

The Norfolk Ancestor



JUNE 2018



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

A Brush with History

NORWICH and the surrounding area has a long standing association with the brush making industry with towns like Wymondham and Attleborough becoming important manufacturing centres over the years. Brushes had been made in Norwich from the eighteenth century and by 1890 there were at least 15 brush making firms in the city.

One of the most important stories centres around Samuel DEYNS. Samuel was born in Norwich in 1720 and founded a small basket making business. In 1736 he was apprenticed to John DUNN, a basket maker in St. John Maddermarket. What happened next is a little unclear but it is thought that in 1746 Samuel went into partnership with Francis Allen, an established osier grower and basket maker. He then went on to set up his own business at St Andrew's Plain. When Francis Allen died in 1762, Samuel bought his property in the Haymarket. He lived there with his wife and young family for around 20 years and was known to be in business as a basket manufacturer, brush maker, paper merchant and manufacturer of pattens (wooden over-shoes) and clogs. He was also an osier grower.



Samuel Deyns

Norwich and Norfolk were ideal places for brush making firms because of the abundant supply of timber especially in the Southern woodlands. Beech wood was particularly used because of its hardness and fine grain while alder and birch were favoured for brooms. Wymondham was a well known centre of wood-turning and was to play an important rôle in the development of brush making. Wild boar bristle was imported from Russia to make the finest brushes. One of the saddest events in Samuel's life was the death of his only son and heir aged just 13. However, through his daughter, Elizabeth, he managed to secure the future of the business by persuading her to make her first born son Samuel Deyns PAGE take over the firm when he came of age.



Samuel Deyns Page

To find out more about this story turn to page 23.

Norfolk Family History Society

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The Norfolk Ancestor

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Wednesday and Thursday	10.00am - 4.00pm
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Welcome to your June Edition



As always it's been lovely to hear from so many members with articles, reminiscences and response to queries raised in previous issues. The response to articles in the previous edition has been most heart-warming and illuminating.

To me the power of a society such as ours is its ability for members to contact each other and break down brick walls. That of course is just one aspect of this magazine. We try to provide a good mix of articles from contributors and features that we believe will be of general historic interest, but which also have a Norfolk connection

The response to what we are doing and the positive comments make everything we do at the Norfolk Family History Society so worthwhile.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

Coming In September

We are delighted to report that in September members will receive two Ancestors for the price of one.

The Norfolk Family History Society was founded 50 years ago this December. We will be marking the occasion with a special 32-page commemoration edition of the Norfolk Ancestor taking a look at the society over the past half century with stories, reminiscences and photographs. This will be in addition to the usual Ancestor.

So watch out in September for our special two for one edition.

Peter Steward MN 14801

From Rags to Riches

I HAVE two brightly decorated plates that are said to have come from the 'Royal Household'. They have been passed down from my maternal grandmother Emily SMITH (nee BAKER) who was born in Norwich but lived most of her life in West Ham, now part of the London Borough of Newham.



I began to think that there was some truth in the story when I found that my great aunt Susan Smith was a servant at St. James' Palace, Westminster (1901 census). Among her colleagues was a 76-year-old woman who was a "Housekeeper – State Departments" and my favourite, a 36 year-old man who was a "Table Decker" (I assume his duty was to lay the table, perhaps on State occasions).

Susan, born in 1874 in Norwich was the fourth child of John and Susan Smith (née SPOONER). She was orphaned by 1891 and spent time living with her half-sister Phoebe LOWE (née Spooner) in Cavalry Street, Norwich. It is a guess, but I think that she then became a servant at Sandringham.



During the early months of 1901, the state apartments at St. James' Palace must have been used to accommodate and entertain the many heads of state who attended the state funeral of Queen Victoria and the subsequent proclamation of her son, Edward, as King Edward VII. Many more staff must have been needed and I think that they may have come from the Royal Households at Windsor and

Sandringham. (the census return shows a high number of staff who were born in Norfolk or Windsor). It is only a theory, but perhaps Susan was transferred from Sandringham to St James' Palace in the early months of 1901.

Shortly after the 1901 census, Susan returned to Norfolk where she took a step up the social ladder by marrying a 55-year-old widower called Archibald Frost HARDYMENT. He was a china and glassware merchant. (GRO record – September Quarter, 1901, Norwich – Ref 4b 317)

The Hardymont Connection

Archibald Frost Hardymont (AFH from now on) was born in 1846 in Norwich. His father Jabez Hardymont was a wealthy merchant in the City of Norwich who traded in “Earthenware, China and Glass”. Jabez appears in the 1842 census as an “earthenware dealer”, living in the parish of St. Augustine, Norwich, with his wife, Eliza and three children. By the time of the 1861 census, Jabez was living in the parish of St. Benedict, Norwich, with Eliza, who was born in Hackney, London, and the then 15-year-old Archibald.

Jabez passed away on 4th November, 1867, so I assume that was when AFH and his mother took over the family business - Hardymont's Store and Warehouse - selling china and glassware. The business appears in several Kelly's Business Directories and the Norwich Telephone Book of 1936.

The records show that the now 24-year-old AFH married the 19-year-old, Eleanor LEECH, also from Norwich, in the last quarter of 1870. They appear in the 1871 census living with AFH's mother, Eliza, in St. Benedict, Norwich. They are described as “earthenware dealers”.

I do not know what happened to Eleanor but the family business must have thrived because, by 1872, the records show that AFH had moved to London where he was married for the second time in Holburn. His bride, Elizabeth HAYES was six years younger than AFH and was from Boston in Lincolnshire.

By the time of the 1891 census, AFH appears to be a man of means, living in Kilburn, Hampstead, then an affluent suburb to the North West of London with Elizabeth (and their servant). Their son, Archibald, born in the last quarter of 1883, was by this time, a scholar at The Beeches School, which I think may have been part of the famous Eton College.

AFH appears in the Electoral Register, 1885, which shows that he was living at 114, High Road, Kilburn. On 5th February, 1886, the parish register of the Church of Holy Trinity, Gray's Inn Road, shows AFH aged 39, a widower, marrying for the third time. His bride was Kate Louise STREET, a 26-year-old spinster, the daughter of William Street who was a farrier. Their son, Ronald Hardymont was born in 1886. Ronald married in 1926 and died in Canada in 1936.

The whereabouts of AFH between 1886 and 1901 are a mystery. Just how a wealthy businessman of private means came to meet my great aunt, Susan Smith, a servant in St. James' Palace in 1901 will also remain a mystery.

Following their marriage AFH and Susan had two children. The first, named Ronald Frost, was born in 1902 in Gorleston-on-Sea (near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); the second named John Alfred was born in 1904 in Kew, Surrey. AFH passed away in 1909.

Susan must have inherited a substantial amount as she appears in the 1911 census as living on 'private means' at "Kingsmead," The Drive, Wembley, with her two sons, Richard and John. "Kingsmead" was a substantial seven bed-roomed house situated in a short road leading into open countryside. Today it is a short distance from Wembley Stadium originally built in 1922/3. Susan appears to have been in denial of her humble beginnings by stating on the census return that she was born in Bloomsbury, London.

In 1915, Susan married Frederick William ACKERS a schoolmaster in St John's Church, Wembley. Interestingly Susan appears to have claimed that her father was John Sutherland Smith – deceased, a merchant, when as far as I know, he was just plain John Smith, a labourer.

Susan passed away on 1st December, 1939, at her home at 51, Wembley Park Drive, Wembley, leaving her effects of £2023 4s 5d to her two sons John Alfred Hardymont, an estate agent, and Robert Frost Hardymont a factory supervisor.

As for the two plates, while I would like to think that they came from the Royal Household, I now think that they are the remains of a larger set that came from the Hardymont's store. Perhaps a wedding present from Susan and AFH to her brother Matthew Smith and Emily BAKER on their marriage in 1906 in London.

Keith Saxton MN 9488

War Time Evacuees in Coltishall

In August 1939, although war had not yet been declared, it was increasingly recognised that it was imminent. The call went out to folks in rural areas to take in evacuees from London and other big cities. My maternal grandmother (Emma May Self DEACON nee BIRD 1893-1975) lived in Coltishall and was one of the many in Norfolk and elsewhere who answered the call.

Last summer one of her evacuees, Sandy RISLEY, visited Norfolk to seek out his old haunts and relive his memories. He was persuaded to write up his story for the Coltishall community magazine (www.themarlpit.co.uk), which Sandy has kindly agreed to allow me to submit for publication in "The Norfolk Ancestor".

I would like to thank David Pye of the Marlpit magazine for typing up Sandy's original handwritten story and for making that transcript available to me.

In this charming story – which follows below - Sandy relives his reminiscences almost as if through the eyes of his childhood self.

Melvyn Saunders MN 8102

[Note: In typing up Sandy's story, the Marlpit editor made a conscious decision to resist the temptation to re-write or correct the grammar etc. I agree with that decision, as I feel it preserves the charm and authenticity of this story from an 83-year-old gentleman. I myself have only made very minor amendments mainly towards the end of the article which included reference to a photograph - Melvyn Saunders.



IT started off with my mum getting me dressed in my Sunday clothes which was my best clothes which made me feel good. I was four-years-old, my brother who went with me was 10-years-old, we had our gas mask labels tied to our jacket and a small case with some clothes in. Our mum took us to Liverpool Street Station, where there seemed hundreds of children just like us. There mum said goodbye and I held my brothers hand and we boarded a train to Norwich Thorpe Station. When we arrived we boarded a coach to Coltishall, when the coach stopped, I got out run down this grass hill, could not stop and run straight into a pond, so when we were taken to the hall nobody wanted us. We ended up at the vicar's house and for six months we ended up going to six differ-

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ent billet ladies, I think I was a mischievous boy, naughty if you like; that being the reason. Our last billet lady was Mrs Deacon, she was the best thing that ever happened to me. Mrs Deacon had five evacuees already and a son Kevin. There was Lawrence Speer, his two sisters; one was named Rosie who was about two years older and an older sister. Then there was Charlie and Bobby Will and my brother Billy and myself, Sandy Risley.

All the older evacuees went to school and were taught by teachers that came from London, but all the younger ones like me went to country school. I soon made friends with Roy Landamore and Tony Chapman. Roy's dad owned the village fish and chip shop, so every so often we would get a bag of chips wrapped in newspaper. Then, Roy, Tony and I became inseparable, we met up on the way to school and looked after each other, Roy was the best fighter so Tony and me always felt protected.

Mrs Deacon got me a cat which I named 'Tea Saucers' because of his large eyes, we became the best of friends. When I left Mrs Deacon's bungalow, in Rectory Road, he would sit on the gate post to see me off to school and be there when I came home; I was so happy. Life was wonderful, nearly every weekend Roy, Tony and me would go out for the day, weather permitting, we would all take a packed lunch with a bottle of squash. We would eat each other's sandwiches. We shared everything and life was one big adventure, I was always happy when we went on our weekdays out, we would make bows and arrows and fire them. We would make pop guns out of elderberry trees, the pith in elderberry wood is very thick, we would push the pith out then make a handle to fit the barrel and mainly fire acorns, the longer the barrel the more powerful it would be and would hurt if you got hit by one; it would fire a long way.

Near Coltishall was Scottow Aerodrome so you often had airman coming into town, two would come in on a motor bike and side car, we used to call them Friar and Tuck, I don't remember why. There was also a prisoner of war camp mainly Italians I believe, they used to walk around the village like free men. Every so often the village team would play against them at football. Because of the airfield there would be on occasion dog fights, when a plane was shot down, if it was weekend or school holidays Roy, Tony and me would be the first there, we collect the thormiker [*refers to the shatterproof glass used for the cockpit canopy*] glass and make rings and crosses from it. On two occasions American planes were shot down and they had large tins of sweets, in the shape of tobacco tins but bigger so we would take them; we never saw any dead bodies. It was like to us not real

We also went fishing with rods we made ourselves, and it was amazing how many fish we caught. Mainly Perch, we would set deadlines overnight and often caught large eels. Sometimes I took them home and Mrs Deacon would cook them.

The one thing I had to get used to was washing and toilet facilities. I left London with a flush toilet and bathroom, when I came here it was a tin bath every Friday night. Outdoor toilet was just a large bucket under a seat which nine people used and was emptied once a week when a man came round with horse and tank and emptied it. You could smell it all round the village, there was flies everywhere but bath night was a great night.

Mrs Deacon was a great cook and on bath night she would make these large hot cheese rolls; it was like Christmas every week. Mrs Deacon was wonderful.

During the summer months Mrs Deacon would take Rosie, Bobby and me to Cromer seaside, because we were all small her sister Dora would come to help, life was one big holiday for me. Bedtime Rosie and her sister slept in on bedroom us five boys in another bedroom, Charlie, Bobby and me in one bed and Billy and Lawrence in another. Lawrence, Charlie and Billy would tell stories to us and I am sure they would go on after we fell asleep, so bed time was great as well, it was a continuous story.

Back to Roy, Tony and me, we would often go down to Horstead flour mill where we would dive or jump into the flush and it would take us to a point where we could stand up. I could not swim so it gives you some idea how crazy I was. Sometimes we would walk to Wroxham Broad and spend the day there. We were always tired out walking back. Twice I fell in the River Bure and nearly drowned but I was never frightened of water. On some Saturday mornings I would go to the pictures with my brother to North Walsham by train, the picture palace was not far from the station. Sometimes we would have contests with other children, we would have wrestling matches. I would never give in so one day a boy broke my arm but I still would not give in. On one occasion we had a running contest to see who could run for the longest time, it got down to two of us but my brother made me stop, I looked so ill, I cried because I wanted to win.

I often got the cane at school because I was naughty, I got the cane once for pinching the Colonel's strawberries and I was not there but I always received good marks at school. One day Roy, Tony and me were chasing butterflies, I had a hawthorn branch I was hitting them with and as I hit one a hawthorn branch went right into my knee. I went home to my billet lady but her sister Dora

was in, Mrs Deacon had gone to see her son. Dora pulled the thing out but my knee was badly swollen, I went to the doctors he cut into my knee and said it was all out. My billet lady came back a few days later and took me straight to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. They kept me in hospital for a few weeks eventually putting my leg in plaster from top to toe.

By the then the war was over and by then my mother was in a one bedroom flat so I ended up in a Dr Barnardo's home. I never cried when I was evacuated to Coltishall but I cried a lot when I left because Mrs Deacon was the best mother I could ever have.

So the 2nd world war was the happiest days of my childhood. I visited Coltishall in July 2017. Visited that happy bungalow in Rectory Road and met the lady who now owns it.

By Sandy Risley

During his visit to Norfolk, Sandy met up with his old friend Roy, but sadly not Tony. As Sandy put it: *"Tony had answered the sunset call, so I guess he was looking down on Roy and myself, smiling I reckon."*

In Memory of Edward Alfred Cunningham Boycott – Born 1873

THIS is a photo of my grandparents Lillian and Sidney BROOMFIELD with two of their children Violet and Eddie, my great grandmother Emily, great aunt Hebe and Uncle Alf. It was taken at the end of 1912 when my grandmother was pregnant with my mother and just after they had moved from Great Windsor to Spa Farm in Shelfanger.

Before they moved to Shelfanger, my grandfather was a court gardener at Windsor Castle and my grandmother was a seamstress to Queen Victoria. They had moved from Great Windsor to Spa Farm so my grandfather and Uncle Alf could set up a market garden. This was not a successful business so they turned to poultry farming.



As a small child I was aware that there was something different about uncle Alf's relationship within the family, which was probably fostered by my grandmother who always called him Mr Boycott and he was treated with great respect. As I grew older I came to understand how the partnership had been established. My mother wrote the following as part of an article for Diss Museum's local family collection:

"I often wonder what my life would have been like if my parents had not made a close friend of "Uncle", Mr Boycott, when they lived in Windsor. He was a younger son of a wealthy family and was destined for the church but, sad for them, he refused to be so and was shunned by his family who were not pleased that he wanted to go in partnership with my parents and start a garden centre in Norfolk. Uncle Boycott was a very gentle man, happy only with his books and garden. Unhappily for mum and dad he made friends in the village with the local gardener and refused to take any trade from the said gardener. Uncle tended his front garden, read his books and wandered happily around the countryside, liked by all for his gentle and friendly manner."



