

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**MARCH 2018**



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

# Titanic – The Norfolk Connections

April 15th this year will be the 106th anniversary of the sinking of the White Star Line's SS Titanic. On the night of Sunday, 14th April, 1912, the giant liner was steaming at high speed across the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage to New York. At 11.40 pm it struck a huge iceberg with a glancing blow which proved to be catastrophic. Two hours and forty minutes later it had broken in two and sunk with the loss of over 1500 lives. Over 700 people did survive the disaster, however, and a number of these had Norfolk connections. Roger Morgan finds out more about them.

**Frank Winnold PRENTICE** was born in Downham Market on 17th February, 1889. His father was Henry "Harry" Frank Warner Prentice (1867-1961) and his mother was Elizabeth SHERWOOD (1868-1940). They were running the Castle Hotel in Downham at this time. In the 1891 census the family was living in Bexwell Road and Frank's father was described as a postmaster. Frank had three siblings: Harry Victor (b.1887), Eva Maud (b.1891) and Annie Kathleen (b.1895). By the 1901 census, Frank and his family had moved to Bexhill in East Sussex and were living at the address of his grandmother Annie Prentice who continued to operate her guesthouse, Winnold House on De La Warr Parade. His parents were later estranged and by 1911 he had left home to live in Southampton. He signed-on to the Titanic, on 4th April, 1912, and gave his address as 71, Denzil Avenue. He was listed as an Assistant Storekeeper and he received monthly wages of £3 15s.

At the time of the collision, Prentice was in his berth on the port side of E deck (a cabin he shared with five other kitchen storekeepers) sitting on his bunk talking to a friend. He didn't notice anything strange other than the ship stopping. He went up to the promenade deck to survey the scene and saw the forward well deck covered in ice. He started to help the passengers get into the lifeboats including the wealthy Los Angeles socialite, Mrs Virginia CLARK. He helped her to put on her lifebelt and placed her in Lifeboat 4, together with Mrs John Jacob ASTOR and her maid assuring them that 'it's just a precaution'.

(Continued on Page 54)



# Norfolk Family History Society

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## The Norfolk Ancestor

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# The Norfolk Ancestor Editorial Team

Peter Steward	Editor
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## Welcome to your March Edition



Welcome to another year of Norfolk Ancestor and allow me to start off with belated Happy New Year wishes to all.

To me one of the most intriguing aspects of family research is placing findings within their historical context.

When I find a new ancestor and research their facts it always leaves me with a warm feeling but, at the same time, a feeling of frustration due to the fact that I will never be able to experience the times in which they lived or hear them speak. Thankfully the Internet and many other resources have helped to fill in many of the gaps and produce a much more rounded view of my past and the people in it.

My research to date has shown that I seem to be Norfolk through and through with a smattering of Suffolk thrown in. That comes from a DNA test I undertook just before Christmas. The test has thrown up some interesting matches and gives me plenty of food for thought in the coming year. I would love to hear from anyone who has interesting findings from a DNA test.

Meanwhile myself and Roger Morgan have been having a good look round Kirby Hall with particular emphasis on the history of this Norfolk Ancestor publication. We made some interesting discoveries with the publication starting simply as "The Journal" in 1972. We will bring some of these discoveries to you in future editions. As many of you will know the society is this year celebrating its Golden Jubilee and we will also be reflecting on that in future editions of the Ancestor through 2018.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**



# From Fakenham to South Africa - A Man of Many Parts and A Man of God

**By Jane Cole**

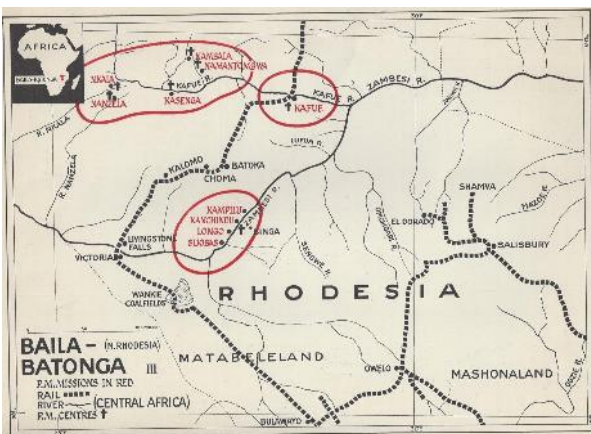
REVEREND Henry BUCKENHAM was born in Holt Road, Fakenham, on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1844. He was the seventh child of Edmund Buckenham, an agricultural labourer, and his wife Elizabeth. He is my great, great uncle and brother to my great grandfather, Robert Ransom Buckenham.

He was converted to Christianity in 1860, aged 16 after a sermon by the Rev R Betts, who said "Henry, give God your heart". He became a local preacher in 1862 at the age of 18 in the East Dereham Circuit. In January, 1870, Henry received a letter from the Methodist Missionary Society telling him that they wanted a young man for missionary work in South Africa. At the time he was working in the Burton-on-Trent Circuit and he readily consented to become the connexion's pioneer missionary in South Africa.

He left England on October 5<sup>th</sup>, sailing on the "Marsden" and, after touching Cape Town, landed at Port Elizabeth on November 20<sup>th</sup>. He then travelled 300 miles to the Orange River where he set up and ran a successful mission for five



Rev Henry Buckenham



years. In South Africa he married his first wife Mary MARTIN from East Dereham in 1872.

Henry came home to England in 1875. He and his wife had two daughters - Ada and Evelina. He became a minister in England in 1876, firstly in Plymouth and then in Torquay, Devon. However, he felt

called back to Africa in 1880. Whilst working there sadly his first wife Mary died of a fever, probably malaria and “lies sleeping under the soil of West Africa”.

In 1889, he married his second wife Catherine CORNWALL and prepared to return to Africa for the Zambesi Mission. He gave a valedictory address in Nottingham on April 11<sup>th</sup> 1889. As he knelt at communion with his two little girls, they clasped his neck and sobbed. The younger one said:

“Oh! Dada, Dada”, in tears, “must you leave us? The last time you went away, you took Mama with you and she never came back to us. If you go and never come back, we shall have nobody to take care of us!”

The girls were sent to boarding school in Saffron Walden. On April 26<sup>th</sup> 1889 the Buckenhams, together with fellow missionaries Arthur BALDWIN and F. WARD sailed from Dartmouth to Central South Africa for the most important expedition as yet undertaken in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It demanded self-sacrifice, courage and enthusiasm and involved an overland journey of 2000 miles in ox wagons. It was five years of hardship, suf-



fering and delays. The route lay through Vryburg and Mafeking along the Limpopo River and across the Kalahari Desert to the Zambesi River. They travelled through vast tropical forests where passages had to be cut for the wagons. They also had to build bridges and cut and lay trees over bogs a mile wide. When a wheel or wagon pole collapsed, Henry had to make new ones by





cutting down trees. Transport work was hard for the oxen. The party watched them die one by one until not one was left. If the oxen got sick or lame they were killed and eaten by the natives in charge of the wagons. Henry Buckenham was the leader of the party and was very well thought of. Arthur Baldwin later wrote:

“No man could have worked harder or thrown more heartiness into his work than our brother (Henry) did. In training oxen and driving wagons, in performing long tedious journeys, both in the height of the rainy season, and when the summer’s sun was blazing, in executing the many repairs needed to the wagon, gear and other utensils, and in building-work on our new stations, he was always engaged. From “dawn to dewy eve” Mr Buckenham toiled incessantly through all these years without ever taking a rest. He never spared himself, but even when suffering great pain, has, in his desire to push on the mission, continued at his post. Many, many times he has been compelled to put down his tools and go to his bed, but the moment he was a little better he would be back again”.



After four years eight months they reached their destination on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1893. A mission station was set up and education was started with 25 children. They undertook to feed, clothe, house and educate them. Mrs Buckenham set to work and made clothes for them all. Henry held services three to four times a day, both in English and their native tongue.

Henry and his wife had a daughter, Elsie, who was born at Kimberley in 1890. She lived nearly all her life in a wagon, and she never saw a white child.

Playing with the native children, she learnt their language. Tragically, little Elsie died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1896, at the age of six.

The Buckenhams now decided to head home to England but faced many travel difficulties and their plans were thwarted. Henry’s health continued to decline and, on the morning of July 11<sup>th</sup> at 8.30 without a struggle, he quietly ‘fell asleep’, just five months after his daughter. He was buried on the bank of the River Zambesi at Kazungala. The grave was marked with a rustic cross with a board affixed, on which was painted “Rev. H. Buckenham, Born May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1844. Died July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1896.”

His wife returned to England. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 1908 she laid a foundation stone in

front of Fakenham Methodist Church which is now dedicated to Henry's memory. This is the Buckenham Memorial Chapel. She went back to Africa where she died later. An ox wagon similar to the ones used by Henry Buckenham is depicted on the Fakenham town sign.

It is a wonderful story of a local, humble born man and a more than courageous woman. They had to become many things - wheelwrights, bullock drivers, builders, butchers, teachers, good shots, cooks, doctors, nurses and above all, God's messengers of his Good News.



**Jane Cole (née Buckenham) MN 10660**



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# The Peculiar Case of a Quaker Murderer And New Technology

*By Peter Steward*

I recently picked up a book in Norwich Library and was intrigued by its title - "The Peculiar Case of the Electric Constable" by Carol Baxter.

I was even more intrigued when I found out that the subject of the book, John TAWELL was brought up in Norfolk and was the first person to be arrested as a result of telecommunication technology.

The book wasn't so much about the technology as the life of Tawell who was born in 1784 and hanged for murder 61 years later in 1845.

Tawell was the second son of Thomas Tawell who was a shopkeeper in Aldeby, Norfolk, and that's the village where he grew up. Aldeby is on the Norfolk side of the River Waveney and about five miles from the Suffolk town of Beccles. Tawell also lived for a time and had connections in Great Yarmouth.

Tawell was educated at the Aldeby village school for seven years before going into service with a Quaker who ran a general store at Pakefield near Lowestoft in Suffolk. It was whilst working here that he joined the Society of Friends (Quakers). He became friends with forger Joseph HUNTON, who taught him the art before being arrested and hanged at Newgate in 1828.

In 1804, Tawell moved to London to work in a drapery store in Whitechapel. Here he was married for the first time and had two children.

In 1814, he was convicted of forging a £10 bank note for which he was sentenced to death but had his sentence commuted to 14 years' transportation to Australia. Tawell, like so many others, became a successful businessman in Australia, setting up chemist shops. His wife, Mary, and children joined him, but the family subsequently returned to England in 1831 after Tawell was given a ticket of leave and his freedom. This time he lived in Southwark. Sadly Mary became ill and died in 1838. After her death Tawell formed a relationship with



Sarah HART who he had employed to nurse Mary in her illness. He had two more children with Sarah, but she moved out to live in a cottage in the Salt Hill area of Slough in Berkshire that Tawell paid for. In 1841, matters became even more complex when Tawell married a Quaker widow whilst still continuing his relationship with Sarah Hart.

Tawell maintained his Quaker faith despite being blocked from full membership on a number of occasions and regularly attended their meetings.

By 1844, Tawell was having severe financial problems. He bought two bottles of Prussic Acid, which he later claimed were a treatment for varicose veins. The acid contained hydrogen cyanide and Tawell used this to poison Sarah Hart.

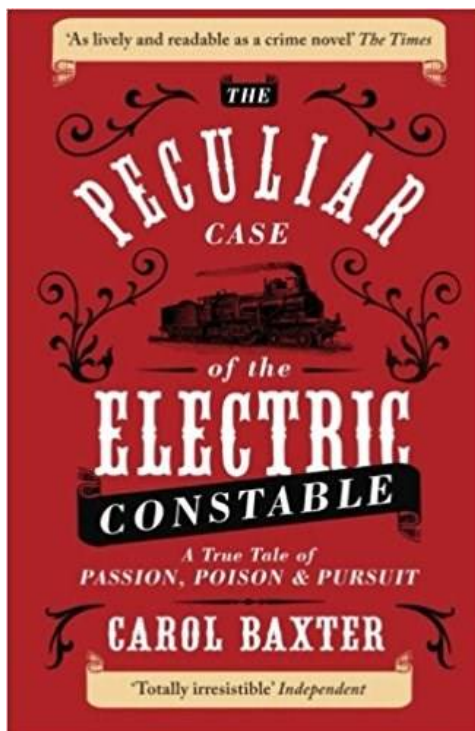
Tawell was an easy man to pick out as he always wore the distinctive dress of the Quakers and a man in dark clothing was seen leaving Sarah Hart's cottage on the day of the murder.

Police established that a person answering Tawell's description had caught the train at Slough, heading for Paddington Station in London. They used the new invention of a Telegraph to send a message to Paddington. When he got off the train in London, Tawell was followed by police to a number of places and eventually arrested the following morning.

At Tawell's trial, his defence was handled by Sir Fitzroy KELLY, who tried to make a case that the prussic acid that killed Sarah Hart was ingested accidentally from eating the pips of apples. It was also suggested that Sarah Hart had taken the poison herself after being told that there was no more money for her.

There seemed to be some doubt, but Tawell was convicted and hanged on 28th March, 1845, at Aylesbury with a large crowd watching. The hanging took place ahead of schedule meaning that many people missed "the fun." This led to some questioning his guilt. He was also buried in haste, leading to some suspicions that he had not actually been hanged at all.

The Find a Grave web site lists his burial place as unknown. The site states that he is also known as The Quaker Poisoner and his characteristics are given simply as "poisoner."



The case brought the use of telegraphy to the public's attention as a quick means of conveying intelligence and it was soon adopted on a more extensive scale.

The telegraph transmitter and receiver used to catch Tawell is now in the Science Museum in London.

Peter Steward MN 10864

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# THE FALL OF PHILIP STANNARD

## *Edmund Perry continues his story of the Stannards*

MERCHANT manufacturers made small fortunes out of the 18th century trade in Norwich 'stuffs' but it was a precarious business for several reasons. Stannard and Taylor typified the mid-sized firm of the time. It was dependent on supplies of good quality yarn and bought 'Norwich worsted' from both John and Samuel CUMBERLAND of Bury St. Edmunds as well as Irish yarn from Richard and John GURNEY, the main Norwich importers. Shortages and price inflation were common. Yarn came in its natural colour and was sent out to expert dyers. It was combined with threads of silk to produce beautifully designed colourful textiles with elaborate patterns of flowers, checks and stripes as can be seen from the remaining 'pattern books' such as the one owned by John KELLY, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Norwich Stuffs carried exotic names such as Camblet, Say, Tammy, Callimanco, Satins, Damask, Velours, Mockadoes, Bombazine, Serge, Dornix, Diamantines, Cheveretts. Florets, etc, (see Ursula Priestley, *The Fabric of Stuffs, the Norwich Textile Industry from 1565*, Norwich, The Centre for East Anglian Studies, 1990)

The material was enhanced by hot pressing to give a glazed finish widely purchased for gowns, coats, waistcoats and furnishings. These items were made by other firms, something of a weakness in the chain of production especially since the cloth demand depended on fashion and the availability of alternatives such as Indian cotton and similar material from Yorkshire competitors. Moreover, the cloth wasn't factory produced by employees working on standardised machines. It was outsourced to journeymen working at home or in small scale workshops - highly skilled, specialised work requiring constant supervision and quality control. This wasn't easy particularly when the journeymen took time off to help with the harvest and participated in demonstrations and riots. More than once Stannard had to apologise to customers about delays and poor quality products.

