

The Norfolk Ancestor



MARCH 2019



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

Cavendish Morton

THE picture on the front cover shows a painting of Norwich Cathedral gatehouse by celebrated British artist Cavendish MORTON who had strong connections with East Anglia, writes Roger Morgan.

A few weeks ago my wife and I were watching an episode of BBC One's antiques programme, 'Flog It' when she suddenly exclaimed "that's a painting by my old art teacher". A couple were showing a picture painted by Cavendish MORTON, a well-respected British landscape painter and illustrator. My wife attended Hethersett Old Hall School for six years between 1953 and 1959 where Cavendish was the art teacher for 10 years from 1957 to 1967.



The photograph was taken in the grounds of Hethersett Old Hall School in the summer of 1959. It shows Cavendish Morton in the centre with my wife standing directly behind his right shoulder.

Cavendish Morton was born in Edinburgh on 17th February 1911. His father, also called Cavendish, was an actor, art director and photographer and his mother, Concordia née Merrell was a novelist. He had a twin brother called Concord (1911-1979) who was also an artist. The family led a nomadic life and the boys were tutored by their father who encouraged them to be creative. In 1926 they helped their father build a 42-foot fishing boat which gave the young Cavendish an understanding of both perspective and construction. The family finally settled in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. The brothers were allowed to paint freely in Portsmouth naval dockyard. **(The story continues on page 16).**

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Headquarters and Library

Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich NR2 1LS
Telephone No. (01603) 763718
NFHS Web site: <http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>

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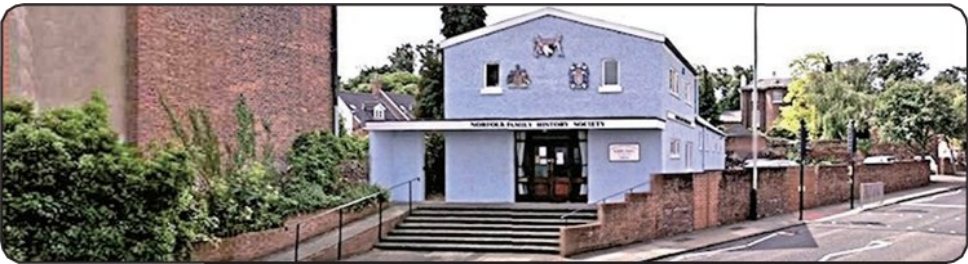
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The Norfolk Ancestor

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First and last Sunday in the month	10.00am - 1.00pm

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Welcome to your March Edition



WELCOME to the March edition of Norfolk Ancestor – the first of 2019.

I would also like to officially welcome my colleague Roger Morgan who has been involved in the publication for some time but who is now joint editor.

A big thank you to everyone who sent us kind messages about the December edition. It's good to know so many people enjoy reading our magazine which we hope continues to be entertaining and educational.

We do take notice of comments made and if there is something you would like to see in future editions of the magazine please let us know.

One member recently contacted us about the possibility of using more environmentally friendly and bio-degradable packaging for the magazine. We have discussed this with our publisher and at the present time it is not economically viable, but it is something that we will keep in mind for the future.

As it's March, it is membership renewal time and you will find the necessary form in the middle section of this magazine with details on how to renew.

Finally a big thank you to everyone that has made our Facebook page so successful. When we launched I was hoping to attract 300 members. We currently have over 2,100 and the exchange of information has been vast. Do sign up and if you live close enough, pay us a visit at Kirby Hall in the centre of Norwich.

Happy hunting in 2019.

Peter Steward MN 14801

Norfolk Ancestor Editorial Team

Peter Steward	Joint Editor
Roger Morgan	Joint Editor
Rob Reeve	Proof Reader

Unusual Names or Common Names: Break Down Those Pesky Brick Walls

HAVE you hit a brick wall with a surname? Here are two techniques which may help: Search for possible nieces and nephews of your direct ancestors, not just their siblings, and, if you're really stuck with a surname, try searching for just the name of the parish. It just might lead to the breakthrough you need. Here's how.

I've successfully traced one of my ancestral lines back to my 7x great grandparents, Samuel HOWARD (died 1737) and Rachel née COULSEY (died 1759) his wife. Samuel Howard left a (very short) will, probably written on his deathbed because he was buried only three days later. In this he names his wife as sole beneficiary and executrix. A John Coulsey, presumably a relative of Rachel, is one of the witnesses.

As many of us with Norfolk ancestors will know, HOWARD is an extremely common Norfolk name. Nonetheless, I'm pretty confident I've traced my Howards back accurately from my 3x great-grandmother Margaret Mack Howard four more generations to Samuel.

Having found Samuel and Rachel's marriage in the parish of Costessey in 1716/17, in which the parish register says both bride and groom are 'of Horsford', I knew I could probably expect to find the baptism of one or both in Horsford (or at least in a nearby parish) in the early to mid 1690s.

The big clue to taking Samuel's line back another generation is to look not just for his possible siblings, but his possible nieces and nephews as well.

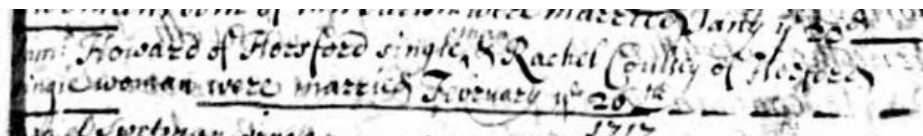
Registers of baptisms (and for that matter burials) prove there to be two other Howard families in Horsford at around the same time as my Samuel: William Howard and Ann his wife, and James Howard and Ursula his wife. William and Ann HOWLET married in Horsford in 1714 and James Howard and Ursula CARTER in Norwich St Benedict (both bride and groom are 'of Horsford' - there is also a surviving marriage licence bond) in the same year - that is, just two years before my Samuel's own wedding. There seems every possibility William, James and Samuel are closely related - perhaps brothers.

Both William and Ann, and James and Ursula, had a number of children baptised in Horsford and both had (amongst others) an eldest son named John and

a daughter named Rose. Given these shared names and the preponderance for families from this time to 'carry forward' Christian names to the next generation, William and James' baptisms as sons of John HOWARD and Rose his wife in 1689 and 1691/2, in the parish of Hainford, look highly likely. Looking further at John and Rose's children reveals a Samuel, baptised in Hainford in 1694/95 - exactly the time period I'm expecting for my man. With all these names linking together so well it seems almost certain this is the right family.

Incidentally, several public trees on ancestry's website suggest John Howard (and therefore me, along with many thousands of other people) to be a direct descendant of the Dukes of Norfolk. Some of those trees contain obvious errors (like marriage after death, or missing generations), and some have clearly been blindly copied from each other, but there is enough to encourage me to continue the Howard line to see if I just might be getting closer to an elusive gateway ancestor.

So whilst I'm progressing well with tracing Samuel's extended 'Howard' family line - helped considerably for such a common name by their location in some very small parishes (Hainford, Horsford, Costessey and later generations in Drayton) it is nonetheless not the easiest name to research. I hoped I'd have a



more straightforward job locating a baptism for the much less common name of Rachel Couley.

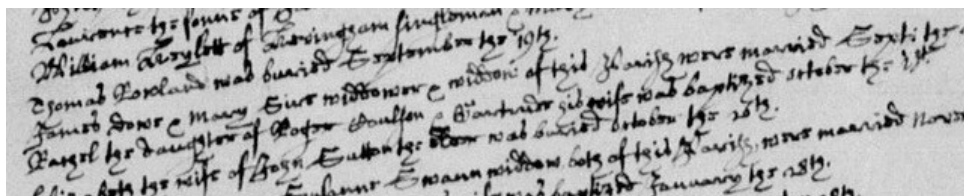
Image: Cotessey Parish Register: Marriage of Sam: Howard of Horsford, single man, and Rachel Couley of Hor[s]ford, single woman, 20 February 1716/17.

I was wrong. Searching Couley or variants like Colsey and Colesley on NORS, freereg and familysearch, including wildcards, produced no likely results for Rachel. The thought occurred to me that, if they were married in a different parish to where they were settled, maybe there was a marriage licence bond, none of which are easy to find if they exist at all.

So I then went to NROCAT, the Norfolk Record Office online search, to look for one (<http://nrocat.norfolk.gov.uk>) but even those Couley variants in the General Search and Quick Search options produced no results. Then I had an

idea. Using Quick Search on NROCAT again, I searched for 'Horsford', with no person's name. The search returned 63 pages of items. Undaunted, I trawled through them and came, on page 57, to a will for William Coulson, 1691. Two more wills at a later date for the same surname spelling followed on subsequent pages. Even though this name had a different final syllable and not a variant I would have thought of searching for, William's surname was so similar to Rachel's that it warranted further investigation. It proved to be a crucial clue.

I went back to searching parish registers online using NORS and free reg, searched for the baptism of Rachel Coulson in the 1690s and found her immediately - baptised in the parish of Horsford on 1st October, 1693, exactly where and when I expected. Like all good family history researchers, I never add any detail to my tree without checking an original source first. However, checking the Horsford parish register at NRO I found them to be completely illegible for a few years around the 1680s-90s (although those for earlier years are very neatly written and very easy to read). Fortunately Archdeacon's Transcripts survive for the year I needed and confirmed the online search results to be accurate. Not only could I now add Rachel's baptism to my tree, and of course the names of her parents (Roger Coulson and Gertrude his wife) but, thanks to searching for



the parish name on NROCAT, I also now have a couple of Coulson wills to investigate that I might not have otherwise found so easily. And no I didn't find a marriage licence bond.

Image: Archdeacon's Transcript, 1693, Parish of Horsford: Rachel the daughter of Roger Coulson and Gertrude his wife was baptised October the 1st. Almost certainly the same Rachel as Rachel Coulsey, imaged above.

So the moral of the story is think outside the box and if you know the location where you expect to find that elusive ancestor, then looking online for the parish name might just unlock the surname variant and a lot more information about an ancestor that you might not otherwise come across.

Alan Harper MN 13133 mail@agharper.plus.com

The Churchyard Family

Alan Churchyard continues to relate the history of his family and its connection to the weaving industry and the world of art.

I can trace my Churchyard Family back to 1426 with Thomas CHURCHYARD who was my 15xgreat grandfather. He was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and he traded as a Corvisor or shoemaker. He had a remarkable great great grandson Thomas Churchyard (1520–1604), who was also born in Shrewsbury and there have been several books and articles written about the life of this soldier-poet.

He spent his youth as a page to Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, learning something of the art of poetry from his patron. In 1541 he began his career as a soldier of fortune and fought his way through nearly every campaign in Scotland, Ireland, the Low Countries and France. Later, at Court, he devised pageants for Queen Elizabeth's progresses to Bristol (1574) and to Norwich (1578).

Many scholars of Elizabethan literature have come across Thomas Churchyard and his works at some point because of his persistent literary productiveness and the wide range of genres in which he wrote. Unfortunately, a passage in one of Churchyard's works offended the Queen and he fled to Scotland for three years.

He was restored to favour about 1584 and received a small pension from the Crown. Churchyard died on 4th April, 1604, aged 84 and was buried at St Margaret's, Westminster, alongside many other notable writers and poets.

Thomas's nephew John Churchyard (1547–1598) moved to Suffolk as a Yeoman farmer and in 1567 married Christian MEEK at Ilketshall St Lawrence. The family continued to farm in Suffolk for another six generations until 1803 when my great great grandfather Isaac Churchyard was born. He became a weaver and, on Boxing Day 1825, married Julianna STONE. It is interesting to note that by the 1881 census, only 5% of the



Churchyard population were employed in agriculture and in 1891 there were 131 Churchyard families living in Suffolk – this was about 46% of the Churchyard's in the UK. The weaving industry has been an enormously important activity in the East of England since early times. In the 18th century, wool manufacture was still the main industry in Norwich but it was to suffer when towns in the North and the Midlands mushroomed and old trades became mechanised.

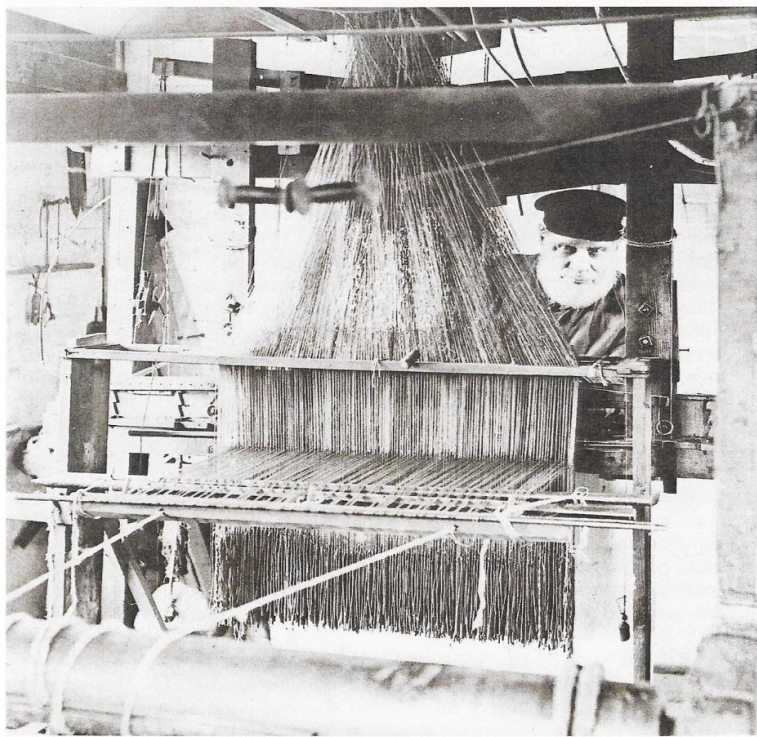
However, at the end of the 18th century, the craze for wearing shawls spread like wildfire and one of the most skilled weavers in Norwich was my great grand uncle James Churchyard (1828–1913).

