETT (born Joyce Beryl JIMPSON 1921 in East Dereham) gave me a tea set when we moved to our first house in 1972 after getting married in 1971. It is a 12 place set with 12 cups, 12 saucers and 12 tea plates, plus a milk jug, a bowl and a large plate. I've still got all the plates, 11 saucers and 10 cups. I presume the missing pieces got broken sometime. The items have the letters "KPM" on the undersides. I'm fairly sure it must have come from my mother's Norwich grandparents Albert and Amelia FOULGER. My mother was their only grandchild.

Albert Ernest Foulger (pictured here) was born in Horstead in 1864, the fourth son of William Foulger (born 1825 in Horstead) and his wife Emily Foulger (born Emily HARMER 1826 in All Saints, Norwich). They had 11 children: six sons and five daughters, and he was the traditional "AgLab" (Agricultural Labourer). Their first child was born in 1853 and their last in 1875 when Emily was already 49. One child died young, but, in the 1871 census, they were living with eight children aged between 17 years and 18 days.



In 1881, Albert was living with his parents in Horstead and was also an Agricultural Labourer. The household was slightly smaller, only five children now, but Emily's mother, Sarah Harmer (born 1801 in Catton, Norfolk) had joined them.

In 1885 Albert married Amelia ELLIOTT (born 1859 in Barnham Broom) in Horstead. She was one of eight children: five daughters and three sons, of John Elliott (born 1817 in Colney) and his wife Clarissa Elliott (born Clarissa MACE 1826 in Barnham Broom). John was also an "Ag Lab". I remember my mother telling me how odd she found it that her Granny Amelia talked about "my brother Arthur" (Arthur Elliott born 1862 in Carlton Forehoe) because she only had one brother. But Amelia actually had three, my mother presumably never met or heard about the other two, William and Robert (William Elliott born 1849 in Barnham Broom, and Robert Elliott born 1851 in Barnham Broom). Robert died before she was born although William didn't die until she was nine. In 1881 Amelia was in service as housemaid to the family of Joseph WHITE, Vicar of Weybread, Suffolk.

Albert and Amelia had three daughters, the first two of which were born in Surrey. The eldest was Harriet Mary Blanche (born 1886 in Capel), then Clarice Mildred Violet (born 1888 in Capel) and the youngest was Florence Norah May (born 1898 in Norwich). None of the three was known by her first name, Harriet was called Blanche, Clarice was called Violet or Vi, and Florence was called





Norah. I got the impression that my mother was rather proud that her mother had not been born in Norfolk, I remember her saying a number of times in a rather posh voice, "Actually my mother was born near Dorking in Surrey." For me, as a member of the Norfolk Family History Society and FOND (Friends of Norfolk Dialect), this is a bit disappointing!

As I've already mentioned the first two children were born in Capel in Surrey.

Presumably Albert and Amelia moved away from Norfolk soon after their marriage in October 1885, Blanche was born in Capel the following September. Albert was probably a victim of the agricultural depression of the 1870s and 80s. In 1881 he still gave his profession as "Ag. Labourer", but at the time of his marriage he was "Gardener" living in Horstead. At all subsequent censuses he was "Gardener", and in Norwich he was self-employed; in the 1911 census as a "Jobbing Gardener". My mother said she remembered he sometimes worked in the gardens of Heigham Hall. Heigham Hall was in the area on the corner of Heigham Street and Old Palace Road and was for some years a private asylum.

The Foulger family came back to Norfolk sometime before their third daughter was born in 1898. They lived in West Pottergate, Norwich at first, I'm fairly sure at the Heigham end. My mother said they'd lived in Distillery Street before her time so I expect it was where West Pottergate and Distillery Street intersected. They later lived in William Street where my mother used to visit them. This area has been completely redeveloped, it was to the west of Grapes Hill which is now part of the inner ring road. William Street and Distillery Street have disappeared but the Distillery name lives on in Distillery Square off Dereham Road.

My mother also told me she thought her grandparents had lived in Ringsfield near Beccles, Suffolk, before they lived in Norwich. Between the 1891 census, when they were still in Capel, and Norah's birth in Norwich in 1898 they may have lived for a time in Ringsfield but I haven't found any evidence. There is also a family story, which my mother must have told me sometime, that the parents, Albert and Amelia, went to church in Heigham and the daughters to St. Benedicts. When they lived in West Pottergate, the Heigham church was probably closer.

Blanche, although the eldest, was the last to go and died in East Dereham, in 1964. I remember her as a very bent old lady, probably from so much close work as a dressmaker. In 1911 she was living at Baconsthorpe Rectory near Holt with the Rev. Herbert MILNES WALKER and family and working as a "Sewing-maid". Norah worked for the Post Office as a counter clerk. My mother told me that Norah travelled quite a lot, and even went abroad. My brother thinks he remem-



bers hearing as a child that her foreign travel was in connection with a bible society. My mother had a postcard album that had belonged to Norah. Unfortunately as a child and stamp collector I cut the stamps off and threw the post cards away I would love to have those postcards now. Norah died in Norwich in 1950.

In 1901, as a 14 year old, Blanche was housekeeper to her

grandfather John Elliott and Uncle Arthur in Kimberley. The census record entry is a good example of the danger of implicitly believing "official" records, all four members of the household are listed as "born Kimberley, Norfolk" (or rather "ditto ditto"), but in fact not one of them was born in Kimberley!

The only one of the three sisters who married was Vi, my grandmother. She was a teacher and apparently did some of her school training in Yaxham where she met her future husband, Charles Walter JIMPSON (born 1888 in Yaxham). She started work as Assistant Teacher at All Saints School in Newmarket, Suffolk, on 3rd October, 1910. In 1911 she was living in lodgings in Granby Street with two unmarried sisters called Mary and Maria BUTCHER. There was another teacher at the same lodgings, Minnie PALMER also from Norwich. The teachers' absence from school was recorded meticulously in the school log book. It seems that Miss Foulger was only absent for two days in her eight years at the school. She left in 1919 when she got married and was presented with a teapot.

The inscription on the teapot reads

"Presented to Miss C.M.V.Foulger by the Teachers and Scholars of All Saints Schools Newmarket on the occasion of her marriage August 4th, 1919."

On the subject of overcrowded classrooms I found the following in the school log book in a report from a school inspector soon after Vi joined the school. ".....the 7th class contains 63 children, and is too much for one teacher."!

Vi and Charlie were married at St Benedict's Church, Norwich, in 1919 and their daughter Joyce (my mother) was christened there on Easter Day, 1921. The church was destroyed by bombing in 1942 and today just the tower remains. My mother loved to play the piano when she was young, and she told me a story about her Norwich granny, Amelia. I don't know how old she was when this occurred but her granny made her promise never to play unsuitable music on Sundays! She said this really worried her for years. Religion was obviously very important for the Foulger family, my King James Bible was a present to me from my Auntie Blanche. I've also got Blanche's Authorised Common Prayer Book

which she received as a present from my mother and family for Christmas, 1962.

I've lived in Germany for a number of years now and got to know of the "Koenigliche Porzellan-Manufaktur" (Royal Porcelain Factory) of Prussia, one of the most famous producers of porcelain in Germany since the late 18th century. The name is usually abbreviated to "KPM". When I visited Berlin a few years ago I took one of the cups with me and asked in the very smart KPM shop if it had been made by them. No, it was not from the Koenigliche Porzellan-Manufaktur. Later I worked for a few years in a Porcelain Museum in Darmstadt. There in our library I found out where my "KPM" tea set came from.