Norwich cloth producers relied on London merchants to distribute both to the domestic market and arrange shipment overseas. Until the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century only a small percentage went through the port of Great Yarmouth but this increased considerably as Norwich firms sought out European markets,

particularly Scandinavia and Russia. The potential demand was enormous. Philip Stannard recorded in his journal for 1751 that he had received visitors from Cadiz, Venice, Weimar, Leipzig, Zurich, Cologne, Bremen, Frankfurt, Lübeck, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo. However, he was trained as a master-weaver and kept a firm hand on the technical side of production. He resisted corresponding directly with foreign firms or exporting cloth himself, preferring to rely upon the firm's agent in London, Peter GAUSSEN Junior, who settled payments using bills of exchange. Philip was tempted to send goods to the Norwegian market in 1755 but the results were disappointing. The experience should have taught him to be extra careful.

Instead, he decided to follow larger competitive firms like J and J IVES, seeking to increase exports so as to keep the looms working and men employed. On the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1763, he took into partnership John TAXTOR, aged 36, who had worked for the Ives firm and had the experience to initiate foreign ventures. Taxtor threw himself into the task of securing direct exports to Northern Europe, Spain and South America. In a letter to the agent John Kelly seeking orders in Spain, Taxtor gave specific advice about how a pattern book (upon which orders were based and delivered) was to be used, especially the visual impact. The bulk of the letter concerns costs, including commission, packing, shipping and portage with a request that Kelly find out about equivalent products for the purpose of comparing prices, etc. Similar correspondence exists with clients in Holland, Germany, Poland and Italy, often translated into the native language. Invoices and pattern books recommended other manufacturers' names and the use of contacts to encourage future sales. Such a letter of recommendation sent in May, 1763, to St.Petersburg in Russia, resulted in large orders. The vividly coloured callimancoes were popular with the Tartars and other Siberian people for use as sashes. Huge quantities of camblets were taken by the East India Company for shipment to China where they were popular as warm winter clothing.

All appeared to be going well. New premises and equipment were bought to increase output. However, Taxtor over-reached himself when speculative cargoes were dispatched via Seville on the 'Adventure Account' of Patrick HARPER. Between 1766 and 1768, stuffs valued at £10,859 were sent by him to Buenos Aires, Lima and Vera Cruz. Some of these goods came from other Norwich manufacturers such as James TUTHILL and Company which ended up being owed over £7,605. Then suddenly in September, 1766, Taxtor died aged 39. It must have caused immense problems most of which were probably handled by Taylor who possibly wasn't up to the task, rather than Stannard who aged 63 was most likely out of his depth. For three years they struggled on until in November, 1799, they were declared bankrupt.

Direct export was a step too far. The firm was over-stretched and lacked the financial resources and expertise to handle international marketing of such large quantities of cloth. The South American speculation was a foolish adventure



supplying goods in advance of actual orders and sales. Previous profits had been spent, invested in private property and expansion for further production rather than placed into capital investment such as land or Government bonds which might have provided a liquidity buffer whilst awaiting the payment of bad debts. Cash flow was essential. Without it Stannard and Taylor were at the mercy of creditors.

Meetings were held in Norwich where both men had to disclose their assets to commissioners and at which creditors had to prove their debts. One of the assignees was a major creditor Richard Gurney, another was Peter Gaussen the financial agent in London who between them were owed about £20,000. They had great difficulty in retrieving unsold goods in ships and warehouses in South America or obtaining payments from Spanish merchants whom Gurney considered 'rascals'. It turned out to be one of the largest provincial bankruptcies in 18<sup>th</sup> century England which brought ruin and misery to large numbers of ordinary Norwich people who had either loaned money to Stannard or been his workers.

The debts were so large – calculated at £47,000 - that everything had to be sold off at auctions between December, 1769, and May, 1770: the Fisher Street House and all the tenement property nearby, furniture, equipment and stock; the house in Bury St. Edmunds; Mulbarton Hall with its fittings, furniture, crockery, glassware, paintings and personal possessions, the coaches and horses, plus the garden shrubs and flower beds sold separately. Philip Taylor lost his property and effects. However, even this was inadequate to repay creditors who only received about 11/- in the £ paid out in 1770/1771 and as late as 1778.

Philip secured a £900 dividend, courtesy of his father-in-law, Edward HOPSON, who had already loaned him £2000 without security. Philip lived in Conisford for a few years before dying on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1777, aged 74. His widow Anne received a bond of £100 out of the administration and lived to be 82, dying at Tasburgh 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1812. Their daughter Ann died in 1783 aged 18. The son, Philip Hopson, after attending the Norwich Free Grammar School, was awarded a scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, graduating in 1786. Ordained a deacon in Norwich he served briefly as curate at Stoke Holy Cross before acquiring property in Tasburgh (a manor house and farm), living with his mother. In 1837 he sold up, moved to Long Stratton and died the year after.

\*I am indebted to the excellent book, *The Letters of Philip Stannard, Norwich Textile Manufacturer (1751-1763)* Norwich, Norfolk Record Society, Vol. 57, 1994, edited by Ursula Priestley) which covers all these matters in much greater detail.

**Edmund Perry MN 3181**

# Coming Home To East Anglia

**Norfolk resident Viv Maddams found some surprises when she researched her father Laurie's ancestry. Here she explains how her father, who is a member of the Norfolk Family History Society, came home to Norfolk.**

MY father, Laurent Matthew BRET-  
TINGHAM, was born in Barking, Es-  
sex on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1930. He was the fifth  
of six children born to John Robert  
Brettingham (1888–1969) and Ade-  
laide Alice PALMER (1887–1973).

His oldest brother John Walter (1918-  
1974) told him that he dreaded the  
man with the black bag (the doctor)  
arriving, as it meant the family would  
have another mouth to feed!

All John and Adelaide's children had  
been given two Christian names.  
When it came to naming their fifth  
child, John and Adelaide were running  
out of options. Laurent was named  
after his grandfather Laurent Richard  
Freston Brettingham (1868–1920), who  
himself had been named after his  
French grandfather Laurent Richard  
MAZET (1821–1870). The doctor who  
delivered Laurent said that he knew  
the name Brettingham because there  
was a Norwich architect named Mat-  
thew Brettingham, hence that became  
Laurent's second name.

Unbeknown to the family, Matthew  
Brettingham (1699–1769) was in fact  
Laurent's 5x great grandfather. Mat-  
thew was born in Norwich to Lancelot  
Brettingham (1664–1727) and Elizabeth  
HILLWELL (1674–1729). He has an  
extensive portfolio of buildings attribut-  
ed to him, all over the country, includ-



ing London and Norfolk. Matthew is  
buried beneath the altar in St Au-  
gustine's Church, Norwich. There is a  
marble monument to his memory. Mat-  
thew's direct line can be traced back to  
1605 in Norwich and to North Norfolk  
before that. Laurent worked in Central  
London, where he met his wife Daphne  
Christine THROWER (1931–2016) on  
New Year's Eve in 1952. Daphne  
hailed from Rockland St Mary in Nor-

folk. They married in 1954. Laurent was a frequent visitor to Norfolk since the 50s, moving up permanently 15 years ago.

Laurent and myself, his eldest daughter, started researching his mother Adelaide's roots, only to find that her family had moved to East London from Suffolk in the early 18th century.

So Laurent has returned to his East Anglian Roots.

## Who Was Matthew Brettingham?

Matthew Brettingham rose from humble beginnings to supervise the construction of Holkham Hall. He became one of the top architects of his generation. Much of his work, particularly in London, has been demolished. He also remodelled numerous town houses in East Anglia.

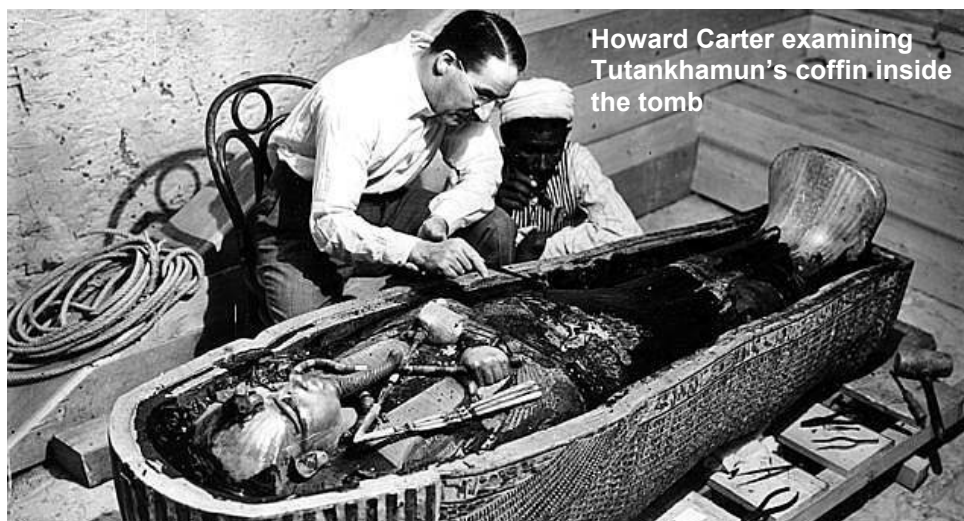
Brettingham was born in 1699, the second son of Launcelot Brettingham (1664–1727), a bricklayer or stonemason from Norwich. He married Martha BUNN (c. 1697–1783) at St. Augustine's Church, Norwich, on 17th May, 1721, and they had nine children

His early life is little documented and one of the earliest recorded references to him is in 1719 when he and his elder brother Robert were admitted to the City of Norwich as freemen bricklayers. A critic of Brettingham's at this time claimed that his work was so poor that it was not worth the nine shillings a week (£66 in 2017) he was paid as a craftsman bricklayer. Whatever the quality of his bricklaying, he soon advanced himself and became a building



contractor. Brettingham went on to oversee many projects including the remodelling of Norwich Shirehouse, the construction of Lenwade Bridge, repairs to Norwich Castle and Norwich Cathedral and the rebuilding of much of St. Margaret's Church in King's Lynn.

Brettingham was appointed Clerk of Works for the building of Holkham Hall. In effect he was the man responsible for interpreting the architects' plans to the requirements of the Earl of Leicester, Thomas Coke. Brettingham was also commissioned in 1742 to redesign Langley Hall, a mansion standing in its own parkland near Loddon in South Norfolk.



Howard Carter examining Tutankhamun's coffin inside the tomb

# Howard Carter - A Norfolk Enigma

*By Edmund Perry*

WORLD-WIDE interest in Tutankhamun continues unabated yet the name of Howard CARTER was consigned to obscurity until a recent television programme featured him having an improbable affair with Lord Carnarvon's teenage daughter, Lady Evelyn HERBERT. Previous accusations of desecrating the young King's mummy as well as theft of artefacts from the tomb have sullied his reputation as have negative reminiscences about his character.

He ought to be a major Norfolk worthy, the subject of biographies, exhibitions, statues and documentaries. Yet, apart from a display in the Swaffham Museum and a brief mention in the Egyptian section at the Norwich Castle Museum, there isn't much information in Norfolk about a man who made the most extraordinary archaeological discovery of the 20th century.

Howard came from a large family based in and around Swaffham. His grandfather was Samuel Isaac Carter (born 1796 Great Dunham) a gamekeeper to Robert HAMOND, the squire of the local manor house. Samuel married Frances (b.1806), resided in a house on Norwich Road, Swaffham, and had several children: Fanny, Catherine, James and Samuel John (born March 1835), who was Howard's Father.

Samuel John became an exceptional animal portraiture artist, taking lessons from the Norwich artist John Sell COTMAN, studying and exhibiting at the Royal Academy in London. He returned to Swaffham in 1850 and married Martha Joyce SANDS (born 1834), daughter of a local builder. They lived in a terraced

cottage in Sporle Road, and had ten children of whom three died in childbirth. Two of the older boys, William (born 1863) and Vernay (born 1864) and the only surviving daughter, Amy Joyce (born 1873), became excellent artists who also exhibited at the Royal Academy. Another son, Edgar, became a renowned clock-dial designer and painter, whilst James continued the family tradition and became a gamekeeper.

With increasing success, Samuel John was able to acquire a small place at 10, Richard Terrace, Earl's Court, London, close to where lucrative commissions could be found. It was here that an eleventh child was born on May 9th, 1874. However, Howard was a sickly boy, diagnosed a 'bad herniary case' and had to be dispatched back to Swaffham to be brought up by his aunts Kate and Fanny, away from his older siblings in what appears to have been a singular and secluded childhood.

It is doubtful whether Howard attended the Swaffham School founded by the Hamond Family since it appears he was educated mainly at a day school and at home with private tuition. This lack of a formal education left him with a chip on his shoulder and caused friction with the Victorian elite in later life because of his ungentlemanly behaviour. At the age of 15, he was expected to earn a living and became an assistant to his father who had provided him with a sound training in the fundamentals of drawing and painting. Evidently Howard spent a lot of time

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painting wildlife, particularly parrots, cats and smelly lap dogs and would have remained an artist had it not been for fortuitous circumstances.

One of Samuel's patrons was William AMHERST, a Member of Parliament from the 10,000 acre Didlington Hall Estate, about ten miles away near Brandon. Howard accompanied his father to the hall to watch and assist him paint but also spent time in the library which contained the most important private collection of Egyptian art and papyri in England. It stimulated Howard's imagination and a longing to visit Egypt, *'to be under her blue sky, her pale aerial hills, her valleys teeming with accumulated treasures'*.

In 1891, Howard gained full-time employment at the hall and Lady Amhurst introduced him to a young aspiring Egyptologist Percy NEWBERRY, who Howard assisted with copying and colouring tasks at the British Museum. Here he studied the work of Robert HAY who had recorded several monuments and inscriptions in the 19th century. Then, aged only 17½, he was sent to Egypt as assistant draughtsman to Newberry, recording the reliefs in the Oryx Nomarch tombs at Beni Hassan, the gravesite of Middle Egypt, c2000 BCE. Howard didn't approve of the methods used by Newberry to record the reliefs - tracing before sending them back to England to be inked in black, by people who had never seen the originals and weren't trained artists.

