The Norfolk Ancestor



SEPTEMBER 2017



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

NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th October at 12 noon at Kirby Hall

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

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



NFHS Heritage Day

Thursday 7th September 2017 from 10 am until 4 pm

Norfolk Family History Society will again be joining in with other venues across Norfolk when they open their doors to the public. NFHS volunteers will be available to help with Family research.

Individual bookings would be advisable.

Norfolk Family History Society

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Inside Back and Back Cover - Samuel Morton Peto



The NorfolkAncestor

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Kirby Hall Library Opening Times

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

Group Meeting Venues

DISS	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss (A1066)
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Welcome to your September Edition



Welcome to the September edition of Ancestor and I hope you agree that once again we have a lively mix of genealogy, local history and articles that may give you an additional insight into the lives of some well known people with Norfolk connections.

In this edition we carry a major article on a fascinating and outstanding character whose life work took many twists

and turns. You will find the article on Walter Rye starting on page 23. I have deliberately kept my welcome message short this time in order to include as many articles as possible. Best Wishes to you all and happy reading.

Peter Steward MN 14801

Wartime Bombing Raids on Norwich

Company Secretary Edmund Perry reports on a talk by Roy Scott

ON a Volunteers' Day at Kirby Hall, 23rd June, Roy Scott gave an interesting talk about his research into the cause of death, the place and the specific raid for 350 named civilians who died in the Second World War. This searchable database is now available on NORS.

Forty four bombing raids occurred between July, 1940, and November, 1943. George Plunkett's website "*Norwich Air Raids*;" Ralph Mottram's "*Assault Upon Norwich*;" John Banger's excellent "*Norwich at War*" and Steve Snelling's "*Norwich A Shattered City*," all list the raids and their effects on the city. Over 2000 houses were totally destroyed and another 2600 seriously damaged, 10 places of worship and 28 public houses were burnt out or seriously damaged. However, the civilian dead and injured are not well covered.

Whilst working on the Norwich Registrar's Weekly Death Returns, Roy noticed that some names were not included on the Norwich Roll of Honour, so he began collecting information from other sources such as cemetery and crematorium burial records; newspaper air raid reports of the time as well as death and funeral notices "to record details about the people killed in Norwich associated with specific raids and locations".

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission sent him a list of all deaths where Norwich occurred but he found this didn't include people who died when they were taken outside the city into the county, for instance at Newmarket Hospital, Exning Road.

Roy gave a brief resume of certain raids highlighting them with stories about people who were killed or injured. The raids started on 9th July, 1940, when a Dornier 17 and a Junkers 88 dropped 11 bombs including incendiaries around 5pm. High explosives fell on Boulton and Paul's Riverside Works and on Carrow Hill, the latter coinciding with the time at which Colman's employees were leaving work for the day. No air-raid warning was given and 26 people died.

A third raid on 30th July occurred about 6am when a single Dornier dropped a number of bombs on King Street, Argyle Street, Surrey Street, Ber Street, Victoria Terrace and Pegg's Opening, causing damage and several deaths, as four or five of the houses collapsed. Again no warning was sounded. Sixty people were killed and 190 injured in 1940 but in 1941 the mainly daylight raids and air raid warnings reduced the death toll to 21 and the number of injured to 104.

However, the "Baedeker" Raids of April, 1942 (where cities were selected from the famous Baedeker Guidebooks as cultural centres and deliberately bombed as a direct response to Britain's bombing of the historic German city of Lubeck on March 28th) caused huge damage.

The total number of casualties for the year amounted to 258 killed with nearly 800 injured. The last raid took place on 6th November, 1943, between 10.30pm and midnight, when firebombs were dropped in the Unthank Road district causing fires, but thankfully no one died.

The last deaths listed occurred on 24th November, 1944, when an American plane, returning to its base in difficulties, flew low over the city during the afternoon. Its wing-tip struck the tower of St Philip's Church in Heigham Road causing the aircraft to crash. The pilot managed to avoid a row of houses in Heigham Street and landed instead on some vacant ground near the railway but all the crew were killed. A bronze plaque to commemorate their gallantry was affixed to the houses nearby so nearly destroyed.

Roy has received letters from survivors and relatives giving detailed accounts about what happened to them. He related some of these tragic stories about individuals and their families whose survival or death depended on the luck of the draw."

In one case a young mother left an Anderson Shelter to go back into the house to fetch her baby some food when a bomb fell killing her outright whilst the rest of the family remained safe and unhurt. In other cases bodies of the dead were never recovered leaving their relatives not just with loss and bereavement but also with no burial ceremony and a lack of closure.

Edmund Perry MN3181

We will have more from Roy's talk in the December edition of Ancestor.

Normal for Norfolk?

David Farman discusses some family mysteries in an article he entitled "Normal for Norfolk."

I guess I am far from alone in wishing that my interest in family history pre-dated the deaths of my parents, for family secrets surely died with them.

My maternal line should be the difficult one to trace. Born in London's East End, my mother's ancestors included Somerset cabinetmakers, Huguenot silk weavers, Bedfordshire brickmakers and Irish bricklayers. Relatively straightforward, though!

My paternal line, Norfolk through and through, should be a piece of cake, and so it is, very largely: generation upon generation of Broadland reed thatchers and Breckland agricultural labourers, well documented back to the early 1600s. It's the 19th century, and my Norfolk great-grandmothers in particular, that poses a real challenge!

Martha FARMAN (1855-1938) was at least consistent. A daughter of the landlord of The Green Man in Sparham, Martha went on to have nine illegitimate children: none has a father named on their birth certificate.

Her first child was born in Sparham in 1874. The 1871 Census records Martha as a servant in the household of a Reepham doctor, but it is not known whether she was still employed there when the child was conceived.

Her next four children, including my paternal grandfather, were born and brought up in Gressenhall Workhouse, where Martha is recorded as an inmate in the 1881 and 1891 Census returns, and employed as matron's servant in 1892. As a helpful librarian at Gressenhall Workhouse pointed out to me, children born in the workhouse benefited from an education, whereas many of their contemporaries would have been put to work in the fields at an early age.

This certainly seems to have benefited my grandfather, who moved to London and became the first in the family to own their own home. Interestingly, he and two of his siblings, on their marriage certificates, named their father as Alfred Charles (or Charles Alfred) Farman, variously described as a carpenter, builder or farmer and conveniently deceased. I can find no evidence that he existed.

By 1894, Martha had moved to the first of several addresses in and around Dereham's Becclesgate, where she worked as a charwoman and where her last four children were born. She died in 1938, and is buried in an unmarked grave in Dereham Cemetery.

My other Norfolk great-grandmother, Sarah GRAVES (c1837-1935) produced 12 children (all apparently legitimate!): it is her own background that is intriguing. Family lore has it that her maiden name was MEACHEN. However, when she married my great-grandfather, Benjamin GRAVES (1835-1915) in Southburgh in 1857, her surname was recorded as SHARMAN and her father's name as Charles DRAKE. To confuse matters further, the 1865 birth certificate of her son, John, records her maiden name as SHEARING.

The 1841 Census return for Southburgh records a Meachen family comprising Frances (40) and her six children: John (20), Mary (13), Charles (10), George (9), Lydia (6) and Sarah (3). By 1851, the family comprises John (65), Frances (51) and Lydia (16) - with no mention of Lydia's younger sister, Sarah.

Various post-marriage census returns give Sarah's place of birth as Gressenhall. The 1851 Census return for Gressenhall Workhouse records an 11-year old pauper named Sarah Meachen, who had been born in Gressenhall. Is this the same Sarah? If so, why is she living in the workhouse and, come to that, how come she was born in Gressenhall (in the workhouse, perhaps) rather than Southburgh?

Whilst browsing antiquarian websites recently, I chanced upon the will of one William Shearing of Colton, who died in 1904, leaving bequests to his "sisters, Lydia SELF of Worlingham, Suffolk, and Sarah Graves of Southburgh". William turns out to have been the illegitimate son of Frances Shearing, born six years before her marriage to John Meachen.

Lydia turns out to have been Frances' daughter, who features with her in the 1841 and 1851 Census returns mentioned earlier. She firstly married John THANE, then later Thomas Self. This additional evidence would seem to confirm my great-grandmother, Sarah Graves, as being Lydia's younger sister, recorded as Sarah Meachen in the 1841 Census.

This still does not explain how Sarah came to be born in Gressenhall (but was living with her mother in Southburgh by 1841), or why she seems to have eschewed the surname Meachen in favour of Sharman or her mother's maiden name, Shearing.

Who was the mysterious Charles Drake (if, indeed, he ever existed)? Was her father someone other than John Meachen and what were the circumstances surrounding her birth? Or have I drawn some incorrect conclusions?

Any suggestions gratefully received!

David Farman, MN12700

Women and Children First

Roger Morgan looks at a tragic incident off the North Norfolk Coast.

MOST people will be familiar with the phrase 'women and children first' when the order to abandon ship is given. However, this was most definitely not the case in a tragic incident that took place off the North Norfolk coast in September, 1833.

The story centres around the sailing packet, the Earl of Weymss, which was on route from London to Leith in Scotland carrying 19



passengers and a cargo of hops from Kent. It left London on August 29th under the command of Captain Henry NESBIT. Two days later the ship got into difficulties off the coast at Brancaster with the subsequent loss of 11 of the passengers.

At the hearing that followed the tragedy, Captain Nesbit testified that a northeaster blew up in the North Sea and "continued to freshen until it became a hurricane." Other passengers on board claimed that the gale had been blowing since before 6am. By midday on Saturday, a survivor reported later that the smack was adrift on seas "like mountains of snow", with all her canvass shredded and her stern boat gone. By 10:30 on Saturday night she had lost both anchors and was aground on the North Norfolk coast off Brancaster about 400 metres off shore. She was stuck fast on top of the 'scurves' or outcrops of mud and peat.

There were conflicting accounts of what happened next from the captain and the survivors. The female passengers and their children were locked in the cabin which subsequently filled with water drowning everyone inside. The Spectator listed the victims as "Mrs HAMILTON, her son, and a lady; Mrs PYNE, her

daughter, and a child; Mrs CORMACK; Miss ROACH and a child — all cabin passengers; total 9. Mrs RYMER and child, steerage, were lost." According to the captain, water flooded into the cabin from below through the broken hull. However, most of the survivors claimed that storm driven seas crashed through the unprotected skylights, shattering the glass and drowning everyone in the ladies' cabin.

An eye witness made this statement, "Mrs Cormack, a young lady about 19, with her child 18 months old lying in the upper berth. She looked up - shook her head – held up her child - kissed it - pressed it to her bosom, and lay down to die – for the returning wave, now awfully increased by what poured in at the broken sky-light of the ladies' cabin suffocated all but one in an instant. I heard but one shriek".

When the survivors from below fled onto the deck, they found the captain and the crew lashed to the rigging and the winch. They had to wait another four hours to be rescued.

At the magistrate's inquiry that was convened two weeks later. Captain Nesbit's incompetence was clearly demonstrated. It was claimed that he had made several mistakes. Locking the women and children in the cabin and failing to protect the four skylights had led directly to their tragic deaths. Some witnesses stated that if the skylights had been battened down, the women would have survived. Secondly, no attempt was made to rescue them from the cabin because the captain felt that they were already dead and that it was pointless.

However, strenuous efforts were made to recover the valuable cargo. He had also missed a chance

Susanna Roche

Sacred to the memory of Susanna Roche aged 32 years and also to her nephew Alexander David Roche aged 4 years, who were unfortunately drowned with many others in the cabin of the Earl of Weymss, Leith Packet, which was stranded on this coast during the dreadful gale on September 1-1833 on its passage from London. Which melancholy affair has been doubly afflicting for the relatives of the deceased from the fact that no attempt was ever made to rescue them from their situation, and in continuation of such inhuman conduct their persons were stripped of every valuable and their property plundered. to save all of the passengers and crew by not allowing them to wade ashore during a lull at low water, because he had misread the state of the tide in a nautical almanac. Nesbit lost his job and was later ejected by his guild.

One of the more disturbing aspects of this case occurred during the rescue afterwards. A Brancaster sailor, John LARGE, who helped to recover the corpses, claimed that he had seen the bodies being looted. It was alleged that William (Joseph) NEWMAN REEVE, the son-in-law of the elderly Lord of Brancaster Manor, had stripped them of any valuables, as well as taking other property and cash from the cabin.

Newman Reeve claimed that he had taken the jewellery 'to protect them from revolting indignities – such as having their fingers cut off to get the rings off them'.

This claim was disputed by the Reverend Mr HOLLOWAY of Brancaster who said that the earrings had been torn out of ears and bruises caused, and the bodies were still warm. Other people claimed that Newman Reeve had refused to give things back to the relatives because he said that they belonged to the Lord of the Manor, who was entitled to everything cast up on the shore.

