

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**DECEMBER 2017**



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

# What Bootiful Birds

WHEN I was a boy growing up in the 1950s our one big Christmas treat, which all the family looked forward to, was eating turkey like the one pictured on the cover, for our Christmas dinner. Very often we had to settle for a large chicken or capon but occasionally my father would splash out and buy a turkey instead. In those days it was not a mainstream meat and could not be bought in normal high street shops. Consequently, it was very expensive, costing around two weeks' wages for the average worker. One man who set out to change all of this and make a bit of money, was Norfolk-born entrepreneur, Bernard MATTHEWS.



Bernard Trevor Matthews was born at Brooke, near Norwich, on January 24th, 1930, the youngest of four children of a motor mechanic. He was a bright child and won a scholarship to Norwich Grammar School, but his early life was not easy. His father was often out of work and his mother worked as a cleaner to supplement the pittance that her husband did manage to earn. When Bernard was 11, he and his sister had to move in with an aunt after their parents suddenly disappeared. They eventually returned, but divorced when Bernard was 16.

After leaving school, and two years national service as an RAF clerk, Matthews found clerical work at a livestock auctioneer's in Acle at 35 shillings a week. It was barely enough to live on, and he began casting around for a moneymaking hobby to supplement his income.

In 1950 he bid at auction for 20 turkey eggs and a paraffin oil incubator. They were knocked down to him for £2.50. Twelve of the eggs hatched but, as he had not calculated for feeding the birds, the venture was not as lucrative as he had hoped, and he sold the chicks to a neighbouring farmer for £9. After packing in his job at the auction house to become an insurance clerk, he had more money to spare and bought more turkeys. This time the wind blew their shelter away and they all escaped.

In 1952 he married his childhood sweetheart, Joyce Reid. While still working as an insurance clerk he was rearing and selling around 3000 turkeys a year in 1952. In 1953 he gave up his job and became a full time turkey farmer. He was soon to take his biggest gamble yet when in 1955 he borrowed £2500 to buy Great Witchingham Hall and 36 acres of land with a view to making it a turkey farm. To find out what happened next, turn to page 31 to read about the rest of the Bernard Matthews story.

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## The Norfolk Ancestor

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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

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**DISS** Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss (AI066)  
SOUTH NORFOLK (2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm)  
£1 per member - £2 for non-members

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# Welcome to your December Edition



Welcome to the December edition of Ancestor and thank you again for all your positive comments and responses made following the September edition.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our publication and strike the correct balance between articles with a direct family genealogical link and articles with a more historic slant. Once again we have been very fortunate to receive some very high class articles.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome two new trustees to our ranks. Ellen Carr will be known to many of you for her work in the field of “look-ups” and also in organising the library. Ellen has now agreed to also take on the role of trustee of the society. Roger Morgan has also joined the board of trustees to take on the role of publicity co-ordinator, looking at ways to make our society better known in the wider community. Roger has also been responsible for much of the work on this edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

Finally the editorial team would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful new Year and a hope that you will find the Ancestor as enjoyable in 2018 as you did in 2017.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**

## VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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

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

# THE RISE OF PHILIP STANNARD OF NORWICH (1730-1768)

OPPOSITE Kirby Hall stands St.Giles' Church, inside of which, on the south wall, is a large, impressive memorial to the family of Philip STANNARD, one of the most important 'stuff' manufacturers in Norwich during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. He was born on 6th December, 1703, to another Philip Stannard, a successful milliner, living at Cook's Row, St.Mary's Parish, Bury St.Edmunds. He appears to be descended from a Stanard family from Lavenham, Suffolk. The younger Philip had eight siblings: Elizabeth, Mary, Deborah, John and George plus three who died in infancy. All were baptised at the Presbyterian Meeting House in Churchgate.



Bury was an important weaving centre but, by the 18th century, it had declined to the extent that almost no cloth was produced. So to train as a master-weaver, Philip, aged 15, was apprenticed for a premium of £30 to Abraham LARWOOD, Worsted weaver, of St. George Colegate in Norwich to learn the technical skills of weaving and finishing as well as the commercial acumen of marketing. There doesn't appear to be a link with the well-known Stannard family of Norwich – merchants and professional people such as lawyers, musicians and artists, many of whom were Freemen actively participating in municipal life (see *NNAS Blue Book 13 pages 189 for their Family Tree*). Had they been related one might have expected Philip to have been apprenticed to someone like Abraham Stannard, a well-known textile stuff manufacturer.

In 1726, after seven years' training, Philip became a Freeman of Norwich, and two years later, he married Priscilla CROWE with the wedding taking place in St.Luke's Chapel in Norwich Cathedral. Two children were born only to die in infancy: Philip (born 14th October, 1729) and Priscilla (born 30th January, 1732, buried 25th June, 1732). At the same time Philip started his own business. Perhaps the financial support came from his father and Larwood or from his wife who is thought to have been the sister of William Crowe, later Sheriff and Mayor of Norwich. By 1732, Philip owned a new stone and tile dwelling house in St.George, Colegate, which, along with household goods and stock, was insured for a sizeable £500 with the Sun Insurance Company. Considering the competition in Norwich from firms such as J and J IVES and the PATINSONS, Philip

must have been a very capable master-weaver and a competent businessman. For 20 years, he worked to build a large and successful firm in Norwich, manufacturing textiles to order which were despatched to London merchants who then sold them around the country and occasionally abroad. Philip wasn't a factory owner since weaving was carried out by journeymen in their attics and lofts, but the scale of production and the diversity of output created an extensive array of Worsted cloth known as 'Stuffs'. Staple wool was combed to produce a smooth silky yarn with the weave visible in the inside of the product and a mirror image on the reverse. Often mixed with silk or linen and hot-pressed to add a high gloss, they created bright coloured patterns, creating a distinctive texture and appearance.

By 1747, Philip had become an important citizen serving as Sheriff, but he didn't continue an active role in city government. In that year his father died leaving the house in Churchgate, which was kept as an investment property. By 1748, he had moved into a larger house in St. Giles at 20 Fisher Lane, insured for £2000 and he also had four houses in St. Lawrence Parish which were let to textile workers. He appears to have left his religious non-conformity behind and attended the St. Giles Anglican Church. In the late 1740s he also acquired an elegant country house, Mulbarton Hall in a village four miles south west of Norwich. This included eight acres of grounds, stables for carriage and horses plus gardens of flowering shrubs and bulbs. Evidently Philip was living the life of a country gentleman, commuting back and forth to his business in Norwich.

In the 1750s he entered into a partnership with Philip TAYLOR, possibly a nephew. Their facilities had offices for admin; stores for cruell, thrum, and yarn; workshops for drying and warping, singeing, finishing, packing, cold presses; warehouses; store chambers, etc. Documents revealed the names of 800 weavers and numerous other occupations such as Twisters, Pickers, Foreign Riders, etc. Although the output was mainly striped cloth, there were 37 different types of product overall. A huge amount of Stuffs, by weight and value, was exported, goods worth millions of pounds at today's prices. Payment was arranged through London and Amsterdam using Banking intermediaries and Bills of Lading.

Whilst the business went from strength to strength, Philip's private life suffered another setback when Priscilla died after 'a long series of afflictions' in 1757, aged 49. However, in 1763 Philip, then aged 59, remarried to Anne HOPSON from Salisbury, aged 24. She gave birth to a son, Philip Hopson Stannard, who was privately baptised on 20th June, 1763, in Mulbarton Church, followed by a daughter Ann in 1765. Apparently Philip settled into a happy family life and semi-retirement as a country gentleman, commuting back and forth from Mulbarton Hall to his successful business in Norwich. Sadly, it was not to last.

You can read more about the fall of Philip Stannard in the next edition of the Ancestor.

**Edmund Perry MN3181**



# Norwich's Holocaust Heroine

**THE story of the Norwich born missionary Elsie TILNEY and her brave stand against the Nazi oppression in World War II has recently been brought to light in a remarkable book called "East West Street" by Philippe Sands, Professor of Law at University College London. Roger Morgan finds out a little more about Elsie's life.**

Elsie Maud Tilney was born in Norwich in 1893. The 1901 census shows her living at 95, Gloucester Street, with her parents Albert Joseph and Hannah Rachel Tilney. Albert, a stationer's clerk, and Hannah had seven children in total but two of them had died. The remaining five children were Edith Rose, Albert George, Elsie Maud, Frederick William and Wilfred Ernest. By 1911, Albert George had left home and the rest of the family had moved to 64, Hall Road.



In February 1903, at the age of ten, Elsie joined the Surrey Chapel in Norwich. The chapel was founded by evangelical preacher Robert GOVETT in 1844 and he paid for the erection of a large brick and flint building in Surrey Street in 1854. By the 1980s, the Victorian building was crumbling and the church moved to its current site in St Botolph Street but retained the name Surrey Chapel. It sent many missionaries to serve overseas and one of these was Elsie Tilney. She left England on a mission to Algeria and Tunisia in 1920 where she was to work for another ten years. She worked in the Tunisian town of Nabeul where she wrote about her visits to Jewish homes and her efforts to save them by "bringing them to Jesus".



In the 1930s she joined the Mildmay Mission and devoted herself to the well-being of Jews. After reading about Adolph Hitler's anti-Semitic views, she moved to France in 1934 to work amongst the Jewish people of Paris. While in Paris she had a very narrow escape from serious injury. She was about to step off the pavement on a busy street when a man pulled her back from the path of an oncoming car. She was very taken by the fact that her rescuer was a Jew and this reinforced her desire to help the Jewish people whenever she could. She divided her time between Paris and Tunisia but, by September 1937, she was working at the Baptist church in Paris interviewing German and Austrian Jewish refugees.

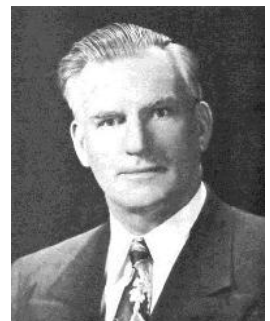
In January 1939, Leon, author Philippe Sands' grandfather, arrived in Paris and probably sought help from Elsie to get his daughter out of Austria. At great risk

to herself, in July 1939 she travelled by train to Vienna's Westbahnhof Station to meet Leon's wife Rita who handed over her one year old daughter Ruth. Rita stayed in Vienna while Elsie travelled back to Paris with Ruth and was met by Leon at the Gare de l'Est. She passed the infant Ruth to Leon together with a small scrap of paper on which was written '*Miss E.M. Tilney, "Menuka", Bluebell Rd, Norwich, Angleterre*'. After the exchange Leon and Elsie went their separate ways and did not meet again although Leon did retain Elsie's note.

Elsie was still working in Paris helping to get her Jewish protégés out of France when the war began a month later. In June 1940, the German army occupied Paris and the Surrey Chapel heard nothing from Elsie for several months. They sent her £10 of relief money but this took over a year to arrive. In early 1941, Elsie was taken by the Germans to a military barracks with several hundred other British women before being interned in Stalag 121 in the spa town of Vitel. The camp consisted of several hotels separated from the town by a three metre barbed wire topped fence. Elsie would spend four years working in the camp office looking after records and archives.

In 1943, around 400 Polish Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto were sent to the camp because they had South American passports. Elsie did what she could to protect them, but in January 1944 the camp commandant was ordered to send them all to the death camp at Auschwitz. One of these, a young Polish soldier called Sashe Krawec, asked his English teacher Miss Tilney to help him. She readily agreed and hid the young Pole in her bathroom for more than six months. He emerged looking somewhat pale but he had avoided almost certain death. The camp was finally liberated by the US Sixth Army in 1944 and Elsie was one of the last to leave.

After the war, Elsie left France and went to a mission in Southern Africa where she spent most of the 1950s. When she retired, she moved to Florida to be close to her brother Frederick (pictured below). He and his wife had moved to the United States in 1920 where he initially worked for an industrial company. Frederick Tilney is known as the man who discovered the body-builder Charles Atlas demonstrating cable exercises in the window of a New York department store. Atlas and Tilney worked together for many years, promoting and selling health supplements. Frederick was also a personal trainer and worked with Atlas to perfect his physique to make it more like the statues of the Greek Gods. He was constantly developing new exercises to reach these ends. They parted company when Frederick moved to Florida, where he ran a health food store until he died aged 82 in 1977.



Elsie died in 1974 and her papers were destroyed. Her body was cremated and her ashes were scattered over Biscayne Bay, on the Atlantic coast of Southern Florida. In 2015 Elsie's bravery was formally honoured as Right-

eous Among the Nations by the official Holocaust remembrance authority Yad Vashem in Israel. She is one of more than 25,000 people recognised for risking their lives to save Jews during the darkest days of the war. She was only the 21st British recipient of this honour. The medal was presented to Elsie's closest living relative, 84-year-old Joseph SCHULTZ, who was living at the Great Hospital in Norwich's Bishopgate.

I am indebted to Rosamunde Codling at the Surrey Chapel for her invaluable help in producing this article. Both she and I would love to hear from anybody who knows anything more about Miss Tilney and the house called 'Menuka' in Bluebell Road.

Roger Morgan MN16248

# An African Prince

UKAWSAW GRONNIOSAW is scarcely a name that trips off the tongue, but he had something important to say about the Norwich of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Ukawsaw is another of those intriguing people who are little known today but helped our understanding of our county in centuries gone by. I came across his name in a new book entitled "Pablo Fanque and the Victorian Circus" by Gareth H.H. Davies which is reviewed in this edition of Ancestor.

Hopefully some of you will remember my article on Fanque in a previous Ancestor. Fanque's real name was William Darby and he was born in Norwich in 1810 (although some sources give his birth as 1796). He was a pioneer, becoming the first black circus proprietor.

Ukawsaw (who adopted the easier to remember name of James Albert) gives us a real insight into what it was like to be of African descent in 18<sup>th</sup> century Norwich. He was born in Nigeria a century before William Darby in 1705 and was actually an African Prince who was sold into slavery and worked in New York before being sold on again and freed on the death of his final owner.



He made his way to Britain and to Norwich where he met with mixed fortune in a story that could have come from the pen of Charles Dickens. For in Norfolk his story was one of relative riches to rags. Ukawsaw's importance to history, however, comes via his literary skills. He was the first former slave and African to write and have an autobiography published in Great Britain.

His work was engagingly entitled “A Narrative of the Most Remarkable Particulars in the Life of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw an African Prince as Related by Himself” (titles in those days virtually told the entire story). It was written in Kidderminster in 1772 and published in Bath in the same year.

Early in the book you get a little idea of the racism that abounded in Britain at the time as Ukawsaw tells us: “It is a generally received opinion, in England, that the natives of Africa go entirely unclothed; but this supposition is very unjust: they have a kind of dress so as to appear decent, though it is very slight and thin.”

Ukawsaw’s autobiography shows that in general he was well treated by his owners but still met with many trials and tribulations and, when his final owner Mr Freelandhouse died, he was given his freedom. His book explains how he came to Britain via Holland and, prior to moving to Norwich, was employed in Colchester. The book is available free of charge from the excellent Project Gutenberg site.

Our primary interest is in his views on Norwich and what happened to him there. So let’s allow him to tell the story of his stay in Norfolk in his own words:

“I had at this time an offer made me of going to Norwich and having constant employ. My wife seemed pleased with this proposal, as she supposed she might get work there in the weaving-manufactory, being the business she was brought up to, and more likely to succeed there than any other place; and we thought as we had an opportunity of moving to a Town where we could both be employed it was most advisable to do so; and that probably we might settle there for our lives. When this step was resolved on, I went first alone to see how it would answer; which I very much repented after, for it was not in my power immediately to send my wife any supply, as I fell into the hands of a Master that was neither kind nor considerate; and she was reduced to great distress, so that she was obliged to sell the few goods that we had, and when I sent for her was under the disagreeable necessity of parting with our bed.