The drawings were then reproduced at a much smaller scale for publication and so fine details were lost. Carter felt they should be drawn and coloured in by the artist on the spot. Later, when the Amhersts financed an excavation concession, Howard became assistant to the archaeologist Flanders PETRIE at Tel el-Amarna, the site of Pharaoh Akhenaten's capital. So began an illustrious career and an obsession which kept Howard in Egypt for most of his life. As a result he missed the funeral of his father who died aged 57, on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1892 at Stamford House, Fulham, and also that of his mother who died of bronchitis in a Chelsea nursing home, aged 84, in 1920. Howard did make visits to England, occasionally to Norfolk but mainly to London, to see his brothers William and Vernay who died during the post World War One influenza epidemic.

Petrie had little faith in the young man's ability but Howard proved him wrong by carrying out explorations of the Theban Necropolis. In 1892, he was appointed draughtsman to the Archaeological Survey of the Egyptian Exploration Fund and re-joined Newberry at Beni Hasan where he began copying the paintings of dogs, birds and other animals.

He then worked for six years as a draftsman for the Swiss Egyptologist, Edouard NAVILLE, on the exquisite mortuary temple of the female pharaoh Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri. He also learned to speak colloquial Arabic which endeared him to local workers in later years. In 1899, at the age of 25, Howard was appointed first Inspector General of the Monuments of Upper Egypt, for the Egyptian Antiquities Service. This included supervising and controlling archaeological digs along the Nile. For the next three years he restored the temples in Western



Thebes, Edfu and Kom Ombo. He installed electric light at Abu Simbel and at six royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings. In 1902, he supervised the systematic exploration of the floor of the valley on behalf of the American Theodore Davis. Howard was meticulous and systematic in his methods using a grid block system to discover the Tombs of Tuthmosis I and III. As a result he became a very knowledgeable excavator and learned his archaeological expertise in the field.

Howard was transferred to the Inspectorate of Lower and Middle Egypt, with his headquarters at Saqqara. He later resigned as a result of a dispute between Egyptian site guards and a group of drunken French tourists in 1905. Because of his stubbornness and his sense of propriety, he ejected some French tourists who were drunk and had been fighting with the Egyptian guards at the burial vaults of the sacred bulls. When the French tourists complained, Carter was asked to give an apology, which he adamantly refused to do. The Frenchman in charge of the inspectorate Gaston MASPERO, was eventually forced to transfer Carter to the Delta area where the Nile empties into the Mediterranean. Carter resigned his position with the Egyptian government and, for over a year, made his living as a watercolorist and antiquities' dealer. He sold scenes of both ancient and modern Egypt to tourists, as well as antiquities predominantly to wealthy English people.

Strangely it was Maspero who brought Lord Carnarvon and Carter together, when he advised the inexperienced earl that he should have the services of an expert archaeologist for his excavations and suggested Howard. The two men liked each other and the financial backing from his patron was to help Howard work towards his dream of finding Tutankhamun's tomb. They co-operated together from 1907, except during World War One, until Carnarvon's death in 1923

Howard's early excavations and his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb are well documented in books and film. He wasn't an archaeologist as such but a trained and methodical excavator. He lacked both the trappings and social graces of an upper class upbringing, as well as the educational background and qualifications. Disappointments and disagreements led to him becoming a difficult, irritable, argumentative person who upset many of his colleagues and superiors, including his friend Lord Caernarvon. He offended the Press and the Egyptian Government over his obsession with 'ownership' of the tomb, the mummy and the thousands of artefacts which he spent the last ten years of his life cataloguing.

Howard lived in a flat behind the Albert Hall in London where he died suddenly on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1939 aged 65 due to cardiac failure and Hodgkin's disease. Only nine mourners attended his burial at Putney Vale Cemetery in London, one of whom was William who died later in the same year. Howard received numerous lengthy obituaries in the major newspapers at home and abroad but, although he was given an honorary degree, he never received any award from either British or Egyptian Governments. Recently a new tombstone was erected on which

is written:

*May your spirit live, May you spend millions of years, You who love  
Thebes, Sitting with your face to the north wind, Your eyes beholding hap-  
piness (from the Wishing Cup of Tutankhamun).*

**Edmund Perry MN3181 and Honorary General Secretary of the Norfolk and  
Norwich Archaeological Society**

## Records Hit Four Million

**By NORS administrator Mike Dack**

I am pleased to announce a great start to 2018 for the society's Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) website.

Following additions during the first week of January, the total number of records for Norfolk individuals exceeded the 4,000,000 mark, yes - four million!

This means that during 2017 alone, society members were involved in transcribing records and recording memorial inscriptions for half a million individuals, all of which have been successfully added to the revised version of NORS, thereby enabling members worldwide to view them online – a great achievement indeed.

A full list plus a listing of recent additions can be seen under the 'News' - 'What's on NORS' menu of the website Thanks go to all volunteers past and present for making this possible. E-mail- [norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk)

## From the Registers

Trustee Margaret Murgatroyd unearthed another gem from the registers when she was concentrating on marriages in Diss: Margaret didn't believe the entry at first but double checked and found it to be true:

"Perhaps the bride and groom were unknown to the minister so he made up names for them," Margaret suggests: The entry is as follows

BOTH- LIVEBYLOVE

November 3rd 1571: W'm BOTH married Alice LIVEBYLOVE.

# Marriage and Obituary Notices Extracted From the Lynn Advertiser

*Now available on the NORS system*

SOURCES for the family historian are diverse and extracts of published listings of marriages and obituaries from the newspaper the Lynn Advertiser and West Norfolk Herald provide information and social background often not available anywhere else.

The first issue of this newspaper was printed by John THEW, on 15th February, 1841, at his premises on the corner of High Street and Saturday Market Place. It was issued free, relying on advertising to generate revenue but faithful to its readership and locality by allowing a higher percentage of column space to local news in comparison with coverage of national and foreign affairs. At the beginning, even though the actual process of printing was hand-operated and slow, the paper had a guaranteed fortnightly circulation figure of 1000 copies.

A year after the paper was launched; it was being printed weekly and selling for 2d. a copy. Alongside, John Thew still operated a general printing and book selling business. White's Directory for 1845 also lists John Thew as the agent for 'Scottish Union' Fire and Life Insurance (commonly extra commercial enterprises helped to finance and sustain provincial newspapers in the early days).

By 1848, the price had risen to 4d. and the newspaper was now issued on a Saturday. The end of the decade saw the use of smaller print and, in 1852, the paper was enlarged to the size of other Norfolk papers. In 1855 the Electric Telegraph Company opened an office in Church Street, King's Lynn, increasing the speed of relaying foreign and national news from London. In the same year, the tax on newspapers was abolished and the price of the 'Lynn Advertiser' fell to 3d.

John Thew died on 6th November 1856, his son, John Dyker Thew, taking over as editor and proprietor of the Lynn Advertiser. Following the repeal of a tax on paper in 1861 the publication reduced its price to 2d. and changed its name to the Lynn Advertiser and Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Herald.

New machinery introduced in 1864 enabled the paper to expand in size. In 1868 the Wisbech Constitutional Gazette was incorporated and five years later the columns were extended and number of pages increased to keep up with demand. By 1888, the paper boasted a circulation figure of 6500 with increased distribution and availability in public places. Between 1841 and 1883, eleven newspapers were produced in King's Lynn, the most successful of these being the Lynn Advertiser.

John Dyker Thew, JP, collapsed and died suddenly on 15th October, 1891, after 35 years of loyal service as editor. As well as being a magistrate, he had a long connection with the local council (serving as mayor on three occasions), was a prominent local figure, a Conservative and regular church goer. His son Frank Sherwood Thew took over as editor of the paper.

By the turn of the century the business was still operating from Nos. 1-4, High Street. In 1923 Thew and Son merged with the Lynn News Company and, in 1945, after 89 years of rivalry, the Lynn News and the Lynn Advertiser amalgamated to form the Lynn News and Advertiser.

The entries for marriages and obituaries contain much valuable genealogical information. Birth entries were few in number and gave very little information. In later years most brief forms of entry were free but births cost 2s.6d., a large sum of money and therefore often only available to the landed gentry, clergy and the most affluent classes.

Marriage entries include people concerned, date, place, and sometimes parents and occupations. Obituaries occasionally contain clues to date of birth or age, family relationships (which may reveal other surnames by marriage connected to the family), information on occupation, membership of church and social bodies.

A cautionary note, as with any research, spellings and place names are as published, e.g. not modern place names and street and place names etc are spelt without the use of capital letters. Some of the entries speak volumes in very few words. For example: "Deaths during the week [published 22nd February, 1851] of nine children, in the Union-house, Wisbech, between the ages of seven months and six years".

Many entries are concerned with social standing. The death of a wife may not give her forename, just the husband's. The entry for a bride may be all about her father. There are unusual additional items included such as: "We understand that on Monday last, the Rev. W. Leeper, curate of St. Nicholas' Chapel, baptized 30 children at that place of worship, and on Tuesday, 20 more, besides 12 the preceding week, making in all 62 within the last fortnight" [published 17th June, 1848].

***Credit for this information goes to Janice Simons who painstakingly extracted published listings for a selection of years during 1851 to 1900. The work is well indexed enabling a researcher to go back to an original newspaper.***

***Published privately, the aim of her work was to make available often neglected material to family and local historians and to those who lack access because of physical barriers, disability or distance. Her work has been transcribed enabling named entries to be added to NORS Miscellaneous Archives.***  
***Liz Mann***

# PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE BENTLEY FAMILY OF KING'S LYNN

THE society occasionally receives donations of photographs – everything from modern albums to bundles of loose photographs of varying age and quality.

In line with the society's policy of specialising in Norfolk family history we can only use photographs of people with a known Norfolk connection, though occasionally old photographs of buildings with a connection to particular families might be retained. For example a shop with a sign "A Tuck, Grocer" that arrived with photographs of the Tuck family would be kept. Otherwise pictures of Norfolk and Norwich are donated to Picture Norfolk.

The huge increase in the popularity of photography has resulted in such a mass of photos there is no possibility of our keeping modern albums or recent photos unless they are of exceptional interest. Unfortunately, most of the old photos are of no use to researchers as there are no names associated with them. Those with names attached or to which, with a bit of research, we can give names are scanned and added to the photo database which is kept at Kirby Hall and which we hope to add to the Miscellaneous Archive on NORS in the future. We have an arrangement with a local dealer in ephemera who takes unwanted photographs in exchange for useful documents to add to our library collection.

Recently we were sent a batch of loose photos which included a note from the donor that they came from his aunt whose mother was Gladys Anne BENTLEY of King's Lynn. This immediately identified one photo with her name on the back and this gave us several others in which she featured. Knowing her name, a bit of research on Ancestry and FindmyPast established her immediate family back to her great-grandfather and a few people of the next generation. A few photos had inscriptions on the back such as "Dad" and one or two photos were annotated with dates which also helped with identification.

Gladys Anne Bentley and two of her brothers were born in King's Lynn to Joseph William Bentley and Eliza nee MAYLE who moved to Norfolk from Burwell in Cambridgeshire with their two eldest children between 1889 and 1896. Joseph had started his working life as a labourer in a "manure factory", later described as a chemical works but in 1881 he was lodging in Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire, working as a railway wagon repairer and on his return to East Anglia he worked as a railway train examiner.

Two of his sons, George and Walter, became railway workers, starting as porters and rising to become signalmen. Sadly the second son died in Gallipoli in 1915. The family tree for these Bentleys and the associated photographs are now lodged in the Kirby Hall Library. Our thanks go to Keith Gregson for the donation.

**Margaret Murgatroyd. MN 10400**

# Ancestor Bookshelf

**Norfolk Coast in the Great War** by Stephen Browning - Pen and Sword Books. 224 pages, paperback, £12.99.

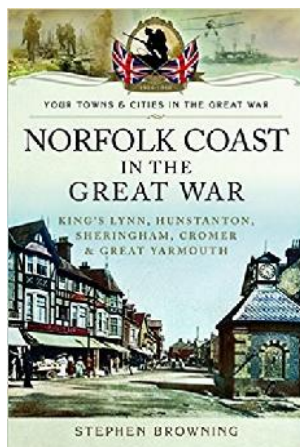
THIS book serves as a potted history of a number of important places along the Norfolk Coast of a century ago and beautifully evokes the times whilst highlighting the joys and sadnesses of the times.

These were uncertain times for some of the most picturesque of Norfolk's villages and towns and the essence of the time is captured in numerous black and white photographs.

Much of the material is taken from Norfolk newspapers and most of the first couple of chapters highlights Norwich on the eve of war before we gravitate more towards the coast. The main areas featured are King's Lynn, Hunstanton, Sheringham, Cromer and Great Yarmouth and there's an appendix with seven walks along the Norfolk Coast Path from Hunstanton to Cromer.

Overall the book beautifully evokes a time that seems so near but just out of our reach. It covers a massive amount of ground ranging from the affects of the war itself to life for those left behind and the problems they faced on a daily basis - often simply to survive.

**Peter Steward MN 14801**



## Family Trees with Liz Mann

Liz Mann (MN 12297) has taken over the collection of family trees and reports. The list published in the December Norfolk Ancestor has been added to Kirby Hall Library and also been scanned for inclusion on NORS.

There are two new receipts to report this quarter:-

BETTS - Norwich to Australia

BENTLEY - King's Lynn

Many thanks go to Pam Bridge who has looked after Kirby Hall family trees most carefully and precisely for many years.

"As a Kirby Hall volunteer of seven years, I have now taken over her job and will be pleased to receive any new contributions, both of family trees and unwanted birth, marriage and death certificates," Liz said.



# From Jamaica to Yaxham

***Elizabeth Mills joined the Norfolk Family History Society because her husband's family - the Mills' - originally came from Wretton/Wereham in Norfolk before they emigrated to Leeds!***

***Elizabeth was intrigued, however, by a member of her own family, Nesta Sewell (1879-1959) and here she writes about Nesta who was her great great aunt whom she met when she (Elizabeth) was a small girl.***

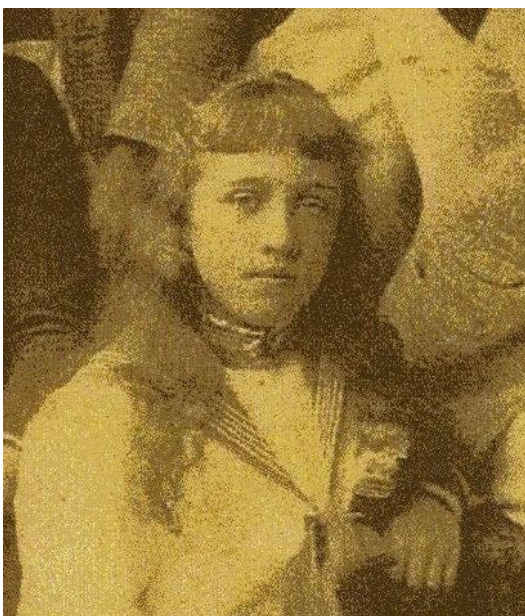
***"She was very kind to my grandmother, who had a very tough life, " Elizabeth said.***

***Nesta lived at Yaxham from the 1930s until she died and there is a plaque commemorating her life in Yaxham Church. Elizabeth takes up the story.***

Elizabeth Anesta (known to all as Nesta) SEWELL was the fifth of six children of Henry Sewell and his wife Maggie née CROWTHER of Jamaica.