The husband of one of the ladies, Mrs Pyne, wanted to prosecute Newman Reeve for taking things and ripping out earrings. He stood trial in Norwich before Judge VAUGHAN in March, 1834, after a short time in Norwich Castle. He was charged with stealing property – a bag, nine five pound notes, four exchequer bills of £100 each, 100 sovereigns and a box.

At the trial he was represented by the renowned lawyer Sir James SCARLETT, a local MP. He made much of Newman Reeve's good name, and the fact that 100 sovereigns were found in his house was discounted, because they may have belonged to his father-in-law.

The verdict was 'not guilty'. A second trial took place later in the year and, despite evidence about people who had agreed to lie in order to protect Reeve, the jury returned a second not guilty verdict.

The relatives of one of the victims, Susanna Roche, placed a lasting memorial to the tragedy and the events that followed in the form of a headstone in Brancaster churchyard, a depiction of which is shown on the previous page.

Roger Morgan MN 16248

More About the Crabbes

By Roy Dunnett

I was interested to read the paragraphs about the Reverend George CRABBE in "More Characters of East Anglia" in the June edition of Norfolk Ancestry as, although I am not directly related to him, one of his sons, another Reverend George Crabbe (1785-1857) married Caroline Matilda TIMBRELL (1793-1834), a first cousin five times removed of mine whose family came from Trowbridge in Wiltshire.

This second George did not, as far as I am aware, have any direct link with Norfolk. He was born in Stathern, Lincolnshire, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge before becoming curate in Pucklechurch, Gloucestershire, for 17 years from 1817 before moving to Bredfield in Suffolk to be vicar of St Andrew's Church where he remained until his death. He wrote a biography of his father and several weightier books, mainly on theology.



George and Caroline had seven children, all born in Pucklechurch, although, as far as I have been able to find, only the second child, and eldest son, had any Norfolk connection. This son was the third Reverend George Crabbe (1819 -1984). He was educated at Bury St Edmund's Grammar School and Queens' College, Cambridge (coincidentally my own college).

An obituary in the "Bury and Norfolk Post" and "Suffolk Herald" says that he was then appointed curate in Copdock, Suffolk, before being presented to the rectorship of St Peter's Church in Merton, Norfolk, in 1851 by Lord WALSING-HAM, which post he held until his death.

Incidentally the obituary wrongly says he was the son of the poet George Crabbe's eldest brother when all records show that he was the grandson of the poet. So it may be slightly wrong about when he moved to Merton as one death notice suggests that he had been in Merton for almost 40 years.

The 1851 census shows him as unmarried, a clergyman, presumably staying a at his father's vicarage in Bredfield, perhaps just before moving to Merton. In June that year he married his first cousin Emily Louisa Crabbe (1829 - 1854) in Beccles. She was the daughter of the Reverend John Waldron Crabbe who was vicar of Beccles at the time of his death in 1840.

They had two daughters Anna Louise Crabbe (1852-1868) and Emily Louisa Crabbe (1853-1894) but his wife Emily died very shortly after the birth of the

second. George never remarried. The 1861 census shows him a widower, Rector of Merton, living with his daughters, a governess and two servants. However, he was in the Rectory in Thompson, a neighbouring village to Merton. This was surprising, especially as Thompson has its own 14th century parish church, St Martin's. One of his death notices describes the Merton Rectory as being in Watton, the nearest larger town. I would be interested to know exactly where the Rectory was.

In the 1871 census he was also shown as a widower and Rector of Merton but was in Christchurch, Dorset, with his second daughter, presumably on holiday. Unfortunately so far I have completely failed to find him in the 1881 census.

He died on 9th August, 1884, and is, I think, buried in Merton Churchyard thus ending at least for many years, the Crabbe's family's link with Norfolk. The obituary mentioned before describes him as "of a remarkably gentle disposition, and his churchmanship was of that refined cultivated stamp, which is all too rare." He was obviously much respected, as is shown by a report from the same paper on the same day of an early evening garden fete at Merton Hall, organised by Lord Walsingham to help raise money for the restoration of Tottington Church.

The report says that it was announced on the morning of this event that the Rev. George Crabbe was lying dangerously ill within a mile of the park. In view of this, Lord Walsingham proposed the cancellation of the fete but was begged not to do so by George as "the public would be greatly disappointed". However, the band of the 4th Hussars was cancelled in order not to disturb the dying rector and the paper comments that many more than the 3000 present would have been there if the band had played.

Incidentally, the year after George's death, his surviving daughter Emily married the splendidly named the Reverend Sir Clennell George RIVETT-CARNAC, vicar of parishes in Surrey. Sadly she died nine years later aged 40, having had three children. I would be interested to know exactly where the Merton Rectory was and any other information anyone has about George.

Ray Dunnett MN 13685

Request Re Robert Spicer and Joseph Bullen

I am writing to you in the hope that a member of the NFHS can help with my research on the above persons who made their name in this region in Wells. I am now getting more time on my hands and want to see if there is enough for a reasonably sized article. Robert SPICER (1822-1894) lived at the Globe in the Butlands and was, amongst other things, a cartage agent, victualler, auctioneer and timber manager for Holkham Hall. He appeared to have travelled to other areas of Norfolk (as far as Yarmouth) to conduct auctions so he must have had a formidable reputation.

Concerning Joseph BULLEN (1852-1926) he made his name in mineral waters and, whilst at first glance there may be no connection between these persons, Joseph was married to Frances (1854-1925), one of the daughters of Robert SPICER, and I believe the ill health of Robert Spicer in 1894 led to the decision by Joseph and Frances Bullen to move back to Wells from their Manchester home and form the mineral water works in Standard Road.

A mineral water work partnership involving Joseph Bullen in Manchester was dissolved in 1894 and I think this is more than a coincidence.

I have a certain amount of information but not enough at the moment to put together an article of any substance and would appreciate information from any member who is able to help.

I do have photographs of Joseph and Frances Bullen and also Robert Spicer's wife, Susan Rachel, but not of Robert. I believe there is a portrait of him and his wife but I have no idea where this is currently (it was willed by Robert Spicer to be taken by one of his five surviving children at the time so its current potential whereabouts are unknown) and I am keen to locate a locket with their photographs in, which was willed by Frances Bullen to her grand-daughter Hilda Bullen (1904-1962).

Hilda married Alfred H. WRIGHT (1901-?) in 1927 and the last record I have lists them being at Town Wall Road in Great Yarmouth in 1939 with their son Bernard A. Wright (1929-1986). If anyone is researching this family I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Alan Broadmeadow MN10799 alanandjane100@yahoo.co.uk

The Life of Ina Crafer (1885-1962)

By Helen Crafer MN13557

INA CRAFER is my husband's half aunt. She was the first born child of William Hayhow Crafer and Louisa Eleanor Crafer (nee BUTTERFANT), and was born on 2nd January, 1885, in Norwich, when her parents were living at 30 Kimberley Street, Heigham, Norwich. William Hayhow Crafer had been born in Wells next the Sea in 1857, and Louisa Eleanor Butterfant in Norwich in 1847.

At the time of her birth, William Hayhow Crafer was a Traveller and Tea Dealer's Assistant, and had married Louisa Eleanor in 1884.

They went on to have three other children: Ethel – who was born on 26th December, 1885, William – who was born on 6th March, 1887, and Malcolm – who was born in 1889 but died only a few months old in early 1890.



In the 1891 Census, the family were living at 6, Southwell Terrace, Southwell Road, Norwich, and living with them was Louisa's sister Hannah, who was a College Matron.

By the 1901 Census, they were living at 6, Hanover Road, Heigham, Norwich. At this time, William Hayhow was working as a Grocery Assistant, Ethel was aged 15 and working as a Draper's Apprentice, and Ina, at age 16, was already working as a Pupil Teacher.

As printed in the December 2016 issue of the "The Norfolk Ancestor", Ina was mentioned in the Adresaro de Esperantistoj as one of 18 early speakers of Esperanto in Norfolk. We were grateful for this information, submitted by Bill and Pat Chapman, as we were unaware of Ina being a pioneer of the Esperanto language in the first decade of the 20th century.

In the 1911 Census Ina, at age 26, was still living with her parents at Hanover Road, and was working as an Elementary School Teacher. Her brother William, aged 24, was an Assistant Civil Engineer. Her sister Ethel had already started on her travels.

On 20th February, 1912, Ina travelled on the SS Ascania from Southampton, with a number of other people from the Norwich area. Aged 27, she was at that time working as a teacher. Her address was still listed as 6, Hanover Road, and her father, William Hayhow Crafer, was her "next of kin". Her destination was Ripley, West Virginia, USA, together with several of the other passengers.

Ina's Mother, Louisa died on 10th May, 1912, at home at 6, Hanover Road, aged 63. The cause of her death was reported as "heart failure, accelerated by accidental fall".



On 30th October, 1913, Ethel had travelled to the United States from Liverpool, to New Orleans, and had married her Norwich born husband Sidney Donald SMITH the following day in Gulfport, Mississippi He became an American Diplo-

mat working as an Inspector for the Department of Agriculture. Ethel and Sidney retired to Santa Cruz, and died in 1958 and 1948 respectively.

In the meantime, Ina's brother William had travelled on 7th October, 1911, to Montreal, Canada, from Liverpool on the ship "Tentonic", which was part of the White Star Dominion Line. He later signed up on 22nd July, 1915, to join the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.

He served in France, as a sergeant, with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps, and unfortunately was killed on 8th August, 1918, aged 30. My husband and I visited William's grave at Hangard Wood British Cemetery, Dept. de la Somme, Picardie, France, in May 2014 – see photo of his gravestone above.

Ina's father, William Hayhow Crafer went on



to marry Annie Laura FOX in April, 1915, and they had three children: Norman, Alma and Olive Miriam.

By 1918, Ina was living and obviously working within the Borough of Stepney, Tower Hamlets, London, in the Parish of Whitechapel. She was listed in the register of electors as working at

the London Hospital,



Whitechapel Road. The photograph above shows her nursing on one of the wards at the hospital.

In early 1923, aged 38, she left Liverpool, travelling to the destination port of Sekondi-Takoradi, which is on the Ghana (Gold Coast) on the ship Adda. Then on 4th February, 1923, aged 38, Ina arrived in Liverpool from Lagos, having travelled on the Ship Appam, from the Steamship Line Elder Dempster and Co. Ltd. She had embarked at Seccondee, West Africa, travelling First Class as a nurse, giving her proposed address in the United Kingdom as 6, Hanover Road, Norwich.

In 1924, aged 39, she left Liverpool again for the Destination Port of Sekondi-Takoradi, on the Ship, Abinsi. At some time, whilst in Africa, she married Samuel Thomas BERRINGTON, a white African. The photo below was taken on their wedding day. Samuel was a Mineral and Water Radiologist (water diviner), who also owned and ran Kapiri Garage.



On 2nd May, 1925, Ina travelled on the SS Caronia from Liverpool to New York. By this time she was 40 years of age and still working as a nurse. Her address was reported as 31, Grosvenor Road, Norwich, and from the records she intended her future permanent residence to be in England. We are unable to find any reference to when or where Samuel Thomas Berrington was born or died, but Ina died a widow, whilst in Hellesdon Hospital, on 26th December, 1962. She died of broncho pneumonia and heart failure, Certified by F. J. NAPIER MD, and this death entry was reported by Norman Crafer, my husband's father – who was Ina's step brother. From her will, Ina left Effects of £684 2s to her step sister Alma.



DVD

Yorkshire Date

Doncaster and District Family History Society is holding its annual fair on Saturday, October 14th, at the Deaf College [Opposite Doncaster Racecourse].

There will be a wide range of FHS stands, genealogy suppliers, heritage groups and craft stalls. Entry is £1 and there are two free talks. The main speaker will be Myko Clelland of FindMyPast, explaining "How to get the best from FMP". Full details including a list of exhibitors, and directions can be found on Doncaster FHS website, www.doncasterfhs.co.uk.

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A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE

Patricia Veal relates the story of Amy Thrower from her humble beginnings to pulling pints of ale. Amy managed a pub and a cad of a husband. Amy was a hardworking lady whose life ended in the workhouse.

Amy THROWER was born in Scole to William and Margaret (née HARDY) and baptised on 10th July, 1796, at the Church of St Andrew. Her parents had moved from Great Ellingham to live in Scole and had six children between 1789 and 1802. Their father was a pauper.

At that time, Scole was situated on the very busy Ipswich to Norwich road seeing 40 stagecoaches stopping daily at the commodious 17thcentury coaching Inn (cum Post Office) which remains to this day as The Scole Inn. Such Inns back then would provide entertainment for the travelling public.

In 1818, Amy (aged 22), had an illegitimate daughter, baptised Caroline Thrower at St Andrew's. Four years later, she had another child and he was baptised Andrew THROWER WALSINGHAM on 3rd June, 1822. The father's name and occupation was James WALSINGHAM a Journeyman Tailor originally from Westleton, Suffolk. Six months later Amy (aged 27) married James (32) at St. Andrew's on 27th January, 1823.