“When she came to Norwich I hired a room ready furnished. I experienced a great deal of difference in the carriage of my Master from what I had been accustomed to from some of my other Masters. He was very irregular in his payments to me. My wife hired a loom and wove all the leisure time she had and we began to do very well, till we were overtaken by fresh misfortunes. Our three poor children fell ill of the smallpox; this was a great trial to us; but still I was persuaded in myself we should not be forsaken. And I did all in my power to keep my dear partner’s spirits from sinking. Her whole attention now was taken up with the children as she could mind nothing else, and all I could get was but little to support a family in such a situation, beside paying for the hire of our room, which I was obliged to omit doing for several weeks: but the woman to whom we were indebted would not excuse us, tho’ I promised she should have the very first money we could get after my children came about, but she would not be

satisfied and had the cruelty to threaten us that if we did not pay her immediately she would turn us all into the street.

“The apprehension of this plunged me in the deepest distress, considering the situation of my poor babies: if they had been in health I should have been less sensible of this misfortune. But My GOD, still faithful to his promise, raised me a friend. Mr. Henry Gurdney, a Quaker, a gracious gentleman heard of our distress, he sent a servant of his own to the woman we hired the room of, paid our rent, and bought all the goods with my wife's loom and gave it us all.

“Some other gentlemen, hearing of his design, were pleased to assist him in these generous acts, for which we never can be thankful enough; after this my children soon came about; we began to do pretty well again; my dear wife worked hard and constant when she could get work, but it was upon a disagreeable footing as her employ was so uncertain, sometimes she could get nothing to do and at other times when the weavers of Norwich had orders from London they were so excessively hurried, that the people they employed were often obliged to work on the Sabbath-day; but this my wife would never do, and it was matter of uneasiness to us that we could not get our living in a regular manner, though we were both diligent, industrious, and willing to work. I was far from being happy in my Master, he did not use me well. I could scarcely ever get my money from him; but I continued patient 'till it pleased GOD to alter my situation.

“My worthy friend Mr. Gurdney advised me to follow the employ of chopping chaff, and bought me an instrument for that purpose. There were but few people in the town that made this their business beside myself; so that I did very well indeed and we became easy and happy. But we did not continue long in this comfortable state: Many of the inferior people were envious and ill-natured and set up the same employ and worked under price on purpose to get my business from me, and they succeeded so well that I could hardly get anything to do, and became again unfortunate: Nor did this misfortune come alone, for just at this time we lost one of our little girls who died of a fever; this circumstance occasioned us new troubles, for the Baptist Minister refused to bury her because we were not their members. The Parson of the parish denied us because she had never been baptised. I applied to the Quakers, but met with no success; this was one of the greatest trials I ever met with, as we did not know what to do with our poor baby. At length I resolved to dig a grave in the garden behind the house, and bury her there; when the Parson of the parish sent for me to tell me he would bury the child, but did not choose to read the burial service over her. I told him I did not mind whether he would or not, as the child could not hear it.

“We met with a great deal of ill treatment after this, and found it very difficult to live. We could scarcely get work to do, and were obliged to pawn our clothes. We were ready to sink under our troubles. When I purposed to my wife to go to Kidderminster and try if we could do there. I had always an inclination for that place, and now more than ever as I had heard Mr. Fawcet mentioned in the most respectful manner, as a pious worthy Gentleman; and I had seen his name

in a favourite book of mine, Baxter's Saints Everlasting Rest, and as the Manufactory of Kidderminster seemed to promise my wife some employment, she readily came into my way of thinking.

"I left her once more, and set out for Kidderminster, in order to judge if the situation would suit us. As soon as I came there I waited immediately on Mr. Fawcet, who was pleased to receive me very kindly and recommended me to Mr. Watson who employed me in twisting silk and Worsted together. I continued here about a fortnight, and when I thought it would answer our expectation, I returned to Norwich to fetch my wife; she was then near her time, and too much indisposed. So we were obliged to tarry until she was brought to bed, and as soon as she could conveniently travel we came to Kidderminster, but we brought nothing with us as we were obliged to sell all we had to pay our debts and the expenses of my wife's illness, &c."

Although the book mentions a Henry GURDNEY it is more likely that this would have been Henry GURNEY (1721-1777), a well-known Norwich benefactor.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**

### **Facebook Update**

Our Facebook group goes from strength to strength with over 1,300 members. Below is just one of the queries from our pages from Roella Trudgill.

### **Mystery Photograph**

I wonder if anyone can help identify what this photo is of and its location please. I bought it from Diss Museum so presume it may have been taken in that locality?



### **Tingay Block**

I have researched the paternal side of my family for 20 years, back to John TINGEY (my 6th great grandfather) marrying Elizabeth WARFE, in Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, on 31st October 1746. He died in Stoke Ferry in 1771. John is my brick wall and I begin to sense that I will never bash this wall down. What I would like to know is who John's parents were and where he was born. His first child (my 5th great grandfather) was born in Ely St Mary, Cambridgeshire, while the other children were born in Stoke Ferry. From John on down I have just about everything there is to know about my paternal family. Any thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

**Mary Tingay**

# WWII Bombing Raids on Norwich

## A Talk by ROY SCOTT

In the September edition of *The Norfolk Ancestor* we printed an account of a talk given by Roy Scott on wartime bombing raids in Norwich. We are pleased to reproduce part of this, together with additional material from Roy in this edition.

ON a Volunteers' Day at Kirby Hall, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Roy Scott gave an interesting talk explaining how he produced the names of victims for Derek James's Norwich Evening News supplement in April this year to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Baedeker Raids on Norwich.

Whilst searching for the death of his great grandfather "Porky" Sparks in the death returns (of the Norwich Health Records housed at the NRO and available on film at the Millennium Library) he came across the cause of death as **War Operations**. This started him listing similar entries into a database. When he compared it with the official Book of Remembrance he realised some names were in one but not the other and visa versa.

Roy requested a special search of Commonwealth War Deaths from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission using the word "Norwich". This included Norwich Roads everywhere and others which had to be excluded but, it also revealed victims from Norwich who died when transferred out into Norfolk and beyond, i.e. Hellesdon Hospital, Plumstead and Exning Emergency Hospital near Newmarket. Eventually he associated the victims with identifiable air raids all of which are listed in Joan Banger's book *Norwich at War*. Roy extended the database using cemetery and crematorium burial records; newspaper air raid reports of the time as well as death and funeral notices. After Derek James had used part of the database to publish various articles in the Norwich Evening News, Roy started to receive background information from readers who wanted to share their stories. He related some of these to the Volunteers, including mysteries and anomalies his work has revealed.

Roy gave a brief resume of certain raids, highlighting them with stories about people who were killed or injured. The raids started 9th July, 1940, on a warm sunny afternoon around 5pm when a Dornier 17 and a Junkers 88 dropped high explosives and incendiaries on Mousehold aerodrome, Barnard's works, 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 30 people died including several 'Carrow girls'.

A third raid came on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July about 6am. when a single Dornier 215 dropped a number of bombs on King Street, Victoria Terrace, Horns Lane and

Pegg's Opening, causing damage and several deaths. Gunner Harold Bramble from Hoo in Kent had married Phyllis Bloomfield in December 1934. He was serving with the Royal Artillery when their home was hit, killing his wife and three children, Peter 5, Gwendoline 3 and Jill aged 17 months. They are buried together in Section 65 plot 44 of Norwich Earlham Cemetery. It appears that Gunner Bramble survived the war.

Raid No 4 on Thursday 1st August 1940 was in the early afternoon at 3.15pm

Without warning a Junkers 88 approached from south west of Norwich again targeting Boulton and Paul. Hilda Brown, aged 41, Lily Greaves aged 58, Ellen Raby aged 61, all canteen assistants clearing up after lunch, died but only one of these women is listed in the death returns (no body found).

Hilda Brown's son Ron revealed in a letter, how devastating it was not to have a grave to visit. She left for work and never came home.

During the summer of 1940, no warning sirens were sounded without regional authority because of the consequent loss of production. However, the high loss of life during the daylight raids on workplaces led to protests and the decision to sound sirens was then made locally. 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 injured to 104.

Raid No 23 on Wednesday, 7th May, 1941, at 21.56 hours, an enemy aircraft dropped 24 bombs in the area of Larkman School. A total of 150 people were rendered homeless. At 47, Cadge Close the Britcher family, Edward aged 41 and wife Ethel aged 37 died along with their children: Edward 15, Leonard 13 and Irene 10. The remaining children, Cyril 8, Jean 6 and Barbara 5, all suffered serious injuries. Remarkably the Robinson family of seven next door were dug out of the rubble alive.

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 1st Baedeker Raid on Norwich dropped 185 High Explosive Bombs in two hours with devastating results. The Lodge, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, also known as Woodlands Hospital, was bombed on 28<sup>th</sup> April resulting in numerous deaths. Listed with 13 older men is one child, Antony David Bush (cause of death pneumonia) died 30th April, 1942 aged 4, the son of Charles Bush, Private, RAMC and Gladys Bush of 121 Ranworth Road. Roy offered his explanation that the boy's body was simply collected from the hospital mortuary with all the others. His name appears on a plaque where he is buried in Section NN, along with many other victims, in one of the four mass graves which were dug in the cemetery extension beyond Guardian Road. Thankfully only two were needed and the other two were refilled and now provide the car parking, just inside the gates.



Audrey Johnson, a shoe operative, died on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1942, aged 17, at home in Elm Grove Lane, Norwich, yet her father Frederick Johnson, a foreman in the shoe trade, together with her mother and sister, were all unharmed. The reason, Audrey left the Anderson shelter in the garden to return to the house to make a bottle of milk for her six month old baby, who was crying. A bomb fell on the back of the house, killing the young mother outright; her son was safely in the air-raid shelter with his grandparents.

The total number of casualties for the year 1942 amounted to 258 killed, with nearly 800 injured. The last raid took place on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1943, between 10.30pm and midnight, when firebombs were dropped in the Unthank Road district causing fires but thankfully no one died.

An accident which claimed the last two victims occurred on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1945. A USAAF Liberator returning to St Faith's aerodrome clipped the roof of a Mile Cross council house and crashed killing two children playing in Spenke Road. Brian Jones aged 11 and Mary Kemp aged 5 died but Mary's twin brother Richard was unhurt. Only one of the crew of nine survived the accident. As far as Roy knows there is no blue plaque or anything else at this site. The US Memorial Library has details and names of the crew and was told the plane was called "Lassie Comes Home."

Roy has received letters from survivors and relatives giving detailed accounts about what happened to them. Some of these are tragic stories about individuals and their families where often whether people survived or died depended on luck of the draw. In some cases bodies of the dead were never recovered, leaving their relatives not just with loss and bereavement but also with the difficulty of burial and a lack of closure.

The actual number of victims of the many raids on Norwich during WW2 varies depending on who is included. Roy's Database lists the names of 349 innocent men, women and children, where and when they died and associating them with specific raids. This database is now available on NORS.

**Edmund Perry MN 3181**

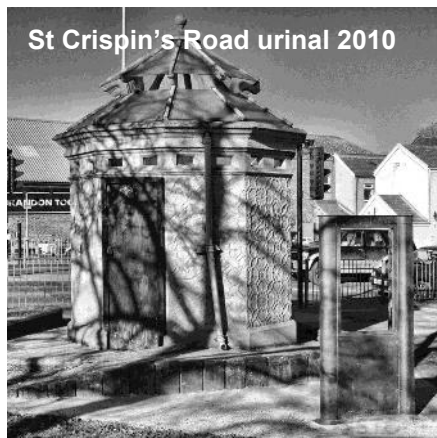
## Kirby Hall Christmas Closing

Kirby Hall Library will close for the Christmas break on Thursday December 14th and will re-open on Thursday January 4th, 2018.

# Did You Know?

Did you know that Norwich has what is thought to be the oldest surviving concrete urinal in Britain? The gentlemen's urinal is situated on the south side of St Crispin's Road and has been a Grade II listed building since 1998 for its special architectural or historic interest.

It was built in 1919 by A.E. COLLINS, the City Engineer, from pre-cast reinforced concrete with a glazed roof. The single-storey structure has a decagonal shape with a single entrance. The sides are embossed with a floral pattern and painted. The roof is a two stage pyramid topped by a ball finial. In the 1880s several of this type were made for the City of Norwich Corporation and set up around the city. All have been demolished. Sadly, St Crispin's urinal is no longer in use.



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# A Journey from Norfolk to the Homes of the Victorian Upper Class

Eliza WOLF was born in East Walton in 1843. I am sure nobody thought that 47 years later she would be the cook in a household of a certain Mr. William Henry TATE, sugar refiner, born in Liverpool and Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancaster.

Her path to this position tracked through the census returns shows a real “Downton Abbey” type existence. From living with her parents, George and Mary in 1851 in East Walton, she had become a kitchen maid in 1861 in the household of a David POWELL, aged 50, occupation – merchant, living with his wife and children at Heath Lodge, Hampstead, London. The household consisted of a butler, a coachman, a footman, two nurses, a nursery-maid, a cook and a housemaid.

In 1871, Eliza was in the household of David T. MARGAN, aged 61, retired merchant who was living with his wife and daughter at Wood Street, Walthamstow, London. By this time Eliza was shown as the cook.

The household consisted of a butler, a groom, a gardener, a governess, a nurse, a lady’s maid, a kitchen maid, an upper housemaid and a lower housemaid.

Eliza married William BRETT in 1871 in Sporle, Norfolk.

By 1881 Eliza had somehow found her way to Wales as she was the cook for Daniel Whitehouse, aged 55, occupation – iron and tin plate manufacturer and Justice of the Peace.

The household servants consisted of a gardener (husband William), a parlour maid, a housemaid, and a kitchen maid.

In 1891 Eliza must have been a cook of some note as she was shown as such in the household of William Henry Tate, aged 49, born in Liverpool, occupation - sugar refiner and Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancaster. William Henry Tate was the son of the founder of probably the most famous of any product related to sugar, Tate and Lyle, based in Liverpool. He was subsequently knighted. The family lived at “Erriviatt”, Denbigh, North Wales.

The household consisted of a butler, two grooms, a coachman, a gamekeeper, a gardener (husband William), three nurses, a lady’s maid, a housemaid, a kitchen maid and a larder maid.

By 1901, Eliza and William had moved on and were shown in the census as living at Downing Hall, Whitford, Flintshire, Wales. Possibly through health reasons Eliza, now 57, was no longer a cook but shown as a housekeeper and William as a caretaker.

The make-up of the occupancy of the property is not too clear as the next entry on the census shows the address as Upper Downing and the residents as John Fielding, aged 32, occupation – land agent and magistrate, with Emily Fielding, aged 25.

Eliza must have returned to Norfolk as she died in Sporle in 1907.

The relationship from Eliza to the author of this article is a tenuous one, but here goes: My grandmother had two sisters. One sister, Lily REYNOLDS married George Worf. Eliza Worf was George's Aunt. Unfortunately George died in the First World War. George and Lily had one daughter, Edna. Edna and my father always kept in touch and, although Edna married, she had no children. When she died she left a lot of family memorabilia to my father and subsequently to me.

**Ron Websdale MN 13233**

## James Nunn of Sturston

I am still searching for the birth place of James NUNN, my 3x great grandfather. He first appears in the Parish Records of Tottington and Swaffham, in Norfolk. Tottington records his banns of marriage to Elizabeth GARRETT and are recorded as being read on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1800. However, the records in Swaffham where the marriage took place have the banns read on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> of October in 1799 and the marriage service being conducted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1799.