James Churchyard worked as a weaver all his life and died in 1913, aged 82, having worked for several masters. He started weaving shawls using a drawloom, but later used looms fitted with Jacquard mechanisms. His great niece donated four of his shawls to the Norwich Museums and Archaeology Service.

They are very varied, each reflecting the style of the time and the firm he worked for. One is clearly a Clabburn, Sons and Crisp design, but with a different colouring to a shawl in the museum's collection. James Churchyard was also well known for making 'wrappers'; these were 90cm patterned silk squares for gentlemen's neck wear on the hunting field. It was said that James was a crusty character who would only work for the firms he approved of! In 1891 he was a widower and a pensioner, living at 31, Rose Yard, Norwich.

He loved his home, his tiny garden and his Norwich canary. James was a competent and brilliant weaver and produced some wonderful shawls.

James Churchyard b. c1833 d. 1913: worked all his life as a weaver



My 5xGreat grandfather, Charles Churchyard (1706-1785) was the great grandfather of Thomas Churchyard, an English lawyer and painter of Woodbridge. He was born in 1798 and was trained as a solicitor. He worked in the law for many years, but his real interest was landscape painting. He secretly married Harriet HAILES of Melton in 1825 and two months later his first child, 'Young' Tom', was born. They had two sons and seven daughters. None of his daughters married but they all painted.



It is not known where Thomas Churchyard learned to draw and paint. He first exhibited in 1829, four of his paintings were hung in the annual exhibition of the Norwich Society of Artists. They were so well received that Thomas was promptly invited to become an honorary member of the Society. The following year he exhibited two at The Royal Academy in London. The die was cast. In 1832, at the age of 34, Churchyard gave up his prospering solicitor's practice, sold his house, his furniture, his extensive collection of paintings, which included works by Gainsborough, Crome, Morland and Constable, and even the matrimonial bed! Having made sure his wife and growing family were comfortably settled in his widowed mother's house in

Melton, he set off for London to become a full-time painter. Eighteen months later he returned, the streets of London were not paved in gold. At once he set about re-establishing his business as an attorney. Churchyard concentrated almost exclusively on his skill as an advocate and this gave him time to pursue his sketching and his picture-buying. His two great luminaries were Constable and Crome and it was their work especially he bought whenever he could.

Churchyard was a prolific artist, particularly his watercolours – his oil paintings

are considerably rarer today. To speak of Thomas Churchyard in the same breath as John Constable or John Crome may seem rather bold, but there is little doubt that at his best Churchyard's work is truly inspired.

Today, Thomas Churchyard's work can be found in many major public and private collections including: the Tate Collection; the British Museum; the Victoria and Albert Museum, The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; the FitzWilliam Museum, Cambridge; Norwich Castle Museum; Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, and many more across the world.

When Thomas Churchyard's health was deteriorating in the 1860s he made his much quoted prophecy to his daughters: "My dears, there will not be any money for you when I die, but I leave you my Paintings, which one day will be worth more than any money I could have hoped to have made."

Churchyard's prophecy has been fulfilled and prices for his paintings continue to rise at an alarming rate. At Durrant's Auctioneers Fine Art Sale in June 2015, the star lot of the day was a small watercolour by Churchyard of 'Gun Hill, Southwold' which sold for £6,500 (before premium) and is believed to be a world record price for a watercolour by this much loved East Anglian Artist.

I gave a copy of my full family tree to the Norfolk Family History Society and this can be inspected at the Headquarters, Kirby Hall. 70 St Giles Street, Norwich.

Alan Churchyard MN 12523

Wymondham Town Archive Update

THE Wymondham Town Archive online catalogue continues to grow with additions almost daily. There are currently 33,000 items listed. These documents are mostly from the local solicitors, Pomeroy, but also include the index of 1,850 photographs. The catalogue is freely accessible via the archive website <http://wymondham-archive.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>.

I would remind members that although the catalogue contains documents that largely relate to Wymondham, many other Norfolk communities and some from further afield also occur. The catalogue can be searched for places; these are mainly locations within Wymondham e.g. streets and buildings, but the names of other towns and villages are also included. A search by place will produce a list of documents, including photographs, in which the place is mentioned. The main strength of the database is the ability to search for people.

Entering a name will produce a list of all the people with that name. Clicking on a name will bring up that person's details with, where known, dates, addresses, occupations, relatives and documents in which the person appears. It should be noted that some separate people entries with the same name may refer to the

same person, as it is not always possible to be sure that a name that appears in separate documents is the same person.

Terry Miller MN 7760

News From The Library at Kirby Hall

Kirby Hall Librarian, Ellen Carr looks at some fascinating photographs discovered in the library

ONE of the things I like most about working in the library at Kirby Hall is that I come across some very interesting items tucked away in corners. Recently I found a group of tatty ring binders labelled "Norfolk Portraits". They contain a random collection of pictures, photographs and press cuttings for people who probably have a Norfolk connection. All have names attached and some even have a date and place to make their origin clearer.

The quality of the pictures varies greatly and it is taking quite some time to rescue the salvageable ones. Add to that the fact that they were sometimes stuck onto paper with glue or sellotape or even stapled, you will appreciate that getting them into a useful format is very time consuming. I am now in the process of sorting the folders, remounting some of the pictures, filing them into plastic pockets to protect them, collating the new files and producing a database of all the names listed in the pictures.

Many of the pictures are of ordinary people from the county whose photos have been in the press as they have celebrated a special event or have retired after many years of work. It has always been possible to find portraits or photographs of famous



Barney and Mary Bernard of Thorpe St Andrew who are celebrating their diamond wedding. PHOTO: HARRY NAYLOR

Or do you know of Queenie BROWN and Clement BULL (pictured above) who got married when both were in their 80s? They made their home at Barley Court sheltered homes complex in New Costessey. (File A-B page 64).

REUNION: Jean Bowgen and her daughter Moira Barker are being reunited with granddaughter and

The Norfolk Ancestor Journal of the NFHS

many thanks to whoever took the time to put the collection together in the first place and it will now become a unique resource in the library. The first folders are now on the shelves and have an index to allow for easy checking and it is hoped that at some stage when the project is completed that the index will go onto the website.

Ellen Carr (MN 9159) Librarian at Kirby Hall

Cavendish Morton (continued from front cover)

AT the age of 18, he gained his first entry into the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. During the 1930s he made sketches of the Supermarine S.6B challenger for the Schneider Trophy and he and his brother were doing artwork for several aviation companies. In 1938 he was commissioned to do a series of paintings of the foundries for the Scottish steel makers Beardmore. During World War 2 the brothers were involved in the production of aircraft for Saunders-Roe.



Supermarine S.6b

After the war Concord or 'Conc' developed into a very competent portrait artist while Cavendish or 'Cavvy' focussed on botanical subjects and landscapes. While he was never an official war artist, he documented industrial aspects of the war effort. He was surprised, shortly after D Day, to receive a phone call from the author Nevil Shute asking if he could drop everything and go with him to France to capture the invasion scenes in paintings. Cavvy had to decline due to pressure of work. In 1946 he met and later married a music teacher called Rosemary BRITTEN with whom he had a son and two daughters. Her brother John formed

the firm Britten-Norman with Desmond NORMAN. They were the designers of the famous Islander aircraft. In 1948 the family moved to Eye in Suffolk and Cavvy started a series of paintings showing the windmills of East Anglia. He then joined with John TOJEIRO on the design of the chassis of the 1956 Tojeiro–



1956 Tojeiro-Jaguar race car

Jaguar racing car. He started work at Hethersett Old Hall School in 1957 where he taught art for ten years.

Cavvy was very highly regarded at the school and he was very well liked by the pupils. My wife can remember his dapper appearance often sporting a spotted red handkerchief and a neatly trimmed moustache. The school still retains one of his paintings of teasels. His wife Rosemary

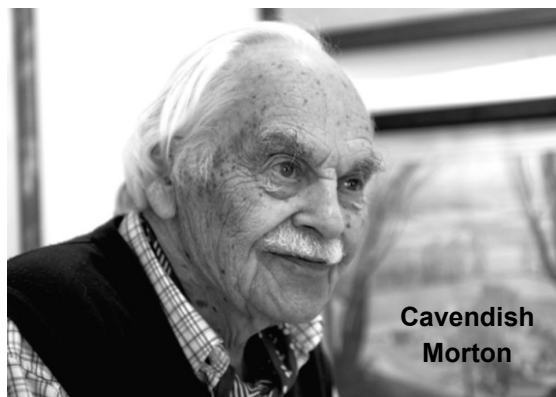
also taught music at the school. Whilst living at Stanley House, Eye, he fully involved himself in public events. As well as serving as mayor twice, he served on many East Anglian cultural bodies and taught evening classes. In 1951 he showed L. S. Lowry around Eye Town Hall, having borrowed a collection of the Manchester artist's work for an exhibition there. He became a member of the Norwich Twenty Group and the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society as well as becoming chairman of the Gainsborough's House Society in Sudbury. He even had a short career as a television presenter on an arts programme, Anglia TV's Afternoon Club for children. His love of classical music led to him becoming chairman of the Aldeburgh Music Festival. When the beautiful Snape Maltings was destroyed by fire in the mid-1960s he started a series of paintings to record the rebuilding of the gutted buildings.



Cavendish Morton at work

Sadly, his wife's illness forced him to quit East Anglia and return to the Isle of Wight in 1977. He looked after her there until her death in 2000. He continued to paint, returning to the maritime theme that he had grown up with. He was a

member of Bembridge Sailing Club and loved the spectacle of Cowes Week. Unfortunately a degenerative eye disease leading to the gradual onset of blindness forced him to stop painting in his final years. Cavendish died on the 30th January 2015 aged 103. He was survived by his three children - Katherine, Sarah and James.



Cavendish Morton

Roger Morgan MN 17267

Anthony Rope's Life in England

In our September 2018 edition we featured an article about the life of Henry Kable and his wife Susannah who were transported to Australia on the 'First Fleet'. Annegret Hall now tells us about another first fleeter, Anthony Rope, in a extract from her new book "In for the Long Haul" which relates the history of this period through the eyes of the convicts.

Anthony ROPE was born in Norton Subcourse, Norfolk, in 1756, the tenth of eleven children of John and Ann Rope, and was baptised on August 1st in St Mary's Church.

Anthony's parents, John Rope and Ann CURTIS married on 4th February, 1733, in St Mary's Church. They had eleven children: John (1735-1740), Susannah (1737-), Ann (1739-), James (1741-1743), Mary (1743-), John (1748-1812), Charles (1750-1753), Robert (1752-), Mark (1754-), Anthony (1756-1843) and Sarah (1759-1838).

Anthony's paternal grandparents, John Rope and Frances FITT (widow) both of Norton Subcourse, married in 1708 at St Michael-at-Plea, Norwich. John was buried in 1731 and Frances in 1715 at St Mary's. His maternal grandparents Robert and Susanna CURTIS also lived in Norton Subcourse and were freehold farmers listed in the 1734 poll. Robert and Susanna died in 1753 and 1758 respectively, both buried in St Mary's Churchyard. Their fine gravestones are adjacent to those of Anthony's parents, John and Ann Rope – the inscriptions are all well preserved.

Anthony's father and mother lived their entire lives in Norton Subcourse. John must have had some standing in the village otherwise Robert Curtis, a freehold farmer, would not have granted him permission to marry his daughter. It is likely that the Ropes were leaseholders of a small parcel of land, which, prior to the land Enclosure Acts, allowed a good living provided a farmer worked hard, had arable land and their animals could graze on the village common.

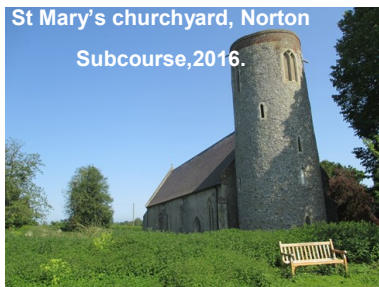
In 1760 tragedy struck the family. Anthony's mother Ann died when he was only four years old. Her early death would have been difficult for the surviving eight children. Sarah was still a baby, the three sons were less than 12 and three older sisters - Susannah, Ann and Mary - were between 17 and 23 years.