Following their marriage they had four more children in Scole. Henry in 1824; Keziah 1825; David 1827 and Thomas 1828 and their father was employed as a tailor. After 1828, the family moved 23 miles south to Suffolk making their home in Darsham near to where James had been raised. They had two more children: Sylvester 1833 and Laura 1837, both baptised at All Saints Church. James was recorded as a tailor and they lived there for about four years.

Darsham with its two turnpikes situated halfway between Ipswich and Lowestoft allowed for regular stagecoaches and Royal Mail to call in and, although the local agricultural population was at this time suffering impoverished conditions, the village managed to support four other resident tailors.

By the time of the 1841 Census, Amy had returned to Norfolk, living in New Buckenham, a small moderately prosperous town, with six of her children. She was recorded as married and head of the family with the two eldest boys, Andrew and Henry, recorded as tailors. There appeared to be some good fortune as they had plenty of work considering there were nine other tailors living there.

I have not managed to find James on this census but in early 1848 he was lodging in Melbourn, Cambridgeshire when on the 11th May he was found dead by his landlady. She notified the Registrar: James Walsingham was a 58 year old tailor. No mention of a wife or his status. He died of Phthisis (TB). Sometime between 1841 and 1850 Amy Walsingham left Norfolk to settle in Royston, Hertfordshire, 60 miles west of New Buckenham and three miles from Melbourn.

On 21st September, 1850, Amy became the new landlady of The Three Horseshoes Public House situated on the busy London Road, with a licence to sell ale and tobacco. She purchased fixtures and fittings for the pub valued at £13.17s which included a kitchen range; pewter and glassware; benches; tables; beds and a fruit orchard.

Her married daughter Keziah CASTLE and family had already settled in Royston by 1846 which could have been the reason Amy settled there.

Royston at that time was known as a great malting town, standing on the intersection of the Icknield Way and the Roman road Ermine Street, then the county boundary between Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Looking at the 1851 Census there were 31 public houses of various types in the town, 27 of them managed by men and the other four managed by women and Amy was one of them. Many publicans had a second occupation to survive and Amy was no exception as she was also a laundress.

On the 1851 Census, Amy is still the publican of The Three Horseshoes, widowed and head of the household. Amy's 13 year old daughter Laura and five year old Grandson Henry Castle were living with her. Lodging at this address was local Shepherd Edward LEETE, my 2x great-grandfather.

By now her sons Henry and Thomas were also residing and working as tailors in Royston.

On 23rd December, 1851, Amy (recorded age 48) married Edward LEETE (25) in Therfield, three miles from Royston. Amy is actually 55 years old and had five grandchildren. This age difference probably boded ill for their future.

In August, 1852, a local newspaper wrote: "Edward Leete charged and fined 40 shillings for breaking the rules of his licence". Amy had probably transferred her licence to his name.

In June 1853, there was another newspaper report: "Edward Leete, a Beer Shop Keeper was charged with assaulting his wife Amy, a claim brought about by her although she later dropped the charge".

On 17th April, 1854, Amy sold the contents of The Three Horseshoes and handed the pub over to a new landlord.

On the 1861 Census, Amy and Edward were living on the High Canons Estate in the village of Ridge, near Shenley in South Hertfordshire some 32 miles from Royston. Edward was a shepherd on the estate and her grandson Henry (15) now a tailor was still living with her. Amy's son Henry, now married with two children, was living in nearby Shenley (1861 Census) and, in early 1861, her daughter Laura was married in Ridge. Laura had her first child there though by 1863 this family had moved away.

Alas, by 1865 Edward Leete had left Amy and travelled north to County Durham where he met a local lady of his own age. They had a child in July 1866 (my great grandfather) and cohabited for their remaining years. Edward died in 1906.

Although on the Shenley 1871 Census, Amy was living alone, a widow retired from business, she was living next door to her recently widowed son Henry (47) and his four children. Perhaps Amy was helping to look after Henry's family.

On 14th December, 1875, Amy Leete died at the Watford Union Workhouse. Her death was attributed to "old age" aged 85, the widow of Thomas Leete a farm labourer. In truth she was only 79.

Her sons Andrew, Henry and Thomas were successful master tailors. Andrew died in Ware in 1915; Henry in Shenley in 1914 and Thomas in Linton, Cambridgeshire in 1861.

David was also a tailor but not successful. He married in 1847 but left his family to fend for themselves. Upon his return in 1852 after four years away he received a two month sentence at Bedford Gaol. He did live with his family until 1861, but thereafter his movements are unknown.

Keziah Castle died in 1903 in Camberwell, Surrey.

Sylvester went to Australia when he was about 18 and lived in a remote area of Eastern Victoria called Briagolong. He was a farmer, a bachelor and known as a misanthropist. He died in 1904 after falling from his horse, leaving an estate of $\pounds 2179$.

Laura WALLBROOK died 1924 in South Gloucestershire.

Sadly I have not found any evidence relating to the whereabouts of Amy's first born child Caroline THROWER.

My connection and story is based around Amy and her marriage to my ancestor Edward Leete, an eventful one for her although this union only lasted about 14 years and was without issue.

To summarise, here was a modest Norfolk lady who it seems kept going in the face of adversity for the good of her family until she died. Amy and James were married for 25 years and had 36 grandchildren, three of whom went on to be successful tailors well into the 1900s.

Patricia Veal MN 15678

Walter Rye - a life in brief

Education and training

Walter RYE (1843-1929) was the seventh child of Edward Rye (a London solicitor with an office in Golden Square, Westminster, and a house in Chelsea) and his wife Maria.

He grew up in a rather large but, in every sense, cold household and received his initial education at a school which he later condemned as brutal, and which he left, at his own request, at the age of 14. The only simple option after that, and the one he adopted, was to join his brother as a junior clerk in his father's legal office.

After a while, and again apparently on his own initiative, he went on to improve his education by attending night school at King's College, London, where he acquitted himself well both academically and as a member of the college athletics' team. With what was



now a distinctly improved general education, he was equipped to train as a solicitor, and achieved a pass – though nothing more than that – in his final exams. A weak showing in his criminal law and bankruptcy papers denied him a higher overall grade, and in effect determined the scope of his future legal work.

After being formally admitted a solicitor in 1866 when he was 22, he in one sense entered his father's firm, although he actually seems to have worked independently, and his father did not entrust serious cases to him for a further five years. Not long after that, his professional life became even more awkward. His father slowly declined into senility and paranoia and, when he could no longer continue to practise, far from handing the firm on to his son, he made Walter borrow money from friends to buy him out in 1874.

As if work experience, continuing education and legal training were not enough to fill the average youth's day, Walter also found time as a teenager to train as an athlete, to teach at a local Sunday school and at a night school, to develop strong antiquarian interests, and to travel, especially (and extensively) in Norfolk, the county of his ancestors and a place which he would quickly make his own.

Sporting Legend

Walter Rye wished to be remembered first and foremost as an athlete. His proudest achievements came mostly in his teens and twenties when, indeed, he

became a national champion and record-holder in both walking and running events. He went on to hold high office in several of the most important athletics bodies of his day, and founded a new club, Thames Hare and Hounds, which introduced paper-chasing as an adult sport and earned for Walter the epithet 'Father of Paper-Chasing'.

He remained a sporting celebrity throughout his long life and, when he came to write his "Autobiography of an Ancient Athlete and Antiquary" in 1916, the order of words in the title was no accident. Today, however, he is far more widely remembered as one of Norfolk's great antiquaries, and a champion of the city of Norwich and county of Norfolk.

It would be quite possible to write a whole book about Walter the athlete, and doubtless that is



what he would have preferred. But it would not give us a rounded picture of Walter the man, which is closer to the aim of the present work. Even in the sporting realm he was not only an athlete but also a notable cyclist, a passable rower and archer; and an intrepid though not very competent sampler of other sports including cricket, pugilism and shooting, as well as a promoter of the introduction into England of lacrosse. For relaxation he was also a sailor, but not in any competitive sense, because for this activity the physical effort was undertaken by paid boatmen. For a time Walter (sometimes writing anonymously) was also a waspish sports journalist and commentator.

Married life

After a number of unsuccessful amorous adventures he married in 1870. Over the next 19 years his wife Georgina bore him 11 children, one of them still-born and another dying of cancer in infancy, but nine surviving to adulthood. Family and professional life notwithstanding, Walter somehow managed to keep up – indeed to increase – his sporting and antiquarian commitments; and to his accomplishments as a nationally-rated athlete he would soon add those of a skilled genealogist, topographer and local historian (of Norfolk in particular), with many publications to his name, and a collector of antiquarian books and manuscripts. All of this activity must have drastically reduced the time he had available to spend with Georgina and the family, but he was not a completely absent father, and did make time for the children especially when they were old enough to share his interests in athletics, cycling and sailing.

Meanwhile Georgina had her work cut out dealing with her successive children (with the help of servants). Sadly, no sooner had she ceased being a child-

bearer than she developed diabetes, a disease that would slowly weaken her over the next two decades until she became a bed-ridden invalid, nursed at home largely by their daughters. Walter too fell victim to a number of serious diseases, any one of which could have proved fatal but from all of which, rather to his surprise, he recovered.

Poor health may very well have been among the main

factors leading to his taking early retirement from his legal firm, which in 1900 he handed on to two of his sons, Frank and Arthur. Walter and Georgina, with their daughters, then moved from London to Norwich, where Walter had already established a very favourable reputation and, in 1908, he became, by invitation, the city's Mayor. Ever since, he has been hailed as one of Norwich's notables.

Georgina's death in 1910 led to an increasingly lonely existence, as first one and then another of his now grown-up daughters left home. His ever-present sense of his own mortality spurred him on to compile in 1916 an autobiography, which was privately printed mainly for the benefit of his family and friends. He surprised himself and others by living on for a further 13 years, although by then he was failing physically and much of his literary output in this final period represented a sort of desk-clearing rather than new work.

Antiquary and Historian

Edward Rye, Walter's father, was by some accounts rather cold and remote, but there are signs too that he actively opened the young Walter's eyes to aspects of history and heritage. Of his neglect – benevolent or otherwise – it can at least be said that it provided Walter with the opportunity to delve into his father's extensive library. It also encouraged him and his brothers to develop outside interests including natural history and sport, and through those in turn to make new friends and become more independent of the parental household.

The Rye family had roots in medieval Norfolk and Walter's keen desire, even as a teenager, to understand his family's history in context sowed the seeds of lifelong interests in genealogy at large, and in the history, topography and antiquities of Norfolk in particular. From the 1860s, while still in training as a solicitor, he took out a reader's ticket at the Public Record Office. This was less than a decade after the PRO had first opened its tiny search room to the public and, although he was not one of the very first generation of readers, he was one of the first whose name we actually know. Here he immersed himself in the archives, trawling systematically through sources that seemed most likely to have a bearing on Norfolk's history – both for his own interest and also acting on commission from others. The records had never been trawled like this before and, for the next three decades, Walter made frequent skirmishes through them, copying and abstracting them and publishing transcripts, calendars, lists and indexes for the benefit of a wider public, often at his own expense. In his last two decades, when failing eyesight got the better of him, he employed record agents including at least one of his daughters to check references and undertake new work on his behalf at the PRO.

His strongly opinionated and polemical book "Records and Record Searching" (first edition 1887 and still available in print today) became a national, not just a local, bestseller and a vade mecum for generations of scholars and genealogists approaching archival sources for the first time.

A passion for Norwich and Norfolk

Walter was far from being an 'ex-pat' historian working on his ancestral county at a distance but never venturing there. On the contrary, he had begun to visit Norfolk even as a boy, before he knew much at all about archives, although he took with him a clear understanding of the importance of monumental inscriptions from studying those in Fulham Parish Churchyard not far from his home. It took no time at all for him to become fixated with Norfolk, and for most of his professional life he would spend every available moment of his holidays visiting the county, which he came to know as well on the ground, mile by mile, as he did from the parchments, inch by inch.

His mission was helped by a precociously sociable temperament. He developed both an ear for listening to and an eye for observing local gossip and folklore, dialect, songs and traditions. Chance conversations over a farm gate or at the local inn often proved as valuable in his overall scheme of things as did his days of copying down inscriptions, or extracts from records.

But Walter, from his very first visit to Norfolk, also began to build up a nexus of more serious friendships, especially among the clergy and antiquaries of the county who might be able to open doors for him into the local sources of history and genealogy. From this arose more enduring friendships than those casual, gossipy encounters and eventually he gained an entrée into a number of local societies, beginning with the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society (with which, however, he would develop a stormy relationship).

As the years went by, he would travel around Norfolk by train and dog-cart, on foot, by bicycle and tricycle and not least by boat, for he became a keen sailor on the Broads and a notable champion, in print and in the courts, both of their preservation and of the public's right of access to them. He was one of the founders of the Norfolk Broads Protection Society and its honorary solicitor, although in his day some of the wider freedoms he sought for the public were never admitted either by the landowners or by the law.