The Swaffham records show the bride's surname as GARROD and elsewhere it is recorded as GARRARD. Both sets of records agree that the bride is a single woman from the parish of Swaffham and the groom is a single man from the extra parochial place of Sturston. However, there is no record of James being born in that village.

Sturston has an interesting but unfortunate history even before it was enveloped in the Stanford Training Area in 1942. It is in the heart of Breckland, seven miles north of Thetford. The main feature used to be a huge rabbit warren which had produced meat and fur for the lord of the manor since the middle ages. Over the years the village shrank in size and the number of sheep increased. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the village passed from the SHACKLOCK family to the JERMYN family from Rushbrook in Suffolk. In 1597, Edmund Jermyn was taken to court for seizing the glebeland, pulling down all the houses and enclosing Sturston heathland which had been common land. His reason had been to increase the size of his flock of sheep. Several of the displaced inhabitants were heard at the inquiry and

it is interesting to read where they had resettled – maybe relevant to the quest to find where James was born. Several were from the surrounding villages of Stow Bedon, Wrentham and Thompson; others were from Saham Toney and Tittleshall which were a bit further away. By the 1730s it was reported that only the manor house was left and Holy Cross Church was in ruins. In the second half of the eighteenth century, Sturston came under the parish of Stanford. The last marriage held at Sturston that I've been able to trace was in 1759 but was conducted by the vicar of Stanford and the marriage registered at Stanford. By 1773, it was recorded that a marriage was conducted at Stanford as the church at Sturston was "dilapidated". However, baptisms were still held there at least up to 1777 and burials in the churchyard until very much later (at least 1838).

By the 1780s, the inhabitants of Sturston appear to be using the church at Tottington rather than Stanford. The parish register there records several baptisms, burials and marriages of Sturston residents. Based on the Stanford and Tottington registers it is possible to determine the names of some of the people that were living in Sturston around this time. Amongst them we find SMITH, FROST, BALLS, BACON, BURROUGHS, BURTON, BYE, MACKROW and BARHAM, but no mention of NUNN before James's marriage in 1799.

William FADEN'S Map of Norfolk, 1797, clearly shows a few houses at Sturston, as well as the hall and the ruined church. By the time of the 1801 census there were five families there living in four houses with a total population of 28. As that census did not give names, it can only be surmised that James and his new wife were among the 28.

The 1841 census gives more information and shows eight dwellings with a population of 48. At that time the farmhouse was occupied by the DIX family and they had four live-in servants. Amongst the remainder were six men employed as agricultural labourers and one, William WALKER, was employed as a warrener. The 1851 and 1861 censuses show the occupation of the farmhouse changing along with many of the other inhabitants indicating a transient population. This may indicate that James moved to the village to take up work as a labourer, maybe lodging with one of the families there. Before looking at where he might have come from I will take you through what we know about his life after his marriage.

The first of their children was Mary Anne, who was baptised at Tottington Parish Church of St Andrew's on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1801. William followed two years later and was baptised 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1803. In 1805 a second son, James, was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> October and baptised two days later. He died the following year and was buried on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 1806. Three more children followed – Elizabeth in 1808, James in 1810 and Hannah in 1811. Tragedy struck again with Susan, baptised on the 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1815, and buried just seven months after that. Another child, also named Susan was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1819. All of the children had been baptised at Tottington but almost certainly lived in Sturston.

The death of James was recorded in the Tottington records in 1838 but noted that he lived in Sturston and was buried on the 10<sup>th</sup> August in Sturston Graveyard which was still in use despite the church itself being in ruins. His age was recorded as being 72, indicating that he was born around 1766.

The 1841 census shows a William NUNN, a 30 year old agricultural labourer, living in Sturston with a 60 year old Elizabeth. Bearing in mind the confusion often caused by the recording of ages in the 1841 census, it is reasonable to assume that Elizabeth is the widow of James and that William is her eldest son. William and Elizabeth were the only recorded Nunns in the village.

In nearby Tottington in 1841 we find James the second son of James and Elizabeth. By this time he was married to Elizabeth CHILVERS and they had two sons, James aged two and Thomas just eight months old. James was employed as a warrener but it is not known if this was with the huge Black Rabbit Warren at Sturston or one of the other warrens in the area.

Of the other children of James, Mary Ann married Henry STUBBINGS in 1818 and Susan married John BAILEY in 1838, both at Tottington. Hannah married James LAMBERT (born in Croxton) in 1840. Their first child, William was born in Sturston next door to Elizabeth and William NUNN. This adds to the evidence that they were Hannah's mother and brother. But where the elder James was born remains a mystery. On-line family trees suggest a number of places in Suffolk where a James Nunn was born in the latter half on the 18th century but there is little to prove that any were the right James. The villages surrounding Sturston have several Nunn families including some of those mentioned above with respect to the 1597 court case. So far I have found no record of the baptism of a James Nunn in these villages – however some records are incomplete.

In 1790 Samuel BIDWELL married an Elizabeth Nunn at Gooderstone Parish Church. She was from the parish of Gooderstone but Samuel was from Stanford, the parish to which Sturston was attached. Gooderstone is about 10 miles north west of Sturston. Could Elizabeth have been related to James and the reason he moved to Sturston? Elizabeth was the daughter of Martin and Mary Nunn and she had a sister Ann, but there is no record of James.

Perhaps the best contender found in the records so far is a James Nunn christened in Barningham in Suffolk on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1767. He was the son of James and Ann Nunn (formerly SHADE) who had married in nearby Coney Weston on 11<sup>th</sup> October the previous year. This would tie up with James of Sturston being 72 at his death in 1838. Barningham is about 12 miles south of Sturston. Ann died in January, 1770 when James was only two. James' father, James senior re-married nine months later to Susan NOWSE. James's father was perhaps the James Nunn who died in 1776. With his parents dead maybe James moved from Barningham – there is no record of him there in later years. Maybe he ended up at Sturston. Maybe.....But how do I prove he was the right James Nunn?

# Moroni and Charles England: Brothers in the Gospel



The 1891 census for Heigham, Norfolk, shows two brothers living in No.1, Julian Street. The first, Charles ENGLAND (age 27) was born in the USA, the second Moroni England (age 40) was born in Norfolk. The age difference wouldn't make it impossible for them to be brothers; the difference in the place of birth could well be explained by the fact that the profession or occupation listed for



both of them is *Latter Day Saint (Missionary)*. In other words, these were both Mormons.<sup>1</sup> How this might account for the births occurring at different sides of the Atlantic is quite easily explained.

Moroni<sup>2</sup> England was born on 13th May, 1850, in North Walsham and was just six years old when his family – consisting of father Daniel, mother Mary Ann (nee MELDER) and his two older brothers, William and John – emigrated to join the growing Mormon church in America. New converts to Mormonism in the 19th century were encouraged to emigrate, to build up the infant church, but also to enable them to worship according to their new faith without hindrance<sup>3</sup>. Hence the gathering in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, in what became known as Utah Territory, with the first arrivals there in 1847.

Daniel England and his family crossed from Liverpool to New York in the ship *Thornton* in a group of some 500 new converts to Mormonism, under the leadership of James Willie, and with financial assistance from the Perpetual Emigration Fund<sup>4</sup>. The voyage took six weeks. They then travelled to Iowa City by train, where the group became the Willie Handcart Company for the 300-mile trek to Florence, Nebraska. There the England family lived for four years, working to get enough money to continue their journey west. But their stop was a lucky one, as the Willie Handcart Company left rather late in the season and was caught in early, severe snowstorms as they were crossing Wyoming. Rescue parties had to be sent out from Salt Lake City, and 77 of the company perished from hunger and cold before they arrived in the valley. Moroni, his parents and brother John didn't leave for the Salt Lake Valley until July 4th, 1860. They settled in Tooele, some 35 miles south and west of Salt Lake City. And so Daniel England and his wife could well have had children on both sides of the Atlantic.

Charles England<sup>5</sup> was in fact born in Tooele in 1863, but not to Daniel and Mary Ann. He was the son of William England, Moroni's brother who had followed the family to Utah Territory with his new wife Eliza (nee SEAMONS). Charles was born when his mother was visiting the grandparents, Daniel and Mary Ann; otherwise the William England family settled in Hyde Park, Utah, some 85 miles

north of Salt Lake City. So Charles was in fact Moroni's nephew, not his brother as stated in the 1891 census.

A generation but only 13 years apart, these two 'brothers' had very similar experiences as they grew up in Utah Territory. The 1870 U.S. census shows Moroni as a farm labourer age 20, living at home with his parents in Tooele<sup>6</sup>. Charles' family lived in a dugout when they first arrived, graduating to the relative luxury of a log cabin as time and means permitted. His father died when Charles was only 12, so he became the breadwinner for his mother, three sisters, and three infant brothers. He paid for his 12 weeks of schooling each winter by working for the school janitor, bringing in wood for the stove, etc., and, during the months when outdoor work could be done, he gradually learned to farm. In 1889, Charles was called as a missionary to Britain. Moroni received his call in 1890, also to serve in Britain. Both were assigned to work in Norfolk and by 1891 were living and working together in Heigham.

Both men are also listed as married on the 1891 census. Moroni had married in 1879 (1st January to Hannah LARSEN, of Swedish descent), Charles in 1886, so when he left for his mission to Britain in 1889, he left behind not only his young wife Phebe but also two small children. It was not unusual in the early days of the Mormon church for married men to be called to serve as missionaries. There was a great evangelising spirit, and a need to strengthen the church, gathering those who wanted a better life. So young wives were often left to look after children, house, and perhaps the farm while their husbands were away. But as Moroni states in his letter responding to his call as a missionary<sup>7</sup>, *"although I feel my incompetency [I] will cheerfully respond and do the best I can to promulgate the gospel wherever I may be assigned to labour, trusting in the Lord for strength to perform a good labor."*

By 1900, Moroni is again settled in Tooele with his wife and a seven year-old daughter, and there he remains until his death in 1935, although his occupation changes from farmer to Undertaker and Embalmer by 1910. He was in fact the first mortician in the county. The younger Charles was offered a scholarship to the University of Deseret in Salt Lake City, to train as a teacher, but, after a few years in the classroom, he learned book-keeping, and later became the Editor of the Logan Daily Herald, a county newspaper for northern Utah. Both men lived into their eighties. Moroni is buried with his wife in Tooele Cemetery, Charles more than 100 miles to the north in Logan. Whether their lives crossed very often after their missionary service we do not know, but for a short time in Norfolk uncle Moroni was to nephew Charles, as he signs his acceptance letter for his mission call, *'your brother in the gospel.'*

<sup>1</sup>*The full name of the so-called Mormon church being The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, sometimes referred to as Mormonites in the nineteenth century.*

<sup>2</sup>*A search for the name Moroni in the findmypast databases shows that it only begins to appear in the records for England and Wales around 1840, with a surge in occurrences*



in the 1850s and a decline thereafter up to 1900. This is a direct reflection of the pattern of the growth of the Mormon church in Britain, with the first missionaries arriving in Liverpool in the summer of 1837, large numbers of converts during the first 25 years, and then only slow growth, much of it through births to converts' families rather than new converts. Moroni is a name from the Book of Mormon - regarded as scripture by Latter Day Saints, so in the same way that other Christians would often name their children after Biblical characters of note, Mormons also often gave their children names from the Book of Mormon.

<sup>3</sup>Ironically of course, the Mormons suffered considerable persecution in those early years in the Eastern United States, being literally driven out of many areas, even under an extermination order from Illinois.

<sup>4</sup>This was an arrangement whereby those who could not afford the cost of passage could obtain a loan from the church and, on arrival in Utah Territory, paid that loan back piecemeal, as they could afford, with all repaid loans being fed back into the PEF to provide subsequent loans. This system was in place from 1849 until the late 1880s and supported an estimated 85,000 converts to emigrate. It must be acknowledged that not all debts were repaid, nevertheless, the PEF certainly accomplished its intended purpose.

<sup>5</sup>An autobiographical sketch of his life can be found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/KWZQ-DSW/details>

<sup>6</sup>Tooele was incorporated as a town in 1853. By 1870 it had less than 1,000 inhabitants

<sup>7</sup>See: <https://history.lds.org/missionary/individual/moroni-england-1850?lang=eng>



**The picture on the above left is Moroni England's gravestone and on the above right is Charles England's gravestone in Logan, Utah, USA.**

# The Norwich-born Lady Lord Mayors—the early years

## By Phyllida Scrivens

SINCE 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1923, when Ethel Mary COLMAN was announced as the first female Lord Mayor of Norwich, simultaneously becoming the first in the UK, only 16 further women have been honoured with the title of First Citizen. Allow me to give you a brief insight into the childhoods of the seven ladies born in Norfolk, whose destinies were to eventually don the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Norwich mayoral chain, civic black and gold robes and tricorne feathered hat.

In 1871, Ethel Colman was eight years old, living in comfort in Carrow House, King Street, in Norwich, a gentleman's mansion of neo-classical design built only ten years earlier, along with her wealthy parents, five siblings and ten domestic staff. Her father Jeremiah was 40 years old, by this time a Member of Parliament, magistrate and manufacturer of mustard. Her mother, born Caroline Cozens-Hardy, gave her husband six children in ten years, Ethel being the third child behind Laura and Russell.

It was Ethel's younger sister Helen who became her life-long companion, soul mate and Lady Mayoress. Jeremiah's business was expanding rapidly. In 1866 he was appointed as mustard maker to Queen Victoria and the following year served as Mayor of Norwich. When he died in 1898, Jeremiah bequeathed a fortune of money, property and artefacts totalling the equivalent today of £62 million.

The family were devoted members of Princes' Street Congregational Church and were encouraged to study scripture, literature, music and fine art. At 14, Ethel, closely followed by Helen, was sent away to Clapham Park in London as a boarder at Miss Pipe's School for Young Ladies. Headmistress Hannah Pipe, originally from Manchester, was a signatory on the 1866 Women's Suffrage Petition, the first mass petition for Votes for Women presented to Parliament with over 1,500 names.

One of Ethel's contemporaries, Elizabeth Rowe, later joined the more militant arm of the Suffragette Movement, serving two months in Holloway Prison for smashing the windows of the National Bank in the Strand. Fortunately, Ethel and Helen, although no doubt influenced by their tutors and peers, returned to Norwich to quietly continue enjoying country walks, nature study and boating on the





Norfolk Broads and rivers. It was now that Caroline persuaded her daughters to volunteer as teachers, both at the Carrow Men's Day School and at the Sunday School, just two of the many philanthropic initiatives developed to benefit Colman's growing Norwich workforce.

In 1904, twenty years before Ethel became Lord Mayor, Jessie WEST was born in the city. She would later marry artist Tom Griffiths, becoming the first Conservative female Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1969. Little is known about Jessie's childhood. Her marriage produced no children and there are no survivors who knew the family. I did, however, discover in the 1911 census, that the family was then living in Dover Street, just off Unthank Road.

Jessie's father, Edmund Grant West, worked as a carpenter in a local council school. Born in the Norfolk village of Bunwell, he was the son of a builder, plumber and glazier. Jessie's mother Jane hailed from Lumley, near Newcastle, whose eldest daughter Ethel Christabel, was born in Wymondham in 1894, by 1911 working as a dressmaker. Jessie also proved to be a talented seamstress, creating waistcoats and other garments for her husband Tom, working on a sewing machine bought in Croydon street market for £3 during the 1930s.



Joyce Lilian BIRD was born into the deprivation, overcrowding and squalor of the Norwich Yards, specifically White Entry Yard off Magdalen Street, on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1922. Her father, Frederick Arthur Bird was a veteran of the Great War, training mules to carry military equipment in France. He and his wife Mary Ann (known as Polly) had six children. Joyce was number three.

In 1926, as part of a major initiative of slum clearance, their home was condemned, the council moving them to The Avenues, a far more salubrious neighbourhood, where proud Polly quickly became known as 'The Lady of the Avenues', because of her high standards of personal grooming and dress, an attribute in later life emulated by her daughter.

