

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**DECEMBER 2019**



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

# The Sewell Story

*By Roger Morgan*

ABOUT 12 years ago my daughter decided that she needed a hobby and started to volunteer at the Maddermarket Theatre in Norwich. She enjoyed it so much that she also began to work with the backstage team at the Sewell Barn Theatre (pictured on the front cover).



**Young Anna Sewell**

I had always assumed that the theatre had been named in honour of the Norfolk born author Anna SEWELL, famed for the widely acclaimed children's book *Black Beauty*. However, further research revealed that the name had far more to do with the Sewell family in general and particularly Anna's brother Phillip Edward Sewell.

Anna and Philip's parents were Isaac and Mary Sewell who were devout Quakers. Isaac (1793-1879) ran a small draper's shop in Great Yarmouth with his wife Mary nee WRIGHT (1798-1884). Anna was born on 30th March, 1820. Not long after Anna's birth, Isaac realised that he had been swindled and by 1821 his business was failing. With the help of the Quakers, the family moved to London where Philip was born in Bishopsgate in January, 1822. Life

was not easy for the Sewells and money was scarce. As a result the children were educated at home by their mother. They moved to Dalston where they lived for ten years. During this time Isaac and Mary would often send the children to stay with Mary's parents in Buxton, Norfolk.

Whilst living at Dalston, Mary Sewell published her first book of verses which were written with the object of instilling moral virtues in all parts of her life. She was now able to buy books for the children. In 1832 they were in Stoke Newington where Anna went to school for the first time at the age of 12. When she was 14 it is thought that she slipped whilst walking home, badly damaging both her ankles. The injuries were not treated correctly and this would affect her for the rest of her life. She was unable to walk for any length of time without the aid of crutches. In 1836 Isaac got a job in Brighton as manager of the London and County Bank. He hoped that the sea air would aid Anna's recovery.

**(The story of the Sewell family continues on page 53).**

# Norfolk Family History Society

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## The Norfolk Ancestor

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### Kirby Hall Library Opening Times

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am - 4.00pm

First Sunday in the month 10.00am - 1.00pm

Please note Kirby Hall will be closed for its annual Christmas break from 4 pm on December 12th and re-open on January 7th.

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## Group Meeting Venues

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# Welcome to your December Edition

Peter Steward MN 14801



**WELCOME** to the December edition of Norfolk Ancestor which brings the curtain down on another year.

After decades of keeping the cost of membership at the same level, it has been decided to increase membership fees by a small amount and the new rates from April, 2020, are detailed on page 12. We hope that you still feel that we provide excellent value for money. Once again many thanks for all the features, stories and information we have received. I look forward to receiving many more for coming editions.

## Norfolk Ancestor Editorial Team

<b>Peter Steward</b>	<b>Editor</b>
<b>Roger Morgan</b>	<b>Assistant Editor</b>
<b>Rob Reeve</b>	<b>Proof Reader</b>

The trustees, volunteers and all involved with Norfolk Family History Society would like to wish all members a happy Christmas and a successful family research 2020.

Kirby Hall will be closed for its annual Christmas/ New Year break from 4 pm on December 12th and re-open at 10 am on January 7th.



# News From Kirby Hall

## Change In Opening Hours and Christmas

THERE has been a slight change in opening hours at Kirby Hall.

We have extended our hours on Tuesdays to 4 pm - giving family history enthusiasts an additional three hours. The building will now be open from 10 am until 4 pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We will be closed on the last Sunday of the month but will continue to open on the first Sunday from 10 am until 1 pm.

Kirby Hall will be closed on Sundays throughout January and February. For Christmas/New Year closures please refer to the previous page.

## Membership Still Healthy

THE 23rd annual general meeting of Norfolk Family History Society took place at Kirby Hall on October 12th. Those present heard that membership levels remain stable at just under 4,000. The Norfolk Online Records Search (NORS) accessible to members from our website contains over four million records and the popularity of the Facebook page continues to grow with over 2,300 people signed up. The Facebook page is open to both members and non members, with content being regularly monitored for suitability. The indexing of the library catalogue is almost complete and new displays have been regularly set up on noticeboards both inside and outside Kirby Hall.

The meeting stressed the continued need for more volunteers. Currently the society has 40 volunteers which includes the trustees. Of those, 26 staff the desk in Kirby Hall with 58 slots to fill every month - which in itself causes something of an organisational headache. In addition the society has up to another 25 volunteers from around the world undertaking transcription work from home.

Trustees have been working hard to set out the society's aims for the future with a robust business plan. The meeting unanimously voted to re-elect Steve Tarttelin, Carole Taylor and Robert Kilbourn as trustees. Robert has recently taken on the role of treasurer following the retirement from that post of Carole Taylor.

# News From Kirby Hall

## Library News Update with Ellen Carr

IT'S that time of year again. Stocktaking in the library and time to review many things. This year I am pleased to report that we appear to have 'lost' only one book out of the hundreds on our shelves. It might be hiding somewhere and turn up yet.

While counting and checking, I have changed the catalogue numbers slightly for the items in the magazine boxes so checking is much easier in future. Instead of everything in a box having the same number, they now have the box number followed by an individual number. This will not affect where they are to be found but will make next year's stock check much easier!

The other big change is that the non-conformist section has been thinned out and some books moved to other sections in the library where they fit better. The marriage collections have changed shelf but are still close to where they were. This enabled the parish register transcripts to be moved along the shelves leaving the one from bottom shelf free, so the village books collection can be placed above the village boxes – a much more logical arrangement.

All the section catalogues have been updated and re-printed and placed back where they belong but changing the main catalogue on computer and website is still a work in progress, but I hope to complete it soon. Some of the non-conformist books were about the lives of people, so fit much better into our pedigree collection. People are very generous and give us copies of their research either in chart form or narrative form. The latter form our pedigree collection and contributions range from handwritten records to published books following individuals or whole families.

One such kind donation was made by George Aldis who, with a membership number of 2079, has obviously been researching his ancestors for over 40 years. His book "Aldis Family Histories 1560-2013" gives very detailed information which he is sharing with anyone who has that family name in their lineage. He also points out that he has a website which includes an extensive database compiled from the 60 or so years of work by three leading genealogists of the name.

We are very grateful to George and all who contribute to our collections at Kirby Hall and without such generosity we could not add to shelves. If you are happy to share your research with others and would like to send us a copy of your family tree or pedigree, please contact me.

[librarian@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:librarian@nfhs.co.uk)



# News From Kirby Hall



**DEBBIE Bradley and Steve Manning from the Family History Federation dropped into Kirby Hall in September to meet some of our trustees. They explained how the federation is developing and the trustees explained their view of the future for the society. Pictured are: Back Row (left to right) - Debbie Bradley, Ellen Carr, Richard Ashberry, Robert Kilbourn and Phil Whiscombe. Front - Carol Reeve and Carole Taylor.**

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## Changes at Kirby Hall

TRUSTEES have decided to relax some of the rules with regards to what can be used at Kirby Hall.

Visitors will now be allowed to use laptops (on batteries please to avoid trip hazards with trailing wires), portable scanners and cameras whether on mobile phones or independent. The trustees felt that visitors should be given as much access to documents as possible and be allowed to take images and make copies. USB sticks will not be allowed.

# Stalwart Duo Honoured



***Pictured above are left to right - Jean Stangroom, Edmund Perry and Phil Whiscombe***

AT the society's annual general meeting held at Kirby Hall on October 12th, honorary life memberships were conferred on two stalwarts. Former chairman and membership secretary Jean Stangroom and former company secretary Edmund Perry were presented with certificates by interim chairman Phil Whiscombe.

It is the first time the society has handed out the honorary positions for "outstanding service."

"Jean and Edmund have both given outstanding service to the society over many years. Without their input the society just wouldn't be what it is today," Phil Whiscombe said.

In return Edmund Perry proposed a vote of thanks to Carole Taylor who has retired as society treasurer. Carole is currently taking on the role of mem-

bership secretary and will continue as a trustee.

"The society owes Carole a tremendous debt of gratitude. She has spent many years revolutionising the way the accounts are organised.

"I would also like to thank the trustees for everything they do for the society. The amount of work they undertake is considerable," Edmund said.

Edmund retired as a trustee a couple of years ago and Jean stepped down as a trustee earlier this year due to ill health. Both continue to support the society and its aims.

The meeting also saw Margaret Murgatroyd retire as a trustee and she was thanked for her professionalism and skill. Margaret will continue to work on behalf of the society in the field of transcripts.

Roger Morgan has also resigned as a trustee. Over the past two years he has assisted with the Ancestor and also been responsible for publicity. He will also continue with his work on this magazine and will also be volunteering to help at Kirby Hall.

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# News From Kirby Hall

## NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES

APART from a small change when we introduced the new Overseas E-Anccestor, membership rates have remained unchanged for over 50 years when the society was formed. Postage costs have increased significantly during this period, particularly to overseas territories, and the society now offers far more online facilities for our members. The trustees, therefore, have reluctantly agreed to increase membership rates and change some of the membership types. We believe the new rates will still offer excellent value for money.

The overseas E-Anccestor has proved very popular and we have had several requests from UK members to introduce an E-Anccestor for all members. Changes to technology means more people are happy to read communications/literature online and there is a growing feeling that we should be doing more to protect our environment by reducing the amount of paper we print.

The Trustees have agreed the following from the 2020/2021 renewal for existing members and from January 1st for new members.

All members, regardless of location, will be able to purchase an E-Anccestor membership at the cost of £10 per annum.

There will be three tiers of membership to receive the printed Ancestor:

- UK
- Europe
- Rest of the World

The Society will continue to offer 10 year and life memberships. We currently offer a joint membership at an extra cost. The only benefit a joint member receives is an extra vote at the AGM. We do not feel this is good value for money so we will stop offering these memberships with immediate effect. Existing joint members will retain their two votes at the AGM but will pay the same as a single member.

The new rates come into affect on April 1st, 2020, and are detailed on the next page. Nearer the time we will contact members individually to advise their options re renewal, and the procedure for amending existing Bankers' Orders payments.

**Carole Taylor - Membership Secretary**

# New Membership Rates

Summary of new rates in £ sterling	UK	Europe	Rest of the World
E-Ancestor	£10	£10	£10
Posted Ancestor	£16	£21	£25
10 Year E-Ancestor	£75	£75	£75
10 Year Posted Ancestor	£120	£157	£187
Life E-Ancestor	£165	£165	£165
Life Posted Ancestor	£265	£346	£412
Corporate Members Posted Ancestor	£16	£21	£25

## Heritage Open Days

THE Norfolk Family History Society once again took part in Heritage Open days in Norwich.

The library was open to the public on Saturday September 14th, Tuesday September 17th, Wednesday September 18th, Thursday September 19th and Sunday September 22nd with the Saturday opening proving particularly popular with 47 visitors going through the door.

Kirby Hall is continuing to look for volunteers who would like to help out. If you have a few hours a month to spare and would like to get involved please contact volunteers' co-ordinator Carol Reeve. Her contact details are elsewhere in this magazine. We are looking for people willing to staff the desk at Kirby Hall during opening hours and also people willing to undertake research, transcription and many other tasks - some of which can be undertaken from outside Norfolk.

We are also looking for a membership secretary.

# From Teachers to Champions

Kirby Hall Librarian and Norfolk Family History Society Trustee Ellen Carr is a staunch Norwich City Fan. Here she delves into the history of the club and the family trees of the club founders. Interesting family trees of many of those Ellen have written about form a display currently outside Kirby Hall

ONE of the benefits of being Librarian at Kirby Hall is that I have some say in what goes on the new display boards in our entrance area. As I am a big Norwich City football fan the obvious subject was the club I have followed home and away for many years.

The team was the idea of two Norwich school teachers – Robert WEBSTER and Joseph Cowper NUTCHEY and Norwich City Football Club was incorporated on the 17th June, 1902.

The first chairman was Robert Webster and its first home was in Newmarket Road, Norwich. It was chosen as it was the only ground which had a grandstand and was used by Norfolk FA for local football matches and also by local schools.

Their first match on 6th September, 1902, was a friendly against Harwich and Parkeston with a crowd of just over 2,000 fans. The team was managed by John BOWMAN and played in blue and white (heresy)! Their nickname was 'The Citizens' with players coming from a number of local Norfolk teams. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The football anthem associated with the team – 'On the Ball City' – was thought to have been written in the 1890s for either Norwich Teachers FC or Caley's FC and is the oldest football song. It still rings out at all matches involving the club.

In 1905, the club was first recorded as being called The Canaries – a name that has remained until the present. By 1908 they had adopted their now traditional colours of yellow and green.

The team was meant to be amateur but in 1905 was thrown out by the FA who uncovered some 'dubious payments and inducements' to players. So the club transformed itself into a professional outfit and, by 1908, they were playing at The Nest in Norwich – a disused chalk pit which allowed for viewing areas on the slopes, although whether it would meet today's health and safety standards is debatable.