Walter Rye still figures prominently in the roll of honour of Norfolk antiquaries, on the basis of his very successful "Tourists' Guide to Norfolk" (1st edition 1879), his "History of Norfolk" (1885), his massive "Norfolk Families" (1911-1913) and many published studies of individual families, parishes and towns, and his guides to and transcripts of original archival sources for the county. He contributed a number of essays on Norfolk antiquaries to the "Dictionary of National Biography" and worked for a time on the Norfolk section of the "Victoria County History," although this latter assignment was brought to a premature end by a combination of his own genuine struggle with failing eyesight and fundamental disagreement with the general editor's vision for the project.

Walter Rye is also remembered as the champion and preserver, in his day, of historic buildings in Norwich which might otherwise have fallen into decay or into the hands of unsympathetic developers. These included Anguish's House, the Maid's Head Hotel (still, happily, going strong), Bacon's House and the Lazar House. So he was already well known and loved in the city of Norwich by the time he retired there in 1900.

Also in Norwich, he joined a number of non-sporting social clubs, including the Woodpeckers Art Club and the Science Gossip Club. Although he professed to being rather shy and nervous as a public speaker, this did not prevent him giving frequent entertaining and sententious lectures on a wide range of topics, often illustrated by lantern slides.

In 1908-9, despite having only recently become politically active and having no previous service on the city council (save on its library committee), and despite also having by then a very sick wife, he was persuaded to stand as a stop-gap candidate for Mayor of Norwich. He was duly elected for what turned out to be a very successful, but to him distinctly stressful and rather dreary, year of office that encompassed a visit by King Edward VII, the first royal visit to the city since the 17th century. As a roundel he inserted in a window of the parish church at Lammas has it, he was the 'last Mayor of Norwich', because a Lord Mayoralty was bestowed on the city under his successor, Walter having preferred to be known by the ancient title Mayor.

He bequeathed his large collection of books and manuscripts to the Norwich City Library of which he was a keen supporter.

Author and controversialist

Like others of the Victorian 'chattering class', Walter Rye had firm and often strongly negative opinions on most things. In what follows I have let him have his own say, first to give the reader a sense of the man, his humour, enthusiasms and pet hates, but secondly to show what some of his friends and contemporaries had to put up with from this master of the put-down! His contentious, often reactionary views were aired not only in his lectures but in the prefaces, texts and footnotes of many of his publications, and in the correspondence and feature columns of national and local newspapers and quality magazines such as "The Athenaeum," to which he was a regular contributor. Between 1867 and 1929 Walter Rye published some 80 books, ranging from short pamphlets to lengthy histories. In the same period he authored something like 150 articles. If we add to these the prodigious quantity of articles, notes and letters he wrote to national and local newspapers (of which many cuttings survive, uncatalogued, among his papers), his published writings must have run to several million words. It would be an achievement indeed to read every word of his that survives in print.

His determination to speak out, even to the brink of libel or slander, on matters such as fraudulent claims to antiquity or status by gentry families; false claims to sporting records by athletes; careless research or presentation by antiquaries and historians; the destruction of the heritage by developers and town or city councils; the deplorable effects of tourism; the way in which (as he thought) the labouring class shirked military duties in wartime; and many other highly contentious issues, naturally won him enemies, especially where his remarks became public and personal, as they often did. He once described himself as a 'good hater'.

Those he offended included the heads of families whose genealogical descent he publicly questioned; individuals and institutions whose taste or judgement he impugned; and almost anyone (including his supposed friends) who had the temerity to suggest that he had misused or misread the evidence on which his argument depended. He was quick to get his feathers ruffled, and was not one to let matters rest once sparring had commenced, no matter how many rounds it might take, to the irritation not only of his antagonists but also of some of his friends and advisers.

Yet his outspokenness also gained him friends and champions who remained fiercely loyal even when he had bitten off more than he could chew in the latest public controversy. From his surviving correspondence it is clear that to intimates, though he was indeed infuriating and incorrigible, he could also be warm-hearted and kindly, fun-loving and highly sociable. As one of them put it as a joke by writing the letters after his name, he was 'OOTB' - One Of The Best!

Outspoken though he was, on the whole his writings were very well received by reviewers in both the local and the national press and the quality journals. And this solid reputation among his contemporaries cannot be lightly dismissed. To many he was simply a star whose every writing or utterance was eagerly awaited. They were awestruck – and who could blame them? – by his prodigious output and the sheer scale of his endeavour. But for the most part they lacked any real familiarity with the kind of sources he was using, so their judgement on the merits of his work tended to be influenced by secondary factors such as whether he told a good story (which he generally did) or presented his case well (which he sometimes did not).

But before we get swept along by all this adulation there are other things to consider. Although he was often highly critical of other people's mistakes, Walter's own research and writings were far from being the epitome of perfection. And he knew it. Lacking a university education, as a writer he was a proudly self-trained amateur. His publications were for the most part self-funded: very little was, as we would now say, 'peer-reviewed', not least because there were few who could claim to be his peer in record searching. He admitted that his work contained errors of transcription, editing, interpretation and proof-reading. At the very end of his long life he came to understand what others had been telling him for years, that the thread of his argument in his more controversial historical, antiquarian and genealogical writings was sometimes lost in a fog of minute detail that none but he could follow.

Perhaps it is too harsh to judge him by today's standards: the reader must decide. But given all that has changed since Walter Rye's time: the increased professionalisation of the study of history, the great expansion of interest in local history and opening up of countless additional sources, and the honing of research techniques, his interpretations and opinions, his transcriptions, and, yes, even some of his 'facts', can legitimately be scrutinised more robustly than was possible at the time.

Good hater or OOTB, he was still a highly desirable catch for a dinner party – at least, among those who could hold their own against this larger-than-life character. He could also prove a useful ally in public campaigns, especially when it came to preserving old buildings or defending public rights on the Broads. In turn, he himself could be a generous host. He threw lavish parties at his successive London homes, and even to a lesser extent in Norwich and at his rural retreat at Lammas, where space for entertaining was more constrained, particularly after his wife's health went into steep decline.

Walter's image, as a seriously over-weight (at times over 17 stones) and boisterous bon viveur, gossip, humourist and practical joker, shines through these

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pages, but the picture would not be complete without mention of his gentler side: as a gardener, friend and family man; and his vulnerability, including the continual – and by no means irrational – dread of impending death that stalked him throughout his (actually very long) life of 85 years.

Water Rye died in 1929. Obituaries spoke fulsomely of his achievements, and many lamented the passing of a giant whose like would not be seen again. Sadly today that fame has been dulled, except in a few specialist circles. It is high time to give it a polish!

The following article is based on a manuscript by Dr Christopher Kitching which is reproduced with permission **Roger Morgan**



A Family Diversion

Arlene Pilgrim explains how interesting family diversions can be.

READING the article on East Anglian characters and odd vicars reminded me of a diversion made while researching my husband's family history. Our earliest PILGRIMS found are in Essex, in particular around the Great Chesterford area. This is where my 4xgreat grandfather John Pilgrim (1732-1811) lived.

I was looking through the memorial inscriptions produced by the Chesterford Local History Society. There are two pages of memorials for Pilgrims and a large section of the churchyard is occupied by Pilgrims. Then I came across two items which grabbed my attention and diverted me from my line of research. The items were:

"Here rests the body of the Lord Charles Amelius Hervey, 5th son of the Marquis of Bristol for more than 40 years vicar of Great Chesterford and rector of Little

Chesterford. He died 11 April 1880 aged 65."

"Also in memory of his wife the Lady Harriet Charlotte Sophia Hervey 4th daughter of the Earl of Harrowby who died at Villa D'Este Lake Como on the 26th September 1899 in the 89th year of her age and whose body rests in Cannes in France." There are two more inscriptions for their sons.

I thought it would be interesting to find out more. I already knew that the Lord of the Manor of Great Chesterford was the Marquess of Bristol, whose family seat was Ickworth House, for my husband's ancestor had purchased the bakery from him in the late 1700s. But I did not know anything about the Marquess until now and had had no reason to find out.

If Lord Charles Amelius Hervey had been Vicar of the Great and Little Chesterfords for 40 years, he must have baptised, married and buried quite a number of Pilgrims.

Even my husband showed a bit of interest in this snippet of information. So I Googled Charles Amelius Hervey. He was baptised 3rd November, 1814, at Westminster. He was the fifth son of the 1st Marquess of Bristol, Lord Frederick William Hervey.

Our Vicar Lord Charles was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a cricketer who, in 1835, played in a single first class match for Cambridge University against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). He batted in the lower order and failed to score in either innings and there is no record that he bowled or took a wicket, because the scorecard is incomplete.

He was given the living of Great and Little Chesterford. Lord Charles married Harriet Charlotte Sophia RYDER who was the daughter of the Earl of HAR-ROWBY. I believe they had eight children and they lived at the vicarage in Great Chesterford. The 1851 census shows that a Pilgrim relative Richard BARRETT, aged 10, was a page at the vicarage for the vicar and was one of 13 servants.

Despite the Marquess of Bristol having six sons, only the first would inherit the title and of the other five, one went into the Army, one became an MP, one was a private secretary in the Diplomatic Service and the other two, including Charles, went into the Church. A bit more research with the help of Wikipedia and I discovered that the other son who went into the Church was the Rt Rev Lord Arthur Charles Hervey.

After attending Trinity College, he had various livings in Suffolk, including Ick-

worth. In 1869 he was offered the Bishopric of Bath and Wells on the recommendation of William GLADSTONE. He remained there until his death in 1894 and his tomb is in Wells Cathedral. One of his 12 children trained the mute swans in the five sided moat at the Bishop's Palace to ring bells by pulling strings to beg for food.

It was the sixth son, Lord Alfred Hervey, who became an MP. He was MP for Brighton and was Junior Lord of the Treasury. He had a son Frederick Alfred John Hervey who also entered the Church.

On looking at the Chesterford burial record for 1880 for our Great Chesterford Vicar, Lord Charles, it says that the officiating minister was the Rev Canon F.A.J Hervey of Sandringham. Worth another Google. The Rev Canon Frederick, nephew of our Charles, was Chaplain in Ordinary to Queen Victoria and Domestic Chaplain to King Edward VII.

And yes, I did find out that Lord Charles had indeed baptised, married and buried quite a few of our family. This is just an illustration of how interesting diversions can be.

Arlene Pilgrim MN 11355

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New Members and Members' Interests to July 14th, 2017



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

Welcome to the September Issue of The Norfolk Ancestor. I hope you are all happy with the new NORS. I for one am pretty impressed with it. Of course we have had a few hiccups but we did expect that, and thank you to those people who have been working on the corrections that have had to be made. A few of you have forgotten your login and password and have emailed me for help. What you need to remember and keep a note of is your login; it is your member

number and the first three letters of your surname, not your email address. If you've forgotten your password you can click on forgotten password and an email will be sent to you with a new password. Enter this into the box making sure there are no spaces. Sometimes this email goes into your spam box. To stop this happening you need to enter the society into your contact list. Thank you all for re -joining and keeping the society active. Do not forget to enter your members' interests especially if you have lapsed your membership at any time, they need to be re-entered. Whilst doing this also check that your current email address is entered in your details, we can only hold one email address.

Enjoy Your Read - Jean.