Joyce was regularly sent out before school to the local shop with one shilling in her pocket. With this she bought six pennyworth of meat such as brisket or sausages, potatoes and a cabbage, providing an ample midday meal for the whole family. The tuppance change fed the gas meter. Joyce left school at 14 to take up various jobs including in the city shoe and boot trade, as an usherette at the

Haymarket Cinema and, in 1939, working at Caley's chocolate factory, where within six weeks management promoted her to supervisor. She married Welshman Gwilym MORGAN, developed an interest in local politics and in 1975 became the fifth female Lord Mayor of Norwich, often sharing her duties with only granddaughter Selina.

In November 1919, just one year after the conclusion of the Great War, a baby girl was born in the village of Topcroft, near Bungay, and given the name Barbara Ellen Edith YALLOP.

Her father was Bert Yallop who had served in the war since a young man and suffered from the effects of gas inhalation for the remainder of his life. Bert married his sweetheart, Beattie HAZELL, just weeks before their first baby arrived. The child became known as 'Little Bee' due to her small size.

Three sisters followed, Olive, Ivy and Marjorie. Bert retrained as a saddler, making reins and other leather goods while keeping a modest smallholding, growing vegetables and keeping cows, pigs and donkeys. As with so many homes in rural Norfolk at that time, their cottage had no electricity, gas or flush toilet, with fresh water being collected from a pump outside the front door.

When Barbara was nine years old, the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 gave women over 21 the right to vote. In 1930 as Barbara travelled by bus to the Blyth School for Girls in the city, Mabel Clarkson became the second female Lord Mayor.

In June 1941, Barbara married communist sympathiser Len STEVENSON. Both husband and wife became active members of the Labour Party and both took their turn as Lord Mayor of Norwich, Barbara's historic robes adapted to fit her four foot, eleven inch frame in 1985.

Jill STEWARD was a war baby. She was born in St Philip's Road in Norwich in October 1940. A few months later her father Herbert Ralph Steward was captured by the Germans, spending time as a POW at Stalag X1-A in Saxony, returning home a broken man. Jill's mother, Kate DOUGHTY, lived to be 101 years old. Jill was an only child, attending the Avenue Road School until she moved to an exclusive establishment for girls on the Dereham Road, known as The Model School and dating from 1708.



In the mid 1950s it was merged with Bluebell School. At 14, Jill's mother arranged for her to work on Saturdays at Mrs Gramdon's Hairdressing Salon, sweeping the floor and making the tea. Jill was happy with the arrangement, glad of the two shillings in her pocket at the end of the day. She began putting in a few hours after school and enrolled on one or two styling courses. However, on leaving school at 15, Jill was tempted by the wages offered at Lamberts, a well-known Confectioners and Tobacconists in the city. But she missed the conversations with the salon clients.

A flirtation with young bus conductor Brian MILLER led to their marriage in 1960 when Jill was just 20. This down to earth, warm-hearted life-long hair stylist would become a much respected councillor for Bowthorpe Ward, before being honoured as Deputy Lord Mayor to Len Stevenson, Sheriff on two occasions and Lord Mayor in 1986.

Just over two years before Jill was born, in April 1938, Arthur and Nellie Rampley welcomed their first child, Brenda April RAMPLEY into an increasingly dangerous world. Two years earlier, recently married Arthur had lost a leg in a motorcycle accident, precluding him from active service. Instead, at the outbreak of WW2, he was assigned to the War Agricultural Commission, helping to run farms, for a time working on the Royal Estate at Sandringham.

Nellie, Brenda and her baby sister Barbara spent many nights in their Anderson shelter in Botolph Street, snuggled under an eiderdown waiting for the All Clear to sound. Fearing further bombing, Arthur sent his wife and girls to stay with a cousin in the rural village of Wacton, 13 miles southwest of Norwich, from where Brenda can remember watching the lights and flashes from the city as the Luftwaffe rained down death and destruction.

With the war over, the entrepreneurial couple continued to develop their businesses, Grain Storage (Norfolk) Limited and the Auto School of Motoring, Arthur's success enabling them to rent the historic Earlham Lodge, owned by the Gurney family. Veronica was born in 1948, completing the family.

At six years old, Arthur and Nellie sent Brenda to the prestigious Norwich High School for Girls. She proved a bright child, excelling at foreign languages, with an aptitude for passing exams, her diligence rewarded with an offer to read German at University College London.

When she was nominated as Lord Mayor of Norwich for 1994-5, Brenda requested that her then married name and her maiden name be conjoined, wishing to



**Brenda Ferris-  
Rampley**

be known as Brenda Ferris-Rampley for her 12 months in civic office. Conservative councillor Evelyn COLLISHAW became Lord Mayor of Norwich in 2009. She was born in April 1945, into a city disfigured by bomb damage. She was welcomed into the family by father Edward Roy Collishaw, originally from Lincolnshire, her mother, born in Scotland as Matilda Campbell MILLER and her elder brother by two years, Edward Bryce.

Edward Roy was a pharmacist, for many years working at Read's Pharmacy in Magdalen Road, known to customers as 'Mr Read'! As a young girl Evelyn loved to join her father in the back room of the shop, 'helping' to mix potions and wrap pills into brown paper parcels.

Shop assistant Hilary encouraged young Evelyn to make crepe paper roses to enhance the flasks of brightly coloured water displayed in the window. At 11, Eve joined Norwich High School for Girls, cycling four miles across the city to Newmarket Road.

When his daughter chose science subjects at 'A' level, Edward encouraged Evelyn to follow him into pharmacy. But she had lost her earlier enthusiasm for pills and potions, instead convincing her father to pay for a business course at a secretarial college in London, gaining skills that in time would pay her way around the world. Her travels over, she returned to Norwich permanently, becoming both the 13th female Lord Mayor and 100<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor of Norwich in 2009.

The names of these seven Norfolk women will live forever, inscribed in the marble walls of Norwich City Hall. In addition to these, ten further women have held the honoured position, hailing from as far afield as Glasgow and Czechoslovakia.

I have spent the past three years interviewing the ladies who are still living; locating family, friends and colleagues; researching their diverse origins, education, relationships, careers and politics, while gathering anecdotal stories from their very special years as Lord Mayor. The stories are fascinating, inspiring and at times moving, each one linked by the long and historic traditions of civic office in this 'Fine City'.

***The Lady Mayors of Norwich 1923-2017* by Phyllida Scrivens, will be published by Pen and Sword Books in February, 2018. The official launch will be held in Jarrolds on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, in the presence of the current Lord Mayor and Sheriff. This is Phyllida's second biographical book, her debut biography being *Escaping Hitler: A Jewish Boy's Quest for Freedom and His Future* (Pen and Sword Books, 2016). We have featured articles on this book in previous editions of the Norfolk Ancestor.**

**Phyllida Scrivens**

# What Bootiful Birds continued

THE Matthews quickly settled into life at the hall. Apart from the bedroom in which Bernard and his wife Joyce lived, he turned the house over to turkeys, hatching them in the living room, rearing them in the bedrooms and slaughtering them in the kitchens. In 1958, the company Bernard Matthews Ltd was formed



After filling his house, Matthews moved



out into the surrounding acres and, in 1958, bought the first of six redundant airfields. It was a shrewd move. Aerodromes were secure and isolated, and their concrete runways ideally suited for turkey houses. He built the first big turkey slaughterhouse and went into large-scale production.

Matthews quickly realised that the normal-sized turkey was too large for most modern families – even at Christmas – so he began breeding smaller birds at weights of between five and seven pounds. That led to higher turnover and more efficient methods of producing them in quantity, which helped keep prices down. Matthews's frozen turkeys took the oven-ready market by storm.

Eventually his empire would run to 500 vast turkey houses, most of them in Norfolk, which, if laid end to end, would stretch for 40 miles. In 1964 he presented a 55lb turkey to the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev during a Moscow trade fair. Soon afterwards he began developing food production plants for the governments of communist countries such as Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland and Bulgaria.

In their private life Joyce and Bernard adopted three children, Kathleen, Victoria and Jason. However in 1970 the couple separated. Bernard had a passionate five year affair with a Dutch aristocrat Cornelia ELGERSHUIZEN. In 1982 they had a son called George Frederick. Sadly, Cornelia or Conny was left heartbroken when Bernard left her in the mid-1980s to take up with an American model, Natalie McCRAY.

Conny returned to Holland with George and lived there until her death in 2004. The latest affair did not last long and Bernard met Odile MARTEYN, a Frenchwoman 20 years his junior, who stayed with him until his death.

Bernard was a very shrewd businessman and rapidly expanded the range and variety of his products, cleverly protecting them by taking out patents. The company went from strength to strength and became internationally recognised. In 1980 he appeared in a highly successful TV commercial and famously used the phrase 'they're bootiful really bootiful' for the first time.

Matthews did not flaunt his wealth. His two big concessions to multimillionaire status were a Rolls-Royce and a 158ft yacht, the *Bellissima*, which he eventually sold to "an Arab who wanted it more than I did". At Great Witchingham Manor, which he restored and furnished with antiques, he lived a careful, modest life and preferred spending his evenings at home to going out and socialising.

Bernard died aged 80 on 25th November, 2010. Ironically in the USA this is known as Thanksgiving Day or 'Turkey Day'. He left a business with an annual turnover of £500 million and a personal fortune of £40.5 million together with a Norfolk mansion, a private jet and a £12 million villa in St Tropez. Most of the money went to his son Frederick and his mistress Odile although his adopted children contested the will. In Norfolk he was generally well regarded because of the employment opportunities he created in the county.

**Roger Morgan MN 16248**

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## New Members and Members Interests to October 13th, 2017

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



Welcome to the December issue of *The Norfolk Ancestor* which brings to a close another year of our quarterly journal.

If you are new to *Ancestor*, I hope you enjoy our mix of family-related and historic articles.

Everyone at the Norfolk Family History Society would like to wish you a happy Christmas and New Year and a hope that if you have any brick walls in your research they will be broken down in 2018.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome two new trustees - Ellen Car and Roger Morgan

Enjoy Your Read

Jean

## Members Interests Search Area Codes

### KEY

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



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

## New Members to 13th October, 2017

The Society welcomes the following new members

16578 Mr	D. W.	Metcalfe	UK	16626 Mrs	J.	Gaskin	UK
16579 Mr.	S.	Umemoto	UK	16627 Mrs	R.	Kirby	UK
16580 Mrs	A.	Kennedy	UK	16628 Mrs	M.	Clarke	UK
16581 Mr	L.	George	UK	16629 Mrs.	A.	Campana	USA
16582 Mrs	J.	Lyons	NZ	16630 Mr	D.	Glasspoole	UK
16583 Miss	S.	King	UK	16631 Mrs	E.	Blair	AU
16584 Mrs	A.	Dawson	CA	16632 Mr	M.	Reeve	UK
16585 Mrs	I.	Burgin	AU	16633 Mrs	D.	Camilletti	GER
16586 Mrs	P.	Laing	UK	16634 Ms	G.	Smale	UK
16587 Mrs	S.	Berry-Lucas	UK	16635 Mrs	L.	Burrows	UK
16588 Mrs	D.	Farmer	UK	16636 Mr	T.	Peterson	USA
16589 Mr	E. C.	Gaish	UK	16637 Mrs	H.	Gordon	AU
16590 Miss	C.	Muscat	UK	16638 Mrs	L.	Hoole	UK
16591 Mrs	R.	Young	UK	16639 Dr	S.	Greaves	UK
16592 Mrs	M.	Riches	UK	16640 Mrs	J.	Carver	AU
16593 Mr	K.	Bracey	UK	16641 Mr.	C.	Spurgeon	CA
16594 Mr	D. E.	Fox	UK	16642 Mr.	N.	Cattermole	CA
16595 Ms	B.	Wiggins	UK	16643 Dr.	M.	Hensley	USA
16596 Mr	C. A. J.	Darvill	UK	16644 Mr	B.	Johns	UK
16597 Mrs	J.	Fox	UK	16645 Mr	D.	Ball	UK
16598 Mrs	H.	Curtis	AU	16646 Mrs	M.	Sands	AU
16599 Mr	R. C. B.	Ford	UK	16647 Dr	D. M. E.	Thomas	AU
16600 Miss	E.	Walsh	UK	16648 Mr	M. J.	Nightingale	UK
16601 Mrs.	C.	Nash	USA	16649 Mrs	G.	Gregory	AU
16602 Mrs	V.	Aitchison	UK	16650 Mrs	L.	Critien	HK
16603 Mrs	L.	Evans	UK	16651 Miss	E.	Cowley-Gwilliams	UK
16604 Miss	C.	Frith	UK	16652 Mrs	C.	Scales	UK
16605 Mr	M.	Body	UK	16653 Mr	J. R.	Dewing	CA
16606 Ms	B.	Forster	USA	16654 Miss	S.	Tully	UK
16607 Miss	A.	O'Brien	AU	16655 Ms	J.	Woolfitt	UK
16608 Mr	I.	Munford	UK	16656 Mrs	H.	Carn	UK
16609 Mrs	P. J.	Ely	UK	16657 Miss	S.	Starling	UK
16610 Miss	C.	Talbot	UK	16658 Mr	P.	Williams	UK
16611 Mr	A.	Westfield	UK	16659 Ms	F.	Webley	UK
16612 Mr	I.	Burns	UK	16660 Mrs	J.	Walker	UK
16613 Mr	W.	Gould	AU	16661 Ms	F.	Krug	CA
16614 Mr	T.	Clark	UK	16662 Mrs	M.	Miller	CA
16615 Mrs	W.	Reeve	UK	16663 Miss	K.	Clunis	UK
16616 Mr	S.	Miller	UK	16664 Mrs	J.	Ellershaw	UK
16617 Mr	S.	Roebuck	UK	16665 Ms.	E.	Richards	USA
16618 Mr	M. A.	Hillier	UK	16666 Ms	T.	Clark	UK
16619 Mrs	J.	Swanson	USA	16667 Mrs	J.	Collins	UK
16620 Mr	W. L.	Fuller	FRA	16668 Mr	S.	Ames	UK
16621 Mrs	J.	O'Brien	AU	16669 Miss	J.	Moore	UK
16622 Mr	M. G.	Miller	UK	16670 Mrs	D.	Grimstead	UK
16623 Mr	G.	Hudson	UK	16671 Mrs	J.	Donnelly	AU
16624 Mrs	M.	Shrimpton	UK	16672 Mr	C.	Yems	UK
16625 Mrs	D.	Girard	UK	16673 Mrs.	P.	Gadzinski	USA