In 1935 the team moved to Carrow Road – its present home - after the FA de-

	A	B	C	D	E
10					
11		John William BOWMAN			
12		1855-?			Thomas FAWCETT
13				Thomas FAWCETT	
14				1808-1891	Jane MANNERS
15			Sarah FAWCETT		
16			1832-?		
17				Margaret	
18				1809-?	
19	John William BOWMAN				
20	1879-1943				
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27		Sarah Ann			
28		1861-?			
29					
30					
31					
32					
33					
34					
35	Family Tree of John William Bowman First Professional Manager of NCFE 1905				

clared The Nest to be unsafe following ground movement, which caused one corner of the pitch to subside. The new stadium was built in the remarkable time of 82 days in 1935 and in 1938 King George VI watched 20 minutes of the game against Millwall. It was the first time that a ruling monarch had ever watched any part of a Second Division match.

Although it was fascinating to research the history of my club, I also drew up family trees for Joseph Cowper Nutchey, Robert Webster and John Bowman and added these to the display along with copies of early photos of Newmarket Road, The Nest and Carrow Road. Webster was the only one who was local, being born in Norwich in 1858.

Nutchey came originally from Yorkshire but settled in Norwich with his wife Alice. Bowman, our first manager, was born in Middlesbrough and had played for several teams before coming to City. He is the first person recorded as referring to the club as 'The Canaries'.

Much of my information has come from "Canary Citizens" by John Eastwood and Mike Davage and "Norwich City –When football was football" by Iain Dale along with help in finding photos from my friend Alan Martin, an expert on all things green and yellow.

I know the display cannot stay up indefinitely, and I will need my scarf back before the winter sets in, but it does brighten my day to walk into Kirby Hall and be greeted by the green and yellow.

If you would like to prepare a display on any topic Norfolk related, please let me know. I am safe in the knowledge that there is no other Premier League club in the county at the moment.

# The Families They Left Behind

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***NEXT year marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to the New World. Devon Family History Society will be marking the occasion with a special conference and booklet about the families left behind. Here we look at the East Anglian and Norfolk connections.***

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ARE you descended from passengers or crew on the historic Mayflower?

Devon Family History Society is hosting a special Mayflower International Genealogical Conference in Plymouth on 29th August, 2020, to commemorate the 400th anniversary since the Mayflower set sail, and is keen to speak to descendants.

It is known that passengers included men and women from Redenhall, Norwich and Great Yarmouth in Norfolk; Ipswich, Stratton St Mary and Chattisham in Suffolk and Fenstanton and Wisbech in Cambridgeshire.

Plymouth was the last port of call before the Mayflower set sail from England. Many families were left behind in 17th century England and now Devon FHS is launching a project to look into the families that were left behind. It is hoped to create a booklet from the research.

“So much has been done on the Mayflower descendants in the United States, it would be great if we could say they came from here and here’s my family connection,” said Maureen Selley, Secretary of Devon Family History Society.

The Mayflower left England for the New World in September, 1620, with 102 passengers - 74 male and 28 female. There were 31 children on board and a baby was born on the journey. The crew was led by Captain Christopher JONES who was born in Harwich. The total number of crew members is unknown.

A web site has been set-up with the names and places of origin of those on board who came from throughout England. Many were paying passengers rather than religious pilgrims. The website can be viewed at:

**<https://www.mayflower400uk.org>**

If you have any information or are a descendant of any of the passengers or crew please contact Maureen Selley at [secretary@devonfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@devonfhs.org.uk). We would also love to hear from you at [editor@nfhs](mailto:editor@nfhs)

So what is known about the Norfolk men and women on the Mayflower? It is thought that Edmund MARGESSON came from Swannington and was born around 1586 which would have made him in his mid 30s. Sadly he died soon after his arrival in the New World. He is listed as a free man and not as a servant



or apprentice and could have been one of a number of paying passengers. There was also the TINKER family who came from Thurne on the Norfolk Broads. Sadly mother, father and son all died from what has been described as “the first sickness.”

It is likely that more local people were also on board. We will keep you up to date with any future findings in coming editions of Norfolk Ancestor.

# A Strange Situation

**Norfolk Family History Society member June Borderick was researching her family tree when she came across “a strange situation” which she felt would be of interest to other members**

I HAVE discovered whilst researching my family tree a strange situation. I felt it is worth sharing with you. It does make some research hard to believe, but as we all know, there are always some unusual events that we never expect. This is what makes family history fun to explore. My great grandmother was Frances UTTING who was the daughter of Emma Utting.

1878	4th Nov 1878	Frances	Utting	William	Emma Utting	Quinn's	Emma Utting	4th Nov 1878	W. B. B. B. B.
					formerly	Laborer	Mother		
					Labourer		S. Paul		
							1878		

Listed on her birth certificate it states mother's maiden name is 'QUINN'. In reality, Emma Utting never married. She was born the daughter of Keziah Utting, on 9th October, 1850. The certificate does not give the name of a father.

1878. BIRTHS in the <i>District</i> of <i>Arbury in the City and</i> in the County of <i>Norfolk</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, & reg.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Original Name, & Family, Registered of Birth.
218	<i>11th October 1878</i>	<i>Frances</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Keziah Utting</i>			<i>J. Utting</i>	<i>11th Oct 1878</i>	<i>W. Cooper</i>	<i>Arbury</i>
	<i>Arbury</i>	<i>Arbury</i>	<i>Arbury</i>							
	<i>Arbury</i>	<i>Arbury</i>	<i>Arbury</i>							
	<i>Arbury</i>	<i>Arbury</i>	<i>Arbury</i>							

According to census records, Keziah lived with William BEXFIELD, who was known variously as Bexfield or Utting.

# 1861 Census Aylsham Road St. Clement, Norwich.

65	Aylsham Rd	1	William Dodman	Head	44	19	Emma Utting	Wife	41	Shops	
	St Clement St		William Dodman	Head	44	41	Emma Utting	Wife	41	Norwich	
			Edward	Boys	11	9	Printer				
			William	Boys	10	9	Baker				
			Emma	Boys	8	9	Shops				
			George	Boys	7	9					
			Thomas	Boys	6	9					
66		1	David Dodman	Head	44	19	Emma Utting	Wife	41	Shops	

# 1871 Census Barnes Yard, St. Paul, Norwich

10	St Paul	1	William Utting	Head	44	19	Emma Utting	Wife	41	Shops	
			William Utting	Head	44	19	Emma Utting	Wife	41	Norwich	
			Emma	Boys	11	9	Printer				
			George	Boys	10	9	Baker				
			Thomas	Boys	8	9	Shops				
			David	Boys	7	9					

Eventually they married in October 1883 as Bexfield. Emma Utting, according to the attached birth certificate below, gave birth on 19th March, 1883, to Emma DODMAN. Her mother is listed as Emma Dodman, formally Utting and father's name is given as Thomas Dodman.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Norwich</u>										
Registrar's Sub-District <u>Colony</u>										
1883 BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Colony in the City &amp;</u> in the County of <u>the City of Norwich</u>										
Column:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Birthplace Name if added after Registration of Birth.
458	Parish of St Paul 19th March St Michael Colony 1883	Emma	girl	Thomas Dodman	Emma Dodman formerly Utting	Painter	T. Dodman Father Church Alley Norwich	19th March 1883	W. Dodman Registrar	

I have researched this and Thomas Dodman was not married and never had at any time been married to my Great Great Grandmother Emma Utting. Thomas Dodman was already married to Susan nee BLACKBURN and she was a resident in hospital at St Faiths in Norwich (Lunatic Asylum) from 14th June, 1873, until she died on 19th February, 1912.

In my research I uncovered that Thomas Dodman and Emma Utting had lived for years as husband and wife at Church Alley, St Michael Coslany, Norwich. My great great grandmother died on 10th October, 1884 at this address.

**June Borderick MN 14284 - [june@borderick.me.uk](mailto:june@borderick.me.uk)**

# The Admirable Plattens

***In the June issue of The Norfolk Ancestor we carried an article by Dennis Buisson about the Rake Family under the heading "A Tale of Fisher Folk." Dennis has also been researching his Platten family connections and has discovered an interesting and uplifting tale of hope, public service and courage across three generations.***

***Here Dennis writes about his findings.***

MY story begins with the marriage of Robert PLATTEN of Corpusty to Susanna Platten of Wood Norton on 15th April, 1830.

He is recorded as a farmer in the 1841 Census with his wife and five children, Mariann (sic), Martha, Louisa, Harriet and Robert Samuel (born 1840), living at the New Inn in the parish of Calthorpe.

In the 1851 census, the address of Robert and Susanna with two more children, Pamela and William, is given as Near Wolterton, Aylsham.

Robert is described as a publican and farmer of 80 acres employing two men and one boy. On 3rd October, 1851, the Saracens Head (originally known as the New Inn), the business of Robert Platten, was offered for sale by auction.

Robert, who was born in 1805, lived until he was 87, but Susanna died aged 49 in 1859

In the 1861 Census, Robert, farmer, now a widower, is living with his elder son, Robert Samuel, a carpenter, in Billingford, Norfolk.

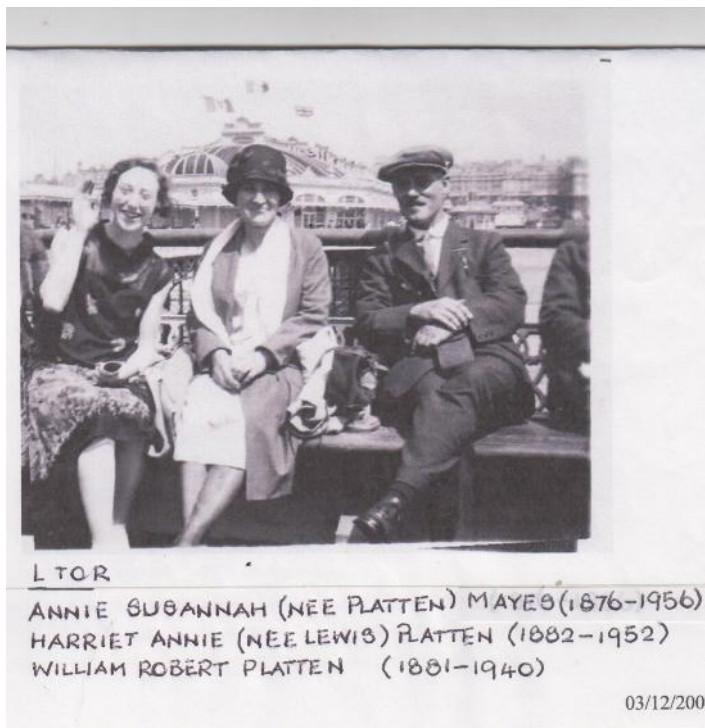
Between 1861 and 1871, Robert Samuel has moved to London and is lodging with the SKINNER family in Stoke Newington. In 1872 he married Fanny FAUX and over the next 11 years they had five children, Maud Fanny, Annie Susannah, Harriet Martha, William Robert (born 1881) and Ernest Percy.

Even after the deaths of Robert Samuel in 1917 and Fanny in 1927, the Platten family continued to live in South Norwood, a suburb of Croydon.



Also living in South Norwood was the LEWIS family, Robert and Harriet Mary Ann (nee BUISSON) the eldest sister of my grandfather, George William Buisson. They had moved after their marriage in 1881 from Hoxton to South Norwood, where Robert (who died of rheumatic fever aged 39 in 1896) had been working.

On 2nd June, 1906, William Robert married Harriet Annie Lewis, the eldest daughter of Robert and Harriet Mary Ann, in St. Mark's Church, South Norwood.



In the 1901 census, William Robert's occupation is given as a bricklayer. However, over the years his fortunes undoubtedly improved as in the 1939 Register he is described as 'Director W. Allday and Co. Pneumatic Engineers Government Contractor'. Less than a year later his death is recorded in the Norwood News of 17th May with a fulsome tribute to Mr. W.R. Platten, senior director, of Messrs. William Allday, Cresswell Road, a well-known firm of engineers, under the heading 'South Norwood loses a Stalwart' and sub-heading 'Mr. W.R. Platten's great example of local patriotism' citing his wide interests, participation in local affairs and societies e.g. President of the Round Table and his philanthropy.

William Robert and Harriet Annie aka Doll had one child, Robert Leslie Platten (born 1908), who as an ARP Warden in World War II distinguished himself with the award of a George Medal. On 23rd May, 1941, the Norwood News carried the following story under the main headline 'George Medals for two heroic Norwood Wardens.'

"Two well-known members of the South Norwood ARP Services Post Warden Robert Leslie Platten, Elm Wood Road and Warden Thos. Edgar Davis Suffolk Road have been awarded George Medals for heroic conduct following an air-raid when a shelter was damaged and they were able to rescue 30 people.

The official account of their valour states 'A high explosive bomb struck a building under which was a public shelter. Warden Platten wriggled through a small window and reached the basement despite the dangerous condition of the walls. With the assistance of Warden Davis he extricated the 30 occupants'.



When Robert Samuel Platten travelled to London to seek his fortune, or at least improve his lot, he gave his son, William Robert, and his grandson, Robert Leslie, the opportunity not only to prosper, but also to reveal themselves as exemplary citizens.