In the first half of the 19th century, Carl Franz KRISTER founded a porcelain factory in Waldenburg, Silesia. This was part of Germany at that time, but is now part of Poland and the town is called Walbrzych. From the 1880s they began to mark their porcelain with "KPM" (Krister Porzellan-Manufaktur). It seems likely that they did it in the hope that their products would be confused with the higher quality (and more expensive) porcelain from the Koenigliche Porzellan-Manufaktur. They exported their products throughout the rest of Europe and to the USA.

So a twelve piece tea set found its way to Norwich. Amelia and Albert were married in 1885, was it perhaps a wedding present? And now it's back in Germany, in Stuttgart, where I live. But there is a sequel to the story!

Since last December (and since I wrote most of this) I've been living back in Norfolk, in Norwich, in fact not more than half a mile from where Albert and Amelia used to live. At present the tea set is still in Stuttgart, but perhaps in a few months' time it too will be back in Norwich!

**Richard Wiggett MN 8308**

## **Sources**

Census Records: Horstead, Norfolk, 1861, 1871, 1881: Carleton Forehoe, Norfolk, 1861: Wicklewood, Norfolk, 1871:Weybread, Suffolk, 1881:Capel, Surrey, 1891:Norwich, Norfolk, 1901, 1911:Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, 1911:Kimberley, Norfolk, 1901:Yaxham, Norfolk, 1891:Newmarket, Suffolk, 1911

Parish Records :Horstead, Norfolk: Baptisms:All Saints, Norwich, Norfolk: Baptisms:St Benedict, Norwich, Norfolk: Baptisms :Marriage Certificate copy, William Foulger and Emily Harmer 1852:Marriage Certificate copy, Albert Ernest Foulger and Amelia Elliott 1885:Birth Certificate copy, Clarice Mildred Violet Foulger 1888:Marriage Certificate copy, Charles Walter Jimpson and Clarice Mildred Violet Foulger 1919:BDM: Birth Indexes, Death Indexes, Marriage Indexes:Keramik-Marken Lexikon, Dieter Zuehlsdorff, Stuttgart 1994:Newmarket All Saints School, Managers' Minutes 1903 – 1930, Suffolk Record Office, Bury St. Edmunds:Newmarket All Saints School; Log Book Mixed; 1869 – 1949; Suffolk Record Office, Bury St. Edmunds

# 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

## Steggles Family Photograph

OPPOSITE is a photograph of two children whose surname was STEGGLES. The photo was taken at the studio of Mr. and Mrs. G. SWAIN of Norwich and was given to my mother, who was employed by the Steggles family as a nursery nurse. My mother, Edith Hilda STURMAN, lived in Shropham with her father and sisters. She left school at 14, in about 1920, to enter her employment with the Steggles family. I would be interested in any information concerning the Steggles family and their children and, in particular, how long my mother worked for them. She always spoke very fondly of the children.

**Sheila Hill MN 11166**



## Dusty Docs.Com

DUSTY Docs is a great source of info (mainly by links). I would urge readers to take a look and do a search - surname, forename and county is required. It is an impressive resource and they have added a link to the Norfolk Family History Society. The link is <http://dustydocs.com.au/county/1/england/26/norfolk.html>

**Mike Dack NFHS Trustee**

## Grave Help

WITH reference to Mary Mitchell's article in the March issue of Norfolk Ancestor, to avoid duplication of effort I would draw members' attention to an excellent free access database of Monumental Inscription photos under the name of Gravestone Photographic Resource. This contains hundreds of images submitted by volunteers. Anyone thinking of recording a Norfolk churchyard should firstly check with GPR to see whether it has already been covered. If it has not, I'm sure that GPR would be very pleased to receive copies so as to expand its database.

**John Knights**

## An Australian Search

Further to my article in the September 2015 addition of Norfolk Ancestor, entitled An Australian Search, I was contacted by Australian Peter LOVELL whose ancestors were originally from Norwich. Peter is a keen reader of our magazine and was interested in the problems I was having looking for my uncle Harry Alexander CATCHPOLE who went to Australia in 1923.

He remembers the difficulties in researching for his great x2 ancestor William LAWS in the 1840s in Norwich and the problem of not having any knowledge of the place his family came from. This was the reason Peter joined the Norfolk Family History Society.

Peter, on my behalf, started to look for Harry in the usual government records but it was complicated by the amount of Catchpoles in Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia. However, he was able to find several references to Harry in the website called 'Trove Newspapers', managed by the National Library of Australia. By entering in the advanced search and using H. A. Catchpole, he came up with 11 references. Some of the 11 were of various newspapers publishing the same story and others of Catchpoles not relating to Harry. He found one article entitled "Happy Life on a Mallee Farm" from an H. A. Catchpole from Norwich. The letter was sent to the Chief Constable of Norwich who had formed the Norwich Lads Club. The letter was subsequently published in the Eastern Daily Press on 21st April 1925.

**David Catchpole MN 6227 email [davidcatchpole43@btinternet.com](mailto:davidcatchpole43@btinternet.com)**

## Stewards Remembered

I have just received the latest edition of Ancestor and read with interest the article by Peter Steward. I am Norfolk born and bred and in 1965 I married a Peter STEWARD (died 31.08.1967 aged 25). I have tried to research Peter's family but got stuck in Southwark, Poplar and Westminster. I believe Peter's grandfather was 51 when he died (he threw a bale from a hay loft and he followed it, hitting concrete below).

A couple of years ago, I received an e-mail from a lady in Mackay, Queensland, asking if I had an Alfred GARNHAM in the line I was researching. Indeed I did and told her Alfred's sister Jane AUSTIN (no, not that one) had arrived in Queensland in 1899 and had died in Mackay in 1939. I was then told that Alfred had arrived in Cairns on HM Jumna in 1889, ten years before Jane. (under his own steam).

On 24th December, 1891, at the age of 23 years and occupation given as farmer, he married Ada Grace DAVIS, illegitimate, aged 16 years. They went on to have 12 children.



In March 2015 I flew to Brisbane and was met by the "fellow descendants" Stewart and Kathryn Garnham. They then drove me 900 miles to Mackay, stopping en-route to visit the various towns Alfred settled in from Townsville to Mackay.

I was shown his gravestone and that of Jane. I was nearing the end of my six week adventure and hadn't managed to find a photograph of Alfred when hey presto another Garnham descendant produced the image which is reproduced here.

**Veronica Nimmo MN 10973**

## **More About Maurice Raes**

**In the March Ancestor we carried an article on our front and inside cover on Belgian airman Maurice RAES who died when his Spitfire crashed. As a result we received the following first hand account of that fateful day from June Melvin.**

My father, Donald George STOWERS (1923-2011) was the first to arrive at the scene of the crash. His family lived at 143, Sprowston Road. Opposite was a slaughter house and the Spitfire nose-dived into its backyard.

My father was an apprentice at Bussey's, Palace Street, and had come home for lunch. The crash alarm sounded and he heard a low-flying aircraft coming over Mousehold Heath, then a loud crash and debris flying onto their house. He raced across the road to find the plane had crashed and burst into flames, sadly the pilot burnt to death.

An account of what he saw is in the book "Flights into History" by Ian McLachlan. A whole chapter is devoted to Maurice Raes.

**June Melvin**

## **Twin Villages?**

When searching baptisms, marriage and burial records, I frequently find the information listed in the records for Bedingham and Brundall. Given that they are around 11 miles apart I find this strange. Can anybody provide an explanation for these dual entries?

