

The Norfolk Ancestor



SEPTEMBER 2016



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

NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 15th October at 12 noon at Kirby Hall

The AGM Booklet containing the Agenda. Minutes, Trustees' Report and the Accounts are available on the NFHS Website to view or download.

Members wishing to receive a hard copy should write to the Company Secretary at Kirby Hall requesting a copy to be sent by post.



**Thursday 8th and- Sunday 11th
September 2016 from 10 am until
4 pm**

**Norfolk Family History
Society will again be joining in with other venues
across Norfolk when they open their doors to the
public.**

**NFHS volunteers will be available to help with
Family research.**

Individual bookings would be advisable.

Norfolk Family History Society

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For a full list of contacts with email addresses please see page 66

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The Norfolk Ancestor

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

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Kirby Hall Library Opening Times

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

Group Meeting Venues

DISS Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss (A1066)
SOUTH NORFOLK (2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm)
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Welcome to your September Edition



WELCOME to your September edition of Norfolk Ancestor and once again I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments about the June magazine and all those who have sent in articles for this edition.

The number of articles I receive fluctuates from one edition to another. In June we added four pages to ensure that everything sent in was included. With the summer upon us the number of articles has dwindled slightly and so once again I have been able to find space for them all. I particularly enjoy receiving family tales and genealogy records that include historical details as well.

I hope, like me, you find them interesting and informative and maybe somebody will recognise an ancestor from among our pages. Do let us know if this has happened to you.

I love including success stories in our pages. So if you have had a significant success in tracing ancestors do let us know how you went about it and what you discovered. Photographs to accompany articles are always particularly welcome. Most of the photographs are reproduced in black and white in the printed version of Norfolk Ancestor, but society members can view many of them in full colour via our web site at www.norfolkfhs.org.uk/

Our Facebook pages continue to go from strength to strength. When we launched them we were hoping to attract a couple of hundred people. At the time of writing, we have 1,039 subscribers. There is no charge to join the Facebook group which can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk/members/>

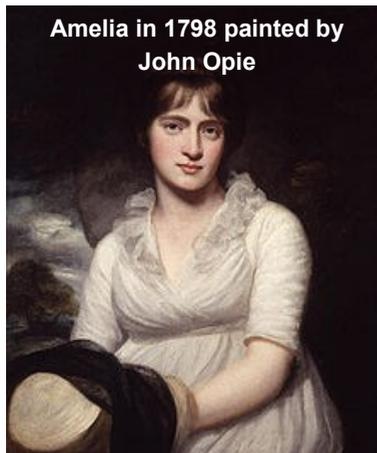
In this edition of Ancestor we have the usual mix of news and features including some useful tips on how to break down a research brick wall. As usual there are plenty of mysteries amongst our stories which pretty much cover all of Norfolk, along with many other parts of the world.

In the December edition, I will be writing about a strange custom that takes place every April in a small community on the west coast of America and which has its roots in Norfolk. All will be revealed in our pre-Christmas magazine.

Peter Steward MN 14801

Who Was Amelia Opie?

Roger Morgan Finds Out



Amelia in 1798 painted by John Opie

THE small statue on the front cover stands at the start of Opie Street in Norwich, but you will have to look up to see it. It shows Amelia OPIE dressed in Quaker clothes, but who was she?

Amelia was born in 1769, the only child of James ALDERSON, a Norwich physician. Her mother died when she was only 15 and she became her father's housekeeper. At this time she started writing dramas and poetry. She became associated with the controversial Godwin Circle and was friends with Sarah SIDDONS, William GODWIN and Mary WOLLSTONECRAFT (the mother of Mary SHELLEY) She was politically influenced by the French Revolution and her father's links to the Norwich reform movement.

In 1798, Amelia married the artist John Opie in Marylebone, London. He encouraged her to continue writing and she produced numerous novels and stories as well as her poems. Her most famous novel is probably 'Adeline Mowbray' (1804) John Opie unexpectedly died in 1807 and Amelia returned to her father's house in Norwich. She also spent time in London, becoming friends with Sir Walter SCOTT and Richard Brinsley SHERIDAN.

When in Norwich she renewed her long held friendship with Joseph John GURNEY and his sisters. The Gurneys were a prominent Norwich Quaker family and she was admitted to the Society of Friends in August, 1825, two months before her father died. He was buried in the Gildencroft Quaker Cemetery in Norwich.

Amelia Opie dedicated the rest of her life to doing philanthropic deeds including visiting prisons, hospitals and workhouses for the poor. She promoted a refuge for reformed prostitutes and supported the Norwich Bible Society. She worked with Anna Gurney to form a Ladies Anti-Slavery Society in Norwich and was one of the few women to attend the World's Anti-Slavery convention in 1840. Amelia is thought to have caught a chill whilst visiting Cromer in 1852. She took to her bed and died in 1853. She was buried in her father's grave at the Gildencroft Cemetery.



Coming Events in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

TWO coming events in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire may well be of interest to our members researching ancestors from our neighbouring counties.

Suffolk Family History Society will be holding a fair and its annual general meeting on Saturday, 24th September, from 10 am until 4 pm.

The day is entitled “Grow Your Tree” and will take place at the Suffolk University Campus, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP1 1QJ. Admission is free and there will also be free parking opposite the venue.

More information is available on the society's [web site](http://www.suffolkfhs.org.uk) at www.suffolkfhs.org.uk or by calling 01787 370 598 before the event.

* * *

One of the country's top genealogical conferences “Overcoming Brick Walls” will take place on September 17th in St John's College, Cambridge. The event is hosted by the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) and will feature a number of top family historians and genealogical specialists including Colin Chapman, Rebecca Probert, Helen Osborn and William Spencer. They will share their tips on resolving genealogical conundrums.

The conference is suitable for everyone from specialists to raw beginners. Tickets for the event start at £75 for the day but there is also an opportunity to stay at the college and attend a conference dinner with “Who Do You Think You Are” editor Sarah Williams. More details are available at

www.agraconference.com

St John's College was founded in 1511 and the alumni include nine Nobel Prize winners, six Prime Ministers, three Archbishops, at least two princes and three saints.

On the opposite page Simon Fowler from AGRA suggests some ideas to help you break down brick walls when undertaking genealogy research.

Overcoming Brick Walls

By Simon Fowler

It is generally pretty simple to research our ancestors, but occasionally you will get stuck. So how do you get out of the genealogical mire? Here are ten top tips:

1. Don't make assumptions about your ancestors without testing them. In particular remember Occam's Rule that 'the simplest explanation is usually the correct one'.
2. Spellings of names, especially surnames, change over time.
3. Your ancestor may have always been called by a name that wasn't on their birth certificate. Or they may have re-arranged their forenames or had them re-arranged by a clerk.
4. Don't trust the written record - it can be wrong. Clerks will and do make mistakes in writing down names, misspelling surnames and getting forenames wrong.
5. There may be records you haven't used. The Victorians in particular produced a lot of documents that effectively duplicate each other. So if the document you want is missing, there may be something almost as good.
6. Don't rely on family tradition - it can be wrong.
7. Note down all the sources you have used so you can return again if necessary.
8. Don't use online databases without checking whether there is a description of the material, what it contains and what is missing.
9. Some ancestors don't want to be found. Keep things in proportion. Don't waste your time on pointless searches, on the off chance.
10. Attend the AGRA conference in Cambridge on 17 September to hear from the experts about overcoming genealogical brick walls!

Simon Fowler is a member of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) and will be offering military advice at AGRA's conference on "Demolishing Brick walls" on 17th September

Muster Rolls and Kilmainham Pensions

Denagh Hacon writes about two family connections

My great x2 grandmother was Esther Rebecca PARKER, who married William RISEBOROUGH on 23rd July, 1815, at St. John's Maddermarket in Norwich. The family lived in the St. John Timberhill parish.

Esther's parents, James Parker and Mary HOWARD had 13 children. Esther was one of two girls. Sadly, however, eight of the 11 sons died as babies or infants, leaving three survivors. I searched the census returns for information on the sons and found that Esther's brother, James Elias (known as Elias) was an army pensioner, and in the 1851 census he was shown as a Chelsea Pensioner. I decided I wanted to find out more, but was unlucky with the usual websites. However, I did manage to find that he joined the 63rd Foot (later the West Suffolk Regiment) and served with the regiment in Martinique and Guadeloupe. The regiment was in the West Indies from 1808 to 1819.

On a visit to The National Archives (TNA) about four years ago, I was advised that the only way to find information on Elias would be to look at the muster rolls. The description given by TNA for muster rolls is:

"Regimental musters, from the early 18th century onwards, were taken every month or quarter (frequency varied over the years) for pay and accounting purposes. They, along with pay lists, were effectively the main everyday service records kept by the army of men in active service."

The muster rolls are bound together in large volumes for each regiment and are held in the War Office series. They are not available to search online; you need to go to TNA at Kew to search the original muster rolls. It is essential that you know the regiment in which your ancestor served.

On my visit four years ago, I found some information on Elias, but nothing about him having a Chelsea pension. So this year I paid a further visit to TNA and carried out a more thorough search.

Muster Rolls for the 63rd Foot start in 1809. They give information on the amount of pay soldiers receive each month, when they have an increase in pay, whether they are on guard duty or on detachment and where, whether they have been in the regimental hospital etc. I searched the muster rolls for Elias through to 1822. On 6th May, 1819, he was on board *The London*, returning to the UK from the West Indies. However, the regiment was not based in England, but was sent to

Ireland. Elias remained in Ireland until 1822, when, on 19th May, 1822, he was sent to Dublin. Ten days later he was invalided out of the army with chronic rheumatism and on 29th May, 1822, was awarded a Kilmainham pension, through the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham, Dublin. So he was a Kilmainham Pensioner, not a Chelsea Pensioner

The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, was a predecessor to The Royal Hospital Chelsea, catering for wounded and disabled soldiers from 1684. The connection with "Chelsea Pensioners" is that pensions were administered through The Royal Hospital at Chelsea. The great majority of pensioned soldiers were "out-pensioners" and did not reside at the hospital itself.

I also found a copy of Elias' discharge papers. He had signed up for the army in November, 1804, in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. He was aged 17 at the time, having been born in 1787. When he was discharged in 1822 he was 35 years old. He was described as being five feet four inches tall with brown hair, brown eyes and fresh complexion and his trade was weaver.

Elias returned to Norwich and married Ann CANDLER in 1822, and then, following Ann's death in early 1823, he married Mary PALMER. Elias and Mary had seven children. He returned to his original trade of weaver and lived in a yard off Redwell Street. He died in 1873, aged 86.

A lot of changes happened in Norwich between 1787, the year of Elias' birth, and 1822 when he returned to Norwich. All the Norwich gates were demolished between 1792 and 1808, while building started on Foundry Bridge and Carrow Bridge in 1810. St Miles Coslany Bridge was rebuilt in 1804 and in 1822 building was begun on Duke's Palace Bridge. In family terms, his sister Esther married in 1815, his brother Benjamin married in 1816 and his brother James married in 1819. His parents were still alive, but his father died in 1825 and his mother in 1828.

I would like to have met Elias, to hear his tales of the West Indies, and find out what he thought of the changes to his native city.

Post Office Research

SOME years ago, I found the original banns of marriage entry for my great x4 grandparents Robert RISEBOROUGH and Elizabeth GILLINGS. They married

in Great. Yarmouth on 12th October, 1755, when Robert was living in Post Row and Elizabeth in Lamb Row, Great. Yarmouth. I looked up information on the Rows from Colin Tooke's book, "Great Yarmouth: The Rows and the Old Town," and discovered that Elizabeth was living in Row 51, while Robert lived in either Row 63 or Row 107. The question of Row 63 or Row 107 remained unresolved for quite some time.

As I was heading for the Chelsea Flower Show this year I decided I would spend some time in London to try to resolve some of my research queries, and one venue I planned to visit was the Post Office Museum. However, I thought it might be sensible to contact them to see if they hold the sort of information I was after, so I e-mailed the museum at info@postalmuseum.org to check. The following is their reply. I thought it would be useful to give the response in full as there may be other members who will find this information helpful.