Members' Interests Search Area Codes



New Members to 14th July, 2017

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16497 Mr	R.	Carver	AU	16530 Mr	J.	Kobelke	AU
16498 Mr	S.	Bull	UK	16531 Mr	J.	Green	UK
16499 Mrs	C.	Bale	UK	16532 Mrs	J.	Quinn	UK
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16515 Mrs	C.	Lund	UK	16551 Mrs	F.	Marsh	AU
16516 Ms	M. A.	Thorpe	UK	16552 Mrs	E.	Beatson	USA
16517 Mr	Т.	Greenshields	UK	16553 Mrs	М.	Aldridge	UK
16518 Ms	J.	Beaumont	UK	16554 Mr	C.	Dixon	UK
16519 Mrs	J.	Foster	UK	16555 Mr	R.	Alexander	BER
16520 Ms	A.	Strachan	UK	16556 Mrs	R.	Harrison	UK
16521 Mrs	V.	Horner	UK	16557 Mr	R.	Stewart	NZ
16522 Mrs	J.	Vallis	UK	16558 Mr	М.	Day	UK
16523 Mrs	L. A.	Large	UK	16559 Mr	I.	Dearn	UK
16524 Mrs	L.	Masterson	UK	16560 Mr.	G.	Morley	CA
16525 Mr	R.	Hindry	UK	16561 Mrs	L.	Skeels	UK
16526 Mrs	S.	Hester	UK	16562 Mrs	S.	Francis	UK
16527 Mrs	E.	Peters	UK	16563 Mr	Т.	Gridley	UK
16528 Mr	S.	Brown	UK	16564 Mrs	Α.	Gregory	AU

16565 Mrs	Н.	Hocking	AU	
16566 Mr	R.	Dixon	UK	
16567 Mr	D. W.	Kerrison	UK	To contact other members researching the same surname.
16568 Mr	C.	Dix	UK	First login to the NFHS Website (success
16569 Mrs	S.	Van De Poll	AU	indicated by 'Logout' top right), then under the 'Membership' / 'Members Interests'
16570 Mr	L.	Foster	UK	menu select the required Surname from the drop- down list and click on "Contact".
16571 Mrs	М.	Blathwayt	UK	An e-mail address or postal address will then be
16572 Mrs	L.	Price	AU	forwarded to you.
16573 Mrs	J.	Harding	UK	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
16574 Mrs	J.	Rayner	UK	addressed envelope.
16575 Miss	D.	Ling	UK	
16576 Mr	В.	Deed	UK	
16577 Mr	E. E.	Bayfield	UK	

Members' Interests to 14th July2017

16536 NFK	BAILEY	NE	18C-20C	10748 NFK	COOKE	ALL	ALL
16570 NFK	BALDWIN	NE	ALL	16135 NFK	COOTES	ALL	ALL
16503 NFK	BAMBRIDGE	ALL	ALL	16190 NFK	CRANE	ALL	19C-20C
16458 NFK	BARKER	NC	18C-19C	16503 NFK	CRASKE	ALL	18C-19C
3498 NFK	BARWICK	NE	18C-19C	11847 ALL	DELLER	ALL	ALL
16190 NFK	BECKERSON	AL 1	ALL	15523 NFK	DENT	ALL	18C-20C
				15528 NFK	DEW	ALL	ALL
16508 NFK	BLYTH	ALL	ALL	11847 ALL	ELLIS	ALL	ALL
15223 NFK	BOBBY	ALL	15C-19C	16486 NFK	FREESTONE	AL 1	ALL
14886 NFK	BRAND	ALL	ALL				
12797 NFK	BROWN(E)	NC	ALL	9947 NFK	GOOSE	SE	17C-18C
13730 NFK	BUMFREY	ALL	ALL	9947 NFK	GOOSE	NC	17C-18C
137301111				16506 NFK	GROOM	ALL	ALL
13730 NFK	BUMPHREY	ALL	ALL	16382 NFK	HARCOURT	ALL	ALL
16407 NFK	CALLABY	NW	ALL				
11847 ALL	CHADBURN	ALL	ALL	11847 ALL	HAWES	ALL	ALL
				15523 NFK	HUDSON	ALL	17C-20C
15523 NFK	CHILVERS	SW	17C-20C	13730 NFK	HUNN	ALL	ALL
15223 NFK	COOK	ALL	15C-19C	16567 NFK	KERRISON	ALL	ALL

13771 NFK	LAKE	NE	17C-19C
16570 NFK	LEAK	YM	ALL
16570 NFK	LEAKE	NE	ALL
13730 NFK	LEE	ALL	ALL
16310 NFK	LLOYD	ALL	ALL
15223 NFK	LOCKETT	ALL	15C-20C
16503 NFK	MIDDLETON	ALL	18C-19C
16560 NFK	MORLEY	ALL	ALL
16486 NFK	NEALE	ALL	ALL
8993 NFK	NEWMAN	ALL	ALL
15523 NFK	NUNN	SW	18C-20C
15509 NFK	OLIVER	ALL	15C-16C
13771 NFK	PHILLIPO	CN	17C-18C
13771 NFK	PHILLIPO	NE	17C-19C
16535 NFK	PITCHERS	ALL	ALL
16361 NFK	PLATTARD	ALL	ALL
15223 NFK	PLATTEN	ALL	15C-20C
13730 NFK	POINTER	ALL	ALL
16314 ALL	PRESANT	ALL	ALL
16314 ALL	PRESENCE	ALL	ALL
16314 ALL	PRESENT	ALL	ALL
15223 NFK	PRIME	ALL	15C-18C
14791 NFK	RANT	NC	ALL
13771 NFK	RICE	NE	17C-19C
16068 NFK	RICHES	ALL	16C-19C
14048 NFK	SALISBURY	CN	18C-20C
16486 NFK	SEAMAN	ALL	ALL
16570 NFK	SECKER	NE	18C
15946 NFK	SEYMOUR	ALL	ALL
15775 NFK	SIMMONS	NW	18C-19C
15223 NFK	SIMMONS	ALL	15C-19C
12797 NFK	SMITH	NC	ALL
16534 NFK	SNELL	NW	18C
11951 NFK	SPRINGALL	ALL	ALL

16536 NFK	STOR(E)Y	NE	18C-20C
14791 NFK	THOULESS	NC	ALL
16534 NFK	WAGG	NW	18C
15223 NFK	WALFORD	ALL	15C-19C
16508 NFK	WARNES	ALL	ALL
16486 NFK	WARREN	ALL	ALL
14434 SFK	WATLING	ALL	18C-20C
4320 NFK	WATLING	ALL	ALL
16382 NFK	WHITE	ALL	ALL
12797 NFK	WOODROW	NC	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 family stories and historical information. We currently have well over 1,300 active subscribers and it's all free.

The Norfolk Ancestor Journal of the NFHS
Rob's Round Up with Robert Parker

Army Officers, Parliamentarian. 4K of names of officers serving in the Parliament forces 1642-1646 http://ow.ly/V1xp30c1TCQ.

Australia. The State of Victoria Probate section on Findmypast has grown with 1.3 million records from the Supreme Court in Melbourne (1841-1989) http://ow.ly/8Yne309SQhh.

Australia cemetery records from the State of Victoria, 250K of records from 1856-2005.

Australia could your ancestors have left the State of Victoria between 1852-1924? Check out FamilySearch for newly indexed records.

Bedfordshire electoral registers (1832-1986) on Ancestry.

British Newspaper Archive reaches 18 million pages and has at least one newspaper on line from all 48 counties in England.

Boer War. Findmypast adds 295k records to this collection http://ow.ly/aHjb309SQJY.

Canada. Findmypast has added 780k of British Columbia probate records (1859-1949). These are to browse only as no transcriptions have been completed

English poll and electoral records (Wakefield, West Yorkshire, Hampshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset) on TheGenealogist.

France. Familysearch has added 1.1 million census records from Cotes-d'Armor department (now part of Brittany). The 1876 and 1906 Census is included. Also the 1906 Census for the Nord department has added a further 1.3 million records

France. Familysearch adds to its census collection with one million records from the 1876, 1891 and 1906 Census for the region of Herault.

Ireland City Directories for 1850-1946 have increased on Ancestry. These include Dublin and regional directories.

Ireland, 250k of Quaker Congregational records online with Findmy-past.

Irish Army Census from 1922 online: http://ow.ly/iHwa30asNmT

Irish historic parishes published online: http://ow.ly/CLNq30asNQe

Kent Parish Registers expanded by Findmypast. 312K for Bapchild, Biddenden, Kilndown, Tenterden and Wittersham (1538 to 1987).

London Transport staff registers (1863-1931) released by Ancestry.

Newspapers. Thegenealogist.co.uk has added The Sphere to their collections (1914-1919), similar to the Illustrated London News.

Nottinghamshire. Parish Registers increased on Findmypast.co.uk with 1.3 million new baptism, marriage and burials (1538-1917).

Polish Life; 70 years in Birmingham http://ow.ly/yyru30cjSeP.

Police ancestors? TheGenealogist releases police letter books for Hampshire (detailing promotions, misdemeanours, movements and retirements) 1891-1911.

Police pensions for the Met (1852-1932) available on Ancestry.

The **National Archives**. 5% of their collection is available to search and download either through their catalogue, Discovery or partner organisations. Have you visited Discovery recently?

Welsh convicts? Swansea and surrounds on Ancestry, over 100,000 records.

Wiltshire FindMyPast adds 4.6 million parish records; baptisms (1538 to 1917), marriages (1538 to 1933) and burials (1538 to 1991). Some marriage banns as well.

Wiltshire Ancestry to add a larger collection of parish registers in the summer

Worcestershire Parish Registers online with TheGenealogist

York. Forty eight Historic Directories added for the City of York to Findmypast.co.uk.

Yorkshire. 1000 new records for Findmypast.co.uk collection of Yorkshire MI's. Collection covers 176 burial sites across the county.

Recommended twitter account to follow @findmypastAU ; a family history and genealogy website with over 8 billion historical records. Discover your past today.

Robs Round Up is bought to you by Robert Parker, www.myfamilygenealogy.co.uk.

Facebook Forum

OUR official Facebook group now has 1316 members as at the end of August.

The Facebook page is a closed group but open to members of the Norfolk Family History Society and also non members. If you wish to join just apply via the page. In order to ensure everything is family history related all posts and membership applications have to be approved by the administrator.

Our Facebook address is:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk/





FFHS Seminar

The Family History Society of the Future.

Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, City Road, London, EC1Y 1AU, Saturday 16th September from 10.30am – 4.30pm

Looking for something more inspiring than a conventional Autumn general meeting? Perish the thought! But then again, maybe a family history 'Crystal Ball Gazing' session would actually be more your style?

If so you're in luck, because this year we're replacing our GM with a day-long seminar entitled, 'The Family History Society of the Future'. The facilitator? No-one less than our FFHS President Nick Barratt.

Already excited enough to commit? Or maybe you still require convincing and need more information? Either way, go to:

www.eventbrite.com/e/ffhs-family-history-society-of-the-future-seminar-london-tickets-33922605426

Our London 16th September 'The Family History Society of the Future' Seminar is free to attend for all FFHS member societies. Capacity limited to 100 – so make sure you reserve your place early to avoid disappointment.

Suffolk AGM and History Fair

Suffolk Family History Society will be holding a family history fair and annual general meeting on September 30th from 10am to 4pm at the University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, 19, Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ.

The day will feature two top speakers, research help areas with friendly help and advice and an "Ask the Expert" area.

Entry is free and more information is available on the website

http://suffolkfhs.org.uk or on 01473 274300

Ancestor Bookshelf

Directory of Suffolk Millers 1086-1986 by Eileen Blythe. Paperback 58 pages. Published by History Research of Lyminge, Kent, 2017.£5

Eileen Blythe has painstakingly produced an extensive list of millers and millwrights from over 600 Suffolk mills using sources including parish registers, wills, census returns, settlement papers, apprenticeship records, newspapers and leases.

The slim volume is divided into five sections for ease of reference. The first two sections list mills in the alphabetical order of towns and the mills' occupants taken from books



and online records (section one) and research from members of the Suffolk Family History Society (section two). Section Three gives a list of millers taken from burial records, section four features beneficiaries of wills and section five features a list of millwrights taken from the Suffolk Family History Society's parish registers burial index.

The booklet is a valuable resource tool for anyone looking to flesh out ancestors involved in millwork in our neighbouring county.

Peter Steward MN 14801

Please note we do not sell books reviewed from Kirby Hall.



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

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

More About the Holley Family

SINCE I wrote about Marianne ARNOTT'S will for the June Ancestor, I have been looking at other members of her family and found in the Kirby Hall Library a book "Aylsham: A Nest of Norfolk Lawyers" by William and Maggie VAUGHAN-LEWIS in which the Holley family warrant two chapters which not only cover the family tree I was compiling but give plenty of detail about the people, their careers, property and finances.

If you have HOLLEYS, JEWELLS, RIPPINGALLS or COPEMANS or other Norfolk lawyers in your tree here is a mine of information. In addition there is a considerable amount of history of houses in Aylsham and their owners which is interesting as many of the houses mentioned are still to be seen.

Margaret Murgatroyd MN 10400

A Nest of Lawyers

I was delighted to read Margaret Murgatroyd's article on Marianne Holley and her husbands in the last journal, all arising from a donation of a will to the Society. Anyone interested in the full story of Marianne's Hunt Holley family - particularly her lawyer grandfather George who both loved women and being a father might like to read "Aylsham: A Nest of Norfolk Lawyers" which is available in the Society library. If members cannot get to Norwich but would like to know more, I'm happy to be emailed at maggie.vaughanlewis@btinternet.com.

Maggie Vaughan-Lewis MN 616

That Pub Named

MANY thanks to the eagle-eyed society members who were very quick to identify the public house featured in this section in June. It was indeed The Feathers Pub at 128, High Street, Gorleston-On-Sea. Mike Symonds (MN 14891) pointed out the pub is at the junction with Baker Street and is still there. Mike used to visit the area but says he was "too young to imbibe."

"The three gentlemen standing are looking at the camera and one could be the landlord and also by the looks of the 'fashion' it might be late 40s or early 50s. The postcard may have been printed by Messrs Flood and Sons who were local printers," Mike adds.