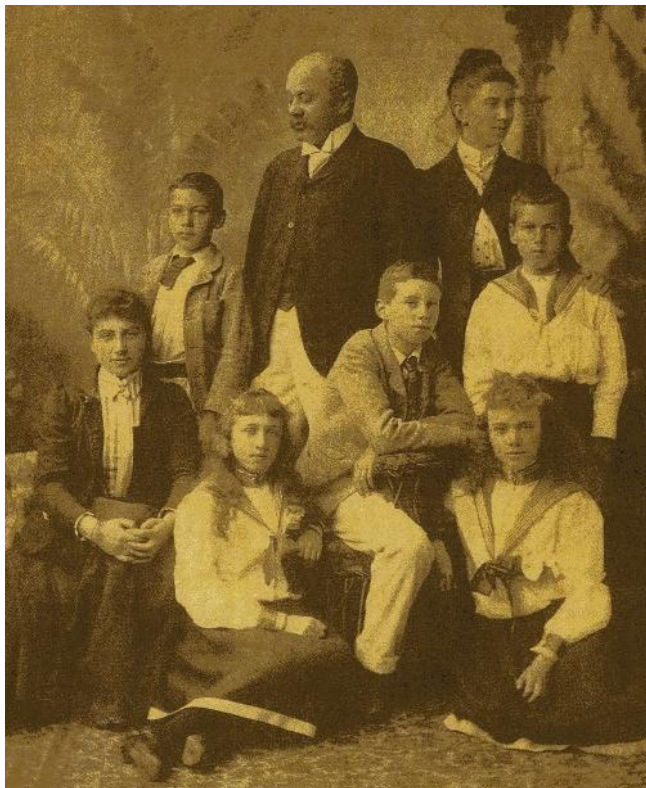
The Sewells were of mixed race, as her paternal grandmother, Mary, had been born a slave. In 1823, at the age of 22, her grandfather, William Sewell, from Cumberland, had taken work as an overseer on a sugar plantation in Jamaica. He did well and, at the time of the emancipation of the slaves, he had bought several sugar plantations at the bottom of the market and made a considerable fortune.

Later in life, knowing his son, Henry, to be a spendthrift, William had entailed his estate to a trust for the benefit of his grandchildren but, when his father died in 1872, Henry managed to work round this inconvenience and spent much of his children's inher-



itance! Nesta was born in Montgomeryshire on 1st September, 1879. A childhood divided between England and Jamaica, Nesta and her family travelled back and forth from the family sugar

estates to Cumberland, to Wales, and later Steephill Castle on the Isle of Wight, to avoid the worst of the summer heat in Jamaica. Nesta was briefly in love with - and planned to marry - Lord REDESDALE (the father of the famous MITFORD sisters). But because her father, Henry Sewell, was opposed to her marrying at all, he put his foot down. In 1892, Nesta's oldest sister, Alice (my great grandmother) had run off with a ship's purser, so elopement was also a possibility, but came to nothing. Alice had been cut off by their father without a penny, so that was probably quite a disincentive to Nesta.



In 1915, Nesta joined the VADs to do her bit for the War effort. Her youngest brother, Horace, became a Major General in the First World War, and he and his family kept the Jamaican estates going until the 1960s.

Nesta never married, and was fiercely independent. She wrote her memoirs, which were published last year by Eland "*A year in Jamaica: memoirs of a girl in Arcadia in 1889*" under the nom de plume Diana Lewes. It is likely that the memoirs were written a few years later, however, as they are clearly written by a more mature hand than that of a 10 year old. She visited Jamaica for the winter most years, and she was forever writing. After the death of her father in 1906, she and her mother

moved to London and lived for several years in Beauchamp Place. Her sister, Beatrice, who was her companion "Beattie" in her memoir, went on to marry Richmond Noble in 1907, and their grandson, Nicholas Noble, has carefully transcribed the manuscript, and lovingly brought the book to publication.

In 1932 Nesta bought The Croft at Yaxham where she lived with her long-term companion and friend, Miss Denys Maude, until her death on 16th July 1959.

She was a keen horsewoman, and enjoyed hunting until she was 70. She was a great supporter of the Anglican shrine at Walsingham. Her estate was

divided between various nieces and nephews, including my grandmother, Peggy Ellis née Oram (the ship's purser's daughter). Miss Maude paid

for the modern rood screen (by Faithcraft) in Yaxham Church to be erected in Nesta's memory.

*A Year in Jamaica: Memoirs of a Girl in Arcadia in 1889*, Diana Lewes, Eland Publishing Ltd, London, 2013. ISBN 978 1 906011 83 3 cover price £16.99

**Elizabeth Mills OBE MN10857 - [elizabethmills51@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethmills51@gmail.com)**

## FROM THE TRANSCRIPTS

Diss, May 5th, 1784 (attached to the record of the burial of a child).

"The smallpox broke out last March in so many places in this town as to induce the inhabitants to undertake a general inoculation. Upwards of eleven hundred were inoculated without loss of a single patient. And the above registered child was the only person who died of the small pox the natural way."

Romola Davenport, who gave a talk at the Norfolk Family History Society's AGM a few years ago about her work on smallpox and its spread writes that the earliest report of mass inoculation she has found is in Blandford in Dorset in 1753. Mass inoculation was pretty rare until the 1780s. Looking at the reports of the Overseers of the Poor and Vestry minutes might be informative as to how much the initiative cost was and who paid for it.

## Full Colour Experience

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

## 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 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.

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

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## New Members and Members Interests to January 12th, 2018

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



Welcome to the March 2018 issue of Norfolk Ancestor.

It's been another bright start to the new year with membership remaining steady. NORS is having new content added all the time, so please look out for this. Our Facebook page is also a big success.

Please note that inside this issue is your renewal reminder. It makes our life a lot easier if you renew online. Do this by logging in as a member in the top right corner of the website. Then go to the membership menu where you will find the renewal page. This is a safe site run by "sage pay."

If you are not sure whether you have a Banker's Order in place go to your magazine postal label. If there is a BO against your name then you have a Banker's Order, therefore there is no need for you to renew.

Finally this quarter a big welcome to Richard Ashberry who has become a trustee and our minutes' secretary.

### 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 12th January, 2018

The Society welcomes the following new members

16751	Mr	D. J.	Patterson	USA	16780	Mrs	A.	Powell	AU
16752	Mr	G. E.	Burrell	NZ	16781	Mrs	J.	Nourish	UK
16753	Mr	T.	Hills	UK	16782	Mrs	M	Marshall	UK
16754	Mr	S.	Daniels	UK	16783	Mrs	J.	Rockett	UK
16755	Mrs	M.	Murray	UK	16784	Mr	J.	Quinton	UK
16756	Mrs	B.	Chapman	UK	16785	Ms.	L.	Blum	USA
16757	Mrs	S.	London	UK	16786	Mrs	V.	Short	UK
16758	Mr	L.	Chandra	AU	16787	Mrs	C.	Ranns	UK
16759	Ms	T.	Jarvis	USA	16788	Dr	P.	Turtle	UK
16760	Mrs	J. P.	Weatherstone	UK	16789	Mrs	R.	Gujral	USA
16760	Mr	M. R	Weatherstone	UK	16790	Mrs	J.	Whitfield	UK
16761	Mr	S.	Coates	UK	16791	Mrs	R.	Collinson	UK
16762	Mrs	S. J.	Macfarlane	UK	16792	Mrs	S.	Newton	UK
16762	Mr	H	Drivers	UK	16793	Mrs	P. A.	Mellor	UK
16763	Mrs	H.	Mason	UK	16794	Mrs	C.	Pincott-Allen	UK
16764	Mrs	E	Everett-Klimas	AU	16795	Mrs	C.	Pugh	NZ
16765	Mr	I.	Cornwell	UK	16796	Mrs	J.	Holborow	AU
16766	Mr	K.	Jeckells	UK	16797	Mrs	P.	Smith	AU
16767	Mr	R.	Matthews	UK	16798	Mrs	A.	Hays	UK
16768	Mr	R.	Bradshaw	AU	16799	Mr	P.	Lovett	UK
16769	Mr	R. K.	Balderstone	UK	16800	Mr.	J.	Clark	CA
16770	Mrs	S.	Williams	UK	16801	Mr	I.	Dow	UK
16771	Miss	K.	Olley	UK	16802	Mrs	L.	Bell	UK
16771	Mrs	B.	Olley	UK	16803	Mrs	L. A.	Barrett	UK
16772	Mr	E.	Brumby	UK	16804	Ms.	B.	Wilkinson	USA
16773	Ms	D.	Havey	CA	16805	Mrs	J.	Taylor	UK
16774	Mr	N.	Boughton	UK	16806	Mr	A.	Oliphant	UK
16775	Mrs	S.	Wilson	UK	16807	Mr	K.	Woodard	UK
16776	Mrs	E.	Dawson	UK	16808	Mr	K.	Boxall	UK
16777	Mr	P.	Pooley	UK	16809	Mrs	P.	Carter	UK
16778	Mrs	M.	Bevan	NZ	16810	Ms	E. L.	Lombardo	USA
16779	Ms	S.	Kent	UK	16811	Mrs	D.	Wilcox	USA



16812	Miss	L. R.	Levine	UK
16813	Dr	V.	Russell	AU
16814	Mr	M.	Taylor	UK
16815	Ms	M.	Smith	USA
16816	Mr	R. H.	Palmer	UK
16816	Mrs	C. A	Palmer	UK
16817	Mrs.	S. J.	Mulvey	USA
16818	Mrs	V.	Cheek	UK
16819	Mr	P.	Laskey	UK
16820	Mrs	D.	Long	UK
16821	Mr	G.	Layen	UK
16822	Mr	B.	Hargrave	UK
16823	Mr	L.	Custead	CA
16824	Mrs	A.	Needham	UK
16825	Mr.	K.	Lane	UK
16826	Ms	M.	Prior	UK
16827	Mr	K.	Allbee	USA
16828	Mr	P.	Gerald	UK
16829	Mrs	A.	Arnold	UK
16830	Mrs	A.	Hall	UK
16831	Mr	G.	Smith	AU
16832	Mr	C.	Bacon	UK
16833	Mr	D.	Young	UK
16834	Mr	P. J. .	Mileham	UK
16835	Ms	H.	Farrar	UK
16836	Mr	K.	Lake	UK
16837	Miss	M.	Driver	UK
16838	Mr	R.	Balls	UK

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

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

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

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

16839	Mr	R. A.	Claxton	UK
16840	Mr	S.	Yeoman	UK
16841	Mr	K.	Daniels	UK
16842	Mr	R.	Ede	UK
16843	Mrs	S.	Bowles	UK
16844	Mr	J.	Turner	UK
16845	Mr	J.	Fiorentino	USA
16846	Mrs	C.	Poett	USA
16847	St Louis County Library			USA
16848	Ms	A.	Korab	USA
16849	Mrs.	K.	Lohrding	USA
16850	Ms	J.	Parker	SL
16851	Ms	R.	Thompson	NZ
16852	Mr.	D.	Leigh	UK

## Members Interests to 9th January 2018

16576 ABBY	ALL	18C	NFK
16843 BARNES	ALL	18C-19C	NFK
540 BARTELL	ALL	ALL	NFK
16749 BAXTER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16843 BELL	ALL	18C-20C	NFK
16749 BENNETT	ALL	ALL	NFK
16543 BETTS	ALL	15C-20C	NFK
790 BOGGIS	ALL	ALL	NFK
16660 BRADSTREET	ALL	ALL	NFK
16767 BRIDGES	ALL	ALL	NFK
13794 BUSSEY	NC	ALL	NFK
16048 BUTLER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16543 BYLES	ALL	15C-20C	NFK
16841 CANN	ALL	ALL	NFK
16843 CANNELL	ALL	17C-18C	NFK
16048 CARNELL	ALL	ALL	NFK
10802 CASTON	ALL	ALL	NFK
16642 CATTERMOLLE	ALL	ALL	NFK
13794 CHILD	NC	ALL	NFK

790 CHURCH	ALL	ALL	NFK
790 CLAXTON	ALL	ALL	NFK
16841 COCKER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16775 COSSEY	ALL	ALL	NFK
7024 CRYER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16576 DADE	ALL	15C-19C	NFK
16576 DADE	ALL	15C-19C	SFK
16671 DADE	ALL	15C-18C	NFK
16841 DANIELS	ALL	ALL	NFK
13794 DAVEY	NC	ALL	NFK
16576 DEED	ALL	18C	ESS
16576 DEED	ALL	18C	SFK
16576 DEED	ALL	17C-18C	NFK
406 DEW	ALL	ALL	ALL
10926 ELY	ALL	ALL	NFK
16828 FAKES	ALL	15C-19C	NFK
16828 FEAKES	ALL	15C-19C	NFK
16767 FISK	ALL	ALL	NFK
16749 FOREMAN	ALL	ALL	NFK

406 FREEMAN	ALL	ALL	ALL	15801 PERFECT	ALL	ALL	NFK
16361 FREESTONE	ALL	ALL	NFK	13794 PHILLIPPO	NC	ALL	NFK
16842 GARRETT	ALL	ALL	NFK	14578 POTTER	SW	ALL	NFK
16822 GODBOLT	ALL	ALL	NFK	14578 POTTER	NC	ALL	NFK
16796 GOOCH	ALL	ALL	NFK	14578 POTTER	SE	ALL	NFK
16842 GRAND	ALL	17C-20C	NFK	13794 REEVE	NC	ALL	NFK
16796 HANNANT	ALL	ALL	NFK	790 RINGSTEAD	ALL	ALL	NFK
16843 HARRISON	ALL	18C	NFK	16782 ROPER	NE	ALL	NFK
16822 HAWES	ALL	ALL	NFK	790 RYE	ALL	ALL	NFK
16796 HENNANT	ALL	ALL	NFK	16361 SAYER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16048 JAMES	ALL	ALL	NFK	16442 SEAL	ALL	ALL	NFK
16817 JEGGLES	YM	ALL	NFK	16442 SEAL	ALL	ALL	NFK
790 KEMP	ALL	ALL	NFK	16251 SEELY	ALL	ALL	NFK
16654 LACCOHEE	ALL	ALL	NFK	13794 SELF	NC	ALL	NFK
16746 LEEDS	ALL	ALL	NFK	16576 SMITH	ALL	18C-19C	NFK
16743 MANTRIPP	ALL	ALL	ALL	13794 SPARROW	NC	ALL	NFK
16749 MARR	ALL	ALL	NFK	16749 SPICER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16654 MINNS	ALL	ALL	NFK	13792 STANDLEY	ALL	ALL	NFK
16749 MITCHELL	ALL	ALL	NFK	16048 SUTTERBY	ALL	ALL	NFK
16843 MOORE	ALL	18C	NFK	13794 TANN	NC	16C-19C	NFK
16755 MURRAY	ALL	ALL	NFK	16543 TAYLOR	ALL	ALL	NFK
15646 ORMESBY	ALL	ALL	NFK	16048 TURPIT	ALL	ALL	NFK
15801 PARFITT	ALL	ALL	NFK	16048 WATERFIELD	ALL	ALL	NFK
15801 PARFOOT	ALL	ALL	NFK	16843 WOODS	ALL	17C-20C	NFK

## Happy Hunting

We wish all our members happy hunting with their genealogy. Don't forget we now have a very active Facebook presence where members have met with considerable success in not only tracing ancestors but in swapping family stories and historical information.