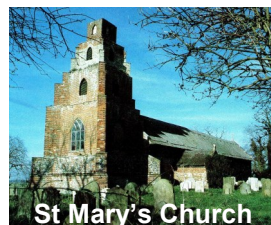
My mother used to tell me stories of how she loved his gentleness and how proud she felt when he took her to and from the village school. She had very fond memories of holding his large and warm hand and feeling very safe with him. Uncle Alf didn't talk much at all to us children but would smile gently and would always find time to show us his collection of butterflies. I remember him coming home from the fields with his dog, rabbits or

pheasants hanging from a belt round his waist and a shotgun under his arm. I would sit down with my granddad and Uncle Alf watching how the game was prepared for the pot.

Uncle Alf died in 1946 and was buried in Shelfanger Churchyard. His headstone is inscribed with the words "everyone's friend". Some time after his death I remember my grandparents being very upset because 'the family' came to see her to arrange for his body to be exhumed in order for him to be put in the family tomb. My grandparents refused this saying "you didn't want him in life and you're not having him in death".

As I got older I learned about Uncle Alf's history and was told that he came from a rich family who were at Court. He 'did the world cruise', loved sailing on the Broads and was due to follow on in the family tradition and become the rector of

Burgh-St-Peter. I was told he had a breakdown and 'within court circles' was not considered fit and able to take up this role. In 1947 when I was about 11-years-old a film called "Captain Boycott" was released and we were taken to see it so that we could learn how their name came synonymous with the term "to Boycott". It gave us a very poor view of the family which coloured my feelings against them for what I saw as a rejection of a family member who had a mental health condition and the image remained with me until I read a book called Boycott published in 1997 and written by Charles Arthur Boycott.



I assume the Boycott family at the time did not want anyone to know that Edmund Alfred Cunningham (uncle Alf) had a breakdown of his mental health. In the above mentioned book his birth and death are not registered on the family tree and it is stated that "he suffered from some 'physical imbalance' which prevented him from becoming the fifth Boycott Rector." His name is engraved on the list of rectors in St. Mary's Church, Burgh St. Peter.

William Boycott m. Charlotte Oxley (1843-1889)
Rev. Edward Alfred Cunningham Boycott (1873-1946)

by Jean M Sullivan

An Ancestor Much-Travelled

ON 16th June, 1816, in the parish of St Clement, Norwich, the baptism of Sarah RANT, second daughter, and second of 14 children, of Jonathan Rant (1794-1862) and Sarah his wife née LUSHER (1796-1869) took place. Jonathan was a master bricklayer and also licensee of (at least) two Norwich pubs which no longer exist - The Pigeons or Three Pigeons, Fishgate Street in 1830 and the Dyers' Arms, Quayside, 1845-1854; plus one that does - Ribs of Beef, Fyebridge Street, 1854-1861. In that there is nothing remarkable, but Sarah's arrival in the city of her ancestors would mark the beginning of a life destined to span an enormous length in both time and distance.

By 1845, Sarah was living in Marylebone, London, where on 13th July in that year she married Thomas THORNE, a cabinet maker, after banns. Both had at least some degree of education, as both signed their names in the marriage register. More than three years younger than Sarah, he too had been born in Norwich in the parish of St Paul on 24th December, 1819. Two of Sarah's sisters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth, had also migrated from Norfolk to London by or during the 1840s; possibly all three girls had travelled together to seek better fortunes. In the 1851 census, Sarah and Thomas live at Lillington Street, Westminster with their first three children. (Her sister Elizabeth lives in the same street in the 1861 census.)



Also in 1851, gold was discovered in the area around Ballarat, in the colony (as it then was) of Victoria, Australia. It marked the beginning of the first great Australian gold rush. Speculators and prospectors were drawn from all over the world. Between 1852 and 1861 an estimated half a million people from the UK alone sailed to Australia. The

burgeoning city of Ballarat mushroomed with the population rising to 40,000 people, many living in tents; disease, especially dysentery, was rife.

Gold digging could be a family affair in 1850s Australia.

Both the UK and Australian governments instituted a system of assisted migration with a number of different schemes in operation. These included, in the UK, assisted passage instituted by the parish Guardians of the Poor, designed to reduce the number of poor people the parish might have to support in later years, whilst the Colonial Land and Emigration Office provided land grants and free passage to the colonies. Victoria was one of the four main Australian colonies to develop its own assisted migration schemes after 1856. (Note 1).

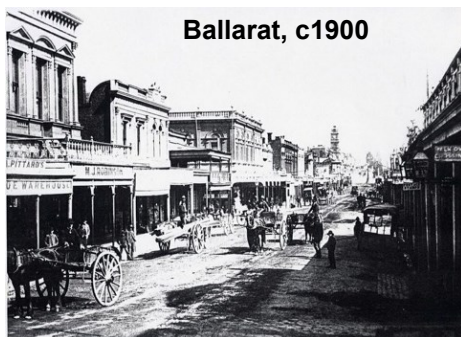
The combination of the lure of gold and the prospect of a free voyage was clearly attractive to the Thorne family. Travelling as assisted migrants (we do not know under which scheme), on 19th November, 1856, Sarah and her five children - but not her husband - departed Liverpool on board 'Herald of the Morning' which set sail on that date bound for Melbourne. The children are Frances Elizabeth (aged about 10), Sarah Alice (8), Thomas Walter (6), Ann Amy (4) and W(illia)m B. (2). A three-masted sailing ship built expressly for the Australian run and described as a 'fine ship of 1292 tons register' by the contemporary Melbourne press, 'Herald of the Morning' carried 460 emigrants, including 103 children of whom six died on the voyage. The ship docked on 1st March, 1857 after 102 days at sea. For a lone woman to spend more than three months at sea with five young children to care for is quite an undertaking.

Thomas was missing from this trip because he was already in Australia. That this was so is not necessarily unusual, because it was not uncommon for the man to travel first and then, once settled and as the goldfields became more viable, to send back home for their wives to join them. Thomas had probably emigrated in 1854, although available records are inconclusive. (Note 2). Where Sarah had spent the intervening two years, and by what means she had supported herself and five children, is unknown.

In any event, upon rejoining her husband, Sarah and family spend the next decade living in Ballarat and Mount Egerton (where their youngest child, Alfred

John, was born in 1859 when Sarah was already in her early forties). We can imagine Sarah helping Thomas to pan the gold they hoped to find. Then in 1866 she embarked on what turned out to be, perhaps, her most hazardous journey of all.

The Yarra Track was the name of the mountainous route between the town of Healesville, Victoria and the Woods' Point goldfields. Woods' Point is 740m above sea level (by way of comparison this is slightly more than half the height of Ben Nevis) and the final part of the route into the goldfields nearby could, by the early 1860s, be accessed only by packhorse. In the mid-1860s a road was being constructed, varying in width between 12 feet and 20 feet, to accommodate horse-drawn wagons. It was in the summer (the only time of the year the track was passable) of 1866 that Sarah and Thomas set off on the journey along this track heading to the small town of Woods' Point. Although it was late summer, in mid-March their eight-horse wagon became snow-bound for two days in the town of Marysville. When the snow melted another team of eight horses was needed to climb Mount Arnold (818m) and their eventual arrival - and here there is a suggestion that Sarah and her family were the very first people to reach Woods' Point by the new track - caused quite a commotion in the streets. (Note 3)



Between 1874 and 1894, Sarah managed the news agency in Bridge Street, Woods' Point, and did so 'assiduously' according to her obituary. We do not know precisely when Thomas ended his gold hunt, or how successful he was, but by no later than 1889 he was once again earning his living as a cabinet maker. With both the mining industry and the population of Woods' Point in decline (to between 100 and 200 during this period), and wishing to end their days where they had first settled in Australia, Sarah and Thomas returned to Ballarat and resided at 79, Grant Street.

At the age of 83, Thomas died on 19th April, 1903. His will, dated 16th March 1889, named Sarah as his sole beneficiary and executrix. The value of Thomas's personal estate was a modest £322: a parcel of land (this may be the marital home) £220, furniture £75, watches, jewellery and trinkets £2 and the tools of Thomas's trade £25.

Having been a widow for more than nine years, on 29th November, 1912, after an illness lasting two or three days, Sarah passed away. Her death was due to a cerebral haemorrhage. Her final journey took place the following day, when she was buried alongside Thomas at Ballarat New Cemetery, in the plot located at

Private B, Section 12, Grave 29 (Note 4). Grandchildren and many friends attended her funeral. Just a few months short of her 97th birthday, Sarah had outlived all of her children except Ann Amy.

The extent to which Sarah was merely a follower in her husband's wanderings, or whether she took an active role in making the decisions which took them both far and wide, we will never know. However, her story reminds us that, in the expansive years of the mid-Victorian period when poor men sought their fortune overseas, it was not just the men folk who had to adapt to changing fortunes. The women too, like Sarah, had to find their own way in a new life, and adapt both physically and financially to the circumstances in which they found themselves. Sarah Thorne née Rant is my 3x great aunt. I believe that she has many descendants alive today in Australia. I am descended from her younger brother James, a patten maker by trade (a patten is a wooden over-shoe). James also lived a long life (1820-1911), but - unlike his sister - spent the whole of his 90-plus years living and working within a mile or so of his birthplace. Clearly the wanderlust gene was somewhat selective!

Notes on Selected Sources

(1) Mark D. Herber, 'Ancestral Trails', 1997; Family History Magazine, Nov 2007.

(2) Victoria Inward Passenger Lists, 1839-1923, www.findmypast.co.uk; www.theshipslist.com. There appear to be two possibilities for Thomas' emigration: either in 1854 (date unknown) on board 'Sultana' sailing from Liverpool (but the age for this Thomas Thorne, a miner, of 28 understates 'our' Thomas' age by about six years), or departing on 19th December, 1854, from Southampton on board 'Persia' bound for Melbourne, - but in this instance a Thomas Thorne (a carpenter) and a Sarah Thorne are together, both aged 35, travelling as assisted migrants. It would seem illogical that she should sail to Australia without her children, come back to England to collect them, then emigrate again, given that this would entail travelling one and a half times around the world in the space of about 28 months. The first possibility seems most likely since it would suggest both Thomas and Sarah went together first to Liverpool from London, rather than one going to Liverpool and the other to Southampton.

TheShipsList: Passengers, Ships, Shipwrecks

www.theshipslist.com

Free databases on TheShipsList, where you can find passenger lists, fleet lists, pictures, ship pictures, shipping schedules, ship descriptions, wreck data, and other ...

3) Much of the background, including her journey on the Yarra Track, of Sarah's life comes from her obituary, published in the Healsville and Yarra Glen Guardian on 6th December 1913, freely available to search on <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>. The text does not make it clear what Sarah's starting point for this journey was and gives no information on how long it took or the distance travelled.

(4) <https://web.ballaratcemeteries.com.au/Deceasedsearch/DeceasedSearch.aspx?surname=Thorne#>

Alan Harper MN 13133

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, please include your membership number.

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

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

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Jack Valentine

OUR piece on Jack Valentine brought quite a response and seems to have evoked a lot of childhood memories amongst our members as the following shows:

Jack Valentine and That Plane Crash

Dear Editor

I write in respect of your appeal regarding Jack Valentine. I lived in Hellesdon (on the Holt Road) and my parents observed this custom when I was a child, late 1930s, early 1940s. I can remember as a naughty schoolboy carrying the tradition a little too far and leaving such items as dead rats on people's door-steps, knocking on the door and hiding behind hedges to watch the reaction!

I also continued the tradition with my children and grandchildren. On one occasion, when my children were old enough to realise what was happening, I remember I attached concealed wires to the front door bell and was able to ring the bell from inside the house when they knew my wife and I were not outside leaving the parcel. This really had them mystified!

I also remember the Liberator which crashed on Hastings Avenue mentioned by Roger Kendall. As he said the aircraft had taken off from nearby St Faith's airfield full of fuel (1,500 gallons) for the troops in Northern France. I was at nearby Heather Avenue School at the time when we heard this almighty bang. As soon as school finished we all rushed down Reepham Road to see what had happened. This happened on 20th September, 1944.

Another Liberator crash, which I remember, happened on 13th February, 1944. The aircraft crashed near houses at the junction of Church Street and Spixworth Road in Old Catton and considerable damage was done.

It seems, living near St Faith's airfield during the war, there was more chance of being killed or injured by an American aircraft than a German bomb!

Roger Campling MN 3944

Dear Editor

In answer to your question about Jack Valentine. I, as a child, had him knock on

my door. I carried on the tradition with my children as did my brother and sister. Sadly the next generation didn't.

However, a cousin of mine, her son and daughter-in-law, do it for their daughter. So all is not lost. Will Maisie carry on the Jack Valentine tradition (She's five years old today)? Hopefully she will.

Best wishes

Pam Adlam MN 14044

Hello Peter,

In reply to your article in March, 2018, Norfolk Ancestor, I would like to say that I carried out this custom between 1998 and 2004 with my two eldest grandchildren, as my parents did for me.

There is also a slightly different version to the one you describe in your article.

In this version a parcel was put on the doorstep but this time there was a thin string tied to it and, when the child bent down to pick it up, it was snatched away. After the third or fourth snatch it is left on the step with no string attached.

This version worked better years ago when there was no or very little street or outside light, thus the parcel disappeared into the darkness.

You may not be aware of a rhyme that used to be recited on or around the 14th February.

Good morrow Valentine

God bless the baker

You'll be the giver

And I'll be the taker.

I will just add that next year I hope to carry on the custom with my three youngest grandchildren.

Best regards,

John Bailey MN 11195

Hello,

I was interested in your piece about Jack Valentine. When I was a lad some 70 years ago we were told it was Old Mother Valentine. Just after tea there would

be a knock at the door. We opened it to find a little parcel on the step. Generally a few sweets in a red and white hankie. As we bent to pick it up it would move out of our reach. After several attempts to get it we were rewarded with the sweets.

None of us noticed that our father was absent. He was in the wood shed spying on proceedings and pulling the cotton (or fishing line) to keep us guessing. He would appear a little later and we could tell him all about Old Mother Valentine.

Tim Melton

Dear Editor

The Jack Valentine article also interested me. I grew up in Luton but my mother came from Norfolk, of which she was very proud. As a child on Valentine's Day, I would have to listen for a knock on the door by the Valentine Man. There would be a balloon tied to the letterbox and a bag containing colouring book, crayons and sweets. My mother, who had run round the side of the house without my knowledge, would exclaim that it was the Valentine Man. He only came the once in the day and she called him the Valentine Man not Jack Valentine. My mother said that her mother from Fakenham used to do the same thing for her as a child. Nobody else I knew in Luton had heard of this custom, but I read once that it was just peculiar to Norfolk and a part of Suffolk. I am afraid I did not keep this up with my own children and now they say that they feel deprived! It would be interesting to discover the origin of this custom.

I always enjoy reading the magazine and all things Norfolk. I recently enclosed a copy of my mother's book of her childhood memories which I had printed. I started researching my family history in 1960 (half of which is Norfolk) going back hundreds of years in all directions. I have volumes but all in paper form and not on the computer.

Pat Boxford. MN 853.

From the Archives

Whilst searching through the Norfolk Ancestor archives I came across the following description of Valentine's Day. Unfortunately the name of the writer has been lost.

"In Norfolk, February 14th was a special day for the children. It was also reckoned to be the first day of Spring and tea in many homes was eaten without a light, even if the day outside was dismal.