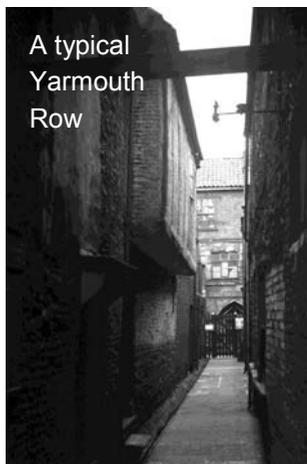
"Thank you for your e-mail. We do hold records of the Post Office including from this era, although usually addresses of Post Offices do not show up in the records unfortunately. However, in this case we have been able to find some information for you, which is hopefully useful.

We have been able to find the names of the Postmasters of Yarmouth (as they call Great Yarmouth in the records then; this is distinct in the records from Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight). In a volume called "Postmasters Salaries 1721-1750" we find that in 1750 a "Samuel Seamen of Yarmouth" was receiving £35 (a year it seems). In 1749 a "Samuel Artis and Samuel Seamen of Yarmouth" received the same salary jointly. There is also a "Mr. Seamen" mentioned in 1793 in the index of "Postmaster General's Reports".

These records link with information found in a book in our library, which provides a secondary source: "The Perustration of Great Yarmouth Volume One" by Charles John Palmer (pub. 1872, George Nall, Great Yarmouth). There are three volumes of this work in total. In this work Palmer writes:

"Row No. 57 from the Quay to Howard Street, called Carpenters' Arms Row. At the north-west corner. Early in the last century [i.e. 1700s] there stood on this site a house which is depicted in Corbridge's Map...was in the occupation of Samuel Artis, Esq, merchant and postmaster of Yarmouth, who died in 1748" (p. 312)

"Row No. 63 from Howard Street to the Market Place, long known as Post Office Row, because a house on the north side, towards the east end (property of the Seamen family), was used as a



post office for many years previous to the removal of the business to the quay in 1840. (p.338)

“The office of postmaster was for many years held by the Seamen family. Samuel Seamen died in 1783, aged 76. Thomas Seamen, his son dying in 1793, was succeeded by his son Thomas Seamen died in 1823, aged 65.” The latter’s daughters then carried on the business until it moved to the quay in 1840. (p. 342)

“If you are interested there is also a good secondary online source on Post Offices in the UK, which you can search: <https://sites.google.com/site/ukpostofficesbycounty/>

“You are very welcome to come to the archive at The Postal Museum to view these documents and any others that may be useful. Please do check our opening times before you travel and bring some ID with you, as you will need this to view any original documents. More details on all this can be found on our old website: <http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/visiting/archive/> “

I was very impressed by the speed of their response. After sending my e-mail I did not expect to hear anything for some time, but in fact their reply came back within the hour and I didn't have to visit the museum after all!

So if you have Post Office ancestors this might be a helpful source of information.

Denagh Hacon MN2671, denaghhacon22@virginmedia.com

Ellen's One to One Genealogy Sessions

AS mentioned in the last edition of Norfolk Ancestor, Ellen Carr 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 also able to help with using computers.

Anyone interested in using this service should contact Ellen at lookups@nfhs.co.uk.

More Coming Events

DATE	TIME	TALK	SPEAKER	ADDRESS
October 15th	14.00	Digging Deeper into East Anglian Ancestry	Gill Blanchard	Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA
November 8th	19.00	More Characters of East Anglia	Mark Mitchels	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss, IP22

VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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.

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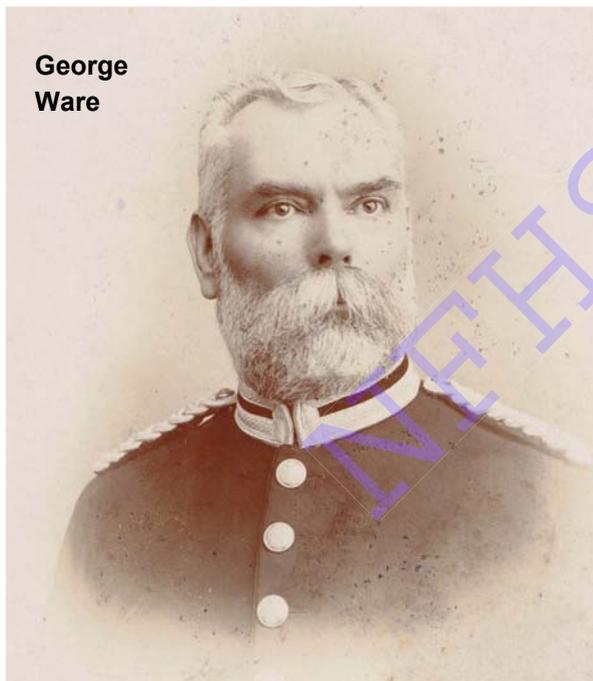
11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9JE

Email: willie.h.1945@virgin.net

The Mysterious Drowning of Madam Edith Bockel and her children

By Elizabeth Lloyd

ON a sunny August day in 1895, a body of a young boy was discovered in the Willabroeck canal in Neder-Over-Heembeek near Brussels. The matter was featured in great detail in the “Bury and Norwich Post” newspaper, but the question was of what interest could it be to the average East Anglian reader?



**George
Ware**

At first the identity of the boy was unknown but when, on the following two days, a young girl and then a woman were also found drowned in the same location, they were linked to a family who had disappeared from a local hotel a few days earlier. The manager of the Hotel de la Marine believed they matched the appearance of a lady who had checked into the hotel, with her children, as Marie Louise WEILERS from Richmond in England. But this person was untraceable so evidence from her clothing was investigated.

On the band of her bodice could be read, “Miss Jor. costumier.Lynn,” and her shoes were labelled, “H. R. Powell, 32, St James’s Street, King’s Lynn.”

Help was sought from the King’s Lynn police force. Immediately Chief Constable George WARE, never one to delegate active police investigations, travelled to Belgium. He discovered that, although the drowned woman had checked in as Marie Weilers, she had left in her hotel room a notebook and a hat bearing the name Maria BOCKEL. This gave him her true identity. Madame Bockel, aged 36, was the widow of Frédéric Bockel, a Belgian national, but she had been born

Edith Helen HARRISON in Downham, Cambridgeshire. Her children were Marie Jeanne Bockel aged 12 and Frédéric Bockel aged four. After her marriage to Frédéric Bockel Senior, Edith had moved with him to Brussels where he was manager of the public baths at 67 Boulevard Hanspeck. Sadly, while Edith was pregnant with young Frédéric in 1890, her husband died. At first she remained in Brussels but understandably, after three years, Edith returned to her family in King's Lynn. There her father John Harrison was a successful butcher, having previously been a London cattle salesman.

What was unclear was why Madame Bockel had returned to Brussels and why she wished to remain incognito. George Ware needed to ascertain whether this was a case of suicide, accident or murder. He discovered that in her pocket a new purse, purchased locally, had been found. It bore the stamp of Magasin LEPOINT. Madame Lepoint believed that the deceased had been accompanied by a man and that she had made several purchases. She remembered that they were either English or American. This tied in with the discovery of a man's waistcoat in the canal but no other body was found.

The newspaper account gives considerable detail of Edith's clothing. "Her stockings were black and the garters were of silk elastic, pink in colour. Her gloves were of black merino with four mother-of-pearl buttons." She had a handkerchief embroidered with the letter B and wore a plain gold wedding ring. On her dress was a silver brooch of a dove and there were three small keys in her pocket. Her daughter wore a bracelet with three hearts attached, her fair hair was tied with white ribbon and her dress was grey with a lace collar.

The local police believed that the family had sailed to Belgium on the steamer, "City of London," but they were unable to trace the vessel. Edith had told her parents that she was taking the children to meet relatives and that she needed to speak to her husband's executors. She seemed to be, "in excellent spirits," and a letter she wrote to them, "showed no signs of despondency." Although in receipt of £200 per year she was known to have money concerns. Despite this fact her family did not believe that she would have taken her own life.

Chief Constable Ware, my great grandfather, had a history of successfully solving crimes during his time in King's Lynn; since his appointment, at the age of 26, as Superintendent of police and also previously as a Police Inspector in Leeds.

So George was determined to find out what had happened to the tragic family.

He was surprised to discover that Edith had not made contact with any of her many friends and relatives in Brussels. Madame HEDER, who described herself as the “bosom friend” of Madame Bockel, could not believe that the family would visit Brussels without staying with her. George enlisted the help of the village schoolmistress to examine the badly decomposed bodies. This brave woman was able to confirm that the clothing of Madame Bockel and her daughter had not been disarranged or interfered with. Before leaving the hotel on the eventful day, Edith had placed an empty purse, the leather wristlet she normally wore and her gold watch in a drawer but there was no sign of 25 City of Antwerp Corporation Bonds or £10 in gold which she kept in a handbag. Perhaps it lies still at the bottom of the canal.

Despite his conviction that Edith and her children were the victims of foul play, this could not be substantiated. Although she had strayed from the respectable, scenic area of the town into an industrial canal side where tramps lurked, no screams had been heard and the victims were uninjured. The Belgian police believed that, “down and outs,” might have obtained Edith’s bag after she and the children accidentally fell into the canal, so they continued their endeavours to find three tramps already wanted for attacking a carriage in the vicinity a few days earlier.

The bulletin from the Belgian police, in which it was stated that Madame Bockel had checked into the hotel as Marie Elise Weilers, disappeared and the hotel waiter who booked her in, “may have been labouring under a misapprehension.” Miss Laura Harrison, Edith’s sister, who had also arrived in Brussels, said that Madame Bockel had gone to collect interest on railway and other stocks that she held but no trace of these was found. Laura gave more useful evidence which was reported in “The North Eastern Gazette” on Wednesday, August 7th. Apparently five years earlier Frédéric Bockel Senior, being unwell, had sold the public baths which he managed. One night, the couple retired to bed but, when Edith woke, she found her husband dead by her side. The shock caused her paralysis from which she gradually recovered. Had the paralysis returned when she went back to Brussels or did her son, who, according to Laura, was very “frolicsome,” slip into the canal so that his mother and sister had to attempt a rescue?

More was revealed in “The Rotherham Independent.” We learn that Frédéric Bockel met Edith Harrison while he was a porter in a Belgian hotel. At the time Edith was a travelling companion to an English family. After his death Frédéric left her 13,000 Francs and life interest on a further amount. Monsieur Bockel’s close friend M. BECKERS, who was appointed guardian to Frédéric’s children,

expressed the view that Madame Bockel had also gone to Belgium for a medical consultation since she believed that she was suffering from cancer.

On his return to England on 16th August, George Ware gave an interview to the press which was reported in "The Morning Post". Although he had traced Edith's movements from her departure from King's Lynn on July 26th to her arrival in Brussels the following day where she asked the cab driver to recommend a hotel, he was unable to reach a definite answer as to the cause of the three deaths. They had left the Hotel de la Marine at 5.45 that evening and had not been seen again. It would seem that Edith had a very small income and had gone to sell her Corporation Bonds. In his words: "The incidents of that day remain an unsolved mystery."