The older children would have taken over the running of the household and the raising of the younger children. Susannah married four years later to William CAPPS. In 1771, Mary married John JOHNSON and in 1781 Sarah married Wil-

liam PLAYFORD. The eldest son John and the daughter Sarah and her family remained in Norton Subcourse. Their father John died in 1785 at the age of 84.

With the death of their mother, the children's labour would have been needed – the boys worked with the livestock, seeding and harvesting, the girls did the cooking, milking and fed the chickens. Children in poor families had to work – if not on the farm, then at sea, down a mine or in a factory. As a small boy Anthony would have

St Mary's churchyard, Norton Subcourse, 2016.



had to earn his keep. His farm duties would prove beneficial in later life in New South Wales, and, since the family lived close to marshlands and the Yare, he probably had boating experience from an early age.

As a rural worker, Anthony could neither read nor write – he marked his signature with a cross. The few rural schools in Norfolk were expensive and could only be afforded by the wealthy.

Rural families needed their children to work and some would have worked off their farm to bring in extra money to pay for the leasehold. In the mid 18th century unskilled work in the area was scarce, and Anthony probably joined the many other labourers scouring the countryside for employment. It is possible he worked as a boatman on the River Yare, or as a fisherman on a North Sea trawler. His later exploits in New South Wales suggest that he had earlier experience as a seaman.

There is scant record of Anthony's early life. Our first knowledge of his later whereabouts comes from Rochford court documents, where, at the age of 28, he was charged with stealing. Why he was over 100 miles from home is not known – perhaps he was en route to London, or had been working on a boat in the many docks in the area. To have travelled so far was unusual at that time, unless he was a crewman aboard a boat sailing between the south-eastern ports.

On September 3rd, 1784, Anthony appeared before the Rochford magistrate John T. BULL charged with stealing from Robert GOSLING and Robert BRADLEY. He was convicted of felony, grand larceny and fraud and, since this was a major crime, the case was transferred to the next hearing of the Chelmsford Assizes. In the meantime he was held in Chelmsford Prison. Here, he received 1½



John Rope's grave 1785

lb of bread a day, and a quart of small beer, requiring a weekly fee of 3s 6d for 'garnish'. Men and women had separate rooms about 15x14 feet in size, lined with stone and with straw for sleeping. There was also a workroom where prisoners could weave garters to pay for their keep, and for extra food.

Anthony's Assizes hearing took place on March 7th, 1785, before Justices Sir Henry GOULD and Sir Richard PERRY. On 10th March, 1785, the Judges delivered their verdict: 'Not guilty of breaking and entering. Guilty of stealing goods valued 35s. Sentenced to seven years' transportation'.

The sentence was considered light, probably because the judges exercised *pious perjury* by undervaluing the stolen goods at 35s. The true value of 58s 6d meant a *capital offence*. *The Chelmsford Chronicle* reported: 'At our assizes, which began on Monday, the following prisoners received sentences: Anthony Rope, for burglary, seven years transportation.' Interestingly, Anthony was sentenced to transportation *Beyond the Seas*. At the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783 the future destination of convict transportees was uncertain.

Anthony was transferred to the prison hulk *Ceres* moored on the Thames. The April, 1786, *Ceres* record lists him as aged 26 (he was, in fact, 28). On June 1st 1786, he was transferred to the hulk *Justitia*. Prison conditions aboard hulks

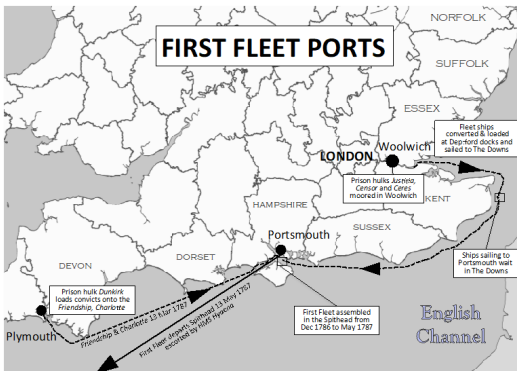


An 1800 engraving showing prison hulks on the Thames River near Woolwich. Convicts can be seen dredging the river and working on the docks. (*State Library of New South Wales, V*/Conv/1*)

differed significantly from land gaols. Depending on the crime, convicts were chained two on two, or with heavy fetters, and they were required to do hard labour dredging the Thames from 1 to 6 pm in summer, and 8.30 am to 3 pm in winter.

For meals, hulk prisoners formed messes of six men, each receiving rations of salted beef and pork, bread, oats and barley for porridge. The mess also got five quarts of beer a day. The hard-working convicts needed to be well fed, and these were far from starvation rations.

Anthony Rope was incarcerated on the *Justitia* until he was selected for transportation to Botany Bay on the First Fleet. On 6th January, 1787, he was transferred to the convict transport ship *Alexander* moored at Woolwich on the Thames. The 11 First Fleet ships assembled at Portsmouth set sail for New South Wales on May 13th 1787, under the command of Captain Arthur PHILLIP.



Anthony was about to embark on an epic voyage to an unknown continent and a challenging new life. On landing in New South Wales he would meet Elizabeth PULLEY, another convict from Norfolk. They married, had eight children and through gritty determination became successful farmers.

They have been recognised as pioneer settlers by the naming of the Sydney suburb *Ropes*

Crossing, which is close to a stream called *Ropes Creek*. Several street names also commemorate their contribution to the genesis of Sydney. This Norfolk lad lived to almost 87, and witnessed the end of British convict transportation to New South Wales.

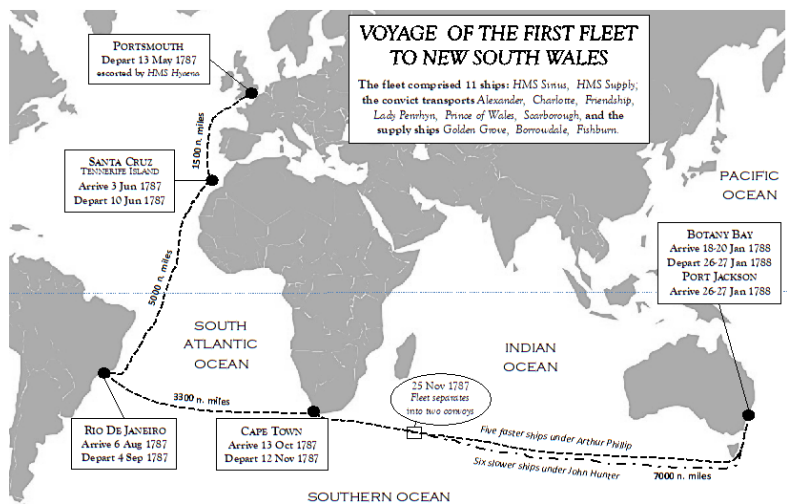
Annegret Hall MN 15919

We will publish a further extract from the book in our June edition when we follow the story of Elizabeth Pulley. Annegret will donate a copy of her book to the Kirby Hall library in recognition of all the help that she received from our volunteers.

Over the page we have a map of the route taken by the First Fleet.



The route taken by the first fleet in 1787



The Rev. Edward Pidgeon

From Norfolk to PEI

Who Were His Parents?

WHILE investigating French Canadian PIGEONS who settled and multiplied in Quebec, Canada, I came across what appeared to be a Scottish family of PIDGEONS living at New Richmond in the 1860s. New Richmond is situated in the far east of Quebec province south of the St Lawrence River, on the northern coast of the Bay of Chaleur, which lies between Quebec and New Brunswick. Unlike the French Pigeons who were mostly Roman Catholics, these Pidgeons were baptised and married in the Presbyterian Church. But where did they come from?

Further investigation showed that they had all been born on Prince Edward Island (PEI), and that the matriarch Mary MONTGOMERY was the widow of the Reverend Edward Pidgeon.

An article on the *History of the Presbyterian Church* ⁽¹⁾ in Canada says that the Rev. Edward Pidgeon had been originally sent out to the Bay of Chaleur by the London Missionary Society, that afterwards he went to Prince Edward Island, and in 1811 was received by the Presbytery of Pictou (Nova Scotia). He was inducted to the pastoral charge of a “widely-scattered flock” at Cove Point, St Peter’s Bay and Fortune Bay on PEI. After eight or nine years the pastoral tie was dissolved because of “differences between him and his people”. He later resigned as a minister and eventually died in September, 1843, “in the sixty-fifth year of his age.” This would put his birth at about 1778-79.

Another article *Rev. Edward Pidgeon, 1778-1843*, ⁽²⁾ was more explicit. It partly re-produced an article published in 1962 about *George Pidgeon*, ⁽³⁾ a grandson of Edward who also became a clergyman. In 1798 the Rev. Edward Pidgeon had been sent to the New Carlisle area (about 25 miles along the coast east of New Richmond) by the Antiburgher Synod of Scotland. He was the first Protestant minister to work on that coast. It also says he was born in Yarmouth, England, and had received his theological training in Scotland. He left the area and returned to Britain, but was sent out again by the London Missionary Society. In 1805, he moved to Prince Edward Island where he married Mary MONTGOMERY and founded his family. Ill health forced his retirement in 1820. He died in 1843 while attending a service at New London.

On Ancestry.com one finds many family trees compiled by individuals and this story provides a warning *not to believe everything you see there!* Several people have concluded that if Edward was born about 1778, then he must be the son of George Pidgeon and Alice BOULT baptised in the church of St Nicholas, Great Yarmouth on 18th August, 1778. What they all failed to notice, however, was that this Edward was buried two months later on 18th October. George and Alice christened four sons by the name of Edward, and only the last survived. ⁽⁴⁾ He was born in 1788, so was unlikely to have been sent out to Canada in 1798 – at the age of 10.

Two more Edward Pidgeons were born at Great Yarmouth around this time, the sons of Simon Pidgeon and Ann LEAK. ⁽⁴⁾ The first lived for four and a half years. The second was born in November, 1774, and it is this Edward who I think emigrated to Canada. In 1798 he would have been about 23 years old – old enough to have received a theological education before being sent abroad as a missionary. When he died, he would have been in his 69th year, but in those days, who would have known that? Another questionable detail, is just when did he marry Mary MONTGOMERY? There are no PEI records which tell us either the date of their marriage or when their children were born. However, other data, such as census records and ages at death, suggest that ten children were born between about 1819 and 1841. It therefore seems more likely that the marriage took place in the late 1810s, perhaps a year or so before the first child was born.

A “*Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania*,”⁽⁵⁾ published in 1898 contains biographical sketches of prominent citizens, including one of Edward Pidgeon, not the Reverend, but apparently his son. He was described as “an enterprising energetic business man of Houtzdale, who always keeps abreast with the times.” It states that “he was born October 22, 1846, in Prince Edward Island, Canada, and is a son of Edward and Mary (Montgomery) Pidgeon.” Since the Rev. Edward died in 1843, however, Edward Junior cannot have been his son. It goes on to say that “his father” was a native of England, where he entered the Presbyterian Church, and that he was holding a pastorate at the time of his death, which also disagrees with earlier statements. “About four years after the father’s death the mother removed to New Richmond, Canada.”

This article then goes on to give a brief record of the other ten of “eleven children” born to Mary and Edward. No dates are given, but most can be linked to census records. In the 1861 census the family was divided between two households. One was in the township of Maria, a few miles west of New Richmond, where the eldest son Daniel (42) and his wife Agnes lived together with his widowed mother Mary (69), and siblings Mary (35), Archibald (25) and John (28). In the town of New Richmond itself were Hugh, James, Christiana and Edward; all were single, but no ages were given.

The 1871 census suggests that in 1861 Hugh would have been about 40, James 36, and we know Edward (Junior) would have been 14. Christiana died in 1864, age unrecorded, so we can only guess when she was born. According to Edward’s biography she died “in early womanhood”, and I suspect that Edward was her illegitimate son. If so, his “mother” Mary was actually his grandmother.

Edward Junior fathered his own illegitimate child, Hope Edwina. She was baptised as a Pidgeon, but later known first by her mother’s maiden name of DODDRIDGE, then by that of her stepfather McKENZIE, and finally by her own married name of BLAGDON. Her father Edward ran away to Pennsylvania before she was born – but that’s another story.

In census returns these PIDGEONS were said to be Scottish. Probably, this was partly because their Scottish mother outlived their English father by 28 years, but also because New Richmond had been founded by Scottish lowlanders. Shortly after Rev. Edward’s death, Mary’s sister was also widowed. Her husband William CUTHBERT died in 1847 on a visit to Scotland. As he was one of the founding pioneers of New Richmond, he had built a lumber mill between the Grand and Little Cascapedia Rivers. After his death the mill was inherited by his wife and daughter who were unable to run it alone, so they invited Mary Pidgeon and her several unmarried sons to come and help. They moved from PEI to New Richmond in 1849. The story of this family is quite fascinating, but have I located the correct link with the Pidgeon’s of Great Yarmouth? Records are few, and memo-

ries are lost or failing. Perhaps a calculated guess is the best that can be expected. Mine is that the Rev. Edward Pidgeon who emigrated to Canada was the youngest son of Simon Pidgeon and Ann Leak – born 1774 at Great Yarmouth, died 1843 at French River, PEI. Am I right?

