

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**DECEMBER 2016**



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

# Snap, Crackers and Pop

THE picture on the front cover shows an advertising poster for Caley's crackers designed by Alfred MUNNINGS. He was born into a miller's family at Mendham, Suffolk, on October 8th, 1878. At 14 he was apprenticed to the Norwich printers of Page Bros, designing and drawing advertising posters for over six years. He worked a ten hour day but in the evenings he attended the Norwich School of Art. He produced many award- winning posters for Caley's and was taken by Caley's director John SHAW HOPKINS on many trips to Europe to learn more about art. He went on to become one of England's finest painters of horses and an outspoken critic of Modernism. He died a wealthy man in Dedham, Essex, in July 1959.



The firm of Caley's was formed in Norwich in 1887 by Alfred Jarman CALEY. He was a chemist who opened a shop In London Street and by 1863 was making mineral waters which proved to be very profitable. The business grew as ice-cream and chocolate-making started. The company moved to Bedford Street in 1890 and then into a larger factory in Chapel Field which was to become known as the Fleur De Lys Works.

A J Caley died in 1895 and the business was taken forward by his son Edward and nephews Fredrick and Stuart. They introduced Christmas crackers to the company's product range. These proved to be very profitable and they were exported all over the world to countries like Australia, India, Japan, China and even Iceland.



In 1904, Caley's was employing around 700 people to make its various products including crackers. It remained in the family's hands until 1918 when it was sold to the African and Eastern Trading Corporation. The company was over-capitalised and the new owners spent years trying to offload it. It was finally sold to Lord Mackintosh in 1932. The cracker arm traded under the Caley name until a merger with Tom Smith's in 1953.



The story continues on page 23

# Norfolk Family History Society

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

Registered Office address:  
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ISBN 0141 4505

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## The Norfolk Ancestor

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# Welcome to your December Edition



Welcome to the December 2016 edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

I hope you find our usual mix of news and features interesting as we come to the end of another Ancestor year.

Once again we have received a number of kind comments about the magazine and these are really appreciated. If there's anything you would like to see featured in future editions, please let us know.

Also please keep those articles and photographs coming. We thoroughly enjoy reading them and popping them into the magazine.

I am pleased to say that our Facebook pages continue to go from strength to strength and we have over 1,100 people signed up and using the pages regularly. I know that many people have been successful in overcoming "blocks" in their research thanks to help from other Facebookers.

One of my favourite pastimes is simply wandering around Norfolk and coming across unusual stories. I have been enjoying the warm early Autumn weather to walk round Norwich where there seems to be history on every corner and at every turn. Norwich is also blessed with some excellent museums and over the past couple of months I have visited both the Norwich Museum (previously known as Bridewell Museum) and Castle Museum on a number of occasions.

It was at the Norwich Museum that I found another connection between our city and the Beatles. You may remember I have written articles in past Ancestors on Pablo Fanque and his connection with the popsters and also on Tony Sheridan and his place in Beatles' history.

It was whilst browsing at the museum that I learned that the George Harrison song "Savoy Truffle" from the White Album was about his mate Eric Clapton's love of Mackintosh's Good News Chocolates and the Savoy Truffle in particular. Rowntree Mackintosh of course played a big part in the success story of Norwich. The company launched Rolos from Norwich in 1937. I feel another article on chocolate making in Norwich coming on.

Whilst we are on the subject of Norfolk Museums I would like to mention the excellent Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth – well worth a visit.

Although I'm writing this on the last day of September, by the time the magazine comes out we will be approaching Christmas. I hope everyone has an enjoyable festive season and wish you all successful family searching in 2017.

**Peter Steward MN14801**



# Defiant to the end

**Roger Morgan discovers more about the Norwich connection to one of the most unusual planes used in WW2**



WHEN I saw this blue plaque on the wall between Gap and The White Company I was intrigued for a number of reasons. Firstly I did not know that Boulton & Paul had any connection with London Street and secondly I had no idea that they were involved in the manufacture of airplanes in WW2. My interest was further fuelled when I discovered that my mother-in-law, Phyllis MARTIN nee Waller started her working life as a young typist for the firm in the early 1930's.

The origins of Boulton & Paul date from 1797 when William MOORE opened an ironmonger's shop in Cockey Lane, Norwich. The street was named after Great Cockey, a watercourse running from All Saints Green, down the Back of the Inns and joining the Wensum opposite the Playhouse. It was later renamed Hosyergate and then London Lane.

Moore formed a partnership with John Hilling BARNARD and they opened a stove grate making shop on the corner of Little London Street, later the site of Garlands' store. Moore was active in the city, becoming Sheriff in 1823 and mayor in 1835. When he died in 1839, Barnard and his brother carried on the business but he soon retired. William Staples BOULTON joined as a partner and the firm was renamed Barnard & Boulton. In 1853 they took on a 12 year old boy as an apprentice who was named J.J. DAWSON PAUL. John Barnard died in 1862 but the firm continued under the name of Boulton alone.

A small factory was opened in Rose Lane in 1865 with Dawson Paul being made manager. The ironmonger business was sold and Boulton devoted all of his time developing the manufacturing side of things. Under Paul's management the business expanded rapidly and Boulton continued to buy up property including Watt's foundry. In 1868 three huge wire netting making machines were installed and they had to work day and night in order to keep up with demand. A year later Dawson Paul was taken into partnership and the firm was renamed Boulton & Paul.

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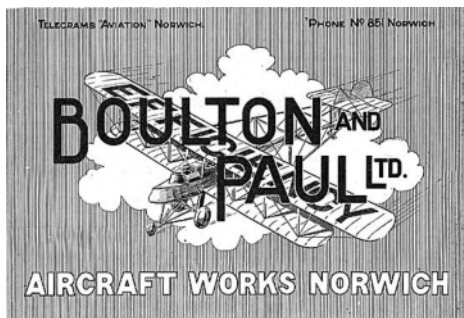
**J J Dawson Paul**

A black and white portrait of J J Dawson Paul, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and a patterned vest. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a mottled grey.

December 2016



In 1914 Boulton & Paul Ltd began to manufacture items for the war effort. As part of this, the company was asked to produce aircraft, and in 1915 began building RAF factory designed FE.2Bs. The company built a total of 550, and then received an order for Sopwith Camels, producing an average of 28 a week.



They also built huts and stables for 6,000 men and horses, a prisoner of war camp in Jersey, hangers for the Royal Flying Corps, a Naval hospital in Dover, field kitchens, portable trench pumps, marine engines, the list goes on and on!



Mousehold Heath, Norwich

They needed somewhere for the final aircraft assembly and a runway for them to take off from. They laid out an airfield on the Cavalry Drill Ground on Mousehold Heath, north of the city.

The company quickly outgrew the Rose Lane site and they moved to a 14 acre site on the other side of the river, later called Riverside Works. In total 2,530 military aircraft were built.

In 1917 a young aircraft designer J.D. NORTH joined the firm. After the war he wanted to abandon wooden framed aircraft and build them in steel instead. The company's first significant production aircraft was the Sidestrand bomber. A total of 18 were ordered to equip No 101 squadron and went into service in 1929. North designed a fully enclosed power operated gun turret with a single Lewis gun. This was fitted to the Overstrand which became the last of the firm's designs to be built in Norwich and the first aircraft in the world to have such a turret. French engineer De Boysson developed a four gun electro-hydraulic turret. John North saw its potential and the company brought the manufacturing rights. This formed the basis for much of the company's future. Another project to be developed was the building of airships. The Government wanted airships, and with North acting as consultant, the R101 was designed at the Royal Airship Works

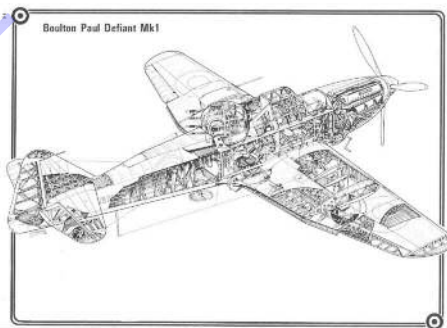


at Cardington. Much of it was built in Norwich at the Riverside Works. It is estimated that 27 miles of tubing, 11 miles of bracing cables and 65,000 nuts and bolts made up the sections which were manufactured in Norwich and sent to be assembled in Cardington. The work was so precise that not one piece was sent back for correction! When it was finished the huge airship flew over the city and was cheered by much of the population. However, on a stormy night in 1930 she crashed in Beauvais, France while on route to India killing 48 people. The enquiry that followed could find no fault with either the design or the manufacture.



In the mid 1930s Boulton & Paul Ltd sold its aircraft division and Boulton Paul Aircraft Ltd was created. This moved to Wolverhampton where there was a surplus of skilled labour. By 1936 the RAF anticipated that Britain may have to defend itself from an attack and were looking for new combat aircraft. J D North set about designing the Boulton Paul Defiant which was to be a twin seat turret fighter.

As a young boy brought up making plastic Airfix models of planes like Spitfires and Hurricanes, I confess that I had not heard of the Defiant until recently. It was about the same size as the more famous Hurricane, but had the extra weight of the turret installation as well as an additional airman. It was powered by a single Rolls Royce Merlin engine like the Spitfire but the weight made it much slower and it had no forward firing guns.



In 1939, the first squadron to fly the Defiant was the newly formed 264 Squadron based at RAF Sutton Bridge which was sent to France in March, 1940. It was thrown into battle in an offensive role over Holland and then over Dunkirk. On the 29th May the Defiant made history. In an incredible two afternoon patrols N° 264 Squadron achieved a score of 37 German aircraft destroyed, plus 3 probables. It was the best score that any RAF squadron had ever had, leaving everyone in awe. Most of the aircraft claimed by the squadron were bombers.

N° 264 closed its score in May with 64 enemy aircraft claimed destroyed with the loss of 14 Defiants. This was regarded as a spectacular success paid for with heavy losses. The Defiant was able to fire at the enemy from the rear. It surprised the bombers by flying below them and firing up into them.



The Luftwaffe quickly worked out how to attack the Defiants from the front using their vastly superior speed. The glory days were over and the squadrons suffered heavy losses. The planes were to become death traps for their crews, incapable of dog fighting and far too slow to escape. Many pilots complained that it was difficult to bale out of them because of the large "rhino" suits that they had to wear instead of normal parachutes. In July 1940 Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding withdrew them from front line service.

It was relegated to the role of night fighter given the task of attacking unescorted bombers. It was finally withdrawn from operational service in 1942.

To be fair to the Defiant, it was never designed to operate as a front line day time fighter. It was a bomber destroyer, to be used for home defence. Its demise was not the fault of the aircraft itself but rather that of Fighter Command which insisted on employing them in a role that they were incapable of doing. They showed an alarming ignorance with regard to its known strengths and weaknesses.



RAF museum Hendon

In total, 1,064 Defiants were made but sadly only one has survived, night fighter N1671. This is can now be seen at the RAF Museum in Hendon.

In 2015 Airfix announced that they were going to produce a new 1:48 model of the plane to be available from September 2016.

**Roger Morgan**

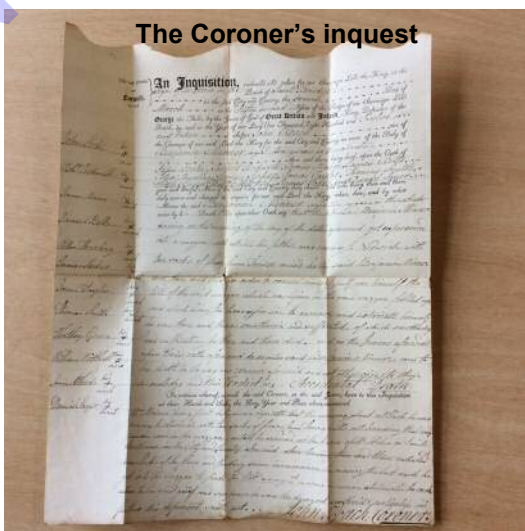
# The Tale of the Tilt

## Alan Harper describes a tragic event from 1812

**A**round 10 am on the morning of Saturday, 7th March, 1812, William MINNER (my 5x great-grandfather), a carter, departed Trowse Flour Mills with his waggon laden with ten sacks of flour. He was bound for the parish of St Swithin's, Norwich, where a Mr SAYER awaited his delivery. William's journey, which may have taken him through the centre of Norwich, passed without incident. Or so he thought. In fact he was soon to receive a surprise which would shock him to the core.

On arrival at his destination, William unloaded the first nine sacks of flour with no difficulty. But the tenth sack seemed to be caught on some sort of obstruction. William didn't understand why. He climbed into the back of the waggon and found that the last sack had somehow become caught in the tilt (a tilt is a canopy or awning for a waggon or cart). The tilt had been lying folded up in the back of the waggon. He pulled the tilt away to free the sack and was horrified by what he found. Lying beneath it was a dead body. It was that of his youngest son, Benjamin Mack MINNER, who was a few days short of his tenth birthday. William was aghast. Benjamin had, unbeknown to his father, secreted himself in the back of the waggon - for what purpose, we do not know but perhaps to avail himself of a free trip into Norwich - and covered himself with the tilt. Unable to move its heavy weight, he had suffocated beneath it during the journey.

A coroner's inquest was held the same day at The Crown Inn, St Benedict's Street, Norwich, where, before coroner John ROACH, the all-male jury recorded a verdict of accidental death. William was too appalled by what had happened to say much in evidence, and undoubtedly it fell to him too, to go home and tell his wife and the boy's mother, Mary MINNER née MACK, about what had happened. We do not know her reaction. Benjamin was buried in the parish church of St Ethledreda, Norwich. How deeply William was affected in the longer



term is speculation, but he was to live for only another 3 1/2 years before his own death at the age of 49. He left no will, but a probate inventory has survived, which lists amongst William's meagre possessions at the time of his death two waggons and a total of 60 sacks for corn or coal, which were sold to William's son-in-law (and my 4 x great grandfather) William HOWARD. Perhaps they included the same items involved in the tragic events of March 1812.