After tea the excitement began. In my mother's family as soon as darkness fell a sharp rap would be heard at the little-used front door. The eldest child was allowed to answer it but would find nobody there. However, on the doorstep would be an unwieldy package addressed to him/her. So it would continue until every child had answered the door and found a parcel. The contents – a hoop, whipping top or skipping rope – were usually the same but the children entered into the spirit and feigned amazement. No one knew who the mysterious giver was, though perhaps the older ones made a guess. The custom was widespread in Norfolk, though with some variations. A pig's tail or a beautifully wrapped dead bat might not have been welcome gifts. Snatch Valentine was played by mischievous children who took advantage of houses having doors next to one another. Parcels would be left on each doorstep and the door handles would be tied together, or the parcels would be fastened to a long string so they could be snatched away as the recipient bent to pick them up. Another prank was to leave a loosely tied parcel of horse manure balanced delicately on the doorstep. This was very gratifying when the step led down into the house."



Peter Steward MN 14801

A Brush with History continued

ON 8th August, 1780, Elizabeth Deyns married John PAGE of Attlebridge. John's Grandfather Philip was a wealthy farmer in Suffolk and owned a lot of land. But his eldest son, also called Philip, was not good with money and managed to lose much of his inheritance. The farms were sold and his sons, John and another Philip, became tenant farmers. John, like his father, was a spendthrift and built up many debts. When he married Elizabeth, Samuel Deyns, as well as giving a large dowry, also settled his new son-in-law's debts. However, as he was now in his sixties, he attached one condition. This was that the first son of the marriage should enter the firm. Samuel Deyns Page was born two years later (1782) and went to live as a child in Norwich. In time he was apprenticed to his grandfather. When he came of age in 1803 he became a partner in the firm and when his grandfather died in 1806 he inherited his business interests. In 1805 he had married Sarah, the only surviving child of Martin and Sarah FOUNTAIN. Martin was a prosperous, well respected builder who had worked on many important civic buildings like Shirehall and the city gaol. When he died in 1828, Samuel inherited a considerable amount of property in the parish of St Mary's.

Times were very difficult for small businesses around 1815. The war with France was over and, with cereal prices falling, there was a deep depression in the rural economy. It appears that Samuel was very astute and diversified his business interests into wholesale stationery and drapery as well as brush making. He gave his three sons sound business training and his third child also called Samuel was apprenticed to his father in 1831 and became a partner thus creating the restyled firm of S.D. Page and Son.

Samuel Senior was a kind and just employer participating in civic life as a special constable and a councillor for the Mancroft ward. He was the only one of John and Elizabeth Page's sons to do well. On one occasion he had to rescue his brother, Henry, an ironmonger in Fakenham, who became a forger and ran away to Ireland.

When he died in 1845 he had taken the business through very difficult times. He was succeeded by Samuel III and, with the depression easing, the business started to flourish again. They were able to buy a neighbouring property in the Haymarket which in effect doubled the size of the factory. Brush making increased and wrapping paper, string and twine manufacture started. The expanding railway network meant that the firm was able to sell its goods to the national



market. Samuel was joined in the business by his second and third sons Frederick John(1838-1927) and Charles Fountain(1839-1921). Frederick managed the brush making side of things while Charles handled the other departments. When they became partners the firm was renamed S.D. Page and Sons.

The factory in Haymarket was greatly expanded and by 1860 it was employing over a hundred people. The Norwich factory dominated the Haymarket, with five floors packed with men and women making every type of brush for the wholesale trade. The people of Norwich were constantly subjected to its smoky presence by the scale and activity of its city centre site. It focussed on brush making, stationery and printing.

It quickly became necessary to add new premises, and these were erected at Wymondham. Naturally the incoming of a brush factory was warmly welcomed by the Wymondham people, and the venture proved to be so successful that

several extensions had to be made from time to time. The Wymondham works opened in 1886 in a row of cottages in Lady Lane. There were large timber yards with drying sheds and workshops where the stocks and handles were cut, turned and pre-drilled. By 1890, 600 people were employed at the Norwich and Wymond-

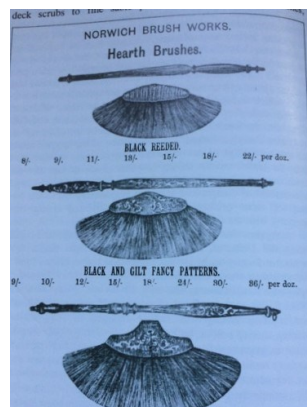
ham



Women at work in Wymondham

sites. There was no shortage of labour in the countryside and women were only too willing to walk in from the surrounding villages to find work. In early 1890s the Wymondham works were almost totally destroyed by fire and had to be rebuilt as a new two-storey factory. However the company was soon to be caught up in a wave of strikes which had taken hold of Norwich businesses for much of 1890-91.

The strikes had a lasting effect on the firm and, in April 1890, the two brothers finally decided to dissolve their partnership with Charles Page, taking control of the brushworks. In March 1894, there was yet another fire at the Wymondham works but the factory was rebuilt, extended and modernised. Machines that could do the work of 12 men were installed allowing the firm to compete on price with the cheapest foreign imports. The business went from strength to strength, taking over the Cann's Wymondham brewery. A third factory was opened in the old printing works of the Norfolk News Company at Museum Court off St Andrew's Street, Norwich. World War One brought mixed fortunes to the brush trade because the workforce was greatly depleted and the cost of imported material rose steeply. But Pages were heavily involved in war work and secured huge government contracts. This would eventually lead to amalgamation with a London based brush company to form Briton's Brushes, but this, as they say is a story for another day.



Roger Morgan MN16248

Murder in France

ON May 27th, 1940, 99 soldiers from the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Royal Scots Regiment and other units were lined up against a barn wall in Northern France and machine gunned by members of the German SS.

The atrocity at the small hamlet in Le Paradis in the Pas de Calais area close to Dunkirk has become accepted as a case of mass murder which resulted in the German officer who gave the order to fire, being hanged after the war.

A new web site - Le Paradis Massacre: Hell in Paradise - has been set up to commemorate those who died and also to highlight the heroism of Norfolk man Bill O'Callaghan from Dereham who survived the massacre and helped to bring the German officer to justice

Today the French hamlet of Le Paradis (literally Paradise) is a quiet and peaceful rural setting that belies its stormy past.

In 1940, Le Paradis was the site of one of the most evil acts of war ever committed when members of the German SS Tottenkopf massacred 97 soldiers with just two surviving. The order to fire was given by German officer Fritz Knoechlein.



The soldiers were part of a rearguard action ordered to fight to the “last man and last bullet” to hold back the German advance and allow hundreds of thousands of British troops to escape off the Normandy beaches at what has become known in history as “the evacuation of Dunkirk.”

During research for the web site it became obvious that the troops were completely unaware that Dunkirk featured an evacuation back to the United Kingdom. They believed they were holding up the enemy for the landing of reinforcements onto the French beaches.

This was just one of the startling discoveries that came to light from a variety of sources, including diaries from one of the survivors and also from senior officers in the area at the time.



Ironically the two survivors – Privates William “Bill” O’Callaghan and Albert “Bert” Pooley were born within four miles of each other in Middlesex (O’Callaghan in Brentford and Pooley in Southall). Bert was brought up in Southall and returned there after being repatriated in 1943. Bill, on the other hand, left London around 1920 and made Dereham his home for the remainder of his life.

The 99 soldiers were holed up in a farmhouse and were given the chance to fight on or surrender by their commanding officer Major Lisle Ryder. They decided on the latter action and came out of the farmhouse under a white flag, expecting to be taken as prisoners-of-war. But they were rounded up, marched along the road and lined-up along a barn where they were initially shot and then bayoneted under the orders of Knoechlein.

Bill O’Callaghan and Bert Pooley were both injured but “played dead” and survived. But that was only the start of the story. Bill who was slightly built and only about 5ft 5in tall managed somehow to carry six-footer Bert to a pig sty where they survived by drinking muddy water and eating raw potatoes until they were discovered by a Frenchwoman who owned the farm where they were hiding. Madame Pauline Creton fed and looked after the duo until it was decided they should be handed over to the more humane German troops. As a result Bill spent the remainder of the war moving around various German POW camps until returning to the UK at the end of the war. Bert was repatriated earlier due to his serious leg injuries and the work of the Red Cross who arranged a prisoner exchange. Such were Bert’s injuries that he had to have both legs amputated and spent the rest of his life in constant pain - both mentally and physically.

Captain Charles Long avoided the massacre by going out of the back door of the farm and being taken a prisoner of war. Born in Attleborough, Long kept a comprehensive diary of events which is reproduced on the website. He was also an excellent artist who later sketched the build-up, the massacre and the aftermath. His depiction of the massacre is reproduced on page 26 with the permission of his family.

In the September Ancestor we look at some of the Norfolk men who fell in the massacre.

Pedigree Collapse

HOW many direct ancestors did we have in the distant past?

At first sight it seems that one generation ago we had two parents, two generations ago we had four grandparents, three generations ago eight great grandparents and so on indefinitely. On this basis we would have 2^G notional direct ancestors G generations ago. If we assume the interval between generations to be 30 years, this means that 300 years ago, i.e. 10 generations, we had 2^{10} i.e. 1024 direct ancestors which seems reasonable. But, on this basis, if we go back say 600 years (20 generations), we would have 2^{20} i.e. over one million ancestors and 900 years (30 generations) 2^{30} i.e. over 1 billion. It is estimated that the population of the world did not reach 1 billion until 1804.

Clearly this simple model leads to a paradox. What it fails to account for is the marriage of cousins, i.e. people having ancestors in common. For example, if your parents were first cousins, they had two grandparents in common and so your great grandparents would number only six rather than eight and all previous generations would be reduced by a quarter. Marriages of second, third, fourth, etc cousins lead to smaller reductions in the number of direct ancestors. This phenomenon is known as pedigree collapse.

Estimating the number of direct ancestors at any point in the past is a complex demographic problem but some insight may be obtained by using a statistical approach and making a couple of simplifying assumptions. First let us assume that throughout history the available population (of suitable age) from which our ancestors are selected is fixed at N . Half ($N/2$) are males and half ($N/2$) are females.

We start by knowing that we each have two parents at generation one. Let us assume that the parents of each of them (our grandparents) are selected at random from the available population at generation two. Our father's father is selected at random from $N/2$ males in the population. His mother is selected at random from $N/2$ females. Our mother's parents are selected in the same way. This process is then repeated at each generation further back in time. At generation G , each male ancestor's father is selected from $N/2$ males and his mother from $N/2$ females. Each female ancestor's parents are selected in the same way. When the father of each ancestor (male and female) at generation G is randomly selected, the probability of any male at generation $G+1$ being selected is 1 in $N/2$, i.e. $2/N$. The probability of any male at $G+1$ **not being** selected is therefore:

$$1 - \frac{2}{N}$$

When the fathers of all the ancestors at generation G have been selected, the probability of any male at generation G+1 **not being** selected is therefore:

$$\left(1 - \frac{2}{N}\right)^{(M_G + F_G)}$$

where M_G is the number of males and F_G is the number of females at generation G. Therefore the probability of any male **being** selected at generation G+1 is:

$$1 - \left(1 - \frac{2}{N}\right)^{(M_G + F_G)}$$

The expected number of male ancestors M_{G+1} at generation G+1 is therefore the nearest integer to:

$$\frac{N}{2} \left\{ 1 - \left(1 - \frac{2}{N}\right)^{(M_G + F_G)} \right\}$$

Of course the expected number of females F_G is the same as the expected number of males M_G at each generation.

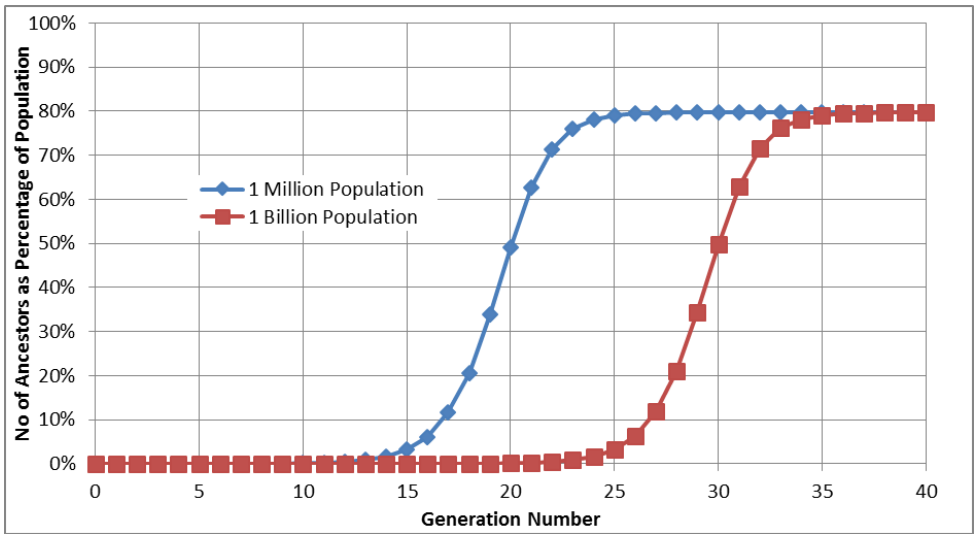
Evaluating this expression recursively as G increases from 1, based on a fixed population N of 1 million or 1 billion, gives the results in Table 1. It may be seen that, for a population of 1 million, the expected number of ancestors is the same as the notional number back to generation 10 but at generation 11 it is 2046 rather than 2048. The discrepancy increases going back in time until the expected number of ancestors ($M_G + F_G$) converges to 79.6812% of the available population N. If the population is 1 billion, convergence is slower but still occurs at the same proportion of the population. These results are presented graphically in Figure 1. These expected values represent an average and, in practice, random fluctuations would of course produce a variance and cause the true number of ancestors to exceed or fall short of the expected values.

Based on these simplifying assumptions and supposing the historic population of England to be much nearer 1 million than 1 billion, each person of mainly English descent may be considered as being descended from on average 80% of the population of England 20 to 25 generations ago. A reciprocal argument is that any historic figure of that period, who has descendants alive today, is an ancestor of 80% of us. Perhaps this is the basis of the assertion sometimes heard that 80% of English people are descended from Edward III. He was born in 1312 or about 22 generations before someone born in 1970. The task for the genealogist is merely to name all the ancestors in between.

The above statistical analysis obviously makes a number of simplifying assumptions. The available population, whether of this country or the world, was not fixed. Also the selection of parents at each generation would not be at random but weighted by the statistics of geography, age, class and religion. Perhaps a computer model could be designed to simulate pedigree collapse more realistically by taking these factors into account. Alternatively you may subscribe to the theory of uncertain origin that there are three kinds of falsehoods: lies, damned lies and statistics.

Paul White MN 362

Figure 1 - Expected Number of Ancestors as Percentage of Population versus Generation Number



Many thanks to Paul for his extremely thought-provoking piece on ancestors which was in response to my rather amateurish ramblings in the March edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

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.