NOTES:

1 *History of the Presbyterian Church in the Dominion of Canada* by William Gregg, published in 1885 and reproduced on Ancestry.ca.

2 *Rev. Edward Pidgeon* by Kenneth Annett in *Gaspé of Yesteryear* in 2015, (<http://gogaspe.com/host/annett/volume5/> – item 177).

3 *George Pidgeon, a Biography* by John Webster Grant, published by Ryerson Press, 1962 and partly reproduced in (2), above.

4 *Pidgeons of Great Yarmouth* (http://www.pid-gen.uk/PIDGEON/Trees/Tree_Yarmouth.html)

5 *Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania*, Chicago, 1898 and reproduced on Ancestry.ca.

Ian Pidgeon, MN 12686, i.c.pidgeon@ntlworld.com

Wartime Deopham Green

Roger Morgan summarises the stories of a group of boys growing up around a USAF base in wartime Deopham Green

A FEW months ago I was talking to a good friend of mine, Trevor DYE, when he told me about a pamphlet written by his uncle Gordon describing his early experiences growing up in wartime Deopham Green.

The pamphlet contains many stories which give fascinating insights into everyday life around the newly built United States Airforce base in the 1940s. I will attempt to summarise some of Gordon's stories.

Background information

At this time the family of Alfred Dye consisted of five boys, Gerald – Trevor's father (b 1929), Gordon (b 1930), Harold (b 1934), Stan (b 1934) and Graham (b 1939). Alfred had another boy, Bryan born after the war in 1949.

Tragically, Harold died at the age of four in a freak accident when he fell from his grandmother's bike. The boys' mother was Francis Dye née LLOYD. Her mother

was Susannah LINCOLN, a distant relation of the former American President, Abraham Lincoln.

The family lived in a thatched cottage on the Hingham Road at Great Ellingham. They would spend many happy days in the summer months helping in the harvest fields. Their grandfather was the farm steward for Mr Gordon RIVETT at Manor Farm.



They would 'drive away' the horses and wagons from the field to the stack yard close to the farmyard and watch the heavy steam traction engine drive the corn threshing machine. Their grandad died in 1942 at the age of 72. This brought an end to the happy days working on the farm.



In September, 1939, the family moved to Sunnyside Cottages in Deopham Green. They moved from a reasonably modern home with electricity, but an outdoor toilet, to oil-lit lamps and still with outdoor facilities.

They now had a four bedroomed house with a barn and horse, cattle and pig housing. There were fields and meadows to explore, trees to climb and ponds to fish in and skate on, in the winter months. It seemed to be an idyllic life for the boys.

Outbreak of War

On 3rd September, 1939, Britain declared war on Germany. Gordon could recall hearing the news as they left Sunday school at Deopham Green at noon. He remembered hearing practice sirens at Attleborough to warn people about approaching aircraft. Life went on as normal with occasional enemy aircraft overflying on their way to Norwich, Dereham and the seaside towns.

Attleborough did have a taste of war in December, 1940, when a German bomber mistakenly attacked the Gaymer's Cider factory as it followed the railway lines in foggy weather. Gordon's uncle, Cyril Lloyd was injured in the raid and had part of his foot amputated.

It did not heal well and he eventually lost his leg just below the knee. After a long hospitalisation at Roehampton he returned to work at Gaymer's and was issued with a motorised invalid vehicle by the ministry.



The boys' enjoyable life went on for what seemed to Gordon, a long time. Then one fine day he remembered a few men arriving at Deopham Green saying that they were from the Minister of War or the Air Ministry.

They said that they had powers granted to them which allowed them to survey the farmland in the area with a view to an airfield being built at this location. Such airfields were needed by the Americans so that they could step up their bombing of German armament factories and airfields.

Building work began in 1942 and the contract was given to John Laing. It was to be known as Station 142. The 'Ramp' as the Americans called it, was mainly situated in Deopham Green although the living quarters and administrative buildings were in Great Ellingham.

The work was mainly carried out by Irish navvies who worked long hours, seven days a week. The cement, sand and ballast had to be brought in by road. The sand and shingle were fetched from Lenwade and Reymerstone pits.

Lorries passed their house all day long and the boys would grab the chance to ride on them, keeping the drivers company and taking their sandwiches and drinks with them. Station 142 was finished by the end of 1943 and on January 3rd 1944, Gordon watched the first eight planes land safely.

The 452nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) had arrived from Washington, flying their Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses. The group tail code was a "Square-L". In the next four weeks they made many practice flights and landings. Their first

proper mission was on the 5th February, 1944, when they attacked Romilly in France.

They conducted a similar raid on the following day before bombing their first German targets, Frankfurt on the 8th and Brunswick on the 10th.

In April, 1944, one of the aircraft failed to lift off on take off and ran across the fields towards Ellingham School. Fortunately no one was seriously injured.

Bad Times

The boys were to see many bad things around the base. In late June, 1944, Gerald, Trevor's father, was re-



turning from Attleborough with a horse and wagon full of animal feed when a Halifax bomber came over him 'popping and banging' trying to land on the emergency runway. It crashed half a mile short and exploded in a field. They never knew if the Canadian crew managed to bail out or not.

In late 1944, around 7 pm they were sitting round a cosy fire when they heard a loud bang. It was a flying bomb or doodlebug which had hit the base just short of the bomb dump.

They cycled round the perimeter track the next morning and saw that it was being lifted and pulled by a small mobile crane.

The base was visited by German aircraft as well. On the first occasion a German bomber pilot asked for the runway lights to be switched on for an emergency landing.

B-17 bomber taking off from Deopham Green



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His request was granted and he approached from the south west end of the main runway towards Deopham Green. He then raised his wheels and threw out three or four bombs with the last one landing 70 yards from the boys' house.

The chimney pot was blown off and several window panes were broken with shrapnel embedding itself in the brickwork at the end of the house. They were told that it was a 250lb bomb and it made a large crater beside the perimeter track.

Two nights later the Germans returned, approaching from the direction of Hingham Church. They dropped three or four more bombs and managed to kill six to eight milking cows this time!

On Christmas Eve, 1944, the crews were returning from a raid on Darmstadt and had peeled off from the formation ready to land when a plane firing off red flares indicating wounded on board cut in front of them. The lead plane had to apply full power and go up again to circle the base once more.

It was very low on fuel and went into a shallow dive passing in front of the Dyes' house as they were watching. Alfred said "She's going down" and minutes later it crashed at 17.45 killing all on board.

On another occasion they witnessed a B-17 coming in with two feathered propellers and on fire. As the plane touched down the tail gunner made a hasty exit.

He rolled over and was struck by the rear wheel which killed him instantly. They saw many agonising accidents and incidents which they would never forget. Some planes came in with one wheel down and slewed off the runway while icy conditions and fog caused havoc.

Good Times

The boys soon established a great relationship with the GIs. They would travel round the base perimeter in their trucks and go with them to their living quarters.

Gordon often went to the quarters of Sgt, VANCE and company taking them fresh eggs which the GIs loved. In return, when the Americans got parcels from home they would share their goodies with the boys.

The fruit loaf cake packed with raisins and sultanas was a particular favourite with them.

The airmen would even allow the boys to take turns using a hand gun on the firing range. Occasionally they were allowed to go to the mess tent for meals. They were surprised to be given sweet and savoury dishes side by side. When the Dyes



held a party for some local children the airmen helped out by providing tinned fruit and ice cream.

Gordon's older brother Gerald was a member of the A.T.C. (Air Training Cadets) in Wymondham. He was able to approach the American officials in his R.A.F. uniform and persuade them to take him up on short internal flights.

He was taken up approximately 25-30 times and even went on a leaflet dropping mission at night over France. At the age of 15, he was the envy of all the other cadets. Gerald was able to arrange with the Americans to take three or four other cadets, including Gordon up to experience the thrill of flying.



Gerald Dye aged 17



B-17 Bomber crew at Deopham Green

To quote Gordon talking about his brother, *"the Americans taught him to drive their jeeps, to smoke cigarettes and other 'things'!!"*

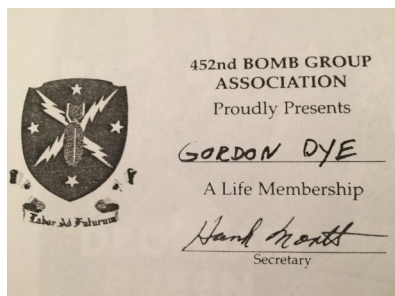
Gerald did join the R.A.F. eventually but it did not meet his expectations so he opted to leave. In 1945 the day finally came for the goodbyes and much sadness was felt by all. Good friendships and lovely memories had been made. These would remain with the boys forever.

Footnote

The 452nd Bomb Group carried out a total of 250 combat missions plus five food drops consisting of 150 tons. They dropped 16,566 tons of bombs and evacuated 4,000 prisoners of war. The number of aircraft missing in action was 110 with 48 aircraft lost by other causes. The last mission was on April 21st 1945, and 45 remaining aircraft returned to the USA on June 24th-28th, 1945.

I would like to thank Trevor Dye for allowing me to use his uncle's work and of course the late Gordon Dye for writing such a fascinating record.

Roger Morgan MN17267



New Members and Members Interests

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



Welcome to the March, 2019, issue of Norfolk Ancestor.

It has been a good start to the year with over 60 new members joining since 1st January.

Please note that your renewal reminder is inside this issue. Once again there is no increase in membership rates.

It significantly reduces our administration time if you pay online. Do this by logging in as a member in the top right corner of the Society website. Then go to the membership tab and select Membership Renewal from the drop-down menu and then follow the links to Sage Pay to make your payment.

We use Sage Pay to collect your renewal as it is a safe and secure site which accepts most debit and credit cards as well as PayPal.

Another method of payment is by Bankers Order. If you already pay by Bankers Order this should be indicated by an X on your magazine postal label. If

you would like to set up a Bankers Order please contact treasurer@nfhs.co.uk for details. Bankers Orders are taken from your account on 1st April.

Of course we also accept cheques and postal orders by post or cash which can be dropped off in person at Kirby Hall, but please do not send cash through the post.

We also offer 10 year and Life Memberships which offer a discount on the annual cost. If you wish to take out one of these memberships it can only be paid for by cheque or cash.

Gift Aid is an important source of income for the Society as we can claim back 25% of your renewal from the Inland Revenue. If you are able to support the Society in this way please tick the Gift Aid box online when you renew or complete the form when you send your cheque. Once signed we will continue to claim Gift Aid until you tell us to stop.

Regards Jean

New Members to 31st December 2018

The Society welcomes the following new members

17427	Mr	M.	Lofty	UK
17428	Mrs	R.	Riseley	UK
17430	Mr	J. E.	Lofty	UK
17431	Mrs	D.	Bradley	UK
17432	Miss	L.	Christopher	UK
17433	Mr	I.	Campbell	UK
17434	Mr	C.	Gunn	UK
17435	Mr	D.	Brown	UK
17436	Ms.	E.	Desmond	UK
17437	Mr	D.	Gayter	UK
17438	Mr	I.	Glasspool	US
17439	Ms	C.	Devlin	UK
17440	Mr	F.	Riches	UK
17441	Ms	G.	Younger	UK
17442	Mr	C.	Nunn	UK
17443	Mr	M.	Grix	UK
17444	Mrs	P.	Fitch-Dehaan	AU
17445	Mrs	R.	Randall	UK
17446	Mrs	J.	Heevner	UA
17447	Mr	M.	Pafitis	UK
17448	Mr	N.	Lodge	UK
17449	Dr	P.	Stevens	UK
17450	Mr	C.	Tummons	UK
17451	Mrs	P.	Blandford	AU
17452	Mr	J.	Nicholson	UK
17453	Mrs	S.	Turner	UK
17454	Mrs	J.	Tastula	AU
17455	Mr	R.	Turner	UK
17456	Mrs	S.	Wadbrook	UK
17457	Mr	P.	Tubby	UK
17458	Mr	T.	Perkins	UK
17459	Mr	M.	Goring	UK
17460	Mrs	F.	Selway	UK
17461	Mr	M.	Hogan	UK

17462	Mrs	A.	Barber	UK
17463	Mr	S.	Eke	UK
17465	Mrs	K.	Artis	UK
17466	Mr	D.	Reeve	UK
17467	Mr	M.	Harrison	UK
17468	Mrs	J.	Fell	UK
17469	Mrs	E.	Mead	UK
17470	Mrs	V.	Weston	UK
17471	Ms	J.	Elder	US
17472	Mr	K.	Galliford	UK
17473	Mr	T.	Banks	UK
17474	Mr	J.	Lines	AU
17475	Ms	R.	Breneger	AU
17476	Mr	J.	Claxton	UK
17477	Ms	I.	McDonald	US
17478	Mr	J.	Mayes	UK
17479	Miss	A. C.	Dunton	UK
17480	Mr	R. J.	Cozens	UK
17481	Mr	R. W.	Stonock	UK
17482	Ms	H.	Tate	UK
17483	Mrs.	S.	Duffield	UK
17484	Mr	S.	Hunter	UK
17485	Mrs	I.	Bridge	UK
17486	Mr	S.	Powell	UK
17487	Mrs	H.	Ratcliff	UK
17488	Mrs	L.	Newbury	UK
17489	Mr	G. D.	Black	UK
17490	Mr	D.	Black	UK
17491	Ms	M.	Hatcher	UK
17492	Mr	N.	George	UK
17493	Mr	R. C.	Hearne	UK
17494	Mr	A.	Nichols	UK
17495	Ms	H.	Parker-Drabble	UK
17496	Mr	C.	Hampson	US