NFHS Trustee Mike Dack was uploading the June edition to the web site when he too realised the identity of the pub: Mike pointed out a very useful link for Norfolk Pubs on our own site at http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk/family-history-links,40/. An image on that site is very similar to that on the postcard and is dated ca 1950. The web site also lists pub histories and landlords and could be useful in tracing ancestors. Also take a look at http://norfolkpubs.co.uk/gorleston/ gorlfe.htm

Many thanks also to Bob Heath (MN 16067) and James Fisk, (MN 8619) who also identified the building. Interestingly Stewart Owers (MN 9340) thought that the pub was what is now the Old Feathers at Framingham Pigot just outside Norwich and it has to be said that the old building does have a remarkable likeness to that building, but on the weight of evidence I think we will have to go for the Gorleston pub.

Poor Elizabeth Follow Up

You kindly printed my email of the above title in the June 2017 magazine. I would like to apologise to Brenda Leedell for mis-quoting her article about the response of the Vicar of Wacton towards Elizabeth Ludkin and Charles Batley, as I named him as his brother Shadrack. In my excitement about finding out that it had been illegal to marry a dead spouse's sister or brother and not expecting my email to be published, I did not check my facts carefully over which brother Elizabeth had already married.

Thanks also to the two members who emailed me with the correct facts and supplied me with extra information about the Aldertons.

Wacton Parish registers make very interesting reading as they are full of mistakes, possibly due to copying up little slips of paper many weeks after the actual event, and unfortunately one of my ancestors, namely Edmund Alderton, was given the correct Christian name and parents but wrong surname on his entry in the register in 1790. Namely Edmund, son of Benjamin Staff and his wife Mary/ late Mary Bower, spinster, was born on June 14th and baptised privately on June 17th, 1790. A quick check on his older sisters Sarah, baptised 1795, and Ann, baptised 1793, confirms they had the same parents but named Alderton.

Again in 1852, Marriage Banns were read for Edmund Alderton and Sarah Osborne on January 11th, 18th, and 25th. and Freebmd shows the marriage of Edmund Alderton and Sarah Osborne in Depwade registration district March quarter, 1852.

As Edmund marries Elizabeth Ann Till at Harwich in 1857 as a bachelor and there are no suitable deaths for Sarah Alderton nee Osborne, I presume the vicar or curate wrote the wrong brother's name in the register, as Benjamin Alderton and his wife Sarah (nee Osborne) are living together at Cramlington Colliery, Tynemouth, in the 1861 census. Mary Ollett MN12045

Research Help

I am emailing you in reference to your research into the massacre of the Norfolk Regiment on 27th May, 1940. I write with reference to Private Leslie George Nichols Service no: 5769788.

Leslie is my first cousin once removed. My grandma and his father were brother and sister. I was fortunate whilst visiting Norfolk a few years ago, to meet my second cousin, who was Leslie's niece.

On a trip to France arranged by the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society, with Leger Tours, in 2010, I specifically wanted to visit the Arras Memorial to pay my respects to Eddie George Nichols (Leslie's father) who died on the 21st March, 1918, and, knowing about Leslie, was delighted when, even though this was a World War One tour, they made a detour on the way back to Calais to visit the Le Paradis War Cemetery to enable me to visit the grave of Leslie and all those who were massacred on that day.



I am very honoured to have paid tribute to my great uncle and his son, who sadly perished in France not far from each other but a long way from home.

I have a photo of Leslie in his uniform, kindly given to me by his niece, and a photo of his gravestone (pictured on this page).

Wendy Pervin (nee Gowen/Nichols) MN 9819

More On Einstein

I may not be the only one to bring an error to your attention in your piece about

Albert Einstein on page 41 of the June, 2017, issue of the Ancestor. The gentleman did spend time in Norfolk, but it was on Roughton Heath, not Rougham which is about 30 miles away.

As to verifying the story about Sheringham - A friend of mine, recently departed, was a lad of about six years at the time of Einstein on the Heath, and he recalled his 'job' of taking supplies, mostly eggs, milk and basics, to Einstein at the hut on the heath almost every day.



Einstein was in hiding and, as he was so instantly recognisable, very rarely left the hut, but my friend remembered a time when he was disguised, given a horse and left the Heath for an afternoon, with Locker-Lampson.

But where did they go? It could have been Sheringham, about eight miles away and accessible over fields. There is a blue plaque on the wall of the New Inn at Roughton regarding his stay on the Heath.

Referring to page 63 on the topic of family 'stories' - mine says that my grandfather was the illegitimate son of a French sailor, from a 'one night stand!' but thanks to NFHS I have found he was in fact fathered by a Kent fisherman living at my grandmother's house for the season. So I'm not part French after all!

Rachel Cooper MN 13563

Thanks for putting me right Rachel. Occasionally the old pen can play tricks or in this case the computer. I was very aware that it should have been Roughton but for some unknown reason - probably my age - wrote Rougham. I regularly pass the New Inn and every time give the blue plaque a quick glance - Editor.

Name Mistake

I have been enjoying another edition of the superb Norfolk Ancestor but there is one glaring typing error repeated throughout the interesting account of the visit to the Foundling Hospital. I am sure many of your readers know that the founder was Thomas Coram not Corum.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Coram

Elizabeth Lloyd MN 6467

Many thanks Elizabeth for your kind remarks about the magazine and very happy to correct the Coram name - Editor

Bartle/Bartel Research

I have been researching my family for nearly 36 years and they are firmly embedded in Norfolk back to 1680. Like all trees I'm "stuck" and have been for years, even with professional help. So I've spent those years expanding what I have.

Around Norfolk there are pockets where Bartle/Bartel are quite large but I've never been able to connect to any of them and I've never come across anyone actually researching Bartles which I find strange. Is there anyone out there researching the name that could help me move forward?

John Bartle MN 6394

If anyone has information that could help John, please let us know and we will pass on the details - Editor.

Wrong Date

Thank you for the very nice review of my little book, "The Andrews Family of Swainsthorpe," which you included in this quarter's edition of the Norfolk Ancestor. I am sorry to be critical but I do have to set the record straight – typos being what they are! My parents, Fred and Phyllis Tinkler, migrated to Geelong, Australia, in 1971 not 1671. The First Fleet, which saw the beginning of migration to Australia, arrived in 1788. Mum and dad did not precede them. We all had a good laugh here at Cairns Family History Society.

Diane Clark MN15256

Wild Wales and George Borrow

The article on George Borrow in the June edition of the Norfolk Ancestor was of particular interest to me as I have found his book "Wild Wales" includes a brief mention of my great great grandmother and a good deal about her husband (who was probably not my great great grandfather).

As stated in the article, George Borrow based himself in Llangollen for a time before setting off on his travels and he relates an incident there in September, 1854, in which a Welsh butcher had attacked an English one with a razor, gashing his cheek. George managed to be present at the magistrate's visit to the wounded man's house to take his deposition in the presence of the criminal, and makes it clear in the book that his sympathies were with the accused man who he felt had probably been provoked.

George does not give the names of the people involved, but I knew that my ancestor Jane GRIFFITHS had married a butcher from Sussex called Henry SIM-MONS and that they were living in the Llangollen area at that date. I soon found reports of the incident and subsequent trial in online local newspapers which confirmed that Henry was indeed the victim.

The report of the assault matches that given in "Wild Wales", but, by the time of the trial the following March, George was no longer in the area and perhaps never learned that the assailant, Edward EVANS, was acquitted on grounds of insanity and ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. George does describe a second chance meeting with Henry, where he hears something of his history but is decidedly unimpressed by the poor man, stating that he 'appeared to be good for very little'. Incidentally, while visiting Ruthin I noticed a blue plaque commemorating George Borrow's stay in a building there while on his travels through Wales.

Vivienne Pitcher MN 4734

Norfolk's Father of Modern Boxing

Roger Morgan finds out more about the life of a truly remarkable sportsman who was born in Norfolk

Over the years several men have been called 'The father of modern boxing', notably Englishman James FIGG and American "Gentleman Jim" CORBETT. However, few men could claim to have had a greater influence on the sport than that of Norfolk born fighter James or Jem MACE.

Jem was born into a poor rural family on 8th April, 1831, at Beeston-next-Mileham near Dereham. His parents were Anne nee RUDD and William Mace who was the local blacksmith. From these humble beginnings he rose to be a true world sporting superstar with an estimated lifetime earnings of about £750,000 equivalent to £20 million in today's money, only to die a penniless pauper 79 years later.

At the age of 15, he was apprenticed to a cabinet maker in Wells but this was clearly not the life for him. He learnt to play the violin and became a talented player, both composing and playing his own tunes.

The 1851 Census shows him aged 19, lodging with the EMMS family at Timberhill Street in Norwich where he is described as being a musician. The story goes that one day he was busking with his violin outside a pub in Great Yarmouth when a group of drunken seaman came out. The leader of the men grabbed Jem's violin and smashed it on the ground. Jem's vio-



lent reaction to this both shocked the crowd and started him on his fighting career.

The Early Years

Jem embarked on a prize fighting career exhibiting his skills at fairs, being billed as 'the lad with the golden arm'. As a bare knuckle fighter he was relatively small, being only 5ft 9½ in tall and weighing less than 10 stone. He took on and usually beat men who were much bigger than him using his unique mixture of speed and skill. He used a mixture of gunpowder, green vitriol and whisky to 'pickle' or harden his face, hands and torso. Some of the fights were held in open spaces like Mousehold Heath and would last for hours with over 50 rounds. The police would often try to stop them taking place. In the late 1850s Jem was also the landlord of The White Swan Pub in Swan Lane, Norwich. Some Norwich men threatened to burn the pub down when Jem failed to turn up for a fight on which they had bet a lot of money because he was hung over.

The Swaffham Gypsy

When Jem started his professional career as a bare knuckle fighter in 1859 he was nicknamed "The Swaffham Gypsy". This was then shortened to "Gypsy Jem Mace" even though he had no Gypsy blood in him. The Gypsy connection comes from his uncle Barnabus or Barney Mace. In 1838 he married Lurena BAKER, the teenage daughter of a well known Romany family after meeting her at a Norwich fair. Their eldest son Leopoleous or Pooley Mace,





Jem's cousin, was to become his lifelong friend and sparring partner. Jem moved to Shoreditch in London to run the Old King John pub. He toured the country with various circuses including the Norwich based Pablo Fanque's before setting up his own circus in 1862, He would challenge people to beat him in three rounds but nobody ever managed to do this. In 1862



he fought and beat Tom KING over 42 rounds to become the last bare knuckle British Heavyweight Champion, winning a purse of 400 sovereigns in the process.

Boxing Style

Jem perfected a style all of his own. Prior to Mace, fighters would stand toe to toe and slug it out until one man could take it no longer. Mace developed the art of defence and could rightly be described as the Mohamed Ali of his day. He had amazing footwork and fast hands which could deliver lightning fast sledgehammer blows in a series of one-twos. He introduced the skill of feinting before producing surprise blows. Some spectators branded him a coward because he didn't allow himself to be hit but his style was soon to revolutionise the art of boxing.

Around the World

With the increased police efforts to put an end to illegal prize fighting, Jem decided to take his skills to America in 1869. He was to become an instant success there and was greatly admired by the watching audiences. He set up training facilities and encouraged the use of true boxing skill. In 1870 he fought a naturalised American Tom ALLEN, for the first recognised championship of the world at any weight. He won the fight easily. Everything Mace did was touched with style and class and everywhere he went in the U.S. he was presented with belts and plaques. He pioneered the introduction of rules into boxing including the use of gloves or mitts, ten second counts, time limited bouts and specific ring sizes. While in America he met and befriended Wyatt Earp, a survivor of the gunfight at the OK Corral who refereed one of his fights. He was also very critical of racism and treated black fighters as equals.

In 1877, he travelled to Australia where he became equally influential. At the age of 46, he continued to fight contests and trained and nurtured future Australian born champions. He nearly fell foul of the infamous Kelly gang of outlaws but eventually managed to win Ned Kelly's grudging respect.

Private Life

Jem's personal life was equally colourful. He was married five times, twice bigamously and is thought to have fathered 14 children. In 1851, aged 20, he married the 16-year-old Mary Ann BARTON, a schoolmaster's daughter who was pregnant with Alfred the first of their four children. The married bliss did not last long and by 1860 he was having an affair with 18-year-old Jewish girlfriend Selina HART with whom he fathered another child. He appeared to have a penchant for teenage girls and in 1864 he married 17-year-old Hannah BOORN bigamously. She was



a well travelled circus horseback performer and her father had the money that Jem needed for a business venture. Hannah was with Jem in America unaware of his various affairs.

In 1867, he famously had one such affair with the American actress and writer Adah ISAACS MENKEN. She was once described as "the world's most alluring woman," and was the highest earning actress of her time. She appeared in a play in London riding a horse wearing only a flesh coloured body stocking. She had many lovers including Charles BLONDIN the tightrope walker and novelists Alexandre DUMAS, Charles READE and Charles DICKENS. Mace and Dickens were to become friends. Sadly, Adah Isaacs Menken died in1868 in Paris aged 33 and was buried in Montparnasse Cemetery. While he was in

America Jem met the Irish born Ellen (Nellie) GORE who was a vocalist with Ginnett's Circus. He married her, again bigamously, in New York's Manhattan district in 1883 and they travelled the world together. Later he was to meet and settle with another 18-year-old girl called Alice Caroline STOKES. Alice was devoted to Jem who was 40 years her senior and went on to bear him another five children. The 1901 census shows them living in Birmingham with three of their children and Jem working as a licensed victualler. Alice died in 1908.