Dennis K. Buisson MN. 17827 - [mail@dkbuisson.plus.com](mailto:mail@dkbuisson.plus.com)

The photograph on this page comes from Dennis' collection and shows the wedding of Harriet Lewis and William Platten. Being a very old photo, the quality leaves much to be desired but we have tried to enhance it as much as we can.

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## A Leap Into The Future

THE society is looking at ways of increasing its opening hours but to do so will require more volunteers to come forward.

Trustees are aware of the need to attract younger generations and to this end are looking to have an open day on February 29th, 2020 - a kind of leap year special.

With the following day being the first Sunday of the month (1st March) it would mean Kirby Hall welcoming members and non members alike over two consecutive weekend days to find out just what is available amongst the shelves at Kirby Hall. Please check our website and Facebook page for further information and confirmation of this event.



# Childhood Sweethearts

*Regular readers of Norfolk Ancestor will probably know of my involvement with the Le Paradis Commemoration Group and the website at [www.leparadis massacre.com](http://www.leparadis massacre.com).*

*Whilst researching information, I have come across a heart-rending story of one of the soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the area in May 1940. It's a tale of a Norfolk past, its history and a love story that left a young wife a widow after just a few short months of being married to her childhood sweetheart.*

PRIVATE Walter George Howlett was killed in action fighting in the area around Le Paradis in Northern France on the day of the infamous massacre - May 27th, 1940.

## Editor's Corner

George's childhood sweetheart Gladys was left a widow after just four months of marriage. Gladys remarried but it was not until her death in 2012 that her son by her second marriage made a surprise discovery amongst her belongings.

George Howlett (he was always known by his middle name) was almost certainly killed as part of the rearguard action taken against the advancing German forces. It is likely that George is buried in an unmarked grave in Le Paradis Cemetery.

Just four months before George died he married his childhood sweetheart Gladys Emily HUBBARD. The report of the wedding below is taken from the Diss Express newspaper of February 2nd, 1940. George and Gladys enjoyed a joint wedding with George's sister Ivy who married Ronnie MEADOWS.



George Howlett in a photograph taken when he was 27 years old.

**WEDDING** The wedding took place at the Parish Church on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1940, of Mr Walter George Howlett, eldest son of Mrs W. Howlett, Rectory Road, Dickleburgh and the late Mr W. Howlett and Miss Gladys Emily Hubbard, second daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Hubbard, of Holly House, Langmere. The Rev. W. H. Cowper Johnson officiated. Given away by her brother, Mr J. Hubbard the bride was dressed in a brown two-piece swagger suit with shoes and gloves to match. She wore a gold brooch, the gift of the bridegroom, containing a picture of the Maginot Line and the words 'They shall not pass.' The best man was Mr John Abon, a friend of the bridegroom. After the ceremony reception was held at Holly House, Langmere, where several friends and relatives were entertained. The bridegroom is serving with the Army and is home on leave from the Western Front.

After George's death, Gladys met and married Jack Harold EVERITT in February 1942 and in July they had a son, Michael Everitt, who contacted the Le Paradis Commemoration Group to tell us about his mother's life and the day he found a tin containing photographs and other information about George - something his mother had kept for over 70 years.

"We as a family had always known that our mother was married before she met our father, but had very little details about it. In all of our mother's life she never got over the loss of George, her childhood sweetheart.

He was never spoken of, as I can only think it was far too painful for her. It was not until she passed away in 2012 that we found a small tin box that contained photos of George and her outside Tony Howlett's grandparents' house at 17, Rectory Road, Dickleburgh.

"We also found hidden in her house a larger photo of a person we did not know, who was not a member of our family. Later, when we were able to match the large photo with the contents of the small tin we realised who it was. So we all thought it would be a good idea to place the photo of George alongside our mother in her coffin so at last at least they were together again."

Michael established that Gladys married George on 27th January, 1940, at the age of 22. George was serving in the Royal Norfolk Regiment at the time.

He also knew that his mother left school at just 14 and went straight into service at one of the local big houses as cook's maid. She later became the cook in charge of the kitchen and worked at several large houses in the area.

Michael then set out to find out as much as he could about his mother's life and his research uncovered a fascinating snapshot of a Norfolk upbringing and the county before the Second World War.



Above is the brooch worn by Gladys at her wedding to George. On Christmas Eve, 1939, the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment were on their way by train to Metz. The final part of their journey was made along roads made treacherous by snow and ice. The troops then took up position on the Maginot Line



Gladys Howlett

Gladys was born into a poor family at Shimpling on 28th August, 1918. She was the middle child of 13. Her parents lived in a very small thatched farm labourer's cottage with just one room upstairs and one down. In the bedroom upstairs there was an old large king size bed which at times would have eight children sleeping in it. To get them all in they had to sleep across the bed, top to tail. They had only one blanket, one sheet plus three army great coats over the top.

In 1925, when Gladys was about seven years old, her father managed to purchase a five-bedroom property "Holly House" for £500. This was in the countryside at Langmere near Dickleburgh - about four miles from Shimpling.

It was an idyllic place with farms all around plus a blacksmith's and carpenter's shop across the road where they made and repaired everything for all the farmers, from shoeing horses to making stack ladders, even building whole hay carts. When it came to the day of the move to the new house Gladys' father borrowed a horse and a small cart from a local farmer onto which they put all their worldly goods.

They then set off to the new house with Gladys' father leading the way with the horse and her mother sitting on the tailboard with two very young children in her arms, the rest of the children having to walk behind the cart. Some of them had no shoes and one of the older boys had the job of pushing the pram inside of which was the only oil light lamp they had.

When at last they got to the new house, Gladys and the rest of the children just couldn't believe their eyes - the house was so large. To them it looked as big as Buckingham Palace.

Holly House stood on a large plot of land, but it had no electric, so everything after dark was done by candlelight or a Tilley Lamp. There was no running water and drinking water came from a large well just outside the back kitchen door where a galvanised bucket was lowered mainly in the summer months to collect the water when the hand pump in the kitchen ran dry.

One of the first things Gladys' father did when they moved into the house was to put a bell on the top of the pantry door, so if the children tried to sneak into the pantry to pinch food, the bell would ring. The privy was outside attached to the side of the outhouse. Inside it was just a wide wooden plank with a round hole cut into it. Underneath was a large oval galvanised bucket, which Gladys' father had to empty into a pre-dug hole up in the orchard each week.



George and Gladys

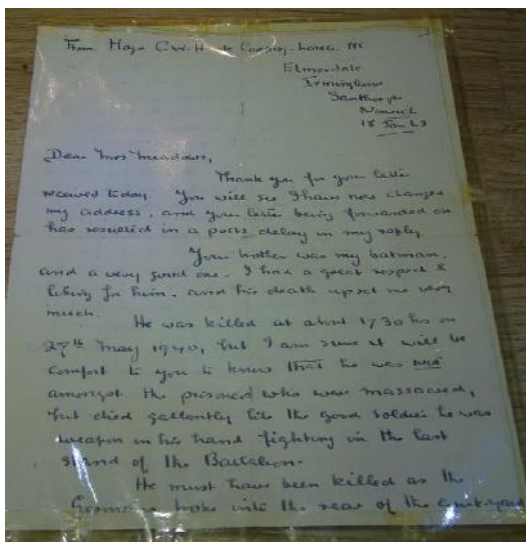


Later the older boys got that job and the girls got the job of cutting up old newspapers into squares then threading them onto a piece of string, hung inside on the privy door to use as toilet paper.

The above extracts give just a little of the flavour of Gladys' early life. Much more is available on the Le Paradis website at:

[www.leparadismassacre.com/howlett.html](http://www.leparadismassacre.com/howlett.html)

Also in Gladys' tin were a number of very poignant letters. Whilst in France, George Howlett acted as batman to Captain Charles Long. A batman was a soldier assigned to a commissioned officer as a personal servant. A great bond grew between the two men based on mutual respect. George's death had a profound affect on Captain Long who admitted "a great respect and liking" for Private Howlett.



Captain Charles Long's letter to Ivy Meadows.

Charles Long survived the war and in 1963 - 23 years after George's death - he wrote to George's sister Ivy Meadows. That letter is now in the possession of Private Howlett's nephew Tony who lives in Palgrave in Suffolk. It contained the following words:

"He was killed at about 17.30 hrs on 27th May 1940, but I am sure it will be comfort to you to know that he was not amongst the prisoners who were massacred, but died gallantly like the good soldier he was weapon in his hand, fighting in the last stand of the Battalion.

"He must have been killed as the Germans broke into the rear of the courtyard of the farm we were holding because I found him there the next morning. The German officer who captured me outside the farm on the edge of the road was - unlike most SS officers - a gentleman in our military sense of the word. He allowed me to take a small party of our men initially unguarded to search for possible wounded. It was when I was searching the farmyard that I found your brother. He still held his rifle and must have fallen fighting to the last."

The relationship between the two men is summed up by a "relatively small but highly dangerous" incident involving a water bottle as Captain Long recalled:

"Some days before we had been fighting heavily near Tournai. I mentioned that I could not find my water bottle. Just at that moment the enemy made a vicious attack and we all ran outside to man the defence of the HQ. There was a tre-



George's nephew Tony said his uncle had been firing at the Germans through a window of the farmhouse and was alongside a Private Arthur Betts. George had a brother and sister. Ivy Howlett became Ivy Meadows and William Charles "Dick" Howlett became Tony Howlett's father. Tony says that his father "very rarely" talked about the war. Tony and his

wife have "adopted" one of the headstones in Le Paradis Churchyard as a symbol of George Howlett. It is one of the unnamed graves and Tony is pic-

mendous amount of shelling and when we came inside again I could not find your brother. The CO gave me permission to search for him outside - a soldier (I have forgotten his name), a friend of your brother, asked if he could volunteer to come to look for as he said "Old George."

"He and I went out and looked everywhere, but we could not find him. I was very much afraid he had been hit by shell fire and fallen in the lake. However, about half an hour later, he appeared, carrying my water bottle and apologising for being so long! He had actually gone into the open through heavy fire to a position he and I had been in almost half a mile away to look for my water bottle because he thought I might have left it there, and I had. So you see his ideas of duty were very firm, and his gallantry great."

Captain Long went on to describe George Howlett in the following words: "He was a very worthy member of a fine Battalion and I can assure you I never forget him. He always went with me on all patrols and so on and I had the greatest confidence in him at all times."

The friendly relationship between the Long and Howlett families continued with Captain Long's wife and mother both writing regularly to Gladys Howlett. Some of these letters are reproduced on the website and they show a tremendous empathy on the part of the Longs.

Captain Long's mother Edith wrote -

"God bless and comfort you as only He can and will. Althou' your poor heart aches and aches you have such a wonderful comfort in your deep sorrow and you are 'counted worthy to suffer'. Your loved one died that others could live, indeed your heart is full of love and honoured pride. I am proud of your fine husband too. Our dear boy thought so highly of him - he will be grieved."

Sheets (noted) Rd  
Solebrook  
Brimley Lane.  
Feb. 15th

My Dear Mrs Howlett.

This is to tell you how deeply grieved I am to hear of your husband, in one of the letters I have recently received from my husband, he said he was a grand fellow and he certainly looked after Capt Long very well when together.

I think you are a wonderfully brave wife, and a true & loving wife.

Will you please write to me if there is anything I can do for you, I shall be very glad to do so.

Yours Truly,  
Mrs C. W. H. Long.

Feb: 13th

The Home Farm.  
To Eaton East.

My dear Mrs Howlett.

I can not tell you how very grieved we were to read of your sad news - How fond of you to write when I know full well what an effort it cost you - I loved your brave strong letter - God bless & comfort you as only He can & will - Altho' my poor heart aches &aches you have such wonderful comfort in your deep sorrow, & you are "counted worthy to suffer" - One loved one died that others could live, indeed your heart is full of love and honoured pride - I am proud of you & your husband too - Our dear boy thought so highly of him - he will be pained - He said to me one day when home on leave "we all feel this to a comrade & we are fighting against evil" - One day we shall understand; & we must just go on working, leaving our loved ones in His loving care - This has been a sad week, and

**Copies of letters from the Long family sent to Gladys Howlett following George's death.**

Captain Long's wife wrote:

"This is to tell you how deeply grieved I am to hear the sad news about your husband, in one of the letters I have recently received from my husband. He told me how much he thought of your husband, he said he was a grand fellow and he certainly looked after Capt. Long very well when



**ARMY colleagues and ultimately friends. On the left is Private Walter "George" Howlett and on the right his commanding officer Captain Charles Long. A close bond existed between the two men.**

# Making Your Mark

*By Alison Smith*

Yes! I said out loud, when I read in the last Norfolk Ancestor that author Nick Barratt had told members of Diss Family History Group we should create our own archives by keeping diaries, writing down stories and preserving photographs. I tackled my Norfolk family's archive a while back and to begin with it was easy.