**Michael LeGood MN 12237 michael.legood@yahoo.co.uk**

## **Bessingham Families**

In 2009 I asked if any members could help with information about the history of Bessingham, near Cromer, for a book I was writing about the village from the

18th to 20th centuries. I am now finishing the book and am wondering if there are any new members who might have something to add. Memories and anecdotes from ancestors would be particularly interesting.

Families that feature prominently in the book include BUMPHREY, COPEMAN, FINCH, FLAXMAN, FRANKLAND, JOY, MALLETT, PUXLEY, SPURRELL, TUCK, WISEMAN and WRIGHT.

**Jonathan Spurrell MN10543, 935 Valley Road, Knoxville, MD 21758, USA**  
**(jonathan@spurrell-genealogy.com) [www.spurrell-genealogy.com](http://www.spurrell-genealogy.com)**

## **A Eureka Moment**

Thank you for the latest magazine, it has been a joy and eureka moment for me. I am on my second time as a member of NFHS. The first time I joined was a few years ago in search of my father's HOWARD family ancestors from Great Yarmouth. Nothing was found, even having paid for a search to be done, as I live 200 miles away.

I am trying again and in the meantime have found out my father's family name should be VICE, as his 3x great grandmother Virtue Vice had four illegitimate children in Wenhaston, Suffolk in the 1750s. The grandchildren of Virtue all took on the name Howard as the story goes "it was a member of the Duke of Norfolk's family that got her pregnant."

Virtue had 29 grandchildren born in Wenhaston to her three sons and her sons all had one child baptised Howard and the rest Vice, as they grew up the name Howard took precedence or Vyse Howard would be used.

This is what had happened in my family - Charles Vice born 1801 in Wenhaston married in 1822 in Marylebone London as Charles Howard and brought his story with him.

Virtue was born in Wenhaston in 1732, the youngest child of nine born to Lawrence and Elizabeth Vice (JERMY) who had moved to the village about 1723 from the village of Scole in Norfolk, where the Vice family had lived for over a hundred years, and that's where I am stuck.

There is an old manor near Diss named Vise de Lou, which the dukes of Norfolk own, as the Vise family ran out of male heirs two hundred years before my family are first recorded in Scole in 1650.

However, we did visit the village and what a busy place it must have been, the old pub in the centre of the crossroads has huge stabling facilities out the back, with large rooms on the ground floor for eating and drinking while waiting for your coach and horses to take you on your journey. We also visited the church and looked at a few family headstones in the churchyard. We encountered the local vicar and was asked if we had spades in our car, and to our horror and



surprise we were offered two 19th century family headstones to take home!

This was due to more room being needed for today's burials.

We will not forget our visit to Scole and look forward to finding out more about the area as I have family buried in nearby Frenze and Scole itself.

This month's magazine was even more interesting for me as I have just started to compile an index of millers for Suffolk, having found my mother's Smith family owned a water mill in the 1600s in Suffolk, which still stands, and my father's family had also owned a water mill in Surrey in the 1600s which is also still standing. If my luck holds my Morley family in Cambridgeshire just might have a few relations in Norfolk!

**Eileen Blythe MN14989**

## **Dickleburgh Connections**

I am a member of the NFHS living in London. My ancestors lived around Dickleburgh, and many of them were blacksmiths.

I would have loved to have come to Ian Waller's talk in March, in Diss, but it is quite a trek to come from London for an evening lecture, and go back the same night. I would love to hear from anyone with any information about blacksmiths in and around Dickleburgh.

**Rosemary Jeffreys MN 15402..rosemaryjeffreys@talktalk.net**

## **Update on Skitmore Family**

I would like to thank you for publishing my article in The Norfolk Ancestor - it looks amazing and I think that the photos came out particularly well

Sadly, one of Joe's daughters has pointed out a factual error. It is unforgivable really, I know the situation well, but must have just had a brain storm moment! It might affect someone's further research into the family.

On page 26, paragraph three, I state that I met with Kathleen BIDEWELL. She is NOT the daughter of Joan SKITMORE, but in fact was the spinster sister-in-law of Joan Skitmore (Joan married Kathleen's brother Leslie). Kathleen never married. I am a generation adrift with my original statement which is why I am concerned it will confuse your enthusiastic genealogists.

Sales of the book are going well and my diary is bulging with public speaking events. So far these include the Norwich Community History Group, Wymondham Heritage Society and Walsingham History Society. Later this month I will be taking Joe to the Mid-Norfolk Family History Society in Dereham. I imagine that each of these groups will contain members of Norfolk Family History Society.

**Phyllida Scrivens**

## Calling All Rasperrys

I am trying to find records for the Raspberry family in the Norfolk area. We have been trying to find the connection between our family in the United States and the English RASBERRYS for quite some time and noticed that there are many of them in the King's Lynn area, so I believe we might have come from Norfolk.

The earliest record we have in our area is John Raspberry (Rasbury), born 1683 and died 1750 in Bertie County, North Carolina. He married Bridget. I question if he is even our relative because, in the immigration books, his name is spelled Rasbury but all of our family and those in England spell it Raspberry.

In the Birmingham church records of births, deaths, marriages and divorces, it lists a Sarah Raspberry and also a John Raspberry, which may be her child's baptism but I am not sure. I couldn't access the entire record.

This is all I have at this point for the English side of the Raspberry surname.

Is there a historian in your group that has worked on the family? It apparently is an old family name so I assume there has to be some documentation of the predecessors/descendants and those who immigrated to the US. All I have access to are more modern lists so I am not able to move forward. Any assistance is appreciated.

**Steven Raspberry** [stevenrasberryte@gmail.com](mailto:stevenrasberryte@gmail.com)

## War Information Sought

A newly formed history group is already thinking about erecting a memorial to commemorate those who lost their lives in conflict and is appealing for help from local residents.

The Barroway Drove History Group was formed last year when a group of local residents got together with the aim of supporting each other to research local and family history.

Their discussions quickly turned to how the village was created as a result of the draining of the Fens in the 17th century and how many prisoners of war, including Dutch and Scottish soldiers, died whilst being forced to dig the drainage ditches that still play a part in keeping the area dry today.

The group felt a plaque to commemorate these unfortunate men would be in order, but as they explored the idea further they realised that there were many other soldiers who had died in conflict, both here and overseas, who they felt should also be remembered.

The group have been busy researching the names of soldiers who fell in the Great War and have a list of 12 names but would now like to hear from anyone

with information on any soldiers who lost their lives during active service and who had connections to the villages of Barroway Drove or Stow Bridge. The planned memorial will also be dedicated to the men who lost their lives when two planes crashed in the village during World War II. Anyone with information that could help the group in their quest should contact Vicki Howling on 01366 382380

**Janice Thomson MN 10081**

## **Warren's of Tibenham**

I'm a new member of NFHS and am researching the WARREN family from the Tibenham, Aslacton and Bunwell area. I've done OK so far but would really appreciate any help, guidance or assistance that any other members may be able to offer, particularly if you are also researching the same family. The MOORES family of Aslacton are connected by marriage and I'd love to hear from anyone looking at that surname too. If you are able to advise or want to know what I've discovered, please get in touch.

**John Warren MN 15969**

## **Tale of Rings**

I make it a habit to type ancestors' names into Google and, whilst I tend to ignore hits that describe how my ancestor is connected to Alfred the Great, I have nevertheless found some very interesting things this way.

One relates to a Norfolk ancestor and it leaves me with a question which, whilst not necessarily pertaining to Norfolk, I hope your readers may be able to help.

I am attaching a page from an auction site showing two mourning rings which seem to have belonged to Mary LISTER of Ashill, Norfolk. Mary Lister was, I believe, my 6x great grandmother, so these rings are of particular interest to me, but way outside my means to purchase as they went for around £1,000. (I hope it was a descendant who bought them as I cannot see why they would be of any interest to anyone but a family member).