Sources:

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> and www.Ancestry.co.uk

"Glimpses of Fiddaman's Lynn" by Rosemary and Stan Rodliffe

Elizabeth Lloyd MN 6467

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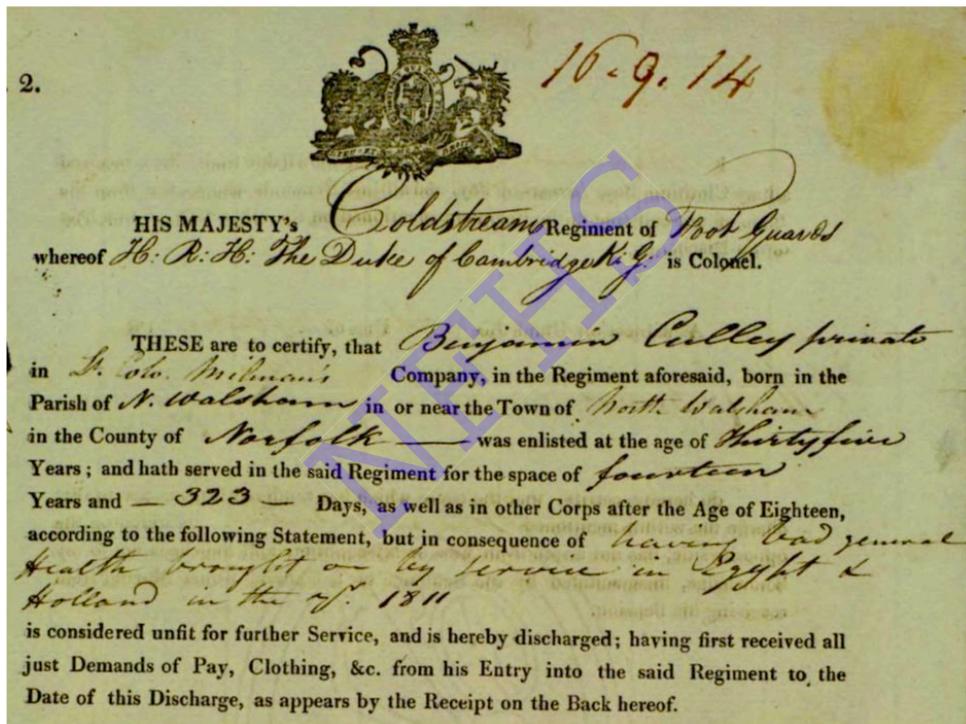


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A Most Unhappy Affair

By David Culley

BENJAMIN CULLEY was born at Ingworth, descended from Yeoman farmers. He married Mary BACON at Tuttington in 1785 where they raised a sizeable family. From 1788, Benjamin was in the Norfolk Militia which seems to have involved part time service. In late 1799 he left his young family and joined the Coldstream



Guards. His six foot height must have been a factor in the move. In 1814, aged 50, he was discharged, unfit for service, and returned to Tuttington.

Benjamin's son Henry was born at Tuttington in 1797. In 1819 Henry Culley married Ann STARLING and by 1823 they had two daughters.

On New Year's Eve 1823, Henry Culley, his younger brother William and others, went poaching for pheasants on the Sprowston property of John STRACEY.

Sprowston Lodge, a neat white brick mansion, 3½ miles N. by E. of Norwich, is the seat of John Stracey, Esq., who has in his pleasure-grounds, a flourishing willow, lopped from the tree that overshadows the tomb of Napoleon, on the island of St. Helena - White's 1845 Gazateer

The poachers were apprehended. March BUTTIVANT, gamekeeper, gave evidence:

“About midnight on 31st. December I was called upon by William NEEDS and David SPOONER who were employed as watchmen and having assembled some other helps we proceeded to a wood at Sprowston. All the way we went we heard firing and when we reached the wood we met eight men.”

In the darkness shots were fired at short range by the poachers, Buttivant and another keeper, William EVERETT, were wounded. Two of the poachers including Henry Culley were captured while the rest ran off.

Eventually the others were rounded up. It took until late-March before Miles Wiseman was found at Gimmingham. He had been positively identified by Buttivant in the powder flash of his gun as he shot at Everett. Buttivant knocked Wiseman down with a blow to the head from his pistol butt, the scar of which helped confirm Wiseman's culpability.

One of the poachers was persuaded to blab:

“Henry Spinks, an accomplice, [stated] all the prisoners were after ten o' clock in the evening at his house [in Catton] and agreed to go to Mr Stracey's wood; that they had been there two hours and having shot 10 or 12 brace of pheasants were just leaving when they met the keepers. Wiseman fired the first gun. In cross examination [Spinks] said he had never been poaching before but admitted he as well as the others persuaded William Culley, who was very unwilling to go with them.”

It seems likely there is some confusion between William and Henry either in court or more likely in the reporting, as elsewhere it is stated Henry was very unwilling and only persuaded by Wiseman and others. Spinks names the three who had firearms, the rest including Henry Culley being armed with sticks.

William Culley denied being present, saying he was at home with his wife who was in labour. The Jury acquitted William Culley and another defendant but found Henry, Miles Wiseman and two others guilty. They were sentenced to

The Humble Petition of Henry
Culley late of Tuttington in the coun-
ty of Norfolk, Carpenter, but now a
Convict on Board H. M. Ship York,
lying off Gosport in the county of Hamt-
ham.

That your petitioner is now on the
thirtieth year of his age, and that in the night
of the thirty first of December, in the year 1823,
he with others was apprehended for poaching on
the grounds of John Stacey Esq^r of Sprowston in
the County of Norfolk. Was tried and convicted
at the Court Leet held at Thetford before Lord
Chief Justice. Abbot in March 1824, and was sen-
tenced to be transportation for the term of his natu-
ral life. That your Petitioner previous to this
unhappy affair, had never been before any Magistrate,
but bore a General good Character. That he have a
Wife and two small Children subjected to many
privations, through the loss of an industrious and
kind Husband and Father. That your Petitioner
in consequence of his good conduct since conviction
have had his Sentence mitigated to fourteen years.
Your Petitioners health being much impaired through
his long confinement, has been induced most humbly to
beg a further extension of Mercy towards him

death but only Wiseman was hanged. Henry's sentence was commuted to life and then 14 years transportation. I can't help but think the main reason for convicting Henry was that he was detained at the scene and there was therefore no question about his involvement.

The following is from the Norfolk Chronicle of April 17th, 1824:

"The following malefactors were executed at Thetford: James Reeve for rape; Miles Wiseman for shooting at and wounding William Everett, gamekeeper, at Rackheath; and Robert Gibson for sheep stealing. The body of Wiseman was buried at Hardingham Churchyard, whence it was stolen

by resurrection men, who had been observed lurking about the chief part of the previous day."

Henry Culley was never transported for reasons which are unclear. As in other cases, there were petitions for clemency, the first is dated June 24th, 1824. It was written by the curate of Tuttington, William Henry BLAKE, and it is endorsed by local worthies. It pleads for Henry to serve his sentence in England and refers to his young family.

The second petition was submitted seven years into the sentence. It appears to have been professionally drawn up on Henry's behalf, perhaps at the expense

News From Kirby Hall



Ellie Learns the Ropes

REEPHAM Academy Sixth Form student Ellie Frankland (opposite) has been on work experience with the Norfolk Family History Society and is pictured examining some registers in the Kirby Hall Library.

Ellie spent eight days in July helping with admin and filing plus listing documents and books as well as working on her own family tree which we traced back to Freeman Cordwainers, of Norwich c.1720. A copy is now deposited in the Library.

Ellie is studying A-levels in psychology, history, law and Spanish and plans to study the last two subjects at university.

We wish her all the very best for a successful future.

Annual Meeting and Heritage Event

THE annual meeting of the Norfolk Family History Society will take place at Kirby Hall at noon on Saturday, 15th October. More details on this are available on our inside front cover.

Once again we will be taking part in Norfolk's Heritage Open Days and this year we will have special public open days on Thursday 8th and Sunday 11th September from 10 am until 4 pm. Again more information is available on the inside front cover.

New Noticeboard

Visitors to Kirby Hall may have seen a spanking new noticeboard on the outside wall. This will be used to keep local visitors informed about the society and what is happening.

From Zimbabwe to Syderstone (part two)

John SAVORY left Zimbabwe following the purging of white farmers by Robert Mugabe and found himself living with his family in Syderstone in North Norfolk where he continually came across people with the same name together with some prominent Savory gravestones in the local cemetery. In part two of his feature, John continues the story of Coulseey Savory who was born on 17th June, 1756 and who married Charlotte STANFORD in July 1779 at Syderstone.

COULSEY SAVORY is recorded as living in the house adjacent to the church in Syderstone which was subsequently rebuilt as the rectory. When we arrived in the United Kingdom, we rented a house in Syderstone across the road from the church so we came full circle.

Coulsey and Charlotte had three children .Coulsey Savory Junior was born.on July 2nd, 1781 and married Elizabeth STARLING between 1805 and 1823. They had 12 children;-Barbara 1804-29, Henry 1806 (moved to Tilney All Saints as an Agricultural Labourer. 1851 Census.), Edward 1807, Thomasina 1810 (married Thomas BALDRY January 4th, 1832), Georgina 1811, Harriet 1812, Charlotte 1814 (Illegitimate child) Arthur James, September 23rd, 1838, Mary Ann 1816, Alfred 1817, Frances Eleanor 1819, James Alexander 1821 and Betsy Maria 1823.

Edward Savory was born March 21st, 1784 and I have not been able to find direct links to any progeny.



The 1851 census has him living in lodgings in Thurlton, Norfolk, on his own and registered as a "Landed Proprietor."

Samuel Henry Savory (This is our mutual ancestor) was born October 6th, 1782 at Syderstone. He attended Caius College, Cambridge, and was awarded a BA. in

1805 and MA. in 1808. He became Rector of Twyford Church in 1807 with a stipend of £50 which increased to £70 when he was appointed to two other parishes. In 1822 he was invited to be Vicar of Houghton by the Marquis of Cholmondeley of Houghton Hall. (Pronounced Chumley) This would have been a profitable and prestigious appointment.

Samuel Henry married Rebekah REDIN from Brancaster in 1812 and lived in Twyford Hall until 1822. Where they lived after that is not known (probably in Twyford as all the children were born there.) They had nine children but unfortunately only three (in bold) survived beyond their 25th year.

Mary Rebekah, 1813-1834, Suzanna Redin, 1814-1837, **Henry James 1816-1882**, Catherine Leybourne 1818-1830, **Thomas 1820**, Samuel Henry 1822-1831, Eliza Christiana 1824-1844, Octavius Redin 1825-1844 and **William Henry 1828-1895**.

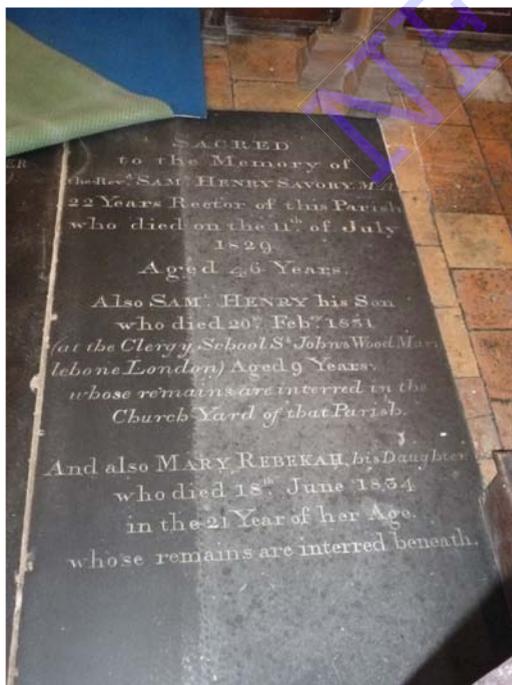
Here we see the first mention of the name Redin as found in many of our names. This then appears to be from the mother's surname and we believe that William Henry was fond of his mother and decided to perpetuate her memory as "Redin" is only found in this line descending from William. Redin is not featured

in the line descended from Henry James and I have not found it in any Savory residing in the UK.

Rebekah must have been influential in the Twyford area for many years as there is a commemorative plaque on the wall of the church. She died 27th January, 1882 at the age of 93.

The Reverend Samuel Henry Savory died on the 11th July, 1829 aged 46. His tomb is located within the church at Twyford in the centre aisle below the pulpit.

There is in existence a hand-written copy of a sermon delivered by Samuel in the aftermath of the Battle of Waterloo. The collection that Sunday was for the Waterloo Widows and



Orphans and amounted to £15, about £2,000 in today's money.

Line from Henry James Savory

Of Samuel's surviving three children, the eldest son Henry James remained in the UK, moved to Hornsea outside London and formed the English arm of a trading company with his brother William Henry (more of him later) who emigrated to Durban, South Africa. Henry had two children: Henry James, born 1858, listed in the 1891 census as a "Mercantile Clerk" and Thomas Walter.