TABLE 1: Expected Number of Ancestors in Fixed Populations of One Million and One Billion

Generation	Notional No of Ancestors	Fixed Population of 1 Million		Fixed Population of 1 Billion	
		Expected Ancestors	% Of Population	Expected No of Ancestors	% Of Population
0	1	1	0.0001	1	0.0000001
1	2	2	0.0002	2	0.0000002
2	4	4	0.0004	4	0.0000004
3	8	8	0.0008	8	0.0000008
4	16	16	0.0016	16	0.0000016
5	32	32	0.0032	32	0.0000032
6	64	64	0.0064	64	0.0000064
7	128	128	0.0128	128	0.0000128
8	256	256	0.0256	256	0.0000256
9	512	512	0.0512	512	0.0000512
10	1,024	1,024	0.1024	1,024	0.0001024
11	2,048	2,046	0.2046	2,048	0.0002048
12	4,096	4,084	0.4084	4,096	0.0004096
13	8,192	8,134	0.8134	8,192	0.0008192
14	16,384	16,136	1.6136	16,384	0.0016384
15	32,768	31,756	3.1756	32,768	0.0032768
16	65,536	61,538	6.1538	65,534	0.0065534
17	131,072	115,804	11.5804	131,060	0.0131060
18	262,144	206,744	20.6744	262,086	0.0262086
19	524,288	338,660	33.8660	524,034	0.0524034
20	1,048,576	492,024	49.2024	1,047,518	0.1047518
21	2,097,152	626,206	62.6206	2,092,844	0.2092844
22	4,194,304	714,186	71.4186	4,176,940	0.4176940
23	8,388,608	760,302	76.0302	8,319,084	0.8319084
24	16,777,216	781,420	78.1420	16,500,518	1.6500518
25	33,554,432	790,460	79.0460	32,462,444	3.2462444
26	67,108,864	794,214	79.4214	62,862,150	6.2862150
27	134,217,728	795,754	79.5754	118,142,062	11.8142062
28	268,435,456	796,382	79.6382	210,443,696	21.0443696
29	536,870,912	796,638	79.6638	343,535,988	34.3535988
30	1,073,741,824	796,742	79.6742	496,953,162	49.6953162
31	2,147,483,648	796,784	79.6784	629,871,988	62.9871988
32	4,294,967,296	796,802	79.6802	716,273,352	71.6273352
33	8,589,934,592	796,808	79.6808	761,299,762	76.1299762
34	17,179,869,184	796,810	79.6810	781,855,932	78.1855932
35	34,359,738,368	796,812	79.6812	790,642,490	79.0642490
36	68,719,476,736	796,812	79.6812	794,289,416	79.4289416
37	137,438,953,472	796,812	79.6812	795,784,380	79.5784380
38	274,877,906,944	796,812	79.6812	796,394,058	79.6394058
39	549,755,813,888	796,812	79.6812	796,642,174	79.6642174
40	1,099,511,627,776	796,812	79.6812	796,743,062	79.6743062

The Boileau Fountain continued.

AT the fountain's dedication ceremony, Sir John Boileau's son Francis praised the work done by Thomas Jekyll and in particular the impressive metalwork. Sadly in the week after the ceremony, Jekyll was to suffer a complete mental breakdown which resulted in him being confined to the Bethel Asylum. Earlier Jekyll had been employed by the British shipping magnate Frederick LEYLAND to remodel the dining room of his Kensington house. The focal point of the room was a painting by renowned American artist James WHISTLER. When the room was close to completion, Jekyll felt unwell and Whistler himself agreed to finish the job. Whistler felt that the colours in the room clashed with his painting and set about making changes.

Leyland travelled to his Liverpool home but was so shocked when he returned to see the alterations Whistler had made that he quarrelled violently with him and sacked him immediately. When Jekyll saw the changes he too was so shocked by the sight of *his* room, that he returned home and was later found on the floor of his studio covered in gold leaf; he never recovered and died insane three years later in 1881, aged 54.



In November 1910, members of the Boileau family were involved in an accident that took place at the fountain site. Sir John's grandson Maurice and granddaughter Margaret were travelling in a carriage when a cyclist skidded in front of them. This caused the horses to bolt and travel at great speed towards St Stephen's Gate. The carriage crashed into two other vehicles injuring the coachman. Lady Margaret, who was a doctor, helped to take the poor coachman into the adjacent hospital which her grandfather had supported with his money.

The fountain was eventually removed in 1965 to ease traffic flow with the introduction of traffic lights. The canopy was dismantled and the statue was taken away. In 2008 the statue was returned to a site about 50 metres west to sit next to a pond in the grounds of the former Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The Boileaus lived for many years just outside Norwich in Ketteringham Hall next to St Peter's Church. In our September Ancestor you can read much more about the Boileaus and the history of the hall including the infamous body snatching scandal of 1853 which so shocked the parishioners.



Roger Morgan MN16248

New Members and Members Interests to April 15th, 2018

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



Welcome to the June 2018 issue of *The Norfolk Ancestor*.

If you haven't already renewed for this year 2018/2019, now is the time to renew as members who have not paid will be archived in June 2018.

Please log in and 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.

With the new Data Protection rules, we are being strict with handing out information. If you need to contact a member with the same interests as yourself you need to go into our website members' interests and search the name, click on contact details and an email will be sent with their details on .If, however, the member has not listed their interests but you know the member number send membership@nfhs.co.uk a message I will forward it onto the member.

I hope you all have a lovely summer, it is getting warmer!

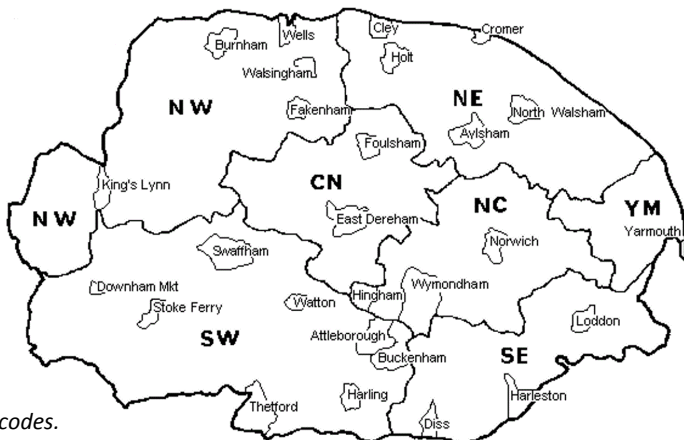
In December we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary so in September we will be producing an extra, commemorative edition of the Ancestor.

Regards Jean

Members' Interests Search Area Codes

KEY

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



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

New Members to 15th April, 2018

The Society welcomes the following new members

16853	Ms	C.	Smith	UK	16903	Mrs	W.	Russell	UK
16854	Mr	I.	Cox	UK	16904	Mrs	E.	Hutchin	UK
16855	Mr	A.	Baldwin	UK	16905	Mrs.	J.	Toews	CAN
16856	Miss	K.	Voisey	UK	16906	Mrs	Y.	Hart	UK
16857	Dr	K.	Chatfield	UK	16907	Mr	R.	Milam	USA
16858	Mr	C. N.	Smith	UK	16908	Mr	E.	Nobbs	AU
16859	Ms	C.	Taylor	IRE	16909	Miss	K.	Jones	UK
16860	Mr	E.	Jones	UK	16910	Mr	A.	Hanlon	AU
16861	Mr	S. B.	Thorn	UK	16911	Ms.	T. T.	Hoffmann	USA
16862	Mr	C.	Child	UK	16912	Mr	P.	Moyes	UK
16863	Mr	R.	Bilham	UK	16913	Mr	P.	Walpole	UK
16864	Mr	R.	Watson	UK	16914	Mrs	C.	Whitby	UK
16865	Mr	S.	Roddwell	UK	16915	Mrs	G.	Haslam	UK
16866	Mrs	L.	Griffiths	SP	16916	Ms	R.	Baty	UK
16867	Mr	D.	Chilvers	UK	16917	Mr	C.	Tibbenham	UK
16868	Mr	P.	Chaston	UK	16918	Mrs	S.	Kearns	AU
16869	Mr	J.	Shenfield	AU	16919	Mrs	E.	Banas	USA
16870	Mr	C.	Clarke	UK	16920	Mrs	D.	Warda	AU
16871	Mrs	S.	Kearns	AU	16921	Mr	S.	Marks	UK
16872	Ms	E.	Branford	AU	16922	Mr	M.	Skinner	CAN
16873	Mrs	A.	Easton	UK	16923	Mr	D.	Lee	UK
16874	Ms	L.	Jessop	CAN	16924	Dr	D.	Evans	USA
16875	Mr	R.	Mullenger	UK	16925	Mr	S. A.	Juby	UK
16876	Mr	P. T.	Cresswell	UK	16926	Mr	J. C.	Crowell	USA
16877	Mrs	C.	Larson	NZ	16927	Mr	D.	Chamberlain	USA
16878	Mrs	V.	Cutts	UK	16928	Miss	J.	Howard-Armitage	UK
16879	Ms	C.	Glanfield	UK	16929	Miss	D.	Gorman	UK
16880	Mr	A.	Wace	UK	16930	Mr	N.	Skinner	UK
16881	Mrs	P.	Lumb	UK	16931	Mr	M.	Gamble	UK
16882	Mr	S.	Dashwood	UK	16932	Mrs	S.	Webster	UK
16883	Miss	C.	Predota	UK	16933	Mr	I.	Nutley	UK
16884	Mr	A.	Turvey	UK	16934	Mr.	R.	Francis	USA
16885	Miss	K.	Fleming	AU	16935	Ms	A.	Dunnett	UK
16886	Mrs	C. M.	Gill	UK	16936	Mrs	P. I.	Gurney	UK
16887	Mrs	C.	Ashby	UK	16937	Ms	K.	Gostling	UK
16888	Mrs	M.	Cockburn	UK	16938	Mr	B.	Bell	UK
16889	Mrs	D.	Saunders	UK	16939	Miss	B.	Boon	UK
16890	Mr	S.	Franklin	UK	16940	Mr	G.	Younger	UK
16891	Mrs	D.	Tonks	AU	16941	Miss	B.	Symonds	UK
16892	Ms	C.	Goldson	UK	16942	Ms	E.	Reynolds	UK
16893	Mrs	S.	Harford	IRE	16943	Mr	C. A.	Allsebrook	UK
16894	Mr	P. C.	Clarke	UK	16944	Mr	J.	Tubby	UK
16895	Miss	A.	Skipper	UK	16945	Mr	R.	Scott	UK
16896	Mrs	S. L.	Mason	UK	16946	Ms	R.	Birchall	UK
16897	Mrs	S.	Booton	UK	16947	Mr	D.	West	UK
16898	Mrs	A. V. R.	Hall	UK	16948	Miss	J.	Wilkie	AU
16899	Mr	P. S.	Marriage	UK	16949	Mr	G.	Digby	SP
16900	Mr	R.	Steward	USA	16950	Mrs	D.	Murrell	UK
16901	Mr	R. A.	Spelman	UK	16951	Ms	D.	Mccaig	CAN
16902	Mr	G. R.	Lawn	UK	16952	Mrs	B. M.	Penney	UK

16953	Mrs	D.	Poulton	UK	17002	Ms	J.	Brown	UK
16954	Ms	L.	Matthews	UK	17003	Mrs	O.	Davies	UK
16955	Mr	I.	Girling	UK	17004	Mr	D.	Angold	UK
16956	Mrs	C.	Waters	FRA	17005	Mrs	J.	Barrows	UK
16957	Mrs	J.	Hardwick	UK	17006	Mr	D.	Erratt	UK
16958	Mr	R.	George	UK	17007	Mrs	S. B.	Longe	UK
16959	Mrs	M.	Capstick	UK	17008	Mrs	P.	Welsted	AU
16960	Mrs	A.	Hall	UK	17009	Mrs	A.	Woodward	UK
16961	Mr	G.	Page	UK	17010	Mrs	S.	Leavy	UK
16962	Mrs	K.	Jones	UK	17011	Ms	S.	Doughty	USA
16963	Mrs	K.	Downey	CAN	17012	Mr	W.	Williamson	AU
16964	Ms	C.	Agger	UK	17013	Ms	C.	Morgan	AU
16965	Ms	S. H.	Isbell	UK	17014	Miss	K.	Savage	UK
16966	Mr	G.	Palmer	UK	17015	Mr	J.	Freezer	UK
16967	Mrs	J.	Dixon	UK	17016	Mrs	P.	Whall	UK
16968	Mr	T.	Jones	UK	17017	Ms.	S. L.	Porter	USA
16969	Mrs	G.	Ling	AU	17018		T.	Test	UK
16970	Mr	D.	Stone	UK	17019	Miss	A.	Harvey	UK
16971	Mrs	K.	Mashedier	UK	17020	Mr	P.	Womack	UK
16972	Mrs	T.	Henderson	UK	17021	Ms	C.	Spooner	UK
16973	Mr	I.	Waller	UK	17022	Mrs	L.	Pavey	UK
16974	Ms	K.	Hughes	UK	17023	Miss	D.	Bond	UK
16975	Mrs	C.	Fitzgerald	IRE	17024	Mr	A.	Havers	UK
16976	Mr	C.	Barker	UK	17025	Mrs	J.	Davidson	UK
16977	Mr	K. W.	Maidens	UK	17026	Mrs	J.	Morris-Smith	AU
16978	Mrs	P.	Heather	AU	17027	Mr	G.	Huggins	UK
16979	Mrs	L.	Rastrick	UK	17028	Mr	D.	Youngs	UK
16980	Mrs	E.	Bullock	UK	17029	Miss	S.	Robinson	UK
16981	Mrs	M. A.	Green	UK	17030	Ms	N.	Knights	USA
16982	Mr	J.	Hook	UK	17031	Mrs	M.	Drake	CAN
16983	Dr	J.	Fox	UK	17032	Mr	K.	Smith	UK
16984	Ms	J.	Denham	UK	17033	Mrs	C. R.	Lewis	UK
16985	Mr	I.	Warburton	UK	17034	Mrs	H.	Canning	FRA
16986	Ms	J.	Hinton	AU	17035	Mr	A.	Auty	UK
16987	Mrs	S.	Hawes	UK	17036	Mr	P.	Wood	UK
16988	Mrs	P.	Willis	UK	17037	Ms	B. J.	Pink	UK
16989	Mrs	B.	Evans	UK	17038	Mr	L.	Eagling	UK
16990	Mrs	C.	Schofield	UK	17039	Dr	R.	Smith	UK
16991	Mrs	J.	Cusack	AU	17040	Mr	D.	Brooke	UK
16992	Mr	S.	Handslip	UK	17041	Mrs	A.	Lim	UK
16993	Mrs	C.	Corfield	UK	17042	Mrs	P.	Guerreiro	UK
16994	Mrs	S.	Liddle	AU	17043	Mr	A.	McCreddie	UK
16995	Miss	S.	Smith	UK	17044	Ms.	L. R.	Hendrickson	CAN
16996	Mr	N. R.	Dunthorne	UK	17045	Mr	R.	Swindley	AU
16997	Mrs	K.	Nicholson	UK	17046	Miss	T.	Crowfoot	UK
16998	Mr	T.	Houldsworth	UK	17047	Mrs	J.	Mayes	UK
16999	Mrs	C.	Spence	AU	17048	Mr	R.	Bareham	AU
17000	Mr	T.	Enever	UK	17049	Mr	T. H.	Neave	UK
17001	Ms	J.	Edwards	UK	17050	Mrs	C.	Lemmon	UK

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. 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/>