The question which puzzles me is, why are the rings inscribed Mary Lister whilst the description quite clearly states (and my research agrees) that Mary married Francis Miller, so her name at death would have been Mary Miller?

Was it custom to put a maiden name on a married woman's mourning rings?

**Andy Imms MN 15861**

## **Bunkell Ancestors**

I am from Australia and searching for my BUNKELL/BUNKALL ancestors. I am

having a hard time in connecting them to the right family members. Would there be a CD or book on Parish Records, Baptisms, Marriages or Burials so that I can search through. I have bad cataracts and get very tired when searching through a lot of Web Pages, some of which are wrong with their entries. I would be very grateful for any help members can give me on this matter.

Janet Pritchard

## Clark Family

My ancestor Timothy Henry (?) CLARK came from Great Ellingham in Norfolk and emigrated to Quebec (Bury in Compton, Sherbrooke) in 1836 (?). He was born in October 1808 (Great Ellingham?). He married Mary Anne ANDERSON on 24th November, 1831, in Great Ellingham. James, the first child, was born in Great Ellingham on 6th September, 1831, Charles on 16th March, 1834, and Hannah was born in Quebec (Bury) 9th July, 1837.

I have not found the father and the mother of Timothy. I want to know why they left Great Ellingham - some people told me about the new poor act (1834) and the British American Land Company - can that be a reason? If you can help to find an answer to these questions I will be very grateful. My family name is CLARK, but I rarely speak or write in English.

Michel Clark 2570 Holt Montréal Quebec

## An Ancient Brand

I would like to congratulate all members and editors who help to compile the magazine, it is always interesting and opens up many avenues for further research and covers a wide range of topics. I am currently researching our family history on my mother's side. Her maiden name was BRAND, the family mainly being employed on the land and originating from East Tuddenham and the surrounding villages in the 1800s before my great grandfather - John Carpenter Brand - moved to London to work on the railway. I would be grateful therefore if you could add this information into the Members' Interests as there may be other members researching the family. I believe that Brand was a common name in the area at the time.

Graham Benton MN 14886

## Morris Family

My 3xgreat grandparents were Edward Morris born ca 1763 in East Dereham, and his wife Elizabeth. I think that John Webster Morris the Baptist minister (1762-1836) was Edward's brother and that their parents were Edward Morris and Grace WEBSTER who married in 1758 in East Dereham. Edward and Elizabeth had at least five children: John Webster Morris (1798-1801), Edward

Morris (1799-1821), Elizabeth Webster Morris (1802-1804), another John Webster Morris (1808-1830) and my 2x great grandmother Mary Morris (1806-1864) who married Thomas HINDS (1805-1879) in East Dereham in 1830. These Morris children were all baptised in Downham Market.

I presume that Edward Morris and Elizabeth would have been married in the mid 1790s, but I have not been able to ascertain the date or place, or Elizabeth's maiden name. I would be grateful for any information regarding this marriage and also confirmation of the relationship with John Webster Morris the minister.

**John Hawkins MN 3827 - [ausrufer@btinternet.com](mailto:ausrufer@btinternet.com)**

## OBITUARIES

**It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a number of friends of the Norfolk Family History Society**

### **Roland Buggy**

Roland F.W. BUGGEY was born in 1931 at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, *writes Betty Morley*. He married Edna and they set up home in Woodford Green. Roland was a teacher and a special constable in the City of London Police for 30 years. He also taught at the Police College at Hendon. On retirement they settled in Diss where both he and Edna became very active in local organisations and in the Methodist Church where Edna is a Minister.

Roland was a collector with many and varied interests. He became President of the Woodford Historical Society and was an influential Trustee of Diss Museum. We first met Roland in May 2000 when Edna came to the Diss Group to give her talk about Washday entitled "Twas on a Monday Morning". Since then they have both been active and well loved members of our group and Roland has given us several fascinating talks about British Orders, Medals, and War Memorials. Roland will be greatly missed and we send our sincere condolences to Edna.

### **Yvonne Bird**

Yvonne Mary BIRD (nee MILNER) died 27th January, 2016, at St Albans, Hertfordshire, aged 78. Yvonne was a valued member of Norfolk Family History Society and the Diss Group for many years. Born in London in 1937 she married Clifford Bird in 1958. After raising a family of four children, Yvonne and Clifford retired to Diss in 1991. Yvonne was author of "A Quaker Family in India and Zanzibar 1863-1865" and, together with Clifford, of "Norfolk and Norwich Clocks and Clockmakers."

### **Jean Heffernan**

Sadly Jean passed away on January 21st in a nursing home in Norwich. Jean joined Norfolk Family History Society in 1996 as a member, and very soon after

took on the task of sorting manorial and other documents in the library. This proved very useful at the time and still has applicability even though the shelf references have now changed.

Jean was always pottering around tidying up, sorting and labelling as well as offering help whenever needed. She didn't like computers at all, preferring the old fashioned way of researching family trees - using material stored in the library. We are sure a number of present volunteers will remember her fondly.

## Family Trees Added to Kirby Hall Library

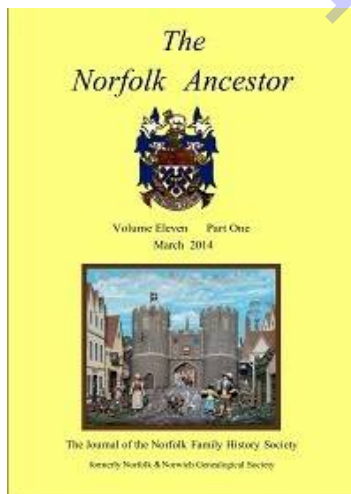
**COOKE/CUBITT/PALMER/RIVETT** - Happisburgh, Horning, Neatishead, Norwich

**EASTELL** - Newton Flotman, Swainsthorpe, Swardeston, East Carleton, Keswick (large)

**HELSDON** - Great Yarmouth, East Ruston, Colby and other parishes

**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

#### Four consecutive adverts prepaid

Cost: ¼ page	£40.00
½ page	£80.00
1 page	£160.00

**The NFHS thanks all its advertisers  
for their support**

# 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

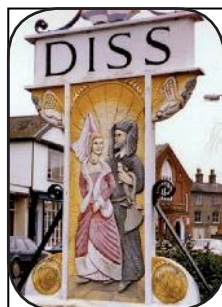
On February 9th, the Diss branch of the Norfolk Family History Society was delighted to welcome back Mark Mitchels with his talk "Dunwich The Lost City," which he first gave to the group 16 years ago.

In many people's minds the remains of Dunwich lie beneath the North Sea like a ghostly English Atlantis but this romantic image was immediately shattered by Mark as he explained that there is now virtually nothing left of the town as the events which caused its downfall happened hundreds of years ago, but the story is a fascinating one.

Mark began with a series of sketches and maps showing the changes in the Suffolk coastline caused by erosion over the last 2,000 years which illustrated why Dunwich was such an ideal location for a port because running down the coast to the east of the town was a shingle spit which created a sheltered harbour for a large number of vessels. The Romans were quick to recognise this and it is thought that they called it Dunnoc. Next came the Anglo Saxons and Dunwich grew as its trade flourished while, little by little, the powerful tides had been gradually shifting the shingle, causing the spit to lengthen, with the result that the anchorage became even more sheltered, a situation which the Vikings were quick to exploit when they arrived in their longboats to trade and build ships.