16674 Mrs	T.	Hayward	UK	16712 Mrs	M. F.	Graham	UK
16675 Mr	S.	Cox	UK	16713 Miss	P.	Hanton	UK
16676 Mr	M.	Mercer	UK	16714 Ms.	K.	Reid	CA
16677 Mr.	I.	Vince	AU	16715 Mrs	J.	Rock	UK
16678 Mrs	K.	Watson	UK	16716 Mrs	J.	Hardwick	UK
16679 Mr	P.	Egerton	UK	16717 Ms	C.	Judd	UK
16680 Mr	J.	Andrews	UK	16718 Mr	J.	Smith	UK
16681 Mrs	T.	Fairweather	AU	16719 Mr	J.	Pask	UK
16682 Mrs	J.	Woolf	UK	16720 Mr.	N. A.	Smith	AU
16683 Mr	A. S.	Rivett	CA	16721 Mrs	G.	Chisnall	UK
16684 Mr	J.	Hooton	UK	16722 Mr	D.	Johnson	UK
16685 Ms	J.	Gilbert	UK	16723 Ms	K.	Balcombe	NLD
16686 Mrs	P.	Wladkowski	AU	16724 Mr	D.	Saunders	UK
16687 Mr.	J. E.	Myrick	USA	16725 Mrs	M.	Bellwood	UK
16688 Mrs	J.	Dean	UK	16726 Mrs	K.	Howe	UK
16689 Mrs	K.	Wolleaston	UK	16727 Mr	P.	Beausire	UK
16690 Mr	E.	Snowden	UK	16728 Mrs	S.	Vasis	UK
16691 Mr	A.	Whitehouse	UK	16729 Mrs.	J.	Beyer	CA
16692 Miss	C.	Platton	UK	16730 Mrs	P.	Mitchell	CA
16693 Mrs	S.	Kirby	UK	16731 Ms	S.	Stanley	AU
16694 Mrs	R.	Gorman	UK	16732 Mrs	J.	Thomson	UK
16695 Mr.	T.	Miller	USA	16733 Mr.	R.	Randoll	GER
16696 Mrs	J.	Merrill	UK	16734 Dr	P.	Read	UK
16697 Mrs	J. R.	Gordon	UK	16735 Miss	A.	Dixon	AU
16698 Mr	P.	Porter	UK	16736 Ms	R.	Wright	UK
16699 Mrs	T.	Mc Guinness	UK	16737 Ms	S.	Halesworth	UK
16700 Mr	B.	Lines	UK	16739 Ms	H.	Holdgate	CA
16701 Mrs	J.	Preston	UK	16740 Miss	J.	Collings	UK
16702 Mr	G.	Kewin	IOM	16741 Mrs	S.	Howell	UK
16703 Ms	J.	Fendall	AU	16742 Mr	J.	Condon	UK
16704 Mrs	A.	Maclachlan	UK	16743 Mr	C.	Mantripp	AU
16705 Dr	M. J.	Mcewen	UK	16744 Mrs	M.	Evans	UK
16706 Prof	T.	Mayhew	UK	16745 Mrs	W.	Thomas	UK
16707 Mrs	L.	Rowe	NZ	16746 Mr	C.	Leeds	UK
16708 Mrs	J.	Jenkins	UK	16747 Mrs	J.	Mctaggart	UK
16709 Mr	M.	Colman	UK	16748 Mrs	M.	Claxton	UK
16710 Mrs	S.	Griffin	UK	16749 Mr	D.	Carter	UK
16711 Mr	P. J.	Greenwood	UK	16750 Mrs	J.	Wood	UK

## Members Interests to 13th October 2017

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

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

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

If an e-mail is not received soon, please check e-mail spam folder. When corresponding by post

16564 NFK	ANDERSON	ALL	ALL
16045 NFK	APPLEGATE	ALL	ALL
16572 NFK	ARMSTRONG	SW	18C

16499 NFK	BALE	ALL	ALL
10236 NFK	BARNARD	CN	ALL
16598 NFK	BEALES	SW	17C-20C

16564 NFK	BENTLEY	ALL	ALL	16598 NFK	MANN	SW	17C-20C
16580 NFK	BETTS	ALL	17C-19C	16598 NFK	MANN	NW	17C-20C
5986 NFK	BIRD	ALL	19C	16564 NFK	MARSH	ALL	ALL
14809 NFK	BOWGEN	NC	17C-19C	10236 NFK	MEDLER	CN	ALL
15574 NFK	BRUFF	ALL	ALL	16564 NFK	MICKELBURGH	ALL	ALL
16676 NFK	BUGDALE	ALL	ALL	13544 NFK	MILLER	NC	16C-18C
13405 NFK	BUMFREY	ALL	ALL	16564 NFK	MOSS	ALL	ALL
13405 NFK	BUMPHREY	ALL	ALL	16608 NFK	MUNFORD	ALL	ALL
14809 NFK	BURRELL	NC	17C-19C	11713 NFK	NEWMAN	ALL	ALL
10236 NFK	CHAMBERS	NC	ALL	16565 NFK	PARFITT	ALL	ALL
14809 NFK	CHAPMAN	NC	16C-19C	16565 NFK	PARFOOT	ALL	ALL
14866 NFK	CLARKE	NC	ALL	16564 NFK	PARKE	ALL	ALL
16617 NFK	CLAXTON	SW	17C-20C	10236 NFK	PARMENTER	NC	15C-17C
16597 NFK	CORLEY	SW	16C-17C	15841 NFK	PAYNE	NE	ALL
16597 SFK	CORLEY	ALL	16C-17C	16565 NFK	PERFECT	ALL	ALL
16580 NFK	CREAK	YM	17C-18C	16586 NFK	PESTELL	CN	17C-20C
16165 NFK	DALTON	ALL	18C-20C	16602 NFK	PITT	NE	ALL
16671 NFK	DEAD	ALL	ALL	16564 NFK	PLATTEN	ALL	ALL
15777 NFK	DEW	ALL	ALL	14866 NFK	PRIMROSE	NC	ALL
15777 NFK	DEW	ALL	ALL	15653 NFK	RANT	ALL	ALL
16056 NFK	EASTICK	ALL	ALL	16120 NFK	RICE	ALL	17C-19C
14809 NFK	ELGATE	YM	16C-19C	14866 NFK	ROOKS	NC	ALL
16676 NFK	ELSDEN	ALL	ALL	12797 NFK	ROOPE	CN	ALL
16056 NFK	ESTICK	ALL	ALL	16440 NFK	ROWEN	SW	18C-20C
10236 NFK	FLOWERDEW	NE	ALL	14972 NFK	SEAGER	ALL	17C-19C
16617 NFK	FOX	NC	17C-20C	11021 NFK	SEAMAN	ALL	ALL
14809 NFK	FROSDICK	YM	17C-19C	13730 NFK	SHARP	ALL	ALL
16564 NFK	GILHAM	ALL	ALL	16687 NFK	SHEARIN	ALL	16C
13544 NFK	GOLDSPINK	NC	16C-18C	16687 NFK	SHEARING	ALL	16C
15574 NFK	GURNEY	ALL	ALL	16687 NFK	SHEARINGHAM	ALL	16C
16602 NFK	HARVEY	NE	ALL	16687 NFK	SHERING	ALL	16C
15574 NFK	HEWITT	ALL	ALL	16605 NFK	SHIPLEY	NW	17C-20C
15949 ALL	HINES	ALL	17C-20C	13730 NFK	SMITH	ALL	ALL
16572 NFK	HOLLOCK	SW	ALL	15949 NFK	SPINKS	ALL	17C-20C
16440 NFK	HOLMAN	SW	18C-20C	16604 NFK	SPRAGG	NC	ALL
16605 NFK	HOLMES	NW	19C-20C	16564 NFK	STANFORD	ALL	ALL
16671 NFK	HOWES	ALL	ALL	5434 NFK	STEWARD	ALL	ALL
16564 NFK	JAMES	ALL	ALL	16056 NFK	THURSTON	ALL	ALL
16726 NFK	JENNESS	CN	ALL	10236 NFK	TUTTLE	NC	ALL
16726 NFK	JENNESS	ALL	ALL	15574 NFK	WALKER	ALL	ALL
16722 NFK	JOHNSON	NE	15C-17C	16744 NFK	WATSON	NE	ALL
16605 NFK	KIRBY	NW	19C	14972 NFK	WEBSDALE	NC	17C-19C
16564 NFK	LAKE	ALL	ALL	16676 NFK	WHITSIDES	ALL	ALL
16564 NFK	LEWIS	ALL	ALL	16724 NFK	WOODS	NW	16C-19C
16586 NFK	LOCK	CN	18C	16724 NFK	WRIGHT	CN	16C-19C
16056 NFK	LONE	ALL	ALL	16596 NFK	YALLOP	NC	ALL
16056 NFK	LOVEDAY	ALL	ALL	16596 NFK	YALLOP	SE	ALL
16671 NFK	LOVETT	ALL	ALL	15949 NFK	YALLOP	ALL	17C-20C
16440 NFK	LUSHER	SW	18C-20C				

We wish all our members happy hunting with their genealogy. Don't forget we now have a very active Facebook presence where members have met with considerable success in tracing ancestors.

# Rob's Round Up with Robert Parker

**Anglesey** - Wales, Electoral Registers (1832-1977) on Ancestry now

**Cambridgeshire**, Interested in a Photograph of your Cambridgeshire family member? Check out [www.fadingimages.uk](http://www.fadingimages.uk). This site is a resource for family historians wishing to find out more about photographs in their family which originated in Cambridgeshire.



**Canada** - Census of interest? Yes! Find My Past has added the 1861 and 1871 editions.

**Canada Pollbooks** - 35 registers added to The Genealogist website covering those able to vote in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and New Westminster.

**Cycling** - The University of Warwick has digitised women's cycling magazines for 1896-7 <http://ow.ly/olbq30eTzNh>

**Doctors** or **Dentists** in the family? - The Genealogist has added 100,000+ records

**Dublin** City Ordnance Survey Map (1847, 1868) now on Find My Past.

**England** and **Wales**, Long-Term Workhouse Inmates (1861) also on Ancestry.

Lives of the **First World War** celebrated its third birthday. It has 115,000 members with 7.6 million life stories and 1.6 million facts.

**Ireland** Maps and Surveys (1558-1610) feature on Find My Past.

**Irish** Family History Foundation has added 60,000 names to an index for South Mayo (<http://mayo.rootsireland.ie>).

**Leicestershire** History; a website helping you explore the history of the county <http://leicestershirehistory.co.uk/>

**London** Poor Law School District Registers (1852-1918) on Ancestry, plus London School Admissions and Discharges (1912-1918).

**London** Marriage Licences (1521-1869) on Find My Past.

**Medway**, Kent. Non-conformist records updated on Ancestry. Baptism, marriage and burial for Methodist Chapels and churches (1798-1932)

**Merchant Navy** ships' official logs searchable by ship name, official number and date of voyage on Discovery at National Archives

**Netherlands** genealogy features on My Heritage with well over 100 million

records across five centuries.

**Norfolk** Poor Law Union records (1796-1900) and Norfolk nonconformist records (1613-1901) now on Find My Past.

**Northumberland** has over one million new records featured on The Genealogist .

**Postal** museum and archive at <https://postal.museum.org> for updates

**RVS**, WVS diaries online 1938-1942 <http://ow.ly/p94C30doNzl>.

**Scotland** Post Office Directories, now on Find My Past.

**Sea** passenger lists added to The Genealogist, 4.5 million added 1890-1960.

**Somerset** has an addition of five million transcribed records on Find My Past (two million + baptisms, 250,000 banns, 1 million + marriages, 1.5 million burials).

**Wales** Long-Term Workhouse Inmates (see England and Wales).

**Welsh** Tithe maps 300K on <https://places.library.wales/>.

Places of Wales - Search and browse over 300,000 entries from the tithe maps of Wales and accompanying apportionment documents using original and present-day maps.

**Westminster** Roman Catholic parish records for the diocese on Find My Past (1657 to 1907).

**Wiltshire** Wills and Probate Index (1530-1881) also on Find My Past.

**Yorkshire** parish registers etc also on Find My Past (banns 1653-1930, marriages 1538-1914 and burials)

Recommended twitter account to follow @UKNatArcSector

Archives Sector Development team at @UkNatArchives. Taking forward our role as leaders of the archives sector in England.

Remember to check with your local library; they may have Ancestry, Find My Past and even the British Newspaper Archive available for you to access for free. You just need to join your local library.

Also Ancestry and Find My Past are free to use at Kirby Hall, the headquarters of the Norfolk Family History Society.

**Rob's Round Up is bought to you by Robert Parker,  
[www.myfamilygenealogy.co.uk](http://www.myfamilygenealogy.co.uk).**

# Editor's Corner

REGULAR readers of the Norfolk Ancestor will know about my fascination regarding the two world wars. This fascination comes not from an interest in military campaigns but from an interest in the futility of war and the personal tragedies suffered by so many people.

I was out walking around Norwich on one of my photographic wanders when my feet took me to the Rosary Cemetery in the Thorpe area of the city. There is something about this non-denominational cemetery that draws me back time after time. There are so many famous Norfolk names featured there and so many stories (perhaps I will feature some of them in future issues). Indeed the cemetery is pretty much a history of Norwich itself.

Further research established that not only are a number of my ancestors buried in the cemetery but that a number of them, all of whom seemed to have the splendid name of Britiffe DEW, lived in the Lodge near the entrance of the cemetery and were employed as superintendent. The first Britiffe Dew was superintendent from the founding of the cemetery until over a century later despite going bankrupt at one point.

But that's not what this column is about. Other readers of my ramblings will also know I am prone to going off at a tangent and that's what happened that weekend. On returning home it was just too hot to garden or do anything else much. So I decided to do some more research into the Rosary.

But that's where the tangent came in. I can't quite remember how I moved from the Rosary to the Thorpe Hamlet War Memorial but I think it was via the Commonwealth War Graves web site. Four names on the war memorial stuck out because they had the same surname as myself.

A little more research came up with a tragic story of four brothers all killed in action in the First World War within five years of each other. Can you imagine the heartache that caused their parents as, time after time, telegrams arrived announcing that another son had been killed?

Robert and Susannah STEWARD lived at 4 Lollards Pit, ironically below Rosary Road. In the 1901 census they had 11 children, all living at that address. Obviously as the First World War broke out many of the children were of service age.

Just look at the toll the war took on that one family:

Frederick John Steward aged 29 died on 26th October, 1914.

Bertie Claude Steward aged 20 died on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1915.

Herbert Steward aged 28 died on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

Robert Edward Steward aged 33 died on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1918.

That's a son killed in action every year of the war apart from 1917.

Frederick John Steward was a private in the Norfolk Regiment and was married to Edith Steward and lived at 5, Spitalfields in Thorpe Hamlet. He was killed in action near Festubert in France.

Bertie Claude was a private in the Royal Munster Fusiliers and died in the Battle of Scimitar Hill as part of the Battle of Gallipoli. He is remembered on the Helles Memorial.

Herbert Steward was a sergeant in the Rifle Brigade and was the husband of Mildred Steward and lived at 17, Foulger's Opening in Ber Street, Norwich.



He was killed on the Somme and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial which I took the picture of during a visit earlier this year.

Robert Edward was a private with the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was married to Elizabeth Steward and was also killed on the Somme and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial

Lollards Pit in Norwich has an interesting history itself. It was a large chalk pit dug into the hills of Norwich where heretics were executed by burning. Well known Norfolk author George BORROW (whom we have featured in Ancestor before) had this to say about the pit:

“Many a saint of God has breathed his last beneath that white precipice, midst flame and pitch; many a grisly procession has advanced across the old bridge towards the Lollards hole.”

**Peter Steward MN 14801**



# TRANSCRIBERS NEEDED

**ALTHOUGH** we are making good progress with transcribing parish records for uploading to Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS), additional help is always needed.

Most of this work involves copying information from photographic images onto standard templates set up by the Society. As such, as long as you have internet access, the work can be done at home whenever you have a little spare time.

If you think that you may be able to help with this valuable work please contact Steve Tartelin at [transcripts@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:transcripts@nfhs.co.uk) for more information.

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# Letters, Notes and Queries

This is the area given over to society members. If you have a query or a nugget of interest please send it to us along with your membership number and email details so that other members can contact you. Don't forget that you can also use our Facebook site to request and receive help.

## Samuel Morton Peto

IN his article in the September, 2017, Ancestor about Samuel Morton PETO, Roger Morgan mentioned that Peto was a devout Baptist. It was, perhaps, this affiliation that led to his being involved in philanthropic work. I gave an example of this in my book "*Ships, Shawls and Loyal Service*," which was reviewed in the June Ancestor, and members may be interested to have more details.