Members Interests to 15th April 2018

MN	Surname	Area	Period	County	MN	Surname	Area	Period	County
13900	ALEFLEET	ALL	ALL	NFK	12442	HASTINGS	NE	ALL	NFK
15958	ALEXANDER	ALL	ALL	NFK	15501	HAYDEN	YM	19C-20C	NFK
17017	ALLGAR	ALL	15C-17C	ESS	15661	HEAD	ALL	ALL	NFK
13141	BAILEY	ALL	ALL	NFK	8745	HINDRY	ALL	ALL	NFK
16977	BANE	NE	15C-17C	NFK	16974	HOLMES	NC	ALL	NFK
16863	BAYES	ALL	ALL	NFK	17001	HOOK	NC	17C-19C	NFK
14461	BEALES	YM	ALL	NFK	16743	HOWES	ALL	ALL	NFK
16863	BILHAM	ALL	ALL	NFK	13351	JARVIS	ALL	ALL	NFK
13351	BLYTH(E)	ALL	ALL	NFK	16896	JOHNSON	NW	ALL	NFK
3195	BOLTON	ALL	ALL	NFK	17001	KETT	NC	17C-19C	NFK
16038	BONE	ALL	ALL	NFK	17017	KETT	NC	15C-17C	NFK
16995	BRAME	NE	18C-19C	NFK	17017	KNIGHT	NC	15C-17C	NFK
16995	BREAM	NE	18C-19C	NFK	16844	LEWIS	NE	18C-19C	NFK
15634	BROCK	ALL	ALL	NFK	16995	MANN	ALL	17C-19C	NFK
16974	BROOKS	ALL	ALL	NFK	13351	MARTIN	ALL	ALL	NFK
14997	BULLMAN	ALL	ALL	NFK	17047	MAYES	NC	16C-19C	NFK
14997	BULMAN	ALL	ALL	NFK	17047	MILLER	NC	16C-19C	NFK
16752	BURRELL	ALL	ALL	NFK	13351	MOY	ALL	ALL	NFK
12935	BURTON	ALL	ALL	NFK	12136	MYNHEER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16995	CHAPMAN	SW	17C-19C	NFK	16984	NEWELL	SW	18C-19C	NFK
16995	CHAPMAN	CN	ALL	NFK	12442	PALMER	NE	ALL	NFK
16867	CHILVERS	ALL	18C-19C	CAM	10641	PEARMAN	ALL	ALL	NFK
16867	CHILVERS	NW	18C-19C	NFK	15501	PIGGIN	NE	ALL	NFK
16867	CHILVERS	ALL	18C-19C	LIN	16752	PITTS	ALL	ALL	NFK
16867	CHILVERS	SW	18C-19C	NFK	17017	PORTER	ALL	15C-17C	ESS
16752	CLEMENTS	ALL	ALL	NFK	15501	PRESS	NE	ALL	NFK
15958	COGGLES	ALL	ALL	NFK	17017	PROCTOR	ALL	15C-17C	NFK
16795	CRISP	NW	17C-18C	NFK	13133	RICHARDS	ALL	17C-18C	NFK
15116	CUTE	NE	ALL	NFK	16976	RICHES	SW	15C-19C	NFK
16967	DAPLYN	ALL	ALL	NFK	16951	ROE	ALL	ALL	NFK
16866	DE CARLE	ALL	15C-19C	NFK	16974	ROE	ALL	ALL	NFK
16674	DENNY	ALL	ALL	NFK	13351	RUSHMER	ALL	ALL	NFK
16653	DEWING	ALL	ALL	NFK	13063	SHARMAN	ALL	18C-19C	NFK
16509	DYE	ALL	ALL	NFK	13351	SPURGEON	ALL	ALL	NFK
13900	ELFLEET	ALL	ALL	NFK	12935	STAGLES	ALL	ALL	NFK
12935	EVERETT	ALL	ALL	NFK	16967	STARLING	NW	ALL	NFK
12935	EVERETT	ALL	ALL	NFK	16891	STURLEY	ALL	ALL	NFK
16968	FOUNTAIN	ALL	ALL	NFK	3976	SYDNEY	ALL	18C	NFK
12935	FROST	ALL	ALL	ALL	16825	TAYLOR	NW	ALL	NFK
16369	GARMAN	ALL	19C-20C	NFK	7956	TURNER	ALL	18C-19C	NFK
10303	GAY	CN	ALL	NFK	15661	VERIOD	ALL	ALL	NFK
6945	GAY	NW	18C-19C	NFK	16891	WEBSDALE	ALL	ALL	NFK
16743	GIBBONS HOWES	ALL	ALL	NFK	16891	WEBSSELL	ALL	ALL	NFK
16955	GIRLING	ALL	18C-19C	NFK	17017	WHITE	ALL	15C-17C	ESS
16955	GIRLING	ALL	20C	NFK	6945	WHITMORE	NW	18C-19C	NFK
6467	GLASSCOCK	ALL	ALL	ESS	17012	WILLIAMSON	ALL	16C-18C	NFK
13351	GOSLING	ALL	ALL	NFK	17020	WOMACK	SE	17C-20C	NFK
13351	GOSTLING	ALL	ALL	NFK	16984	WORMAN	SW	18C-19C	NFK
10303	GREENGRASS	ALL	ALL	NFK	14782	WRIGHT	ALL	18C-19C	NFK
17033	HARRISON	NE	ALL	NFK	13133	WRIGHT	ALL	17C-19C	NFK

DNA Testing

Our March article on DNA testing brought forward a number of responses which included the following:

As someone who, like you (reference to the editor), believes himself to be Norfolk through and through (on my paternal side) and Suffolk on my mother's side, I read your editorial with interest.

I feel this DNA testing is something I ought to do, but I find the choice somewhat daunting - from the big gun (Ancestry) through to numerous others all purporting to offer me the same. I also read comments from a number of people who say they have done several different tests, with quite wide variations on conclusions.

Would there be any merit in the society suggesting to members that they go with one particular test, then at least if/when they share results (as you have hinted you would like to hear about) we can be certain that the same criteria and testing methodology has been used?

Mike Dodman, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire - but born in Norwich. MN 12513

Editor's Note – We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has taken a DNA test and would recommend a particular test.

Dear Editor

You asked in the latest edition about any experience concerning DNA tests.

I am struggling with my ancestor hunt for DAINES (DAINS) in the Norfolk/Suffolk area, primarily in and around Bungay. Having previously been in possession of blond hair to go with my blue eyes and a name like Daines I wondered if the Vikings and their settlement in East Anglia had something to do with it (the great army/Danelaw etc.). To explore this I had a DNA test and more recently contacted the Norfolk Viking Society to discover any new avenues.

To my surprise the information not only confirmed I was definitely not of Scandinavian descent but a "Celt" most likely from the earliest settlers to the Norfolk/Suffolk region. Oh well back to the records, I better keep on looking.....

By the way anyone else who is searching for ancestors who straddle the Norfolk/Suffolk county boundary, you have my sympathy.

Interestingly we have recently discovered my wife's family are also Norfolk descendants, ALEXANDERs from Norwich, I suspect we will be NFHS members for some time...

Great magazine, perfect for the tube journey to work.

Regards

Howard Hillier-Daines MN 13653

Editor's Note – Many thanks for the kind words re the magazine Howard. Nice to know we make it in underground London and that you find the society so useful.

Peter you asked for interesting DNA findings.

I had an unknown unnamed grandfather, grandmother last seen by my mother at the age of four, some 83 years ago. Mother was brought up by her grandparents who never discussed the events. Starting in 2006, I spent 11 years asking relatives and searching records to no avail, no one had any information about the grandfather. I did know that my grandmother worked at a "big house" near Thetford, but it was unclear if that was before or after my mother was born.

I did a DNA test last year with Ancestry which didn't help, but then I transferred the sample to FamilytreeDNA. On the day of transfer I found an unknown first cousin. After making contact I found that two of his uncles had worked at Ickworth House. I contacted Ickworth but they had little information about staff from the 1930s. The first cousin then visited Ickworth which has a feature about life below stairs and several photos on display including a maid with my grandmother's first name. He took a picture and emailed it to me and it matched one of the few photos I had of my grandmother.

This put the uncles and my grandmother at the same place and time, but we still needed to confirm that there was a direct connection and if one of the uncles was responsible. Another cousin finally agreed to take a DNA test despite her reservations. Since the results came back, I have acquired a half aunt and my mother knows the name of her father after 87 years.

Steve Roebuck MN 16617

Hi Peter

Just had a chance to sit down and read The Norfolk Ancestor and your foreword about DNA. I had my DNA analysed through Ancestry expecting the average 36% British. What a surprise, 3%!

My mother's family was from Norfolk, my father's from County Durham not a suggestion of the results apart from the possible Scottish connection with the family name "Gray". Fascinating but I'm not sure I'll ever get a clue as to where this all came from.

Regards

Jill Saxby MN 8261

Hi Peter

Thank you for another great edition of the journal. I read with interest your editorial and your thoughts on DNA testing.

I did a Family Tree DNA test 12 months ago which showed that I am 46% Great Britain. Understandable, my mother's paternal line originated (as far back as

1660 that I have found) in Cornwall. My father's paternal line comes from Great Yarmouth, the family name being EASTICK.

Other regions for ethnicity are: Europe West 12% - maternal grandmother was German.

Iberian Peninsula, Scandinavia and Italy/Greece a smattering of smaller numbers adding to 21% - who knows?

But the big one for me is the 18% Irish. I have absolutely no idea where this comes in. My only thought is that in ancient times my British forebears may have had an Irish link.

I have not found any links to any Irish ancestry. In Australia we have a saying "Murphy's Law," meaning anything unexplained. Many times I have said that if I ever caught up with Murphy I'd!

Peter Taylor (Nee Eastick) MN 16056

We are always extremely grateful for any contributions from our readers and we were very pleased that our piece on DNA analysis inspired so many people to respond. Please keep the accounts of your experiences with this technique coming, we would love to hear about them.

Society News

IN January this year we were approached by the publishers of Family Tree magazine inviting us to submit a small piece about the society to be published in their magazine later in the year. We were very pleased to accept this invitation and duly sent off some material to be included in a feature called 'Spotlight on your Society'. We have heard from the publishers that this should be printed in the August edition of the magazine. This should be available to buy some time in July, 2018, so if you are interested in seeing this keep an eye out for it.

On a similar theme, InnerShed Ltd, the company that helped to develop NORS for the society were asked to produce a short piece about it by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). This was published in the FFHS's March 2018 Newsletter which is available to read on their website - www.ffhs.org.uk



Editor's Corner

I HAVE always been fascinated by churchyards and the stories that lay hidden within them. A little research on names can turn up the most extraordinary stories. A visit to my local parish church graveyard brought forth a whole host of names to research including the story of a father and son who left their marks on two very different fields.

The shared grave is to the memory of the victim of a tragic racing accident and his father who transformed public open spaces in Norwich.

Simon SANDYS-WINSCH was born in Brundall and became the 48th person to be killed on the Snaefell Mountain Course when he died at the 1954 Isle of Man TT races. A professional racer, he crashed on the first lap of the Senior TT on June 18th.

He was 28-years-of age. He joined the RAF in 1947 and was stationed in Germany where he became a well-known competitor in various competitions and finished fifth in the 1951 Junior Dutch TT at Assen.

The 1954 Isle of Man TT race was an accident waiting to happen. The senior race was delayed for over 90 minutes due to bad weather and poor visibility. It eventually started but Sandys-Winsch came off his 350cc junior class Velocette machine due to his speed and the wet conditions.



Simon Sandys-Winsch

Despite his death, the race went ahead over a shortened distance. Eight other people were seriously injured. The Coventry Evening Telegraph reported the death on its front page of June 18th, 1954, under the heading: "Senior TT Rider Dies From Crash." It reported that Simon crashed into a wall and died on the way to hospital. He was unmarried and his address was given as Station Lane, Hethersett, hence his burial in the graveyard at St Remigius Church in the village. Simon served as a sub lieutenant in the Royal Navy in the Second World War from 1942 to 1945.

Simon's father Arnold Sandys-Winsch, who died in 1964, at the age of 76, is also buried in the same grave and was probably more famous in Norfolk than his son. Born in Knutsford, Cheshire, in 1888, he became parks superintendent in Norwich in 1919 and continued in that role for 34 years. During the First World War he served with the Royal Field Artillery and was then attached to the Air Service as a pilot.

When he was appointed to the Norwich position, the city had very few open spaces but, by the time he retired, Norwich had about 600 acres of parks and open spaces. He also created allotments and had 20,000 trees planted in parks and streets. He was responsible for changing the appearance of Norwich and creating open spaces on a large scale. He was also an authority on daffodils and an active member of the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society.

Captain Sandys-Winsch was at the forefront in designing Heigham Park, Waterloo Park, Eaton Park and Wensum Park in the city.

A little more research brought out more facts. Arnold Sandys-Winsch had three sons of which Simon was the youngest. They were all pupils at Town Close Preparatory School in Norwich. Arnold was also responsible for designing the Norwich ring road and his wife was president of Hethersett WI.

A friend of mine also remembered Arnold as a supporter of local causes and organisations.

Peter Steward MN 14801

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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.

Dear Editor

As you can see from my membership number I have belonged to Norfolk FHS a long time, but this is the first time I have been moved to want to reply. This is because there are three items of interest to me in the March issue:-

1 QUARLES

I was brought up in Sculthorpe and at the right time of the year, as a boy, friends and I would cycle to the hamlet of QUARLES as it had a good stand of Sweet Chestnut trees. We would come away with a good haul. This was during the late 1940s and early 50s. As a coincidence in September, 1961, I started work as a qualified teacher at Quarles Boys School in Harold Hill, Romford, Essex. No one there knew where the name Quarles came from. I have looked on the internet and found there was a poet called Francis Quarles born in Romford in the 16th century and wondered if that person is the connection to the school. If so, does it also connect to the Norfolk family as well?

2 TITANIC

I have been helping a lady at our U3A (University of the Third Age) group concerning her grandfather who perished in the disaster, April 1912. He had been a steward in first class cabins.

3 SALTHOUSE CHURCH

I have more relatives in that graveyard than anywhere else in the country. They include the names:- DIX, GRAVELING, HIGH, HOLMAN, LAYTON and PIGOTT.

Peter J Pigott MN 5699 – peajay@mypostoffice.co.uk

Dear Editor,

Reading through the latest edition of The Norfolk Ancestor I was interested in the Quarles article and the Valentine Man.

There was a Quarles Farm near Wells and Wighton, although I don't know if it still exists. In the book "The Wells Murder of 1817", by M.R. Welland, it is mentioned. One of my ancestors (Robert BAKER of Wells) was murdered in 1817. He was a breeches maker and went to collect debts due to him on Michaelmas Day, to Quarles Farm and other farms. He was murdered on the way home for the money, just outside Wells. I thought Quarles such an unusual name.

Elsie Maude Tilney

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see the article about Elsie Maude Tilney in the December issue and further info in the March edition of The Norfolk Ancestor. I have been researching my family for many years, they've moved about quite a lot but some of your readers might find the Norfolk connection of some interest.

It's been hard to cut down the amount of info which I have collected, it's always so tempting to include everything, below is just a 'taster'.

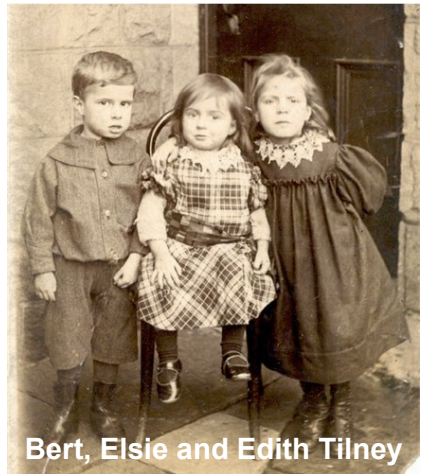
Sylvia Gilson nee Derham MN 9778

sylviagilson@btinternet.com

Some years ago whilst researching the TILNEY family, I was most 'put out' to discover a researcher in America interested in Elsie's brother Frederick describing him as coming from a sickly family from Norfolk, England, and being the only interesting member!

All of Elsie's siblings and direct line have proved to be very interesting, at least to me as I regard them as MY family. I have included all their stories, photocopies of Parish Records and BMD certificates etc in my family file and share just a few facts here, as my file extends to nearly 200 A4 pages so far.

Elsie's father was Albert Joseph Tilney and his mother was Eliza nee DERHAM. When Eliza married Joseph Tilney, they both signed their names. Their marriage was witnessed by Charles and Elizabeth IVES, her cousins. Eliza, 18, stated her father was James Derham, a weaver, but in fact he was her grandfather. Eliza's mother was Sarah Derham, daughter of James Derham. Eliza's birth certificate shows that she was born on 20th December, 1842, in Sprowston, no father is listed and I haven't found a baptism for her.



In the 1851 census, Sarah and her two illegitimate daughters, (Emma was born 2nd November 18th, 1847 and baptised 29th July, 1883) are living with Sarah's parents, James and Mary Derham, in Wroxham Road. Sprowston.

Sarah Derham was born in Devizes on 31st March, 1821, and baptised 26th January, 1823, at the same time as her youngest sister Elizabeth. The parish record for this event at St Mary's Independent Chapel, Devizes, Wiltshire makes

interesting reading. Their father is described as James Derham, Weaver of Norwich. Less than three years after this event, James and Mary (nee WATKINS) Derham moved, with their family of six children to Sprowston. Their last child, William, who was my gt. gt. grandfather, was born On 18th March, 1826, in Sprowston and baptised on 9th April, 1826.