We currently have well over 1,500 active subscribers and it's all free.

Just log into the address below and request membership and we will do the rest. All posts are checked before publication to ensure they are genealogy/family research related.

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



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Overseas E Ancestor	£12	£18	£90	£135	£200	£300
Overseas Airmail	£15	£21	£115	£170	£250	£375

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Surname(s) ..... Title.....

Forenames .....

Address .....

.....

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Title.....Forename(s).....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

I want the Norfolk Family History Society to treat all the subscriptions and donations I have made in the last four years, and all subscriptions and donations I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid Donations, until I notify you otherwise.

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- If your circumstances change in the future and you no longer pay sufficient tax on income and/or capital gains equal to the tax the charity reclaims, you must inform the society in writing.
- If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief in your self-assessment tax return.
- If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask us or refer to help sheet IR65 on the HMRC website ([www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)).
- Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.
- The paperwork for the claim is undertaken by the society.

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# MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

**THE society made a number of changes a year ago to its overseas' membership categories. Rising postage costs forced us into making modest increases for those members wishing to continue to receive the Norfolk Ancestor magazine through the post.**

**At the same time we introduced a new category for overseas' members happy to receive their Ancestor magazine via the web site in an electronic format.**

**UK membership costs remained the same. All members will have access to the members' only section of the web site. A full list of overseas' membership categories and costs is as follows:**

Overseas Single E-Ancestor	£12
Overseas Joint E-Ancestor	£18
Overseas Single - Ancestor By Post	£15
Overseas Joint - Ancestor By Post	£21
Overseas Single 10 Year E-Ancestor Due fo Renewal 01/04/2028	£90
Overseas Joint 10 Year E-Ancestor Due for Renewal 01/04/2028	£135
Overseas Single 10 Year Ancestor by post. Due for renew 01/04/28	£115
Overseas Joint 10 Year Ancestor by post. Due for renew 01/04/28	£170
Overseas Single Life Ancestor by post	£250
Overseas Joint Life Ancestor by post	£375
Overseas Single Life E-Ancestor	£200
Overseas Joint Life E-Ancestor	£300

For those wishing to set up a new Bankers Order, please download the form from our website at:-

[http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk/files/pdfs/NFHS\\_Bankers\\_Order\\_Issue\\_12.7.pdf](http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk/files/pdfs/NFHS_Bankers_Order_Issue_12.7.pdf)

# Rob's Round Up with Robert Parker

**1910 Lloyd George Domesday Survey** (1st set of records) added to The Genealogist

**Actors?** The British Newspaper Archive has the theatrical newspaper The Stage (1880-2007)

**Berkshire** Electoral Registers (1840-1965) added to Ancestry

**BMD** 10k Marriage licences 1446-1837 on Findmypast covers English counties including London and Suffolk

**BMD** (well B&D) The General Register Office (GRO) has extended its PDF pilot (£6 each instead of £9.25) births (1837 – 1916) and deaths (1837 - 1957)

**Denmark** Censuses, 1835 to 1855 added to FamilySearch

**Furniture**, a free, fully searchable British and Irish Furniture Makers Online (BIFMO) database is live at: <https://bifmo.data.history.ac.uk>. Includes the 1000 page Dictionary of English Furniture Makers 1660-1840

**Homes**; an extensive collection of digitised property deeds and associated documents dating back to the 1660s online at [www.ancestorhomes.com](http://www.ancestorhomes.com)

**Lancashire** Wills and probate 1457-1858, 229,000 records on Findmypast

**Leicestershire** Baptism (54000), marriage (22000) and burials (39000) added to Findmypast

**Lincolnshire** Post 1837 marriage index, to 1911 from parish registers <http://mi.lincolnshiremarriages.org.uk>

**Lancashire** wills and probate records (229,000 on Findmypast) Amounderness, Copeland, Furness, Kendal, and Lonsdale deaneries are covered

**Newspapers**, 12 million pages from Trinity Mirror to be digitised over the next two years on the British Newspaper Archive

**Newspapers** added to British Newspaper Archive include Worthing Herald, Loughborough Monitor, Darlington and Stockton Times, Ripon and Richmond Chronicle, Hants and Berks Gazette, Middlesex and Surrey Journal, Cardigan and Tivy-side Advertiser, Denbighshire Free Press, Rhyl Journal, Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette

**NSW, Australia** nurses index 9000 on [records.nsw.gov.au](http://records.nsw.gov.au)

**Portsmouth**, One million plus records online with Findmypast 1538-1917 (baptism, marriage, burials) in conjunction with Portsmouth History Centre

**Scotland** Kirkcaldy, Fife, Poor Law Records (1888-1912), Electoral Registers (1914-1966) and Criminal Registers (1910-1931) added to Ancestry

**ScotlandsPeople** have added 2.7 million plus new valuation entries for 1935

**Society of Genealogists** took delivery of 57,000 microfilms previously held at the London Family History Centre

**St Ives**, Cambs Surname index of St Ives from newspaper cuttings and Union workhouse 1841-1911. <http://stives100yearsago.blogspot.co.uk>

**Suffolk** Parish Records (1538-1850) added to Ancestry

**Surrey** Lay Subsidies (1524-1645) and Surrey Court Cases (1391-1835) added to Findmypast

**Wills** under probate (England and Wales) 1858-1925 (see Society of Genealogists)

**Worcestershire** and **Warwickshire** Parish Records, 140,000 individuals added to TheGenealogist

**Yorkshire** Burials added to Findmypast

Recommended twitter account to follow @SecretLives2018 : Secret Lives - Hidden Voices of Our Ancestors Genealogy Conference 2018

Robs Round Up is brought to you by Robert Parker, [www.myfamilygenealogy.co.uk](http://www.myfamilygenealogy.co.uk).

### Diary Date in Buckinghamshire

If you are reading this and have ancestors in Buckinghamshire you will be interested in a coming event in that county. Buckinghamshire Family History Society are holding an open day on Saturday 28th July from 10 am to 4 pm at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

Research facilities include a names database with over five million entries, parish registers, people and places libraries. Parish register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. Expert advice; guest societies from around the country; local history and heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software and archival materials will be available along with much more.

Admission is free, with free parking at the venue. There will also be a refreshments area for teas, coffees and snacks and mobile catering offering burgers hot dogs etc.

Further information, including a full list of organisations attending, can be found at [www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

# Editor's Corner

I HAVE always had what might be called an obsession with maths and figures. But apparently I'm not alone in the anorak stakes. I have heard of others who, like me, count steps when we are out walking or estimate how many steps it will take to get to the next lamppost, allowing for a 10% margin of error.

One of my favourite composers, Anton Bruckner, suffered from numeromania, more commonly known now as obsessive compulsive disorder, which saw him obsessed by numbers. Mind you Bruckner was obsessed by a number of other things as well.

Numbers can be absolutely mind-numbing or should that be mind-numbering. According to the best estimates of astronomers there are at least 100 billion galaxies in the observable universe. Each galaxy could contain 100 thousand million stars. All this is difficult to comprehend but what does it have to do with family history? Let me explain. A few weeks ago I traced my 10x great grandfather and let out a whoop of joy. But then my own numeromania kicked in as I realised that this man wasn't in isolation as my 10x great grandfather. In fact he had more than 4000 equals.

So let's start with the obvious. We have two parents and four grandparents, eight great grandparents and 16 great great grandparents. Most of these are fairly easy to trace, but then things begin to hot up as you realise that every generation doubles the number of direct ancestors and it all becomes a little frightening.

Just take a look at the table below and you will begin to get an idea of the enormity of the task facing genealogy researchers who see themselves as completists, wanting to list all direct ancestors.

My 10x great grandfather I celebrated finding has another 4,095 stable mates or to put it another way he is just one of 2,048 10x grandfathers that I have.

Over the page you will see a extension of this table which makes things even more frightening. By the time we go back to our 18x great grandparents we have over one million - that's over 500,000 18x great

2x great grandparents	32
3x great grandparents	64
4x great grandparents	128
5x great grandparents	256
6x great grandparents	512
7x great grandparents	1024
8x great grandparents	2048
9x great grandparents	4096

grandfathers and the same number of great grandmothers. I won't bother you with any more figures except to say that by the 20x great grandparents' mark you have over eight million and go back another 10 generations and it is over eight billion and then each generation you go back from there adds billions and billions more.

So let's take this a step further by putting a rough timescale on a generation of 30 years. I was born in 1952 so 10 generations back would take us to around the middle of the 17th century (relatively modern in genealogy terms). Twenty generations back

would take us back to the 14th century. Thirty generations would take us back to the time of William the Conqueror. But using our method of calculations that would mean we would be related to more people than actually existed in the world at that time.

The reasons this couldn't be true are obvious but there is a rather complex explanation which involves inter-breeding and a variety of other factors. It does illustrate the point, however, that if you go back far enough you will prove that we are just one big family and ultimately we are related to everyone that has ever lived in the entire world.

## Jack Valentine

We love hearing from members with their reminiscences and this quarter I would like to appeal for anyone anywhere in the world who still observes the custom of Jack Valentine on February 14th. As a child living in Hellesdon, just outside Norwich, I keenly remember somebody knocking on our door and my parents telling me to see who it was. On opening the door there was no sign of anybody but on the doorstep was a wrapped parcel. This continued on a number of occasions through the evening and I remember receiving books, fruit, sweets and even a magic set.

And it's all down to Jack Valentine - apparently a quirky and rather strange Norfolk tradition that I don't think is observed in other parts of the country, but of course I may be wrong. Jack Valentine is also known as Old Father Valentine or even Old Mother Valentine who disappears into thin air after knocking at the door and dropping off gifts

Over the past couple of years I have revived this tradition with my own grandchildren. Is there anyone else reading this who still observes this rather quirky custom? If so I would love to hear from you.

10x great grandparents	8,192
11x great grandparents	16,384
12x great grandparents	32,768
13x great grandparents	65,536
14x great grandparents	131,072
15x great grandparents	262,144
16x great grandparents	524,288
17x great grandparents	1,048,576



# 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.**

## Calling Amateur Sleuths

Dear readers and amateur sleuths. Your opinion and/or help is requested, so that I can move on. Here is what I know for sure of my great great grandmother.

Sarah STEWARD married Thomas Bell REYNOLDS on 28th January, 1811, in Hainford, Norfolk. Sarah was 'of Hainford' and Thomas 'of Skeyton'. Thomas was buried in Skeyton Churchyard on 20th December, 1827, aged 54. He was a farmer, as was his father Joseph.

The gravestone reads: "In memory of Thomas Bell Reynolds, also 11 of his children who died in infancy".



[NOTE:- The gravestone is illegible but in the church is a file with a record and map of all graves.

As a widow Sarah Steward married Robert Francis MARGETSON on 30th August, 1829, in St. George's Colegate, Norwich. Sarah Steward was buried in Skeyton Churchyard on 11th April, 1839, next to the grave of her first husband. The memorial inscription, which is extremely clear for a stone dated 1839, reads:

"Sarah the wife of Robert Margetson and relict of the late Thomas Bell Reynolds, who died April 5th 1839 aged 48 years." This means a birth of 1790/91.

Norfolk archives; 1811 NCC fiche No. 6 of 14. "Bondsman Charles Wortley. On 26th January, 1811, on which day appeared personally Thomas Reynolds of the parish of Skeyton in the county of Norfolk in which said Parish he hath had his usual abode for the space of 4 weeks last past, and made oath that he is of the age of 21 years and upwards and a bachelor and intends to marry with Sarah Steward of the Parish of Hainford in the county of Norfolk in which said parish she had had her usual abode for the space of 4 weeks last past, aged 21 years and upwards, and a spinster."

In January 1811 this would equate with a birth in 1789/90.

Robert Francis Margetson was born 23rd January, 1805 in North Walsham, meaning a number of years younger than Sarah. In the 1839 'Tithe Apportionment' he is shown as farming at the Tee Farm, Trunch. BUT Sarah is in the records as owner of the Tee Farm: House, Barn, Buildings and Yards plus arable lands.

1...1827 Land tax assessments for Trunch show land owned by a Joseph Reynolds and Thos Reynolds.....from 1829+ as Reynolds Executors.

2...So, we know that Sarah had therefore inherited the farm from her deceased first husband Thos. Bell Reynolds.

3...Advert in the Norfolk Chronicle in 1840 DESIRABLE SMALL FARM AT KNAPTON and TRUNCH. Robert and stepson Joseph Reynolds still at TEE Farm in 1841.

The only record of a Sarah Steward in the area for that period is in the parish records of Hainford where she married.

But the baptism for Sarah Steward, daughter of William Steward and Sarah [late SARLES] is on 13th December, 1795.

This is five years adrift of the other dates.

The question therefore is:

Can I claim William Steward and Sarah Scarles as my 3x great grandparents?

**Brian Margetson MN 5434 [brian.margetson@gmail.com](mailto:brian.margetson@gmail.com)**

## **Photographic Offer**

I have unearthed a photo album of small black and white photos, probably bought at auction some years ago and would like to offer it free to any interested member.

There is possibly Norfolk interest as several photos of gravestones are included. One which is legible reads "in memory of the Rev. John Alfred Lawrence for 57 years vicar of Dilham with Honing, born 13 July 1836, died 12 August 1928."

Another reads "In loving memory of William Knox Ormesby M.A. for 40 years vicar of this parish (not identified) born 11 February 1854 died 30 December 1933. Yet another reads in memory of "Ernest James, died at xxxx, serving in Grenadier guards, Sept 30 19xx aged 22" and of "Percy James, died in Australia, April 30 1919, aged 27 years".