Sources:

*Norwich City Records - Coroner's Inquests 1812-1813 NCR Bundle 19 Case 6 Shelf a (see image above)*

*Norwich Archdeaconry Court, Probate Inventories 1801-1825 ANW/23/27/20 item 8*

*Norwich St Etheldreda Register of Baptisms & Burials 1809-1812*

**Alan Harper MN 13133**

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

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

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

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# Temperance Flowerdew and John Pory

## **Bronwen Tyler describes the life of an unsung Norfolk hero and his links to Temperance Flowerdew**

I WAS interested to read the article on Temperance FLOWERDEW in the September issue of the Norfolk Ancestor. Her cousin John PORY, who accompanied Temperance and her second husband George YEARDLEY to Virginia as Secretary to Virginia, was born approximately 25 miles away from Hethersett, in Thompson, near Watton. I have been researching the history of Thompson and area for many years and John Pory is a little known local figure nationally, but of great interest.

John Pory was born in 1572 and baptised in Thompson's parish church of St Martin on the 16th March of that year, along with his twin sister Mary. His initials can be found carved into one of the misericords in the church, presumably as he whiled away his time as a youngster during a church service! His father was William Pory, and the family had lived at Butters Hall, one of the ancient manors of Thompson, since 1503. They surrendered it in 1590, the year Temperance was born, to Thomas FUTTER.

At the age of 16, John was admitted to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge where he gained two degrees before becoming an instructor of Greek at the college. He was fluent in a number of languages. In 1597 he became an associate of Reverend Richard HAKLUYT at Wetheringsett under whom he studied cosmology and foreign history. He published a number of significant works, and the Oxford English Dictionary ascribed to Pory the earliest known use of a number of words, such as henna, hippopotamus and zebra.

Hakluyt appears to have seen his pupil as his successor, but on 5th November 1605 Pory changed his career path and was returned as MP for Bridgewater in Somerset. He undertook a number of commissions on behalf of the king and government in Ireland, Europe and as far afield as Constantinople (Istanbul). In the latter he was attached to the embassy of Paul PINDAR of the Levant Company. Letters of contemporaries suggest that Pory was at one time destined for high office but was too fond of the drink.

John Pory seems to have frequently been seeking paid employment, but throughout his various paid occupations his primary profession seems to have

been as a newsletter writer, from which he earned an income for most of his adult life. This was a personal service to a number of wealthy patrons who wished to be kept in touch with the affairs of court and city gossip while on their country estates, or elsewhere, away from the hub of political and social life. He wrote on such diverse matters as funerals, murders, the weather, illness, theatre, literature, the conduct of Parliament and the execution of Sir Walter Raleigh or the progress of Queen Henrietta Maria's servants after the king ordered them to leave the country. He even reported that the king had slept with the queen for two nights in succession! John Pory and a number of letter writing contemporaries are said to have created an atmosphere which led to the establishment of the printed newspaper in England. In the USA his lengthy newsletters from Virginia has led to the suggestion that the evolution of newspapers in that country begins with Pory.

Meanwhile, in 1609, Pory had become one of the grantees of the Virginia Company. Other members of the Pory family also had an interest in Virginia and an uncle was one of the earliest settlers. At the end of November, 1618, he was chosen to be Secretary of Virginia for three years and was to accompany Governor George Yeardley and his wife Temperance, Pory's first cousin, to the colony. They left England on January 19th, 1619, reaching Jamestown on April 18th.

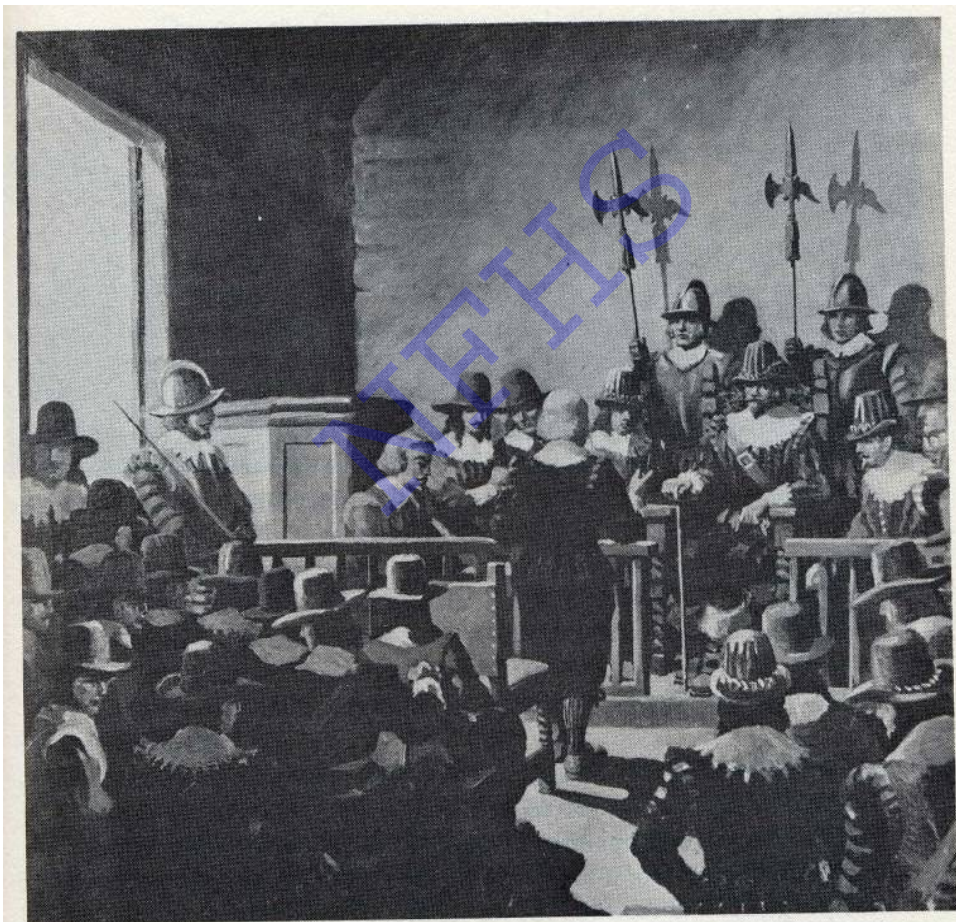
Apart from his official duties, Pory conducted a considerable amount of independent exploration and studies of the area, writing many newsletters and reports on his discoveries. However, the most important role for Yeardley and Pory in their first months in Virginia was to oversee the setting up of the first Legislative Assembly in the colony, so that the colonist might take a hand in self-governance. The Assembly consisted of four members of the 'Counsell of Estate', including fellow Norfolk man John ROLFE, who married Pocahontas. There were also 22 burgesses, two chosen from each of the eleven settlements. John Pory was the first Speaker of the Assembly. Thus, Pory was at the forefront of the establishment of government in America, from which the present system of USA government devolved. It should also be borne in mind that all of this was taking place before the Mayflower had even left England.

Pory continued to travel, even after his three years as Secretary came to an end. He made many journeys between Virginia and England to report to the King and his ministers on the colony's affairs, and to explore. He was once shipwrecked off the Azores, taken prisoner and accused of piracy, narrowly escaping execution by the Portuguese. It would seem that a possible Royal marriage helped get him out of trouble as neither side wanted a diplomatic incident. He became a member of the commission set up by the King in 1623 to investigate the affairs of the Virginia Company; unrest in the colony was causing some concern in England. In all of this he was well placed to continue his newsletter writ-

ing. This proved something of a necessity at times – his salary as Secretary was overlooked by Parliament for a number of years for example.

John Pory is an unsung hero of Norfolk who achieved a great deal and who had as many adventures and as interesting a life as his better known contemporaries, such as John Rolfe. Perhaps the lack of a love interest makes him less appealing? (Though it is said his drinking was due to unrequited love). He is believed to have died in 1636 but no will exists to confirm this and it is not known for certain where he was buried, although the ancestral home of Sutton St Edmund has been suggested.

John Pory's life was extensively researched by the late Professor William Powell of North Carolina University who, during his lifetime, kindly gave me permission



*Courtesy of the Virginia 350th Anniversary Celebration*

to use any of the material in his book – ‘*John Pory 1572-1636. The Life and Letters of a Man of Many Parts*’ - in the hope that more people would learn about Pory. While still a student at University, Professor Powell’s tutor gave him the task of researching the little-known figure of Pory, who is depicted in a painting of the first Assembly, and it became a lifetime’s passion.

He visited Thompson a number of times until into his eighties. One of the unexpected twists in Professor Powell’s research was to find, when looking into his wife’s family history, that she was directly descended from the Flowerdew’s. Not only is her name Virginia, it seemed to him a very special bonus to be related by marriage to his hero.

Bronwen Tyler MN 8496

## Mystery Object

Can you identify this mystery object found in a local charity shop?

What was it used for? (clue: it has a local connection)

Answer on page 59



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# A Tale of a Yarmouth Policeman

**James Fisk tells the story of his namesake James, a Yarmouth Policeman  
1824-1889**

**Born 3rd May 1824 and christened 26th September 1824** in Weybread, Suffolk. His parents were John FISK a farmer and Sarah HERWIN, who had six other children. His family had lived in the Weybread area since at least the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

**June 1841** The census record shows James aged 17 living in Weybread with his father John aged 70 a farmer, mother Sarah aged 50, brothers William 18 and John 15, sisters Mary 13, Elizabeth 11, Sarah 8 and Emily 6 years old.

**1st December 1846** His mother Sarah died aged 53.

**4th February 1850** He married his cousin Mary Fisk who was born in Yarmouth in 1824 and whose father, Henry Fisk was a carpenter. The marriage certificate records him as a shoemaker living at Theatre Gates, Great Yarmouth. They had six children, of whom at least David and James survived and have descendents today.

**20th July 1850** a son David was born at Row 105 Yarmouth.

**21st September 1850** his father John died aged 82.

**June 1851** the census shows James, Mary and David living at 21 Cobholm Terrace, Great Yarmouth, where they still lived in 1881. His sister Sarah Ann was working in Yarmouth as a servant at this time. Following the death of their parents the family had split up, leaving his brother William farming 10 acres at Weybread on his own while his sister Emily was working as a servant in Robert Clashes' 60 acre farm, also in Weybread.

**1852** A son John was born, but died aged 7 weeks.

**1853** He joined the Yarmouth Police Force as a Supernumerary Constable.

**1st June 1854** *"The Superintendent informed the Committee that Supernumerary Constable James Fisk had conducted himself well and that he considered Fisk was best qualified of all the Supernumeraries to be appointed a Police Constable"*. (Note at that time Supernumeraries were paid 2d per hour when employed, while full Constables were paid 17/6 per week).

Note – between 1858 and 1877 there are at least 13 occasions on which he was paid sums between 3/- and £1-12-0 for repairing and altering Constables boots, he was a shoemaker by trade.

**30th December 1854** A son James was born.

**28th May 1857** (following a pay review and force reorganisation) He ap-



pears on a list of Constables to be continued in employment subject to the Superannuation Fund.

**4th June 1857** He was appointed a First Class Constable.

**3rd December 1857** A daughter Mary Ann was born, but died aged 9 months.

**6th September 1858** his sister Emily died aged 23.

**9th November 1860** A daughter, also named Mary Ann, was born.

**April 1868** A daughter Alice was born, but died aged 7 weeks.

**24th December 1868** His son David married Rebekah Bayley.

**1871** Census. His son David was a deckhand on the smack *Alina*, moored in Yarmouth harbour when the census was taken.

**1871?** A grand-daughter Mary Ann was born.

**25th July 1872** He was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Sergeant (following the resignation of Sergeant HEMMINGS due to ill health).

**1874?** His son David emigrated to Australia.

**11th July 1880** His son David married Sarah Anne Powell in Australia.

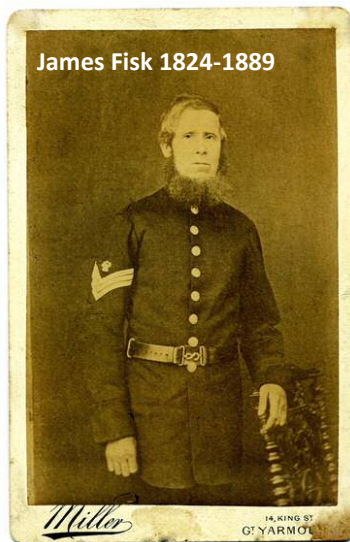
**1881** The family were still living at 21 Cobholm Terrace, Yarmouth.

**23rd June 1881** *"the (Watch) Committee considered the certificates of the Police Surgeon and the Chief Constable that Sergeant Fisk (and Constable Dyball) were incapable from infirmity of body to discharge the duties of their respective offices. The Chief Constable stated that Sergeant Fisk was 57 years of age and had served 28 years in the Yarmouth Police Force and that his pay was £1-10-4 per week. The Committee resolved to recommend the Council to grant Sergeant Fisk a superannuation allowance of 17/6 per week. Confirmed at Council 19 July 1881."*

**30th November 1882** His son James married Eliza Jane Gissing, whose family came from Mellis in Suffolk, not far from Weybread.

**6th December 1886** a grandson William James was born.

**13th January 1889** He died. Following his retirement he had returned to live in Weybread, where he was buried on 22nd January 1889. At the time of his



death his pension was £3-15-10 per month. Later that year a grandson James Stanley was born in Australia.

You can read more about the Fisk family on page 39      **James Fisk    MN 8619**

# Taking the plunge!

**Ellen Carr reviews a free online course on genealogy**

**Genealogy:**    *Researching your Family Tree*  
                    *University of Strathclyde*  
                    *Develop an understanding of genealogy– how to research your*  
                    *family tree and communicate the results*

My genealogical skills are self-taught and date from the age when research meant visiting record offices and looking at dusty card indexes and viewing fiche. My record sheets developed over time and allowed me to feel satisfied that I was keeping details of who, where, what and when fairly accurately. Eventually I moved onto RootsMagic so I could produce reports and narratives of all my research. However, my computer skills were quite basic and again are self-taught.