17497	Mrs	S.	Wacker	AU	17504	Mr	A.	Bailey	UK
17498	Mrs	S.	Templar	AU	17505	Mrs	S.	Moore	UK
17499	Mr	J. C.	Hinchliffe	UK	17506	Mr	M.	Thomas	UK
17500	Mrs	D.	Howell	UK	17507	Mrs	K.	Portass	UK
17501	Dr	S.	Seaboryne	NZ	17508	Dr	T.	Arnett	CA
17502	Dr	S.	Dent	UK	17509	Mr.	R.	Heywood	CA
17503	Mrs	J.	Humphreys	UK	17510	Mrs	C.	Sibraa	AU

Members Interests to 23rd January 2019

MN	Name	County	Area	Period	MN	Name	County	Area	Period
16513	ALDRED	NFK	ALL	ALL	16533	FARROW	NFK	ALL	ALL
17085	ARMES	NFK	NC	ALL	17025	FIELD	NFK	ALL	ALL
17025	BARKER	NFK	ALL	ALL	12858	FLEGG	NFK	ALL	ALL
17548	BARNES	NFK	NW	ALL	16091	FOX	NFK	ALL	ALL
11670	BIRD	NFK	CN	18C-19C	17472	GALLIFORD	NFK	ALL	ALL
16513	BLOGG	NFK	ALL	ALL	17153	GOTTERSON	NFK	ALL	ALL
16513	BOOTY	NFK	ALL	ALL	17548	HARROD	NFK	NW	ALL
17025	BRETT	NFK	ALL	ALL	17526	HART	NFK	ALL	ALL
17471	BURROWS	NFK	ALL	18C-20C	17474	HAYDEN	NFK	ALL	17C-20C
17483	CANNELL	NFK	SW	17C-19C	17483	LEGGATE	NFK	SW	17C-19C
17483	CARLEY	NFK	SW	17C-19C	17474	LINES	NFK	ALL	17C-20C
17317	CARR	NFK	NW	18C-19C	17025	LOADS	NFK	ALL	ALL
11726	CATTERMER	NFK	ALL	ALL	17025	LOCKETT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17471	COBB	NFK	SE	18C-19C	17427	LOFTY	NFK	ALL	ALL
17025	COOK	NFK	ALL	ALL	17548	LOWN	NFK	NW	ALL
11726	CORNISH	NFK	ALL	ALL	12858	MARSH	NFK	ALL	ALL
17526	CRAWCOUR	NFK	ALL	ALL	15343	MAYES	NFK	ALL	15C-18C
17548	CROSS	NFK	NW	ALL	12858	MOLES	NFK	ALL	ALL
12858	CROWE	NFK	ALL	ALL	17483	MURRELL	NFK	SW	17C-19C
17268	DENNY	NFK	ALL	ALL	17025	NOKES	NFK	ALL	ALL
17548	DIXON	NFK	NW	ALL	12858	OAKES	NFK	ALL	ALL
17483	DUFFIELD	NFK	SW	17C-19C	17025	PAGE	NFK	ALL	ALL
17479	DUNTHORN	NFK	NC	18C-19C	17548	PISHORN	NFK	NW	ALL
17427	EVERETT	NFK	ALL	ALL	17025	POOLEY	NFK	ALL	ALL

MN	Name	County	Area	Period	MN	Name	County	Area	Period
17548	RANSOM	NFK	NW	ALL	16833	WALNER	NFK	ALL	ALL
17548	RICHES	NFK	NW	ALL	16513	WILLIMOTT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17538	SAUNDERS	NFK	ALL	ALL	11726	WILSEA	NFK	ALL	ALL
17455	SKIPPER	NFK	ALL	ALL	17548	WINKFIELD	NFK	NW	ALL
8541	SMITH	NFK	NW	15C-18C	17025	WOODS	NFK	ALL	ALL
17483	STACKWOOD	NFK	SW	ALL	16513	WOOLTON	NFK	ALL	ALL
17085	THOMPSON	NFK	NC	ALL	16833	YOUNG	NFK	ALL	ALL
11726	TOOKE	NFK	ALL	ALL	17025	YOUNGMAN	NFK	ALL	ALL
17025	WALKER	NFK	ALL	ALL					

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

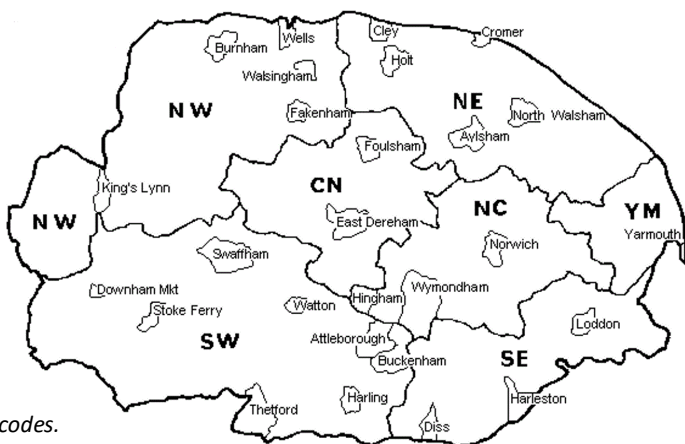
An e-mail address or postal address will then be forwarded to you.

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

Members' Interests Search Area Codes

KEY

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



Other areas

are identified by Chapman codes.

A copy of these can be obtained from Kirby Hall.

The Genealogists' Magazine—I have a collection of magazines produced by the Society of Genealogists dating from 1975 to 2018. Although not directly relating to Norfolk, they contain many very interesting articles which readers might like to read. These are FREE to anyone who can collect.

Edmund Perry MN 3181

Please contact Edmund via our email address: secretary@nfhs.co.uk

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- Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.
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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

OVERSEAS members now have the choice of whether to receive the Norfolk Ancestor magazine through the post or in electronic format.

We have introduced a category for overseas' members happy to receive their magazine via the web site in an electronic format.

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

Overseas Single E-Ancestor	£12
Overseas Joint E-Ancestor	£18
Overseas Single - Ancestor By Post	£15
Overseas Joint - Ancestor By Post	£21
Overseas Single 10 Year E-Ancestor Due fo Renewal 01/04/2029	£90
Overseas Joint 10 Year E-Ancestor Due for Renewal 01/04/2029	£135
Overseas Single 10 Year Ancestor by post. Due for renew 01/04/29	£115
Overseas Joint 10 Year Ancestor by post. Due for renew 01/04/29	£170
Overseas Single Life Ancestor by post	£250
Overseas Joint Life Ancestor by post	£375
Overseas Single Life E-Ancestor	£200
Overseas Joint Life E-Ancestor	£300

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

http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk/files/pdfs/NFHS_Bankers_Order_Issue_12.7.pdf

Rob's Round Up *with Robert Parker*

1920s-1930s. England and Wales records on Findmypast top 52 million.

1939 Register. Additions on Findmypast.

Britain. Directories and Almanacs 1766-1919 on Findmypast.

Burial. England and Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland Death index extended on Ancestry to 2017.

Cambridgeshire. Juror Books (1828-1883) on Ancestry.

Court and Criminal Records. On TheGenealogist (160k+ records of prisoners at the bar and their victims) created by the Central Criminal Court.

Cumberland. Registers and Records on Findmypast.

Derbyshire. Registers and Records on Findmypast.

Devon. Registers and Records on Findmypast.

DNA. Ancestry has enhanced its ethnicity estimates, more precise results across Asia and Europe.

Education. TheGenealogist adds thousands of individuals from school registers to its Educational Records.

Electoral registers. England and Wales, 1920-1932 on Findmypast.

England. Clandestine Marriages, 1667-1775 on Findmypast.

Free online archives. Expanded with over 12 million new indexed family history records and over 500,000 digital images from around the world on FamilySearch (Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, BillionGraves, Find A Grave, Peru, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and United States).

Ireland. Dublin Metropolitan Police Prisoners books 1905-1908 and 1911-1918, Dublin Metropolitan Police general register 1837-1925 on Findmypast.

Isle of Wight. 100k+ burial records online with iw-bereavementservices.co.uk/

Jersey. German occupation prosecutions, 1940-1945 and German occupation identity cards 1940-1945 on Findmypast.

Kent. Folkestone Cheriton Road cemetery on Findmypast.

Lancashire Baptisms. Lancashire Banns and Marriages, Lancashire Burials, Lancashire Parish Registers on Findmypast.

Lloyd George Domesday Survey. On TheGenealogist (Barnet, Edgware, Finchley, Friern Barnet, Hendon, Totteridge). Coming soon other London boroughs and Buckinghamshire.

London. Historic registers for the City of London Cemetery online 1856-1955 (<https://col-burialregisters.uk/>).

Military. Forces War Records adds 100k records of those individuals awarded the Palestine 1945-48 clasp.

Military. Irish Officers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919 on Findmypast.

Military. Honourable Women of the Great War, 1914-1918 on Findmypast.

Military. British Subjects Who Died In The Service Of The Indian Empire on Findmypast.

Military. Airmen Died in The Great War, 1914-1919 on Findmypast.

Military. Campaign, Gallantry and Long Service Medals and Awards (Military Cross, Distinguished Flying Medal, Distinguished Conduct Medal, Distinguished Service Order and Commando Gallantry awards) on Findmypast.

Nebraska. Omaha births 1874-1887 on Findmypast.

Newspapers. Music Hall and Theatre Review 1890-1912, Scottish Referee 1893-1899, Wicklow People 1912-2001, Liverpool Echo 1968-1993, Irish Independent 1912-2000, Oxfordshire Weekly News 1869-1926, Belfast Telegraph 1913-1920, Cirencester Times and Cotswold Advertiser 1869, Dover Telegraph and Cinque Ports General Advertiser 1857, Sligo champion 1942-2006, Drogheda Argus and Leinster Journal (1873-1927), Evening Herald, Dublin 1888, Scottish Referee 1894, Irish Independent 1918-2002, Mid Sussex Times 1914-1918 all at British Newspaper Archive.

New York. Passenger Lists, Castle Garden 1820-1891, Passenger Arrival Lists, Ellis Island 1892-1924, Passenger and crew Lists 1925-1957 on FamilySearch.

New Zealand. BMD indexes on Findmypast.

Oxfordshire cemetery records (50k from Botley, Rose Hill and Wolvercote cemeteries in Oxford) 1894-2016 on deceasedonline.com

Passengers. Four million added to TheGenealogist departing the UK.

Scotland. Lanarkshire Death and burial index 1642-1855 on Findmypast.

Scotland. Edinburgh St Cuthbert's census 1790 on Findmypast.

Scotland. Shetland, Tingwall List of inhabitants 1785 on Findmypast.

Warwickshire. Parish record collection with 1.5 million individuals on TheGenealogist Recommended twitter account to follow @larasgenealogy; Genealogist and #genealogy speaker and blogger--Eastern European Jewish family. Presi-

dent of the Jewish Genealogy Society of MD, @JewishGen Subcarpathia SIG Leader

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

Rob's Round Up is bought to you by Robert Parker, <https://myfamilygenealogy.co.uk>

New record sets are identified from the world wide web and Social Media including Facebook and Twitter.

Editor's Corner

Regular readers of my editor's corner column will know I have what I refer to as a butterfly brain and, when it comes to genealogy and family research, that isn't a good thing.

It means I find myself unable to concentrate on one person or strand of investigation as my mind goes wandering off in goodness knows how many directions.

But having a butterfly brain does have one benefit – it can help unearth some interesting characters amongst distant or not so distant ancestors. That is how I came across a gentleman by the name of Frederick Duncan DEW who comes from the maternal line of my ancestors.

Frederick Dew is my first cousin three times removed which in itself is confusing enough. I believe that means that Frederick is my first cousin from three generations back i.e my great grandmother's cousin. I'm sure if I'm not correct an eagle eyed member of the NFHS will let me know. But to return to the plot and the interesting character that Frederick Duncan Dew became.

In the past I have also written about the Rosary Cemetery in Norwich. Not only is it a fascinating place in its own right, but it is also the final resting place of numerous members of the Dew family.

The cemetery was the first non-denominational burial ground in the United Kingdom and was established in 1819 by Thomas Drummond, a non-conformist minister. This is well documented but what is usually overlooked is the fact that my third great uncle and Frederick Dew's father Britiffe Dew (1793-1876) was the cemetery's first superintendent and his son Britiffe Edmund Dew (1817-1872) – another first cousin three times removed – also fulfilled the same post.

Britiffe Dew (the first one) and Mary Ann MACKELLAR (1796-1864) were very

productive on the baby front, having at least 10 children. One of these – Rebecca Dew – married Thomas MAYES and ended up in a London workhouse with at least one of their children being buried in a pauper's grave. This is an important aspect of my story as I will relate later.