Terrence tells me: "Henry James' son, Thomas Walter Savory emigrated to South Africa as a young man. I was informed that he came over with his brother in an attempt to make money by growing sugar – a venture that failed due to them trying to cultivate an unsuitable variety. I expect that there may have been a tie-up with your William Henry who was already established in Durban. That is where Thomas met my grandmother, Harriet Raw. "

Marylee writes-"My grandfather (and Terence's) Thomas Walter Savory, wrote diaries from the age of 14 (a notebook) to 84, as he left England in 1882 (age 21) to join his uncle William and brother Harry, and travelled north from Durban to Mazabuka, Zambia where he was employed by the BSA Company as a surveyor. His son, my father Lee, bought the farm in Monze, Zambia in 1920 or 1921 which is still the family farm, The Moorings. Thea Savory owns it. Children: Joanne (UK), Jacky (Vienna) Lee and Coulsey (students in USA.)"

Phyllis Savory, The Zambian Savory's and Terence Willson are descended down this line.

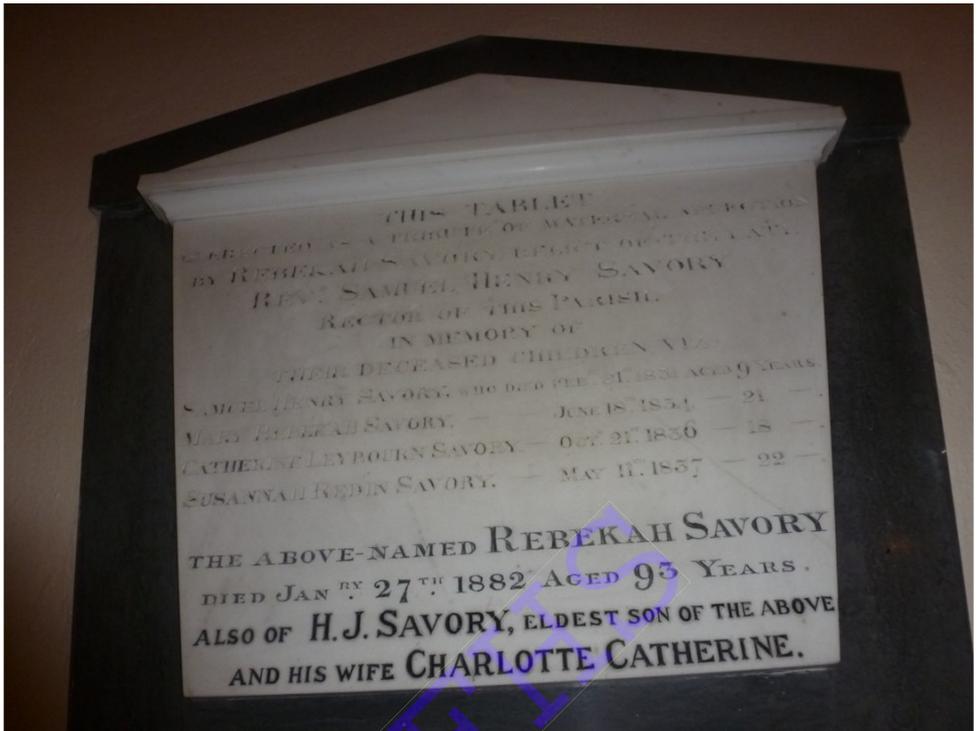
Line from William Henry Savory.

William Henry Savory (Samuel's youngest child born 1828 - just a year before his death) emigrated to Durban in 1849. He was an extensive coffee planter and shipping agent, W.H Savory and Co. based in Durban Point area. He died in 1895 leaving a wife (Jane Elinor nee HESLINGTON), three sons and a daughter.

I only know the names of the two sons, the remaining son and daughter I don't know;-

Samuel Henry 1857 - 1899. Married Miriam Alexandria HIRST 15th. January, 1891. No record of offspring.

Clifford Redin (1859-1953) who married twice, firstly Thomenia Jane



PEIRCE and had Bryan, Cecil, Thomenia (Nan), Guy Redin (1901-1970) and James Redin (Jimmy) (1904-1996).

Secondly he married Aurelie Mathilde LEFEVRE (Bubbles) and produced Robin and Peter.

Guy Redin Savory was my father and he also married twice, firstly to Gertrude and Wendy was the result of that. Secondly he married Marie Lillian GENT in December, 1949 and Timothy Lee Redin, Guy Redin and Paul Redin were the offspring. Guy died young, Tim moved to a smallholding outside Pretoria and I left Zimbabwe returning to the UK in 2000.

Guy had a varied life beginning in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) then to the Lupa Goldfields in Tanganyika (Tanzania) buying a timber concession to supply the mines with pit props. From there he moved to Ndola where his office location is now occupied by the Town Hall. He was a contractor on the Copperbelt to Lobito Bay railway. At the outbreak of World War 2 he joined up with the 4th. Rhodesian Anti-tank Battery which was sent to North Africa where he was awarded a Military Cross for bravery. Shortly after this he was promoted to command the

battery during the Battle of El Alamein through North Africa, Tunisia to the Battle for Monte Cassino, Italy where he was injured and repatriated. After the war he farmed outside Que Que, Rhodesia (Kwekwe, Zimbabwe). He wrote a book on his time at the Lupa Goldfields.

My mother, Marie Lillian Gent was born at Whitstable, Kent in 1919 with four sisters and two brothers. Her mother died when the children were young and the father, being an alcoholic was deemed unfit to raise the children so they were fostered. (Detailed by John Gent (nephew)) She completed her nurse training at Guys Hospital, London 1942 and worked there until August 1943 when she joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

She then served in the field hospitals following behind the advancing troops through France and Germany. When the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was liberated in April 1945 she was one of the 12 nurses detailed to attend to the inmates until other medical assistance could be arranged. (QAIMNS records)

Of her two brothers, Norman was killed in the North African desert campaign whilst Donald was killed on operations by 460 Sqd. Bomber Command, to Koln (Cologne) Germany, April 12, 1943. (Bomber Command records) She then emigrated to Rhodesia, 1948. Marie died 1986.

The only one of my aunts and uncles I can say I knew was Jimmy Savory who lived in Salisbury (Harare) and whom we saw on a regular basis. He was a surveyor and best known for his contribution to the construction of Kariba Dam. Jimmy had a few wives but only two children, Allan and Anne.

The others I knew of, but to the best of my knowledge, never got to meet although in the back of my mind I think Nan paid us a visit at the Que Que farm in my extreme youth. Tim thinks it was Phyllis Savory and as he is somewhat older, he is possibly correct.

There are some glaring omissions that, unfortunately, I've been unable to trace.

The first Coulseay Savory's birth date and death date - who was he married to? Who were his parents?

Secondly - where did the £5,000 mentioned in part one come from, as I would have thought a person able to come up with that sort of money would have been mentioned in the various newspapers? When you look at his signature on the original purchase document I think he is an educated person.

John Savory MN 15684

Norwich War Raids Online

As reported in the June edition of Ancestor, details of bombing raids in Norwich during World War Two are now available online thanks to the painstaking research of long standing Norfolk Family History Society member Roy Scott.

The results of Roy's research have been added to the Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) and much of the information is not available from any other source.

To search these records individually see bottom of 'Browse Records' list on left side. However, any surname search will automatically find anyone included in this latest addition. To view typical report use a 'Smith search'.

Roy writes:

“Assault upon Norwich” by R. H. Mottram, and Joan Banger’s excellent “Norwich at War” refer to a total of 340 civilian deaths due to the bombing of Norwich during World War II, but few names are mentioned. The City of Norwich Roll of Honour unfortunately does not include the names of all victims.

Using listings from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Norwich Registrar’s Weekly Death Returns to Health Department, Burial Records for Norwich Cemetery, Rosary Cemetery and St. Faith Crematorium, Air raid reports, mortuary records, Norwich Evening News death and funeral notices, I have attempted to record details about the people killed in Norwich and associate them with specific raids and locations, also recording burial details.

The information recorded against the individuals has been collected from the various sources listed and I have included some information from survivors and witnesses. If any individual has been omitted or included in error or if I have mistakenly included wrong information then I apologise.

Roy Scott MN 475

Monumental Inscriptions Update

By Mary Mitchell

FIRST of all, I would like to thank all the people who have e-mailed or sent me their photographs of gravestones and memorials.

It will take some time to get them all typed up ready for the Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) and for the library at Kirby Hall, but they will certainly be a useful resource for anyone researching their family.

All the photographs will be available to view on the computers at Kirby Hall and, if any member would like a copy, this can be sent to them by e-mail. Just let me know by e-mail.

Secondly, John Knights, in the June Ancestor, mentioned the Grave-stone Photographic Resource (GPR) website which is a very useful website for finding gravestones throughout the world, including Norfolk. However, the photographs have not been fully transcribed and so the information provided is not as detailed as you can find on NORS.

I would therefore urge anyone who has provided Norfolk gravestone photographs to this website to also let the society have a copy of them.

Also, if you would like to photograph a churchyard that is already on the GPR website "please do" as it is always worthwhile having more than one copy and/or database of a churchyard.

There are always discrepancies and/or errors in databases as can be seen on, say, the Ancestry or Findmypast websites. I have often found an entry in one website that doesn't agree with the other website – looking at the original document usually resolves the discrepancy and so a photograph of a gravestone taken on a different day with different weather conditions can make a difference to what can be seen on the gravestone.

So please do go out, take photographs if you can and send them to me at Kirby Hall or e-mail them to me at minscriptions@nfhs.co.uk.

Thirdly, do take time to look on NORS every so often as, apart from putting on new MI surveys, I have been checking surveys that have already been put on the system and amending them.

Finally, I would like to say a big “thank you” to the people, who have been helping me over the years to put the surveys into an excel format ready for NORS as, without their help, there would not be as many MI surveys on NORS as there are.

If anyone else would like to help with this work do please get in contact with me.

Mary Mitchell MI Co-ordinator MN 3328

Golden Jubilee of the Norfolk Family History Society

IN 2018, the Norfolk Family History Society will be celebrating 50 years of helping members with their family history research.

I am gathering together a collection of photographs and reminiscences which will be made into a book for the occasion.

This is not intended to be a history of the society but to be a memento.

If anyone has photographs which I could use please would you let me have a copy, preferably with a date and people identified.

Any reminiscences would also be welcome, particularly from the early days. Hard copy should be sent to Kirby Hall and e-mails addressed to

margaret@nfhs.co.uk

Margaret Murgatroyd MN.10400

The Past Pictured



Where and when?..... To find out see page 63

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New Members and Members Interests to July 11th, 2016

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



Welcome to the September issue of the Norfolk Ancestor. I hope you will agree that it's another brilliant issue of our journal with lots of interesting content. I hope you enjoy the articles and information. We are approaching the end of our year and hope to see as many members as possible at our AGM in October. I am not sure if you are all aware of the members' interest list on the website. Not many of you seem to have listed your interests. To do this go to the front

page of our website, log in at the top right hand corner, go to the membership drop down menu where you will find Members' Interests. Click there and enter your interest.

To contact other members researching the same surname.

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

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

If an e-mail is not received soon, please check e-mail spam folder. When corresponding by post please remember to include a stamped self addressed envelope.