Working on Lookups for our members has led me to use the computer a lot more and, although I have some successes, it is the inevitable failures that really motivated me to see if I could improve my online skills. I wondered if I could have helped members more if my knowledge of online sources was better. I discovered that the University of Strathclyde operate an online course 'Genealogy: Researching your Family History' ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)) is completely free and covers many aspects of genealogy. It is suitable for the more seasoned researcher who might want to hone skills – like me! – or a complete beginner who doesn't know where to start. You do not need to be very skilled at using a computer so long as you can click on a link and type responses.

The course lasts for six weeks and they say that on average four hours a week would be needed to complete the study. When I signed up for the course I was concerned that life might get in the way of continuous research and I was correct! However I needn't have worried for the materials and links stay active and you can access them at any time. So, due to family issues, the course actually lasted eight weeks for me. This continued access also means I can go back and look again at something I am not sure of or cannot remember. The title of the course was curious to me until they defined the following:

## **Genealogy vs. Family History**

Genealogy is the retrieval of vital and familial data from records of various types, and its ordering into meaningful relationship patterns. Family History is the integration of this data with social, economic, political contexts to develop a narrative.

**Ellen Carr**

# Snap, Crackers and Pop cont.

TOM Smith started his working career in 1830 as a young boy in a baker's shop in London. He sold sweets and had a special interest in wedding cake ornaments, experimenting with more and more exciting designs. He proved to be highly successful and started his own business in Clerkenwell, East London. He was very forward thinking and travelled widely looking for new ideas. Whilst in Paris in 1840 he discovered the 'bon bon', a sugared almond wrapped in tissue paper. He brought the idea back to London, adding a small love motto to the tissue paper.



Rare picture of Tom Smith

Tom Smith developed the idea over the next seven years while still running the successful cake business. It was in 1858 that his log fire finally sparked the inspiration for what was to become the first Christmas Cracker. When he heard the crackle of a log as he threw it on to the fire he realised that a 'crackle' would make his bon bon more exciting. *"Why not," he mused, "roll paper into the shape of a log and introduce a means to make it crackle?"*

He eventually developed a chemical reaction triggered by friction which would make a 'pop' when the wrapping was broken. He increased the size, dropped the sweet and added a surprise gift while keeping the motto. This was eventually achieved and at Christmas 1860, the first crackers were launched and sold under the name 'Bangs of Expectation' later referred to by Smith as Cosaques. He was immediately snowed under with orders. Despite competition from Eastern manufacturers who copied his idea, he rapidly expanded the business. It outgrew the Clerkenwell premises and the company moved to Finsbury Square in the City of London where it remained until 1953.

When he died in 1880 he left the business to his three sons, Tom Henry and Walter. A drinking fountain was erected in Finsbury Square by Walter Smith a few years later in memory of his mother, Mary, and to commemorate the life of



Finsbury Square

the man who invented the great British Cracker.

They developed the crackers further and Walter, the youngest son, introduced the paper hats, many of which were elaborate and made of best tissue and decorative paper. Walter also introduced a topical note to the mottoes which had previously been love verses. Tom Smith were now able to fulfil special orders for both companies and individuals. In 1927 a gentleman wrote to the company enclosing a diamond engagement ring and 10 shilling note as payment for the ring to be put in a special cracker for his fiancée. Unfortunately he did not enclose an address and never contacted the company again; the ring, letter and 10 shilling note are still in the safe today!

The production of crackers snaps was severely restricted during World War Two but the Ministry of Defence commissioned Tom Smith to fold and tie bundles of three to six snaps together with special string and regulation knots. These bundles were then used by soldiers in training as, when the string was pulled, they mimicked the noise of machine gun fire. After the war, vast quantities of these surplus cracker snaps were released back into the cracker trade.

In the early 1950's Eric MACKINTOSH from Caley's and G. W. MORRISON chairman of Smith's agreed in principal to a merger. They also decided that the new company would trade under the name of Tom Smith's but would be based in Norwich. In 1951 they purchased an old mustard warehouse from Coleman's in Salhouse Road.

In the 1980s the company was subject to a management buy out. Tom Smith's employed around 500 staff split between Norwich and Stockport. Between them they produced about 50 million crackers per year. The more expensive ones were still hand made while automatic machines could produce forty crackers of modest quality every minute.



**A giant cracker made in Norwich**

Tom Smith's continued to operate in Norwich until 1996 when they were taken over by Guinness Mahon & Co. The company struggled and lost the large annual orders with Sainsbury's and the Canadian company Danson. Finally in 1998, exactly a century after the first crackers were produced in Norwich at Caley's, the last Norwich made crackers came off the Tom Smith production line. The Tom Smith's brand name is still around today under its new owners, International Greetings.

**Roger Morgan**

# News From Kirby Hall

## 20<sup>th</sup> AGM 15<sup>th</sup> October, 12 pm. at Kirby Hall

A total of 26 people attended. The Secretary received 56 Proxy forms plus eight emails giving authority to the chairman to vote for all the resolutions. There were 27 apologies in particular from trustee Margaret Murgatroyd and volunteers Roger Bellinger, Judith Parks and Liz Mann.

The Chairman, Jean Stangroom, opened the meeting, introducing the trustees, thanking the volunteers and especially Mary Mitchell for keeping the front garden in order. Jean referred the audience to the achievements' section in the Trustees Report. Membership had been slow with 91 added in the last quarter bringing it to just under 4000. Visitors to Kirby Hall had slowed but were unpredictable depending on the day. New items have been added to the website and the family trees, apart from the roll-ups, have been scanned to go on NORS in 2017. Transcribing is still going strong but checking remained a priority before they go onto NORS.



All the resolutions were passed. Mary Mitchell asked about the future of transcribing in light of the material on the internet. Jean said the trustees had discussed this and there was a proposal to concentrate upon items not on the various sites. Steve Tarttelin said there would be an article in the December *Ancestor* looking at the best way forward given present resources. Val Parsons thought prioritising was a good idea but didn't want a decision to reduce the amount on NORS, which Mike Dack said was far less expensive to access than the other sites. Edmund Perry explained the issue of copying/filming new registers at the NRO and would contact the Chief Archivist, Gary Tuson to inquire about this.



Complimentary words were spoken about the IT facilities in the Library, about the production of *The Ancestor* and the Facebook site. Val asked about repainting the outside of the building. Phil Whiscombe is actively seeking a decorator, no decision has been made as to the colour. Edmund felt the empty Registry building next door and its possible sale for flats or offices may have an impact on Kirby Hall. The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m. after which members tucked into the refreshments laid out by Carol Reeve.

# Pioneers of Esperanto in Norfolk

THE international auxiliary language Esperanto was first published in 1887 by an idealistic Polish Jew, Dr ZAMENHOF (1859-1917) and its first adepts lived in the then Russian Empire, but it began to gain adherents in Great Britain from about 1900 onwards. 1917 will see the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the language and a century since the death of its founder.

The names and addresses of 18 early speakers of Esperanto in Norfolk, with their registration numbers are found scattered throughout the *Adresaro de Esperantistoj* (collection of addresses of Esperantists) between January 1903 to January 1904 (Series XXIV) and January 1908 to January 1909 (Series XXIX). All of the following are listed in Norfolk, Anglujo, i.e. England is included in a few addresses. Each individual is ascribed a unique number, which I do not reproduce here. Indeed, early users of the language frequently signed articles with that number alone, knowing that anyone wanting to contact them could easily find their address in the published *Adresaro*.

I have retained the original spelling, and left in an obvious duplicate. Here are the names of those Norfolk pioneers of over a century ago:

Miss G. MONTGOMERIE, Garboldisham, East Harling, Norfolk, Anglujo

M. Fred MARIS, St. Johns Maddermarket, Norwich, Norfolk

(Series XXIV, 1903-01-14 to 1904-01-01)

R. W. COCK (sic, perhaps COOK), Eastern Daily News" office, Norwich, Anglujo

S-ino (=Mrs) A. SELF, Arlington, Private road, Newmarket road, Norwich, Anglujo, (Series XXVI, 1905-01-01 to 1906-01-01)

Lewis C. FROST, Dawsmere House, Ketts Hill, Norwich, Anglujo

Noël A. LITTLEBOY. 44, St.-Giles Street, Norwich, Anglujo

F-ino (=Miss) J. JAMES, "Rothwell" College Rd, NORWICH, Anglujo

Leslie C. ATKINS, 5, Market Place, Norwich, Anglujo

F. A. GOODLIFE, 32, Christchurch Rd Norwich, Anglujo

(Series XXVII 1906-01-01 to 1907-01-01)

Walter J. BRUMBLEY, National School (Lernejo), Long Stratton, Norfolk, Anglujo

W. J. BRUMBLEY, National School, Long Stratton, R. S. O., Norfolk, Anglujo



F-ino (=Miss) Ina CRAFER, 6, Hanover Road Norwich, Anglujo

Beatrice FURNCSS (=Beatrice FURNESS), 136, Queen's Road, Norwich, Anglujo

R. F. BOILEAU, Ketteringham Park, Wymondham, Norfolk, Anglujo.

F-ino (=Miss) Elsie KING, 46, Mount Pleasant, Norwich, Anglujo

(Series XXVIII, 1907-01-01 to 1908-01-01)

F-ino (=Miss) M. EWER, Central Café, Hunstanton, Norfolk, Anglujo

Kapt. C. P. CUBITT, Coltishall House, Norwich, Anglujo

F-ino (=Miss) A. K. HIGDON, Wood-Dalling, Norwich, Anglujo

W. I. THELFORD, 58, Ashby St, Queens Rd, Norwich. Anglujo

(Series XXIX, 1908-01-01 to 1909-01-01)

Men outnumbered the women in this list, perhaps unsurprisingly in the society of that time.

After about 1908, there was no longer any need to 'sign up' to Esperanto, and text books about Esperanto in a variety of languages, including English, were becoming more common. An increasingly large number of magazines catered for users of the language seeking contacts in other countries.

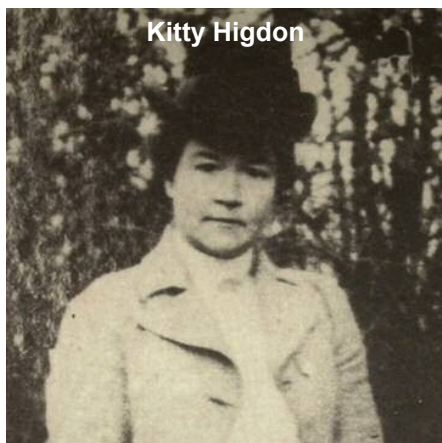
Not much is known to me about many of those listed, but a few can be traced.

East Harling is close to Garboldisham, where the Montgomeries were major landholders. The young lady listed here belonged to that family.

Clearly those interested in the language, although spread over the county, came together from time to time. According to an inside cover of *The British Esperantist* magazine for 1908, an Esperanto Society in Norwich was founded in March 1906. Its Secretary is given as Mr L.C. FROST of Oaklands, Old Catton. Its chairman in that year was Raymond F. BOILEAU, JP. The roots of the new society lay in a class. The January 1906 edition of *The British Esperantist* magazine reported that "On Friday, the 29<sup>th</sup> November a meeting of young men was held, when it was decided to commence a winter class at the Young Men's Christian Association. It was resolved, in response to many requests, that ladies should be allowed to join. Mr G.E. WHITROD presided. The provisional secretary is Mr F. SCHOLEFIELD, 9 Magdalen Road."



[Annie Catharine] Kitty HIGDON (1864–1946.) is listed here. She married Thomas George Higdon 1869-1939, who was also a teacher, in 1896. On 14th April 1902 they took up joint posts at Wood Dalling Council School in Norfolk. Kitty was the head teacher and her husband an uncertified assistant.



Tom and Kitty Higdon became famous as the leading protagonists in the notorious Burston School strike. On 1st April 1914, 67 of the 72 pupils were led out on strike by one of the children, Violet Potter, to show their support for the Higdons who had offended the local clergy and landowners. Many parents refused to send their children to the official Council School and, instead, a separate school, the Burston Strike School, was established. At first, it was held outside on the village green and, later, above a carpenter's shop in Burston. Esperanto was taught at the school.

The Boileaus are a prominent family of Huguenot refugees. After a fire at Ketteringham Hall in the early 1800s the hall was rebuilt to its present form and in 1836 it was sold to Sir John Peter Boileau whose family resided there until 1948. Sir Raymond Frederic Boileau (1868–1942) 4th Baronet of Tacolneston Hall served as a justice of the peace and Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk.

Noël A. LITTLEBOY (1881-1974) was the son of a dentist. At the time of the 1901 census, he is described as a merchant's clerk. Ten years later he is listed as manufacturer's clerk, mustard and starch manufacturer

Beatrice FURNESS (1878-1947) remained unmarried. In 1911 she was a typist and shorthand clerk.

Ina CRAFER (born 1885) was a pupil teacher in 1901. In 1911 she was an elementary school teacher. She was widely travelled and visited the United States and Africa. She changed professions to become a nurse.

I am grateful to my wife Pat for helping to 'track down' some of those named.

Much remains to be discovered. Are there early minute books of the Norwich Esperanto Society's activities in existence? Did similar groups exist elsewhere in the county? Did any of these enthusiasts pass on letters or postcards in the language to later generations?

**Bill Chapman** patbillchapman@gmail.com

# PARISH REGISTER TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

THE project was last reviewed in 2014 (Ancestor December 2014). Currently on NORS there are the complete transcriptions of the records for 14 Norwich parishes and 149 county parishes. In addition there are incomplete records for approximately 360 parishes and some records from 114 non-conformist and Roman Catholic chapels/churches. The Society is indebted to all the transcribers past and present who have enabled us to achieve this. However, there are problems in the running of the project because of its size and the amount of work involved. Steve Tarttelin has taken over as Transcript Organiser from Margaret Murgatroyd. He is responsible for the overall allocation of work to transcribers, receiving finished transcripts and maintaining the day-to-day records of progress. Margaret checks transcripts and, after sending them for upload to NORS, completes the progress records and transfers the original working documents to the archive.