My grandad Jack tucked away just a few papers from his early life as a merchant seaman and, although they must have seemed so ordinary to him at the time, we really treasure them. But like Nick, I realised that my own generation's part of the story is also important and we should pass on information about how we live now. How different it is today, though. On one tiny memory stick I have maybe a thousand of my photos and documents - so which of those deserve to be handed on?

I run a small family history business and most of my customers tell me how much they wish they had more detail about their ancestors' day to day lives. However, when I ask what they plan to pass on about themselves, most have not given it a thought. I get told 'the children will have to sort it all out', or 'no one will be interested in my ordinary life'. They forget that what seems everyday to us will become more fascinating over time, otherwise why do they want to know more about all those 'ordinary' ag labs and housewives in their family tree?

A few people have the opposite problem and inherited boxes and boxes of stuff they can't face sorting out. If we just leave everything to those who come next, they may not know what's important and then feel guilty about what they get rid of. A carefully chosen family archive of a manageable size will give them the reassurance of knowing what matters most, even if we leave them a lot of other things as well.

I learnt so much by creating an archive that I decided to publish all my advice, tips and ideas in a step-by-step guide called Make Your Mark. I've also turned into something of a campaigner and I give talks to groups, in the hope of convincing more people that this is something worth doing. When I tell my audience that what gets handed on from generation to generation is usually down to random chance and often NOT what is most interesting about past lives, I get a lot of nods in agreement - especially from any family historians.

I ask them to think how much they would like to have their grandparents' own descriptions of going to work, looking after the home or organising a family wedding - and photos of things that don't normally get recorded, such as the inside of a larder or shed. Often all we inherit are mysterious objects and pictures of people we don't have names for. Our generation can do better if we try, but there's a real risk that things will get even worse in the digital age. The evidence of our own lives may just get deleted, leaving families and social historians of the

future starved of information. **So here are my top five tips for creating a good family archive.**

**1. Be selective** - ask yourself questions like these -. does this say something interesting about a life or a period in history? Is this important to the story and can I say why? Is it unusual or surprising? Do I have a lot of these things and should I pick out the best?

**2. Caption all photographs** - include full names and dates of births/death as well as the location and date taken if possible. Perhaps include some extra interest, such as 'my favourite aunt, because she always brought us sweets'. Add the words 'written by' plus your own name and the date. Rename chosen digital image files to cram in as much information as possible. In that way, a rather useless IMG\_3286 becomes AlisonSmith150458CromerApril2019LongWalkOn-TheBeach.

**3. Create new documents** - write your own life story and maybe those of your forebears, as you may be the last person to know about them. Keep a detailed diary of just one day and add the news headlines, with your own views on Brexit. Send a letter to the future.. Dear Descendants, I wonder if you have my red hair and do you all still carry mobile phones?

**4. Choose small personal objects** - remember that if their story or provenance gets lost, the emotional value to future generations will soon disappear. Who acquired the object, where and when? Who else owned it, liked it, broke it, hated it? Take a picture of each one and write on the back of a print, as a way to link the information.

**5. Read advice on preserving and storing** - put your most precious items in acid-free storage, for example I got my boxes from Norfolk Record Office.

Creating an archive gave me a great sense of achievement and helped me to de-clutter with a purpose. I'm handing on the best things I've inherited and made sure I won't be a gap in our family history, just because I don't think I can compete with Grandad Jack's minesweeping exploits in the First World War.

We all deserve more than a sentence in history and 'I think she worked in local government all her life' is not how I want to be remembered!

**Alison Smith**

**Make  
Your  
Mark<sub>x</sub>**

**How to  
hand on  
what really  
matters**

**A practical full colour guide to  
creating a great family archive**

**Choosing   Creating   Labelling   Storing**  
**Photos   Documents   Objects**

**[www.mym.company](http://www.mym.company)**



# A Fly in the Ointment

***By Peter Bearon***

MY great (x4) grandmother was Mary CRAMPTON who married my great (x4) grandfather John HOLMES on 9th April, 1811, by Banns in Plymouth. He was in the Nottinghamshire Militia and she was shown as “of this parish.” I believe that Mary CRAMPTON originally came from South Lynn in Norfolk and have an almost perfect trail to prove this barring one record. This is what I think is the case but can't prove it.

If my theory is correct, Mary's father was Thomas Crampton who married Sarah GREEVES on 4th February, 1794, by Banns in All Saints Church, South Lynn. They are both shown as being “of this parish.”

A Thomas Crampton enrolled as a private in the Nottinghamshire Militia on 3rd April, 1794. Although the Militia were stationed at Danbury Camp near Maldon in Essex, they were in fact on a muster at Lynn. Thomas Crampton was present at the termination of the muster on 6th September, 1794.

Now comes the fly in the ointment. A Mary Crampton was baptised on 28th October, 1794, but her parents are given as John and Sarah Crampton, not Thomas and Sarah. By October, 1794, the Nottinghamshire Militia was no longer in Lynn and were probably back in Essex.

Through the quarterly muster records in the national archives I have traced the movements of Thomas Crampton. In 1795 he was in Harwich, then various places in East Yorkshire through to 1799. After this he marched to Edinburgh, then on to Glasgow, reaching Dumfries in early 1800.

The Militia then headed south and by 1803 were stationed in Ramsgate and Margate in Kent. At this point he was promoted to corporal. Also in 1803, a John Holmes joined the Nottinghamshire Militia as a private at Ramsgate Barracks and was shown as a new enrolment.

Although John Holmes and Thomas Crampton were in different companies, by the end of 1803 both were shown as being stationed in Ramsgate Barracks.

By 1807, both were in Portsmouth. On 26th August, John Holmes, along with many others, volunteered for something, although the records do not say what.

According to 'The Historical Record of the Royal Sherwood Foresters; or Nottinghamshire Regiments of Militia' published 1872, this was probably volunteering to go to the front line.

In John Holmes' case it appears it is unlikely that he actually reached the front line, or, if he did, it was for a very short period, as he is shown in the muster records again as a new recruit on 9th November together with full pay for his broken service. By late 1809, the Militia were in Plymouth where they stayed until at least August, 1811.

At this point, the Militia headed for Dublin and both John Holmes and Thomas Crampton volunteered to go. Some soldiers went by marching to Liverpool and others by boat direct from Plymouth. Both John Holmes and Thomas Crampton were now shown as being in the same company. The company information appears to be missing from the muster records between 1805 and 1811.

From this it can be seen that both Thomas Crampton and John Holmes were present in Plymouth when Mary Crampton married John Holmes in April 1811. I surmise that Mary and her mother Sarah must have been travelling with the regiment at this time.

John Holmes is then shown as being stationed in Dublin from September, 1811, to June, 1813, and Thomas Crampton was also there for most of that time with occasional musters elsewhere in Ireland.

They both returned to England around July, 1813, and then on 6th August, 1814, the Nottinghamshire Militia were disbanded. John Holmes was paid until 20th August, whilst Thomas Crampton was retained on the Peace Establishment.

Thomas Crampton stayed in the Nottinghamshire Disembodied Militia, stationed mainly in Newark, and got promoted to Serjeant in 1819. He died on 4th November, 1825. His wife was with him and took his effects and credits.

Meanwhile, John Holmes moved to Nottinghamshire and on 16th July, 1815, his second child Mary Ann Holmes was baptised in Radford, Nottingham. I have located his first child, Elizabeth Sarah Holmes on census records between 1851 and her death in 1875.

Her birthplace is given as Dublin in approximately 1814. John Holmes left Dublin in 1813, but it is possible that her mother Mary stayed in Ireland until the child was born or until John Holmes had found accommodation back in England on his discharge in 1814. Of course, the age could just be incorrect on the census records. I have yet to find a baptism for Elizabeth Sarah Holmes in Dublin.

John and Mary Holmes had nine children in total, the last being born in 1833 and, except for Elizabeth Sarah, all were born in Nottingham. John Holmes died on 13th January, 1841, of Gravel (kidney stones) and Asthma. Since leaving the army in 1814, he had progressed from being a blacksmith, through to a framesmith (presumably knitting frame) and was a whitesmith by the time of his death.

Meanwhile, what of Sarah Crampton nee Greeves? The 1841 census shows a Sarah Palmer living in Nottingham in the same household as Mary Holmes and three of her children, together with a son-in-law and grandchild. Mary Holmes is recorded as a dressmaker aged 40 and Sarah Palmer is Independent aged 60.

Both Mary and Sarah are shown as not being born in the county. The ages look suspect on this record, but that isn't unusual for the 1841 census. Could Sarah Palmer be Sarah Holmes nee Greeves having remarried after 1825?

Mary Holmes died in 1848 of apoplexy, one of her daughters, Sophia HOLINGSWORTH, being the informant. On the 1851 census Sarah Palmer was living with another of Mary Holmes' daughters, Elizabeth SAYWELL and her husband Thomas.

She is shown as being a relative. Elizabeth Saywell was Elizabeth Sarah Holmes. I suspect that Sarah Palmer is Mary Holmes' mother and Elizabeth Saywell's grandmother.

On this census Sarah Palmer is aged 78, a former housekeeper. More importantly she was shown as being born in Lynn, Norfolk. Sarah Palmer died aged 83 in 1855 of natural decay and Elizabeth Saywell was the informant. She was shown as being the widow of John Palmer, a journeyman cordwainer.

According to the Nottinghamshire marriage index, a Sarah Crampton did marry a John Palmer in Nottingham in 1829, but I think that this is unlikely to be the correct marriage.

The newspaper report for that marriage refers to Miss Sarah Crompton and I wonder whether a journeyman cordwainer would announce a marriage in a newspaper. I still need to check the original parish record for this marriage rather than the limited transcription available on-line.

So, if Sarah Palmer is Sarah Greeves, the mother of Mary Holmes nee Crampton, there should possibly be a baptism in Lynn in approximately 1772. The most likely candidate for this would be Sarah daughter of John and Mary GRIEVES baptised 14th June, 1776, in Lynn St Margaret.

So, everything in this story hangs together apart from the baptism of Mary Crampton in 1794 where the father was given as John and not Thomas. Of course, there may be another Mary Crampton birth, but I have yet to find it and I haven't located a family in the area with John and Sarah Crampton.

Nor have I found another Mary Crampton in the Lynn area. I'm hoping that it is just an error in the church register, but can I safely continue my research back into the Grieves/Greeves family of Lynn?

Peter Bearon MN 15011 - email: [peter@bearon.org.uk](mailto:peter@bearon.org.uk)

Please contact Peter via e-mail if you can help him with his research.



## New Members and Members Interests to October 8th, 2019



Compiled by Carole Taylor  
Membership Secretary  
email:membership@nfhs.co.uk

**Welcome to the December issue of The Norfolk Ancestor, my first as Membership Secretary. I would personally like to offer my thanks to the former Membership Secretary, Jean Stangroom, for the many years she has dedicated to the society and the support she has given me as treasurer. I would also like to welcome Robert Kilbourn as a new Trustee and for taking over the role of treasurer.**

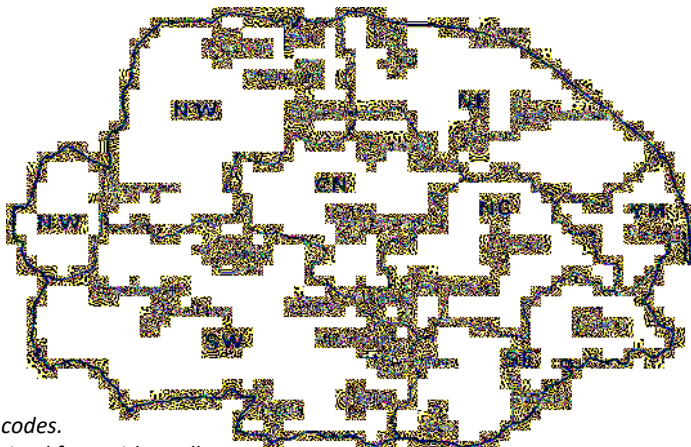
**Have you updated your Members' Interests recently? Just login at [norfolkfhs.org.uk](http://norfolkfhs.org.uk), click on the Membership tab and select Members' Interests. Here you can amend your interests and search for, and contact, those with similar interests. We would love to hear of any success stories in making contact with those who share the same interests. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020**