In his lifetime he both made and lost a fortune. At different times in his life he owned circuses, race horses, restaurants, gold mines, amusement parks and luxury hotels. He even performed on the Broadway stage in a Shakespeare play. Unfortunately he was also a compulsive gambler and managed to lose his entire fortune. When he died in Jarrow on November 30th, 1910, he was a penniless pauper. On December 6th, at Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool, he was laid to rest in a grave with no headstone and only a perfunctory numerical marker. His funeral was poorly attended and was conducted by his first son Alfred

There can be no doubt that in his life-

time Jem Mace made a telling and lasting impact on modern day boxing. He was instrumental in changing the rules. making the sport far more acceptable to the general public. His boxing style was copied by many of his contemporaries and those who followed him. His achievements are celebrated throughout the world, however, in the country of his birth his exploits go largely unrecognised. When Mike TYSON was asked while visiting Britain, which person from the boxing world both past and present, he would most like to meet, his instant reply was 'Jem Mace'. He was amazed when most people in the room had never heard of him. At LaSalle's Landing near New Orleans there is a life-size bronze statue of two men fighting. One of these is Jem Mace. In 2002 a memorial headstone. paid for by the Merseyside Former Boxers Association, was finally placed by his grave in Anfield Cemetery. In Beeston Churchvard there is now a stone cross on which are carved the words "Jem Mace Champion of the World"

It is most certainly clear that he was a true English hero who will be remembered forever as one of the greatest boxers that has ever lived.

Roger Morgan MN16248

FAMILY TREE NEWS

The following family trees have been added to the collection in the Kirby Hall Library:

Banyer

Ridlington

Munsey

Witton by North Walsham

News From Kirby Hall

NFHS Annual Meeting

AS mentioned on the inside cover, this year's annual general meeting of the Norfolk Family History Society will take place in Kirby Hall at midday on Saturday, 14th October. The Trustees look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and hope you will join us for a cup of tea and/or coffee at the end of the meeting.

If you cannot attend in person but would still like to vote on the various motions you will find a proxy form within this edition of the Ancestor. This can be filled in and posted to us at Kirby Hall.

NORS Re-Designed

Many thanks for all the positive comments sent to us following the re-design of the NORS (Norfolk Online Record Search) website. Most people seem to find it more user-friendly and easier to search and access records.

The new web site has been created by Norwich-based company Innershed which is also responsible for our NFHS web site.

The aim of the new NORS is to provide an improved research service for our members and some of the benefits are:

- A single log in to provide access to both the NFHS website and NORS
- An improved search system with enhanced display of results
- Improved use with portable devices such as mobile phones and tablets
- Extra filters to provide more control with results.

Edmund Talks at Hethersett

Company secretary Edmund Perry gave a talk to Hethersett Society on his research into the local parish church. Edmund illustrated his talk and described some of the better known people and families buried in St Remigius Church.

Edmund also outlined the set-up of the Norfolk Family History Society, what is available in the archives at Kirby Hall and the benefits of membership which include receiving four copies of the Norfolk Ancestor each year.

Group Reports

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

South Norfolk: Betty Morley, 'Thwaites', Fersfield, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2BP London: Mary Fisk, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Road, London N16 8SB Email: mary975@btinternet.com (home) and ms28@soas.ac.uk (work).

South Norfolk Group Reports by Betty Morley

Report of April Meeting by Roella Trudgill MN16481

OFFICIAL guide to the Somme, Steve Smith, gave an incredibly detailed and interesting illustrated talk with photos about "The Norfolk Regiment on The Somme - July to November 1916" at the April meeting of South Norfolk Family History Society at Diss Methodist Church Hall.

The First Norfolk Regiment arrived on The Somme on 31st July,1915, and The 8th Norfolk Regiment arrived on 3rd August. There is a cemetery dedicated solely to The Norfolk Regiment and their first casualty was 16-year-old Issac Land who died on 15th August. Steve went on to describe the Battle of Verdun from February, 1916, to December, 1916,



where both the British and Germans lost 600,000 men. Pressure was then put on by General Haig for a bombardment. So on 26th June, millions of shells were fired but Robert Cooper of Worsted found time to write to his sister. At the Battle of Gommecourt another 600,000 shells were fired in the first hour! Montauban was the next battle for the British and included The 8th Battalion of The East Surrey Regiment where two of their lads, Charlie Wells and Billy Neville from Coltishall, died nearby where they had being playing football in no man's land! Four men from one family were lost, three officers were killed and many others were either wounded or reported missing.

The 7th Norfolks were at Ovillers from the 3rd-5th July where the village was destroyed! A total of 119 were killed, wounded or missing including Lt Arthur Green whose original wooden grave marker is in Winterton Churchyard!

Between 4th and 14th July, Haig and Rawlinson moved the troops to Trones Wood. This included the 18th Eastern Division and Royal West Kent Regiment on 13th and 14th July, 1916. They also moved to Delville Wood on 19th July,1916 only 88 men came out! This battle included soldiers from South Africa too. The trenches are still visible today. Fred Gibbs from Cromer was a lucky survivor but Herbert Cooper died from his wounds - 293 were killed, wounded or missing including Harry Hood from Gressenhall. On July 23rd,1916, The 1st Norfolks cavalry charged - given the task to recapture the village of Longueval which the Germans had claimed. This left 429 killed, wounded or missing including Tommy Leonard Atkins from Norwich. The 7th Norfolks meanwhile were at the battle of Pozieres which included some Australians who joined them after coming from Gallipoli and from Mouquet Farm - aka "Moo Farm" - another 28,000 losses! The 56th Battalion of Australians attacked from the skyline trench to recover 6th Avenue. John Henry Rolfe from Bressingham was one of 124 killed, wounded or missing. The 1st Norfolks went onto Falfermont Farm which was destroyed on September 4th,1916. The 9th Norfolks were at the Quadrilateral on September 15th for the major offensive which included 39 tanks for the first time.

The 6th Division were at the 9th Battle of Flers which saw another 448 killed, wounded or missing including James Gymer of Marham and Fred Helsdon of Norwich. The 9th losses on September 15th, 1916 included John Moore of Ditchingham and Leslie Palgrave of St Saviours. The 1st Norfolks then joined the battle at Morval Quarry which Lt Colonel Percy Vere Powys compared to a "Pheasant Shoot." September 26th saw the attack at Thiepval which saw another 133 killed, wounded and missing including 19-year-old Alfred Catchpole from the 8th Norfolks who has no named grave. There is now a memorial there in remembrance to the thousands who died in the area. Next was the battle of Schwabin Redoubt on October 5th, 1916 where Fred Hanner from Harwick died. The area is now fresh farmland compared to the photos of complete devastation at the time - an underground bunker was found there too! The 7th Norfolks on October 10th, 1916, took over a bayonet trench in Gueudecourt where Herbert Harvey died. The 9th Norfolks captured part of the trench but with 247 killed, wounded or missing including Bertie Batson.

The 9th Norfolks' last seize was at Grandcourt on 13th November, 1916 where the 51st Highland Division Canadians captured Regina Trench but 140 were killed, wounded or missing, Ernest Sutton of Great Cressingham being one of them! The 9th Battalion in Bosch Trench and Communications Trench saw only eight men lost. By using more tanks and other advanced weapons and using better strategies, they broke the German line which was a black day for the Germans and paved the way for other battles.

You can find Steve Smith on various websites and he is happy to assist in any research to find family members who fought in the Somme. My great uncle Basil died there 100 years ago. It certainly was alarming to hear all these figures of lives lost. So we must remember them!

Diss Group Meeting Report 9th May

Making a return visit to speak at the Diss Group meeting on 9th May was Ian Waller with another of his superb presentations. This time his topic was 'Crime and Punishment' and he began with the advice that if all one's efforts have failed to locate a missing ancestor, to consider the possibility that he or she may have

been in prison or even transported and also to bear in mind that women were generally considered equal to men in the criminal system and thus treated the same. Should you decide to follow this line of research there are many records available, if you have the patience.

The nature of the offence determined the punishment and where the trial took place. Serious offences such as murder, rape, rebellion, manslaughter, forgery and sheep stealing were tried at the Assize Court where capital punishment could be authorised. This mobile court, whose origins dated back to the 13th century, was divided into six circuits across the country, each trial generally being held at the county town and presided over by two judges who travelled from court to court on horseback, maybe one of the reasons why the survival rate of the records isn't very good.

Those that did survive are on separate slips available online in HO27 at the National Archives or on Ancestry. The information is very basic but you may find a verdict recorded as well as pardons and indictments. Records before 1733 are in Latin. The Assize Courts existed until 1971 when they were superseded by the Crown Court which served the same purpose. Consult newspapers to locate Assize Courts. It is important to know the place and dates to locate records.

The Central Criminal Court which we know as The Old Bailey has been in existence since the 16th Century and, throughout the year, it handled major crime in London and exceptional cases from around the country. Records from 1674 to 1913 are available at Old Bailey Online.

In 1258, the Quarter Sessions were created to handle the less serious crimes as the Assize Courts were becoming overburdened. These records can usually be found at the County Record Office in their online catalogue although these vary from county to county as does the way they are catalogued. By 1828 the work load of the Quarter Sessions courts was becoming onerous, resulting in the formation of the Petty Sessions to take on the less serious crimes.

By 1830, prison and gaols had begun to keep detailed records of prisoners complete with photographs of the offenders. Very useful indeed. Ian showed us some examples from his rogues' gallery on screen and pointed out that they were always photographed with their hands crossed over their chest, the reason being that hands can be very distinctive, even more so when fingers are missing. It would be true to say that, without exception, they looked an extremely hard and ruthless bunch of characters, particularly with their shorn heads. One certainly would not like to meet any of them on a dark night.

There is a lot of information in Prison Calendars. County Police records can show who had paid a fine. The Police Gazette can be very useful and gives details of all deserters. Surprisingly, most of them ran straight home. In Victorian times the Police Courts took over the everyday criminal procedures and the records can be found in County Offices. If your ancestor had an alias or even two then check all names. British Transportation Records are not particularly easy. However, the Australians are proud of their convict ancestry and consequently their records are very well preserved and documented. You may find information in the Australian newspapers, particularly The Sydney Post. Pardons were often granted after 18 months and many of the convicts prospered. Australia needed hard working people hence the arrangement between them and Great Britain, but she was not the only country to play 'host' to transported men and women. Between 1615 and 1776, around 50,000 were sent to America but this ceased because of The War of Independence. Bermuda, which had always been British, also received the transported but in fewer numbers. These prisoners were generally confined in Hulks or in Georgetown. The Naval Dockyard was constructed by convicts. Those waiting to be transported were often contained in one of the hulks moored around the country or in Millbank penitentiary or Pentonville.

Convicts could apply to be pardoned or make an appeal for their family to join them so check records for clemency and parole at The National Archives as well as Registers of Convict Hulks and The Newgate Prison Records held at the National Archives. The Metropolitan Archives also have criminal records so search the catalogues of both to establish what they hold. Ancestry and Find my Past have criminal data and consider travelling to The British Library to examine the wealth of newspapers in their collection once you have names, dates and locations of criminality. Apart from transportation, a person could be sentenced to penal servitude with hard labour which meant toiling in the quarries or building roads or some other back breaking occupation. Another option was to draft prisoners into the armed services who presumably needed tough individuals with little or no conscience.

If your ancestor was a criminal lunatic, consult the records of Broadmoor Prison and The Commission of Lunacy as they had the right to 'take custody of lands of idiots and lunatics.' Thank goodness times have changed. Juveniles were often treated as adults regarding imprisonment but could be sent to reformatories to serve their sentence where at least they got an education and access to sport. Again consult the National Archives. I think that by the end of lan's talk, many of us wished that we had criminal ancestors given the variety of available records, too numerous to record all of them here. He received great appreciation. We look forward to his next visit.

Report by Diss Group Members.

Coming Dates for Diss Group:

12th September "Ethel LeNeve – All for the love of a Woman" with Nick Woods 10th October "The care and conservation of your Photographs" with Tom Doig 14th November "Some Ghost Stories with Charles Dickens" with Mike Wabe 12th December "Yet More East Anglian Characters including Henry Blogg and Samuel Pepys" with Mark Mitchels

Samuel Morton Peto

(Continued from inside back cover)

AS the demand for railways grew, Grissell and Peto took on a great deal of railway construction. They worked on sections of the Great Eastern Railway as well as Paddington and Reading Stations.

They also built a large portion of the South Eastern and the Eastern Counties Railways. The last building project they took on in London was the construction of the new Houses of Parliament fronting the River Thames. It was started in 1840 and was done in three stages. The architect, Charles BARRY estimated that it would take six years to complete but in fact it took more than 30!