Frederick Duncan Dew became a freeman of London, landlord/owner of a number of London pubs and a freemason. But how he achieved these notable situations is still a mystery despite a considerable amount of research. The key date is 1861 where I cannot trace him at all. What I have been able to establish is that in 1841 he is 11 years of age and living with his family in the lodge at the Rosary cemetery.

Ten years later he is a servant at Hillington Hall in Norfolk. By 1871 he is lodging at 38 Warwick Street in London and in August 1871 the licence of the Britannia Public House in Frederick Street, London, was transferred to him.

In the 1881 census, Frederick's age is given as 50 and his occupation is victualer. He is living at 48 Fish Street Hill as head of household. The members of staff listed included his niece Alice Mayer and his sister Lydia Dew. There were also barmaids, a cook and a potman. The public house was The Monument.

In the 1891 census, he was living at 138, King's Road, Chelsea, which was the Markham Arms Public House (pictured below). Also living at the same address was Sarah Field who was 45 years of age and whose occupation is given as "housekeeper." It is likely that she was much more – although the couple never married and had no children. Frederick Duncan Dew appears to have been a



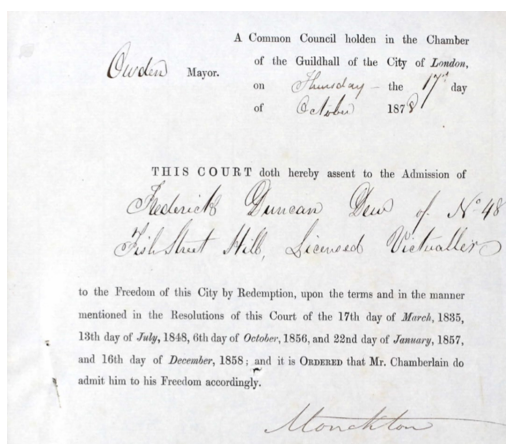
benefactor and a very rich man, supporting a number of youth-based charities. But where did he make his money? I cannot believe that it was from the licensed trade and where was he in 1861? One of his brothers served in the British army in India and I'm wondering if Frederick made his money on the sub-continent.

The Markham Arms at 138/140 King's Road, London SW3, was a famous London watering hole. It became a public house in the mid-19th century and is a Grade II listed building, although it closed as a pub in March 2009 and is now a branch of Santander Bank. The first licensee was William MARSHALL in 1856.



Frederick Dew took over the licence from Thomas HOCKLEY in 1892. He remained licensee until his death in 1898 when he left the pub to Sarah Field who kept the licence until it passed to Herbert Thomas STOW in 1899.

Frederick turned down the chairmanship of the Board of Management of the Licensed Victualler Asylum in November 1887 when he was a senior trustee, but he accepted the freemanship of London – something not handed out lightly – and was a prominent Freemason. Frederick's will is in itself interesting. He left sums of



money to various relatives and also bequests to the Licensed Victuallers School in Kensington Lane, Surrey and the Licensed Victuallers Asylum in Old Kent Road, Surrey.

He left the Markham Arms and most of his money and personal effects to Sarah. His total fortune was recorded as £27,717, 15/- which is the equivalent of well over £3 million today.

The Dew family as a whole were quite poor. Frederick's sister Rebecca moved to London and married Thomas MAYES but ended up in a workhouse in Shoreditch with her six children . One of these – Melinda - died at the age of three and was buried in a pauper's grave in Hackney Victoria Park Cemetery in London. This closed to burials in 1876 after falling into misuse and today is known as Meath Gardens – a park and children's play area.

All this makes Frederick's riches even harder to understand. He was born into a poor family, became a servant and subsequently died a rich man. So where did his money come from? My search continues.

Frederick Duncan Dew requested in his will that he should be buried in a plot he already owned in the Rosary Cemetery. His wish was granted.

Footnote – After closing as a pub the Markham Arms firstly became a branch of the Abbey National Building Society (see photograph on page 39) and then a Santander Bank. It was famous/notorious in the 20th century as a meeting place for British spy Kim Filby and his associates. British designer Mary Quant lived next door and would also have frequented the Markham.



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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.

Query from Jim Baldwin

I have been developing our family tree since my son was born in 1980. He was the last in line in my immediate family until he had a son in 2016. I joined Norfolk Family History Society soon after my son was born and did most of my recording of the family tree on an Amstrad computer. I must congratulate the staff of The Norfolk Ancestor, it only gets better with the passing years. The advances made in digital recording of data have now greatly improved the search process.

I am a member of Ancestry and am constantly amazed at the number of tree links that fill in gaps in my family tree. I do, however, have a niggling doubt about the assumption that I made about JOHN BALDWIN, who married ANNE FICKLING in Letheringsett on 11th May, 1789. Both were stated to be "of this parish" in the marriage record, but trawling through BMDs for Letheringsett reveals no mention of a Baldwin family and therefore no mention of his birth or baptism. They lived together in Hindolveston (again no mention of the baptism or birth of John) and produced seven children. After many years of searching I assumed that he had been born in Hingham in 1767, the same year as the birth year of his wife and the only John Baldwin that I could find that satisfies the birth year and comes from a suitably local village.

One of his sons, William Baldwin, is a direct ancestor of mine (he is the fifth great grandfather of my grandson). He lived until 1875, dying in Thursford Union House. The family moved from Hindolveston to Swanton Novers, then to Peterborough and on to Sheffield via Wigan. I was born in Sheffield in 1943.

I would really appreciate it if anyone can throw any light on the doubt that I have. Going back in time in Hingham has produced good results and many instances of later family names arising. Hopefully this is a good sign.

James Arthur Baldwin MN 592 (jimbalwin@aol.com)

Ralph Edward KITSON

Are you related to Ralph Edward KITSON born around 1894 whose father, James Joseph, lived at Farmstead Gate near Scottow?

A member of the public has contacted us to say they would like to pass on a piece of property they have found to a member of Ralph's family. If you are in any way related please send me details of the family connection and any infor-

mation about Ralph that you might have. Hopefully we can reunite the property with a member of his family.

Ellen Carr librarian@nfhs.co.uk

Charles and John Ramm

Dear Editor

I have a query for the Notes and Queries page and if you could put it there I'd be very grateful.

My great-great-great grandfather, Charles RAMM, aged 36, and his father, John Ramm, aged 70-80, were both buried on February 3rd, 1811, in Saxlingham (by Holt). The name was sometimes spelled RAM. I have always wondered if they died by accident or illness? It seems unusual that a father and son were buried on the same day.

If any other members have suggestions I'd be really happy to hear them.

Thank you very much,

Carol Ramm (from Canada), MN 12927 - carolramm@yahoo.ca

John William Clarke

My enquiry is whether anyone has knowledge of how to trace some aspects of my grandfather, John William Clarke, born 1858 and resident in the Norwich and later Salhouse area, who had a responsible civic position as "Police Court Missioner". He was supposedly active in helping Norwich people emigrate to new lives in Canada (1908-13 period), working with personnel at the firm Colmans of Norwich (I believe). He even sponsored the sending of three sons to Canada, brothers of my own grandfather. Are there records in Norwich City archives? I have asked Unilever (keepers of Colman records), but they have not been able to assist, with the verbal history passed along within the family.

Philip Clarke MN 11522 email
pd.c.itworks@btopenworld.com

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

**Medieval to Modern
Family & Local History
Latin translation
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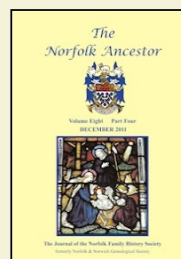
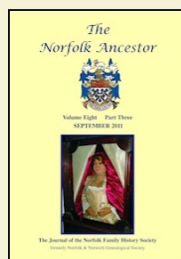
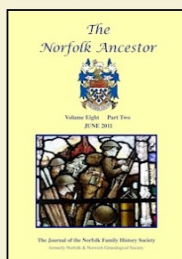
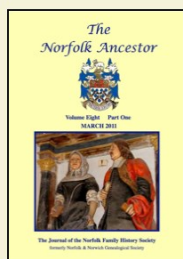
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Scanned Ancestor Copies



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

Group Reports

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

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

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

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

South Norfolk Group Reports

Programme 2019

12th March	Leave No Stone Unturned	John Vigar
18th March	Workshop - How to use Family Search	Steve Maning***
19th and 26th March	New Family History Course at Lopham Village Hall	Gill Blanchard**
9th April	Cherchez La Femme	Helen Matten
2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th April	Family History Course at Lopham Village Hall	Gill Blanchard**
14th May	The Future of Family History	Dr Nick Barratt
21st May	Miss Reeve's Own Battle (the story of the wartime evacuation of 800 Norfolk people for a battleground)	Georgette Vale*
4th June	The Suffolk Gypsy (John Heigham Stegges)	Pip Wright*
11th June	"Bread, Gruel and Suet Dumplings."	Ian Waller

All meetings are at Diss Methodist Church 7 pm. except those marked *, **, ***

*These meetings are at Lopham Village Hall, Church Road, North Lopham, IP22 2LP at 1.30 pm.

This course is at Lopham Village Hall at 1.30 pm. Booking is necessary. * -in the Colin Riches Room at Diss Methodist Church at 1.30 pm.

The Diss Group would like to remind members that our programme is advertised on the NFHS website and the Facebook Page.

We have some very interesting talks lined up for 2019 with many speakers new to

us as well as many old friends. We now have a Help Desk before our Diss Meetings from 6.45 pm with expert help available for both using computers in family history and also local knowledge of the South Norfolk area.

This year we also have some afternoon meetings at The Lophams Village Hall, again with some very interesting speakers.

If you haven't been to one of our meetings why not come along and try us, you can be sure of a warm welcome.



More On The Diss Group Course

We are holding a six week family history course starting on Tuesday, 19th March from 1.30 until 4.30 pm in Lophams' Village Hall, Church Road, North Lopham. The course will be led by Gill Blanchard. BA. MA. PGCE (Post. Grad. Cert. Ed) author of "Tracing Your Ancestors.; Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk," "Tracing Your House History" and "Writing Your Family History."

The course is designed to help you unlock your ancestry by discovering the possibilities for taking your research even further, advance your knowledge by learning about a wider range of sources. Records looked at will include apprenticeship and freemen; educational; maps; deeds, land tax; business; insurance; letters; diaries and more.

Topics will include: 1. Other Parish Chest Records, 2. School and other Educational Records 3. Apprentices, Freemen other Work and Business Records, 4. Land and Property Records, 5. Manorial Records, 6. Discovering how our Ancestors Lived through Contemporary Accounts. The course cost is £48 for Norfolk Family History Society members and £60 for non members. To book contact Betty Morley on 01379 688354 or via email on dissgroupnfhs@btinternet.com.

Behind the Scenes at WDYTYA

I'm sure many of our members avidly watch the BBC celebrity family research programme 'Who Do You Think You Are' which has been so successful that the 15th series was screened this year. Indeed it has been sold all over the world due to its popularity, so it was with great pleasure the Diss Group welcomed back historian and author Gill Blanchard on 13th November to speak to us about her experiences working behind the scenes as a researcher for this iconic programme.

It was surprising to learn that in many cases the researcher has no idea whose family history they are working on because the production team generally do some of the basic preliminary work and then pass those details in a briefing note on to a local researcher to carry out the in-depth investigation.

Often they never meet the subject and do not know which other researchers are employed in connection with the same personality. However, In the last series Gill did appear with Paralympic Gold Medalist Johnny Peacock whose ancestors came from the Cambridge area.

She told us laughingly that the filming of one scene wasn't straightforward due to the extremely loud quacking of the ducks on the nearby river. In an earlier series the subject was Mary Berry whose ancestors came from Norwich. Gill worked on her research for five months and yes, she did go out for tea and cake with her.

Another difficulty Gill sometimes encounters is that many properties have been demolished and areas rebuilt so it can be really difficult to pinpoint a former home or business. It is not unknown for her to send out her partner with measuring equipment to painstakingly calculate where something would have been.

Many viewers, myself included, have wondered if the celebrities are ever forewarned before disclosures are made on camera but Gill assured us that what we see is absolutely as it happens. All their reactions are genuine and of the moment. She also told us that a person seen on screen delivering the findings to the celebrity may not have done the research. All the celebrities are presented with a handsome bound book containing their family tree after completion of their episode.

Some of the people approached with a view to appearing on 'Who Do You Think You Are' are not found to have an interesting enough story, following the preliminary research, which must be very disappointing for them. Gill is often asked why they don't feature some ordinary people, but again it would not capture the interest of the millions who watch. Celebrity sells in the modern world.

Jenny Jenkins

THE HALL HILLS DOWNTON FAMILY OF DISS

THE topic of Norfolk Family History Society's Diss branch talk for over 30 people on January 8th was not the Downton Abbey family, but an equally interesting family that came to live in Diss in the 1880s and spent the next 50 years or so living a story. The talk covered a great deal of research, good fortune and co-operation from many different sources both here and abroad, for which the author is eternally grateful.