Regards Carole

## Members' Interests Search Area Codes

### KEY

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



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

## New Members to 8th October 2019

The Society welcomes the following new members

17843	Mrs	C.	Mccray	AU	17893	Mrs	J.	Greenwell	UK
17844	Mrs	F.	Myers	UK	17894	Mr	J.	Gaven	AU
17845	Mr	I.	Cook	AU	17895	Mr	M.	Shaw	UK
17846	Mrs	M.	Williams	UK	17896	Miss	J.	Price	UK
17847	Mr	P.	Mickleburgh	UK	17897	Mr	D.	Bruce	UK
17848	Rev	S.	Seamer	UK	17898	Mrs	J.	Gant	UK
17849	Ms	I.	Mcdonald	USA	17899	Mr	S.	Prentice	UK
17850	Dr	G.	Barker-Read	UK	17900	Miss	C.	Muscat	UK
17851	Mr	A.	Norman	UK	17901	Ms	L.	Smith	UK
17852	Mr	C.	Askey	UK	17902	Mr	S.	Cawthorne	UK
17853	Mr	G.	Taylor	UK	17903	Mr	E.	Towers	UK
17854	Mr & Mrs	D.	Clarke	UK	17904	Mrs	L.	Clydesdale	UK
17855	Mr	W.	Smith	AU	17905	Miss	S.	Barber	UK
17856	Colonel	E.	Hudson	UK	17906	Mr	D.	Norton	UK
17857	Mrs	S.	Thomas	USA	17907	Mrs	L.	Lax	UK
17858	Mr	M.	Norbury	AU	17908	Mr	P.	Edney	UK
17859	Miss	S.	Peck	UK	17909	Mr.	G. F.	Todd	USA
17860	Ms	J.	Polyblank	UK	17910	Mr	A.	Smith	UK
17861	Major	A.	Bols	UK	17911	Mr	D.	Lomas	UK
17863	Mr	D.	Kiddell	UK	17912	Mrs	H.	Shipleigh	UK
17864	Mr	E.	Riches	UK	17913	Dr	S.	Seaboryne	NZ
17865	Ms	T.	Howard-Baker	UK	17914	Mrs	H.	Stafford	UK
17866	Mr	M.	Asker	UK	17915	Mr	S.	Bottomley	UK
17867	Mr	T.	Humphrey	UK	17916	Mr	D.	Bird	UK
17868	Mr	T.	Thurston	UK	17917	Ms	N.	Lambert	UK
17869	Dr	J.	Wells	UK	17918	Mr	S.	Marling	UK
17871	Mr	S.	Brunning	UK	17919	Mrs	H.	Ratcliff	UK
17872	Mr	E.	Williams	UK	17920	Mr	P.	Breame	UK
17873	Mr	G.	Woodhouse	UK	17921	Mr	J.	Welch	UK
17874	Rt Hon	P.	Hewitt	UK	17922	Miss	J.	Horton	UK
17875	Dr	M.	Green	UK	17923	Mrs	M.	Callaghan	AU
17876	Mrs	E.	Yule	UK	17924	Mrs	A.	Sanders	UK
17877	Mrs.	C.	Brettnell	CA	17925	Mr	D.	Flaxman	UK
17878	Mr	R.	Weston	USA	17926	Mr	B.	Hawkins	UK
17879	Mr	S.	Palmer	UK	17927	Miss	S.	Francis	UK
17880	Mrs.	A.	Symonds	UK	17928	Mr	P.	Greenwood	UK
17881	Mr	A.	Sparling	UK	17929	Mr	R.	Atkins	USA
17882	Ms	J.	Meadows	AU	17930	Mr	S.	Senior	UK
17883	Mr	A.	Lahey	UK	17931	Ms	S.	Donnelly	AU
17884	Ms	P.	Sheehan	UK	17932	Mrs	P.	Johnson	UK
17885	Mrs	D.	Rayner	AU	17933	Mr	J.	Hills	UK
17886	Mr	J.	Green	UK	17934	Mrs	L.	Pass	UK
17887	Mr	M.	Lemon	UK	17935	Mr	C.	Marshall	AU
17888	Mr	M.	Burleigh	AU	17936	Mr	C.	Newsome	UK
17889	Mrs	P.	Harvey	UK	17937	Mr	K.	Parish	UK
17890	Mrs	J.	Ovenden	UK	17938	Mr	D. J.	True	UK
17891	Mr	G.	Fisher	UK	17939	Mr	A.	Hare	UK
17892	Miss	M.	Cavaughn De Burgh	UK	17940	Mrs	R.	Cropley	CA

17941	Mrs	J.	Osborne	UK
17942	Ms	G.	Coates	NZ
17943	Mr.	D.	Benjamin	USA
17944	Mrs	J.	Jeal	UK
17945	Mrs	H.	Mason	UK
17946	Mrs	T. P.	Kent	UK
17947	Mrs	J.	Cross	UK
17948	Mrs	J. A.	Hay	UK
17949	Mrs	K.	Kingsley-Hughes	UK
17950	Mr	P.	Hughes	UK
17951	Mr	D.	West	UK
17952	Mr	H.	Baxter	UK
17953	Ms	M.	Chisholm	CA
17954	Miss	J.	Pillidge	AU
17955	Mr	R.	Dewing	UK
17956	Mr	D. J.	Fidderman	UK
17957	Mr	C.	Tooth	UK
17958	Mrs	L.	Bates	AU
17959	Mrs	A.	Austin	UK
17960	Ms	R.	Lennon	UK
17961	Mr	D. R.	Billing	AU
17962	Mr	L.	Stangroom	UK
17963	Mr	D.	Thorpe	UK
17964	Mrs	E.	Fell	UK
17965	Mr	A.	Spurgeon	UK
17966	Mr	J.	Sturgeon	UK
17967	Mrs	Y.	Baker	UK
17968	Mrs	S.	Mitchell	UK
17969	Mrs	E.	Thorpe	UK
17970	Mr.	C. L.	Tilford	USA
17971	Ms	S.	Eames	UK
17972	Mr	M.	Keeley	UK
17973	Mr.	C.	Spurgeon	CA
17974	Mr	I.	Newbery	AU
17975	Mr	J.	Nowell	UK
17976	Mr	P.	Goodbody	UK
17977	Mr	J.	Watson	UK
17978	Mr	R.	Turner	UK
17979	Mr	R. T.	Bates	UK
17980	Mr	M.	Wicks	UK
17981	Mr	E.	Wright	UK
17982	Mr	A.	Durrell	UK
17983	Mr	D.	Holmes	AU
17984	Mrs	P.	Silk	UK

17985	Mrs	V.	Dann	UK
17986	Mr	P.	Trent	UK
17987	Miss	C. E.	Wilson	UK
17988	Miss	J.	Brewster	UK
17989	Mr	G.	Wells	UK
17990	Mrs	H.	Denslow	UK
17991	Mrs	D.	Brown	UK
17992	Rev	P.	Cram	UK
17993	Mr	G.	Knight	UK
17994	Mr	A.	Cawston	UK
17995	Mr	J.	Clarke	UK
17996	Mr	C. A.	Brooks	UK
17997	Mrs	C.	Ringwood	UK
17998	Mr	N. J.	Whitlam	UK
17999	Mr	C.	Cobb	UK
18000	Ms	H.	Murdoch	UK
18001	Mr	A.	Stewart	AU
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18003	Mr	K. M.	Clarke	UK
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18005	Mr	R.	Rhodes	UK
18006	Ms	W.	Wyatt	AU
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18008	Mrs	M.	Atkin	UK
18009	Mr & Mrs	J. & J.	Tooke	UK
18010	Mrs	M. L.	Sell	UK
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18024	Mr	C.	Bush	UK
18025	Mr	N.	Fenton-Smith	UK
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18028	Mr	P.	Simmons	UK

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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.

18029	Miss	S.	Hardy	UK
18030	Ms	L.	Cunane	UK
18031	Mr	A.	Hinshalwood	UK

18032	Mr	G.	Stevenson	AU
18033	Mr	N.	Bitcher	UK

## Members Interests to 8th October 2019

No.	Name	County	Area	Period
16569	ADAMSON	NFK	NW	ALL
17990	ALLEN	NFK	NW	15C-19C
16445	AMES	ALL	ALL	ALL
17617	ATHOW	NFK	ALL	17C-18C
3976	BEEVOR	NFK	ALL	ALL
17990	BENSLEY	NFK	NW	15C-20C
1889	BESSEY, POND, WICKHAM, EMMERSON	NFK	ALL	ALL
3531	BORRETT	NFK	ALL	ALL
3531	BORRETT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17914	BRIGGS	NFK	ALL	ALL
17914	BRINDED	NFK	ALL	ALL
17078	BULLOCK	NFK	ALL	ALL
16569	BURGESS	NFK	NW	ALL
17617	BURTON	NFK	ALL	17C-18C
18012	BUSH	NFK	NE	ALL
17990	CARRINGTON	NFK	NW	15C-19C
18027	CATHER	LIN	ALL	15C-18C
18027	COULSEY	NFK	ALL	15C-19C
17806	CUSHEN	NFK	ALL	ALL
17806	CUSHING	NFK	ALL	16C-19C
17806	CUSHION	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	DACK	NFK	ALL	15C-20C
16468	DAY	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	EAST	LIN	ALL	15C-18C
17940	EDWARDS	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	ELLIOT	NFK	ALL	15C-19C
1889	EMMERSON	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	FUNNELL	NFK	ALL	15C-18C
17840	FUTTER	NFK	SE	ALL
17840	FUTTER	NFK	SE	ALL
17899	GATHERGOOD	NFK	ALL	ALL
17940	GIRDLESTONE	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	GLOSSOP	LIN	ALL	15C-19C
18018	GREEN	NFK	ALL	15C-16C
18018	GREENE	NFK	ALL	15C-16C
18018	GRENE	NFK	ALL	15C-16C
17878	GROUT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17878	GROUT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17878	GROUT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17240	HALL	NFK	YM	ALL
753	HAWKINS	ALL	ALL	ALL
18012	HAYLETT	NFK	ALL	ALL
17899	HENRY	NFK	ALL	ALL
17840	HEWITT	NFK	SW	15C-19C
17840	HEWITT	NFK	SW	15C-19C
18012	HEWITT	NFK	NE	18C-20C
753	HOUNSELL	ALL	ALL	ALL
17940	JEFFERY	NFK	ALL	ALL

No	Name	County	Area	Period
16308	JORDAN	NFK	ALL	ALL
17557	JORDAN	NFK	ALL	17C-19C
16308	JORDAN	SFK	ALL	ALL
17914	KEY	NFK	ALL	15C-20C
17992	LADELL	NFK	ALL	ALL
17914	LAKE	NFK	ALL	ALL
16445	LARTER	NFK	ALL	ALL
17094	NEAVE	NFK	NW	18C-19C
17094	NEEVE	NFK	NW	18C-19C
17094	NEVE	NFK	NW	18C-19C
17979	NICHOLS	NFK	ALL	ALL
17979	NICHOLS	NFK	ALL	ALL
17979	PARSONS	NFK	ALL	ALL
17979	PARSONS	NFK	ALL	ALL
17240	PASTON	NFK	YM	ALL
3976	PETTINGILL	NFK	ALL	ALL
16569	PIGMAN	NFK	NW	ALL
16932	POINTER	NFK	NE	17C-19C
1889	POND, WICK- HAM, EMMER- SON	NFK	ALL	ALL
11617	QUANTRIL	NFK	ALL	ALL
11617	QUANTRIL	NFK	ALL	ALL
17240	RISING	NFK	YM	ALL
17951	ROLFE	NFK	ALL	ALL
17979	SAGE	NFK	ALL	ALL
17979	SAGE	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	SANDS	NFK	ALL	15C-19C
17971	SAYLE	NFK	ALL	ALL
17990	SHORTING	NFK	NW	15C-19C
17240	SPELMAN	NFK	YM	ALL
18027	SPOONER	NFK	ALL	15C-19C
16502	STANNARD	NFK	ALL	ALL
17940	STONE	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	TAYLOR	LIN	ALL	15C-19C
3531	THICKSTONE	NFK	ALL	ALL
3531	THICKSTONE	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	TODD	LIN	ALL	15C-19C
17833	TRAPPETT	NFK	ALL	ALL
18027	WARING	LIN	ALL	15C-19C
18026	WARMAN	NFK	ALL	ALL
17878	WESTON	NFK	ALL	ALL
1889	WICKHAM, EMMERSON	NFK	ALL	ALL
17899	WINTER	NFK	ALL	ALL
17240	WOOLSEY	NFK	YM	ALL
17557	WORMAN	NFK	ALL	17C-19C
17914	WYMER	NFK	ALL	ALL
753	YEATES	ALL	ALL	ALL

# Rob's Round Up *with Robert Parker*

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**Bringing you information on what is available to the keen family researcher**

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**Ancestry.** Celebrates a milestone of more than 15 million customers receiving a DNA result.

**Apprentices.** Over 300k records of Masters and Apprentices on TheGenealogist. Apprentices indentured in the Merchant Navy (1824-1910).

**Australia.** Ancestry adds Queensland, Licensed Victuallers Index, 1900-1903.

**Burial.** FindMyPast Billion Graves Cemetery Indexes update: England records (114k), Ireland (2k).

**Burial.** TheGenealogist adds 60k new individuals on Headstones from 61 churchyards and cemeteries from England, Scotland and Wales, Jersey, Cyprus and India.

**Canada.** Findmypast has an unusual collection: Did your Canadian ancestor apply for life insurance with The Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) between 1875-1929?

**Charles Booth Property Maps on Layers of London:** <https://layersoflondon.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=77ece3d4fac2d8565ad60f90c&id=67fc10f038&e=25e4b07307>

**Cheriton.** 4.5k records of burials for St Martin's Church on FindMyPast (1843-1855) and (1907-1958).

**Convicts.** 100K Victorian convict records added to TheGenealogist.

**Derbyshire.** Just under Births and Baptisms 1k records from 15 non-conformist parishes added to Findmypast.



## Norfolk

TheGenealogist releases over half a million new parish records for Baptism, Marriages and Burials.