Naturally when the Normans came they needed a good port so Dunwich was perfect for their requirements and once more it prospered and grew. It was mentioned in The Domesday Book and became known as one of the ten major cities of England, with a population of 3,000 which was larger than Ipswich. It lived off the sea by fishing, trading and ship building and continued to expand as the need to service these industries developed. Churches, religious houses and shops were built and Dunwich grew ever fatter and more complacent.

The people of Dunwich despised the farming communities around them so, when the parish maps were drawn up in the 11th century, they flexed their muscles and dictated where they desired them to be, effectively cutting off the neighbours on their west, never realising that by this act of spite they would be shooting themselves in the foot.





In the reign of King John, Dunwich was granted a charter which decreed that their taxes would be paid to the King and not to the Sheriff. It was now a borough and had its own badge, naturally featuring a ship and, in 1215, another charter gave it even higher status. By 1225 the spit was almost closing up the river.

Now the harbour was perfect and had anchorage for about 100 ships. The population had grown to about 5,000 and Dunwich was almost self sufficient as they had almost everything that a city required apart from buying food, which was sourced from the neighbouring parishes who had to pay heavily for access to the harbour. Some citizens became extremely wealthy and one of them, Richard Fitzjohn, built Greyfriars Monastery, having no inkling that within 50 years the sea would be washing through it and it would be moved in 1289.

By this time Dunwich was on the tourist map, having a market place with about 50 shops, a number of churches, a magnificent Guildhall and more. Nobody imagined that the good times would end but end they did on 23rd March, 1286, when a huge storm devastated the city. The town was flooded, two parishes washed away and the sea defences wiped out and, worst of all, the harbour entrance became completely blocked and the economy was destroyed.

It took three years to unblock the harbour and Greyfriars was moved inland, but the good times were over and the citizens had to seek other ways to make a living. Unfortunately some turned to piracy and murder and were executed in 1300. Again Dunwich was beset by a series of storms, the relentless sea continued to nibble away at it and the harbour became blocked again. It was an ongoing problem to keep it clear and captains needed the certainty of accessing accessible and safe anchorage so they began to go to Ipswich.

The Dunwich ship building industry suffered in consequence and in 1328, the harbour was blocked by another storm and this time it was unclearable. Another limiting factor was that it was impossible to extend the town backwards as they were constrained by the borders they had instigated over 200 years previously. It was virtually the end. The population continued to decline and, by the time it reached under 1,000, Edward III deprived Dunwich of its borough status while Ipswich, Yarmouth and Lowestoft continued to grow.

In 1570 on the 5th of February, a third storm wrought havoc upon Dunwich which was recorded by John Stowe who noted that Dunwich was "Three parts drowned." In 1665 the last sermon was preached in St. Peter's Church and in 1702 it fell off the cliff.

By the 19th century of all the ancient churches only All Saints survived, which had been abandoned in 1755 and nothing more was left of the city. Then something extraordinary happened which would bring Dunwich recognition once more, albeit of a different kind. The artist Turner paid a visit and was captivated by the story. He painted dramatic pictures of All Saints being battered by tumultuous seas with the result that poets and writers were seduced by the legend and flocked there, among them Kipling and Hardy who rented cottages in

the village. Dunwich was back on the map. On 12th November, 1919, the last part of the tower of All Saints slipped into the sea. It had been disappearing little by little, window by window, but this was now the age of the camera and photographs had been taken of its demise stage by stage, leaving a pictorial record of Dunwich's last medieval church. The only ancient parts of the town still standing are the ruined walls of Greyfriars Priory and part of the leper chapel which was attached to the hospital built on the land next to St. James, some way from the main town. The new church of St. James was built in 1832.

Dunwich still has a hold on the imagination and draws tourists to visit the museum, or perhaps have lunch at the Ship Inn or Flora's Cafe renowned for its fish and chips, and maybe if they walk along the shingle beach they imagine they hear the muted sound of a church bell beneath the waves.

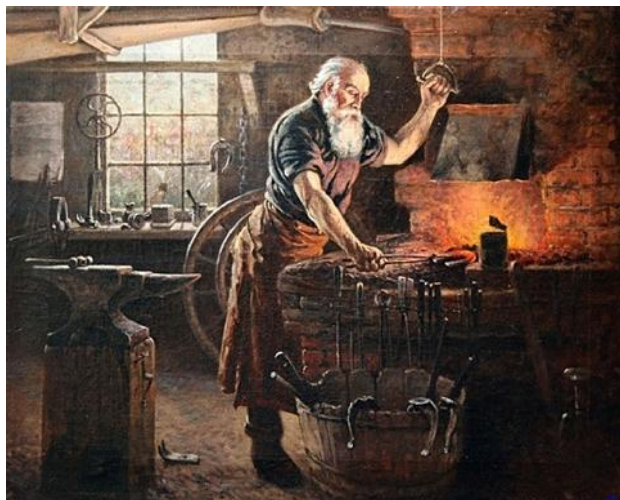
The meeting was well attended and as many of us were not members when Mark gave the talk all those years ago much of it was new to us and very interesting too. He answered lots of questions and received much applause.

\* \* \*

Under a spreading chestnut tree is the first line of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Village Blacksmith" and was the title of Ian Waller's talk to the Diss Group on 8th March. It was about 6,000 years ago that men mastered the technique of bending and shaping the element that would propel civilisation into another age where iron was used in the making of weaponry, wheels and tools and agricultural equipment. The discovery of charcoal which burned at a much greater heat improved the process still further, and the blacksmith's skills developed over the centuries into making guns, clocks, weather vanes, gates and domestic goods to name a few. There was no limit to the range of uses for this basic metal. The blacksmith was an essential member of the community and some monasteries, castles and manors even had their own forge.

It is the general conception that a blacksmith's principal role was the shoeing of horses but that was the job of the farrier who was responsible for the care and maintenance of the hoof, although sometimes the two roles would overlap. The Middle Ages saw the introduction of The Guilds which protected trade in the cities and towns and the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, one of the Livery Companies of The City of London was established at the beginning of the 15th century. A blacksmith was a man who commanded respect. Some became aldermen and, because the forge was generally in the centre of a town or village, it was a gathering place for folk of importance.

To become a blacksmith and thus a member of the guild, one could buy one's way into an apprenticeship or a first born son could train and take on the title by family right. An apprentice was usually sponsored by a father or guardian at the age of 12 to 14 and bound for a period of five to seven years. Apart from learning the trade he was required to "keep secrets, not to sell any wares, not to



gossip and not to frequent taverns and playhouses.” Surprisingly there were even lady blacksmiths, one documented in 1609.

By 1750, the coaching network had extended across the land and forges began to appear at the main hubs for repairs and new components etc. By 1841 over 112,000 blacksmiths were recorded on the census. Many of the larger landed estates had their own forges but, as society moved on, the need for

blacksmiths lessened and many became farriers or went into industry and the military, where their skills were still needed and blacksmiths and wheelwrights worked together. At the same time many farriers trained to become vets who were also needed in civilian life and the military, particularly the cavalry where there were over 230,000 horses. Both blacksmiths and farriers were given their own special badge.

The Navy also had a need for the skills of the blacksmiths who worked alongside the shipwrights on board and were crew members with their own ranking and separate badge. The ones that remained were still at the centre of village or town, which sometimes had more than one forge and employed several people for the different processes of finishing, blueing, waxing and oiling. The forge was still a hive of activity and a social meeting place where people gathered while the horses waited under the shade of those iconic chestnut trees, planted for that purpose.