In 1851, my ancestor Edward BLAKELY was much involved with the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace where he was an exhibitor of articles from the Norwich textile industry. He was also Sheriff of Norwich for that year and, with other prominent men in the city, arranged for 350 working men of Norwich to have a five day excursion to London to visit the Exhibition and other places. When Peto heard about this he offered to entertain the whole party to a sumptuous dinner at the Royal Pavilion Hotel in North Woolwich.

The men's wives who accompanied them were also provided for, in a separate room below stairs! The visit was reported in the *Norfolk Chronicle* on 12th and 19th July, 1851, with much space being given to verbatim accounts of the speeches made by Peto, Blakely and Mr LYNES, a weaver who was acting secretary of the Norwich Working Men's Association. The entire cost of the trip was met by some of the benevolent men of Norwich, including Peto who was a liberal contributor. Other members of the Nonconformist churches in Norwich were also influential in trade and business in the mid-19th century and did much to ease the conditions under which many of the citizens worked; perhaps the most notable of these were the Colman family who are still well known for their mustard.

David Blakely MN 15974

## Wealthy People

MY mother's maiden name was WEALTHY, somewhat unusual, I know. I have managed to trace her family name as far back as early 1600s - my 8xgreat grandfather George Wealthy was born approximately 1610. It was always thought by my mum and one or two of her siblings, that the Wealthy family owned land in North Norfolk and that it was taken from them by the Royal Family. How true this is we may never know. But it makes me wonder how they got the name Wealthy. One of the earlier records I have of them is of them living in Wolferton, North Norfolk, in the late 1600s, Wolferton being just a few miles from

Sandringham. My mum and her six siblings have all passed away now, but they knew nothing of my research into their past as sadly I started it fairly late in life. An interesting thought though.

George is my brick wall, he hailed from Garboldisham where his four children were born.

**Sid Hawes MN 15943**

## **A Hidden Norwich Gem**

I was interested in your article 'A Hidden Norwich Gem'. I have known about Carrow Abbey for a long while through conversations with my mother and research on my family tree.

My 3xgreat-uncle Jacob Henry TILLET and his wife Emily (De CAUX) lived at Carrow Abbey for about 20 years, approximately 1863 until 1883, confirmed by census records and White's Directory. He was an alderman of the City of Norwich and their Liberal MP from 1880-1885. He was also mayor twice, 1859 and 1875. He was a contemporary of J. J Colman of mustard fame. By profession he was a solicitor with offices in St Andrew's Street in the city. He was also known as an author and journalist, being one of the founders of the Eastern Daily Press newspaper.

I have a copy of an early outdoor photograph of the wedding group of Jacob Henry's daughter Emilie who married Joseph WRIGLEY in 1868. He was a woolen merchant from Yorkshire and eventually became the Trade Commissioner of the Hudson Bay Company from 1884 to 1891 based in Winnipeg. Unfortunately Emilie died in Yorkshire in 1880 and so it was Joseph's second wife Ann and four daughters who accompanied him to Canada. Ann Oxley AYRE was in fact the children's governess before she married Joseph Wrigley.

**Anne Lowe MN 12310**

## **Carrow Abbey**

I was pleased to see the pictures and article about Carrow Abbey by Roger Morgan in the September 2017 issue of *The Norfolk Ancestor*, as I have family connections to it.

My 3xgreat grandfather Valentine MEEK and his family lived in Carrow Abbey from the 1790s to 1810. He first appears in the records there as a gamekeeper to Mary Drinkwater for Carrow Manor in 1791, when John Drinkwater owned the Carrow Abbey estate. In the Land Tax records for 1798 - 1807 Valentine is shown as occupier on land belonging to John Ridges, the next owner of Carrow Abbey.

In 1808, the then owner Sir Roger KERRISON died insolvent and his real estate was sold in 1810 to pay his debts. The auction documents state that Valentine

was occupying 'a good dwelling house, called Carrow Abbey, with a Barn, Stable, and other requisite Buildings, and six pieces of very excellent Arable, Pasture, and Meadow Land'. These were bought by Philip MARTINEAU. Soon after Valentine disappears from the records of the Carrow Abbey area and by 1812 was living in Hempnall where he died in 1839.

Ironically, I see from the 1891 census that one of Valentine's grandsons worked at Colman's mustard works at Carrow on the same site that his grandfather had farmed.

**Mike Lord MN 211**

## School Search

I have been trying to find where my mother went to school in Norwich.

Doris A PEARCE born 1900, lived in Earlham Road and when she left school circa 1915/16 she was head girl and the head mistress Miss Alice R WEST presented her with a silver brooch decorated with an engraving of Norwich Cathedral, which I still have. I always understood she went to College Road School but the NRO archivist has told me there was no school with that name.

I would imagine that it would have been a state school rather than a public school.

Can anyone help with a list of state schools in the area of Earlham Road at that time or a list of teachers and where they worked in the early 1900s? Or perhaps a member could advise where I might search, I have tried historical directories and NORCAT to no avail.

Any help would be appreciated

**Margaret Williams MN 1900 (willinoz@bigpond.net.au)**

## Miss Margaret E Barber

WHEN I was doing the research for my article about the missionary, Elsie TILNEY, I contacted the archivist of the Surrey Chapel, Rosamunde CODLING and I was extremely grateful for all her help. In the course of our conversation, she asked if anyone at the Norfolk Family History Society could help her find any more information about another Surrey Chapel missionary, Miss Margaret E BARBER who went to China.



Miss Barber was born in 1886 in Peasenhall, Suffolk, the daughter of Louis (a wheelwright) and Martha (nee GIBBS) Barber. The family moved to Norwich and lived in the vicinity of St Martin at Oak, one of the many mediaeval churches in Norwich. It was said to be an evangelically orientated church and Rosamunde is trying to find the basis for this statement. There was a nationwide census of religious organisations in 1851

and the number given for St Martin at Oak for the evening service was 262, which appears to be a high figure, suggesting an active church. Margaret may have lived at 176, College Road and had a niece called Miss BALLORD who was 20 years her junior. They travelled to China together. Margaret died of Crohn's disease in 1929 or 1930. Miss Ballord had her own little savings and continued to work in Pagoda Anchorage until 1950, when she returned to the UK.

Rosamunde and I would very much like to hear from anyone who has any more information about either Miss Barber or Miss Ballord and their work in China.

**Roger Morgan MN 16248**

## The Pointer Family

I am seeking information about the POINTER family of Worstead, Norfolk. I have some birth records going back to 1790 when Sarah HAZLE was born - she was the mother of John Pointer, born 1812.

I am particularly interested in whether these Pointers in the 19th century did anything of note. They do seem to have kept working on the farm from what I can see!

My branch of the Pointer family moved to Northumberland in the 1880s to work in the coal mines but I am very interested to have any details of their lives in Norfolk. Any further enlightenment would be welcome.

**J Woolf MN 16682**

## John Mattison

IN the March, 2009, edition of the Norfolk Ancestor there was an article by Patricia Willis-Jones on British sailors and others taken prisoner in the Napoleonic wars. I am interested in mariners from Northumberland who were taken prisoner; in particular John MATTISON. I should welcome contact from any of your members including Ms Willis-Jones doing similar research.

Mattison was admitted to St Bede's Masonic Lodge in Morpeth in 1805 and was part-owner and master of the schooner *Mary's & Ann* and living in Alnmouth, Northumberland in the 1830s. I am finding the research particularly difficult as merchant ships might be captured by any number of privateers as well as enemy warships.

**Chris Davison** (member of the Northumberland & Durham FHS )

If anyone has any information please send it to us and we will forward to Chris.

## Thank You

Thank you very much for the mention in the Letters page of September's Ance-

tor of the Norfolk Pubs website. I immediately used it to look up the White Horse in Diss, run by my ancestor, John WHAITE (1822-c.1829), and was startled to discover that the first licensee mentioned was a relative of his wife's, Lovet/ Lovett CLEMENTS (1789-94). I am now wondering whether the pub may have been run by other members of the family between those dates. When I have time I shall have to investigate this. The *Ancestor* is always interesting -- keep up the good work.

**Barbara Roberts MN 3283**

# News From Kirby Hall

## **21st AGM held in Kirby Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October at midday.**

A TOTAL of 29 people attended. The Company Secretary received 128 Proxy forms giving authority to the chairperson to vote for all the resolutions. Several apologies were received, notably from two trustees, Carole Taylor (Treasurer) and Roger Morgan (Publicity).

The Chairman, Jean Stangroom mentioned the Trustees, in particular two new additions, Ellen Carr (Librarian) and Roger Morgan (Publicity). Having thanked everyone for their hard work during the past year, Jean made a special mention of Edmund Perry's retirement as Company Secretary after 12 years and thanked him for all his service to the Society. She also thanked Mike Dack for the recent hard work with the new NORS and Phil Whiscombe for putting scans of the Family Trees onto the website. She expressed appreciation to all the volunteers for their hard work, particularly on Heritage Day, Thursday, September 7th, when 39 visitors attended. It is hoped that Kirby Hall can be opened to the public for two heritage days in 2018.

All the resolutions were passed, including the re-appointment of Margaret Murgatroyd (Checking Transcripts), Michael Dack (NORS Admin. and Website) and Phil Whiscombe (Kirby Hall Manager and IT).

Val Parsons thanked Ellen Carr for taking on the role of librarian. Phil Whiscombe mentioned that five computers in the library were seven years old and the trustees were looking to upgrade these with solid state drives to provide a faster response and better experience. He hoped members liked the improved blue colour of the outside of the building which gives it a fresher look. Keith Howells proposed a vote of thanks to Edmund Perry for the hard work and effort he has put into the Society over the years. This was carried unanimously.

The Meeting ended at 12.15 pm after which members tucked into the refreshments provided by Jean Stangroom, Carol Reeve and Ellen Carr.

## **NORS (Norfolk Online Record Search)**

As announced in June, a re-designed version of NORS was being introduced by The Norfolk Family History Society. The change-over went very smoothly with only a few glitches and only a few members having problems, mostly password associated.

It was encouraging to then receive compliments from several members having enjoyed the improved search features and presentation. Now, with the number of transcribed records available for online search approaching four million, members having not yet searched for their ancestors using 'new NORS' are recommended to try it now.

This service is provided free as part of membership advantages, which also includes this journal, members interests and look-ups. To open NORS select the link in the NFHS website [www.NorfolkFHS.org.uk](http://www.NorfolkFHS.org.uk) If a bookmark was previously saved for 'old NORS' it will need to be replaced. Log in using the same details as for the NFHS website (forgotten passwords can be replaced by selecting the 'Password Forgotten' link in the login box or in the case of difficulty by contacting [membership@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:membership@nfhs.co.uk)). To get the best results from searches it is advisable to first read the 'User Guide' selected from NORS' top menu with a video demo also included.

To view those Parish Records and Monumental Inscriptions currently available and/or recently added, select the 'News' menu and then 'What's on NORS'. Much more miscellaneous data is also searchable and new transcriptions are being regularly added. This new version of NORS is also designed for mobile devices and tablets.

We would be pleased to hear of any major breakthrough in research following use of 'new NORS'. - Good luck researching!

**Michael Dack. [norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk)**

## **Village Signs**

ON Friday, 20th October, around two dozen NFHS volunteers enjoyed a social get-together at Kirby Hall, which included an interesting one hour discussion featuring Norfolk Village Signs, by Mike Weatherstone who covered some 5,000 miles around Norfolk villages gathering his photos.

Mike's collection which includes 450 signs of villages from Acle to Yelverton can be viewed at <http://www.art2focus.com/category/7971.html>. This collection is in high resolution and may be slow to fully load although a website redesign is in progress.

# Group Reports

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

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

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

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

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## South Norfolk Group Reports by Betty Morley

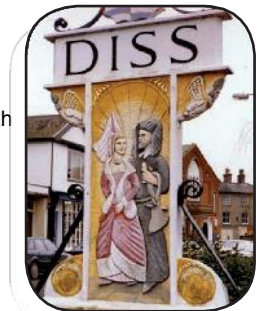
### DISS GROUP NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

#### Programme 2017/18

- 12th December 2017 Yet More E. Anglian Characters with Mark Mitchels  
Including Henry Blogg and Samuel Pepys.
- 9th January 2018 Behind the scenes at Who Do You Think You Are with  
Gill Blanchard
- 13th February 2018 Getting to know your Military Ancestors Through  
Photographs with Graham Bandy

**Betty Morley MN 10937**

### Lucky is the Name



'LUCKY is the Name' was the title of the talk given by Pip Wright to the Diss Group meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. A retired teacher, Pip has devoted many years to the study of local history, much of it in his home county of Suffolk, during which time he has uncovered a wealth of fascinating characters and their stories which feature in his talks. He has also published a number of books to accompany the talks. Lucky BURROWS, the subject of Pip's talk was born into a poor Cretingham farming family in 1858. Despite such an inauspicious start in life, he grew into an honest, hardworking, uncompromising and determined character, with ambitions far beyond the norm to improve his lot and that of his sons by enabling them to have their own farms as they entered adulthood.

Lucky's story would probably have faded into history had not Pip been handed a file of papers by an acquaintance who suggested he read it. Bulky and containing pages and pages of script typed on an old fashioned typewriter, Pip gave it a cursory flick through and formed the opinion that it would be a time consuming exercise and the content would probably be too boring anyway. How wrong he was. It would be a while before he picked it up again but this time he persevered and what a remarkable manuscript it turned out to be. Written in 1968 by Lucky's youngest son Albert, it was an astonishing chronicle of life in the agricultural industry between the 1850s and the 1960s. Pip then managed to trace the lady who had typed up Albert's original handwritten notes. She provided him with a



little more background. In the event, he was not the only person to think that it should be appreciated by a wider audience, thus he was joined by Michael Anderton and together they compiled, edited and published it under the title 'Lucky is the Name.'

Albert, Lucky's youngest son. was born in 1904, 18 years after his eldest brother. He only received a basic education before leaving school at the age of 12 as was the norm, but his sharp eyes and ears missed nothing and what he didn't know about the family prior to his birth he made it his business to find out.. There was tragedy and comedy, joy and sadness, triumph and disaster, and in between was recounted the minutiae of everyday life on the farm throughout the seasons - a life where the adults toiled from dawn to dusk and children did their bit. This was a time where women fought a daily battle of grinding domestic servitude between giving birth to a succession of children. Apart from cleaning, washing, mending, baking and caring for her family, Lucky's mother also brewed beer as the water could not be relied upon to be safe. Even the little ones drank 'small ale.'

Apparently the name Lucky was bestowed upon Albert's father as the result of a bet by a neighbour that his parents wouldn't dare to christen their son with the name. The amount in question was half a crown which was an amount worth having in those days, so the infant was duly baptised and registered with the name Lucky. He left school at the age of nine and was ploughing the fields with a pair of horses before he was strong enough to turn the plough around. The men did that for him. When he was 18 he went to Burton-on-Trent to work in the maltings. He didn't like that so he joined the fishing fleet. Unfortunately he was a terrible sailor and had to leave after a couple of weeks. Then, with no word to his parents he went to Yarmouth and joined up to the 9<sup>th</sup> Norfolk regiment. When a parcel was received containing his civilian clothes with no note they assumed he had been drowned at sea. It wasn't until five years later by a fortunate coincidence that they learned he was still alive! Private Burrows was posted to India following a spell of duty in Ireland, where he was actually recognised by a man from Suffolk while on guard duty. When this man was drafted back to England he contacted Lucky's parents to give them the good news.