The Downton family of Diss were peers of the realm, the origins of which can be traced back to feudal times, where men were as vassals (servants) of the monarch, who had sworn allegiance by act of loyalty and fealty to the crown, and gained favour in return for protection. The inherited title of the Downton

family has been difficult to research, due to the obvious Downton family name and its television connections. However, John Downton through which the Diss family heralded, was born in the late 18th. century and was the sub-librarian at Trinity College, Cambridge.

John Downton's son, Henry Murray Downton Senior, was the great great grandfather of our Diss Downton family. He was born in Shropshire in 1818 and inherited his father's bookishness, as he too graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1843 with an MA degree in Arts.

He then followed religious orders as a curate serving the living on The Isle of Wight, at Cambridge, at Chatham, and as English chaplain in Geneva, Switzerland for 16 years, finally becoming Rector at Hopton near Garboldisham.

The first Mrs Downton, his wife, was Elizabeth McKee who was born in County Derry, Ireland. Henry Downton and Elizabeth McKee were married in Ardagh County, Ireland in 1849.

Henry and Elizabeth had eight children, six during his tenure in Chatham in Kent and two more in Switzerland as a chaplain in Geneva from 1857-1873.

Henry Murray DOWNTON (b.1850 – d.1887)

Grace DOWNTON (b.1851 – d.1923)

Alice Kathleen DOWNTON (b.1852 – d.1931)

Edith DOWNTON (b.1854 – d.1904)

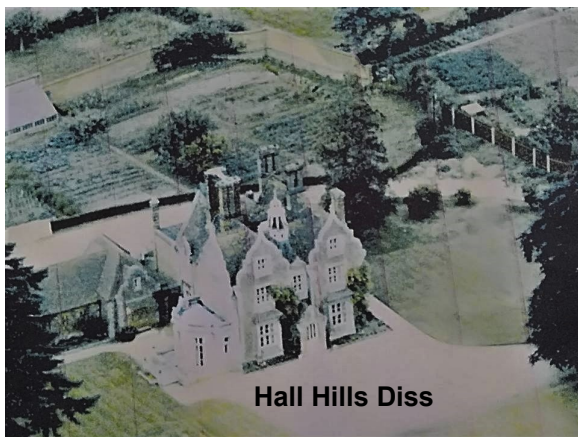
Cecil DOWNTON (b.1855 – d.1932)

Florence Bessie DOWNTON (b.1856 – d.1929)

Hugh Malden DOWNTON (b. Switzerland 1858 – d.1919)

Mary Murray DOWNTON (b. Switzerland 1859 – d.1887)

Interestingly the oldest son Henry, our Hall Hills connection, and the youngest, his sister Mary, died in the same year. Mary Murray Downton married David C



Barry in Calcutta, India, on 15th December, 1886, during the British Raj, but died aged 28 within a year of the marriage, possibly of illness or in childbirth. Her only daughter Margaret was born in Rawalpindi. Margaret eventually married Lt-Col Kenneth Durand Barbour.

The eldest of the issue, Henry Murray DOWNTON Junior married Laura Caroline Bircham in Hersham, Surrey, the Mrs Downton of Hall Hills Diss.

Henry Murray DOWNTON as per his father and brothers was also educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a Reverend and from 1876 to 1883, the family were living in Brooke, Norfolk. The 1881 census notes him as a Clerk in Holy Orders.

Henry Murray and Laura Caroline also had eight children –

Francis Murray DOWNTON (b.1876 – d.1942)

Basil Murray DOWNTON (b.1878 – d.1963)

Geoffrey Murray DOWNTON (b.1880 – d.1972)

Margaret Grace DOWNTON (b.1882 – d.1882)

Myles Murray DOWNTON (b.1883 – d.1956)

Edmund Murray
DOWNTON (b.1884 –
d.1965)

Ethel Mary Murray
DOWNTON (b.1886 –
d.1972)

Arthur Murray
DOWNTON (b.1887 –
d.1965)



In early 1884 Henry Murray and Laura Caroline Downton came to live at Hall Hills House in Diss. His parents' family were living at Hopton near Garboldisham at the time.

But sadly within four years, both elderly parents, a sister Mary and Henry Murray Downton the husband had died, but three more children had been born, leaving his wife Laura a widow with seven children. Laura continued living in the house on her own means for nearly 45 years until her death in 1931 aged 82.

Mrs Downton and her gardener Mr J Leeder were successful garden exhibitors

in town. In August 1914, the Diss Express noted her winning first prize for stocks, stove foliage plants, coleus, ferns, zonale geraniums and many other unusual varieties. In fact Hall Hills remained the venue for many horticultural events up until the 1930s and the grounds were extensively planted with large specimen tree species.

Mrs Downton was very involved locally and mentioned in many local articles from 1900. The cultivated grounds of Hall Hills were also used as venues for sales of Indian art and many horticultural exhibitions, along with the town band playing on various occasions.

Mrs Downton actively supported the mothers' union, boy scouts, local schools and the local National Deposit Friendly Society (The Cherry Tree Posting Establishment).

The Gothic style Hall Hills House was built around 1870 in the barn meadow parcel on Roydon Road in Diss, along with an assortment of annexes, workers' cottages, a porter's lodge, outbuildings, greenhouses and barns.

Mrs Downton employed at least four servants, gardeners and governesses throughout her time at Hall Hills and even had the same servant, Eliza Cooper, in her employ for nearly 40 years, bringing her from Brooke when the family moved to Hall Hills in 1884. Mrs Downton died June 1931 and Hall Hills was sold to the Barbour family.

One might say the history of Hall Hills as a family house had come full circle with a granddaughter becoming the next generation's incumbent of this splendid Gothic mansion, giving the property over 50 years of family life to truly become our very own Downton family of Diss.

Sadly the house and effects were demolished by 1969 by L and R Contractors, to make way for redevelopment of the new Hall Hills Estate.

Thankfully many of the estate bricks remained on site on other builds and many of the specimen trees remain protected in-situ some 100 years later.

Many photographs were shown and previous and current Hall Hills occupiers attended the talk and a lively debate followed with much interest shown.

Nick Woods

Obituary- Rodney Michael Bryenton (1942 – 2018)

Rod was born in March, 1942, in the tiny village of Cratfield in Suffolk, where he was surrounded by a large family of uncles and cousins. He went to the village school and then obtained a scholarship to the Sir John Leman School at Beccles. This entailed a journey each day by bus around the villages, then steam train from Halesworth and finally a mile and a half walk to school!

Leaving school at 16, Rod joined the Merchant Navy as an apprentice engineer with the New Zealand Shipping Company. He could boast of having been right round the world before he was 18! However, after two years he decided that the Navy was not for him and got a job with an engineering company in London.

Although we were unaware of this our paths crossed briefly when Rod was working as an engineer with Ove Arup on the Barbican Project and I with the Site Architect.

After working in a great many places, Rod went to work in South Africa, taking his wife and daughters with him. After three years they returned to England and settled in South Harrow. Returning eventually to East Anglia they made their home in Diss – just over the border from the village of his birth

Rod died on 25th September in Priscilla Bacon Lodge, Norwich, suffering from stomach and lung cancer. A true family historian, Rod's life story in his own words was read at his Humanist Funeral, which was held in Cratfield Village Hall, 100 yards from the place where he had been born 76 years earlier.

He had carefully planned his funeral, including three of his favourite songs, which we "joined in with gusto" as was his request.

"Somewhere Over The Rainbow"

Betty Morley

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

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

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.

London Group

Dates for your Diary:

We will meet this year at the Society of Genealogists as usual, between 2 and 4 pm.

March 9th: Members' Day – share the latest on your research in Norfolk and beyond and bring queries and questions to the group. A problem shared, as they say ...

October 19th – Programme to be announced



Mary Fisk

We will have a full report of the London group's October, 2019, meeting in a future edition of Ancestor

Our Meeting on October 20th 2018

We were pleased to welcome Gill Blanchard of PastSearch who gave a presentation to the group on *Researching a House History*.

Family historians, as Gill pointed out, start with an advantage in that we are already familiar with many of the records that will need to be consulted, but learning how to use them effectively will be an important weapon in the research arsenal.

Every street, of course, every house, every field, has its own history. The history of a house becomes the history of a place – what was there before, who developed the land, and why. The house historian works on many levels and with many different types of records.

When using the census for house histories, it is important to remember that urban house numbers may have changed – are we actually looking at the same house? In rural areas, houses frequently had no numbers or names (or changed names). A research project on a particular house may have to expand to cover a whole area in order to identify a family or a person associated with a property – and people lead us to documents.

In the past, property owning was the preserve of a very small proportion of the population. Most people were tenants. Gill suggested that additional help could be sought from those with specialist research skills such as architectural historians, buildings experts, and specialists in local and social history who could give practical and contextual information to assist research.

A house could go through multiple uses in the course of its history – tenants, unless at the bottom of the social scale, could make alterations to their property

and treat it as their own. Properties were adapted to accommodate businesses taking place on site – such as the addition of outhouses and workrooms – and these would have usually left traces even if not used as such, or even not standing today.

Gill suggested that the professional help of the architectural expert might be a worthwhile investment here to help decipher different elements in the construction of a house – bricks for instance! Mass production of bricks generally started around the 1830s and 1840s, though the generally longer and thinner handmade bricks continued in use in rural areas for a while after.

It is all about asking questions. Consider local knowledge in establishing a house history, although remember that this might not necessarily be accurate! From where do “stories” about the house come? Who’s telling you? Where did they get the information? Do not believe everything estate agents or architects might tell you!

Examine the house itself for clues as to its rough age – remember to look at the bricks and at the symmetry of the building and its roofline. Could it possibly have once been thatched? What are the building materials? Photographs are important (Gill recommended investing in a good camera, rather than just the one on your smartphone and getting to know someone with a drone for those useful aerial shots).

Overview of main resources

Many of these will be familiar from your family history research.

- BMDs.

- Census returns 1801-1911, and the 1939 register.

- Deeds and other Land Registry documents.

- Listed buildings, local surveys and “buildings of note.”

- Electoral Registers from 1832 (note that women could vote in local elections from the 1860s and 1870s if they were rate-payers).

- Voting was a property qualification until 1832, so look for records of freehold and copyhold rights.

- Insurance records also give descriptions and locations of the building.

- There are always museums, living history exhibitions and re-enactments for a sense of “how history was lived.”

- And of course – newspapers, parish registers, trade directories, gazetteers, wills etc.

Gill stressed the importance of fixing landmarks to make sure you have the right property. Big cities and towns have, of course, changed enormously. It is a good

idea to compare a modern Ordnance Survey map with older documents. 1876 saw the first countrywide OS on a 25 inches to the mile scale, although earlier maps on smaller scale were drawn up between 1801 and the 1820s. Specific landmarks such as churches make useful reference points.

If you are researching at one particular house, examine it for different phases in construction. The Land Registry could hold documents for the Register of Title, which could show previous owners, rights of way etc. across the land. Although the Registry was set up in 1862, its use was not compulsory until 1990. Open-Gov.uk and the Land Registry have around 3000 documents available, which might, in turn, refer to earlier documents regarding the property. County archives may have the deeds from solicitors' firms and other sources, such as entrepreneurial builders who were developing areas with terraced houses.

Deeds may also be obtainable via solicitors' private deposits in record offices, and from other businesses and estate archives.

In record offices you may also be lucky enough to come across bundles of documents containing items such as wills, mortgages, grants of annuity, estate maps etc. which throw light on the earlier history of a property. Property could frequently come into a family via a wife's dowry.

For 20th century history in rural areas, Gill pointed us to the National Farm Survey of 1941-1943. It was a survey of any landowner with more than five acres and can be linked to the 1910 Valuation Office Survey. The latter was known as Lloyd George's Second Domesday, and was inaugurated as a means to finance his plans for a pension scheme and unemployment benefit, although the tax was never actually implemented and the Act itself was repealed in 1920. These documents can be found in the National Archives.

County Record Offices generally have the Registers (summaries) of the National Farm Survey, while the more detailed Field Books (which sometimes give the names of owners) are held in the National Archives.

Regarding the Census returns, 1911 is the most useful for the house historian as it gives the number of rooms in the property minus the service rooms. 1891 has the number of rooms in each household, if less than five.

The Census Summary Books, which outline the routes the enumerators took, are useful to gain a fixed point on a place and a property.

Sales particulars for a property can contain accompanying maps, and local newspapers can be a good source for the records of property sales, with details of tenants, leaseholders, landowners and can be tied to electoral registers, trade directories etc. Property owners themselves can be traced through wills.

Tithe maps and appointments can be found from 1836 – once the plot number of a property is identified it can be traced through the Appointments Book (*The Genealogist* database has these online).

Enclosure maps are another source of information on both houses and land. Parliamentary Enclosure dates from 1801, but other enclosure maps exist from the 16th century onward, when Acts of Parliament were required to proceed. Enclosure Award documents list who was given the land and who had the responsibility of maintaining things such as roads and footpaths.

For towns and cities, maps exist from the early 1600s, and much more detailed maps from after the electoral reforms of the 1830s. Maps associated with the development of utilities and transport networks are particularly detailed, often with the names of property-owners affected. These can be found in the National Archives and local record offices.