The blacksmith was still much in demand in the 20th century. They worked on the surface in the coal industry. They were employed by the railways in their works and depots as blacksmiths and strikers and wore a uniform and an asbestos apron. Apprentices were taken on at the age of 15 and they later became foundrymen and, when the Flying Scotsman underwent its ten year overhaul, the talents of those iron workers were required.

Ian is himself the descendant of a blacksmith and has done much research. He was able to provide us with the sources available if one is researching a blacksmith ancestor. There are published lists of blacksmith apprentices, livery company records, trade union records. The railway company records are at The National Archives and the blacksmith's Index is online. Some of us do have blacksmith ancestors and Ian's talk will encourage us to investigate new

avenues. But whether or not one has a blacksmith in the family it was an informative and interesting evening.

**Betty Morley MN 10973**

## **London Group Report by Mary Fisk**

The London branch met at the Society of Genealogists on Saturday 12th March for a members' day.

We began our meeting with the sad news of Derek Tooke's death in January. Derek's enthusiasm for family and local history and his commitment to founding and then running the London branch for very many years was fondly remembered.

Both of our speakers focussed on the untangling of particularly complex problems in their family trees

Les Crome spoke about his research into his great-grandfather's line and four CROME families in 19th century Lambeth who were probably cousins, but Les had no evidence to connect them.

Les explained how he worked his way through parish and census records, poll books and other local records going back to 18th century Norwich and Regency Brighton, and forward to the early 20th century in order to establish the links between the various branches of the family. Les provided us all with a crib sheet so we could follow the steps in his research and how each set of records eventually illuminated the relationships of the various Lambeth Cromes.



Susan Porrett entitled her talk "Richard HIPKIN: a parish register horror story" and outlined how she had traced the family through Richard's long life and multiple marriages.

Interestingly, the name Hipkin, which sounds quite English, in fact originates from the Low Countries with the "kin" part being a diminutive of a personal name.

Researching the name was complicated by multiple spelling variations even within the same branch of the family. Richard Hipkin, worsted weaver of Norwich, (c.1644–1732) was Susan's 6xgreat-grandfather and first mentioned as being made a freeman of Norwich in December, 1665. He had at least eight children, probably by four different wives. It is possible that he was not actually born in Norwich, as later wills refer to Hipkin cousins in Barnham Broom, Toftrees, Hempton and Fakenham and a Richard Hipkin was taxed on three hearths in Fakenham in 1664.

His first wife was Judith (Judy) and they had children Rose (1670-1672)) and

John (baptised 1671).

Susan's research indicated that Richard married secondly to a Mary JOHNSTON at St. James Pockthorpe in 1678 (the records were destroyed in the Blitz, leaving only the patchy archdeacon transcripts). A son, Samuel, was baptised there in 1681 (and died towards the end of 1687), but his mother's name was not noted.

However, when Mary Johnston's widowed mother, also called Mary, made her will in 1686-87, she mentioned only one "Hipkings" grandchild, Joseph. If Joseph was born about 1679, it suggests that Samuel's mother was a different woman and evidence shows that Richard was definitely married to someone else by 1693.

In 1688, "Bengamon" (i.e. Benjamin) Hipkins, Susan's direct ancestor, was baptised at St Michael-at-Thorn, but again no mother's name is given.

In 1700, a Martha Hipkin was buried at St Michael's, even though two baptisms at the Norwich Octagon Presbyterian - Samuel, son of Richard and Martha "Hopkins" in 1683 and Mary in 1695 - suggest they had become nonconformists. There is evidence that at least one more child was born to Richard and Martha as, after Richard's death in 1732, his youngest son, Samuel, had to apply for administration of the goods of his deceased sister, Mary, and a deceased brother, Matthias (who must be the 'Marthias Hipkin' buried at St. Michael's in 1709.) He must have been born during the early-to-mid 1680s.

In 1709, aged around 64, Richard married Frances ROBERSON at St. Peter Mancroft, but there is no evidence that any children were born to them. Richard died in 1732 and was buried at St Michael-at-Thorn, aged at least 88. His will mentions four surviving sons - John, Joseph, Benjamin and Samuel.

Susan believes Martha was probably Benjamin's mother. Her next challenge is to discover her maiden name and find out more about her.

We concluded that ancestors seem to be muddying the waters with the express aim of confusing future generations and causing much scratching of heads and tearing of hair in the archives!

Our talks led into discussions ranging from blacksmiths to engineering in the early days of the railways, leaf springs, signalling systems and migration from Norfolk to London – after which we adjourned to the common room for our usual tea and biscuits.

\* Susan found all these variants in the course of her research: Hypgham, Hipgham, Hibgame, Hipkins, Hipkin, Hibken, Hibkin, Hipkings, Hipkens, Hopkins.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 15th October (2–4 p.m.) when Gill Blanchard will be presenting "Digging Deeper into East Anglian Ancestry" which includes the topics of good research techniques and additional record sources.

# Norwich War Raids Are Coming

THE Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) members' only section of our web site is being expanded with important new information.

Thanks to the extensive work and research of Norfolk Family History Society volunteer Roy Scott, we will soon have details available of raids on Norwich during World War Two.

Once it goes live, and the scheduled date is July, members will be able to log into NORS using their existing log in and search for names of those who died in air raids in the City between 1939 and 1945.

Information displayed will include the date of raids, details of the raid including time and even weather conditions, the name of the person killed along with their occupation, place of death, home address and details of their funeral.

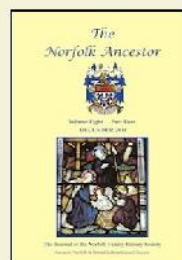
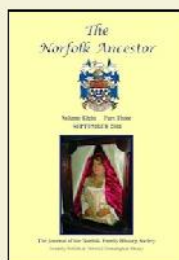
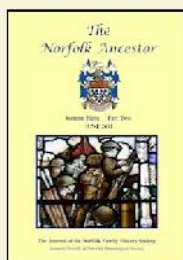
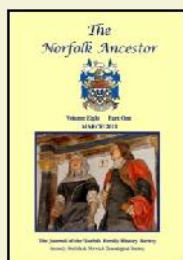
The exact date when the new information will be available will be posted in due course on our web site at

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

We will have more news and instructions on how to get the best out of the new information in the September edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

In the next edition we will also have more news from Kirby Hall, along with tips on how to get the best from your family research and the usual mix of articles, book reviews and information.

## Scanned Ancestor Copies



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



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

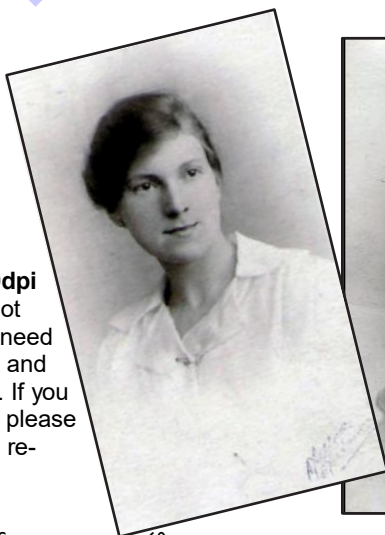
**The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.**

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

## Behind the Scenes Tours

This popular monthly event, allows backstage access to our strong rooms and conservation studio, as well as a chance to view some of our more unusual, colourful and interesting documents. Monday 18th July 10am-noon, Wednesday 17th August 2-4pm, Tuesday 20th September 2-4pm, Thursday 20th October 5-7pm, Friday 18th November 10am-noon and Monday 12th December 2-4pm.

Booking required on 01603 222599 or [www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events](http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events).  
Tours cost £5 per person, please pay on arrival.

## Introduction to the Searchroom

Wednesday 14th September 5-6.30pm.