Once home and working on a farm, Lucky thought that he should get married – he needed the help - and began courting a red headed girl named Alice. She accepted his proposal and a year later their first son arrived who they called Lucky. More children arrived at regular intervals and Lucky rented some land in Stowupland where he kept pigs. By 1899, five years before Albert was born, the number of pigs and children had increased so he rented another farm at Wickham Skeith, seven and a half miles away. Oak Farm, as it was called, would be the family's new home. Moving was an intense operation involving input from the older children as well as the parents and took several days. Furniture, possessions and younger children were carried by horse and cart in relays and the boys drove the pigs and turkeys along the public roads. According to family legend, the animals were not particularly co-operative so it

was a chaotic and hilarious enterprise. Mother reckoned that because of various forays along the way to round up the recalcitrant beasts and retrieve turkeys which kept attempting to roost in the trees along the way as it was getting close to nightfall, the boys must have walked triple the mileage. The youngest was only six.

Albert recalls Lucky as a stern, rather remote father who commanded respect. He never drank or swore. He was never cruel and never shouted but neither did he praise. When he wanted a job done, it was done. Albert's mother, for some reason, had decided that Albert should learn to play the violin when he reached the age of 12. Worse than that, she insisted he should play in front of his father on the odd occasion. When he had scraped through a piece he would glance at Lucky, hopeful, hoping for a little praise but the only praise to issue from Lucky's lips would be directed towards a fine fiddle player he had heard in the past. The young Albert was mortified and came to loathe the instrument with a passion.

The years went by and, in 1914, the threat of war became a reality, not that the news had a great impact on the family immediately. It was harvest time and there was stock to take care of. Things went on just the same. Although two of his older brothers did join up later, they lived to return home. In 1912, Jack had gone to Canada, without telling his parents, just like his father. Lucky had rented another farm by this time. Honeypot Farm in Worlingworth had 130 acres and Albert's brothers, Lucky and Will, together with sister Fan had been dispatched to manage it. Lucky's empire was still increasing. One Saturday evening, however, there was great excitement when a Zeppelin sailed over in flames and crashed to earth some distance away. Albert and his brother Walter got on their bikes next day and set off to see the stricken remains which turned out to be near Theberton, thirty miles away. It was a round trip of 60 miles. On arriving home they found mother and father leaving for chapel three miles away so they mounted the cart and off they went. Albert was 12 years old.

One would think that life on isolated farms would be lonely but it is clear from Albert's memories that the family enjoyed a fairly social existence. They visited relatives in London and elsewhere and made the most of encounters with their neighbours. There is an amusing account of the floods in 1912. Water poured through the streets and the road between The Swan and The Horseshoes in the nearby village of Thornham was impassable. For a bet, a man named Cattermole swam the mile between them. He did succeed but apparently he didn't live to benefit from his winnings because he caught a cold which turned to pneumonia and died shortly afterwards.

In 1920, Lucky actually purchased a small farm of about 70 acres in Harleston. Whitehouse Farm would be his home while Albert's brother Jim became the manager of Oak Farm. By now Lucky and his boys were farming nearly 600 acres. Again all possessions were transported by horse but the 16-year-old Albert was tasked with towing the iron hurdles behind a horse and tumbrel. Albert recounts with great humour the journey where he is trying to control an

unruly train of squeaking, wheeled gates! In 1927, Albert fell in love with Eve Bannister. She was a spirited girl who balked at no task and stood no nonsense from anybody. She considered herself equal to a man and could do any man's job on the farm. Apart from all that she was pretty. In 1930 she married Albert and they rented Dagworth Hall Farm. They fell in love with the isolated Tudor farmhouse. It had once welcomed royalty and nobility but now it was unkempt and neglected, but Albert and Eve were not put off. Later on Albert began to refer to it as one would a mean and spiteful old lady because mishap followed mishap and they did not prosper.

The last straw was the death of all their hens. They mounted their motorbike and set off to notify the landlord that they were going to sell up but, finding him not at home, they turned round and went back to the farm. Shortly afterwards Eve came up with the idea of starting up a milk round and from then things improved. The old lady mellowed and they began to make a decent living, remaining there until 1948 when Albert decided they needed something smaller and easier to manage. They purchased a small farm in Elmswell and changed its name to Dagworth Farm but, within three months of moving in, Eve caught flu from Albert and sadly died within days. Albert was devastated.

She had always told Albert that if anything should happen to her he should marry again and in 1951 he met Josephine Clements and was swept off his feet. She was an ex Wren aged 25 years. Albert was 46 but the age difference was no impediment and they lived happily together until 1969 when Albert died suddenly from a heart attack.

His father, Lucky had died in 1939 aged 81. Of course no one knows what dreams he may have which spurred him on in his pursuit of improvement but it may be that he imagined the legacy of all his hard work and thriftiness would benefit generations to come, that he would be creating a dynasty of Burrows to farm the land, far into the future but it was not to be. None of the girls had married. Albert had no children and his brothers were not very productive. Jack had gone back to Canada after returning for a few years. The family was shrinking but, thanks to Albert and Pip, they live on in Albert's words. The book is no longer available.

It was a very well attended meeting with some very interesting comments made by the audience.

Report by Diss Member

## **A Stroll around Diss**

At 6pm. on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 20 members of the Diss Group met for a guided tour of the town. Although most of us do our shopping in Diss and some actually live there, in the general rush of life today most of us miss seeing some of the interesting stuff.

Diss has just spent millions on the Heritage Triangle but this does not meet with everyone's approval, most people find the old parts of the town more appealing.

Full of alleyways and enticing "yards" some parts are not a lot different from hundreds of years ago. Opposite is Beehive Yard where Thomas Paine worked as a stay maker.

Mount Street is still quite unspoilt with the great old houses of the past where the great and good lived, now mostly occupied by solicitors and similar.

Have you heard the saying "pigs might fly"? Well one does in Diss – on the top of a roof in Mount Street. We had a most interesting time finding out much that

we did not know about our market town and we finished the evening with tea and cake at Fairchilds Tearooms.



## For The Love Of A Woman



Most people know something of the story of Dr. Crippen and the murder of his wife Cora but not much about the lady in the case, his young lover Ethel. Member Nick Woods has done extensive research on the subject and on September 12<sup>th</sup> he followed up Mark Michel's June presentation on Crippen with a talk on Ethel LeNeve - 'For the Love of a Woman' - with accompanying photos of the main characters and news clippings etc. Also at the meeting was Helen Porter who now lives in Ethel's childhood home in Diss. She has done a lot of research on Ethel herself and has created a large scrapbook which she brought with her for us to look at.

Ethel Neave, LeNeave or Le Neve, she had used all three names, was born in Diss in 1883 to Walter and Charlotte Neave. The young married couple had lived for a short while at 107, Sandy Lane in Diss before moving to Briar Lane where Ethel, their eldest child was born. She was followed by a sister and four brothers. According to accounts she was a slight shy attractive little girl but nevertheless a tomboy who was never happier than when she was getting into mischief while playing in the yards at Diss Station where her father was employed as a clerk.

In 1890, the family moved to Camden Town and



changed their name to Le Neave. Maybe they thought it would enhance their social status, but whatever the motive, Charlotte clearly wished Ethel and her sister Adine to have the opportunities she had missed because she enrolled them at Pitman's Secretarial College. When Ethel was 17 and Adine 16, she and her sister both gained employment as typists with The Drouets Institution for the Deaf which was basically a quack organisation and it was here that Ethel met Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen. Born in Michigan, he had gained his qualifications as a homeopathic doctor in America but he and his wife Cora had re-located to England because she had aspirations to be a professional singer. London and its music halls beckoned. She called herself Belle Elmore and took to the boards. The sad reality was that her aspirations were greater than her talent and, after being booed off stage numerous times and on one occasion pelted with rotten fruit, she finally had to accept the unpalatable truth that she was never going to achieve her ambitions. However, if she couldn't join the ranks of the glitterati of the era, she could rub shoulders with them and to that end she joined the Music Hall Ladies Guild, a fundraising charity for the industry. Cora was a large, brash extravagant woman of Polish and Russian ancestry. She was untidy and temperamental and known for indulging in the odd affair, so it is no wonder that the slim quiet bespectacled Hawley was drawn to the diminutive self-effacing Ethel LeNeave and the friendship flourished. However, Nick thinks that she was much tougher than she seemed on the surface because when she was 20 she had all her teeth extracted. A dreadful ordeal in the early 1900s and it would have taken a lot of courage to contemplate the procedure.

By 1901, the family had moved to Hampstead. Walter, who had a reputation as a drunk and a bully, was now a dairy manager. Crippen left Drouets in 1903 and was working for Munyons, a previous employer who produced 'patent medicines.' It was another quack outfit. Ethel had moved into lodgings and her life seemed rather transient as she moved a number of times during the next few years, however the friendship between her and Crippin had intensified and had progressed beyond the platonic. They were observed having lunch at Frascatti's. They stayed in hotel rooms, apparently not concerned about the gossip. In 1905 Crippen rented a house in Holloway. No. 39 Hilldrop Crescent was a substantial property so they let rooms to supplement their income. It was rumoured that Cora had an affair with one of the lodgers which must have strengthened the bond between Crippen and Ethel.

But time was passing and by 1908 it is clear that cracks were beginning to show. Ethel had a miscarriage and then went out with another man. She moved again then disappeared for a time. It is very possible that she had a child who was adopted by her sister. A theory, backed up by the fact that Adine's husband didn't seem sure of the exact date his child was born. Later her landlady Emily Jackson would describe her at that time as a nervous wreck.

With the gift of hindsight it is easy to see why. She was 26, an age when society expected a young woman to have made a suitable marriage. Ethel had invested years in her relationship with Crippen and was probably getting desperate but in

1910 she announced her engagement and proudly showed off a ring. Emily Jackson reported that Ethel's behaviour had lightened and she had spoken of 'somebody going to America.' Nine days later on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, Cora disappeared. The previous evening the Crippens had entertained a couple connected with the Ladies Guild and strangely there had been no mention of Cora going away, they only found out when an acquaintance told them of her departure. They were puzzled as they were close friends but when they mentioned this to Crippen he told them that there was a sudden emergency in his family and Cora had departed quickly as he couldn't go himself. It is known that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Ethel spent the night at Crippen's house. She was then seen strolling around town wearing Cora's clothes and jewelry and she had given generous gifts of them to her family and landlady. Eyebrows were being raised in many quarters.

Crippen took Ethel to a ball in aid of the Music Hall Benevolent fund and it was noticed that she was wearing Cora's brooch. A letter was received by the Guild supposedly from Cora, tendering her resignation as treasurer but it was not in her handwriting. Cora's friends in the Guild hired a private investigator and approached Crippen for clarification whereupon he told them that Cora had died of pneumonia in California and that she had been cremated. He was waiting for her ashes to be sent home. Cora was from a Catholic family so it would be unusual if she had been cremated. He put a death notice in *The Era*, a mainly theatrical publication and on 12<sup>th</sup> March Ethel told her family that she is married but cannot produce a marriage certificate. However they are calling each other Hub and Wifie. He gave his landlord three months' notice following which the happy couple departed to Dieppe for a 'honeymoon.' Ethel must have thought she was living the dream. When they returned she took on the role of lady of the house and invited all and sundry to come and stay.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June two of Cora's friends approached the police and Inspector Walter Dew of Scotland Yard visited 39, Hilldrop Crescent where he saw Ethel who told him she was the housekeeper. Dew then went to Crippen's work place where Crippen told him that he had fabricated the story of Cora's death because she had actually left to join an old lover from her music hall days, Bruce Miller, in America. Dew departed, apparently satisfied but Crippen had begun to panic and planned their escape.

For some years, apart from being employed by Munyons, he had a business interest in The Yale Tooth Company and he asked his partner to buy a boy's suit and other accessories. Immediately he and Ethel fled to Brussels and from there to Antwerp where they boarded the Canadian Pacific Line SS *Montrose* posing as a Mr. Robinson and son, Ethel wearing the ill fitting suit and hat. Meanwhile their sudden departure had started alarm bells ringing and Walter Dew and his men returned to Hilldrop Crescent where they discovered an irregularity in the cellar floor after a lengthy search. The bricks were removed and under the soil they found, wrapped in a pyjama jacket, a mutilated torso, headless and armless

with the genitals removed. The search for Crippen and Ethel was set in motion and their photographs were splashed across the newspapers. The clock was ticking.

Meanwhile, on board the Montrose, the odd pair were noticed by Captain Kendall who observed that they seemed unusually affectionate to one another. He had seen the newspaper reports and was suspicious. The Montrose was one of the few ships equipped with the latest technology of the day – wireless telegraph -so Kendall was able to contact the authorities. It was the beginning of the end for Ethel and Crippen. Inspector Dew rushed to Liverpool where he boarded the White Star Line SS Laurentic sailing to Quebec. It was a much faster ship than the Montrose which it overtook on its more northerly route and by 31<sup>st</sup> July, Dew was already at Father Point at the Mouth of The St. Lawrence River waiting for the Montrose. He was taken out by pilot boat and arrested the couple. While not admitting any guilt Crippen said he was glad it was all over.

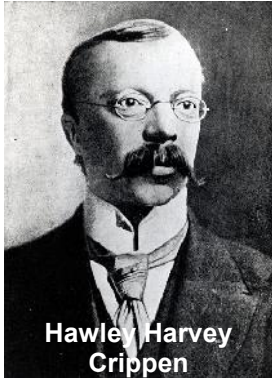
They returned to England on the SS Megantic and were taken to Bow Street Police Station where Crippen was charged with murder and Ethel charged as an accessory to murder.

Crippen was tried at the Old Bailey in October. The pathologist, Bernard Spilsbury, had found traces of poison in the body and it proved that Crippen had purchased Hyoscine at the beginning of the year. He was entitled to because of his profession as a homeopathic doctor. He even signed the poison register although he did not have to. Evidence of a scar was found on the torso's stomach. Cora had a scar in that area. The pyjama jacket was proved to be Crippen's. All the evidence was stacked up against him but the fact remained that he had a poor lawyer and vital evidence was suppressed. Dew was a terrier and was determined to get his man. He had worked on the unsuccessful Jack The Ripper investigation and he definitely did not want to be seen as a failure again. A verdict of 'guilty' was returned in under 30 minutes and Crippen was hanged on 3rd November. In his will, in which he declared his love, he left everything to Ethel, a substantial sum by modern standards.

Ethel was tried on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October and acquitted. She had an excellent defence lawyer who was paid for by the press. There had been a media circus around the trials and Ethel sold her story in which she was portrayed as an innocent young woman and everybody, including the jury, seemed to believe it. Immediately after Crippen's execution at Pentonville she donned widow's weeds and set sail for New York from where she travelled to Toronto where she worked as a typist for three years before returning to England where she was employed at a furniture company. She met Stanley Smith, another employee who eventually plucked up the courage to propose to her. She accepted and the Smiths set up home in South Norwood where Ethel gave birth to two children. She gifted Crippen's watch to Stanley but never divulged her past to him or her children. He died in the 1940s oblivious of his wife's interesting past. Ethel's children recalled her as a small sharp tongued unhappy old lady. She died in

1967, taking her secrets to the grave with her but that was not the end of the story.

On reflection, because Crippen was always described as a mild-mannered likeable man, it seems out of character that he could commit such a crime. Was Ethel the instigator? Was she a really good actress who played the part of an innocent young woman who was in reality a skilled



manipulator, so desperate for that ring on her finger she would have done anything? As Nick pointed out both of them were slightly built and Cora was a large lady. Neither of them could have transported Cora's body into the basement alone. If she was poisoned why dismember the body? It is not a thing that poisoners do. Someone had suggested that Crippen could have administered the Hyoscine to dampen down her desires and accidentally given her an overdose.