## Problems that need to be addressed.

1. The checking of transcripts is the major blockage in the progress of transcripts to NORS. Checking for compliance with the NORS format is relatively straightforward when the transcribers conform to the Transcription Guide but checking for accuracy of the content can take time. The work of a new transcriber is checked thoroughly until his/her reliability is established after which only unusual or queried entries are checked against the original. Transcriptions of early registers are not only more difficult to make but also to check and it is these that clog up the system. It must be frustrating for a transcriber to send in a transcription and not to see it on NORS for several months but this is almost always because a large, early register has taken up much time.

2. Some of the registers, especially the early ones, present major problems for transcribers; even with the help of modern technology it is difficult to read some records owing to water-damage, tearing and creasing, faded writing, mould, insect or rodent damage and, of course, difficult handwriting and Latin. Some brave transcribers have strained their eyes, enjoyed the challenge and devoted much time to early registers but some registers are really not worth the effort as the result is a transcript full of blank cells, question marks and "illegible". Some of the parishes, therefore, are counted as completed even though there are 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century registers available.

3. There is always a backlog of transcripts waiting for checking. In addition to the new transcripts coming in there are some, originally prepared from fiche before the days of electronic enhancement available to us now, which need extensive checking and rearrangement before they can be added to NORS. A second backlog of transcripts uploaded in the early days of NORS need amending now we realise that some are not fully NORS-compliant or have major errors.

4. Early this year it was announced that the Norfolk Record Office was supplying [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk), [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) and [thegenealogist.co.uk](http://thegenealogist.co.uk) with film images of Parish Registers. It is evident that the films are the same as those to be found on the FamilySearch website which we use extensively for transcribing. The number of transcripts held by these websites is unknown but it has been said that they are using a type of optical character recognition that can deal with handwriting. Having seen the results of OCR for the typescript of newspapers on FindmyPast we do not have much confidence in this! Eventually the increased access to Norfolk parish record transcripts brought by these websites might impinge on our own website and NORS.

5. A very heavy workload on the PRT team, especially on Margaret who would like to do some of her own research after concentrating on PRTs for three years.

6. Shortage of volunteers to do checking. To undertake this skilled task a checker must be familiar with our templates and the Transcribers Guide so is most likely to be recruited from among our transcribers. Some transcribers are only interested in doing new work rather than checking and some have not yet achieved the necessary expertise in reading old hand-writing.

## **Solutions under consideration.**

1. The Project will continue as at present but with some of our current transcribers checking instead of producing new transcripts.

**Advantages:** Reduced workload for current checkers and reduction of the backlog.

**Disadvantages:** Fewer new transcripts will come in but the number added to NORS will be similar during the reduction of the backlog.

2. New transcribing will be suspended until the backlog is checked and uploaded.

**Advantages:** Very large workload converted to a manageable one.

**Disadvantages:** Transcribers might be lost. Donations of transcribed material might be discouraged.

3. Transcription of the registers available on FamilySearch will cease. Transcripts already received or in progress will be checked and uploaded to NORS. Transcription of registers not on FamilySearch will be undertaken. Sending the images out to transcribers is time-consuming as the films have to be scanned which takes time. Although our new machine can scan automatically, films of some registers need to be scanned manually.

**Advantages:** Less duplication of material available on other websites. PRTs probably not accessible elsewhere will become available to members.

**Disadvantages:** No reduction in the workload for the Transcription Team in fact an increase in workload is possible because of the scanning involved

4. The PRT Project will continue as at present but standards with regard to checking will be lowered. Checking for NORS compliance will still be necessary but data checking could be less rigorous ie a second opinion on unclear entries would not be given. At present all queried and unclear entries are checked against the original images and ATs or BTs.

**Advantages:** Checking simpler, quicker and less of a burden. Members will continue to have new PRTs on NORS.

**Disadvantages:** There will be more errors in our transcripts. At present we can be proud of the standard of our transcripts and the small number of errors reported. When comparing NORS with other websites we have the advantage of specialising in Norfolk and occasionally borderline parishes and are familiar with Norfolk places, surnames and pronunciation so can often interpret records mysterious to the non-Norfolk contributors to Ancestry et al. Lowering our checking standards might compromise this when so many of our transcribers are not local.

The first solution is to be preferred but it depends on co-operation from transcribers or new volunteers with expertise in old handwriting who can be trained as checkers. Without this the flow of transcripts uploaded to NORS will diminish, the backlog will increase and the other solutions will be considered.

Any thoughts on the PRT Project and offers of help can be sent to transcripts@nfhs.co.uk or transcriptcheck@nfhs.co.uk .

**Margaret Murgatroyd MN 10400 and Steve Tarttelin MN 15657**

From the records of Worstead Baptist Church. Richard Clark was ordained Pastor of Worstead Baptist Church in 1813 having come from Kingsbridge, Devon. His first baptism of his ministry was recorded in the minutes of the church on 21st August 1814 with the following words: "Mary Cushion was baptised the first person to whom I administered this Ordinance – Oh Lord accept the feeble Effort of thy poor unworthy Worm and give me Grace that I may be found faithful who am less than the least of all Saints. R Clark."

## Quick Quiz

Test out your Norfolk knowledge with these challenging questions:

1. In Norfolk, what are Maud, Solace and Hathor?
2. How many adjoining counties does Norfolk share a border with?
3. What is a 'cinnamon Norwich'?
4. What relation was Norwich architect Edward Boardman to Sir Jeremiah Coleman, the 1st Baronet?
5. In the Norfolk dialect, what type of animal is known as a 'billy-wix'?

Answers on page 62

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

Compiled by Jean Stangroom

Membership Secretary

email:membership@nfhs.co.uk



WELCOME to the December issue of the *Norfolk Ancestor*. Winter is upon us once again. Membership is slower than last year but we are hoping to maintain numbers by the end of March 2017. Once again I would like to remind you to list/update your members' interests. We now have a Facebook page which is open to non – members. We would encourage everyone to join the society and search our members' interests section. So an up to date list would be helpful. To update details go to our website at the address

[www.norfolkfhs.org.uk](http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk) and log in as a member in the top right hand

corner. Go to the membership section where you will find members' interests and click there and enter your interests, these will also be published in the next *Norfolk Ancestor*. When contacting the Society please include your membership number as this will speed our reply to you. With nearly 4000 members you can appreciate that hunting down your membership is time consuming without a member number.

### 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 October, 2016

The Society welcomes the following new members

16192	Mr	M.	Skitmore	UK	16223	Mrs	M. E.	Clutterbuck	AU
16193	Aust	I. O.	Genealogic	AU	16224	Mrs	M.	Smith	AU
16194	Dr	A. J.	Slater	UK	16225	Mrs	E.	Foster	UK
16195	Mrs	M. G.	Weston	UK	16226	Mr	M. J.	Trowse	USA
16196	Mr	A. F.	Ashfield	UK	16226	Ms	M.A.	Tagai	USA
16197	Mr	P.	Lunn	UK	16227	Miss	S.	Ayres	UK
16198	Miss	D.	Worland	AU	16228	Mr	D. C.	Pitcher	UK
16199	Mrs	J.	Iverson	UK	16229	Mrs	S.	Mcclure	UK
16200	Mrs	C. R.	Elvin	UK	16230	Dr.	S.	Monical	USA
16201	Mrs	J.	Smart	UK	16231	Mrs	C.	Paternoster	UK
16202	Miss	S. L.	Cameron	UK	16232	Mrs	C.	Moreton	UK
16203	Mrs	J.	Joyce	UK	16232	Mr	C.	Moreton	UK
16204	Mr	R.	Sturt	UK	16233	Dr	J.	Manning	UK
16205	Mr	E.	Mullinger	UK	16234	Mr	A.	Whorton	UK
16206	Mr	A.	Nicholson	UK	16235	Mrs	A.	Simpson	UK
16207	Mr	A.	Lingley	UK	16236	Dr.	R.	Lippi Green	USA
16208	Mr	C.	Hawkins	UK	16237	Mr.	C.	Bateman	USA
16209	Mr	D. J.	Sheaves	AU	16238	Mrs	C.	Walshe	AU
16210	Mrs	A.	Howard	UK	16239	Mrs	W.	Woodhouse	UK
16211	Mr	S.	Cawthorne	UK	16240	Mr	M.	Lofty	UK
16212	Mrs	L.	Watney	UK	16241	Mr	C. S.	Bull	UK
16213	Mrs	H.	Pearson	UK	16242	Mr	M.	Whelan	UK
16214	Mr	M.	Caughey	NZ	16243	Mr.	J.	Church	CA
16215	Mr	A.	Duncan	UK	16244	Mr	R.	Chisholm	UK
16216	Mrs	J.	Ward	UK	16245	Mrs	J.	Burd	UK
16217	Mrs	P.	Guerreiro	UK	16246	Prof	K.	Robinson	UK
16218	Mr	S.	Diver	UK	16247	Mr	P.	Harris	UK
16219	Mrs	H.	Dean	UK	16248	Mr	R.	Morgan	UK
16220	Mr	S.	Smith	UK	16249	Mrs	N.	Glasel	UK
16221	Dr	G.	Stout	USA	16250	Mrs	S.	Waller	UK
16222	Ms	J.	Farman	USA	16251	Mr	W. R.	Seely	UK

16252 Mrs H. Mitchell UK  
 16253 Dr C. Boorer UK  
 16254 Mr J. Watts UK  
 16255 Mr. D. Smith CA  
 16256 Mrs S. Angell UK  
 16257 Mr C. Oxley AU  
 16259 Mrs M. Pightling UK  
 16260 Mrs M. R. Tyrie UK  
 16261 Mr A. Theobald UK  
 16262 Mr M. Armiger AU  
 16263 Mr B. Patterson UK  
 16264 Mrs K. Applin UK  
 16265 Mr W. Howard UK  
 16266 Mrs D. Jackson UK  
 16267 Mr G. A. Lake AU  
 16268 Mr D. Hope UK

16269 Mr R. Malt UK  
 16270 Mrs S. Young UK  
 16271 Mr B. Barlow AU  
 16272 Mr W. Holmes AU  
 16273 Dr M. Curtis UK  
 16274 Ms A. E. Gazley NZ  
 16275 Mrs C. Corfield UK  
 16276 Mr G. Ireland UK  
 16277 Mrs D. Henshall AU  
 16278 Mrs J. Daly AU  
 16279 Mr C. Bultitude UK  
 16280 Mrs B. Hughes UK  
 16281 Ms K. Crozier AU  
 16282 Ms C. Hardesty UK  
 16283 Mrs C. Bolton UK

## Members Interests to 11th October 2016

MN	Name	Area	County	Period	MN	Name	Area	County	Period
15943	WEALTHY	ALL	NFK	ALL	16056	LONE	ALL	NFK	ALL
15943	WEALTHY	ALL	CAM	ALL	16056	LOVEDAY	ALL	NFK	ALL
15943	WEALTHY	ALL	ALL	17C	16056	THURSTON	ALL	NFK	ALL
15943	FUTURE	NW	NFK	18C-20C	16070	LINCOLN	ALL	NFK	15C-20C
15943	PECK	NW	NFK	18C-20C	16089	MASON	SW	NFK	ALL
15943	TENNANT	NW	NFK	17C-19C	16089	BROWN	SW	NFK	ALL
15943	OUGHTON	NW	NFK	17C-19C	16091	YALLOP	ALL	NFK	ALL
15943	THORPE	NW	NFK	ALL	16095	GOLDSMITH	ALL	SFK	18C
15948	SCULPHER	NW	NFK	ALL	16106	BRIDGES	ALL	NFK	18C
15977	BIRCHAM	ALL	NFK	ALL	16112	MALLOWS	ALL	NFK	17C-18C
15977	LITTLEWOOD	ALL	NFK	ALL	16112	CHRISTMAS	ALL	NFK	17C-18C
15977	RISEBOROUGH	ALL	NFK	19C-20C	16125	LARWOOD	ALL	NFK	17C
15977	SADLER	ALL	NFK	ALL	16125	LARWOOD	ALL	SFK	ALL
16011	COLE	NE	NFK	ALL	16131	BROWNE	NW	NFK	17C-20C
16013	JOLLY	ALL	NFK	15C-19C	16131	ARNUP	ALL	NFK	ALL
16013	JOLLY	ALL	SFK	ALL	16136	EGGETT	ALL	NFK	ALL
16026	TUCK	NE	NFK	ALL	16136	EGGATT	ALL	NFK	ALL
16051	WILES	ALL	NFK	ALL	16136	EGET	ALL	NFK	ALL