Also included are Bastardy bonds, Examinations, Warrants and Orders.

**Donegal.** Findmypast adds 400k records from seven Poor Law Unions.

**Dorset.** Death Certificate Index recently updated. Now 931 free transcripts of death records on <https://dorsetdci.com>.

**English and Welsh Probate Records.** Price Reduction in cost of post-1858 probate records for documents and wills (England and Wales). Reduced from £10 to £1.50. Access <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>.

**Essex.** Five million baptism, banns, marriages and burial records on Findmypast.

**Essex.** [layersoflondon.org/map](http://layersoflondon.org/map) have added a 1777 map of the county.

**France.** MyHeritage adds 5.4 million new civil records of marriages (1792–1937) for the French department of Nord.

**Holocaust.** Ancestry have digitised millions of Holocaust and Nazi persecution related archives on <https://www.ancestry.com/alwaysremember>.

**Huddersfield.** Baptisms. 52K added to FindMyPast, covering 14 new parishes.

**Ireland.** Birth registers (1917-1918), marriage registers (1864-1869) and death registers (1967-1968) at the free <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/> website. The full collection includes the following: Births (1864-1918), Marriages (1864-1943) and Deaths (1878-1968).

**Islington.** TheGenealogist continues to add to its Lloyd George Domesday Survey records (1910-1915). Over 70k individuals recorded. Covers Barnsbury, Canonbury, Charterhouse, Clerkenwell, Finsbury, Glasshouse Yard, Highbury East, Highbury West, Lower Holloway, Myddelton, Old Street, Pentonville, Saint Mary, Saint Peter, Saint Sepulchre, Thornhill, Upper Holloway, Upper Holloway East and Upper Holloway West.

**Marriage.** Phillimore Marriage registers on FindMyPast now fully indexed and searchable. They cover 29 English counties, 1,500 parishes and include 2.3 million names.

**Middlesex.** Baptisms, Findmypast adds 64k new records.

**Nazi persecution.** The largest archive online: <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/search-explore/search-online-archive/>

**Newspapers.** Findmpast adds 98,602 brand new pages (1865-1999) from the Huddersfield Daily Examiner, titles from the south of England (Crawley and London), the Midlands (Coventry) and the North West (Liverpool).

**Newspapers.** British Newspaper Archive tops 33 million pages.

**Norway.** FindMyPast adds over 9.1 million Norwegian baptisms, marriages and

burials (1634 to 1927).

**Staffordshire.** Added to Ancestry (Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes 1837-2017).

**Nursing.** The Royal College of Nursing has compiled a Digital Archive: <https://rcn.access.preservica.com/>

**Oxford.** Headington Cemetery records (1899-2007) on [deceasedonline.com](http://deceasedonline.com).

**Portsmouth.** Electoral. Findmypast adds 135k records of Merchant Navy Crew Lists, 28k records to the Greater London Burial Index and 1.6 million additions to UK Electoral Registers & Companies House Directors (2002-2019).

**Scotland.** The Scottish Court of Session Project is live. Newly digitised 18th and 19th century Scottish Court of Session records from the Law Library of Congress, Washington D.C. and university of Virginia School of Law are ready for researchers on <http://scos.law.virginia.edu/explore>.

**Sunbury and Teddington, Middlesex.** FindMyPast adds 5k monumental inscription records for cemeteries in Teddington and the Parish of St Mary's in Sunbury.

**War Memorials.** TheGenealogist has released 75k additional War Memorial records.

**Worldwide.** FamilySearch adds over 7 million new indexed family history records from all over the world: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, England, France, Italy, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela and the United States.

**Worldwide.** MyHeritage adds 27 million new records from four new collections: Australia Electoral Rolls (1893-1949), Quebec Marriage Returns (1926-1997), Honolulu, Hawaii Passenger Lists (1900-1953) and Baltimore, Maryland Passenger Lists (1891-1943).

**Yorkshire.** FindMyPast adds 5k records Memorial Inscriptions collection.

Recommended twitter account to follow @DearMYRTLE; powerful #genealogy breakthroughs happen during our webinars.

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.

email: - [rparker@myfamilygenealogy.co.uk](mailto:rparker@myfamilygenealogy.co.uk)

# The Gruesome Tale of Martha

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The murder of Martha SHEWARD has gone down in Norfolk folklore as one of the most gruesome in the county's history. Norfolk Family History Society member Sandra Francis is Martha's great great great niece and has researched the murder as she explains here.

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*WHILST attending an IT course at college in 2007, I had to do a project and chose to research my family tree. I became very interested in it and, when I left college, I visited Norwich Library and also Kirby Hall to find out more. What I found was the very sad story of poor Martha Sheward. This is a gruesome story but sadly true.*

*I am the great great great niece of Martha whose maiden name was FRANCIS. This is her story.*

Martha was born on March 29th, 1795, in Wymondham. She had a twin sister, Mary, and was the daughter of Thomas and Hannah Francis. Hannah's maiden name was LEADER. Martha had five sisters and two brothers and her sisters Sophie and Eve were born in Eaton where Martha's parents had been married on June 10th, 1784. Her brother Thomas was born in Wymondham in 1793 and was my great great great grandfather.

Martha went to London to find work as a domestic servant and from there would write to Mary asking her to send her clothes. Martha stood just 5ft 1in tall and had a fair complexion and long golden hair. She was very likeable and very lady-like. Whilst working in London, Martha met William Sheward who was 14 years her junior.

They married on October 28th, 1836, in the parish of St Alphage in Greenwich. Following their wedding they went to stay with Mary and her husband in Wymondham for a few weeks and then moved on to Norwich, staying at several places in the city.

The 1841 census has them living in Ber Street with William the landlord of the Rose Tavern public house. In the 1851 census, William was working as a pawnbroker and they were living in Tabernacle Street in Norwich.

On June 15th, 1851, William murdered Martha and chopped her body into pieces which he scattered in various places. Many of the body parts were found by local people who took them to the police station which at the time was located in Norwich Guildhall. As nobody had been reported missing, the police were mystified by the body parts.

William told Martha's family that she had run off with another man but he didn't know where. Mary didn't believe this and asked him "what have you done with



my sister?" People continued to find body parts and flesh. These included a breast and a portion of pelvis which a surgeon said had been soaked in hot water. A hand and a foot were found in Martineau Lane, Norwich.

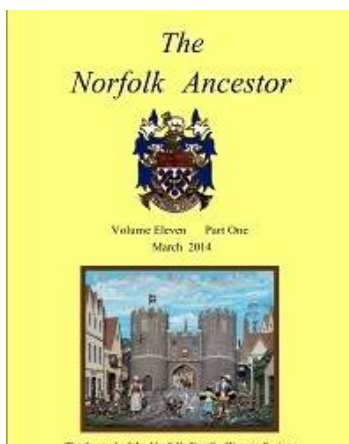
In 1853, Martha's Aunt Fisher died and left the children a legacy of £12 each. By this time all of Martha's family were living in Folly Lane (now Folly Road) in Wymondham. Martha's older sister Hannah went to Norwich to try to find Martha to give her news of the legacy. Of course she failed to locate her.

By 1856 the trail of body parts had gone cold and the remains were buried in the Guildhall where they remain to this day.

With Martha gone, William re-married and had five children, having had none with Martha. Eighteen years later in January, 1869, William walked into a police station in Walworth in South London and confessed, apparently riven with guilt at what he had done. He told police he had cut Martha's throat with a razor and then chopped her into pieces. Her head was never found but he said he had boiled it and then smashed it into pieces and scattered it about. He added that he couldn't live with the guilt. At the time of the confession he had been drinking and when he sobered up he denied the murder.

Nevertheless he was convicted of murder on March 24th, 1869, and he was hanged on April 20th, 1869. He was buried in the prison grounds. The prison at the time was on Earlham Road, Norwich, on the site that is now the city's Catholic cathedral which was built between 1882 and 1910. Martha is still buried beneath the Guildhall Undercroft.

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The Guildhall served as Norwich's police station from 1836 until 1967.

I subsequently went to speak to the Rev Fiona Haworth who carried out a blessing with some of my family and friends in the Guildhall Undercroft on February 7th, 2019. This was covered in the Norwich Evening News newspaper that evening.

Tabernacle Street has been demolished. It was situated between the Adam and Eve public house and the law courts in the Bishopgate area of Norwich.

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***Editor's Notes - When body parts first began to turn up, the blame was laid at the door of medical students who were accused of cutting up bodies for a prank.***

***It is thought that the murder took place after William and Martha had argued about money - apparently a regular occurrence.***

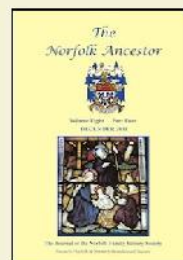
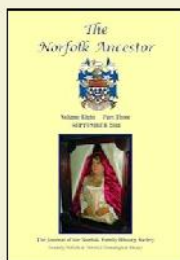
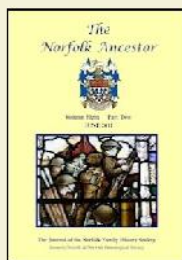
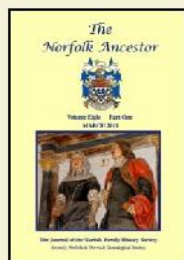
***After his second marriage, William Sheward took over as licensee of the Key and Castle Public House in Oak Street, Norwich.***



The meeting house or Tabernacle which gave Tabernacle Street in Norwich its name. This photograph was taken in May 1936 by renowned Norfolk photographer George Plunkett

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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.

## VOLUNTEERS

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

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

Any help at any time will be very welcome.

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

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# Letters, Notes and Queries

**This is the area given over to society members. If you have a query, an item of interest or would like to comment on articles in previous editions 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. This is free of charge.**

## Poignant Memories

THE Gallipoli Diary in the September issue had a particular poignancy for me in that both my grandfathers died at Gallipoli in 1915.

In the diary, Lieutenant COOKE mentions that on May 9th, 1915, two men in the Lancashire Fusiliers were killed about 50 yards from him. Could one of them have been my maternal grandfather, William MORRIS, who was a private with the Lancashire Fusiliers and who was reported Missing in Action, his body never found?

To give you a little background, he had served with the Lancashire Fusiliers previously and remained a reservist.

As a married man of 39 with young children, he would not have had to go but being a reservist I'm assuming he did not have a choice. Through him comes my Norfolk connection. His mother was Anna Maria BUTTOLPH, born in Wymondham in 1844. She married a James PALMER in 1869 but they appeared to be living separately in the 1871 census.

By 1881, she was living in Chandlers Hill, Wymondham, with a John MORRIS and my grandfather, William Palmer. By 1891 they were living as a family in the Lancashire mill town of Horwich with William being called Morris by then. In writing the above, I realise that I have never written an article for the Ancestor of how I uncovered all the above and will do so in the near future.

To continue, on May 13th, 1915, Lieutenant Cooke describes being stuck in a dugout and referring to the events of the original horrific landing two weeks previously. In the barrage that greeted the landings, he mentions that the Dublin Fusiliers were almost decimated.

My paternal grandfather, Albert Edward WILLIAMS, a private in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, might have been among them because he is reported as having died of wounds on 29th June.

Through military records, I discovered that he had originally enlisted with the



Royal North Lancs Regiment on 1st September, 1914, then was discharged as being 'unfit to be a soldier' on 21st September. Undeterred, when the Royal Dublin Fusiliers appeared on the scene trying to enlist volunteers, he didn't hesitate and joined them in December, 1914.

I'm willing to bet he never mentioned anything about the Loyal North Lancs Regiment! Family legend has it that he was bit of a so-and-so and an elderly aunt is reputed to have said that 'the best thing Bert Williams ever did for our Annie was to get himself killed!' Despite this doubtful reputation, he was Mentioned in Despatches for rescuing a wounded comrade so he couldn't have been all bad.

**Anne Harvey MN 9590 - [lankyladyanne@gmail.com](mailto:lankyladyanne@gmail.com)**

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## A Maternal Aunt and Lakenham Lake Mystery

MY multi-great grandfather William SAY died on 24th August, 1834, aged 66. An obituary in the "Gentleman's Magazine" of December 1835 (page 660) states that "Mr Say was born [about 1768] at Lakenham within the limits of the city of Norwich. His father, Mr William Say, was Land Steward to the proprietors of several estates in the neighbourhood of that city.

"He died when his son was only five years of age [about 1773]. The subject of this memoir. had lost his mother two years before [about 1771], from which time he was confided to the care of a maternal aunt, the daughter of a neighbouring clergyman. The lad's residence on the borders of the lake from which the village is supposed to derive its name ."

A pedigree of this family appeared in Burke's Landed Gentry in 1863 (Vol.II, p. 1337) which stated that William Say Senior was born in 1741, married Catherine GRINT, daughter of Francis Grint, Esq., and, in addition to William, had a daughter Catherine, who married one T. KERSLEY Esq., of Norwich. The marriage of William Senior and Catherine Grint in Tower Hamlets (London) in 1764 is on record (though not how they came to be in Tower Hamlets).