Finally another reads "in loving memory of John Turner Smith, the beloved husband of Hannah Smith, November 18 1909, aged 51 years (and) Hannah wife who, died December 16 1924, aged 67 years." Homes, dogs, horses and even people also feature, along with several churches, but nothing more which helps me to identify a family connection. I would happily deliver the album to Kirby Hall for another member to collect.

**Chris Southgate, MN 15765. email: [chrissouthgate@btopenworld.com](mailto:chrissouthgate@btopenworld.com)**

**If you are interested in the album please contact Chris directly.**

# Mystery Man

The photograph opposite was included in a batch donated to the society.

This man appears in several of the photos but is not identified.

Do you recognise him? We know that he is related to the Bentley family of King's Lynn. If you can identify him please contact [margaret@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:margaret@nfhs.co.uk).

## Merton's George

I was interested to read the article by Ray Dunnett on Rev George CRABBE, Rector of Merton. I, along with local historians in Merton, have done a considerable amount of research on Rev George over the years and can answer some of Ray's questions, in particular the puzzle about Merton Rectory.

Merton Rectory was built at the time that George came to Merton as rector. He arrived before it was completed in 1851, living in another property in Merton until it was ready, thus becoming the first resident. There had been an earlier parsonage building at another location which seems to have been demolished earlier and a temporary house used in the village.

The building of the new rectory had some issues. The land chosen is actually in Thompson parish and there had to be an exchange of glebe land to facilitate this. This was because some of the materials used came from a former shooting box in Thompson which in turn probably came from the ancient college building. A deed stated they must not leave Thompson parish so land had to be found near enough to access Merton Church but within Thompson and this resulted in exchange of Glebe land. The house is no longer a rectory and is a private dwell-



ing but still exists in a slightly out of the way spot and is now known as Sil-verdell.

I have photos of the Rectory at about the time of Crabbe's residence and he kept a journal of life in Merton which we have copied. The journal is not a daily diary but was kept throughout his life almost until his death. There are some very interesting items within it and within some of our parish registers such that we local historians in Thompson and Merton now refer to them as having been Crabbed. An avid local historian and antiquarian who was much respected by antiquarians of his day, he would append notes in margins or tip in spare scraps of paper to such books and documents to add to the information. Sacrilege by today's standards but very useful to us.

The post at Merton came about because George had become curate to the Hon and Rev Frederick de GREY at Copdock. Frederick was brother to Thomas de Grey 5th Baron Walsingham at Merton. In order to marry, George needed a better position and had been a clergyman long enough to be offered the vacancy at Merton which came about due to a scandal with the previous incumbent. The Merton estates had owned a lot of land around Copdock which had been exchanged with a landowner in the Merton area to consolidate both estates. The fifth baron was very much at the forefront of modern agricultural techniques and was making a success of the estate's fortunes.

George Crabbe was an interesting character with many facets to his personality. He seems to have been generous and caring with the interests of his parish at heart, with a good sense of humour, but also at times quite autocratic. He was very proud of his grandfather the poet and also of his friendship, continued from his father's friendship, with poet Edward FITZGERALD who died while on a visit to George at the rectory. He was possibly a bit of a snob in a mild way. He very much enjoyed the sixth Baron Walsingham's friendship with the Prince of Wales (Edward VII) and dined at Merton Hall with him. He wrote many articles and papers including a book on Thompson which was completed and published posthumously by his historian friends under the leadership of Augustus JESSOPP. He also catalogued the many documents and papers in the muniments room at Merton Hall, his cataloguing still forming the basis of the collection now in the Norfolk Records' Office.

The reason you can't find him in the 1881 census is probably because George had experienced health problems from about 1866 when he began to experience lung disease. It became increasingly necessary to escape the harsh Norfolk winters, sometimes the south coast but also to the continent, leaving a curate in charge. The exceptionally hard winter of 1881 saw him escaping to the Riviera so it is possible he had not returned by the time of the census.

This is but a potted version and we have sufficient material to one day meet our aim of publishing an autobiography and his journal, which belongs to Merton parish.

**Bronwen Tyler MN 8496**

# The House Called Menuka

IN the December edition of the Norfolk Ancestor we published an article on Elsie TILNEY and her remarkable work in saving Jews in World War Two.

Since publication I have received further information from Rosamunde Codling, the archivist at the Surrey Chapel. They now believe that they have discovered the location of the oddly named house 'Menuka' which is mentioned in the article.

They believe that the house was once owned by a Miss Hilda Marion RICHES and it is listed in Kelly's Directory for Norwich from 1935 to 1941 as being inhabited by the Riches family. Hilda and Elsie were roughly the same age and were friends who both attended the Surrey Street Chapel.

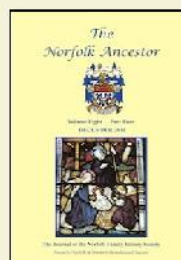
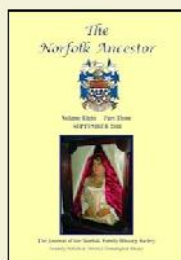
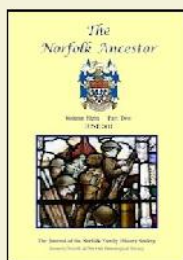
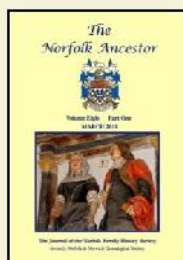
The Tilney family lived in a small terraced house in Linley Street so it would be logical to assume that Elsie would have stayed with Hilda when she returned from her work in North Africa.

It is thought that Menuka was Number 7, Bluebell Road, but it was demolished along with Number 5 to enable the building of the Cringleford bypass in 1975. The Chapel does have one postcard dating from 1910 which might show 'Menuka' but we would love to find more pictures of the road before the bypass was built.

Sadly, Pastor Tom Chapman from the chapel passed away in September and I have sent the Norfolk Family History Society's deepest sympathies to Tom's family, Rosamunde and the rest of the congregation.

**Roger Morgan MN16248**

## Scanned Ancestor Copies



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

# Group News

**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

### Programme 2018

**Below is the programme for the remainder of the year for the South Norfolk Group which meets in Diss Methodist Church.**

**13th March** - "Harriet Martineau - The little deaf woman from Norwich" with Georgette Vale

**10th April** - "A Tale of two soldiers" with Steve Smith

**8th May** - "Diss in Time – Clockmakers of a Norfolk Town 1700/1900" with Philip Clarke

**12th June** - Another Diss Murder with Nick Woods

**10th July** - "Bedrooms, Banquets and Balls" with John Vigar

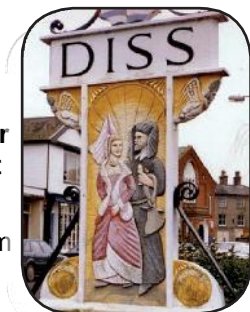
**14th August** - TBA Simon Pawley

**11th September** - "Lawson lies still in the Thames" with Gill Blanchard

**9th October** - "Escaping Hitler" with Phyllida Scrivens

**13th November** - TBA

**11th December** - "A Christmas Carol" with Mike Wabe



## LONDON BRANCH

### 2018 London Branch dates

**Saturday 10th March** - The March Meeting will be a Members' Day. Come along and talk to the group about your own research or a topic of interest, or bring queries and problems to share with fellow NFHS members. The meeting will take place at the Society of Genealogists from 2-4 pm.

**Saturday 20th October** - At the Society of Genealogists from 2-4 pm. We welcome back Gill Blanchard of PastSearch who will give a talk on "Tracing a House History". Further details to follow.



# Remembering Bombing Raids

**Our recent articles by Roy Scott on the bombing of Norwich during the Second World War sent one Norfolk Family History Society member scurrying to his book collection to unearth a Norwich City Official Guide for 1936. Roger Kendall takes up the story.**

I was prompted to dig the guide out by Roy Scott's article in the recent "Norfolk Ancestor" which brought back many memories of the war years when I lived as a child on Middleton's Lane in Upper Hellesdon from where at my bedroom window I had an uninterrupted view towards the city during the bombing raids.

After one of the firebomb raids I can remember seeing the city on fire from side to side and hearing my father saying that he wondered if he would have a job to go to the next day? Miraculously the factory where he worked as chief accountant was the only part of Caley's chocolate factory to survive the raid. The factory, at the side of Chapel Field Gardens had been commandeered and converted to the manufacture of field telephone equipment, especially large alkaline batteries.

The factory was run by Siemens Telephones. I was told that the premises also had a "secret" radio station hidden within but I never saw that!

Following the firebomb raids, some giant pumps were installed near Duke Street Bridge to feed a network of steel pipes laid, mainly overground, to provide water from the river for the firefighters. When Currys department store was burned to the ground in one of those raids, the basement was turned into a giant water storage tank for a similar purpose.

Roy Scott's article mentioned the Liberator from St Faith's airfield which crashed in Spynke Road - I know of at least two other crashes, the latest one of which occurred shortly after D-Day when fuel was being ferried to the troops in Northern France from the St. Faith's airfield. I was feeding our chickens at the time and heard a Liberator labouring up from the airfield in the afternoon and turned to watch only to see it stall as it was above Hastings Avenue and fall onto the houses, erupting in a giant ball of fire. It is something you never forget. I seem to remember that again miraculously only one civilian died as a result of the accident.

The other crashed Liberator which I recall fell near to the junction of Pinewood Close and Reepham Road as it was returning from a raid.

Some of the American airmen were keen to acquire skills while they were "over here" and my mother, who taught the piano, had two young American pupils soon after the US Air Force came to St. Faith's. Strangely I can still remember their names - Joe WISSNER from Brooklyn and Vincenzo INCANTALOUPO, also from New York. Towards the end of the war, when German raids had



ceased, the local children, including myself, were entertained to a Thanksgiving dinner at the airfield courtesy of those two pupils. I believe both survived the war though there were many who did not. Early in the war period I remember going to see a Dornier bomber which had been shot down but which was relatively undamaged and had been put on display. I think it was in Eaton Park but it was a very long time ago.

**Roger Kendall MN 7200**

**Editor's Note:** - Roger's article was of particular interest to me as I was born in Reepham Road, Hellesdon, and lived there between 1952 and 1964 and subsequently in Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon, between 1964 and 1970. I would love to hear from anyone else who heard or saw the bombing raids.

# Press Family of Great Yarmouth

***By Linda Smith (nee Press)***

Frederick Edmund PRESS was born in Great Yarmouth in 1861, the son of Benjamin MANNING and Mary Ann Press (nee SEWELL). Benjamin was a master mariner and captain of the "Skimmer of the Seas." He died at the age of 51 from consumption. By 1881 Fred had left Norfolk and was living in St Pancras, London and working as a draper's assistant..

The 1891 census shows he worked for Crisp and Co Ltd Drapery Furnishing and General Stores. He married on 4th May, 1891, at St. Peter's Church, St Alban's to Lillie Ada EVANS. A son, Reginald Gurney Roland Press was born in 1896. Fred's mother died in 1898 leaving him two of her 13 houses - 14 and 15 Lancaster Road, Great Yarmouth.

The family moved to Carshalton, Surrey, where Fred had acquired a tobacconist's shop in North Street. A daughter Rosa Elizabeth was born in 1900. The venture could not have lasted long as about 1902 they had moved to Luton in Bedfordshire. Fred appeared in court giving his address as 76, Collingdon Street and was summoned for acting as a pedlar without a certificate on June 3rd, 1904.

Detective ATTWOOD said in consequence of complaints he kept observation and found the prisoner in Hastings Street hawking stockings. The defendant said he was hawking as an experiment and would take a certificate if the business paid. Inspector CHAMBERLAIN said that the Tradesmen's Association was complaining of such men as the prisoner, who sent out bogus bills announcing clearance sales. The bill complained of was similar to one found on the defendant. The accused said he only did it as an experiment. He wanted to see how it would go before he took out the licence. He was fined 10 shillings with six shillings costs or seven days in prison. Another son, Frank Percy, was

born in 1904. Shortly after all this, Fred and Lillie parted company. The 1911 census shows Lillie living with William and Florence SAYER (her aunt) and working as a milliner making straw hats. Fred is living in Kingston-Upon-Thames as a lodger at a place where his eldest brother Benjamin lived and is working as a draper's assistant.

Their eldest son Reginald first appeared in court in 1914 for riding a bicycle without a lamp. He pleaded not guilty as he was riding behind another fellow with a light. He received a fine of 5s and 7s 6d costs. A much more serious crime was committed the same year and he was remanded in custody when he threatened to shoot his mother with a pistol when she had accused him of taking some money.

Lillie stated in court that during the week his papers had arrived for him to join the Royal Flying Corps and the magistrates bound the boy over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace. How did he have a gun? Reginald's military papers show he enlisted on 9th November, 1914, name entered as Reginald Roland Gurney Press and gives his next of kin as mother Lilian Ada Press of 18 Regent Street, Luton. There is no mention of his father. His date of birth is given as 1895 instead of 1896 and his trade is electrician mechanic draughtsman. This was highly dubious considering his mental state. The 1911 census lists Reginald as an office boy at home.

On 20th November, 1914, Reginald Press was back in Luton Magistrates Court, charged with being an absentee from the Royal Flying Corps stationed at Aldershot. Sgt Duncombe stated that Press came into the police station and could not explain what he was doing there. He could not produce any leave form. The defendant then admitted he had run away. He had been seen in a very drunken condition and was a disgrace to the uniform he was wearing. He was remanded in custody to await an escort. On 17th November, 1914, he was given 28 days' detention by the commanding officer. On 21st December, 1914, he was given another 28 days' detention and on 16th January, 1915, he was discharged for misconduct.

Reginald's hospital records give evidence that he was clearly mentally ill. I doubt that the military in those days checked mental states and only checked physical fitness. The date of admission was 7th July, 1915, and at the last attack of mental disorder he was aged 20 and living at 18, Regent Street, Luton. His form of mental disorder was given as "melancholia." He was deemed suicidal by the medical officer. In February 1916 he received treatment for tinea and a boil on the heel. In the first two weeks of April he was treated for a temperature. He died in the Three Counties Hospital at 9.55 am on 17th April, 1916, aged 21. His death certificate records place of death as Three Counties Mental Asylum, but unlike his military records that give cause of death as accidental injury, the certificate reads "enteric fever and intestinal haemorrhage for four hours (the term for both typhoid and paratyphoid infections caused primarily by salmonella). The medical register lists his occupation as an engineer's driller.

Reginald is remembered with honour by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Luton Cemetery.

"Private R. G. Press, 2156 Royal Flying Corps, son of Mrs L.A. Press." No father is mentioned. This is strange as he was discharged for misconduct. How did the military obtain the wrong cause of death? On checking the cemetery records, he is buried in a private plot purchased by "Press."