## Members Interests to 11th October 2016

MN	Name	Area	County	Period	MN	Name	Area	County	Period
16136	EGAT	ALL	NFK	ALL	16233	TALBOT	ALL	NFK	18C-19C
16141	KERRISON	ALL	NFK	ALL	16236	GREEN	ALL	NFK	18C-19C
16141	CURRISON	ALL	NFK	ALL	16236	MUSKETT	ALL	NFK	17C-18C
16141	LONG	ALL	NFK	ALL	16236	PRIME	ALL	NFK	17C-18C
16145	RAVEN	ALL	ALL	ALL	16236	BUCKINGHAM	ALL	SFK	18C-19C
16147	FOX	NW	NFK	ALL	16236	COLEMAN	ALL	NFK	18C-19C
16153	BINDLEY	NC	NFK	ALL	16236	EDWARDS	ALL	SFK	18C-19C
16158	BEAVIS	ALL	NFK	16C-19C	16242	GOFF	CN	NFK	17C-19C
16160	SIELY	ALL	NFK	18C-19C	16242	VERDON	CN	NFK	17C-19C
16173	PEARCE	ALL	NFK	18C-19C	16242	ANDREWS	CN	NFK	17C-18C
16173	PEARSE	ALL	NFK	18C-19C	16250	HAVIS	ALL	ESS	17C-18C
16174	BATELY	ALL	NFK	16C-19C	16253	JACKSON	ALL	NFK	18C-19C
16182	DUBLACK	ALL	NFK	15C-19C	16253	POSTLE	ALL	NFK	ALL
16182	SMOWTON	ALL	NFK	15C-19C	16253	HEARN	ALL	ESS	19C
16186	WRIGHT	YM	NFK	15C-19C	16253	STARKINGS	YM	NFK	18C
16186	CHAPLIN	NE	NFK	ALL	16256	RINGER	ALL	NFK	18C
16188	OVERLAND	ALL	NFK	18C	16257	TURNER	YM	NFK	18C-19C
16212	CORBEN	ALL	NFK	15C-20C	16257	KING	SE	NFK	18C-19C
16212	LAMB	ALL	NFK	15C-20C	16257	PARKE	YM	NFK	18C-19C
16212	COOKE	ALL	NFK	16C-19C	16257	PARKES	YM	NFK	18C-19C
16212	HUDSON	ALL	NFK	16C-19C	16257	GALLER	SE	NFK	18C
16212	CARVER	ALL	NFK	16C-19C	16257	GALER	SE	NFK	18C
16212	SPOONER	ALL	NFK	16C-18C	16257	FISHER	SE	NFK	18C
16212	CLARKE	ALL	NFK	15C-20C	16257	CHAPMAN	SW	NFK	17C-18C
16212	WISEMAN	ALL	NFK	15C-20C	16257	CHAPMAN	SE	NFK	ALL
16213	PEARSON	NE	NFK	ALL	16257	BRYAN	SW	NFK	ALL
16213	DOUGHTY	NE	NFK	ALL	16257	BRYANT	SW	NFK	ALL
16213	PUMMELL	NE	NFK	ALL	16257	GALER	ALL	SFK	ALL
16213	GREEN	NE	NFK	ALL	16262	ARMIGER	ALL	NFK	15C-18C
16213	SWANN	ALL	SFK	ALL	16270	BOARDMAN	ALL	NFK	ALL
16213	BARNES	ALL	SFK	ALL	16278	WILSON	ALL	NFK	ALL
16216	NEALE	NW	NFK	ALL	16281	BETTS	ALL	NFK	ALL
16224	BURTON	NW	NFK	ALL	16283	WHITEMAN	ALL	NFK	ALL
16224	DAVY	NW	NFK	ALL	16283	THIMBLE- THORPE	ALL	NFK	ALL
16227	BECKHAM	ALL	NFK	ALL	16283	BILVERSTONE	ALL	NFK	ALL
16227	SHREEVE	ALL	NFK	ALL	16283	BUTTON	ALL	NFK	ALL
16227	SANDS	ALL	NFK	ALL					

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

# NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY GETTING THE MOST FROM NORS



## Quick Search

Enter surname [ Minimum of 3 alphabetical characters required ]  
[ Quick search (a basic search) will help determine locations of a family name but may produce too many results to be useful ]

Advanced option →

## Quick search

### Advanced Option

First Name [Optional]

Surname [Minimum of 3 characters required]

Default search (from drop down menu)

Exact matches only (from drop down menu) ← recommended.

Include variants (from drop down menu)

Place [Entries here may cause search to fail except for BMDs]

County [Entries here may cause search to fail except for BMDs]

Year range: From [Optional] To [Optional]

## Find a person

### Person search

First Name [Optional]

Surname [Minimum of 3 characters required]

Default search (from drop down menu)

Exact matches only (from drop down menu) ← recommended to use this option.

Include variants (from drop down menu)

Place + County + [ + Entries here may cause search to fail except for BMDs]

Year range: From [Optional] To [Optional]

# NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## GETTING THE MOST FROM NORS



### Find a source

[Search the titles and descriptions of all items in the archive. You can use the tabs above to search for people or other specific types of information contained within items in the archive. eg. cemetery; place name]

- ++ Class Details** [ Class = Title e.g. cemetery or a parish name ]  
[ tick this and - Start typing (e.g. Acle) and choose from suggestions being listed]
- +++ Record Details** [ Record = Subject e.g. Marriage; Baptism; BMD; Monumental Inscription; Cemetery ]  
[ tick this and - Start typing (e.g. Monumental) and choose from suggestions being listed]

A PDF list of all Parish Register and Monumental Inscriptions on NORS can be see at top of Browse Records list -->

- Browse Records
  - Parish Transcripts
    - [-] Listing of Monumental Inscriptions on NORS
    - [-] Listing of Parish Register Transcripts on NORS
  - [+] Parishes A
  - [+] Parishes B
  - [+] Parishes C
  - [+] Parishes D


Specific parishes can be selected and searched from the Browse Records List - ->

### WILDCARDS can and should be used in all but the Quick Search.

An **underscore** \_ can substitute a single character, more than one underscore \_ can be used in a name.  
To ensure more accurate results always use the 'Exact matches only' option.  
e.g. "Franc\_s Exact matches only" will report Frances and Francis

A single **percent symbol** % can be used to replace any number of characters e.g. "N%lor Exact matches only" will report Naylor and Nailor

Alternatively combining % and \_  
e.g. "N%l\_r Exact matches only" will report Naylor, Nailor, Nailor and Nailor.  
Or a more complex but saving multiple searches -  
"Y\_ll\_p% Exact matches only" - will report Yallop, Yellop, Yallep, Yallup, Yallope, Yalloppe - etc. (Yes these are all genuine variations but just one wildcard search can find these and save many individual searches.)

Following a Marriage search – Other parties of the marriage can be seen by clicking the icon  adjacent to date.



# Further Fisk Memories

**James FISK** tells us the story, through a timeline, of **David Fisk (1850 to 1942)**, who lived in Yarmouth but emigrated to Australia sometime in the 1870s

**20th July, 1850** David was born at Row 105 Great Yarmouth. His parents were James Fisk a Yarmouth Policeman who was born 1824 in Weybread Suffolk, and Mary Fisk who was born 1824 in Yarmouth (his parents were cousins). David was one of six children, of whom only David and James are known to have survived childhood.

**24th December, 1868** David married Rebekah Elizebth BAYLEY. The reconstructed story of their marriage could be a scene from a Dickens' novel:

*On Christmas Eve 1868 a young couple, one aged 19, the other only 18, stood before the Superintendent Registrar in a candle lit office in the fishing port of Yarmouth. He was a Smacksman sailing on one of the many fishing boats chasing the vast shoals of herring in the North Sea (see Dickens' novel David Copperfield for more about a Yarmouth fishing family). She was the daughter of a local Land Agent. This was not a church wedding, but they had planned it and had given the required three weeks' notice. Did their parents approve? We do not know, but the only witnesses appear to have been the clerks working in the Registrar's Office.*

*The Superintendent Registrar, who was also the local Guardian of the Poor Law, was Mr Thomas CUFARD, a man in a position of authority, but soon to be relieved of his responsibilities and jailed when his gambling came to the attention of his superiors.*

*Mr Cufard's assistant, the Registrar Mr Frederick CROWE, made the entry in the marriage register, David Fisk and Rebecca Elizabeth Bayley. But when Rebekah came to sign her name in the register, which she was able to do, she caused Mr Crowe a problem, she spelled it as she spoke it – Rebekah Elizebth. He attempted to change his entry in the book by scratching it out and altering it, something that would be sure to bring down a severe reprimand from his superiors. David caused no such problem, being unable to write he made his mark with an X. After the ceremony they left, perhaps returning for Christmas to his home at the appropriately named Love Lane in Cobholm Island, a marshy area of Yarmouth, just across the river from the walled town, still called an island*



David Fisk

**April 1871** David appears again in the public record when the census enumerator calls on the six man crew of the fishing smack *Alina* moored with over 50 other ships of all nationalities in the harbour at Yarmouth. He is now recorded as a married man of 21, still working as a deckhand on one of the many fishing boats working out of Yarmouth, a trade his younger brother James will follow, taking him as far as Newfoundland with Sir Wilfred GRENFELL'S Mission Ships.

**1874?** But something momentous happens in David's life that changes it completely. From being a married fisherman on the cold North Sea he disappears from the public record only to reappear nine years later, described as a widower with two dead and one living children, in a gold rush boom town in Australia, where he remarried in 1880.

What happened to Rebekah? There is a record of a child Mary Anna, was she one of the dead children? There is no record of Rebekah's death in Yarmouth. Did she die on the way to Australia or did David and Rebekah separate and go their own ways before he emigrated? There is a marriage record of a Rebekah Fisk of the right age and birth place marrying a Henry OXBOROUGH in Hartlepool in 1880, the same year that David married in Australia. At a time when divorce was impractical for all but the rich they would perhaps have described themselves as widowed if they remarried and could legitimately have done so if they had been apart for seven years and believed the other to be dead, though the remarriage would have been void if the other was still alive. By 1880 seven years could have passed.

**11th July, 1880** David married Sarah Anne POWELL in the settlement of *Happy Go Lucky*, up in the mountain area of Victoria, Australia, where gold had been discovered some 20 years earlier. The area now has few inhabitants and is a heritage site. Sarah was born in 1862 near Stratford Victoria and had a son George William, just 16 days old when the marriage took place. David was not George's father and his father is not recorded on the birth certificate. It is thought that the father may have been a deceased friend of David.

**1889** David and Sarah had a son James Stanley, born at Toongabbie.

David and Sarah finally settled in Sale in Victoria where he farmed until his death.

**14th May, 1942** David died at the age of 91. He is buried at Toongabbie Cemetery.

His death certificate records him as having lived 68 years in Victoria, which would indicate him arriving in 1874, though he does not appear on the list of immigrants for the 1870s at the Victorian Public Record Office and it is possible that he arrived in another state some time between 1871 and 1880.

The descendants of James Stanley continue to farm near Sale, while George William's family live in the Geelong area.

**James Fisk MN 8619**

# Editor's Corner

There is a link between a strange American Ritual and King's Lynn's most famous son.

Most people won't have heard of the relatively small community of Ocean Shores in Washington State. That's the Washington in the upper left hand corner of the map of the USA, rather than the nation's capital.

Each year on the last Saturday in April, the otherwise relatively sober citizens of Ocean Shores celebrate what they call "Undiscovery Day" to commemorate the night in 1792 when British explorer Captain George VANCOUVER (pictured right) sailed past the town without discovering it.



Vancouver, who was born and bred in King's Lynn, was en route to Nootka Sound on what is now Vancouver Island, to settle a controversy between Spain and Great Britain.

On his way he discovered many towns and villages but legend has it that at midnight on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1792, he passed the area where Ocean Shores is now located but failed to see the settlement due to thick fog.

In October 1986 – a mere 194 years, but who's counting, after that fateful night, the Ocean Shores city council passed an edict that each year the event should be marked in a rather bizarre way.

Local citizens gather at the romantically named "Lumpy's Tavern" between noon and 2 pm and, not to put too strong a point on it, get tanked up. At midnight, presumably after an afternoon siesta, they gather on the shore and apparently "giggling and shrieking," shout out the words "Hey George, over here" and other appropriate instructions, hoping that Vancouver's ghost will answer and explain his oversight.

To date apparently there hasn't been a response, although one year the local mayor, resplendent in British naval gear, laid low in a boat and, at the appropriate time, rose in front of the multitudes to claim he was the ghost of Vancouver and had returned to discover the settlement. Apparently few people were taken in!

The town and harbour were eventually discovered by American adventurer Robert GRAY, but it is the non discovery that is remembered and celebrated at the

same time as the self explanatory “Fog Festival” and the “Grand Holler.” The latter is named after the primeval shout that accompanies the entreaty for George to take note.

Many years ago members of King’s Lynn Vancouver Round Table found out about these goings on and contacted the good citizens of Ocean Shore. The result was a long distance holler between the two countries down a telephone line It isn’t recorded who turned out to be the loudest.

## FOOTNOTE

Captain George Vancouver was born in King’s Lynn on 22nd June, 1757, and, between 1791 and 1795, explored and chartered the north western Pacific coastal regions including Alaska, British Columbia, Washington State and Oregon. He also explored the Hawaiian Islands and the south west coast of Australia. He died in obscurity aged just 40 on 10th May, 1798, and is buried in Richmond, London. We would love to hear from anyone who is descended from George Vancouver or who knows of Ocean Shores.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**

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fied Historian,  
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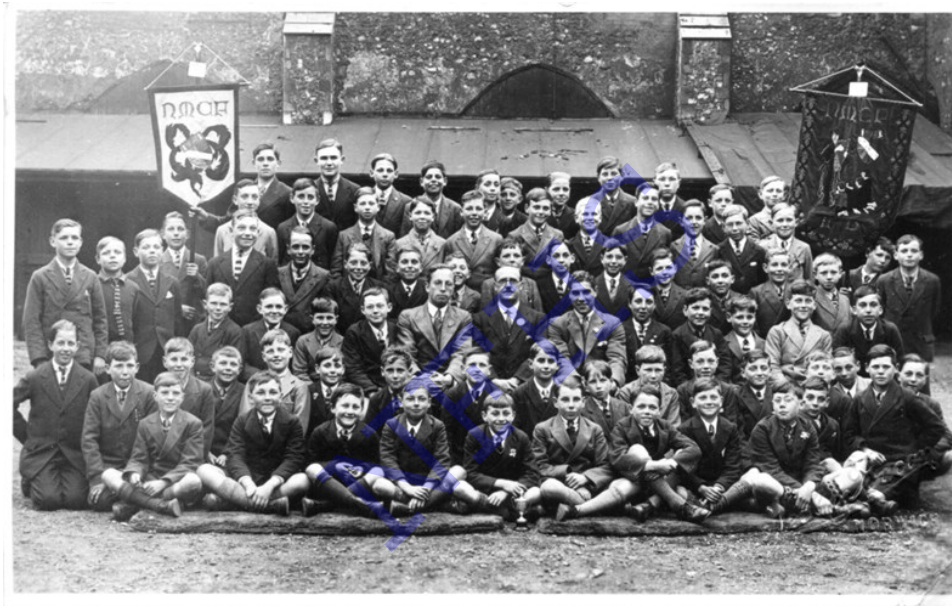
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# Letters, Notes and Queries

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.

## Mystery Photograph



In the September, 2016, issue of The Norfolk Ancestor you mentioned you were interested in publishing photographs of people with something of a mystery about them, so here is one for you to consider.