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 July, 2016

The Society welcomes the following new members

16092	Miss C. I. Candy	UK	16134	Mr M. Taylor	UK
16093	Mrs H. Canham	USA	16135	Mr G. McInnes	AU
16094	Miss W. Bollington	UK	16136	Ms E. Eggett	USA
16095	Mr S. Palgrave	UK	16137	Mr R. Amies	UK
16096	Mrs M. Cocklin	UK	16138	Mr M. Snelling	UK
16097	Mr A. Adamson	UK	16139	Mrs J. Lees	AU
16098	Mrs A. Sorrell	UK	16140	Mrs G. Haneo	UK
16099	Miss H. Thompson	AU	16141	Mrs M. McGovern	AU
16100	Mrs G. Rolfe	UK	16142	Mr N. Tooley	UK
16101	Mrs K. Hannah	UK	16143	Mr L. Sibielak	UK
16102	Mr T. Shellshear	AU	16144	Mr L. Sibielak	UK
16103	Mr M. A. Hall	UK	16145	Mrs J. O'Brien	AU
16104	Mrs N. M. Goose	UK	16146	Mr J. Chapman	UK
16105	Mrs B. Robinson	UK	16147	Mr I. Bell	UK
16106	Mr R. Bridges	UK	16148	Miss J. Flint	UK
16107	Mr A. P. Cutting	UK	16149	Mrs L. S. Clapp	UK
16108	Mrs L. Finney	UK	16150	Mr M. Lacey	UK
16109	Mr R. Chase	UK	16151	Mr C. Alexander	UK
16110	Mr S. Torrington	UK	16152	Mr A. Harrison	UK
16111	Miss S. Barton	UK	16153	Ms D. McDonald	CA
16112	Mr D. Mallows	UK	16154	Mrs S. Ruiz	USA
16113	Mr H. Bowman	UK	16155	Mr I. Couzens	UK
16114	Mr A. Fox	UK	16156	Mr J. Chapman	UK
16115	Dr B. Tifferi	AU	16157	Ms A. Smith	USA
16116	Mr J. Wicken	UK	16158	Ms R. Jacobs	AU
16117	Mr C. Berry	UK	16159	Ms L. Dunckley	SWZ
16118	Mrs K. Pryor	AU	16160	Mrs A. Maddern	UK
16119	Mrs P. Warder	UK	16161	Mrs S. Burt	UK
16120	Mr C. Rice	UK	16162	Miss V. Thompson	UK
16121	Mrs M. Yates	AU	16163	Ms T. Rush	USA
16122	Mr M. Dawson	USA	16164	Mrs S. Ferguson	UK
16123	Mr N.C. Pinchen	UK	16165	Miss K. Hamilton	AU
16124	Hon L. Vanmeter	USA	16166	Mrs P. Logan	UK
16125	Ms J. Larwood	AU	16167	Mr A. Groom	AU
16126	Mrs S. Blanchard	AU	16168	Ms S. Kimber	UK
16127	Mr R. Spencer	UK	16169	Mrs A. Rogers	UK
16128	Ms L. Martone	USA	16170	Mrs J. Beadle	UK
16129	Mr P. Fox	UK	16171	Mrs L. Heywood	AU
16130	Mrs S. Chard	UK	16172	Mrs J. Sumbler	UK
16131	Mrs Y. Delaney	AU	16173	Mrs K. Pearce	UK
16132	Mrs L. Wildbore	UK	16174	Mrs C. Durrant	UK
16133	Mrs S. Priestley	UK	16175	Ms R. Rose	UK

16176	Mrs H. Brooks	UK	16184	Mr C. Harry	UK
16177	Mr C. Blaxter	AU	16185	Mr J. Pead	UK
16178	Mrs D. Shore	UK	16186	Mrs K. Napier	UK
16179	Mrs S. Ashton	UK	16187	Mrs V. Haun	USA
16180	Miss D. Younger	UK	16188	Mr R. Overland	USA
16181	Mrs S. A. Bullen	UK	16189	Mrs I. Mallett	UK
16182	Mr A. Jackson	UK	16190	Mrs J. Henness	UK
16183	Mr E. Walker	UK	16191	Mr S. Bamber	UK

Norfolk Panorama

TWO panoramic photographs of the Norfolk coastal town of Cromer taken by George Plunkett in 1965 from the top of Cromer Church Tower. The picture opposite looks onto the High Street and that below is a more general view of the town looking towards the beach and sea.



Members Interests to 11th July 2016

MN	Name	Area	County	Period	MN	Name	Area	County	Period
15811	ARMSTRONG	ALL	NFK	ALL	16070	LINCOLN	ALL	NFK	ALL
16131	ARNUP	ALL	NFK	ALL	15977	LITTLEWOOD	ALL	NFK	18-20C
16158	BEAVIS	ALL	NFK	ALL	16056	LONE	ALL	NFK	17-19C
16153	BINDLEY	NC	NFK	ALL	16056	LOVEDAY	ALL	NFK	17-19C
15977	BIRCHAM	ALL	NFK	ALL	16112	MALLOWS	ALL	NFK	ALL
15906	BREEZE	ALL	NFK	16-18C	16089	MASON	SW	NFK	ALL
16106	BRIDGES	ALL	NFK	ALL	16077	MOORE	NW	NFK	ALL
16089	BROWN	SW	NFK	ALL	15839	PITT	ALL	NFK	17-19C
16131	BROWNE	NW	NFK	ALL	15839	RAMM	ALL	NFK	ALL
16077	CAREY	NC	NFK	18-20C	16145	RAVEN	ALL	ALL	ALL
16186	CHAPLIN	NE	NFK	19-20C	15811	REEVE	ALL	NFK	ALL
16112	CHRISTMAS	ALL	NFK	ALL	15977	RISEBOROUGH	ALL	NFK	19C
15811	DENNY	ALL	NFK	ALL	15839	RUMBELOW	ALL	NFK	ALL
16182	DUBLACK	ALL	NFK	ALL	15839	RUMBOLD	ALL	NFK	17-19C
15839	DYBALL	ALL	NFK	ALL	15876	RUSH	ALL	NFK	15-19C
16136	EGAT	ALL	NFK	ALL	15977	SADLER	ALL	NFK	19C
16136	EGET	ALL	NFK	ALL	15828	SHERRINGHAM	ALL	NFK	17-19C
16136	EGGATT	ALL	NFK	ALL	15828	SHERINGHAM	ALL	NFK	17-19C
16136	EGGETT	ALL	NFK	ALL	16160	SIELY	ALL	NFK	ALL
15827	ELDEN	ALL	NFK	18-19C	16182	SMOWTON	ALL	NFK	ALL
16147	FOX	NW	NFK	ALL	16056	THURSTON	ALL	NFK	ALL
16095	GOLDSMITH	ALL	SFK	ALL	16051	WILES	ALL	NFK	ALL
15835	JACKSON	YM	NFK	17-19C	15833	WINTER	ALL	NFK	17-19C
16125	LARWOOD	ALL	NFK	ALL	16186	WRIGHT	YM	NFK	ALL
16125	LARWOOD	ALL	SFK	19-20C					

We wish all our members happy hunting with their genealogy. Don't forget we now have a very active Facebook presence where members have met with considerable success in not only tracing ancestors but in swapping family stories and historical information. We currently have well over 1,000 active subscribers and it's all free.

Take The Long Way Home

Kathy McNeill's Great Great Grandfather Mark Ewin travelled from Great Fransham to Gaywood the long way as she explains in this feature

Mark EWIN was born on 4th May, 1767, the youngest son of John Ewin and his wife Mary HAMMOND of Great Fransham. He was buried in Gaywood on 10th October, 1851 at the age of 84.

You might think that Mark had not travelled very far in his long life – but you would be wrong!

Mark was a Redcoat. He served in the British army for nearly 30 years, from 1784 to 1814, at the time of the Napoleonic Wars.

Mark was illiterate and possibly the enlistment officer writing down his details was unfamiliar with the Norfolk accent. So during his army life he was known as Private Mark EWING from Friscomb, Norfolk.

The army also recorded what Mark looked like: 5 feet 9 inches tall (175cm), with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. He either did not know how old he was or put his age up to join the army, because the 17-year-old suddenly turned 26.

No doubt the army gave him a chance to escape a life of agricultural labour. But army service was disciplined, regimented and harsh and the pay was low, so those who joined the ranks were mainly men who wanted to travel or for whom civilian life was even worse.

Mark's first posting was to the 4th Regiment of Foot, also known as the King's Own Royal Regiment.



Gaywood Church



During the five years and 275 days that Mark served with the 4th Foot, he would have spent about three years in Canada, as the regiment was based in Newfoundland from 1787 to 1793.

The army's role was to protect the British colonies. There was continuing tension between Britain and the United States after the American War of Independence and animosity between Britain and France that eventually turned into the Napoleonic Wars. (There were French settlements in Newfoundland as well as Quebec, Montreal, the United States and the Caribbean.)

In May 1790, Mark moved to the 7th Regiment of Foot, the Royal Fusiliers, where he served for 21 years and 186 days.

Garrison duty with the 7th Foot included 11 years in Canada (1791–1802), first in Quebec and then in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After that, from 25th February 1803 to 9th May 1809, Mark served in the West Indies.

In May 1803 England declared war on Napoleon Bonaparte in the belief that France was preparing to invade England. In the West Indies the British attacked the French possessions, as the sugar and coffee plantations were a major source of French wealth.

BATTLE FOR MARTINIQUE

The three-week battle for Martinique in February 1809 was a major engagement for the 7th Foot, eventually resulting in a French surrender. The regiment then became a garrison force in the West Indies for a while.

Before long the 7th Foot was sent to Portugal, arriving in July 1810 to join the army under Field Marshal Arthur WELLESLEY (later 1st Duke of Wellington). Napoleon had invaded Portugal and planned to annex Spain; England had promised money and help to fight the French. This was the Peninsular War (1807–1814).

Mark may have been wounded or become ill during the Peninsular War, as

he does not appear to have participated in other major battles in which the 7th Foot were involved. For example, the Royal Fusiliers were highly regarded for their part in the famed Fusilier Brigade, along with the 23rd Regiment of Foot, at the battle of Albuhera on 16 May 1811.

In November 1811, having survived a war in which there were heavy casualties from injury and disease, Mark moved to the 3rd Royal Regiment of Veterans' Battalion based in Jersey. The Veterans' Battalions were manned by volunteers who had been discharged from regular service because of wounds, age or illness. These veterans took on only a home defence role or light duties.



Finally, on 26th May 1814, Private Mark Ewing was discharged from the army – after 29 years and 274 days of service. His discharge papers, signed by the surgeon and the commanding officer, indicate that he was 'worn out' and unfit for further service. The papers do not note any injury or disability, although the issuing officer was explicitly required to record this in the document.

NAPOLEONIC WARS CONTINUE

The Napoleonic Wars continued until 1814, when Napoleon was finally forced to abdicate and go into exile on the Italian island of Elba.

Despite the honours that he personally received, the Duke of Wellington opposed any recognition of the rank and file soldiers who fought in the Napoleonic Wars. By the time the Government gave in to public opinion and issued the Military General Service Medal in 1848, only 26,000 of the 94,000 soldiers were still alive to claim their medals.

Mark's Napoleonic War medal is still owned by the EWEN family. The Military General Service Medal 1793–1814 with one bar for Martinique, as awarded to Mark Ewing, is said to be a rare campaign medal. Most Napole-

onic War medals were issued with a number of bars to recognise the major campaigns or operations in which the soldier was involved.

Following his discharge Mark returned to Norfolk and settled in Gaywood. Circumstantial evidence indicates that John HEWING, who was living in Gaywood with his wife Hannah (née PARMER) and 10 children, was Mark's brother.

On 15th October 1815, Mark Hewing married Alice MARSHALL (née DOLMAN), the widow of William Marshall, at St Faith's Church, Gaywood. Alice, who was born in Great Ringstead, was then 38 years old and Mark was 48 (though 55 by army records).

There is a fairly simple reason why Mark would not have married during his time in the army. Army policy was to allow only six wives per company. The rest were paid as single men.

Even if some were already married when they joined up or chose to marry without army permission, they did not get enough pay to support a wife and family.

Mark and Alice had three children: Elizabeth (1818–?), George (about 1820–1889) and Robert (1822–1823). Mark and Alice lived for the rest of their lives in Gaywood. Alice died in 1855, four years after Mark.

NAME VARIATIONS

Finally, to note the name changes: members of my Ewen family were at various times recorded in Norfolk as Ewin, Ewing, Hewing and Ewen and there are many other possibilities. According to the historian C L'E-STRANGE EWEN there are about 500 variants of the name!

In the days when many people were illiterate the spelling of a name depended on what was heard by the person writing it down, for example in the parish records. By the time of the 1841 census, the Hewing families in Gaywood were consistently recorded as Ewen and our family's name has been spelt that way ever since.