As for Fred Press, he seems to have returned to Luton and can be found on the electoral register from at least 1925. He died in 1941 at the age of 80 and Lillie went on to live until 1953. Reginald's brother Frank died in 1979 and his sister Rosa died in 1982.

Linda Smith MN 8117 [press.gang1@sky.com](mailto:press.gang1@sky.com)

# The Quarles Family of Foulsham

*By William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis*

THE difficulties of researching an unusual name will be well known to most members; mis-readings and poor indexing make life hard enough. The 19<sup>th</sup>-and 20<sup>th</sup> century writing of capital Q with an open back (rather like a 2) has misled many transcribers. Add to that serial marital irregularities and life can be very frustrating. The QUARLES family of Foulsham, however, proved to be worth the effort. This strange surname is derived from a tiny hamlet in Holkham, belonging to the Earl of Leicester. Never a large parish, Quarles Church was in ruins by 1571 and only a few houses remained. The surname is best known from *The History and Antiquities of Foulsham in Norfolk* published in 1842 by the Reverend Thomas Quarles in which he gives his version of the family's possible descent. Whatever their origins, the Foulsham family line can first be found in Norwich where, in the 1720s and 1730s, there were two successful property-owning families: Francis Quarles, a beer brewer, and Thomas Quarles, an innkeeper who was the ancestor of the Foulsham line.

By 1734, Thomas Quarles and his wife Frances held The Sign of the Tun in St Peter Mancroft, adjacent to The Three Feathers (a grocer's shop), The Ship and the more famous White Swan Inn and Playhouse. They had baptised their only surviving son Thomas in St Peter's Church on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1727. Thomas senior died in 1751 leaving £100 to his son Thomas and the rest of his estate to wife Frances. Frances made a rather more informative will which was proved in 1753. Her bequests to their three daughters and Thomas show property in St Peter Mancroft, St Martin at Oak, St Margaret and at Holme Hale (possibly where she came from). Daughter Phoebe was married to John MANGROOM, a Norwich carpenter, and her sister Frances was married to a Mr BROWNE. Unmarried daughter Mary was only to be trusted with an allowance of four shillings to be collected weekly, which she would lose if she did not turn up any week to collect it and which would halve on marriage. If she had anything to do with William COOPER, a tailor of St Peter Mancroft, even just in writing, then her allowance and a £200 legacy would be summarily cancelled. Clearly Frances did not like Cooper but in 1764 her son Thomas sold the The Tun (by

then a printer's premises) to the very same man. The innkeeper had been successful enough for Thomas, the son, to be trained as a lawyer. Now referred to as 'gent', he set up his practice in Foulsham and he and wife Martha MATLIS acquired their fine home in the Market Place, known today as Ivy House. In 1770, the great fire devastated the town but the fire engines arrived just in time to put out the blaze that had just reached the roof of their house. After such a close call, Thomas insured his premises against fire for initially £600 in 1779 and then £400 in 1785.

Thomas and Martha had just one son, Francis Thomas, and five daughters. Martha remained unmarried, Frances married Robert Augustine HOLL, Charlotte married William BIRCHAM of Reepham, Alice married Robert ALCOCK BARKER a Norwich draper and Harriet died an infant. In September 1783 Thomas took his son Francis Thomas formally as his apprentice. In July 1786 Francis went to complete his apprenticeship with William UNTHANK of Norwich, before returning to run the practice in Foulsham. He had a settled family life with his wife Anne LEAFORD from Ely.

Of their three surviving children two led successful, respectable lives. Charlotte married Robert DENCH, also from Ely and also a lawyer. As he and Charlotte remained in Foulsham, he had probably been Francis' apprentice and then took over the practice. He certainly succeeded Francis as Coroner to the Duchy of Lancaster in Norfolk. Thomas Quarles became a cleric. He was a naval chaplain and had some reputation as an antiquarian before his death, unmarried, in 1845 aged 52 in London. His widowed mother, Anne, still in Foulsham, died four years later. Our problems began with William Quarles, the younger son, baptised in September, 1800, who, despite a promising start, rapidly went downhill. Although the Reverend Thomas left a small bequest to his sister Charlotte, William was not even mentioned. It turns out that this was not an oversight.

Well-educated like his brother, William trained and practised as a solicitor. At the end of 1819 he started a five-year term as articled clerk of William WITHERS of Holt and in November 1823 he was released to complete his articles under Francis Thomas DEVEAR of Norwich. Martha BARKER, probably a daughter of Alice Quarles and Robert Barker, who in 1869 contributed an article to *East Anglian Notes and Queries*, noted that William Quarles left Foulsham and nothing more was known of him. This may have been true (or wishful thinking on her behalf) but with the benefit of the internet and some determined searching we can do a bit better than that. In May, 1825, William married Sarah Lawrence CALDECOURT in London. Their marriage entry in Hackney shows him as a Foulsham-born bachelor and Sarah (aged 18) marrying by licence with her father's permission; sister Charlotte Quarles was one of the witnesses. The marriage, however, was not to last. Events in the 1830s suggest it may have been over within 10 years. When Sarah's father, Joseph Caldecourt, died in Kensington in 1839, his will left his estate to his only child Sarah 'wife of William Quarles' after her mother's death. Caldecourt specifically required the bequest to be through a trust fund preventing William from having any access to the money, real estate or any other Caldecourt property. A seriously alienated father-in-law. It seems that the marriage had already broken down by 1839.

Notices in *The London Gazette* and other journals enable us to follow William's career. He was practising in Bury St Edmunds in July and August, 1829 and *The Morning Post* of 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1831 noted that he was a Lieutenant in the West Suffolk Militia.

Various cricketing websites show that he played for Norfolk against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in 1820 and for Suffolk, at Bury St Edmunds, in 1830 - both times without distinction. Perhaps there was too much cricket and not enough work for, on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1832, the *Gazette* reported that he was in prison as an insolvent debtor described as: 'Mr William Quarles formerly of Foulsham attorney ... since of Bury St Edmunds attorney and afterwards of the same place Lieutenant and acting Captain in the West Suffolk Militia and late of Snargate Street Dover Kent'. It seems likely that this stay in prison was short as *The Legal Observer* noted in 1833 that Quarles, then of Woodhatch near Reigate in Surrey, had applied for re-admission to work on King's Bench cases. It appears that William, living at No. 1 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, in May 1833, found a position as clerk to John Phillips BEAVAN of Sackville Street, arguably a rather modest job for a qualified attorney. Before long, he was back inside. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1837, *The Morning Post* reported that he was opposing imprisonment for debt and the following day he was released from prison. Newspaper references to William in 1836 and 1837 show him in London on legal business but they do not make clear if he still lived there. By 1841 William was living alone in lodgings in Holt back in Norfolk so he may have briefly re-joined the Withers firm. Was Sarah still with him? It has not proved possible to find her whereabouts in the 1841 to 1861 censuses but a rather sorrowful poem about the married woman's lot, published in October 1837 by *The Lady's Magazine* was contributed by a Mrs William Quarles of Brighton. Sarah, whose father was then living at Brighton, was writing when her husband was yet again heading into prison for debt.

After his release, the *London Post Office Directory* for 1843 shows William Quarles esquire, solicitor, living in 14 Craven Street near the Strand and the *Gazette* carried a reference to him as assignee of a London bankrupt on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1844. There is no trace of any legal separation of William and Sarah and during the later 1840s William seems to have moved to Gorleston and Great Yarmouth. In the 1851 census William Quarles, born Foulsham, aged 50 was in practice as a solicitor in Regent Street, Yarmouth. But now he was not alone - his 'wife' Anna Maria was given as aged 34 (she was 26) and born in Diss. They had a little boy William aged three, born in Norwich. But Anna Maria was not his wife; no (bigamous) marriage by William to Anna Maria has been found. Anna Maria was a daughter of Diss shoemaker George WARNE and his wife Sarah TAYLOR who had married in October 1815. On 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1829, in Diss, George and Sarah baptised five children, aged from 13 to four, all in one batch. Anna Maria was the youngest, born on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1825. At sixteen, Anna Maria was still at home in 1841 but shortly after she must have left for Norwich and met William. In October, 1847, she gave birth to an illegitimate baby son in Church Street, St Michael Coslany, from which address she registered the birth as William QUARLES WARNE with no father stated. She succeeded with her next three children in having them registered with Quarles as their surname, despite the minor hindrance of not being married. In August 1851 Anna Warne Quarles was registered as daughter of William Quarles, solicitor of Gorleston, and Anna Maria Warne Quarles formerly Warne.

As a solicitor William knew it was illegal to register the children this way and the family were constantly on the move. In March 1853, another son, Francis Thomas Quarles arrived. This time they were at 12 Bridport Street, Blandford Square, London and she was 'Anna Maria Warne Quarles formerly Taylor.' Here she may have been

confused by the question and gave her mother's maiden name, or perhaps this was a deliberate attempt further to obfuscate the exact status of William and Anna Maria. From census entries it is clear that they lived as husband and wife for many years and daughter Alice Quarles was born November, 1862, when the family were living in St Paul's Road, Walworth, Surrey, with Quarles now only described as a conveyancer. The year before, in the 1861 census, William - given on the return as 'QUALS' and born in 'Forsham' for Foulsham - was a lodger in one of Banes Cottages in Clapham, with 'wife' Anna and sons William and Francis. Was his situation in danger of discovery? Perhaps hoping that pastures new would bring more success, the family moved to Nottingham and by 1864 William was in practice in Denham Chambers. At the 1871 census he was in Blackstone Street in Nottingham with 'wife' Anna Maria, his son Francis Thomas as his clerk, aged 18, and daughter Alice, aged nine.

William stayed in Nottingham for the rest of his life but with little success. The *Gazette* on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1863, showed him acting in a bankruptcy case - a field he had plenty of experience in. The *Nottinghamshire Guardian* on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1865, carried a letter from him showing that he was in work but on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1867, it reported several court cases lined up against him for rent arrears and other debts. On 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1876, the paper reported, under the headline 'A Pauper Solicitor', that the Nottingham Board of Guardians had received a notice requiring the removal of William Quarles from the St Pancras Union in London where he was an inmate. William died on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1879, aged 79, his registration showing that he died of 'decay of nature' in the Nottingham Union Workhouse. Within three weeks of his death, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1879, the widowed Sarah Lawrence Quarles of St Margaret, Westminster, married barrister Charles John Belcher HERTSLET in St Luke, Middlesex. This confirms that she and William had never legally been able to marry again. In fact Sarah may have been living with HERSLET for some time to all intents and purposes as his wife. The marriage licence bond and the parish register entry both show very clearly that Herslet was a bachelor; yet the 1871 census shows him in St Margaret, Westminster returning himself as 'married' and with a 'wife' Laura born in Hampstead. Was this Sarah using a contracted form of her middle name for anonymity? Once legally married the Herslets can be found in the 1881 census in Brighton where Mrs Herslet used her correct first name and initial, also born in Hampstead.

No further sign of Anna Maria Warne/Quarles has been found, with no obvious death registration under any of the possible surnames. Perhaps she went to live with her daughter Alice who seems to have ended up in service in Edinburgh. William Quarles Junior became a soldier and can be identified by marriage and census entries at various times but he may have inherited his father's predilection for dodgy marital status. In 1871, he was a 'soldier' with the Royal 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Lancers stationed at Aldershot. He has not been found in 1881. In 1891 William Quarles (with a 'wife' Emily and son Albert and her sons Samuel and Henry BURBRIDGE) was a hospital porter in Kensington. Aged probably 43 (the entry is overwritten) he seems to be our man although he was said to be born in Nottingham (a reasonable error as he had left Norwich as a toddler and was mostly associated with Nottingham). There is no evidence of a marriage and Albert does not appear to have been registered as Quarles. Indeed it is not even clear that Emily was Mrs Burbridge as no obvious marriage can be found to fit the facts of her and her children's roots in Dover and Canterbury.

In April, 1894, William Quarles was in trouble. *The Times* on the 10<sup>th</sup> and *The Birmingham Daily Post* on the 26<sup>th</sup> carried the story of William, a 46 year-old lancer regiment pensioner and drillmaster but latterly the night porter at the Hyde Park Club in London, had been dismissed for drunkenness and accused of embezzling two guineas from his boss Captain Campbell, the secretary of the club. He was acquitted of the embezzlement charge. Emily and her children then disappear from view and in 1902, at St Matthias Burley near Leeds, William, then 55 and a 'bachelor' soldier, married the widow Ada CORRY, daughter of inn-keeper William LEACH. William gave his father as William Quarles lawyer deceased and his brother Francis Thomas signed the parish register as a witness. Had William also been in an earlier informal 'marriage' just like his father? Ada died in Leeds the year after their marriage and William died in Fulham in 1915.

His brother Francis Thomas Quarles also had an odd history; despite having started as a legal clerk to his father. He also fell into a life of crime. The first surviving record of trouble seems to be a report in *The Liverpool Mercury* on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1876, when he was 23. Francis Thomas Quarles, 'son of a Nottingham solicitor', was charged in Sheffield with three others (one of them a hosier) of swindling young farm-worker Charles Adamson out of £10. *The Nottinghamshire Guardian* on 1<sup>st</sup> December carried a very full account of their use of a 'find the Queen' three-card trick at the Queen's Hotel near Sheffield station. Quarles had made the initial contact and had lured the target into the hotel for a drink. The prisoners were remanded to appear at the Nottingham assizes. *The Derby Mercury* on 21<sup>st</sup> March the following year carried the story in full under the headline: 'A solicitor's son imprisoned for card-sharping at Nottingham'. Quarles was imprisoned for 15 months. No doubt his father's battered reputation, in his final years, would again have suffered and perhaps it is no coincidence that it was December, 1876, that found William Senior in the London poor house. Francis did not learn from his mistakes; at the 1881 census he was in prison in Melton Mowbray Police Station, arrested as a card sharp. Later he seemed to settle and by 1901 he was working as a hosier in a yard in Nottingham. Although Francis Thomas married there three times before his death in 1923 aged 70, there is no evidence that either he or brother William had any children.

Another puzzle relates to the apparent existence of a Thomas Quarles, also a Nottingham hosier, dealing on his own account by 1911, born in either London or Nottingham perhaps in the 1850s (his census entries in Nottingham in 1881 and 1911 are not consistent and the information may have been given by his wife each time). His 1881 census return in Nottingham, when Francis Thomas was in Melton Mowbray Police Station, suggests that this was not the same man calling himself plain Thomas. Further, this Thomas had a 'wife' named Ann at the 1881 census. Yet no such marriage registration has been found and it is quite possible that this was Francis Thomas, initially living unmarried with this Ann. This Thomas did not have children living with him at those dates but his wife (married for four years but no children) in 1911 was Mary, which does match the then wife of Francis Thomas (a 1906 marriage) and Francis cannot apparently be found in the 1911 census under that first name. A plain Thomas cannot be found as Quarles at birth, marriage or death in either the civil registration indexes or on ancestry more widely and again there is no evidence for any children. It seems most likely that this was Francis Thomas, sometimes known as just Thomas.