It is one I am intrigued by and I hope readers may be able to throw some light on it. It comes from my late parents' family album, but I don't recognise any family member on it. It shows 76 boys and three men with a small prize cup (centre front). There are two banners, both have the same initials (NMCP?) and heraldic shield. The one on the right also depicts a lady playing a small harp to a group of praying children. It is embossed 'Neal & Bacon Norwich' who I see from [www.earlyphotographers.org.uk/Norfolk.html](http://www.earlyphotographers.org.uk/Norfolk.html) operated around 1930. What and where is the group? What had they won?

**Mike Lord MN 211**

## Garrod or Garrard?

I wondered if any body has Robert GARROD on their family tree. I have been trying to trace his birth and find his parents for over 30 years. He is shown in the 1841 census as Robert GARRARD as being born in 1806 in Norfolk. In the 1851 census he is shown as a visitor at the house of Susan HANKEY as being born in New Buckenham in 1802. In the 1861 Census he is shown as being born in Kenninghall in 1804. He died on the 24th March, 1869 aged 67 years. I have a copy of his death certificate. He is buried in an unmarked grave in St. Martin's Church in New Buckenham.

I believe the birth records of Kenninghall 1800-1812 have been destroyed. Is there any way of getting around that?

Robert Garrod was married to Matilda SHARPE on the 20th May, 1823 in Trowse Newton, Norfolk. On the marriage certificate he is shown as Robert Garred The witnesses are George ALDIS born 1786 and Ann Sharpe born 1803. He signed his name on his wedding certificate while Matilda put an X against her name.

They had ten children all born in New Buckenham: Eliza 1824-1824, Caroline 1825-1831, Ann Matilda 1828-1855, Emily Matilda 1830-1910, Caroline 1833-1910, Robert William (my great great grandfather) 1835-1895, James Robert, 1837-1919, William 1839-1904, Eliza 1842-1900 and Martha 1844-1916.

I am in touch with quite a few third cousins but no one seems to have any information on Robert Garrod. Robert was a shoemaker and in the White's directory is listed with that profession. So he must have done an apprenticeship in shoe-making somewhere.

I would be grateful if anybody could point me in the right direction as I am currently a frustrated genealogist,

**Ian Walker MN 3320**

## The Moates of Topcroft

I am writing to you in the hope that you may be able to suggest where I may be able to find further documents that may contain information about my ancestors. You may find my questions rather long-winded but the answers are probably short and to the point (e.g. nothing available!).

I am trying to piece together more information about the family of my great-grandfather, John MOATES (1839-1882), who left Topcroft in the 1860s and settled in London.

My first question relates to John Moates' paternal grandmother Sarah BLAKE (c1772-1858), who married James Moates at St Margaret's Church, Topcroft, in 1804. I have never been able to trace a record of Sarah's baptism but I have assumed that she was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Blake, who I think



the only Blake's living in Topcroft during the 1770s. Six children of John and Elizabeth were baptised in Topcroft between 1770 and 1786 and at the last baptism they are described as paupers. Sarah had two illegitimate children before her marriage, so I thought I might find a reference to her or her parents if I searched in the Topcroft poor records. What I found were references to Elizabeth Blake amongst the overseers disbursements between 1798 and 1800 (e.g. "To expenses report Eliz Blake") and, amongst the archdeacon's transcripts for the Heckingham House of Industry (recorded separately from the Heckingham Parish transcripts), I found the baptisms of children of Rachel Blake and Hannah Blake (who I think were Sarah's sisters). My question is: Do you know if any admissions registers for the Heckingham House of Industry have survived that might provide further information about the Blake family?

Secondly, John Moates' mother was Ann BUNN (1816-1841) who died when John was two years old. The Bunns were yeomen farmers. Her father Richard (1783-1858) rented 113 acres in Topcroft but, to my surprise, I have discovered as I traced his forebears back through the 18th century that previous generations of the family had owned land and I am trying to document the acquisition and disposal of their land. I think this was freehold rather than copyhold but my knowledge about land ownership in South Norfolk is very limited. I cannot find any reference to the name of Bunn in your listings so I wondered if you would think it was worth my while visiting Kirkby Hall to look in your manorial records relating to Topcroft and Hempnall in the 18th and early 19th centuries? Also could somebody tell me if there were any land registers compiled for South Norfolk during this period?

Thirdly Richard Bunn's forebears left wills that I have managed to trace in the Norfolk archives. Richard died in 1858 but I have been unable to find his will in the Norfolk archives, the National Archives or your on-line listing. Assuming that he had the brains to make a will, are there any other places I ought to search for it?

If anyone is able to point me in the right direction I would be most grateful.

**Stuart Cawthorne** MN 16211 [stuartcawthorne@btinternet.com](mailto:stuartcawthorne@btinternet.com)

## Cowles Calling

I have been researching my Norfolk Family, with the surname of COWLES.

There are a couple of areas where I have become "stuck".

My 4 x grandparents were Samuel Cowles and Sarah MARKHAM, married 14th May, 1801, in Old Buckenham. Several of their children were born in Kenninghall and Samuel and Sarah were still living there in the 1841 census. The deaths for both of them were registered in the Guiltcross district, Samuel in 1849 (second quarter) and Sarah in 1850 (third quarter). So far, I have been unable to find any burial records for them. The birth of my 2 x grandfather, Edward Cowles was "Registered" at the Particular Baptist Church in Kenninghall on 31st December,

1825. The residence for his father Benjamin, is listed as St Stephen's, Norwich – occupation innkeeper. Are there any details for Inns from this era?

Edward's brother, Frederick COWLES was baptised in Kenninghall in 1828.

I found him listed on an "Assisted immigrant Passenger List" to Australia.

He arrived in New South Wales, Australia on 28th Hune, 1856. Frederick is listed with his wife Elizabeth, aged 21, of Wilby and son James, aged four, of Banham.

The strange thing is, that I can't find a record of a marriage between Frederick and Elizabeth or a birth registration for James!

Any help would be appreciated.

**Shirley Coles** MN 15612 s.h.coles@btinternet.com

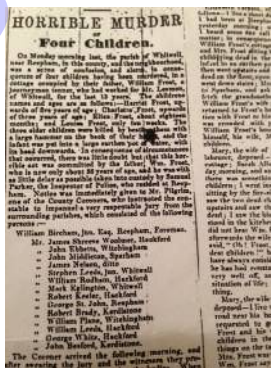
## William Frost

I was very interested to read about William FROST in your June, 2016 edition. I have come across him before when tracing my family tree in the name of Frost. I think that my great grandfather, Thomas Frost, born in 1827 at Whitwell, could be a cousin of William Frost.

**Brenda Tate**

## From the Archives

At the Norfolk Assizes before Mr Justice Williams, William Frost age 35 was indicted for having on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Whitwell, murdered his four children whose ages ranged from 5 years to 10 weeks by striking them on the head with a hammer. Mr W. P. Nicholls, Mr G. W. W. Firth and Mr Crosse testified to the insanity of the prisoner, against whom a verdict of not guilty was returned and he was ordered to be confined at the Criminal Lunatic Asylum, St George's Fields, London (taken from the Norfolk Chronicle of 2nd August, 1844)



## Norfolk Heritage Weekend

The society took part in the Norwich Heritage Weekend again this September. Nearly forty visitors were welcomed to a balloon decked Kirby Hall where our willing volunteers explained how the society works. Refreshments were provided and we had a very positive response. A big thank you must go to everybody who helped out over the three days.





# Facebook Forum

**Our Facebook group goes from strength to strength with close to 1,100 members. The following pages contain some posts from our members.**

**Christine Mayes September 21st at 10:15 pm Horsham**

When my mother in law reached her 100th birthday she told us she was adopted. A week later she passed away. We have found out that she was born in Great Yarmouth in 1907. Her birth name was Louisa Alice FROSDICK, daughter of Alice Louisa Frosdick and her grandmother was Caroline. They lived in Ferry Lane. If anyone has any info on this family we would be very interested.

**Rosemary Harris September 12th at 11:08 am**

Does anyone have Robert and Ellen CHAMBERS in their tree. Robert was born 1838 at New Buckenham, he was a gardener. He was married to Ellen HUNT. In 1861 daughter Jane was born. The family moved back to Burnham Sutton where five more children were born. Any information on this family gratefully received

**Robert Flood September 19th at 1:58 pm**

I am trying to find details of the marriage of Mary Howlett to the multi-named Amas/Ames/Amis/Amiss/Amos Dav(e)y. NORS has a marriage 29th November, 1803 in Caston between Amos Davy and Mary Howlet which looks about the right time and place. However, I cannot find this marriage on any other site, eg Ancestry, Find my Past, Family Search, probably my fault but a little frustrating. What I need is Mary's father's name to sort out which of several possible Mary Howletts she is. Any ideas?

**Diana Kramer September 2nd**

Hi everyone Does anyone know of a HANSON SMITH family from Norwich particularly Benedictus Hanson who married a William or George Smith early 1800 and had a daughter Phoebe 1809 another called Eliza and a son Samuel. I'm trying to trace a link to a Robert MARSHALL and family living at Worlds End Lane, Norwich, in the 1851 census and to their son Robert Marshall and his wife Mary Anne Maxey

**Carol Smith September 20th at 8:27am**

I am looking for a black sheep great great grandfather and wonder if anyone can help please. William COMAN (born Wymondham c1830) disappears around 1866. although his wife continues to write herself up as married until the 1891 census when she gives her marital status as widowed.

He did time in both the Bridewell and Norwich Castle pre 1866 on charges of

drunken behaviour and also for abandoning wife and children.as well as several other offences. I was able to find an entry (that fits with his character) on a military film

Where received: 2 February, 1875

Rank: Driver

Name: William COMAN

Regt.: R.A.

Where held: Umbella

Date of trial: 1st October, 1874

Nature of charge: drunk striking Acting Bombardier

Sentence: 5 years and fined \$1.

I have several queries that I have asked on various boards over the years and all to no avail...these are:

*Could he have been given an ultimatum by the courts in Norwich to join the army? Where would he have served his sentence?*

I am pretty certain that this drunken soldier was him, however just need to break down this brick wall and find out when and where he died. Can anyone help me?

*There are literally hundreds of requests for help on the Facebook pages. Many keen family researchers have also been helped by other members. Other Facebookers provide links to useful web sites and attach historical documents and information.*

*If you haven't visited the site just follow the link below to be part of our Facebook Family:*

*<https://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk>*

## Family Trees Added to Kirby Hall Library

<b>BRIDGE</b>	Norwich
<b>BROWNE</b>	Diss, South Acre
<b>FRANKLAND</b>	Norwich, Reedham, Hackford
<b>HOWES</b>	Catfield, Ludham, Norwich
<b>MILEHAM</b>	Potter Heigham to Northumberland
<b>MORTER</b>	Norwich
<b>NORTH</b>	Norwich
<b>THURLOW</b>	Kenninghall

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

# From a Laminated Notice at Holt Hall...

HOLT Hall is currently a learning centre for Norfolk County Council, with many school children attending. A laminated note stuck on a wall was noticed by the friend of my cousin's wife when he was there helping at Christmas. The note mentioned a Mr GOTTTS who had worked there.

As a GOON (Guild of One-name Studies) researching the surname GOTTTS, my ears immediately pricked up. Was this someone involved in the Hall from way-back? An email to Holt Hall Learning Centre came back with a very helpful reply. The laminated note was one of several around the learning centre to describe some of the people who worked there, information that the students used to build an understanding of what life was like.

The Learning Centre Coordinator did a bit of digging and found the names had been taken from a photograph in a book called **The Story of Holt Hall by Theodore W Fanthorpe and Alan Childs**. So the search was on to find a copy. The library couldn't find it, eBay showed nothing, but Amazon had one for £250! So then I tried the Norwich Library unsuccessfully and then thought of the Kirby Hall Library search on the website. Initially I couldn't see it as I had been given a slightly incorrect title, but the search term 'Holt' found it. So this was built into our short holiday to Norwich in September.

On arrival, the helpers quickly pointed me to the right shelf and there it was and here it is.



*'In Victorian and Edwardian times, as with similar sized houses, the retinue of servants was quite substantial. Taken on the steps on the south lawn (standing left to right): Flo WOODHOUSE, parlourmaid; Mr GOTTS, gardener; Lily WOODHOUSE, parlourmaid; ?; ? WOODHOUSE, kitchenmaid; ? chauffeur (killed in First World War); Robert GROUT, head gardener; (Seated left to right) ? cook; Master Reginald BRETT, ?, housekeeper; Walter BRETT, carpenter/gardener.*

So we have a Mr Gotts, with no first name, looking about 20 maybe, in 1912, so born around 1892. So where next? Well the 1911 census was the obvious place. In Ancestry, it is geared towards finding people's names, and the search box for location does not seem as powerful, so the search term 'Holt Hall' does not produce anything. Putting 'Holt' or 'Holt Hall' into the keyword search finds people called Holt but not those in Holt. It seems that many records are indexed under Stolt and Weybourne which I found through searching for Robert Grout. If in doubt, try searching individual records selecting Norfolk/Holt ED2 around page 580. What was clear was that searching for a Gotts in Holt didn't find any immediate results either, so where he came from I don't know. Maybe the employment records for Holt Hall are in the Norfolk Records' Office.

By browsing the images we can find the staff who ran the Hall and the Hall itself as well.

At the Hall: The Hall, Holt, Norfolk

Name	Age	Relat	Where Born	Stsus	Occ/Yrs marr
<i>Caroline Christina Cocks</i>	37	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Norwich</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Parlourmaid</i>
<i>Alice Maud Gipson</i>	29	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Dickleburgh</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Housemaid</i>
<i>Elsie King</i>	18	<i>Servant</i>	<i>East Ruston</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Kitchenmaid</i>
<i>Emily Lily Woodhouse</i>	16	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Norwich</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Housemaid</i>

It also states 'The family are away from home' and the head of family is listed as J.W BURCHAM-ROGERSs. Caroline completed the form.