Have you always wanted to use the Norfolk Record Office searchroom, but are not sure where to start?, then this session is for you.

Aimed at complete beginners, we will 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.

## Remembering the Somme

Thursday 21st July 5.15-6.45pm

One hundred years on, we will look at original documents from the First World War, and reflect on the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme which affected the lives of so many. Free, no booking required.

## Archive Inspired Creative Writing

Thursday 13th October 5.15-6.45pm

A session for complete beginners, our evening will show how you might use archive material as an inspiration for your writing. A chance to see some original documents and explore a new skill in a relaxed environment. Free, booking required on 01603 222599 or [www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events](http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events).

Norfolk Record Office is free to use. Our opening times are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday 9.30am-5pm; and Thursday 9am-7pm.

Expert help and advice is available during these hours.

[www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events](http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events) [www.norfolkrecordofficeblog.org](http://www.norfolkrecordofficeblog.org)  
[www.twitter.com/NorfolkRO](https://twitter.com/NorfolkRO) [www.facebook.com/norfolkrecordoffice](https://facebook.com/norfolkrecordoffice)

**Karen Gaffney Education and Outreach Officer (maternity cover)**

# Memories of Bethel Street Norwich

By Anne Young

---

**The following notes were written by my aunt, Renee Constance CLARK (1923-2013) who at the time, was the last surviving child of May Martha YOUNGS (1889-1985) and Frederick Charles Victor CLARK (1886-1956). The other children were Doris Elsie (Dolly-1913-1988), Frederick Edward George (Dick-1914-2006), May Gertrude (Pinny-1916-2005), Ronald Edward Arthur (1918-1919), Horace Thomas Curtis (Bint-1920-2006).**

Apart from Ronnie, we were all born in Bethel Street, Norwich, at our maternal grandparents homes, either at 24 Bethel Street or 4 Jays Court (between No. 30 and 34) We lived right in the very centre of the city, close to the Market Place, City Hall, and our family church, St Peter Mancroft, where we were all christened. The houses where our lives began were demolished in 1934 to provide the site for the Norwich Fire Station.

Mum worked for Collins the Chemist as a cleaner, and, for a while, we lived in their warehouse next door to their chemist shop. They shifted the stock into the shop, and our family moved into the warehouse. The council put in a cooker with an open fire to heat it, but they had trouble building the chimney.

One night mum could see flames through the wall. Luckily, we were just around the corner from the fire station, and the fire-engine quickly came. Mum asked if she should wake the kids up, but the firemen said, "no, let them

sleep, we'll take care of it." When we children woke up the next day, it was to discover our house had been on fire! Apparently with all the adjustments made to the chimney, they had made the bricks too thin and caused it to catch alight.

In 1926, when I was three years old, we moved into nearby Lady Lane, which ran off Bethel Street through to Theatre Street, with the Theatre Royal just round to the right at the top of Lady Lane. Next to the theatre was the store/warehouse of Pordage's – Banana Merchants. It often fell to me in later years, being given one shilling and the warning from mother, 'and don't lose it', to go and fetch a hand of bananas.

I often brought back one of the orange-crates and always asked Pordages for the yellow braided 'rope', which bound the crates, to make into skipping ropes. Enough would be obtained to make a long rope, and I'd go into Bethel Street to play, tying one end to a lamp post on one side of the street, whilst someone turned the rope on the other side, and we would skip in and out.

There were very few vehicles, and still some horses and carriages. A horse and carriage took me to the Jenny Lind Hospital when I had Scarlet Fever.

Mother ran 12, Lady Lane as a boarding house, even with five surviving children! She took in ordinary boarders when the building of City Hall was in progress, special workers from London and elsewhere would be with us for a



up to the pavement outside would be opened when the Coalman called to tip coal into the cellar. Dad would go down and start moving the coal to a large space at the side of the cellar stairs – it was very hard in those days, carrying it back up the cellar stairs, thence the living-room and scullery to the coal-fired copper that heated water for bath, washing etc., or up

period, and we lived almost on top of the building site. I remember a Mr ROOME and Mr NIBLET staying with us, and the latter gentleman may have done something untoward, as he left in some sort of a hurry – possibly after he learned the police came every week to check the signing-in book. Mother did say that Mr Niblet was, according to him, a nephew of Admiral, Lord JELLI-COE – she thought much of the fact that they were ‘gentlemen’ who still had to dine in her living-room!

However, the special big front room on the second floor, always referred to as the ‘front- combined’ because it had fireplace, cupboard, table and double bed, was for ‘theatricals’ and was popular being only a two minute walk to the Theatre Royal itself.

When it was occupied, Mother always lit the big coal fire in this room in the morning, and stoked up for the theatre people after their second ‘house’ or show.

There was a large cellar underneath the house, which also contained a full-size billiard table left by the previous tenants. On delivery day, a grating high

the stairs to the second-floor room. It was hard work taking water jugs with hot water up for washing in the morning. Plus, with the lavatory being outside in the small backyard, there was a chamber pot under every bed, and that was a chore every morning for mother to do, ‘emptying the slops’. No sleeping in for her in the mornings.

So many showbiz people boarded with us for their week’s show, twice nightly and matinee on Saturday. December was always booked for Ruby Kimberley, who did the Pantomimes.

Mum always reckoned the costumes were made in that front-combined, it was spangles and stuff everywhere. One time, Ruby made me dance for her, and said I had the ‘Continental’, and wanted to take me with her and train me, but Dad said ‘No!’

However, we did spend much time backstage at the Theatre Royal, and my sister Pinny and I were the carriers of trays of tea from home to the theatre for artistes who wanted them, and we watched all the shows from the wings. When they required a little girl to do something on stage, they asked for me.



The front door wasn't locked until mum and dad went to bed in the early hours of the morning, some would get ready with their case and sneak down the stairs and out the front door without paying. One such bird having flown the coop, Pinny was sent off on her bicycle to head them off at Thorpe Station. Just past the Guildhall, which

Pinny, who was an apprentice hairdresser, 'did' Gracie Fields hair each night for her stage show. Gracie gave mother a ticket for a box to see the show, asking her what she would like to hear her sing - 'Ave Maria' says Mum, and Gracie sang this just for her. Mantovani gave me 2/6d as a tip, a positive fortune in the mid 1930s.

Pinny, being older than I, got plenty of attention from various actors and singers. Donald Peers, a famous singer of the time wanted to marry her, and Breffney O'Rourke, a noted Irish actor, and his wife, wanted to adopt her.

Not all theatre folk were honest, and mother got 'done' a few times for the board money. The Theatre people would leave on Sunday morning after the last show Saturday night; most would be catching a train to their next engagement.

was being used as the Police Station, a milk van shot out and collided with Pinny and her bike.

She went through the windscreen, breaking an arm and shoulder bone. She was taken into the Guildhall/Police Station where she knew most of policemen on duty, and was then taken to hospital.

One of these policemen, a much older man, visited her in hospital and asked her to marry him! This accident brought to a sudden halt Pinny's hairdressing career, as due to her injuries she could no longer manage the heavy curling irons used for marcel waving in those days.

Memories of hard times, but happy times.

**Anne Young MN 3436**

From The Archives: A warning on the dangers of mushroom-picking from the Methwold Burial Registers

17.08.1875 James Eagle BELL from Wilton (staying there a day or two), aged 22 years, late of Bolton, Lancs, formerly of this place (Methwold). Died of eating poisonous mushrooms gathered in this parish on the Saturday before, when on an excursion in the company of his mother, sister and sister's husband to his old neighbourhood.