# Norfolk Connections To The Titanic

*(continued from the inside front cover)*

As the ship started to sink, Prentice climbed up the stern before plunging into the icy water below narrowly missing the propellers. He was able to find another life-belt and a cushion which allowed him to float and he started to swim away from the ship. Luckily for Frank, Quartermaster Walter PERKIS in Lifeboat Four insisted on returning to help the swimmers and he was hauled aboard. Mrs Clark wrapped her coat around him and rubbed his limbs to revive him.

Frank survived and, when he returned to England, he signed-on to the *Oceanic* on 10th July, 1912. He later recalled that he was on board when one of *Titanic's* lifeboats was found drifting in mid-Atlantic. He continued working at sea well into the 1920s and served several voyages on *Titanic's* sister ship the *Olympic* and also saw military service during the First World War. Throughout his life he maintained that Captain Edward Smith and The White Star Line were irresponsible and said *"We were going far too quickly through the ice. And if only there'd been enough life-boats, no one need have died. It was almost like murder, wasn't it?"* Frank died in May 1982 aged 93.



**Macy's Plaque ©KMJK White**

**Ellen BIRD** was born in the small hamlet of Stackford near Old Buckenham in 1881. Her father was Samuel 'Shepherd' Bird (b 1842) who was a local farmer and her mother was Mary Ann Bird (nee Clarke b 1842) who came from Shropham. They had 11 children, George (b1862), Samuel (b1864), Sarah (b1868), Emma (b1870), Anna (b1872), Eliza (b1874), Benjamin (b1876), Mary (b1878), Ellen (b1881), Abigail (b1883) and William (b1885). Like most of her siblings, Ellen left home at an early age and in the 1901 census is listed as a general domestic at an address in Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

She was living in London in early 1912 when she was taken on as a maid by Ida STRAUS, the wife of Isidor Straus the millionaire owner of Macy's Department store in New York. Ellen boarded the *Titanic* at Southampton as part of Ticket 17483 and occupied cabin C.97. After the collision the brave Ida and Isidor helped to load up the lifeboats and Ida, despite encouragement from her friends, refused to enter a lifeboat without her beloved Isidor. As Ellen was put into a boat Ida gave her a fur coat saying *"Wear this, it will be cold in the lifeboat and I*



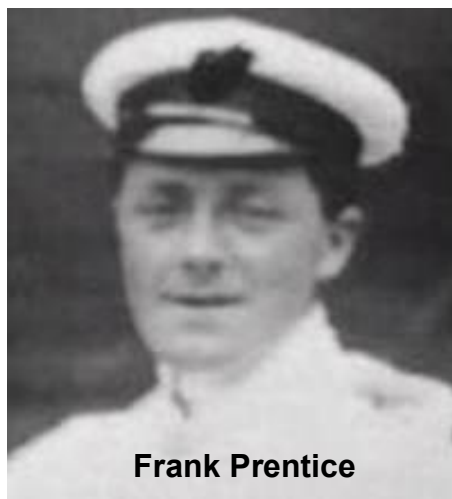
*do not need it anymore.*" The Straus's then sat down together to accept their inevitable fate and died in each other's arms. Isidor's body was recovered later but Ida's was never found. Their memorial service in New York was attended by an estimated 40,000 people and Macy's staff paid for a plaque to be placed over the 135 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street entrance of the department store.

When Ellen reached New York on the Carpathia she took the coat to Sara Straus, their eldest daughter but was told to keep it as it was a gift. She went to work for the SPEDDEN family who were also Titanic survivors who she met on the Carpathia.

She worked for them in New York until she married a yacht captain, Julian Edward BEATTIE in June, 1914. They had one daughter called Gwendolyn who sadly died just past her second birthday. Ellen Beattie Bird died a US citizen in a rest home in Newport on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1949.

**The BEANES.** One of the few happy endings from the disaster involved a pair of Norfolk born newly-weds called Ethel and Edward BEANE. Ethel Louisa CLARKE was born in Norwich in 1889, the daughter of a boot factory warehouseman, Boaz Clarke (b1855) and Louisa WEBB (b1864). She was one of five surviving children from a total of 11. In 1891 she was living in Northumberland Street, Heigham, Norwich, where she stayed until the next census in 1901. By the 1911 census the family had moved to Churchill Road, Norwich, and Ethel is described as a single dressmaker and furrier. In 1912 she married Edward Beane (b1879), a builder and possibly a former neighbour from Northumberland Street. Their fathers both worked at Bullard's Brewery in Norwich.

Edward or Ted had worked for some time in America and the couple had made plans to settle in New York after their marriage. They boarded the Titanic in Southampton, travelling second class on ticket number 2908 which would have cost £26, equivalent to over £2800 today. After the collision Ethel was pushed by her husband into lifeboat 13. Ted claimed that when he saw that the boat was not full, he leapt into the ocean and swam through the icy water to get clear of the sinking ship. He was picked up by lifeboat 13 and reunited with his wife, becoming one of a very small number of second class



**Frank Prentice**



**Ted and Ethel Beane**

males to survive the disaster. The couple lost everything they had that night including the £100 they had saved over the previous six years and sixty five wedding presents. Ethel later wrote to her father from the Carpathia saying "*Thank God we are both saved together. There are 150 widows on this boat. I have not even got a hair pin to call my own. But we must be thankful we were saved together as they were shooting down the men who came into the ladies' boats*".

Ethel and Ted settled in Rochester, New York, where they raised a family of two sons, Edward and George. Ted died in 1948 aged 69 while Ethel survived until 1983 and died aged 93. They seldom spoke about the disaster and Ethel had a fear of water for the rest of her life.

**May Elizabeth HOWARD** was born in North Walsham in May 1885. Her parents were farm labourer William Howard (b 1845) and his wife Martha (nee WHALL) and she had seven siblings. In the 1901 census she was living with her family at Aylsham Road in North Walsham and she was still there in 1911 described as an unmarried laundress. May had decided to join her brothers who had already emigrated to Canada and wanted to become a nanny near their home in Toronto.

She boarded Titanic at Southampton travelling third class at a cost of £8.1s. She was travelling and sharing a cabin with a friend, Mrs Emily GOLDSMITH and her son Frank.

She claimed that she had booked on another ship but because of a coal strike she was switched to Titanic. She was in her cabin at the time of the collision and was fully dressed. When she heard the alarm bells ringing she went out to see what was happening but was told to go back to bed. Eventually the doctor came and told them to put on their lifebelts. She was put into Collapsible C, the last starboard-side boat to be launched, along with Mrs Goldsmith and Frank. Some reports claim that also in the boat was J Bruce ISMAY, the Managing Director of The White Star Line although May denied this. Ismay was later attacked in the press for making the captain increase the speed and so contributing to the collision and for leaving the sinking ship while other men stayed on board. Three women and one man died of exposure in May's boat before it reached the Carpathia.

May went from New York to Toronto to join her brothers. She achieved her goal of becoming a nanny and never married or returned to England. She worked for Randall KENYON and his family in the New York area for many years. May Howard died in November 1958 aged 73 and was buried in the Kenyon family

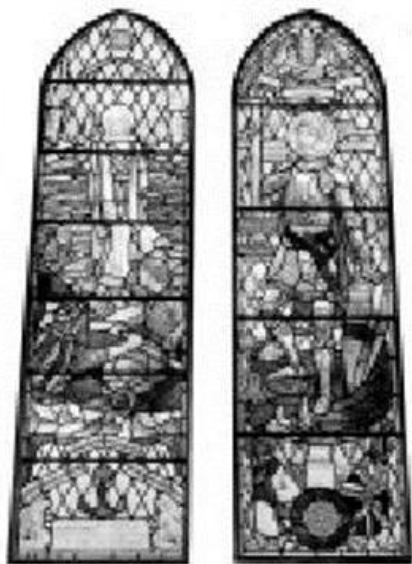


plot in Boxwood Cemetery.

A Norfolk based myth surrounding the Titanic's sinking concerned the future of the most senior member of the crew to survive, Second Officer Charles LIGHTOLLER. He behaved heroically during the disaster, organising the loading of the lifeboats and enforcing the 'women and children first' policy before being thrown into the sea by an exploding boiler. He was the last survivor to climb aboard the Carpathia. It has been claimed that he retired to live in Norfolk in later life but this is not true.



He went on to serve with distinction as a Royal Navy officer in World War One commanding HMS Garry. In June 1940, aged 66, he took his 60ft yacht, Sundowner across the Channel as part of the Dunkirk evacuation. He returned with 130 men under constant fire. He also lost two of his sons who were killed in action during World War Two. When he died in 1952 it was his yacht Sundowner which was retired to Norfolk. It was taken over by John SAPSFORD, a retired engineer from Norwich and was moored at a boatyard in Brundall. The boat has now been put in a maritime museum in Ramsgate.



*Titanic survivor's memorial.*

**The Humby Memorial Window**

The final story concerns Frederick HUMBY, a Barnardo's boy, who died helping to save others. He was born in 1895 but his mother, Fanny (née Holloway) died in 1898 and his father James died in 1904. He was placed in the care of Barnardo's and later both he and his brother Frank were sent to Watts Naval College in Norfolk. The college was housed in the former Norfolk County School which stood on a wooded hill near North Elmham. The school closed in 1895 and was bought by Edward Hannay WATTS. When he died his son Fenwick renovated it and handed it over to Dr Barnardo's Homes and it housed 300 selected orphaned boys where they were trained for a life at sea.

Frank joined the Royal Navy but Fred was not of a high enough standard so he

went into the merchant navy. He joined the crew of the Titanic as plate steward (second class). When he died his friends raised the money to make a commemorative stained glass window. It was installed in the Watts Naval School chapel with an inscription which read

*"To the Glory of God and in memory of Frederick Humby, a boy hero, who perished on board SS Titanic 15 April 1912, aged 17 years."*

The window was later removed from the chapel and is currently in the hands of an American collector in Houston who is determined to keep the name of Fred Humby alive.

**Roger Morgan MN16248**

# Facebook News

It's certainly an exciting time for the society on social media as our Facebook page welcomed its 1,500th member in January and is still expanding with new people joining every day. At the time of going to print we had 1,539 members.

The Facebook page is at:

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

The page is open to all - society members and non members can all take part free of charge by going to the page and requesting to join.

Once accepted you can start making requests for information from fellow members, send in information on ancestors, post photographs and also help other members with queries to help them overcome genealogical blockages with their research.

Many people have found new relatives through using our Facebook page.

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

**Medieval to Modern  
Family & Local History  
Latin translation  
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*member*

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# GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

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

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

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

## Notes and Queries

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

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

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

or by email to:

**ancestor@nfhs.co.uk**

## Photographs

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



# Norfolk Family History Society

## Let Us Know What You Think



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

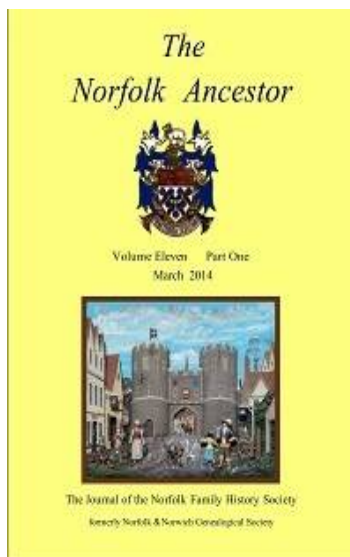
With your help we can make the magazine more vibrant. We would welcome any comments (good or bad). They can be sent to the editor via e-mail at the contact address on page 66 of this edition or can be sent to him at Kirby Hall.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

<http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>

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# Hunt For the Foulgers

WE received a very interesting letter from Norfolk Family History member Guy FOULGER who lives in Oklahoma, USA, and which we reproduce here in case any fellow members can help.

Dear Editor

Firstly my compliments on your work with the Ancestor, a top-notch publication. Secondly, I have an incredible sucking hole somewhere within the confines of my home. It takes delight in hiding or losing or destroying mostly important items. Not being able to find an object of no importance would indeed be a joy. Hopefully that will explain why I have not included my membership number. If I ever had a membership card it has gone the way of the aforementioned hole. Unfortunately I seem to discard the wrapping on my mailing without making a note of my number.

I am interested in information and/or ancestors of my ancestor John Foulger who was from Diss in Norfolk. His son, John Junior, was born in Norfolk in 1585, and married Meribah GIBBS, born 1615, daughter of John Gibbs and Alice ELMAY. John Jr and his son Peter sailed to America aboard the Abigail in 1635. Peter made his mark on the colonies with his intellect as a preacher, miller, surveyor, blacksmith, teacher, interpreter with the local Indians and grandfather of Benjamin Franklin.

Any help or information anyone may afford will be greatly appreciated. A couple of years ago I travelled on a tour of Pompeii and the surrounding area. In our group were four nice ladies from the Norfolk area who said there were many Foulgers in their area. It would be very nice to find that I have some English cousins.

Thank you very much

Guy Foulger

1212 South Second Street

McAlester, Oklahoma, OK 74501. USA

## Easter Closure

Please note that the Kirby Hall library will not be open on the first Sunday In April which is Easter Sunday. It will be open as usual on the last Sunday

# NFHS Contacts and how to contact them

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

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<b>Chairman</b>	Chairman	Jean Stangroom	chair@nfhs.co.uk

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



# The Swedish Nightingale



NORWICH has good reason to remember and be grateful to the woman dubbed The Swedish Nightingale.

Jenny LIND (pictured opposite) is featured in the recent film “The Greatest Showman” about the career of P.T BARNUM. Whilst the film is typical biopic fodder, it does act as a reminder of the debt

Norwich owes to the Scandinavian opera singer.

Lind’s first visit to the city in 1847 saw her play to sell-out crowds in St. Andrew’s Hall. Initially two concerts were scheduled but a third was added to cope with demand. Lind was back in the city two years later and she became a tremendous benefactor in the history of children’s health.

Her support meant that Norwich became only the second city in the country to have a children’s hospital when an infirmary for sick children opened its doors in April, 1852, in Pottergate, Norwich.

It stayed in Pottergate from 1853 until 1898 when it moved to Unthank Road and a building that many Norfolk people still remember and stayed there until 1975 when the children’s services were transferred to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital in the centre of the city. When a new hospital was built outside Norwich in 2001 the Jenny Lind Children’s Department became a hospital within a hospital.

Jenny Lind’s name has been linked with Norwich and Norfolk for over 170 years and will continue for many years to come.

# Salthouse Church



TWO photographs of St. Nicholas Church, Salthouse, in North Norfolk taken



over 40 years apart. The top photograph was captured in July 1976 by renowned Norfolk photographer George Plunkett and the bottom one was taken in January 2018 by the editor. The church dates back to the 13th century.