Samuel Morton Peto

Morton Peto was married for a second time in July, 1843. He married Sarah AINSWORTH, the eldest daughter of Henry KELSALL of Rochdale. The couple went on to have 11 more children, six sons and five daughters. In 1844 Peto purchased Somerleyton Hall near Lowestoft in Suffolk and set about rebuilding the old Jacobean house in its present Italianate style. He also built a school and more houses in the village. He was often described as "Father of modern Lowestoft" because he did so much important work there.

Thomas Grissell was unhappy with the risks and large financial outlays that were involved in large railway contracts even though they had mostly been very profitable. As a result, during the building of the Houses of Parliament, the pair decided to dissolve their partnership and go their own ways. It ended in March, 1846, with Grissell carrying on the building business and Peto concentrating on railways. He made a large portion of the Eastern Counties Railway between Wymondham and Dereham, Ely and Peterborough, Norwich and Brandon and London and Cambridge.

In 1848, Peto entered into another partnership, this time with his brother-in-law, Edward Ladd BETTS. He was married to Morton Peto's sister Mary. They joined with Thomas BRASSEY and took on a large number of railway contracts from around the world.

As well as many lines in England, they also built railways in Algiers, Argentina, Canada, Germany, France, Norway and Russia. During the Crimean War in the mid 1850s, Peto suggested to Lord PALMERSTON that he should construct a railway between Balaclava and the trenches to transport men and equipment. Thirty nine miles of track was laid down and Peto and Betts did this at cost price making no profit out of the contract. For his services, Peto was made the baronet of Somerleyton Hall on 14th February, 1855.

In his private life, Peto was a devout Baptist and provided the funds to build a number of chapels and for the restoration of the parish church in Somerleyton. In politics he was a staunch liberal and entered parliament as the member for Norwich from 1847 to 1854 before moving on to represent Finsbury from 1859 to 1865 and lastly Bristol between 1865 and 1868.



He was also involved in financing The Great

Exhibition of 1851. He crossed swords with George Borrow who wrote an extremely unfavourable portrait of him in "*Romany Rye*," where he is described as "Mr. Flamson". When Peto promoted the Lowestoft Railway and Harbour Company in the 1840s, the railway split Borrow's estate at Oulton Broad, just outside Lowestoft. Borrow deeply resented this and bore a grudge against him thereafter.



In 1866, Peto and Betts agreed to build a line between London Bridge and Victoria for the London, Chatham and Dover Railway (LCDR), to be paid entirely in the company's shares and debentures. To raise funds for the construction they became involved in a complicated and possibly illegal finance-raising scheme and overstretched themselves. Following the collapse of its bank, the Overend, Gurney and Company, the partnership soon became insolvent.

A staggering claim for £6,661,941 19s 1d (equivalent to over £550 million today) was made against them. They could not pay their creditors and neither Peto nor Betts ever recovered from this. Peto was forced to resign his seat in Bristol in 1868 despite glowing comments about his character from both Gladstone and Disraeli. He went

to Budapest in order to develop railways in Hungary and Russia. When he came back, he attempted to run a small mineral railway in Cornwall but this also failed. He died in relative obscurity in November, 1889, while living in Tunbridge Wells. He was buried in Pembury Churchyard, Kent.

Morton Peto is commemorated at Norwich Thorpe Station by a bust by John Pooler which can be seen on the wall of the booking office facing the platforms. There is also a Morton Peto Road in Great Yarmouth and a Samuel Peto Way in Ashford, Kent, built on the old Newtown Railway Works. A portrait of Peto hangs outside the library at Regent's Park College, Oxford.

NFHS Obituaries

IT is with great sadness that we record the death of two valued members of the Norfolk Family History Society. Betty Morley remembers Laurine Knight and Ron Strutt.

Laurine Knight 1933–2017

Laurine joined the Diss Group 18 years ago. She was our "tea lady" for a number of years. A very outgoing person, she was always ready to join in all our activities and have a laugh. Generous to a fault, on one occasion when we had a talk by a Town Crier, Laurine gave him her husband's Town Crier's Bell (a family heirloom).

Laurine was born in July, 1933, in Huntingdon. She became a dental nurse in Godmanchester and that's where she met her husband Peter, a teacher from Brighton, when he had to have emergency dental treatment whilst on holiday.

They moved to Diss where Peter taught in the Grammar School and Laurine had a succession of shop jobs.

Laurine died in Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on 4th May having suffered from lung cancer since Christmas. Eleven members of Diss Group were able to go to her Memorial Service in a packed Methodist Church.

A very dear friend to us all who will be greatly missed.

Ron Strutt

Yet another of our group has left us. Ron died in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on 25th May. He had been suffering from terminal cancer for some years but he still came to most of our meetings, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Ron came to live in Diss five years ago from Woking in Surrey. His ancestors came from Diss and last July he entertained the group with a talk entitled "Tales of my Diss Ancestors."

Despite his illness, Ron was looking forward to giving us another talk in September, entitled "Five and Twenty Ponies Trotting Through the Dark" but sadly this will not now happen.

Ron was a good group member and will be much missed.

Introducing Famicity

We have been contacted by Guillaume Languereau who wanted to inform our members of his new genealogical web site Famicity. Below is his article.

"For many years I've felt there has been something missing in the genealogy industry. I've written and spoken about how we might link family history research into the past together with our own personal archives today, alongside the stories we are currently creating each and every day. In many ways, these will be our true legacy to our children, grandchildren and future generations.

"I tried to find a solution in 2007 with my Memorybank project, but the technology was not sufficiently advanced - those were the days before the rise of social media.

However, there's now a platform that's been developed with personal archiving and family history needs in mind. Famicity has designed a "legacy centre" for families, and is the resource I've been hoping someone would build over the last 10 years since Memorybank.

"I believe that this will become a core tool that will help family history society members to curate their personal archives for their descendants - in line with the talks I've given to many societies about "the future of family history" since I first started working on Who Do You Think You Are back in 2003.

"Famicity is a social network designed to protect, manage and continue your family's legacy. While our family members might be on Facebook, it's not a private, ad-free environment where the focus is family. Famicity is a clean social network where you can upload and share.

- Your family tree GEDCOM
- Old family photos (free), videos, audio and documents (subscription)
- New photos (free) and videos, audio and documents (subscription) of the latest family events.
- Messages and stories.

"You can even create subgroups within your family network so family members can participate as they wish, and sensitive information can be controlled. These groups are also great for sharing daily research activities and results and you can opt to share to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram if you wish.

"Your FHS members can start by creating their own Famicity account at www.famicity.com."

CEO and Co-Founder Guillaume Languereau started Famicity with his grandfa-The Norfolk Ancestor Journal of the NFHS 59 September 2017 ther Lucien who had taken the time to painstakingly research Guillaume's mother's side of the family. Lucien shared the research by printing four copies of a book, one for each grandchild. Guillaume loved it, but was concerned about the book getting lost or destroyed. He also wanted to be able to add to it and share his thoughts and feelings both now and in the future, but not necessarily on Facebook. This is how Famicity was born.

"The website and app resonates with all ages and is a great way to involve younger generations with our work who - sadly for us - often aren't as excited about family history as we are.

However, they are very skilled at using social media platforms, even if they don't like having pictures of grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles plastered all over their Facebook wall.

"We need a way for young people to be able to share with older relatives who are yearning for contact. And I think that Famicity offers that private space away from their social media friends, where they can freely share photos and comments.

Famicity is also the perfect vehicle for sharing family history in a way that they can understand and appreciate. It's a bit like having pictures around the house, but in digital format, constantly reminding them of the care and importance that goes into preserving family history.

Ever since I became involved in genealogy I've been careful to remain "brand neutral"- working equally with all dataset providers so I can give a critical view of what I see. However, having spent some time exploring Famicity - and especially since I've taken up the position at the University of Nottingham as an associate professor of public history, with a duty to promote ways we can bring the past to life - I firmly believe that this is an important tool that we should all be using and I'm happy to do what I can to help support this free basic service and help it grow."

Based on the exciting response they received at the Innovator Showdown at Rootstech 2016 and their support from organisations such as FamilySearch, Famicity launched a Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign in January of this year.

Kickstarter offers genealogists a way to become early adopters of Famicity and help fund and support its growth. There is more information about the Kickstarter on Famicity's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/599221416951726.

"We believe that Famicity is a great way to archive your life and keep precious memories, photos and multimedia content safe for future generations. However, I believe it's far more than a digital shoebox for the 21st century as you can actively build a legacy that grows as your family does.

This is why I am proud to support Famicity and share it with you and your members.

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 **December 2017** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER** than **7th October.** Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.

Notes and Queries

We welcome Notes and Queries, offers of help and items of information and general interest. Entries as brief as possible please, preferably less than 250 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:-

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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.



A Hidden Norwich Gem

With September here it's time to think about Norwich Heritage Open Days

again. This year open days run from Thursday, 7th September until Sunday, 10th. Roger Morgan remembers a hidden gem that he discovered in 2014.

The photograph on the cover shows the front aspect of Carrow Abbey which is tucked away in the grounds of Unilever's Carrow Works site in Bracondale. The land on the outskirts of Norwich was given to "God and the Church" by King Stephen and work on



building a priory there began around 1146. The priory church was the usual cruciform style and was one of the largest in Norwich, slightly bigger than St Peter Mancroft. There was a Chapter House opening off the Cloister and a Day Room to the South with dormitories above. It was run by about 12 Benedictine nuns



and a prioress with servants and agricultural labourers.

The priory owned land in over 5 villages as well as land and market stalls in Norwich. The prioress also had mineral rights between the city wall and the river and there is clear evidence of chalk extraction. Julian of Norwich had connections to the priory before she entered her cell in King Street. She is the first recorded woman to have written a book in English.

It passed through several hands until 1811 when the building, now designated an abbey, was bought by the eminent Norwich surgeon Phillip MARTINEAU. From the ruins of Carrow Abbey he built a "small Gothic priory with windows of ancient stained glass". In 1878 the Abbey was bought by J and J Colman as it abutted their works. Jeremiah converted the Great Hall into a library to house his ever expanding collection of books and restored the neglected building. The Carrow workmen carefully excavated the Priory site to show the floor plan of the church which can still be seen today. It is well worth a visit if possible.

Roger Morgan MN16248

NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (LONDON BRANCH)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: the London Branch's next meeting will be on 21st October, 2017, when Charlotte Paton will be talking about Victorian rural women.



The time and place is as usual from 2–4.30pm at the Society of Genealogists.

VOLUNTEERS

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

If you can spare anything from a couple of hours a week, or even a month, to come into Kirby Hall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday or require further information, please email

volunteers@nfhs.co.uk

Please include your membership number.

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

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



The Suffolk Connection

To find out the connection between the Suffolk hall opposite and one of the historic figures featured in this edition of Norfolk Ancestor, visit page 56 and the back cover.

Norfolk Family History Society Let Us Know What You Think



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

With your help we can make the magazine more vibrant. We would welcome any comments (good or bad). They can be sent to the editor via

e-mail at the contact address on page 66 of this edition or can be sent to him at Kirby Hall.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk

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

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Samuel Morton Peto

THE link between the two pictures on the back cover is a gentleman called Samuel Morton PETO. He was born on 4th August, 1809, in Woking, Surrey, where his father was a tenant farmer. He was sent to boarding school aged 12 to learn business discipline and in 1823 was apprenticed to his uncle Henry Peto who was a building contractor. During the days he worked in the joinery shop whilst in the evenings he learnt architectural skills. Unfortunately when the firm won the contract to rebuild the Custom House in the City of London their tender was too low and costs had to be cut. As a result, part of the building collapsed showing up the poor workmanship. The stress of this



eventually led to Henry Peto's death on 15th September, 1830.

Henry left the ailing building company to his two nephews, Thomas GRISSELL and Morton Peto who set about rebuilding the business. In May, 1831, the young Peto married Thomas Grissell's sister Mary with whom he went on to have four children before Mary's death in 1842. The first contract that Grissell and Peto won was to rebuild Hungerford Market at Charing Cross in the Strand. Peto's youthful appearance worried the committee considering the tenders so he offered to wear spectacles to make himself look older! This first undertaking proved to be very successful and Grissell and Peto were soon to become one of the most important construction firms in London. They went on to build many important London buildings like the Reform Club, the Oxford and



Cambridge Club and the Lyceum, St James's Theatre. In 1840 they started to build Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, completing it in 1843. Peto was to soon realise that there was money to be made in getting involved in the building of the ever expanding railway network in the country.

To find out more about this and the East Anglian connection turn to page 56.

What's the Connection?

September 1955



Who or What Links These **Two Photographs?**

THE top one was taken by George Plunkett in September 1955 and shows Thorpe Railway Station in Norwich

The photograph opposite was taken in August 2008 by Tony Hisgett and shows the iconic Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, London.

Turn to the inside back cover to find out about the Norfolk link between the two pictures.