# Picture Special



Alan Harper (MN 13133) has sent us these two wonderful photographs for inclusion. They are of the annual Sunday School outing organised by the United Methodist Chapel, Southwell Road, Lakenham, Norwich. They are undated, but probably around 1906.

Alan writes that his grandmother Ethel May HUBBARD (1896-1982) may be on one or both photos, although he says it is hard to identify her with certainty.

# DNA and FAMILY RESEARCH in FINLAND

## NFHS Company Secretary looks at genealogy in Finland

Finland is at the forefront of combining family records with DNA research to devise screening tests for congenital disorders. Except for the nomadic Sami people of the north, blood-typing and genetic analysis link the Finns with other Europeans.

Wars and crop failures, 1690 to 1730, caused the original population to fall from 600,000 to about 250,000 so today's five million Finns descend from a small number of ancestors. Lutheran Church records, from the 1600s up to the present, have enabled family historians to trace ancestry back six to ten generations which demonstrate family isolation and intermarriage.

On a recent holiday in Lapland I spoke to a reindeer herder, Ari Maununiemi, who had traced his family back over 500 years, owning and farming the same land on a peninsula north of the city of Rovaniemi near the Arctic Circle. Evidently such location longevity is typical of many families especially in the east of the country along the Russian border, in a region known as Karelia. Geographical isolation means that both paternally inherited Y chromosome haplotypes and maternally inherited mitochondrial sequences show an exceptional decrease in genetic diversity.

This uniformity of Finns has resulted in hereditary conditions, many of them fatal. Most disorders are recessive, meaning that two copies of a flawed gene have to be inherited, one from each parent. Although people did avoid marrying their relatives, after several generations bloodlines crossed in spouses from the same area. So by accident certain genetic mutations present in ancestors have become more common today. It means that Finland is a sort of DNA laboratory for mankind, where scientists are detecting the genetic causes of diabetes, asthma, heart disease and other unusual conditions.

Some disease alleles are almost non-existent, such as cystic fibrosis but 30 rare inherited disorders, more prevalent in Finland than in other populations, were initially described in 1973. This introduced the concept of the Finnish Disease Heritage, which Reijo Norio has chronicled in his book "Genes of Maiden Finland."

Using family accounts and church records, he deduced the genealogy of a lethal kidney condition, which he named congenital nephrotic syndrome. In the late 1980s, Aune Hirvasniemi, a pediatric neurologist, also consulted church records to track a disease with symptoms described as a "falling sickness" and "losing one's wits."

In 1994 she published a medical pedigree for this Northern Epilepsy (EPMR) which arose 400 years ago in the Kainuu district of East Finland with a man named Matti. Later generations, receiving a copy of the gene from each parent,

suffered from the condition. About one in seven Finns remains a carrier but, because of genetic counselling, now only 10 new-borns a year are stricken with the distinctive conditions.

A similar cluster of the recessive gene condition, vLINCL, is concentrated in south west Finland. Affected children are clumsy, suffer from seizures, go blind, become paralysed and often die in early adulthood. Twenty one patients were identified from 18 families with no known history of the condition but church records showed 24 of the 36 parents were related in many ways.

The oldest recorded ancestor lived in the village of Kauhajoki at the beginning of the 17th century and for nearly 400 years the affected gene passed through healthy parents who carried only a single copy and were unaware of its existence. Finally two streams of DNA met in a sick child.

In the 1970s, Finland had the highest rate of mortality from heart attacks in the Western world resulting from smoking, high-fat diet, high cholesterol and blood pressure. An intense public education campaign targeting the North Karelia district, just south of Kainuu, introducing Finns to low-fat diets. The campaign succeeded in lowering both cholesterol levels and heart fatalities but Eastern Finnish men still have a higher heart attack mortality rate than the rest of Finland. The cause is thought to be inherited and the search continues for affected genes.

Finland has led the world in medical genetics. Leena Peltonen-Palotie (1952-2010) helped unlock the key to the condition lactose intolerance (difficulty digesting milk and cheese) in the 1990s. Trained as both a physician and a molecular biologist, she discovered the genetic sources of many rare diseases, such as Marfan syndrome (a connective-tissue disorder) and found hereditary links to more prevalent conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia, osteoarthritis, and migraine.

Jaakko Tuomilehto collaborated with the University of Michigan for over 10 years on a gene-mapping project for type two diabetes. He believes genes interact with the environment, so when people with susceptible genes consume too many calories, their weight goes up, resulting in obesity and diabetes.

Decades of research on identifying diseases and causal genes have provided tools for medical analysis, reliable diagnosis, advice and treatment, plus excellent population and health care registers.

As a result there exists a high level of trust by the population in genetic research and high participation rates in genetic studies. It is considered a cause for national pride: children are taught in school about the hereditary disorders contained in Finnish genes; textbooks and the media contain significant information about them, and the Finnish Disease Heritage (FinDis) has its own website - [www.findis.org/heritage.html](http://www.findis.org/heritage.html)

**Edmund Perry MN 3181**



# 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 68 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.

## NORFOLK FAMILY SEARCH

*Experienced Professional Genealogist  
Offers a range of Research and Photographic Services  
Brick Wall Specialists*

Website: [www.norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk](http://www.norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk)

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

Or write to: Norfolk Family Search  
14 Silver Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 4TT, United Kingdom

**DIANA SPELMAN BA**  
**Norfolk Research Specialist**  
**(since 1982)**

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



*member*

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

***Pinpoint Your Past***

Family History Research in  
Norfolk and elsewhere  
Local & House History  
Document transcription &  
translation  
Photography

**Christine Hood, BA**

137a Nelson Street  
Norwich  
NR2 4DS  
Tel: 01603 666638  
Email: [pinpoint1@btinternet.com](mailto:pinpoint1@btinternet.com)  
Website:  
[www.pinpointyourpast.co.uk](http://www.pinpointyourpast.co.uk)

**CHARLES FARROW RESEARCH**

*Genealogical, Heraldic, Historical,  
Legal and Manorial Research in  
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK  
& CAMBRIDGESHIRE*

*also Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire  
Lincolnshire, London, Middlesex & Northamptonshire*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Family Histories Compiled  
Parish Registers Transcribed**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

e-mail: [charlesfarrowresearch@btinternet.com](mailto:charlesfarrowresearch@btinternet.com)

# NFHS Contacts and how to contact them

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

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

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

# Binham Priory

IN our front cover article we mentioned that a number of priors at Binham were unscrupulous. One of these was William de SOMERTON who was prior from 1317 to 1335 and sold many of the valuables to conduct his experiments in alchemy. When he fled he left a considerable debt behind.

The book “Life in the Middle Ages” by Jay Williams described him as “Greedy above measure, hunting after money as eagerly as he wasted it lavishly.”

De Somerton was “conned” out of a considerable amount of money and goods by a mendicant friar who promised to multiply his wealth through alchemy. The greedy prior believed the promises, even when they proved to be false. He continued to plough money into the idea until virtually nothing was left for the monks’ necessities and William de Somerton fled to Rome where he continued to protest his innocence.



Henry VIII gave the priory to Sir Thomas PASTON who dismantled most of the buildings to build a new home at nearby Wells-Next-The-Sea. Stone from the priory was also sold and used in many local houses.

Thomas Paston’s grandson Edward carried out further demolition work with the idea of building a new home on the site, but he abandoned plans when a workman was killed by falling masonry, which he took as a warning.

The Then and Now photographs on the back cover were taken by George Plunkett in March 1937 and by the editor earlier this year. They show the south side of St Mary’s Church and the priory ruins.

# Past and Present