I would love to know how this family made the journey from Wiltshire to Norfolk. I have not been able to find positive birth details for James Derham. He married Mary Watkins on 20th May, 1809, at St Mary's Parish Church, Devizes. The entry, number 20, in the marriage register reads- James Derham Sojourner. "Of the Parish" has been crossed through and the words *in this parish* have been added, and Mary Watkins "of the same Parish. Married by Banns this 20th day of May One thousand Eight hundred and Nine." James and Mary both made their mark in the presence of David Derham who signed and Sarah Derham X.

Sylvia Gilson nee Derham MN 9778

Middleton's Lane

We have had lots of information sent in about the Middleton's Lane area of Hellesdon and the bombing of Norwich following articles by Roger Kendall and comments by the editor. Here we feature some of the responses:

In response to your note on Roger Kendall's article in the March Ancestor. I lived in Middleton's Lane from 1939 until 1960 opposite the large field which bordered Middleton's Lane, Drayton High Road, the golf links and the ends of Pinewood Close and Hastings Avenue.

My mother's recollection was that the plane crashed at the far edge of the field. My only recollection is that I had a nightdress made out of (supposedly) parachute silk. Heaven forbid that the local mothers rushed out with their scissors!

I would also be glad to receive any information on the old cottages hospital end of Middleton's Lane where my great grandparents (William and Emma THICKSTONE) lived.

Dianne Brighten MN 3531

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Roger Kendall responded to my note following his article with the following comments:

As a child I lived next door to Stewards Nurseries on Middleton's Lane and my pet tortoise developed a habit of trying to hibernate in their greenhouses and it was regularly returned to me by one of the workers at the nursery.

During World War Two, the only crop grown there was tomatoes and there was also an area of outdoor tomatoes grown behind the greenhouses. I suspect that

you may be descended from the nursery owners. I left Hellesdon in 1946 and went to live in County Durham where I was convinced they spoke a different language as I couldn't even understand the English teacher at the local grammar school. During World War Two my parents rented a strip of land which was an unusual part of the nursery site for an allotment where we produced most of our vegetables.

I initially attended Heather Avenue School and subsequently went to Norwich School next to the Cathedral for two years before moving away. Hellesdon had changed almost out of recognition when I last visited it about eight years ago.

In 1973, I returned to Norfolk when I was working for the National Agricultural Advisory Service based in the Ministry of Agriculture offices in Thorpe Road, as a horticultural advisor. A few years later my work took me to Bedford, Huntingdon and finally Leeds where I retired in 1990.

I have very few relatives left in the Norfolk area now – one cousin who lives in Brundall and a few of his children and grandchildren who I have not seen for about 40 years.

I have researched my family history quite deeply and found that my father's family came to King's Lynn in the 1820s from North Lincolnshire and another branch (EYRE) came from Derby. The EYRE branch were corn merchants, maltsters and brewers (Elijah Eyre and Co) but were eventually taken over by Morgan's Brewery.

I still have a mystery which has eluded me so far – one branch of the Derbyshire Eyre family moved to Ireland where they had land called the Eyreleigh Estate. My home in Middleton's Lane was named Eyreleigh but I have never been able to find any link. I know why my second forename is Eyre as that was explained to me by my father before he passed away in 1953.

Apparently it was a family tradition to christen male children Eyre as Elijah Eyre was succeeded by exclusively female heirs as Elijah's only son had died in childhood.

Roger Kendall MN 7200 rogerkendall13@gmail.com

Editor's Note: I seem to have a considerable amount in common with Roger as I too was a pupil at the Norwich School. Maybe sometime I will have a chat with him about Beewee, Billy Bowden, Earfy and Tinny – just some of the nicknames of the masters at the school.

* * *

Diane Wilson wrote with the following:

I have known Roger (Kendall) all my life. The bottom of his garden ran along the side of my own home in Woodland Road. We still exchange Christmas cards!

My memories are slightly different, although I do remember my mother taking me past one of the plane crashes off Reepham Road. I think the Hastings Avenue one.

Mum and I also walked over to the golf course when the doodlebug came down. I had a small piece of shrapnel from it until a couple of years ago, when I sent it to auction. I think I nipped under the rope when the policeman was otherwise engaged.

Other memories are when an incendiary bomb landed on the front fence/hedge - I was told our air raid wardens ran into the brick shelter just up the road. I think one was Geoff Miles.

This was probably the occasion when all our front windows were blown in and I can still feel the crunch of walking on broken glass. The war time replacement glass was still in when I sold the bungalow, it gave quite a distorted view in some places.

Mum and I and our next door neighbour ("Auntie Louie") used to stand in the back garden, which faced St Faiths airfield, and count the planes out and in again. The numbers often didn't tally and I clearly remember Louie wringing her hands.

We had a Morrison Shelter in the back bedroom but shared an Anderson with number six, which was in the garden. (I hope I've got them the right way round). I remember being carried round to number six (we all removed three or four boards in the fence or put a gate in so we could get there more quickly).

The property was owned by a Mr and Mrs George ROE/ROW and I remember knocking on their door. It was nighttime and the sky was criss-crossed with search lights. Two suddenly held a plane captive in their light. My memory stops there. All this time the sirens would be going.

I am told that I went missing from the Anderson Shelter during an early morning raid. I had gone back for my porridge!

Another memory is of the Italian prisoners-of-war singing as they worked in Smith's potato fields, now Hellesdon High School and a row of houses.

Tanks once drove down Middleton's Lane and left the road in a bit of a mess. Worse than today's potholes.

I have a not very reliable memory of a mother and child being strafed by an enemy plane in Middleton's Lane, they missed. Whether it was me or not I can't honestly say.

That's a few memories I thought might interest you. The name Steward also rings a bell.

Diane Wilson (nee Fish) MN 11291

Russell Cann also kindly wrote to us with his memories

I read with growing interest Roger Kendall's article about bombing raids in the Second World War. My father-in-law, Mr Charles William "Bill" MADDISON was affected by the bomb that flattened Caley's factory in Chapel Field. His story was briefly as follows.

He was born in 1900, the first son of Arthur Maddison, a fitter employed by Marshall's of Gainsborough in Lincolnshire. Bill was apprenticed as an engineer to Rose Bros of Gainsborough who manufactured wrapping machines. After he finished his apprenticeship he moved to various jobs in the packaging industry in different parts of England. Eventually, in the mid 1930s,

Bill moved to Norwich to take up the post of chief maintenance engineer at Caley's which was, by then, part of the Macintosh group of confectionery manufacturers. As we know from Roger Kendall's article, Caley's was devastated by a bomb in, I think, 1942. Not wanting to lose Bill's services, Macintosh's offered him similar employment at their factory in Halifax. Bill readily accepted the move and spent the rest of the war years with his wife and daughter in Yorkshire.

After the war, Bill decided to pursue his ambition to start his own business designing and making bespoke wrapping machines. His wife suggested he should start the business in Norwich, a City which she had grown to like.

In 1947 he formed Autowrappers (Norwich) Limited which grew in 12 years to employ over 200 people. In 1959, he sold the firm to the Tobenoi Group. For anyone interested, there is a great deal of information about the company and its history on the website www.autowrappers.co.uk.

I was born in 1938 above my father's shoe shop on the corner of Unthank Road and Gloucester Street but we moved in 1939 for a few months to Middleton's Lane.

Shortly after that my father was called up and we moved to Staffordshire. Unlike you and Roger Kendall, who both lived in Middleton's Lane, I don't remember our brief spell in Hellesdon.

Kenneth R. Cann MN 16547

DIANA SPELMAN BA
Norfolk Research Specialist
(since 1982)

**Medieval to Modern
Family & Local History
Latin translation
Document transcription
Manorial records
Photography**



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Group News

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

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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.

12th June—Diss in Time—Clockmakers of a Norfolk Town

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

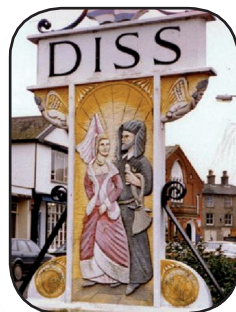
14th August - Dissent and Non-conformity with Simon Pawley

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

9th October - "Escaping Hitler" with Phyllida Scrivens

13th November - Behind the Scenes at WDYTYA with Gill Blanchard

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



December 2017

December and January brought with them challenging weather as well as the usual viruses, endemic at this time of year, and the Diss Group did not escape unscathed.

On December 12th, Mark Mitchels was coming to speak to us on the subject of "More East Anglian Characters," but, unfortunately, he had to cancel because of the icy conditions. Nevertheless, we all had an enjoyable evening. Betty always prepares a buffet to follow the speaker at our pre-Christmas meeting and to fill the gap she suggested a childhood memory session which was a great success.

There were recollections of the games played and the freedom which was enjoyed by children then, fishing with improvised rods in rivers teeming with fish and then Betty asked if anyone remembered tarry blocks. That was a new one to me but not to several of our members. Apparently many of the earlier roads were surfaced with wood blocks, treated with creosote and tar. When these were being removed in order to be replaced with the surfaces we know today, children and adults would appear with sacks and homemade trollies to take them home to burn on the fire.

Inevitably there were memories of a childhood spent in World War Two and for those of us who were too young to have experienced that time in our history it was fascinating. Betty mentioned that she attended a few schools during the war due to their casualty rate in the London bombing raids and went on to ask if anybody remembered playgrounds sited on the school rooftops. Amazingly, some did. I wonder what Health and Safety would make of that now?

Michael Hall remembered a German Junkers aircraft flying so low overhead that he witnessed the bomb bay opening. This was in Walthamstow, East London. Bernard Thorndyke told us that Diss High Street was targeted by an enemy aircraft one day when it was busy with shoppers, but fortunately the gunner's aim was inaccurate and the only casualties were the upper stories and roofs of the buildings. Bullets embedded in the fabric can still be found today when premises are undergoing refurbishment. On a less dangerous note we heard about how much fun it was going to the parties organised by the Americans, well known for their generosity with the commodities accessible to them while England was struggling to get by during rationing.

We then commenced the buffet and the raffle was drawn. The kitchen was manned by our loyal volunteers who kept us well supplied with tea and coffee. Ivan Stitt presented Betty with a bouquet and thanked her on behalf of the group for her hard work throughout the year.

January 2018

We were looking forward to January's meeting when Gill Blanchard was going to talk on 'Behind The Scenes at Who Do You Think You Are.' but sadly she was taken ill at the last minute. In that short time Betty managed to pull together a presentation which focused on the contrasting fortunes of two of her ancestors.

Jane Wyatt, or Jinny as she was known, was born in Bethnal Green in 1890, the youngest child of James and Rebecca, granddaughter of Robert Wyatt, a silk weaver, a man who had accumulated some wealth in his time. But he was hit by the decline of the silk industry and, with six children to support, things went downhill rapidly. He was forced to take labouring jobs and even scavenged but his health failed and he died in 1861 in Hoxton. Jinny's father James was a costermonger and for a while he, Rebecca his wife and seven children lived in Austin Street in The Old Nichol, a notorious East End slum, fictionalised as the Jago in Arthur Morrison's novel 'A child of The Jago' written in 1896. A sad tale about the brief brutal life of Dicky Perrott.

Jinny's parents drank heavily and James died before she was seven. By the time she married Albert in 1913, her mother was also dead, having succumbed to cirrhosis of the liver. Jinny and Albert were lucky enough to be able to move into rooms above the family fish shop but bad luck was to follow because first her baby daughter died at the age of three months, followed by Albert in 1916. In 1920 she married Thomas, a local policeman, and produced twins shortly after the wedding. A second son, William arrived in 1921 but a happy family life was

still denied to Jinny. One would expect that a policeman would be a respectable, upright man but unfortunately Thomas was a drinker and a bully. Poor Jinny was regularly beaten and once he even burned her clothes. It happened that one day she went to a meeting in a Spiritualist Church and was warned to go home and lock herself in, so she returned home and barricaded herself and the children in the bedroom. Thomas came back drunk and violent. He tried to batter down the bedroom door, shouting that he was going to kill them all but fortunately the noise alerted the neighbours and she was saved. Following this there was some kind of Separation Order and Jinny was given custody of the boys, Thomas and William, but the female twin Cecilia was given to Thomas's mother. Jinny would not see her again for thirty years.

Ever hopeful it seems, she entered into another relationship and bore three more children. This relationship failed and Jinny was left alone again. However, she had one thing in her favour. She was an expert fishmonger, having learned the skill when helping in the family business. This enabled her to pick up some work in that field as well as some office cleaning while her son Charles worked hard doing whatever jobs he could find before school. Eventually she moved to Ilford where she nursed her sister through a long illness until she died.

The Wells family were a different kettle of fish altogether. Arthur was born in 1880 into a farming family in Kenninghall and, when he reached the grand old age of 94, he decided to relate the story of his childhood to his grandson who faithfully recorded it in 1963.

Arthur was one of five children, four boys and a sister named Kate. His father, Alexander Wells, farmed some two hundred acres of land in Kenninghall. The farmhouse was substantial, having a nursery, a parlour with a huge fireplace where the parson sat when he came to call and drink a glass of wine, a kitchen and a laundry/storeroom. Above there were two large rooms like dormitories for the boys, a bedroom for Kate, another for the parents and a guest bedroom.

The family had three maids, two for the house and one for the children and there was another two bedrooms for them. However, the toilet facilities were somewhat primitive. The family used pans in the back yard which were emptied periodically into a hole in the field by the boys - who would be given a glass of gin afterwards by their father, to prevent dysentery he said.

On the farm was a large four sail windmill which was used to grind the neighbours' corn for a shilling a bag as well as a steam mill which ran on coal to grind their own flour. They had about 50 head of cattle which were slaughter beasts and a large herd of sheep. The farm employed ten labourers and their families who lived in cottages nearby. Apart from the animals the farm grew fields of corn and had a large apple orchard. The apples were sold while on the tree and the buyer would bring in his own pickers.

When Arthur left the village school, he attended the Grammar School at Banham with two of his brothers where they boarded during the week but came

home most weekends. The youngest boy Tom was sent to The High School in Norwich for some unknown reason while his sister Kate went to Attleborough. It seems that the boys enjoyed their time at the Grammar. There was a lot of sport on the curriculum and everyone was in a team. The summer holidays coincided with the corn harvest and the boys loved harnessing up the cart horse and driving the wagon to deliver the corn to various people in the area. The farm had six carthorses as well as Arthur's mother's pony and trap.

During the holidays, the boys spent a lot of time bird nesting which was quite acceptable in those days. Apart from this the boys enjoyed family holidays at Yarmouth, where their parents had been married. They were privileged children although Alexander was quite tough on them and not averse to giving them a good hiding when he thought it necessary. He was a small man, standing about 5'3" against Maria, his wife's 6 ft. But in Arthur's words 'he could hit'.

Alexander was obviously a man of substance as he invested in the stock market. Every morning at 6 am a farmhand would be sent to Kenninghall Post Office to collect a daily paper which would have been delivered from London. If Alexander decided he wanted to buy or sell he would send a postcard to Mr. Gibb, his stockbroker in London.

When the boys left school things seemed to fall into their laps. Arthur's brother George was set up as a miller in Diss and Arthur went into the drapery business as an apprentice in Colchester. Later on Alexander sold the farm and retired to Sudbury while Arthur ended up in South Africa where he told this story to his grandson.

Two vastly different histories over a similar timeline. One can picture the Wells children playing, untroubled in sunlit pastures and then the image of young Jinny against a background of the filthy mean streets of the East End where disease flourished and many children went hungry, yet, in spite of everything, she raised a family, got away from the East End and never lost her sense of humour. She is affectionately remembered by her family for her colourful sayings which have been handed down to her grandchildren. She was a survivor. She died in Oldchurch Hospital in Romford just before her 74th birthday in 1964.

Jenny Jenkins

February 2018

The February talk at The Diss Group of The Norfolk Family History Society was titled "Using photographs and memorabilia to get to know your army ancestors" and was given by Captain Graham Bandy, Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) retired.