In other houses on the estate we find the chauffeur: Herbert Wallace GREEN-GRASS at Old Hall Cottages, Cley Rd, Holt, Norfolk

<i>Herbert Wallace Greengrass</i>	31	<i>Head</i>	<i>Oulton Broad, Suffolk</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Chauffeur</i>
<i>Eliza Greengrass</i>	34	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Loughton, Essex</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>10 years</i>
<i>Edward Ralph Greengrass</i>	9	<i>Son</i>	<i>Oulton Broad, Suffolk</i>	<i>school</i>	
<i>Herbert Henry Greengrass</i>	8	<i>Son</i>	<i>Oulton Broad, Suffolk</i>	<i>school</i>	
<i>Clifford George Greengrass</i>	4	<i>Son</i>	<i>Barningham Winter</i>		

The Grout family also at Old Hall Cottages, Cley Rd, Holt, Norfolk And so is the Gamekeeper Edmund Parker. More details are over the page.



<i>Robert Grout</i>	57	Head	<i>Coltishall</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Gardener</i>
<i>Jane Elizabeth Grout</i>	37	Wife	<i>Tittleshall</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>Fredrick William Grout</i>	29	Son	<i>Holt</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Gardener</i>
<i>Edmund Parker</i>	40	Head	<i>Claxton</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Game Keeper</i>
<i>Mary Ann Parker</i>	48	Wife	<i>Swanton Abbott</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>17 years</i>
<i>Ernest Parker</i>	16	Son	<i>Hempstead</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Gardener</i>
<i>Gladys Parker</i>	14	Daughter	<i>Holt</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>Erpingham</i>
<i>Herbert Christopher Gant</i>	41	Head	<i>Bodham, Holt</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Farm Bailiff</i>
<i>Mary Elizabeth Gant</i>	40	Wife	<i>Hempstead, Holt</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>17 years</i>
<i>Eliza Zenobia Gant</i>	16	Daughter	<i>Bodham, Holt</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	
<i>Leslie Dorothy Gant</i>	13	Daughter	<i>Bodham, Holt</i>	<i>school</i>	
<i>Agnes Mary Gant</i>	10	Daughter	<i>Holt</i>	<i>school</i>	
<i>Minnie Catherine Gant</i>	3	Daughter	<i>Holt</i>		
<i>Robert John Grand</i>	48	Head	<i>Matlaske</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Cowman</i>
<i>Lucy Grand</i>	54	Wife	<i>Wickmere</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>29 years</i>
<i>Herbert Grand</i>	23	Son	<i>Holt</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Labourer</i>
<i>Hilda Grand</i>	12	Daughter	<i>Holt</i>	<i>school</i>	

At Holt Hall Farm we have the Farm Bailiff in one house: Also at the farm are the GRANDS. So we see the number of staff to run the estate is much larger than those in the photo. But not my Mr Gotts. Maybe he joined after the census. Oh well, I'll keep looking. Thanks to the staff at Kirby House who helped me track down the book and Liz Whitton at Holt Hall Learning Centre who found the basic information for me.

**Ian Gotts MN 994** [ian.gotts@gotts.org.uk](mailto:ian.gotts@gotts.org.uk) [www.gotts.org.uk](http://www.gotts.org.uk)

## Christmas Closing at Kirby Hall

Please note that Kirby Hall will be closed for the Christmas break from December 16th until January 3rd, 2017. Kirby Hall will also be closed on Sundays during January and February.

# Group Reports

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

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

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

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

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## South Norfolk Group Reports by Betty Morley

### DISS GROUP NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

#### Programme 2016/17

13th December 2016	Social Evening
10th January 2017	Editing the Norfolk Ancestor and Facebook Page - with <b>Peter Steward</b>
14th March 2017	"Murder Most Foul" – East Anglian Murders Including Rose Harsent, Emma Rolfe and many more with <b>Mike Wabe</b>
11th April 2017	"Yet More East Anglian Characters" Including Henry Blogg and Samuel Pepys with <b>Mark Mitchels</b>
9th May 2017	"Crime & Punishment" with <b>Ian Waller</b>
13th June 2017	"Crippen – a really good murder!" with <b>Mark Mitchels</b>
11th July 2017	"Lucky is the name" with <b>Pip Wright</b>
8th August 2017	<b>Simon Pawley</b>
12 September 2017	To Be Announced
10 October 2017	To Be Announced
14 November 2017	"Some Ghost Stories with Charles Dickens with <b>Mike Wabe</b>



## General Registration

It was a pleasure to welcome back Simon Pawley to the Diss group meeting on 9th August. He has been our regular August speaker for a number of years and this time his topic was General Registration. All family historians are aware of the date that General Registration came into being but not necessarily the reasons why.

Simon began by taking us back through history to 1538 when Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General decreed that all births, marriages and deaths should be recorded and locked up. Although there was a fine for non compliance this edict was largely ignored as the people were suspicious that it was for the purpose of taxation.

It all got a bit messy during the Commonwealth when ministers were not allowed to perform marriages and custody of the record books given to a registrar but all

returned to normal after the Restoration.

Numerous marriages were termed clandestine or irregular, all too often involving seduction, bigamy and fraud. To stamp this out Hardwick's Marriage Act was introduced in 1754 which stated that a marriage was not legal unless performed by a minister of the Church of England in a chapel or church. Jews and Quakers were exempt and could legally marry in their own places of worship but Non Conformists or Dissenters had to marry in the parish church to legalise their union even if their faith did not conform, so naturally this caused a great deal of resentment among those groups. Banns and marriages were to be recorded in separate registers which stated the date and place of the marriage, the name of the minister, the names of witnesses and the signature or mark of the spouses. Those under 21 years of age had to have the consent of a parent or guardian.

In 1783, the Stamp Act imposed a duty of three pence on all baptisms, marriages and burials recorded in the parish records but paupers were exempt. It was not surprising therefore that the numbers of paupers in each parish increased dramatically!

George Rose's Act in 1812 stipulated that all clergy should record births and deaths in standardised printed registers where previously it had been up to the officiating clergy to record as little or as much as they saw fit. An entry of a baptism would include the date, the name of the child and its parents, their address, occupation of parent which was usually the father and the place of the ceremony. A registration of a death would show the name and age of the deceased's abode at time of death.

During the 1800s the population had undergone a rapid growth and by 1836 the Whig government realised that they needed to be able to access accurate statistical data for all sorts of reasons. The present system given its imperfections and inaccuracies was not fit for purpose and the Dissenters were still unhappy. In 1837, the General Registration Act for England and Wales was created, allowing marriages to be legally registered in buildings belonging to other religious groups. Based upon the original Poor Law Union districts, each area had a Superintendent Registrar officiating. The indexes were compiled from entries sent in quarterly. However, the system was by no means perfect in the early years as registrations of births were usually incumbent on a registrar seeking out the proof of birth.

It was not until 1874 that births had to be registered within a certain time, namely 42 days or a fine would be imposed, but it was widely believed that a baptism was a legal alternative to registration. If parents ran out of time they could simply lie about the date when they did get round to registering it or they might simply not register at all in the hope they wouldn't get caught.

Over time, the General Registration Indexes have changed and improved. From 1866 the age of death was included and from 1911 a mother's maiden name was registered on the birth certificate.

Originally the General Register Office was situated at Somerset House but by the 1960s it was overwhelmed and in 1970 was rehomed in St Catherine's House. In 1997, the administration section was relocated to Merseyside while the indexes went to the Family Records Office in Myddleton Place in London which closed in 2008 when records went online.

In the early 2000s the GRO decided to digitise its holdings and embarked upon a number of projects which Simon, tongue in cheek, refers to as The Bird of Prey projects because of the acronyms ascribed to each one i.e. Dove, Magpie and Eagle which all proved to be dead ducks in the end as one by one they hit the buffers for one reason or another so the digitisation programme remains unfinished while Scotland has a fully digitised system.

Simon's talk explained how registrations and the rules and regulations pertinent to them have changed over the last 300 years and why, however hard we try to find a missing entry, we are probably banging our head against a brick wall because a percentage of events were not registered in the first place. It answered a lot of questions and he received a lot of applause.

## **Farming with Horses**

It was with great pleasure the Diss Group welcomed Ray Hubbard to speak about 'Farming with Horses' at The Methodist Church on 13th September, particularly as a previous engagement had to be cancelled due to ill health. Within the first few minutes, it was obvious that Ray was one of that rare breed, a true horseman. One could say that he had horses in his soul. He began at the very beginning when they were small dog sized creatures with five toes who fed off the leaves of bushes about sixty million years ago. When the first fossilised skeletons of this early horse were discovered in the South East of England archaeologists were unable to identify it but when more were discovered in other parts of the world some years later, the science had moved on and it was established that this was indeed one of the first horses to tread the earth. The horse as we know it today is the result of five basic evolutionary stages over millions of years during which it grew taller, its toes disappeared and became hooves while the skull elongated and the teeth developed to enable grazing.

In medieval times oxen were used more commonly than horses in agriculture but selective equine breeding over centuries produced the Heavy Horse, an animal suited to the plough, the cart and war. The four most common breeds in England today are the Shire, the Suffolk, the Cleveland and the Percheron which originated in northern France. Fortunately the Germans permitted the breeding programme to continue during World War One. Ray pointed out that the Suffolk does not have the feathered legs of the other three and is particularly suited to the sticky clay soil in parts of East Anglia.

Before World War Two it was not unusual for a child to be introduced to the world of work at an early age and Ray's training began when he was just eight years old under the wing of a neighbouring farmer which seems incredible to us

now. He worked at Albert Saunders' farm near Dickleborough as head horseman and witnessed the demise of the working horse on the land as mechanisation took over. He brought with him a number of items, some dating back to the 1830s, among them the gleaming brasses inherited from his family, embossed with the traditional moon, stars, suns and hearts. There were the plumes made in his grandfather's special colours and types of horseshoes that he had come across, the oldest being from the Tudor period. He explained how easily and rapidly a horse's mouth could be ruined by a harsh bit and showed one that would prevent that as well as other types of bits in use then and explained that a horse's mouth could be ruined in four hours if a bit was too harsh and demonstrated a breaking bit that he had made that would prevent that. There were veterinary instruments and implements to administer medicines and pills etc. Dressing and harnessing the horse for work or the show ring was then and is still an important ritual which should never cause any discomfort especially to the poll of the animal which can lead to a painful infection. Using a model Ray showed us how this should be done.

The old ways are long gone but Ray painted a vivid picture of that vanished past. April and June was the breeding season so the stallion leaders would be stationed at various points around a parish so farmers could select a suitable stallion to cover their mares. It was very important to avoid inbreeding so cards recording the bloodlines of each stallion were carried by these men. Ray even had some to show us. Special mention was made of Ted Lawrence who was stallion leader for Coles at Winfarthing who would pitch his stall outside the Diss Cornhall on a Friday, proudly wearing his distinctive horseman's Van Dyke jacket, to attract as many interested parties as possible. I think we were all surprised to learn that to this day one must have a licence for a stallion and the police can order its removal from the road if found not to have one.

The horsemen were responsible for the horse's comfort, health and the diagnosis and treatment of disease and Ray introduced us to a few tricks of the trade plus some of the more outlandish superstitions including charms to keep witches away. He produced from his pocket a small bottle of awful smelling liquid he called drawing oil which attracts horses, really useful to keep in your pocket if you want a horse to follow you and very impressive to the uninitiated. Puff balls exude a powder which was used to stop bleeding. Elder twigs were put in the headband to discourage flies. I think a few of us may try that one. A horseman would be well versed in the use and application of medicinal plants and herbs and there was a wide range of homeopathic preparations available to purchase. These natural products combined with the skill and empathy of the horseman often negated the need for a veterinary surgeon to attend but the good horseman would recognise when a visit was necessary.

Ray is a wonderful and humorous raconteur and his talk encompassed so many topics along the way, one example being the construction of a cart. Three woods were used in the making of the wheel. Elm for the centrepiece as it doesn't split, oak for the spokes, ash for the outsides because of its pliability and for the body

of the cart, oak and poplar. Then, with great delight he took the opportunity to disabuse us of the notion that the centrepiece of Constable's famous picture is indeed a hay wain. Ray says it is a timber drug and who would disagree?

It was a delightful talk from a man with a passion that reached out to all of us. Educational, entertaining and peppered with anecdotes about the people Ray came across in his long career, but particularly it made one aware of how fragile is the continued existence of these great beasts and how important it is that the public support the organisations that strive to ensure their survival.

We could have listened to Ray for much longer, sadly time ran out but he received great applause and many thanks.

## **Tales of My Diss Ancestors**

The talk at our July meeting entitled "Tales of My Diss Ancestors" was given by one of our own members, Ron Strutt. The talk had generated quite a bit of local interest and among the welcome visitors to our meeting were two people who had travelled from Bath especially for the talk!

Among Ron's family names were Banham (who did not come from Banham). They moved to London and we explored the reasons why this might have happened. There were several reasons – the Enclosures meant that the poor were no longer able to keep their animals on common land and they found it even more difficult to feed their large families– Diss Moor (now Victoria Road) was enclosed in 1816.

The Corn Laws made bread very expensive. Smuggling, which surprisingly had been carried out on a vast scale even so far from the coast, had been clamped down on in 1820. The Master and Servant Act came about in 1823. The introduction of threshing machines led to the Diss Riots of 1822 when some farm labourers set fire to John Kent's haystacks. John Kent was the Poor Law Officer from Shelfanger which meant that two of the culprits were hanged at Norwich Castle.

All of these were among the many reasons why so many farm workers decided to try their luck in London. Unfortunately the grass is not always greener on the other side and Ron's grandfather, orphaned at 13, found himself in Lambeth Workhouse. Another inmate at the time was the eight year old Charlie Chaplin.

Ron also had tales of illegitimacy, smuggling, transportation, bigamy, assault, hangings, the workhouse, and a connection with one of his female ancestors with printer Edward Abbott, whose relation produced the Diss Express.

An enjoyable, interesting and thoroughly well researched talk which engendered a good question and answer session at the end.