When I first started my research many years ago, the medal awarded to Mark Ewing was the only information we had. We knew nothing about Mark or where he fitted into our family.

Luckily I found that National Archives had his army discharge papers and then George's marriage certificates helped join up the dots.

Kathy McNeill MN 15577 kathymcn12@gmail.com

Editor's Corner

By Peter Steward

For a number of years I have been researching various aspects of life in my home village of Hethersett, just outside Norwich. During that time I have come across a number of interesting characters. Below is an article



written for the village e-magazine which I hope will be of some interest to Norfolk Family History members.

FLOWERDEW is a name that looms large in Hethersett history and the village has a Flowerdew Close to this day. Temperance Flowerdew (1590 to 1628) was the daughter of Anthony Flowerdew of Hethersett and Martha STANLEY of Scottow.

She married Richard BARROW in 1609 in London. Temperance sailed for Jamestown, in May 1609 in a convoy of nine ships. It isn't recorded whether her husband accompanied her. After surviving a hurricane the vessel reached Jamestown in August.

Temperance Flowerdew played a key part in the history of the Jamestown settle-

ment and became the wife of two governors of Virginia.

By 1618, Richard Barrow had died, and Temperance married George

YEARDLEY. The couple had three children, Elizabeth (c. 1614), Argoll (1618) and Francis (1623). Yeardley was knighted by King James the First and appointed Governor of Virginia. On Yeardley's death Temperance became one of the wealthiest women in Virginia.

She married Francis WEST who was Yeardley's successor. There is lots of information on Temperance Flowerdew on the internet. The photograph on the previous page is a depiction of how Temperance may have looked.

The name Flowerdew also plays a prominent part in the famous (or at the time infamous) Kett's rebellion of 1549. One of the rebels' first targets was Sir John Flowerdew, a lawyer and landowner at Hethersett, who was unpopular for his role as overseer of the demolition of Wymondham Abbey. We will have more on Kett's Rebellion in a future edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

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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.

Stimpson Heritage

How wonderful on receiving my first copy of The Norfolk Ancestor that I find an article by Dr David Belson about my Great Great Grandmother's brother, William STIMPSON. I already had a great deal of information about this adventurous man from a book written by Margaret Smith Pelton entitled 'The William Stimpson Family, A Legacy of Faith and Commitment', that included a photograph of his sister Charlotte BURTON nee Stimpson. It was a great find for me and Dr Belson's article filled in a lot more detail. I wish I had joined this Society years ago. Thank you.

Brenda Myers MN 16011

More On The Savory Family

I really enjoyed the article on the SAVORY family in the latest edition of the Ancestor as I am researching them in Syderstone at the moment. Additionally a couple of weeks ago I met a Helen Savory and she is also researching the family. I sent her a copy of the article which she had not seen.

Sheila Riches MN 10855

The Hendrys of North Norfolk

I am researching the life of William HENDRY born in South Creake in 1839, an ancestor of my late wife. I have two principal problems and would appreciate some advice:

Why would his father William Hendry Senior (born 1816), at times a farmer and/or bailiff and/or Farm Steward to the Lord of the Manor, move around Norfolk so frequently? From South Creake in the 1841 census to Little Fransham by 1850, and to Beeston by 1861.

Why would William have quit Norfolk some time before his 22nd birthday and moved as a single man to Plumstead in Kent?

William Senior was born in Burnham about 1804, almost certainly the son of James Hendry (born. about 1770 in Great Bircham) and Rebecca Wallace.

In January 1834 he married Hannah Newton, and between then and 1847, when his mother Rebecca died, he lived with his increasing family in South Creak, occupied successively as a labourer, agricultural labourer, and bailiff.

By 1850, he had moved his family (with children Hannah, Harriett, William and James) to Back Road, Little Fransham, and was employed as a farm bailiff; in 1851 as a farmer and bailiff of 220 acres employing four men and two boys; and in 1854 (according to Francis White's History, Gazetteer, and Directory, of Norfolk 1854, pp. 789-790) as a farm steward at the hall, one of 13 individuals mentioned in the directory. This was presumably a fairly senior position in the local community yet by 1861 he had moved yet again. Could he have fallen out with the Lord of the Manor?

In the 1861 census, he was registered as living in Race Ground, Beeston, with son James N(ewton) and daughter Rebecca Jane, married (but wife elsewhere), and occupied as a farmer of 79 acres employing two men and one boy. Son William had left.

In 1871, he was living with his wife, James (now an unmarried butcher) and Rebecca, at Fransham Road, Beeston, working as a farmer of 120 acres, employing three men and one boy.

He died about 1879 and wife Hannah died in 1883 (both registered in Beeston).

Problem One: What would have persuaded him to move the 20 miles south from South Creak to Little Fransham and then Beeston, working all the time as a farmer and bailiff, and apparently at one time farm steward at Little Fransham?

William his son was born on 13th February 1839 in South Creak, the third child and first son of William and Hannah. He moved with the family to Back Road, Little Fransham by the 1851 census, but, unlike brother James Newton and sister Rebecca who remained with their parents, sometime before 1861 he had moved to Plumstead in Kent, a single man lodging at 22 Windsor Terrace and employed as a carpenter. James stayed with his father.

Problem Two: What happened in the period 1851 – 1861 that influenced William to move away from a farm in Little Fransham and become a carpenter in Plumstead? It might have been for love but if so it was unrequited, because in May 1865 he married a widow who had lived all her life in the St Pancras area of London.

I suppose there are many reasons for moving, and for leaving one's family. Growing family may require bigger accommodation; maybe a family will move to be near relations; increasing ambition might influence a farmer to take on a bigger farm or a more prestigious post; family tensions might force a young man to move away. If so I am unlikely to resolve either problem.

Could it be something to do with changes to farming practices in Norfolk reducing the availability of local farming work at a time when London was acting as a

magnet and travel on the railways was improving? The (cambridgeshirehistory.com) website briefly mentions the industrialisation of farming and its effect on reducing the numbers needed to work on farms, and emigration, but nothing specific to Norfolk – and I am sure there are other sources of information to be found, given time. But am I barking up a non-existent tree?

I would be most grateful for a lead – can anyone help please?

Bernard Allen MN 16007 bernard.allen@lineone.net

A Howard Blockage

I was very interested to read a letter from your member Eileen Blythe MN 14989 in the latest Journal.

I am in exactly the same position. I have a relative named Howard from the same general area as hers and although he is only my great grandfather, cannot find anything out about him other than I know who he married and where he died. I cannot find any birth record and no history up to his marriage.

I have paid three professional researchers with no success and I am desperate. Having read Eileen's letter, I wondered if my relative might fall into the same category or similar.

We think that the family records may be with the methodist church but no one can tell me where records from the 1850's are kept. We have been told 5 different places but they are all in denial.

Any help would be appreciated.

Pam Kemp MN 15837 pam.kemp3@btinternet.com

Lightwing Chance Findings From Books

For 30 years, I've been studying my own family and for much of that time have been a distant member of the Norfolk Family History Society. My own family tree has clearly shown the surname has strong links in Norfolk and nearly all records pre-1900 referring to the name Lightwing come from the area to the south-west of Norwich centred on Wymondham /Dereham.

As my opportunities to visit Norfolk are few and far between until retirement I have relied increasingly on the Internet and reflecting on that recently I noted that two of my most important discoveries were chance findings from books!

About 30 years ago my wife bought me a birthday present of the book "A journey in ancestry" thinking it might just be an interesting read.

I was most surprised to find that within that book there was a reference to John Lightwine, Master of Causis College and later Proctor of Cambridge University in the early 18th century. His ancestry also traces back to the village of Barford.

Some 20 years later again I stumbled across a book used by many sixth formers completing A level history. "A Victorian Miniature" by Owen Chadwick. It is a book based in part upon the diaries of the vicar of Ketteringham, not far from Barford, from the middle of the 19th century. Unexpectedly, it allowed me to fill an important gap in my direct family when I discovered the graphic description of my great great grandfather's behaviour prior to his incarceration in the asylum at Thorpe.

As a medic myself, I can see it was quite likely that he was suffering from hypomania as "Lightwing came into the vestry with a letter of four pages wishing his religious experience to be declared for the pulpit."

I have yet to make any progress in connecting an 18th century academic to my 19th century lunatic but I keep trying! My one name study now has approximately 400 individuals dating back to 1550 .Any help or tips would be much appreciated.

Dr David Lightwing MN 6164. dave.lightwing@gmail.com

David's one name study is available at www.one-name.org/name_profile/lightwing/

Another Trail to the Promised Land

I was very interested to read the article on "A Trail to the Promised Land" By David Belson. Like David I had two first cousins three times removed who were members of the ill-fated Martin Handcart Co. journey to Utah. Their names were Samuel Stephen Jones and his brother Albert, who along with their mother Sarah and a half-sibling suffered badly due to the conditions.

Their stories are available on the net, and both lived long and productive lives, Samuel taking six wives, (a glutton for punishment) and fathering 22 children! Their association with Norfolk is via their aunt Maria Jones who was married to a William Frederick Howard whose birth was recorded in Aylsham in 1809, son of Dennis Howard and Fanny Maria Foley.

I was also interested in the article written by John Savory, I have no known connection with John, but a 4x great aunt Mary Howard, sister of Dennis, and daughter of Thomas Howard and Anne Isaac, married a John Claxton Savory on March 31st, 1796 at St. Peter's, West Rudham, so presumably there is some family connection there. I have found other Savory/Howard and Savory/Foley connections through my family research.

Ray Reynolds South Australia MN 14217

A Feeling of Deja Vu

When I read the article by Richard Wiggett in the June issue of The Norfolk An-

cestor I had the strangest feeling of déjà vu.

I own an identical tea set, with no missing pieces, it has two large plates. Each piece is marked KPM but on most of the pieces the M has been obliterated with a dab of gold paint. Like Richard's set, mine was given as a wedding present. It came from my late wife's foster parents and originally belonged to her foster mother's grandmother. We were married in 1960. Her foster parents' names were Frank and Ethel Maude Wiggett nee Spurgeon.

Terence Vardigans MN65

More About The Porters

The article by Julian Turner in the December 2015 edition of Norfolk Ancestor—"The Mystery Age of a Norfolk Parson?" caused me to re-examine the details concerning John Porter in my Norfolk Porter database. I had extracted from the Denton Parish Register much the same information and supplemented it with information found elsewhere. The problem, as Julian cautioned, is that Blomefield in his "Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk," Vol. 5 at p. 411 lists the rectors of the parish since 1317 and says this -

**1554 Henry Carter succeeded. He was buried here Dec. 9,
1562, and John Porter had it, who resigned in
1574, to John Porter, who in 1603, returned 136 communicants in
this parish... At his resignation in
1612, John Blague, A.M. had it. Ob.
1638 Will. Goad, or Good..."**

The writing on the front fly-leaf of the parish register provided much the same information concerning the John Porters, except that the John is listed the Rector until his death in January of 1638/9, when he died and was succeeded by William Goad. On the back fly-leaf the "Note of Presentations to Denton Living..." lists two John Porters – the first labelled VII – dated 3rd April, 1562, and the second – labelled VIII – dated July 1574. Neither listing, however, contains any reference to the succession by John Blague in 1612. At the bottom of the back fly-leaf is a note that John Porter was Rector of Denton for 64 years and 6 months until his death in 1638/9, which lines up with his start date of 1574.

I agree with Julian that the writing throughout appears to be that of one hand and there is certainly no discernible, to me, change in the style between that up to 1574 and from 1575 on to 1638/9. However, a likely explanation is that the second John transcribed the entries from an earlier register into a new one at some point in his incumbency, likely in 1603.

This possibility is supported by two further observations: first the entries in the register date from 1559 and are signed by John Porter, whereas we are advised that he did not take over the parish until 1562; and second the same two

churchwardens appear to have signed every page from 1559 to 1603 which, I believe, would be very unusual, unless it was done in 1603 and they dutifully signed the prior, and transcribed, pages.