Graham was born in Northampton and spent seven years with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment. After that he trained to become a registered nurse and then joined The British Army as a Nursing Officer. Accruing a wealth of military knowledge from both fields he was soon being invited to work on

television and do film work. He became military medical historian expert for a Yesterday TV series and more recently worked on "Who do You Think You Are?" Graham brought an immense collection of military memorabilia which included various pieces of uniform from different eras, badges, books, a brilliant powerpoint presentation of an array of military photographs and even a rifle!

He said that using photographs and pieces of memorabilia is a great way to get to know your army ancestors. A good start is to look in the family button box which may hold some military buttons, badges or tags. Black and white photos make it difficult to decipher the colour of medal ribbons. Medals will include the regimental number and name of the owner and his regiment or corps round the edge.

Graham suggested to look through the 1918 absent voters list, various regimental and Corps histories, Great War Records, medal index records and newspaper archives for assistance with research but noted that for anyone who served after 1921 their records are held by The Ministry of Defence. Those who served in World War two had to apply for their medals but these wouldn't have had their names on them - sadly many didn't ever apply for their medals. World War One medals were issued.

Cabinet photo cards were only taken up to World War One. Badges worn are the most important thing to look for on photos as these can tell a lot about the different regiments and rank changes from 1903. From 1908 the Volunteer movement became the Territorial Force and the TA.

Graham is an expert on the Northamptonshire Regiment so referred to photos of them mostly, saying that blue cuffs depicted royal prefixed infantry regiments. Buff ones had no royal prefix. From 1880 - 1902 they had jam top cuffs then changed to pointed cuffs. Before 1902 officers wore a sash across the body then round their waist. Walking out sticks are sometimes included in photos - stick drill stopped around the 1960s. The Royal Army Medical Corps, and other "in teeth arms" such as the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery had a ball instead of spike on the top of their helmets which were worn up to 1914 - Officers had gilt round the edge of their helmets - gilt so they didn't have to polish it!

Now a list of other things to look for on photos: The peaked cap came in in 1906. Before World War One you were allowed to join up from the age of 14. Collar badges are another way of identifying ranks etc. as are field service caps and Sam Brown belts.

Graham is an admirer of Edgar Mobbs, former England Rugby Captain. He retired from rugby in 1913 and then formed his own battalion in 1914, rising from private soldier to Lt Col and commanding the Battalion. Officers wore riding breeches as they had to do inspections on horseback but wore turn ups on their "slacks". There are a variety of epaulettes on shoulders of uniform and originally most wore a lanyard, then after World War One only the Royal Artillery wore white ones. Serge tunics changed in 1907 - the inside was white for World War

One then Brown for World War Two. In 1908 they wore a webbing belt. An S belt was worn by 1914 Kitchener volunteers. They ran out of badges so some had buttons on caps instead. A Wolseley helmet was made of the pith of a tree. In 1916 tin lids were worn. After 1911 officers wore collar and tie. If an RSM wore a sword he would only draw it for trooping of the colour. Oversea chevrons were worn on the cuff from 1918 but Scottish officers' cuff ranks were different.

The first days of the battles of the Somme and Passchendaele were so hot that they went over the top in shorts. Coloured field service caps were worn by all ranks from 1944. Officers wore them from 1939. A Cawnpore hat was once worn by Churchill. Covered buttons were on 1937 pattern blouse. Other jackets, including short ones, came in later and they were attached to the high waistband of the trousers. Arms of service stripes were on top of the sleeve of a jacket! The type of rifles can also help date photos too. Home guard wore leather anklets. Sister Dora hats were worn by nurses in some convalescent homes. Prisoners of war were given different uniform to wear depending on what country they came from. Brassards with a cross on were worn on the left arm. Puttees worn on the legs doubled up as bandages when needed to!

Now you can get your old photos out and start identifying what regiment your relations were in and what year the photo was taken! Many thanks to Betty Morley for again finding another interesting and knowledgeable speaker on a fascinating subject. New members or visitors are always welcome.

Roella Trudgill MN 16481

March 2018

There are various memorials to Harriet Martineau in Norwich and beyond, in the form of a tablet or a street name, but how many people nowadays know who she was? Our speaker at the Diss Group meeting in March was Georgette Vale who arrived dressed in the appropriate attire for a lady of that era and brandishing an ear trumpet. She introduced herself as Harriet before she began to talk to us about this remarkable lady, adding that she had travelled all the way from Ambleside.

Harriet was the sixth child of the Martineau family, descendants of French Huguenots, and was born in Gurney Court off Magdalen Street in Norwich in 1802 in the very house that had witnessed the birth of Elizabeth Fry 22 years earlier. Just like Elizabeth she would grow up to be a social reformer and a crusader for women, the poor and those who had no voice. Thomas was a manufacturer of textiles, thus the family was fairly prosperous. They followed the Unitarian faith which espoused open mindedness, tolerance and equality, as well as encouraging intellectual thought. Despite this Harriet's mother Elizabeth thought that the girls should be skilled in domestic duties while the boys were sent away to school, which must have been particularly hurtful for an academic child like Harriet. She was not a particularly affectionate mother and Harriet did



not consider her childhood a happy one. Elizabeth bore two more children after Harriet and it seems that Harriet poured her affection into her younger siblings. She was a sickly child and was to suffer poor health for most of her life. She lost her sense of smell and taste when she was very young and by the age of 18 had resorted to using an ear trumpet, saying that she wished to spare people as much as possible. However, in her later years when she lived in Ambleside, she did try to get out of invitations from William Wordsworth and his wife despite having idolised him when she was younger because, apart from the fact that he mumbled, he would take out his false teeth and keep his head turned away, making it impossible for her to pick up what he was saying.

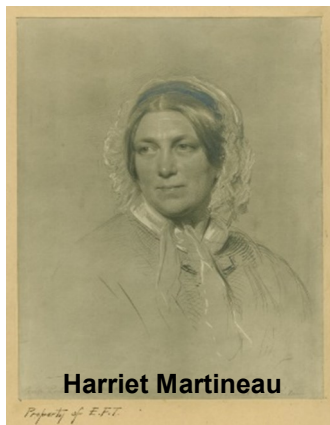
In 1829, Thomas's textile business collapsed and Harriet realised that she would have to earn her own money as her father left her just one shilling. The choices for a woman of her class were few. Taking up a position as a governess definitely did not appeal so she decided that she would write for a living having been encouraged by winning a prize for an essay which was published in *The Monthly Repository*, a Unitarian magazine. Until then her younger brother, James, himself an academic and Unitarian minister, had been dismissive of her efforts but he was impressed and supportive. It was the beginning of the road that would give her the confidence to challenge the establishment and it would define her life. Her writing was prolific and spanned all topics from politics, the economy and social inequality and the importance of education for women as well as some works of fiction. Later she was to say that she considered herself lucky to be put in the situation as it gave her the freedom to make her own way.

In 1832 she moved to London, aided by a bequest from an uncle which enabled her to live in St. James' Park. Now she rubbed shoulders with politicians and the literary giants of the time. She was a Whig supporter. She argued against The Reform Bill and published her book '*Illustrations of Political Economy*' which was funded by Charles Fox and included her well known short tale about slavery, '*Demerara*.'

She conversed with Charles Babbage, inventor of the first mechanical computer, and published her first novel '*Deerbrook*.' Harriet was certainly a feisty lady who did not baulk at challenging people whose ideas or moral opinions she did not agree with such as the Lord Chancellor, Henry Brougham, who hated women who held opinions and aired them. Charles Dickens also came into her line of fire as she considered that his novels misrepresented the poor. Charlotte Bronte, the last of the Bronte children who was writing under the name of Currer Bell, invited her to stay and she corresponded with Elizabeth Fry, although the two never met. She was becoming known and respected as a crusader in the fight for equality on all levels. Even the young Queen Victoria read her work and invited Harriet to her coronation.

But she wanted to spread her wings and set off for America where she was very well received but she was appalled by slavery and, in true Harriet style, spoke out loudly against it. She joined the ranks of the abolitionists and gave a talk in

Philadelphia where she questioned why black people and white people should not marry. Because of this her popularity dimmed in some circles and she returned to England to carry on her work there but she had obviously gained a penchant for travel and set sail for Venice where she was taken ill. So she returned home and went to live in Tynemouth to be near her doctor brother-in-law. She was diagnosed with a uterine tumour and lived the life of an invalid for five years. It was at this time she corresponded with Lady Byron and published 'Life in The Sickroom' which was a great success.



However, Harriet refused to fade away into anonymity. She consulted Anton Mesmer who was becoming popular for his alternative therapies which he called animal magnetism. Amazingly she made an extraordinary recovery, which she directly attributed to Mesmer and of course wrote about it in 'Letters in Magnetism' which greatly upset her family.

Now that her health had been restored, the intrepid Harriet set her sights on another adventure - Egypt. This was a brave undertaking for any woman travelling alone, particularly one with a hearing impediment. She was away for eight months. She sailed down the Nile, visited Hebron and Syria and returned home after eight months to write 'Eastern Life'

Although they never met, Harriet and Florence Nightingale had engaged in a long correspondence about many issues and collaborated with their opposition to 'The Diseases Act' of 1864 which was applied to the areas around ports and army bases in an effort to control the spread of venereal disease but it targeted women in particular, suffering them to submit to inhumane examinations and imprisonment if they were found to suffer from the disease. It seemed that they were to blame more than men.

Harriet was now in her fifties and having discovered that she had the beginnings of heart disease she decided she needed a quieter life. To this end she moved to Ambleside where she bought a farm. Here she grew fruit and vegetables and supplied the workhouse with produce. When she was younger she had actually got permission to spend the night in a workhouse to further her knowledge so it was a logical thing for her to do, and of course she was still writing.

Harriet died in 1876, having published over 50 books and 2,000 articles. She had requested that she should be decapitated before burial as she had a horror of being buried alive. At the end of the talk many members had questions for Harriet to answer which she gladly did, reminding the questioners to speak up while she used her ear trumpet. A light touch to end a serious subject.

LONDON BRANCH

2018 London Branch dates

Our next meeting will be on 20th October when Gill Blanchard will be talking to the group on “*Tracing a House History*.” Same time, same place – 2 to 4 at the Society of Genealogists.

March 2018

At our March meeting we had three short talks from members, taking us up and down various family trees and in some very interesting directions indeed – including cricketers, musicians, Jewish immigrants and the cost of church fonts in pre-Reformation Norfolk.

Les CROME began with a talk on the life of Adelaide Louisa Crome (1832-1905), who was the sister-in-law of Les' ancestor, James Crome (1818-1857), being married to his brother, John Crome (circa 1826-1879).

Although Adelaide is not a direct ancestor, her story proved intriguing. She married John Crome in 1853, at St. John's Church, Waterloo (then in Surrey), giving her father as Naphthali ISAACS, a dealer in shells. The name Naphthali (or more correctly Naphthali) is certainly “Old Testament” but this and the surname Isaacs did not immediately prove Jewish ancestry.

Les was able to trace Adelaide's immediate ancestry from the IGI (as it then was). She was, in fact, from Norwich, and was baptised at St. Peter Mancroft in 1832, the daughter of Naphthali and Louisa Isaacs. Her father was working as a hatter.

Naphthali had married Louisa Martin ABEL in the same church, by licence, in 1824.

All census returns consistently show Adelaide's birthplace as Norwich. There are inconsistencies with Naphthali's birth date on various censuses and his 1877 death certificate, which suggest he could have been born any time between 1794 and 1801. His wife, Louisa, was probably born in Norwich (1851 census). They had another daughter, Ann Rachel, who was born in London in 1843 and baptised at St. Luke's, Old Street.

In 1851, the Isaacs family were living in Bloomsbury and the whole family have professions linked to the straw bonnet industry. Les was unable to find any further information on Naphthali and Louisa beyond his death at St. George in the East parish in 1877. This may be to do with transcription problems as the name is so unusual. In 1851, for instance, he is “Neptholi”.

Adelaide had eight children with her husband, John Crome. The family moved around between various London parishes – Whitechapel, St. Katherine Creechurch and Aldgate (in the City) and then Mile End Old Town, where they



were living when John Crome died in 1879. In 1881, Adelaide was living in Mile End Old Town with her youngest son, Arthur Crome. Six men shared the house as boarders. A few years later, in 1883, Adelaide remarried, at Whitechapel Register Office, to Benjamin Woolf PHILIPS, a widower and “undertaker” by profession, whose father, Moses Philips was a “Hebrew writer”, allowing Les to conclude that Benjamin Philips was Jewish, although probably not Orthodox. Conclusive proof was in Benjamin’s first marriage, to Dinah LEVY in 1848 at the Great Synagogue in the parish of St. James in the City of London.

Benjamin Philips had led a life of varied professions. He was a tailor when he married Dinah in 1848, and “inspector of bills” in 1861 (which was probably of a theatrical nature, as when his son, Samuel, married in 1871, he gave his father’s occupation as “theatrical bill inspector”). In 1881, Benjamin was a “general dealer”, as he was in 1888.

Benjamin Philips died in 1891 in Mile End Old Town, and the widowed Adelaide appears to have made a living taking in boarders. In 1901, she is “working on her own account” with one “boarder” and eight “lodgers” on census day.

Adelaide seems to have been using different names in the early 20th century. In 1901, on the census, she is R. P. Philips (the second P possibly an error), and on her death certificate and grant of probate in 1905, she is Rebecca Adelaide or Adelaide Rebecca. Les has surmised that Adelaide was aware of her Jewish heritage, even though her father had converted to Christianity and in later life, after her marriage to Benjamin Philips, she had adopted the name Rebecca to acknowledge this.

As a postscript – in 1903, Adelaide’s son, Arthur Crome and his wife Emma, were tried at the Old Bailey for six counts of breaking into shops and stealing clothing and other goods. Their co-defendant on one of the counts was Samuel Philips, son of Benjamin and Dinah, and Adelaide’s stepson. Emma was acquitted, but Arthur Crome and Samuel Philips were found guilty of receiving stolen property and sentenced to hard labour at Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Arthur for two years and Samuel for one year.

Susan PORRETT described how, many years ago, when she was researching her BROCK ancestors of Great Dunham, she found that many parish registers were still being held by the incumbent. At the NRO she was able to search some Archdeacons’ Transcripts and found William Brock and his wife, Ann (who were her 3x great-grandparents) living in Litcham for a few years at the start of the 18th century. Ann was described on several of the baptismal entries of the children as “late Pilch, spinster”.

Susan set out to discover more about the PILCH family. There was a noted Fuller Pilch (1804-1870), a blacksmith’s son from Brisley, about seven miles from Great Dunham, who was a famous cricketer in the mid-19th century, who played for Norfolk and then Kent, and was termed “the straightest Bat in England”. Returning to Ann Pilch, although Susan knew her approximate age from her gravestone, she was as yet unable to discover her baptism or the date of her marriage to William

BROCK. The absence of the actual registers in the NRO made this difficult. Instead, Susan looked for Pilch wills, and found some early documents for a family in East Dereham, beginning with a Latin document for Robert Pilch in 1452, which mentioned a son, William. Susan visited the church of St. Nicholas in East Dereham with its "Seven Sacrament Font". Alongside was a copy of the "Costs of the new Funte" account from 1468, where a William PYLCHE was paid *iiiiid* for "*making of a stole for the funte and keveryng of the same*". Other local men mentioned in the document were Thomas PLAFOTE, Robert CRANE (he carried the heavy lime and tiles from Norwich), Ric. WESTHAWE and Will. PLOMER (who was "ledyng" the font). Both the surnames Crane and Plomer may be reflections of a family trade. The whole cost of making the new font came to £12 14s. 9d.

The next Pilch will from East Dereham was made by Katherine, a single woman, who left religious bequests, including money for the "clocher" – the free-standing bell-tower – and for the repair of the "revyn bell". Katherine mentions several family members, including a brother, William, whom Susan surmises to be the William Pilch, a cooper, whose will was proved in 1554, leaving property and lands to his sons William, Robert and Gregory. When his widow, Margaret, died in 1557, she left various coverlets, hangings, pewter-ware and a "best gown" with silver hooks and eyes. Their son, Gregory, a tanner by profession, died in 1572 at Belaugh, near Sparham. His will mentioned his wife, Alice, and six children, all under 16.