Church and manor records can also hold useful resources for the house historian. The parish was the unit of local government until the mid-19th century. It raised taxes and collected rates. Parish records naturally contain a great deal of information about local people. Settlement examinations were used in the administration of poor relief, as people would have to have paid rates to the parish in order to receive assistance.

Land taxes exist from 1693, although most of those that survive are from between 1780 and 1832. They were used to prove the right to home ownership and again can often be found in local record offices.

Company records from different sources can also be used in research.

Probate records (including wills and inventories) can contain much valuable information. Inventories were compulsory with Letters of Administration until 1782, though not compulsory with wills, as chattels were frequently listed in wills. Inventories list goods and chattels, so these can allow the researcher to reconstruct the appearance and contents of a house.

Manorial records include those for copyhold land (leasehold is the nearest equivalent today to this type of tenure). Copyhold land belonged to the manor. The concept dates to the 13th century and was only finally abolished in 1928.

Although until the mid-19th century, a married woman's property belonged to her husband, the decoding of documents frequently show houses, land and property coming to a man through his wife's dowry or grants made to her in family wills.

A Case Study: The Old Manor House, Kelsale, Suffolk.

To conclude, Gill took us through a particular case study she had undertaken. The whole village of Kelsale had been redesigned by an architect in the early 20th century.

Gill talked to local residents and local historians and conducted in-depth research in both the national and local archives. Although The Old Manor House was remodelled internally, the façade was kept much the same. Ephemera such

as advertisements and newspaper reports showed that the house had, for a time, been a school for “wayward” boys and in 1901 it had been known as Church Farm.

Gill consulted sales particulars from 1842, the tithe map and appointment from 1843 and Poll Books from 1868.

Moving back in time, deeds show that the house was once on copyhold and some of the family turned out to be Quakers and the land had come into this family, the Russells, through the female line as part of a dowry.

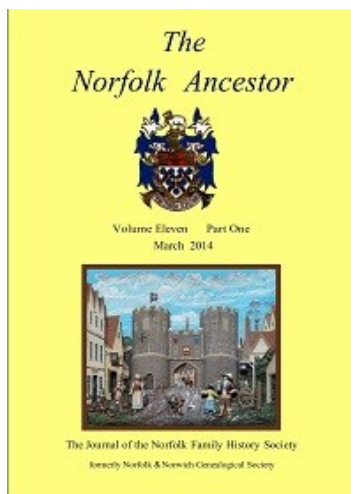
The Russell family of The Old Manor were a branch of the Russell family of Bloomsbury (who gave their name to Russell Square) and Gill traced them back to a Metcalfe Russell, whose birth in London in 1735 was noted in the records of a Quaker Meeting House.

There is a drawing of the house on a map from the late 1700s, but that indicates that it had already been substantively remodelled and the actual origins of the house go back considerably further in time.

Being a house historian is, as Gill showed us during her fascinating and informative talk, very much akin to being a detective. Follow all the clues with diligence and your research could lead to a satisfactory conclusion.

Mary Fisk

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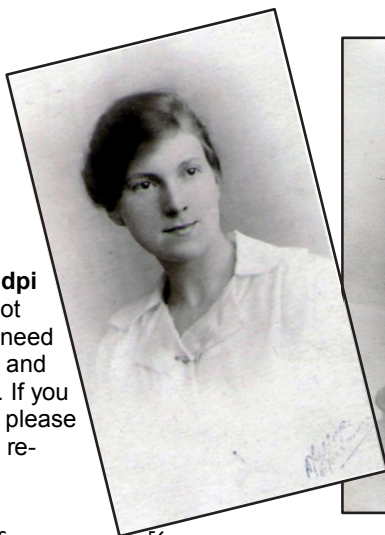
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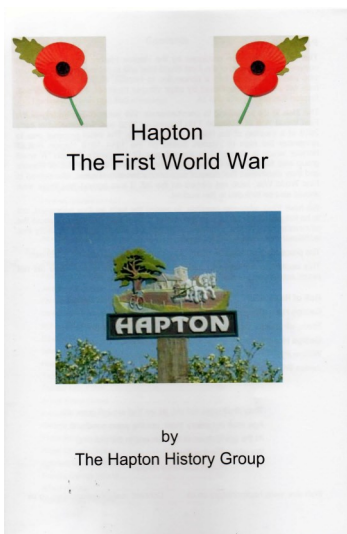
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Ancestor Bookshelf



Hapton – The First World War

By Hapton History Group

59 Page B5 Illustrated Booklet

The Hapton History Group has produced this fascinating booklet about men from the village who served in the 1914-1918 conflict. The original intention was to research and record information about the 24 men listed on the Roll of Honour, but like all good research it then grew and morphed into a study of a further 31 men connected to Hapton.

The booklet is packed with facts about the men and includes several photographs of soldiers, memorials and ships connected to them. It is a well-researched and detailed booklet.

Ellen Carr MN 9159

Watlington Men Remembered

Are you interested in the history of Watlington and in particular the men from the village who died in both world wars and are named on the village war memorial? Then you may be interested in a booklet featuring some research about these men together with information about the memorial itself and other men who served in the Great War (World War 1), some with distinction, who returned to continue with their lives. Are they ancestors of yours?

The cost of the booklet is £2 and is available to purchase in the church (open every day), the Parish Council Office (open Tuesdays and Thursdays until 2pm) or contact me on 01553 810848 to arrange delivery or collection.



Brenda Leedell MN4102

The Wacton Saga

Mary Ollett comments on the Wacton Parish Registers Update

December 2018 The Norfolk Ancestor page 24. Wacton Parish Registers Update by Robert Maidstone

Last year Robert and I had quite an interchange of ideas about the marriage situation of the brothers Edmund and Benjamin ALDERTON, the bride Sarah OSBORNE, and the Wacton Parish Registers. Robert contended it was Edmund who married Sarah due to a bluff that went wrong and he left her when he discovered she was pregnant again and moved south because he felt an idiot. I said the marriage entry was incorrect due to a mistake by the vicar.

So was it Benjamin or Edmund who married Sarah Osborne on 15th February 1852?

It makes a big difference, as if it was Edmund, then he became a bigamist when he married my great grandmother in 1857 and Benjamin and Sarah lived together for 54 years in sin!

As Robert said, he has seen the microfiche copies of the Banns Register showing the Banns of Edmund and Sarah being read on 11th, 18th and 25th January, 1852, and they were bracketed together and signed by the vicar.

Actually the double page of the register has four entries all in identical writing including one on September 26th signed by C H Bagly, Assistant Minister, which seems to prove that the entries were all made at the same time spanning March 1851–October 1852 written up in one session from slips of paper or from memory.

It would be easy to make a mistake when copying up the slips of paper or writing up the entries as Benjamin's father was named Edmund and he had 11 sons, so it would not have been surprising for the vicar to muddle up their names.

The marriage certificate was, as Robert said, signed by Sarah Osborne but 'Edmund' put X for his mark as he could not write, so the vicar probably wrote his name beside the X afterwards; no-one would have been any wiser if the wrong name was written.

Sarah had an illegitimate daughter Emma in 1848, who was called a 'daughter' by her grandparents on the 1851 census, note not a grand-child as they were trying to hide the shame of an illegitimate child. Whether Benjamin was the father we will never know but certainly William ALDERTON who was born on 19th April 1852, two months after Sarah's wedding to 'Edmund', was registered by Benjamin as the father (mother Sarah Orsborn), and Emma had joined the family by the 1861 census.

Robert contended that because William was not baptised until 26th September, 1852, Benjamin and Sarah were avoiding Rev. Grain. It was probably just that

they did not go along with the ceremony, indeed there was a strong non-conformist belief in later members of the Aldertons.

Benjamin was an agricultural labourer but agents from the northern industrial cities came down to Norfolk where there was high rural under-employment and poverty, to recruit men like Benjamin for the coal mines. Benjamin was probably reluctant to move but, with a growing family and poor wages he finally made the journey north as shown on the 1861 and 1871 censuses where he was a coal miner. However, by the 1881 census, Benjamin was a proud farmer of 44 acres at Killingworth, Longbenton. Benjamin and Sarah lived together for 54 years until Benjamin died in 1906, and they had 10 or 11 children although four died under five years old, it was a hard life but Benjamin's dream of a farm came true.

Edmund was named after his father Edmund, and was three years younger than his brother Benjamin and Sarah Osborne and at the time of 'the marriage' would have been about 19 years old and a journeyman shoemaker lodging at Hapton. Edmund seems to have learned his trade from his Uncle Matthew, the village shoemaker.

Shoemaking was becoming mechanised about this time so I understand Edmund with two of his cousins formed a small company to make and sell their own shoes in their shops. Edmund had moved to Ipswich where he married my great grandmother at Harwich in 1857, signing his name in the register.

As his business prospered, he looked for new outlets, sources of leather and new machinery. He moved south to Gravesend in 1861, then back to Norwich in 1863, then Harwich, Ipswich, and Ely where my grandmother remembered her brothers singing in the cathedral choir, and Cambridge where Edmund made shoes for the University students. Finally as his wife's health deteriorated he went south again to the spa health-resort of Tunbridge Wells and opened shops in Tonbridge, Southborough and Tunbridge Wells.

A Marriage entry in the GRO Register, the Bishop's Transcript, and the Parish Registers rely on the Banns entry as the primary source being correct, then the rest are copies made from this information.

Therefore it all hinges on the Banns documents. If the wrong name was written down later from either a slip of paper or memory, the vicar or his clerk made a mistake.

The Wacton register also shows another mistake in April 15th 1859, when the vicar married Perceival Pearse and Mary Alderton, entry 27 in Wacton Register, (GRO Register June qtr 1859 Depwade 4b 441). However in the GRO Register there is also an entry for Perceival Pearse and Mary Alderton's marriage in the March qtr 1861 (Depwade 4b 415), but a look at the Wacton register shows that the vicar re-entered the previous marriage in the register as entry 31 and, although crossed through, a copy of this marriage was sent together with a marriage in 1861 of John Mears and Eliza Ludkin to the GRO. On the 1911 census, Mary Pearse stated she had been married 51 years and had 10 children, this seems to show she is the same wife and was not married twice.

So bearing in mind the need to interpret primary and secondary sources carefully due to problems associated with errors through copies and transcriptions, sometimes the wider implications of the social situation need to be considered. I feel sure it was Benjamin that married Sarah.

He was illiterate as the birth certificate of his son William was marked with an X, as was the marriage entry, and his pronunciation of Osborne was written down as Orsborn which he did not correct, he was an unskilled labourer working for a farmer.

The Banns announcements and marriage in church could well have been for Benjamin and Sarah as I have explained, they thought they were married and subsequently lived together in the village for about seven years and had three children in Wacton before moving to Tynemouth, this would not seem to be the behaviour of a couple 'living in sin'.

I do not think Edmund married Sarah as he was already a journeyman shoemaker lodging in another village to develop his trade. He signed his name on the register when he married in 1857 and was able to start and run a very successful business with his cousins embracing the mechanisation of the shoe and boot-trade. I doubt whether he would have married Sarah as a joke when he obviously had ambition and ability.

Mary Ollett MN 12045

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The Manor House



THE Manor House, Norwich is situated at Number 54 Bracondale. Historically, Bracondale was the main route leading southwards out of Norwich and as such, it became very popular with the wealthier residents of the city. The history of the house is very patchy due to a lack of historical documents which relate to it. Although the Jacobean house has been called a Manor House there is no evidence that it was ever used for this purpose and it was most likely that it was described as this in the 19th century. Some sources claim that it dates from 1578 because this date can be seen on one of

the gables. However, it is more likely that the house was built between 1617 and 1632 by Anne KEMP who was the widow of Robert Kemp, a wealthy Norwich Grocer. Robert made no mention of the house in his will in which he left his possessions to his wife. It is probable that she used the money he left, to build the house. It is described as being built of red brick with a plain tile roof and brick chimney at the rear. It has two stories with an attic with wooden mullioned windows. The most striking things about the house are the Dutch gables and there is a two storey, gable-fronted extension to the left. The letters A and K can still be seen on the centre gable which may stand for Anne Kemp.

When Anne died it was taken over by Augustine REVE and his wife Elizabeth BAYSPÖOLE in 1656. Their initials were carved into a stone in the middle of the gable. It then passed to their son Henry who stayed to the end of the 1600s. In the 1700s and 1800s the house had many owners including Mayor James CROWE who was a leaseholder. In 1939 it was used by Commander WOOD as the headquarters of the ATS. It was divided into three flats in 1951 and became a Grade 2 listed building in 1954. However, it slowly deteriorated and needed some major repairs. Fortunately in 1983 all three flats came onto the market at the same time and they were purchased by Peter Macqueen, a cameraman for Anglia TV. He set about restoring the house to its former glory with a view to reinstating its truly historic look.



Then and Now



This imposing looking Jacobean house in Bracondale often goes unnoticed because today it is partially covered by high trees and bushes. It still makes an impressive sight however. It is known as the Manor