In the 1950s she even had a book about her story ghosted by Ursula Bloom, a popular novelist, but it was full of anomalies and contradictions so nobody was any the wiser. Ethel died in 1967 and took her secrets to the grave but that was not the end of the story because in 2007 Crippen's family lawyer requested that a DNA sample be taken from the slides taken from the body found in the cellar. It was found that the DNA taken from the sample was male. Was the crime scene contaminated? There is also controversy over the scar tissue, also preserved. We will never know. A bomb fell on the house in Hilldrop Crescent during the war and it was demolished. A block of flats stands there now. At the end of Nick's talk there was an interesting footnote. He told us that in the 1920 American census a Rose Bell is listed as living with Cora's sister. Could Crippen have been innocent and Cora was watching the drama play out from across the Atlantic?

It was another mystery to consider, but it launched a long and interesting debate among the group as many of us had theories of our own and questions to ask Nick but one will always remain unanswered. Who was Ethel Le Neve really? Did she twist Crippen around her little finger? Could she have killed Cora herself while Crippen took the blame? Neighbours had reported hearing gunshots at the time of the incident. The only certainty is that Ethel remains an enigma to this day.

I don't know what else Nick has up his sleeve but hopefully we can look forward to another presentation from him soon.

**Jenny Jenkins .**



# LONDON BRANCH

## 2018 London Branch dates for your diary

Saturday 10th March

Saturday 20th October

The March Meeting is at the present time a Members' Day with short presentations on any aspect of your family or local history research, "show and tell", members' queries etc..



## Meeting Report

The London branch met at the Society of Genealogists on Saturday, 21st October (in the teeth of Storm Brian) for a talk by Charlotte Paton on Victorian Rural Women, which was by turns enlightening, moving and informative as she drew our attention to the hard reality behind so many of the "chocolate box" scenes of rural life that artists such as Helen ALLINGHAM (1848-1926) presented to a largely urban audience. There is a shortage of records giving in-depth detail of the lives of rural women – so often they are just daughters, wives, mothers and widows.

The 19th century saw a decline in rural communities as the young and entrepreneurial sought employment in towns and industry. The enclosure of common land from the 18th century onward made life more difficult for the rural communities, where the very poorest had often relied on the Common to raise a couple of animals, to gather wood or forage for foodstuffs, and the introduction of agricultural machinery in the early 19th century had contributed to rural families leaving the land.

The consequences for those convicted of machine-breaking and their relatives were dire. Wives of transportees who were struggling to make ends meet would often be denied places in the parish workhouse – guilty by association, as were the wives of men who had fled the consequences of their actions. They would have to prove they had no means to make a living outside of the workhouse and, in many cases, women who had given birth to illegitimate children would have to wear a yellow dress to signify their "shame". Charlotte gave some useful tips for tracing the background of illegitimate children – affiliation orders and bastardy claims in the Poor Law records could name a father or sometimes the mother incorporated the father's name or surname into her child's baptismal name. If a more prosperous individual was involved, he might give a bequest to an illegitimate child in his will.

It was implied that someone was in the workhouse owing to their own fecklessness – although, as Charlotte pointed out, some workhouse masters, and their local unions did take care to improve the lot of the inmates and to assist them.

The Church and the “big house” had immense control over a rural community and Dissenters were seen as a particular problem, threatening the status quo (particularly with the introduction of Sunday Schools for the poorer village children, which preceded the introduction of such schools by the Church of England). The parish would also provide “out-relief” which was given to the poor as “survival rations” – campaigners showed that flour given under the scheme was so adulterated that it produced bread unfit for human consumption. The term “pauper” that we see in official records specifically indicated someone who was reliant on out-relief.

The Poor Law Amendment Act (1834) allowed workhouse Unions to contribute to the emigration of the “able-bodied” poor from their parish. Life for those who remained was harsh, and women in particular had to concentrate on keeping the main “breadwinners” fit and healthy, frequently neglecting their own needs to assure that the men and then the children were fed first. “Diseases of poverty” such as consumption were rife and in crowded, insanitary dwellings it was very hard to prevent the spread of sickness. Quack doctors sold “cure-alls” that were frequently merely placebos or were based on laudanum. Villagers grew white poppies to make their own opium, and opium was administered to soothe babies – frequently with fatal results. Courts were often lenient to women accused of overdosing their babies with minimal sentences being given.

Before the standardisation of time with the coming of the railways, communities followed local time – and often there would just be one official “time keeper” in the village who would let people know “the time” if it was specifically needed.

Women did work on the land, but generally they are not named in records as they mainly did “piece work” such as stone-picking and potato-lifting – but in Charlotte’s village of East Winch, the vicar’s wife “banked” the earnings of local women who then had to ask her for their own money – and they would only receive it if the vicar’s wife approved.

This all seems very black – but life was not all bad in a 19th century rural community. Hawkers sold household goods door to door and provided an informal news network. Cheap ornaments and trinkets (“fairings”) would be obtained to brighten up a cottage. There would be storytelling and village shows for amusement and the introduction of Bank Holidays in 1871 might allow for whole communities to go on excursions together. Women who went into service could rise to positions of responsibility and social prestige. By the end of the 19th century, women were emigrating independently, initially as servants and then making new lives in the southern hemisphere and the United States or Canada.

Finally, Charlotte recommended three writers to seek out if we wanted to find out about the lives of the rural poor in the 19th century from the “inside out” – Fred ROLFE, Mary MANN and the Reverend Augustus JESSOP.

**Mary Fisk**

# Ancestor Bookshelf

**Pablo Fanque and the Victorian Circus** – A Romance of Real Life by Gareth H.H. Davies – Poppyland Publishing.

Regular readers of the Ancestor will know of my fascination with Mr Fanque and his connections with the Beatles.

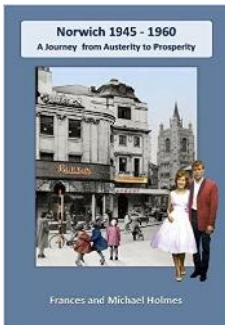
My research on Pablo failed to turn up many details of his life and so I was intrigued when this slight volume appeared on the bookshelves.

Sadly it doesn't shed much more light on the man's career or personal life, the latter of which is sketched over.

There's plenty of asides and pieces about circus in general but I got the distinct impression that much of this was to pad out a rather thin story. The book is just 128 pages of which over 28 are either bibliography, index or source notes.

There are large passages where Fanque doesn't appear at all. So whilst I learned a bit about Victorian Circus I found out little about Fanque that I didn't already know.

**Norwich 1945 to 1960: A Journey from Austerity to Prosperity** by Frances and Michael Holmes – Norwich Heritage Projects £9.95



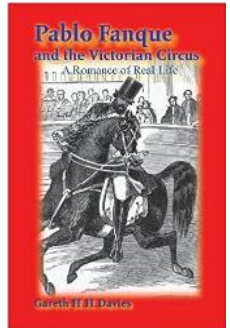
Frances and Michael Holmes have produced a whole treasure-trove of historic books about various aspects of Norwich life.

The market, the boot and shoe trade, the courts and yards and pubs are just some of the subjects to come under their spell through their alter egos, the Norwich Heritage Project.

This time the husband and wife team take an in-depth look at the city from the end of the Second World War up to 1960 – through rationing and hard times to prosperity. They travel via local organisations, stores and the myriad stories of those who lived through the years that saw the young taking on a new role in society – sometimes to the anger and exasperation of their elders.

Frances and Michael succeed in being scholarly and authors of the people at the same time thanks to their excellent writing style. They manage once again to paint pictures through words of some of the most interesting years in the history of the city. We will have an extract from the book in the next edition of Ancestor.

**Peter Steward MN14801**



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

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

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **March 2018** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER than 7th January**. Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.

## Notes and Queries

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

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

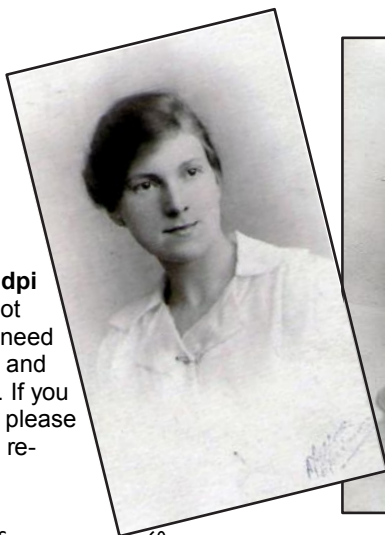
**The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.**

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**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.



## Family Trees Added to Kirby Hall Library

ALLCOCK	Holme Hale, Beechamwell, Little Melton
BAKER	Weston Longville, Norwich
BLANCHFLOWER	Norwich
BROOKS	Norwich
BULLEY	Norwich, Blofield
CATCHPOLE	Norwich, Long Stratton
CHAPMAN	Norwich
CHUBBOCK	Weston Longville, Swardeston, Swainsthorpe
DAINES	Hingham, Norwich
DUFFIELD	Norwich
FRARY	Little Walsingham
GALER	Loddon, Beeston
GEORGE	East.Dereham
GURNEY	Norwich
GUYMER	East Dereham
HARVEY	Belton, Gillingham to London
HEDGES	Sheringham from Berkshire
HOWMAN	Norwich
JARY	Sloley, Woodbastwick, Hemblington, Norwich
LAKE	Tottington, Old Buckenham, Norwich
LOADER	Norwich from Dorset
READ	Pulham St. Mary, Long Stratton, Hethel, Norwich
REEVE	Wrampingham, Norwich
ROWLAND	Letheringsett, Felbrigg, Worstead, Norwich
RUSHMER	Limpenhoe, Norwich
SELF	Worstead, North Walsham, Attleborough, Norwich



# Samuel John Carter 1835-1892 - continued

IN Norfolk, Samuel John was in demand by landowners like Lord and Lady Amhurst of Diddlington Hall who commissioned him to paint their prize farm animals, beloved pets, hunting horses and hounds as well as family groups.

The *John Seppings Turner Huntsman to the Norfolk Staghounds with his hounds on Mulbarton Common 1855* is a typical example. His 'chocolate box' animal subjects (domestic, agricultural and in the wild) aren't popular today but they appealed to the sentiment of Victorian England. One of these, *Morning with the Wild Red Deer* (1876), depicting a stag, hind and fawn is in the Tate Gallery. It is a style epitomised by the work of Sir Edwin Landseer.



The Carter family have claimed that the original drawings for Landseer's lion sculptures, situated at the base of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, were made by Samuel John Carter. The latter's dramatic paintings - exemplified by such titles as, *A Chase* (1855), *Gelett: "The gallant hound the wolf had slain"* (1865), *Rescued from the wolf* (1866), *A Duel on the Black Mount*, (1874), *To the rescue: Norfolk coast. "A life-boat manned with gallant crew"* (1882) and *The Biter Bit* (1890) - were accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions annually between 1855 and 1890 and he also exhibited at the British Institution and The Gallery of The Royal Society of British Artists.

Although not as famous as some of his contemporaries, Samuel John was respected within Victorian London's artistic circles. In the 1875 Summer Exhibition, John Ruskin, the great Victorian art critic and social commentator, complemented two of Samuel John's paintings: *The First Taste*: was 'enjoyable .. exemplary ...for puppy portraiture'; *The Little Wanderers* was 'a most pathetic and touching group of children in the wood'.



Sir John Everett Millais, a famous artist and one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Movement, recommended Samuel John's 16-year-old son, William, for entry into the Royal Academy Schools in 1874. Samuel John died on 1st May, 1892, aged 57, at Stamford House, Fulham, leaving his wife quite well-off. Howard Mrs Carter was later described as 'a small, kindly woman' who 'loved luxury'. She died of bronchitis in a Chelsea Nursing home, aged 84 in 1920.

**Edmund Perry MN 3181**



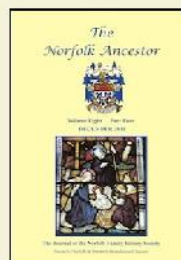
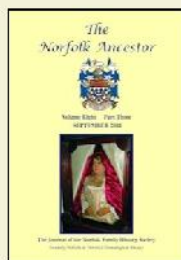
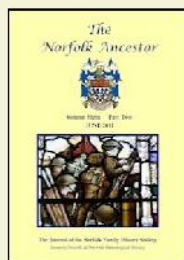
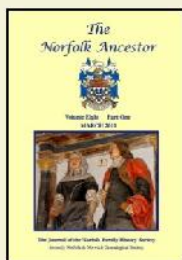
## Our Really Useful Australasian Information Leaflet 2017

To celebrate National Family History Month in Australasia, the Federation of Family History Societies has updated *Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet*. You can download it for free, at <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/RUL-Aus-2017-0809.pdf>

The FFHS has produced the leaflet in association with the Society of Australian Genealogists and Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations. The leaflet focuses on how to research your ancestors if you live in Australasia. It is also a great resource for UK family historians who may have had ancestors who went to Australasia, either because of forced transportation or due to emigration.

The leaflet gives a long list of websites and has a how-to guide. It also lists family history societies that can help with research.

### Scanned Ancestor Copies



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

# Norfolk Family History Society

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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.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

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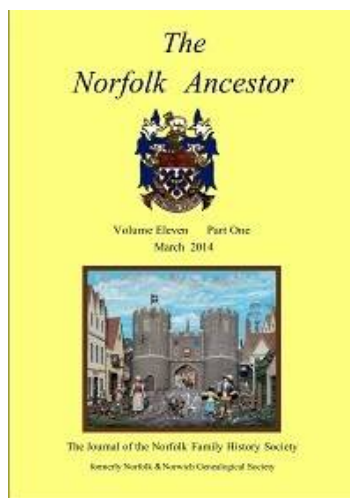
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# Samuel John Carter 1835-1892 - Victorian painter

Samuel John's celebrated son, the archaeologist Howard Carter paid tribute to his father's artistic talents:

*'We all inherited from our father an inborn faculty for drawing: he being an animal painter of no little fame, and one of the most powerful draughtsman I ever knew. His knowledge of comparative anatomy and memory for form was matchless. He could depict from memory, accurately, any animal in action, fore-shortened or otherwise, with the greatest ease.'*

Yet Samuel John didn't come from an artistic background. He was born in the Keeper's Cottage of the Manor House in Dunham, five miles north-east of Swaffham, Norfolk. His father, Samuel Isaac (born 1792), was the agent and gamekeeper for the local squire, Robert HAMOND, and his mother was Frances SPINKS of Swaffham. There were several siblings: Fanny, Catherine, James, Henry William and Robert.



From the age of 10, Samuel John showed talent, winning first prize at the drawing school in Swaffham which, according to Frederick Keeling-SCOTT (Vicar of Swaffham 1908-1928), was supervised by John Sell Cotman, the watercolour painter and etcher and member of the Norwich School of Artists. Later Samuel John became a pupil at the Royal Academy School, London, and was a successful artist specialising in animal and country scenes. Between 1867 and 1889 he was also the principal animal illustrator for the Illustrated London News.

On 2nd June, 1858, he married Martha Joyce SANDS (born 1834) daughter of a local builder. They owned a country cottage on Sporle Road, just outside Swaffham, where most of their 11 children were born. Three died in childbirth but two of the older boys, William (b.1863) and Vernay (b.1864) and the only surviving daughter, Amy Joyce (b.1873), became excellent artists who also exhibited at the Royal Academy— William won multiple prizes and medals. Another son, Edgar, became a renowned clock dial designer and painter, whilst James continued the family tradition and became a gamekeeper. Samuel John's sisters, Fanny and Catherine (Kate) lived in the cottage and looked after it for their brother who would holiday and paint there. In London, Samuel and Martha lived at 10, Rich Terrace, Kensington, a fairly modest house with a garden where many small animals (housed in large pens) served as models for sketches and paintings. **The story continues on page 62**

# What's the Norfolk Connection Between These Pictures?

All of these fine pictures were painted during the second half of the 19th Century. The artist was Norfolk born Samuel John Carter. Turn to the inside back cover to find out more about his life.