**Betty Morley MN 10937**



# Norfolk Record Office Events

**Norfolk Record Office** is free to use, our opening times are:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday 9.30am-5pm; and Thursday 9am-7pm.

Expert help and advice is available during these hours, appointments are not necessary.

## **Behind the Scenes Tours**

This popular monthly event, allows you backstage access to our Strongrooms and Conservation Studio, as well as a chance to view some of our more unusual, colourful and interesting documents. Dates are:

Monday 12th December 2016 14.00-16.00

Monday 23rd January 2017 10.00-12.00

Tuesday 21st February 2017 14.00-16.00

Thursday 30th March 2017 17.00-19.00

Friday 28th April 2017 14.00-16.00

Tuesday 30th May 2017 10.00-12.00

Monday 26th June 2017 14.00-16.00

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

## **Free Lunchtime talk – Things New & Old: How did people read in seventeenth-century Norfolk?**

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Tom Roebuck (UEA) and Sophie Butler (University of Oxford) will lead a workshop exploring what kind of books people were reading in seventeenth-century Norfolk and how they read them. The session will focus on an extraordinary commonplace book in the Norfolk Record Office, which participants will have a chance to handle and discuss.

## **Free Lunchtime talk – Escaping Hitler: A Jewish Boy's Quest for Freedom and his Future**

Wednesday 8th February 2017

Author Phyllida Scrivens looks at the remarkable life of Joe Stirling who escaped Nazi Germany and later became Sheriff of Norwich.



# OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we report the passing of a great friend of the Norfolk Family History Society. Edmund Perry looks back on Dennis Thompson's

contribution to the Norfolk Family History Society.

**DENNIS RAYMOND THOMPSON (28th March, 1941-20th September, 2016)**

Dennis was a retired psychiatric nurse who joined the Society in 1999, helping out with various activities before becoming a trustee in 2002. He took over as Projects Officer in June 2003, from Malcolm Palmer and Chris Shales, inheriting a large number of Parish Register Transcripts (PRTs) created/printed/deposited by the members in many different formats, with some electronic versions on floppy discs.

Dennis continued to order large numbers of fiche/film for visitors to Kirby Hall and provided a growing list of transcribers with these plus machines to read them. He wanted to finish the Norwich churches and then the major towns in Norfolk but the sizeable backlog of old transcripts not printed competed for Dennis' attention alongside the new transcripts regularly being delivered. He accepted all transcripts from any source but the material received was often incomplete and inaccurate

Dennis (pictured opposite at work in Kirby Hall) scanned in many PRTs to ensure the Society had back-up copies. He produced spreadsheets for printing to a uniform format/style and towards this end converted many PRTs from DOS, Word or Works into new Excel templates which allowed for Alpha sorts from Chronological data. Converting older transcripts into the different templates required many hours of work separating out PRTs into respective BMDs, splitting surname and forename with the former in capitals and the latter in lower case, changing round columns especially dates and putting them into digits (22.07.1881 rather than 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1881) adding extra columns including Miscellaneous/Notes one for all the other information. The ultimate aim was to create a search mechanism so that members could type in a surname and the computer would generate a list of each instance where such a surname occurred in all the PRTs transcribed (which became the Astrogrep search in the Library and eventually the NORS website). Such an ambitious project proved too demanding

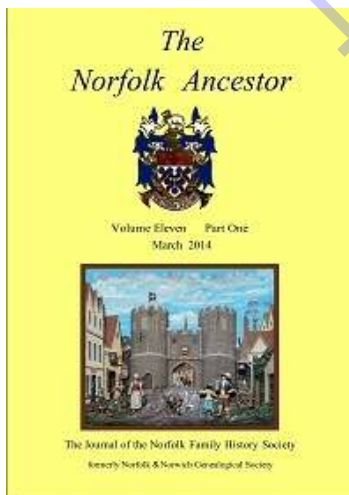


Then there was the lengthy process of

printing, binding and labelling. Dennis initiated a new procedure with duplex printing on both sides of the page, ceasing to use the old plastic/card comb bindings and replacing them with new blue hardback folders. He was loathe to print and bind partial dates but wanted a lengthy time span. However, in waiting for transcripts to be completed, the backlog grew, transcribers complained about their work not being on the shelves and his fellow trustees wanted all transcripts to be made available rather than sit on Dennis' computer. Not content with this workload, he and the then Chairman, Colin Skipper, arranged with the NRO to digitally photograph original parish registers. Dennis spent many weeks taking thousands of images, 'cleaning' them up before putting them on CDs for transcribers – in particular, Wymondham, Hethersett, Acle and early books of Great Yarmouth for specific projects with local groups. This was a commendable initiative but a step too far. His singular control of Projects created too much work for one person and placed a considerable strain on his constitution, especially as he was fully committed in other areas – maintaining the IT equipment at Kirby Hall, sorting the photos and writing articles for *The Ancestor*, attending Fairs, printing Society documents, etc. A huge contribution to the society.

The excessive workload had an obvious danger, exhaustion and illness, causing Dennis to retire from being Projects Officer in 2007 for health reasons. At the 2008 AGM he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership by the Trustees. He kept in contact and managed to take some enjoyable holidays abroad. His funeral took place at the Earlham Crematorium, Norwich, on Monday 10th October 2016. He leaves a wife, Val, a son and daughter and grandchildren.

## ADVERTISEMENTS in *The Norfolk Ancestor*



### Single one-off advertisement

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½ page	£25.00
1 page	£50.00

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# GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

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

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

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **March 2017** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER** than **7th January**. Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.

## Notes and Queries

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

**Non-members** should include a cheque for £6 (drawn on a UK Clearing Bank) made payable to 'The Norfolk Family History Society', for each item intended for publication. Address correspondence to:-

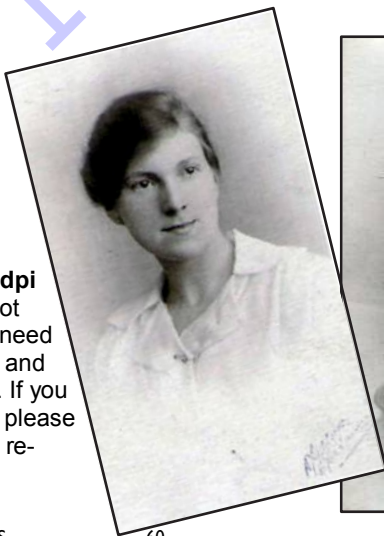
**The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.**

or by email to:

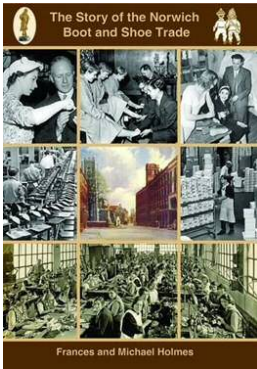
**ancestor@nfhs.co.uk**

## Photographs

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



# Ancestor Bookshelf



## **The Story of the Norwich Boot and Shoe Trade** by Frances and Michael Holmes.

Published by Norwich Heritage Projects £4.99

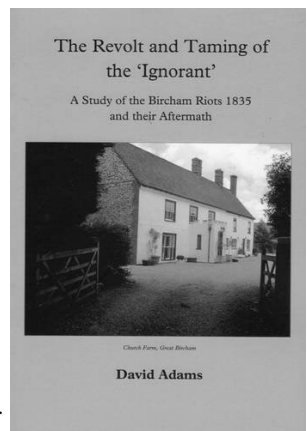
ISBN 978-0-9566272-3-0 available from City Books and other sources

I picked up my copy of this book while doing a tour of the Van Dal shoe factory in Norwich and found it to be a fascinating read. At its height, the Norwich boot and shoe trade employed over 10,000 people, about 15% of the total local workforce. The book takes you through the rise and eventual fall of the industry from the 14th century to the present day. It describes the processes involved in shoe making and discusses the impact of modern technology on them. There are sections on all of the major manufacturers and retailers in and around Norwich as well as a chapter on the legacy left by the industry. I particularly enjoyed the many '*Lasting Memory*' pages which are spread throughout the book, in which former workers describe their experiences in the trade. The book is packed with wonderful black and white and colour pictures and illustrations which greatly enhance the text. All in all, it is a thoroughly enjoyable and informative book.

**Roger Morgan MN16248**

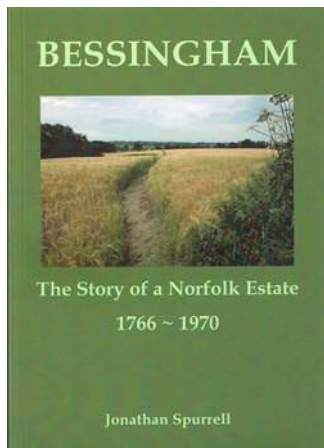
**The Revolt and Taming of the "Ignorant".** A Study of the Bircham Riots 1835 and their Aftermath. David Adams. Larks Press 2013. ISBN 978 1 904006 70 1

This scholarly book describes the little-known riots in Bircham in north west Norfolk and sets them in the context of the general unrest of the agricultural workers of England, especially in East Anglia, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Changes in agricultural practice, the chronic over supply of labour and the falling price of wheat after the Napoleonic wars caused increased rural poverty as a result of intermittent employment and the reduction of wages. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 changed the system from parish outdoor relief for the poor and introduced the workhouse system. The labourers' disquiet about the new law added to the unrest but in Bircham it was the below subsistence level of wages that sparked the riots.



As well as describing the development of the riots, the events and the aftermath in Bircham, the book gives much background material, covering a wealth of interesting information on life in rural Norfolk, trial and punishment, migration and emigration and life in the workhouse. The mini biographies of the principal characters involved and the many other local people mentioned also make this a good source for researchers with ancestors in the area.

**Margaret Murgatroyd MN 10400**



**BESSINGHAM –The Story of a Norfolk Estate  
1766-1970** by Jonathan Spurrell

Paperback, 216 x A5 pages. £12.95

This is the first major history of an estate owned and managed for nearly 200 years by the Spurrell Family. The small village consisted mainly of tithe cottages surrounded by farmland just south-west of Cromer in North Norfolk. Despite now living in America, the author spent many years researching family papers, farm records and maps at the Norfolk Record Office, as well as using books, newspapers, and interviews with local residents. The result is an in-depth study of the Spurrell-Flaxman-Joy Family, of yeoman farmers and maltsters to land-

owning lesser gentry, who created the estate and built a fine Manor House. Along with general history about village life and agriculture, it explores the lives of people who lived and worked on the estate.

The text is well illustrated with numerous colour and black and white photos; it contains a useful family tree, a good notes' section, a bibliography and a names index. Altogether this is a worthwhile read and a welcome addition to the growing number of books about Norfolk towns, villages and the former estates of local gentry.

**Edmund Perry MN 3181**

## Quick Quiz Answers

1. They are Norfolk wherries
2. Three (Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire)
3. A type of canary—popular in Norfolk
4. Son-in-law (he married Florence, Jeremiah Coleman's daughter)
5. An owl—also called a madge



## Answer to the Mystery Object

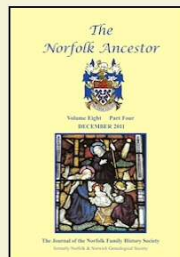
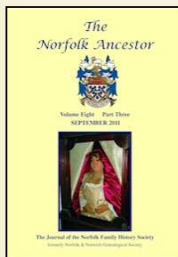
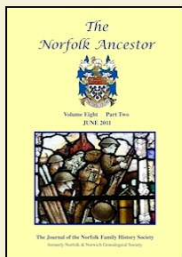
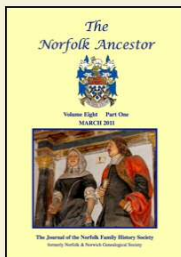
The object is a fudge wheel which was widely used in the shoe making industry to ornament the edge of a shoe's sole. So called because it tries to show fake stitch marks on the edge of the leather.



*The Norfolk Family History Society  
would like to wish all its members a  
very Merry Christmas and a Happy  
Searching New Year*



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# Norfolk Family History Society

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# The Octagon Chapel

THE picture at the top of the back cover was taken by George Plunket in 1936 which was the time when my father-in law Edward MARTIN married Phyllis WALLER in the Octagon Chapel. They did not worship there but the chapel accepted people of all faiths and creeds.

The chapel in Colegate was designed by the architect Thomas IVORY who also built the city's Assembly House. It was built for the English Presbyterians with the first stone being laid on 25th February, 1754. It was completed in 1756. The striking octagonal design won over a committee chaired by John TAYLOR, a member of an influential Norwich family. The building had a simple aura of a 17th century meeting house but Ivory added a raised palladian entrance portico. Inside, the chapel stayed true to the ideas of purity and simplicity of worship, but its eight columns, high windows, domed ceiling and raised gallery made it a splendid achievement without being showy. It cost more than £5,000 which was raised by the congregation and it could hold up to 1,000 people. Initially it was called the New Meeting House to differentiate it from its neighbour further along Colegate, but it soon became known as the Octagon.



John WESLEY visited in 1757, and wrote "I was shown Dr Taylor's new meeting house, perhaps the most elegant one in all of Europe". The Octagon became the model for a number of octagonal Methodist chapels, including a more modern one at King's Lynn. The original Presbyterian congregation gave way to the growth of Unitarianism and a number of leading Norwich families like the MARTINEAU'S were associated with the Octagon. The original pews were high, with doors, but these were changed by the Victorians, who undertook a major overhaul in 1889. They enlarged the pulpit and darkened the woodwork in the fashionable taste of the time. Today it is famed for its excellent

acoustics that make it ideal for the musical concerts which are often held there.

# Past and Present



December 1936

The Octagon Chapel is a Unitarian chapel which is home to a growing liberal religious community. It welcomes people of all religious faiths and none. The congregation is a member of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Find out more about its history inside.

These two images show the Octagon Chapel in Colegate, Norwich. The top picture was taken by George Plunket in December, 1936 and the bottom one was taken by the assistant editor in September 2016. Apart from the central flower bed, the cobbles on the street and the tree on the right very little appears to have changed.



September 2016