The admission records of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (Venn 1887) record that a John Porter, 16, from a school in Norwich and son of John Porter, was admitted to the college 7th February. 1560/1 but he would not likely have received his degree in time for admission to the vacancy in Denton at the end of 1562 if he was the first John. Venn in *Alumni Cantabrigienses Part 1 Vol 3* (1924) extends this a bit further by presuming that John, admitted 1560/1 was the same who received his BA from Corpus Christi in 1568/9, MA in 1572, was ordained a priest in December of that year and was the Parson/Rector of Denton from 1574 to 1612 [sic].

There is another entry there for an earlier John Porter but it is simply "B.A. 1533-4". No other John Porter, priest, appears in my database for this period. I conclude that there were therefore two John Porters as Rector of Denton. It is possible that the first was the father of the second (who certainly had a father named John) and resigned from his curacy in 1574 in favour of his son without taking any further posting within Norfolk.

Incidentally, Thomas Porter the son of John who was baptised in 1576 was the Rector of Hempnall from 1605 until his death there in 1637 although his burial was in Denton on 25th March, 1637 and the entry says only "son of John Porter parson of Denton".

Thomas had married Susan Woodcock whose brother the Rev. John Woodcock married a Margaret Porter, who I believe was a daughter of John the Rector of Denton, although not baptised there. By a strange twist of genealogical fate another ancestor of mine, John Porter, was a succeeding rector of Hempnall from 1649 to 1692.

Brian John Porter MN3655

Be Careful With Names

I'm a new member who is still reading the June magazine. I was interested in the article by Ellen Carr re spellings of Carr. My research is Bunn and in particular in Dersingham.

I thought it would be of interest and a help to others researching this name to report my own spellings of this name. Some are unbelievable but I can assure everyone that they are indeed Bunn. It took many hours of thinking out of the box, and double plus triple cross checking. To realise that the following were in fact Bunn - Benn/Boon/Burn/Bone/Bumm/Berman and would you believe Ronner?

They were all transcription errors and it highlights the problems faced. (of course the Ancestry adverts say it's simple!)

A few years ago English Heritage started the funding of online records of aerial photos taken in the United Kingdom from the 1920s to 1950s.

In the main they are towns and cities, but contain others such as country houses. The site is "Britain from Above", it takes some getting used to but I have found it very useful for family history research. Copies can be purchased; but I've had good quality prints using A4 matte ink jet photo paper, (190 g/m).

Chris Moon MN15913

Puzzling Dialect

I know that the Norfolk dialect can be puzzling at times but the written words of the county can be even more mysterious.

During several years of working in Kirby Hall, responding to members' questions, I compiled the following list of place names extracted from various census returns. The following are all variations of Hoveton St John - 1851 Coerton, 1861 Orphan St. John, 1871 Oxford St. John, 1871 Overton.

Here are some more.

1861 Whitsunsid = Whissonsett

1881 Hatterscough = Haddiscoe

1881 Fonsel = Forncett

1851 Funnel = Fundenhall

1851 Matsel = Mattishall 1891: Modland = Magdalen

1861 Stregate = Leziate

1861 Couton = Cawston

1851 Carslater = Castle Acre

1871 Elmutton.= Aylmerton

Pauline Westgate, MN 1448

Praise for Society

I have only praise for this excellent Society, especially the dedicated work of all the volunteers. I belong to three other family history societies and have to say that your magazine is the best by far.

Thanks again

David Spurgeon MN 12594

A Game of Draughts For- Charlie and His Mates



During the summer of 1958, Mal Broadbent and a group of his friends cycled to Great Yarmouth from Hull.

“We stopped for a break at Swaffham and met three old chaps playing draughts in what I think was a bus shelter and, while scoffing our sandwiches, engaged in conversation and played a few games of draughts with them.

“I took a couple of photos of the three, one of whom was named Charlie. While scanning my old negatives for posterity and, knowing how valued ancestor images are, I wondered if the three old fellows might be related to readers of your magazine,” Mal told us.

If you recognise any of the gentlemen featured please let us know who they are. We are very pleased to reproduce Mal’s images over the next two pages..



Do you recognise any of the draught players pictured here and on the previous page?

If so do let us know as we would love to pass on any details about them in the Norfolk Ancestor.

We are always interested in publishing photographs of people and places from the past, particularly if there is something of a mystery about them.

Photographs can be e-mailed to

ancestor@nfhs.co.uk

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

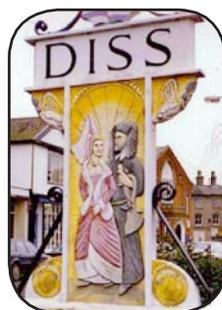
London: Mary Fisk, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Road, London N16 8SB

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

South Norfolk Group Reports by Betty Morley

At the Diss Group April Meeting we welcomed Rod Spokes whose talk was "What happened to the Norwich Textile Industry?" Quite simply it failed to adapt to changing technology, materials and fashions!

Wool dominated Norwich for 600-700 years, making it one of the wealthiest cities in England. In the 16th century Thomas Southerton, grocer and Mayor of Norwich, invited 30 Dutchmen and six Walloons (French speaking Belgians) to settle in Norwich. Known as "Strangers" they enriched the city with technical knowledge, architecture, Dutch and stepped gables, tulips, etc.



As with the Huguenot silk weavers in London they were very keen on caged birds and it was they who introduced the canaries, for which Norwich Football Club has become synonymous. Many new cloths were introduced such as callimanco, tappisado, damask, velours and denims.

With the Industrial Revolution, Norwich lost much of its trade to Yorkshire and many Norfolk families moved to Bradford to work in the mills.

Norwich switched production to making shawls, horsehairs and mourning crapes and bombazine but the textile industry gradually declined and finally disappeared

Many of us have fond childhood memories of visiting our grandparents and when the weather allowed it Grandad could usually be found in the garden digging or hoeing and tending his vegetables and flowers so Shirley Hall's talk to the Diss Group on May 10th 'What Grandad Did In The Garden' no doubt rekindled those memories. Shirley brought with her a very large collection of garden tools, some like Grandad would have used, and many dating back to the Victorian era.

Competent gardeners at that time were in great demand by country houses and estates or even in large town house gardens where a number of them were necessary to keep the kitchens well supplied with fruit and vegetables throughout the year and the grounds in tip top condition. The larger market gardens would

also have needed to employ extra hands and then there were public gardens to be maintained to a high standard. This was a strictly male province – it was unheard of for a woman to be employed in that capacity and the road to becoming a qualified gardener was long and hard.

A boy who wished to take up employment as a gardener would start at the very bottom as a pot boy, so called because apart from all the other menial jobs like weeding, he also had to break up the old handmade clay pots for 'crocking up' or grind them down to produce a coarse sand for compost.

He would labour for 12 hours a day for the sum of 30 pence a week before deductions for his food and board and sleep in a bothy, a purpose built dorm in the grounds, with the other boys. After two years, if he lasted that long, he could move on and become a Journeyman, travelling between places of employment but he would still be living away from home. By now his earnings would have increased to something in the region of 60 pence. There was no protective clothing available except for reinforced digging shoes and the universally worn coarse thick apron.

For a man who finally attained the title of head gardener, his duties and responsibilities were onerous. He had to supervise the garden workers and be knowledgeable about every aspect and area of the garden in every season. There were seeds to be propagated and sown and soft fruits to be cultivated, the orchards to be looked after and it was important that he possessed the skills necessary in the upkeep of the orchard and be able to employ the various techniques in the management of the fruit trees such as how to espalier the young ones grown against the walls.

It was vital that the vegetable garden produced a high quality and abundant crop, the flower beds tended and of course the lawn had to be as perfect as everything else. As if all this wasn't enough there was the greenhouse to be looked after. Because the right temperature had to be maintained whatever the conditions outside, it needed constant monitoring. The boiler had to be checked each night.

If more humidity was required the terracotta floor tiles would have to be watered as the evaporation would keep the air damp. The windows had to be opened and closed as required and a close eye kept on the thermometer. To keep the direct sun out, the windows would be spattered with whitewash and if blinds were fitted they had to be raised and lowered as the sun moved around.

Nevertheless in spite of all this there were perks to being a head gardener, a principle one being that a tied cottage usually went with the job and a wage of about £50 per annum was not to be sneezed at. He had the freedom to order whatever was required and the power to hire and fire those under him. In fact he enjoyed the same standing as the butler and was respected at his place of employment and within the local community.

it is perhaps easy to dismiss it as a rather menial job, comparable to a labourer, but Shirley's talk gave us a great insight into his life and the skills that produced food for the table and flowers to brighten what could be a dull world and she received a lot of applause.

The Fun of Family History

"Family History Can Be Fun" was the title of the talk given to the Diss Group by Stephen Manning, Education Officer of the Federation of Family History Societies on 14th June.

Yes, for those who are keen family historians it is an absorbing and satisfying interest and, when we make a new discovery after months or even years of searching, we cannot wait to broadcast the good news to our friends and family.

However, as Stephen reminded us, this passion may not be shared by those around us and all too often we fail to notice eyes glazing over and desperate attempts to change the subject or make a speedy retreat as, carried away by our enthusiasm, we launch into an account of the highs and lows and the thrill of the chase, so caught up are we in our own drama. To be blunt it is all about us.

Stephen's message to us was that we must try to engage the interest of the younger generation by involving them in some way, perhaps by giving them a task – so simple in the computer age - and sparking their interest by relating the family stories and legends which have been passed down the generations.

A whiff of scandal makes them all the more fascinating and the young Stephen was inspired in this way by the tales of his Great Uncle Ernest.

But it is not only satisfying on a personal level to know about one's roots. A study done by a Texas university appears to prove a psychological benefit as well in that students who were aware of their family history tended to be more grounded. Definitely food for thought.

It was an enjoyable and light-hearted talk illustrated with slides and videos, the most memorable being a musical rendition all about family history by the talented Wilson family of America.

Entitled "Family Tree Rhapsody" it was performed to the music of the immortal Bohemian Rhapsody by 'Queen' and great fun it was too. It can be found on You Tube if anyone is interested in watching it.

It was an enjoyable evening which carried a serious note in that most members of family history societies are of the older generation and it is important that we not only record our findings for the younger generation but we also encourage them to be aware of how important the knowledge of their own history is in this fast-paced modern era. The past is another country but well worth a visit.

Norfolk Heritage Centre

Events for October to December 2016

Heritage Hour

Free talks from 1-2 pm in the Vernon Castle Room on the second floor of Norwich Forum Library.

These are free drop-in events limited to 45 people on a first come, first served basis.

October 18 th	Sir Thomas Browne
November 29 th	The Norwich Apocalypse
December 13 th	The USAAF 2nd Air Division Digital Archive

Mini Workshops

These are free but places are limited and can be booked on 01603 774740.

November 18th, 2.30-4 pm - Introducing the Second Air Division Digital Archive

December 9th, 2.30-4 pm - House History

Family History Day Courses

These cost £10. Please note lunch is not provided.

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

The next date is Saturday 15th October, from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm at Norfolk Heritage Centre Book on 01603 774740

Buying Luxuries in 18th Century Norwich

This is a free talk with Ian Smith in the Norfolk Heritage Centre on Thursday October 13th from 5.30-6.30 pm

Upcoming in the Autumn the centre will host a series of talks by University of East Anglia Phd researchers on a variety of topics.

Please see <http://norwichmillenniumlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk> for more details from September.

For further information visit <http://norwichmillenniumlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk> Book events on EventBrite or at the Norfolk Heritage Centre, alternatively contact them on heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk or by telephoning 01603 774740.

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

Norfolk Record Office Events

Monday 7th November, 10am-3pm **at Norfolk Record Office, the Archive Centre**
Book on 01603 222599

Heritage Sundays

Join us in the Children's Library, Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, for creative, family-friendly activities inspired by rarely-seen items from the Norfolk Heritage Centre.

Suitable for accompanied children aged four to eight. Free, drop-in sessions on the following.