The marriage of Catherine Say to James Kersley in Hedenham in 1786 and the births in Norwich of five children are recorded in parish registers. But nothing has been found to support anything else in the obituary or pedigree. William Junior's birth and his parents' deaths are not recorded, and who was the "maternal aunt"? On what estates did William Senior work? Where was the lake in Lakenham?

Any information will be gratefully received.

**John Cheney, MN 14208, [johnchene@gmail.com](mailto:johnchene@gmail.com)**

## More On The Tuck Family

IT was interesting to read the article "So Much for Bagpipes" in the September issue of The Norfolk Ancestor, which covered the TUCK family. There are sever-

al references in Blofield, where I live, to the Tuck family and indeed I live roughly a quarter of a mile from a barn known as Tuck's Barn.

I have lived in Blofield for the past 65 years and my grandparents go back there to 1915 and my great grandparents to 1906. It was my great grandmother who bought a small market garden of around five acres in 1906 and I have "indentures" for the property going back to around 1700.

Now for the interesting bit. The indentures show that a piece of the smallholding was bought on 11th October, 1847, by Charles Edward Tuck for £80 of Lawful British Currency, from James HOUGHTON.

Some time later the land passed to Algernon Devereaux Tuck and later, under his will witnessed by Hilda Tuck, to Captain Charles Harold Amis Tuck of Coney Weston in the county of Suffolk on 7th May, 1915. This piece of land was purchased by my great grandmother to form part of the five acres mentioned above on 15th October, 1915. Captain Charles Tuck at this time was in Dehra Dun United Provinces in the Empire of India.

The indentures also mention a George Hustler Tuck in 1906 and I assume he inherited part or all of the land from Charles Edward Tuck.

Part of the smallholding was next to land owned by the SKEDGE family who are also mentioned in the article, and I assume the owner was Charles Skedge 1867-1952.

There is now a small estate on this land, known as Skedge Way. Charles had a son, Bertie Richard, and his son, also Bertie, was chairman of Blofield Parish Council for many years. Whether or not this Skedge family is the same as the ones mentioned in the article who lived in Canada may be debatable.

However, on this land there was a smallholding both pre and post-World War Two run by the Barrett family and he was supposed to have been a cowboy in the 1880s. Is there a Canadian connection?

I met both Mr. and Mrs. Barrett in the very early 1940s, during World War Two when I would occasionally accompany my grandad at night to their smallholding to get his goats' milk.

Mike Nicholls MN 11481

## **Portrait is the Earl of Surrey**

I was interested to read David Pitcher's letter in the September edition regarding the portrait of Thomas CHURCHYARD.

David is correct, the portrait appears to be Henry HOWARD, Earl of Surrey. Thank you David.

Alan Churchyard MN 1252

# New Family Website Launched

As a former member of the society I'm writing to inform your members that I have launched a website of my family history research covering several Norfolk family lines including the names ABBS, LOOSE, FEAZER, PANK and others.

The website is available at [www.abbsgen.com](http://www.abbsgen.com).

Michael Davis, USA, [abbsgen@gmail.com](mailto:abbsgen@gmail.com)

## Devon and Norfolk Connection

I have just re-joined the society, having inadvertently overlooked my renewal. Previously I had been a member for many years and have been researching my Russell ancestors within Norfolk and from Devon where they appeared to have originated as far back as 1066.

A family member has records from 1086 telling how the French originally spread by inter-marriages and appeared throughout U.K. and Australia, Canada and South Africa. My research over the past 40 years has concentrated on the Norfolk Manorial Lords and their links to the Devon lines.

I am desperately seeking the 'missing' link from the Devon line to the Norfolk Branch and I would welcome any help from existing families who have or know of families who have knowledge of this name.

Members of that family have come up from Devon to visit relations in Norfolk, so should they be able to help find the missing link! I would very much like to hear from them.

Mike Russell - [michael.russell@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.russell@ntlworld.com)

## Workers' Christmas Parties

In the June 2019 edition of the Norfolk Ancestor we printed a piece about one of our American members, Cheryl Kane. She is related to two of the Norfolk survivors of the Titanic sinking in 1912.

I had the very great pleasure of meeting up with Cheryl when she visited Kirby Hall on the first Sunday in July this year. We had a long talk about her time spent growing up in Norwich and during our chat Cheryl's thoughts turned to the Christmas parties organised by companies for the children of their workers. Cheryl takes up the story:

"My father, a member of the United States Air Force, was transferred to a base in the Bering Strait, between Alaska and the then U.S.S.R., in 1954. The base was closed to families, and so my mother, younger sister and I moved from Cali-

fornia to Norwich to live with my mother's parents. We arrived shortly before Christmas. My grandfather worked at what was then the Co-op shoe factory, and the factory sponsored an annual Christmas party for the "children" of workers. Why, I do not recall, but management allowed my grandfather's granddaughters to attend.



Co-op shoe factory wall in Mountergate

At school in California, we decorated our classrooms at Christmas, but this was our first invitation to a Christmas party. There was a professional photographer, crackers, games and paper hats, but what I remember most clearly was what we ate -- sausage rolls, mince pies, sponge cake, trifle -- new and exotic foods to an eight year old. I do not remember what we had to drink, but I am sure I learned that In England children did not drink Pepsi cola; they drank Robinsons squash!"

The Co-operative Wholesale Boot and Shoe Works (CWS) opened in 1923 on St John's Street, Mountergate. By 1938 CWS employed around 900 and the weekly output was around 12,000 pairs of shoes. By the 1940's the Norwich factory stopped producing footwear for men and children, and output and employment declined.

Competition from cheap foreign imports eventually led to a large operating loss and in 1987 the factory closed, leading to the loss of 134 jobs. The outside wall of the factory was left intact to shield the newly built flats behind it from noise.

Roger Morgan MN17267

## The Wright Family

MY great grandfather Joseph Jesse WRIGHT was born on 4th June, 1850, at Browicks Bottom, Wymondham to Thomas Wright, a farmer and Sophia GAY, being from the second of Thomas' brood (Thomas had previously been married to another Sophia (BRIGHTON) and they had five children).

Joseph was the youngest of the family and his older siblings were: Martha (born 1837), Emily or Emma (born 1841), Jerusha (born 1843), Keturah Hannah (born 1844), Rebecca Sophia (born 1845) and Jonathan Ebenezer (born 1848).

Joseph's mother died of TB in 1853 when he was three years old and the 1861



census finds him and his brother Jonathan in the workhouse at Wicklewood. I was unable to find out how long they were there but the next time I found any record of him was in the 1881 census when he was living with Ada Furner and their four children in Bermondsey, London. Having found that his sister Emma was a cook in Kensington in the 1871 census, I can only assume she persuaded him to try his fortune in London.

At the time of the 1881 census Joseph (also sometimes known as James) was working for a baker, Jacob Schwenk who operated by Royal Appointment, so I assumed he was doing very well and bringing up his family quite successfully.

His children were Arthur James (my grandfather, born 1873), Ada Florence (born 1875), Frederick William (born 1878), Charles Jesse (born 1880), Henry Joseph (born 1883), Frank Thomas (born 1887), Emily Louise (born 1889) and Edith Celia (born 1891).

In 1887 Joseph was described on the children's birth certificate as a "Baker Journeyman." The family lived in various places in South London and sadly Joseph passed away on 28th October 1915, only 18 months after his wife Ada had died.

Diane Boone (nee Wright) MN 10303.

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# A Gallipoli Diary - Part Two

In the September issue of Norfolk Ancestor we carried the first of a three part feature on the diaries of Lieutenant Charles Earsham Cooke MC

Lieutenant Cooke was only 21 years of age when he died in the First World War. Charles left a legacy, however, in the shape of a series of diaries which give a unique insight into fighting in The Great War as Charles pulls no punches. The diaries have been given to us with permission to reproduce by Charles' nephew Richard Cooke. In the first extract we covered the period from May 8th, 1915, and his arrival in the Gallipoli Peninsular up until May 18th. We continue our edited version of the diaries to take them up to June 19th.

**May 19th** - The men have nicked (presumably nicknamed) the valley they were in before "Suicide or Slaughter Valley" but it was nothing compared with this unholy place, it's awful. It's no good, the further you get from the firing line the worse it is. We have been simply smothered with shrapnel ever since we arrived. Two men have been wounded but a little further beyond the 4th Lancashires have had four killed.

**May 20th** - They have this morning started shells which don't half make a mess of the ground. One just missed a dugout about 20 yards away and burst in front of it. A piece of shrapnel went through my valise as Smith was getting something out. Just missed him by inches..... One of the nicest sounds I have ever heard was last night when the French battery near us started firing four shots off every 15 seconds.....You should have seen four of us having tea yesterday when one burst just over our heads; tea, tinned milk and all going over as we dived for Major's dug out leaving him outside. It's extraordinary the way the men treat the shells. They laugh and joke about them and call them "Beecham's Pills."

**May 21st** - At night 8.15 we went off to the trenches for the first time. We arrived at 12.30 having taken about 3 3/4 hours.



**May 22nd** - Had a quiet day. Men greatly enjoy trying to hit snipers. Young Hodgkins killed, shot in the stomach poor kid. Sunday night we were relieved by C Company.

**May 24th** - At night we went to the firing line while the whole of C Company advanced.

**May 25th** - In firing trench all day. At night it rained at 7 o'clock and the trench became a duck pond. We sat in inches of mud from 7 am until 11.30 when we were relieved, and very thankful we were too.

**May 27th** - At 7 am we left our bivouack and I must say I am extremely thankful I am here alive to write this for we absolutely (unnecessarily as we found out later) advanced as we were ordered, led by a guide, along a skyline in simple file in full view of the Turks' batteries, when we might have just as well have gone under cover. Anyhow No 1 Platoon had practically got under cover when a shell landed no more than three yards from me and luckily burst in the ground instead of on top of us.

**May 29th** - The enemy have now started firing six inch howitzers which send forth black smoke, a terrific report and plow (sic) everything to pieces near to them. They fired eight to ten into this gully yesterday, killed three and buried one.

**June 3rd** - Fearful casualties but on the left the regiment captured tons of prisoners. They do look queer fellows - huge. All delighted to be captured but I have not seen any German officers yet, who I believe look as surly as anything.

**June 8th** - We moved into the firing line. The place is terrible. This trench was captured three days ago and they buried the dead in the floor of the trench which stinks horribly. Dead also buried in the parapet and also lying out all over the place just outside the trench. Horrible gaping wounds, inflated bodies and flies all over.

Last night we had men trying to bury a few, which they succeed in doing I am thankful to say. The previous people here had placed a mac over one body and were using it as a sideboard. Also in another part of a trench, six bodies lay on top of each other unburied.

**June 9th** - Wednesday morning at about 3.30 am after standing to arms from 2.30 I felt as sick as a cat through smell and fatigue.

**June 10th** - Still in trenches which stink abominably. We covered up a Turk on Wednesday night. Thursday morning a man brought a cross to me to put on the grave of his brother who he said was just the other side of the parapet. I did not know he was there but for the smell which we could detect as we of course dare not show ourselves during the day. Well I asked for volunteers at night and we buried him. Never in all my life did I smell anything so positively awful and when they moved him he gave the most awful sort of groan, it was ghastly. Dead about eight days in the sun.

**June 11th** - Have just had the most delightful bath under the waterfall and feel much better. Oh I do wish this war was over. Another of my signallers gone, had his head blown off.

**June 13th** - Hudson, poor fellow, went down to base early and was climbing over the parapet to get two men who were gathering up equipment and got badly hit in the left side; died a few hours later.

**June 15th** - Sent about ten men down to the doctor, either diahorrea or weak in general. Some with cold feet I am sure as we are going into the firing line again today at 12 o'clock. Nasty lot of shrapnel about today. Arrived in firing line at 4.30 or so and directly after men had had their meal we set to work cleaning the trench and also improving it. I worked personally until quite 12.30.

**June 16th** - Changed trenches with Handforth who was in a sort of redoubt place, really about the most vile and unsafe place in the whole peninsular, By brigade orders troops were to be in it only 24 hours. Well it really was a place, chock full of maggots arising from the dead. Dead in parapets, underneath, over, in fact everywhere. The trench was absolutely full of dead, stank of course.

**June 17th** - Well we were there until 7.30 next evening when my platoon changed places with number one in the support, but owing to number one not having an officer I had to stay in their lousy trench. However, such is life.

**June 18th** - I had now been in the 24 hour trench for 48 hours.

**June 19th** - The trench is really in a most difficult position to describe. Suffice it to say it was on a hill and the trench was hardly dug into the ground at all but was chiefly made of sandbags thereby rendering a most magnificent target to the Turks' shell fire. Well the night of the 17th when my platoon was in we thought we caught it pretty badly, two actually landing on the back parapet smashing it to blazes, but my word this morning was the limit. One shell actually landed on the parapet (front) as well as many on the back and blew the lot, making a huge gap.