Susan was unable to take her own research further, until she was contacted by a NFHS member in America, who had employed a professional researcher to explore his Pilch ancestry. This enabled Susan to complete her whole Pilch line as well.

This began with Gregory the tanner and came down via several William Pilches in Tittleshall, to James Pilch of Longham (1682-1731) and his son, also James, who was only 27 when he died and was buried in Little Fransham in 1752. He left, by his wife, Ann Phyllis DEY, a daughter, Frances, who gave birth to an illegitimate daughter, Ann Phyllis Pilch in Little Fransham in 1775, who, as "Ann Pilch" married William BROCK in 1798. Her full name was only used at her baptism. The name "Ann Phyllis" which occurs occasionally in Norfolk at this time is apparently a corruption of a medieval name, "Amphillis". But, although Susan has traced her Pilch ancestry back to Gregory the tanner in East Dereham, she has yet to establish any connection to the cricketer, Fuller Pilch, who started it all!

Glynice SMITH talked to the group about her research into her MINNS ancestry. John Minns was born about 1801 in Norwich, and his son, Thomas Walter, was born in 1821 in Norwich (possibly Old Lakenham). Thomas Walter Minns married Eliza WALTON in Manea, Cambridgeshire.

Another John Minns married Elizabeth HILL and had a son, John, born in 1805 in Norwich St. Lawrence. He married Mary Ann BARDETT in November, 1828 at Norwich St. Michael at Plea. His brother, Samuel William Minns, was born in 1813 in the parish of St. Mary Coslany.

In 1841, a John Minns was the innkeeper of the Queen's Arms at 102, Magdalen

Street, Norwich. He may have founded the pub, where he was listed as a wine and spirits merchant and grocer. By 1866, a John Minns is living in a "porter shop" in Magdalen Street, which later became a pub. In 1873, his nephew, William, took over the licence, followed by his wife, Ann Ellen, in 1894. Samuel William Minns married Sarah HARDINGTON and they had at least 10 children, whose musical occupations particularly captivated Glynice.

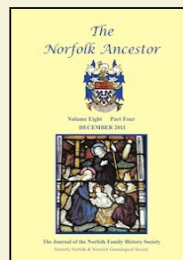
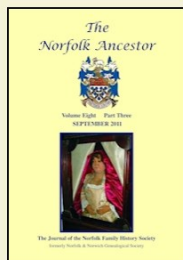
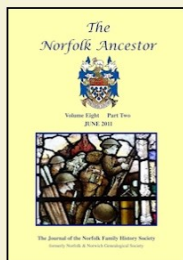
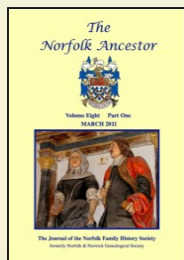
Elizabeth Minns (born 1859, in Norwich) was a schoolteacher by 1891 and living with her brother, William, at the Queen's Arms. Her brother, Edwin (born 1852, in Norwich) was a drawing master (Prof) in 1881, but by 1901 had become a teacher of science and art. Henry Jonathan Minns (born 1847, in Norwich) started out as a lay clerk in Norwich Cathedral in 1871, but by the time of his death in 1880 was a Professor of Music.

George Minns was born on 25th June 1855 in Norwich. By 1861, he was a music student at St. Mary Coslany. He married Anna Maria MARSHALL on 8th December, 1877 in Norwich, and by 1881, the family were living in Fore Hill, Holy Trinity parish, Ely. George was now a "Teacher of Music". In 1891 he was a Professor of Music, and by 1911, was describing himself as "Retired Lay Clerk (Ely) now engaged as a record searcher and copyist (literature and music)" in Norwich. A list of composers of music for the organ (at Ely Cathedral) includes a George Minns, born in 1855 or 1856 in Norwich.

On 16th March, 1925, George Minns, now a widower of 79 years, emigrated to America. His Declaration of Intention stated that he was a "musician composer". He had grey hair and a small scar under his chin! Two of his children were already living in America. These were Sidney H. Minns (born 11th November, 1884 in Ely) and Constance E. M. Minns (born 20th March, 1883), who was now Constance SHAW. George Minns died on 2nd November, 1938, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mary Fisk MN 3806

Scanned Ancestor Copies



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

Queen Victoria's Funeral and My Grandfather Matthew Smith

ON 2nd February, 1901, a bitterly cold winter's day, with snow in the air, my Grandfather, Matthew SMITH made his way through the streets of Windsor. It is a journey made by many since including tourists on their way to visit Windsor Castle. But Matthew was not a tourist. He was among the Royal Naval ratings who became involved in an incident with the horses and sailors during the state funeral of Queen Victoria. The 'incident' known as 'The Gun Carriage Episode' led to the sailors taking over from the Royal Artillery the task of hauling the gun carriage containing the queen's coffin from Windsor station to St George's Chapel in the grounds of Windsor Castle. The naval ratings were subsequently awarded a medal for their efforts.

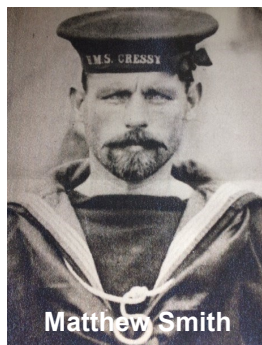


Is this piece of my family history based on fact or fiction? Initially I thought fiction because I knew that, apart from a spell in the Army during World War One, Matthew spent his working life as a 'labourer', first as a young boy in Norfolk and later in London. I changed my mind when I found a photograph of a young man in naval uniform aboard HMS Cressy among my late mother's papers. It could only have been Matthew.

So with my curiosity aroused, I Googled 'Queen Victoria's funeral' and found details of 'The Gun Carriage Episode' with pictures of sailors hauling the gun carriage through the streets of Windsor. A search of the NRA website confirmed that "Smith Matthew 162900 Pockthorpe Norwich" was a sailor in the Royal Navy. I now needed to place Matthew at the funeral of Queen Victoria. The final piece of the puzzle fell into place when I found on the NRA website the record ADM171/61. This shows that "N^o 162900 – Smith M AB" was the recipient of the Royal Victoria Medal (Silver) awarded to the Gun's Crew at the funeral of Queen Victoria. The puzzle was now solved.

It is now the norm for naval ratings to haul the gun carriage during state funerals. It is fascinating to think that my grandfather was among those who played a part in what has now become a tradition. Although the puzzle was solved, I continued to find out as much as I could about my grandfather. The following is the result of my labours.

Matthew was born on Friday 21st May, 1875, at Robin Hood Yard, Pockthorpe, Norwich, where his parents, John Smith, a 'labourer' and Ann Smith (née SPOONER) were living. Robin Hood Yard was situated off Barrack Street behind the Robin Hood Public House where Ann's father was the licensee.



Ann, who was born in 1845, had had two illegitimate daughters, Phoebe and Elizabeth, by the time she married John Smith in 1867. The marriage produced five children, John(1868), Benjamin(1869), Matthew(1875), Susan(1876) and Charlotte(1878). By the time of the 1891 Census, Matthew appears to have been orphaned. The census return shows that Matthew, now 15, was working as a labourer and sisters Susan 14 and Charlotte 13 were living as 'lodgers' with their half-sister Phoebe LOWE (née SPOONER) and her husband John Lowe at Cavalry Street, St James, Norwich.

There is little doubt that he could see no future for himself working as a labourer and, like many young men in his position, decided to join the Navy. Unfortunately, the record does not tell me when Matthew joined the navy nor can I find his service records, but at least I now know he was aboard HMS Cressy at some time during his naval career. HMS Cressy was launched in December, 1889. It is only a thought, but perhaps Matthew was among the crew for its maiden voyage.

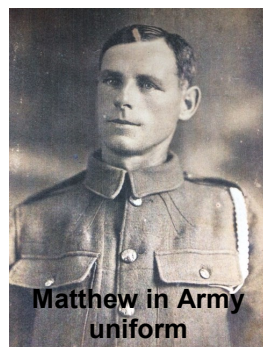
A New Life in London

Why or when Matthew made his way to London is not clear – I can only guess it was in search of work. Nor is it clear, when or where he met Emily BAKER (born 26th February 1875 West Wymer, Norwich), but they married on Christmas Day 1906, in the parish church of St Stephen's, East Ham (now part of the London Borough of Newham). The marriage certificate shows Matthew and Emily were both 31-years-old and said to be living at 10, Walpole Street. Matthew's occupation is shown as a 'moulderer' and Emily's as a 'silk worker'.

Matthew and Emily had two children - my mother, Doris Lilian (born 26th November 1907) and Matthew Charles (born 21st November 1911 – I knew him as Uncle Charlie) ,The 1911 Census show the family still living at 19 Walpole Street and Matthew was now an 'iron foundry labourer'. Sometime between 1911 and 1914, Matthew and his family made the move to 5, Gwendoline Avenue. The move began the long standing family connection lasting about 57 years with this address that was broken in 1971 when my parents, who had purchased it in the 1950s, finally sold it and moved to Dymchurch.

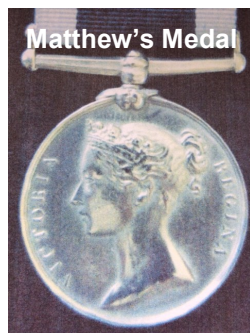
World War One (1914 – 1918)

Although thousands volunteered at the start of the war, casualties were so high that conscription was introduced in January, 1916, for all men between 18 and 41 who were single or widowers. Conscription was extended to married men in May 1916. And so it was then that I think Matthew just a few months from his 41st birthday, found himself once again in uniform. This time it was the Army. From the



number of embroidered postcards he sent home on birthdays and Christmas, I think he served in France for about three years.

Although I know that Matthew died in 1929, I have not been able to get a copy of the death certificate as I have not found the record of his death. However, among my mother's papers was a copy of the title deeds to a grave in the City of London Cemetery that my grandmother, Emily Smith, had purchased in 1929 and where, on 29th June 1951, she was buried.



I have childhood memories of accompanying my mother to visit Emily's grave. I admit my interest was not my grandmother's grave but more about collecting conkers from the many horse chestnut trees in cemetery! It was not until 2008 that I thought about the title deeds – could the plot be where Matthew was buried? So in March, 2008, I made enquiries of the City of London Cemetery.

An extract of the reply is shown below:

"I have looked up Grave 97319 Sq23 in our Burial Register and can confirm that your Grandfather Matthew Smith aged 54 years was the first burial to take place in that grave, which was on 21st November 1929"

Matthew's story is now complete and I am able to end this story knowing that my maternal grandparents are resting together.

Keith Saxton MN 9488

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.

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

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **September 2018** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER than 7th July**. 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.**

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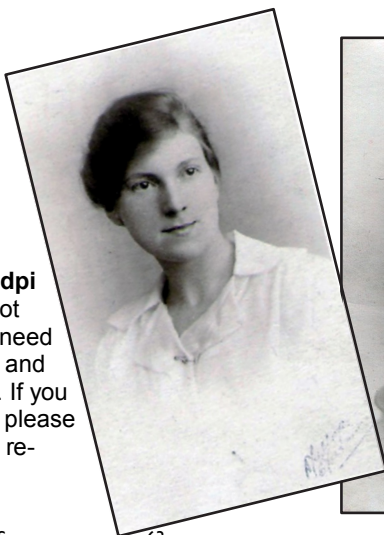
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Photographs

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.



Kirby Hall Library Update

Anyone who has not been to Kirby Hall lately is likely to be pleasantly surprised. We have completely re-catalogued and labelled the books to make finding them easier and the shelves have had a spruce up. Each item on the shelves now has a coloured label showing a code. Eg **Deer Hunting in Norfolk** by J R Harvey 1910 has the code

S3-4

This means that it can be found in Section S on Shelf 3 and is book 4.

Each section has its own catalogue in a red folder on the left of the top shelf. The complete updated catalogue is now on the computers at Kirby Hall and on the website. My thanks to Pauline who has worked hard to help me make the changes to the library. We have an excellent collection of books and documents in the library and have been very lucky that many of them have been kindly donated by our members. We are always happy to accept donations of Family Trees, BMD certificates, Wills (photocopies are fine), Title Deeds and books but not family history magazines as these become dated very quickly. Due to storage issues we only accept photographs of people or specific buildings with a known Norfolk connection. If you have anything that you would like to donate please contact me. If you are in the vicinity of Kirby Hall, please pop in and see the new look library!

Ellen Carr librarian@nfhs.co.uk

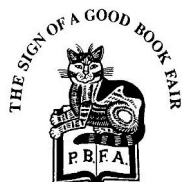
TRANSCRIBERS NEEDED

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 Tarttelin at transcripts@nfhs.co.uk for more information.

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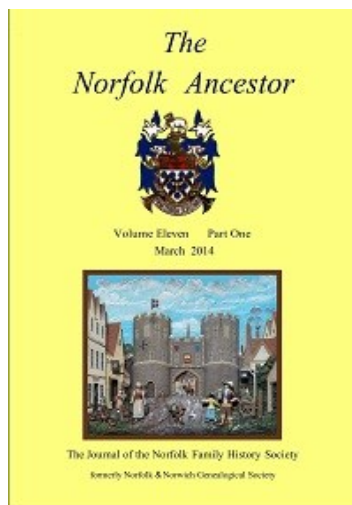


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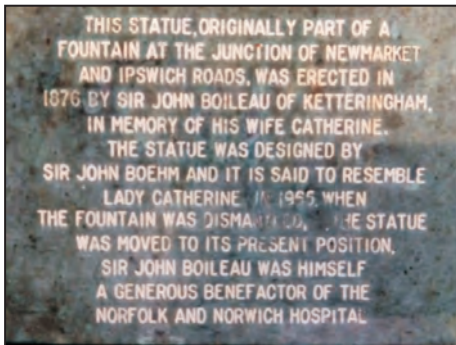
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The Boileau Fountain

A few weeks ago a kind lady, Mrs Annetta EVANS, handed me a series of photographs of Norfolk and Norwich that she had taken over the years and asked me if they would be of any interest to the NFHS. When I looked through them, a number of them triggered ideas for articles. The picture on the right was taken in the grounds of the old Norfolk and Norwich Hospital which stands on Newmarket Road. It shows the statue of a young woman looking after a small child. At the base of the statue you can see a small plaque (picture below) which explains the history of the statue.



The figure was once part of a much larger structure which once stood at the junction between Ipswich Road and Newmarket Road just outside the N&N. This was known as 'The Boileau Fountain'. It was built around 1876 at the bequest of Sir John BOILEAU of Ketteringham Hall who died in Torquay in March, 1869. In his will he left £1,000 to build the fountain in memory of his wife

Lady Catherine Boileau who had died in her fifties in 1862. Sir John had been concerned for the welfare of animals being driven to Norwich market, explaining the gift of water, but the statue added a more personal note to his legacy. The seated figure represents Charity giving a child a drink of water from a shell. It was said that the face of the statue resembled that of the young Lady Catherine. There were delays in settling Sir John's will, so the construction was not completed for some time after his death. The designer was the Wy-monddham born architect and designer Thomas Jeckyll and it was to be one of his last projects. The sculpture was made in bronze by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, who was born in Vienna and moved to England where he became an Associate of the Royal Academy. The brick structure was built by Mr Hubbard of East Dereham. Sir Francis Boileau, Bart performed the opening ceremony, asking the city to accept the fountain and was duly thanked by the mayor. The story of the fountain continues on page 32.

Then and Now



These two pictures show the junction between Newmarket Road on the right and Ipswich Road on the left outside the old Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The top one dates from 1876 and the bottom one from 2018. In the 1876 picture you can see the famous Boileau Fountain which sadly is no longer there. To read about the story of the fountain turn to the inside back cover.