Sunday 16th October 2.30-3.45pm

Sunday 20th November 2.30-3.45pm

Inspiration from the Archives: a Young People's Poetry Workshop

From maps to photographs, posters to prints, the Norfolk Heritage Centre holds a treasure trove of items that reflect the county's rich and unique history. Join us for this fun and friendly session and discover how these resources can unlock the poet within.

Tuesday October 25th, 1-2.30 pm (October Half Term)

Suitable for children aged 8-14 years. Free, but places are limited and can be booked on 01603 774740 or via e-mail at the following address: heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk

Ask the Archives

Book a free half hour one-to-one appointment with an archive specialist. Various sessions available, usually Mondays 1-2 pm and Fridays 2-3 pm.

To book contact heritagecentre@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01603774740.

We can help with family history conundrums, introduce you to new sources for your university research or enable you to discover more things about your local area.

Knowing Norwich: Events Celebrating the Heritage of our Fine City

Boardman's Norwich: The Architectural Works of Edward Boardman (talk) Sat October 8th 1pm

Norwich's Renaissance Books: a Hands-On Workshop

Experts from UEA and the University of Oxford will lead a workshop exploring some seminal 15th-17th century books. on Wednesday 16th November, 5-6.30 pm.

Both of these are free drop in events.

Historypin

Norfolk Library and Information Service is running an exciting new project called "Historypin Connections" to gather the everyday stories of older people to add a personal perspective to local history.

Digital memory scrapbooks are being put together and will become part of a new community archive and a wonderful record of the past through local people's eyes.

Through Historypin Connections, we interview local older people who have a story to share. We combine this story with photographs and images from people's personal collection or from the library's Picture Norfolk archive.

These stories then become digital scrapbooks, which are stored in an online archive and are accessible to everyone

We are starting a Norwich Time Travellers reminiscence group on Friday 9th September, which will meet fortnightly to share memories of Norwich's past and create memory scrapbooks.

Similar groups are being set up around the county this autumn.

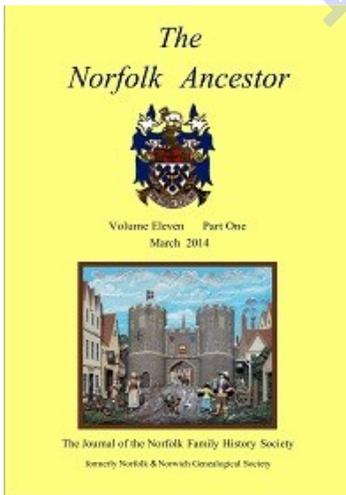
If you, or anybody you know, has any stories to share or would like to attend Norwich Time Travellers, please contact Rachel Willis on 01603 774781 or e-mail rachel.willis@norfolk.gov.uk.

Volunteers are also needed to conduct and edit interviews. Anyone who wants to help should contact Rachel and the numbers/addresses above.



A shot of the city of Norwich taken in July 1963 from the battlements of Norwich Castle by George Plunkett. Towards the top left hand corner is St Peter Mancroft Church and just behind it is the new Norwich Central Library which was opened in 1963 and which was destroyed by fire in 1994 and replaced by today's award winning Forum building

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

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **December 2016** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER than 7th October**. 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:-

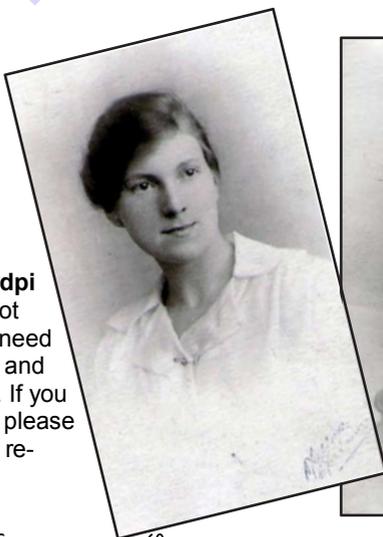
The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.

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.



Ancestor Bookshelf

The Amiable Mrs Peach



Celia Miller

The Amiable Mrs Peach by Celia Miller: Lasse Press, Norwich. Paperback 240 pages. £19.99.

The daughter of a well-connected Oxfordshire clergyman, Elizabeth Peach (née Reading, formerly Leathes, 1748-1815) married into a wealthy East Anglian family.

Her first husband was a Norfolk clergyman, as were her two sons, and through her connections by birth and two marriages she knew everyone from dukes to the destitute. Much of her life was spent in Broadland Norfolk and in Norwich, and her letters and diaries open a unique window

onto the colourful events, characters and polite society of Georgian England. The book is fully illustrated and contains all the vital elements of tragedy, comedy and scandal with a rich background of domestic and economic details comparable with the diaries of her Norfolk contemporary Parson Woodforde.

This is essentially a family saga with a distinctly regional setting and flavour, set in the turbulent period between the American War of Independence and the Battle of Waterloo.

The author Celia Miller was born in Leicester and educated at Orme Girls School, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Wyggeston Girls Grammar School in Leicester. Her husband Colin is also an author and the couple's publications include. "Country Boy: Growing Up in Norfolk 1940-60 (Sutton Publishing/The History Press 2005). "The Fifties Replayed: A Norfolk Youth at Leisure (Sutton Publishing/The History Press 2008), "A Degree of Swing: Lessons in the Facts of Life (Derby Books Publishing Company 2012) and Rain

A fascinating life where scandal met gentility

The Amiable Mrs Peach
Celia Miller
Lasse Press, £19.99

Trevor Heaton

Part of a trio of new releases from the enterprising Norwich imprint, this is the lively and insightful story of Elizabeth ('Betsy') Reading who lived from 1748 to 1815, was married twice – and managed to pack more than her share of frivolity and scandal into her life.

Dr Celia Miller has delved into the wonderful archives of the Norfolk Record Office to uncover a treasure trove of letters written by and to Betsy in which her intelligent and fun-loving nature shines through.

Originally there were many more, but contemporary 'culling' of the letters by Betsy and her children, for reasons of storage and of decorum, mean that this is only a fraction of what must have been.

But what a fraction. And by reuniting it with a collection of Betsy's diaries – which survived insect and water damage in the archives of Hargham Hall to form another NRO archive – Dr Miller is able to paint a picture of a woman who lived through extraordinary times both personally and generally.

Betsy married twice – to Edward Leathes, and then to her childhood sweetheart Edward Peach. Both, to put it mildly, were colourful characters. The name Leathes these days is familiar through the name of the Norfolk law firm Leathes Prior, founded by Betsy's great-grandson. Former Cabinet minister Lord (Jim) Prior is another descendant of the family, and contributes the foreword here.

Ironically, the 18th-century cleric-to-be would probably have been more on the receiving end of the legal profession. For Betsy, who eloped with Leathes, had rather a poor taste in men.

Leathes – whose father had lined up church livings in Reedham and Freethorpe for him – was, in the author's words, 'no stranger to the pleasures of the flesh, the bottle and the gaming table.'

An extraordinary letter – kept carefully by Betsy for reasons which can only be



“ Betsy married twice - to Edward Leathes, and then to her childhood sweetheart Edward Peach. Both, to put it mildly, were colourful characters. ”



■ A la mode: This 1794 illustration from Heidelberg's Gallery of Fashion shows some of the fashions that the likes of Betsy would have aspired to.

gessed at – corroborates this. In 1779 Edward's soldier brother George wrote to him about how he had just met a 'well-made' woman called Elizabeth, 'rather inclin'd to be lusty', who had told him she had been (hint, hint) 'well acquainted' with Edward before his marriage eight years before.

Betsy's father had been opposed to the union, perhaps because he had some inkling of Edward's penchants for gambling and running up debts.

Eventually, however, the newly-weds moved to Reedham in 1774, where their life revolved around visits to genteel friends and neighbours, and agreeable visits to Herringfleet, Bury St Edmunds and Norwich. But money worries were never far away. Or tragedy either: in her first 11 years of marriage, Betsy

experienced two infant deaths and three miscarriages. After Edward's death, the widow eventually found herself reunited with her first love, Edward Peach, and moved to Kent. It was history repeating itself: debts and other unpalatable secrets led to the couple parting ways.

Betsy's children would also provide her with more worries, from bitter disputes over trust funds to caddish sons-in-law.

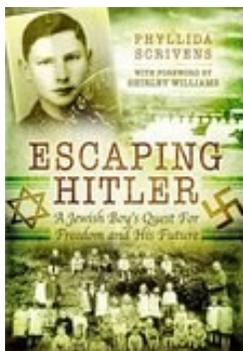
Dr Miller paints a picture of genteel drawing rooms and agreeable sessions of whist, of sipping tea at the Assembly House, but also of the heartbreak, mortality and worry that often lay just under the surface.

This is a valuable and informative narrative history, packed with local interest, and blending scandal and gentility in equal measure.

and Ruin: The Diary of an Oxfordshire Farmer John Simpson Calvert 1875-1900. 1983). Above is a cutting from the Eastern Daily Press newspaper on The Amiable Mrs Peach. Colin and Celia Miller have their own web site at

www.candcmiller.wix.com/candcmiller

Going Stateside



We are pleased to report that “Escaping Hitler” by Norfolk author Phyllida Scrivens, which we have featured in previous editions of Ancestor, will be published in the USA early next year..

Phyllida contacted us to say the book continues to be popular: “The book continues to sell well with an American publisher, Skyhorse of New York, picking up the option to publish and distribute it in the States from January. I am very excited,” she said

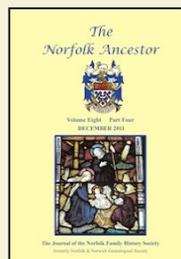
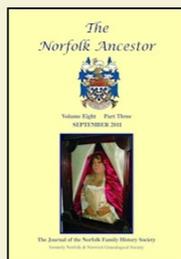
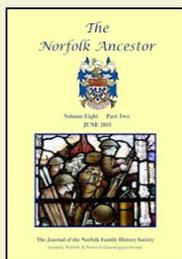
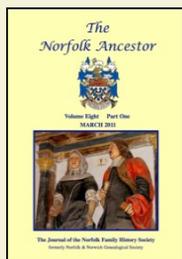
Phyllida is now researching her next book which will once again be published by Pen and Sword Books. This will be the story of the 17 female Lord Mayors of Norwich since the first, Ethel Colman, in 1923.

We will have more on Phyllida’s latest project in coming editions of this magazine.

Answer to our Teaser

The photograph on page 32 shows the Wherry Albion passing Pull’s Ferry in Norwich on October 14th, 1949, and was taken by George Plunkett.

Scanned Ancestor Copies



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

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.

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**Or by post to the appropriate person at
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Norwich's Blue Plaques



BLUE plaques placed throughout the city of Norwich give a fascinating insight into some of the lesser known pieces of history. In previous Ancestors we have featured Pablo Fanque and his connection with the Beatles and on this page we feature another of the more unusual plaques.

Opposite is a picture of a plaque situated in what is known as The Lanes area of the city on the site of the Wild Man pub,

the name of which it is thought commemorates Peter The Wild Boy from the 18th century - a feral child found in the forests of Hanover in about 1725, who was, for a time, kept by King George First as a curiosity. In 1751 the boy mysteriously turned up in Norwich and was imprisoned in the Bridewell as a vagrant before being returned to his guardians in Hertfordshire.

Peter couldn't talk and it still remains a mystery how he travelled over 100 miles from his home and turned up in Norwich, particularly when it was known that he couldn't walk and just "scampered on all fours." At the time of being in Norwich, it is estimated that he may have been about 40 years of age. One source described him as "a black hairy man, about five feet eight inches high, he cannot speak to be understood, but makes a kind of humming noise, and answers in that manner to the Name of Peter."

There was much speculation that Peter had been raised by wolves - or perhaps bears - and this was why he ate with his hands, disliked wearing clothes and could not be taught to speak. Modern research suggests that he suffered from a rare genetic condition known as Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome.

Past and Present



TWO shots of Cromer Pier in North Norfolk, taken almost a quarter of a century apart. The photograph above was taken by George Plunkett on November 28th, 1993, showing storm damage. The shot below was taken by the editor this year. The first recorded mention of a pier in Cromer was in 1391.