Previously young Ogden (16 years) was badly shot through the head, brains out. I bandaged him up but the R.A.W.C said no hope. However, he still lives. Well the shell that blew the parapet in wounded two and knocked the remaining three down. Through all this I must say that the corporal in charge stuck to his place finely, his sergeant clearing out. Unfortunately he was killed next day. He and I and another sergeant helped to put the parapet up: a fine game, simply peppered from the trench in front, luckily no casualties.

I should say that on the previous night we gave the Turks a good lot for they exposed themselves most awfully. I shall never forget the Turks reinforcements advancing across the open in a mass, simply mown down by our machine guns. It was a sight. They looked to me as if they were coming on unwillingly.

**We will conclude our look at the First World War diaries of Lieutenant Charles Earsham Cooke in the next edition of Norfolk Ancestor.**

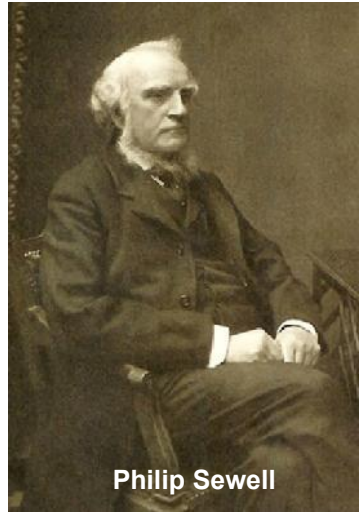
# Philip Starts His Education

**(Continued from front inside cover).**

Philip started his education at Hackney Grammar School and finished it at the Friends' School at Stoke Newington. When he left school he took a job at his father's bank but shortly afterwards he got a place at Cambridge University.

He too experienced health problems and was advised to look for a job which would give him an outdoor life. He trained to be a civil engineer and got a job working on railways. He was engaged in the construction of the Settle and Carlisle Railway, the London and Brighton Railway and the building of Seaham harbour.

In 1849 he married Sarah WOODS the youngest daughter of Samuel Woods of Tottenham. In the following year their first daughter Mary Grace was born in Skipton, Yorkshire. They went on to have another six children: Margaret Annie (1852-1937), Lucy Edith (b. 1853), Helen Ada (b.1853), John Wright (1857-1898), Philip Edward (1858-1937) and Isobell Gertrude (b.1863). In 1851 the family was living in Buxton with Philip's uncle John Wright. In 1853 Philip took a job as a railway engineer in Spain where the family lived for several years. Unfortunately Sarah became ill and Philip moved the family back to Norwich in 1864. They lived at Clare House, St Clements Hill, Norwich and Philip gave up engineering and got a job with Gurney's Bank. Sadly Sarah died at the age of 45 in 1866 leaving Philip to bring up his seven children.



Anna continued to live with her parents in Brighton but in 1841 the London to Brighton railway line opened and this greatly increased the number of visitors to the town.

Mary Sewell had always wanted a rural view so in 1845 the family left Brighton and moved to Lancing. They moved into a house called Miller House which was a substantial house that had riding stables. The house stood on its own in the middle of open fields and it was here that the Sewells owned their first horse.

Anna seems to have developed her love of horses in Lancing and every morning she would drive her father in their pony cart to Shoreham to catch the train to Brighton. She would also collect him from the station in the evenings but this all stopped when a station was opened in Lancing. She continued to drive her mother around wherever she needed to go and soon became a skilled horse-woman.

Life in Lancing was good for Anna and she kept herself busy reading, painting,

sewing and doing other household chores. She was very fond of all forms of the natural world and would often be found tending her garden. She helped her mother edit her books and became involved in charitable work with her, including teaching. Her brother Philip gave up his Quaker faith and became a staunch member of the Church of England and Anna and her mother followed while Isaac remained loyal to his Quaker upbringing. Philip would often visit them with his fiancée Sarah and they would all sing together.

In her thirties Anna would spend time looking for cures for her illness, often visiting health spas. On one of these visits she met Alfred Lord Tennyson. They shared a love of reading and poetry and spent time walking and talking together. Tennyson gave Anna a signed photograph of himself. These visits were to no avail as her illness showed little sign of improvement. In her biography of Anna, author Adrienne Gavin suggests that it is probable that Anna was suffering from a severe form of Lupus. This is a chronic auto-immune disease in which the body attacks its own organs. Periods of remission would be followed by acute pain leaving her unable to walk or stand.

After Philip's marriage to Sarah in 1849 Anna became even closer to her mother as her father was away in Brighton every day. In March 1849 Isaac resigned from the bank in Brighton and the Sewell family moved to Haywards Heath where Isaac entered into business as a brewer, possibly to improve his finances. The Sewells eventually retired to the West Country and settled in Siston near Bristol. When they heard about Sarah's death they decided to move back to Norfolk in order to support their son and grandchildren.

Isaac Sewell rented The White House, Old Catton, Norwich, when the rent was £45 per annum. He had a conservatory built for his daughter Anna. The house is now a Grade II listed building called Anna Sewell House, 125 Spixworth Road, Norwich. Philip visited his parents and sister every week, often in his carriage pulled by Bessie, his favourite black mare.

Bessie was probably the inspiration for the horse in Anna's book *Black Beauty*. In 1870 Philip married Charlotte Jane SOLE (b.1826), the daughter of a solicitor from Devonport.

In the summer they would open the grounds of Clare House on Thursday afternoons for the local school children to enjoy. They arranged games with prizes and provided an afternoon tea for the children. The Sewell estate formed a wedge between St Clement's Hill and Constitution Hill and was originally known as Wren Park.

Philip became a Justice of the Peace, an alderman and a member of the Norfolk Education Committee. He supported the temperance movement, was sec-



retary of the Norwich City Mission and worked on behalf of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. In 1872 he inherited his uncle's estate at Buxton and became manager of the Red House School, a boys' reformatory, and chairman of Buxton Parish Council.

Despite her progressing illness, Anna began writing her book *Black Beauty* in 1871. She was often confined to her bed and writing was difficult for her. She would often dictate the story to her mother or write on scraps of paper for her to transcribe.

It took until 1876 for her to complete the book which was originally written for people who owned horses. She said "a special aim was to induce kindness, sympathy, and an understanding treatment of horses". She sold the book to Jarrolds publishing house in November 1877 for just £40 when she was 57 years old. It was published the same year and was met with critical acclaim.

Sadly Anna did not live long enough to see how popular the book would become because just five months after publication she died in severe pain possibly from hepatitis on the 25th April 1878. She was buried in the Quaker burial ground at Lamas near Buxton on 30th April 1878. *Black Beauty* went on to become one of the top ten best-selling children's books of all time, selling an estimated 40 million copies. It is also credited with having a dramatic influence on how horses were treated more humanely.

Some of the more painful methods of training horses fell out of favour after its publication. In 1984 the Quaker burial ground in Lamas was controversially dug up and the headstones were removed. Anna's and her parents ones are now embedded in the wall of the meeting house in Buxton.

Charlotte died aged 84 and Phillip stayed as a director of Gurneys Bank.

He died in 1906 aged 84 and was buried at Buxton. Sewell Park was donated to the people of Norwich by his relations.

**Roger Morgan**





# London Group



We have our programme at the Society of Genealogists booked up until October, 2020.

Meetings will be between 2 and 4 pm as usual with refreshments provided afterwards in the Society of Genealogists' common room. If you are in the London area please do come along. Scheduled events are as follows:

**Saturday March 14th, 2020:** Talk by Ian Waller – topic to be confirmed. **Saturday October 17th, 2020:** Members' Day.

My contact details are: Mary Fisk, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Road, London N16 8SB or Email: [mary975@btinternet.com](mailto:mary975@btinternet.com) (home) and [ms28@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ms28@soas.ac.uk) (work).

## Advertise Your Events

WE would love to hear from other history groups from throughout Norfolk.

If you would like your events publicised please send details including dates, details of the event to the editor via e-mail at the contact address on page 66.

Brundall Local History Group will have a talk by Dr Andrew Tullett entitled "The History of Norfolk on a Stick" in the Memorial Hall, Links Avenue, Brundall at 7.30 pm on January 16th. It gives the history of village signs in Norfolk - all of which provide history on a stick.

On February 20th Kevin Parfitt will be giving a talk entitled "A Conversation By The Farm Gate."

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

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# Reports From Diss History Group

## The Wonders of Lopham

**Jenny Jenkins reports on the August 6th meeting**

NICK Woods gave a talk on 'The Wonders of Lopham.' He began with a brief history of the area centuries ago when Norfolk was surrounded by rivers and fens and the only safe crossing place in this watery landscape was a ford, a high narrow causeway of dry land situated at a place where the rivers Ouse and Waveney rise.

Roydon could be reached by boat. When the Romans arrived in East Anglia in the First Century AD in an attempt to subdue the uncooperative Iceni, they found that the knowledge of the crossing place gave their enemy an advantage.

There are a couple of theories as to how Lopham got its name. It could be derived from the Anglo Saxon where lop meant to cut or leap as was necessary to make progress through the boggy land, hence a lopway or pathway. The word Ham in Old English denotes a village. Evidence of a Roman Villa was discovered to the north of Lodge Farm in the 1950s.

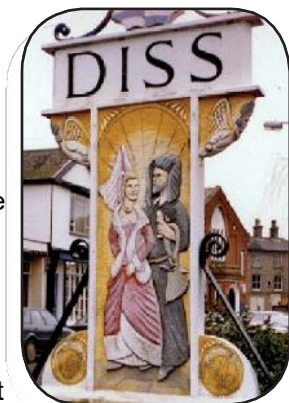
The Domesday Book which William I commissioned after the conquest in 1066 records Lopham consisting of two manors, Lopham Magna and Lopham Parva, held by Freeman Alsius and Ofl. William united both manors under the name of Lopham Parva and then generously bestowed the estate upon one of his nobles, Roger Bigod, one of a ruthless and powerful family. When Roger died in 1107 he was buried in Thetford Abbey.

Eventually Lopham passed into the hands of the Crown and was given to Thomas, the brother of Edward I who became the first Earl of Norfolk.

When The Rev. Blomefield's book was published in 1739 it noted that there were three wonders of Lopham, as follows:

1. The Self Grown Stile, long gone, which had formed by the natural growth of a tree in nearby woodland.
2. The Oxfoot Stone. This was an ancient flat stone bearing a shallow impression which people thought resembled the print of a cow. Legend states that a cow with a constant supply of milk visited this spot.
3. The Lopham Ford or gate, mentioned above.

By the late 20th Century, according to local lore, Lopham could boast seven



wonders. The additional four were-

4. The Church of St. Andrew with its outstanding Norman Tower, built in 1140. The largest in East Anglia.
5. The 1000-year-old well behind Fir Cottage. The water level remains constant, whatever the weather.
6. The Three Gates off one post (technically in Bressingham).
7. The chimney with a built-in door at Grange Farm and its association with the Methodist movement in the 1700s.

We don't know anything about those people that compiled the list, but Nick has gone one up on them, or rather six up because, due to some diligent and lengthy research, he has discovered more and here they are. As Nick says, why be impressed with the Pyramids and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon when we have these wonders on our doorstep.

8. The Letchmere Pond, which was used to rett hemp and flax for the linen industry, situated in North Lopham Street. It was also believed that so called witches were ducked there but when it was dredged no grisly remains were found - but Nick couldn't resist showing us a picture of a ducking stool!

9. The Lopham Linen industry. The linen and damask produced was of such high quality that Lopham Linen received a warrant to supply the royal palaces and households. It was the introduction of the power loom that caused its decline in the 20th century.

10. The rare barrel organ in North Lopham Church, which was built in the 1800s, originally for Stanhoe Hall.

11. The Old Bull Pub was linked with smuggling. Forget Kipling's poem 'The Smuggler's Song' which conjures up a rather romantic picture of men doing a bit of free trading. These smugglers were ruthless.

12. The Lopham Snowdrop. This little plant is a new species cultivated here. Its petals have a unique pattern.

13. Last but not least, the area can boast its own home-grown outlaw. Charles Earl Boles, aka Howell, Bolton or Bowles, was probably born in Bressingham in 1829. The family emigrated to America in 1821 and settled on a farmstead in New York State. Charley, as he was known, grew bored and headed west to go prospecting for gold. By 1854 he was back, still not rich and married with a family of four children in Illinois.

He enlisted with the 116 Illinois Regiment in 1862, served as a Lieutenant and survived the war although injured at Vicksburg. By 1867 he tried his luck at prospecting again in Montana. He wrote to his wife about an unpleasant encounter with some Wells Fargo Agents and swore revenge.

Apparently he had sunk money into a mine but Wells Fargo bought the land and forced him to abandon his claim by cutting off the water supply he needed to

mine with. He swore vengeance and started robbing Wells Fargo Stagecoaches. Charley worked alone using all sorts of tricks to get the coaches to stop and then, by throwing a flower sack with eyeholes over his head and producing an unloaded gun, he would demand they throw down the money boxes.

He was the scourge of the Californian roads for eight years but he did have his standards. He never robbed women, never killed anyone and always left a little poem. But all good things come to an end and in the 1880s stagecoach companies started carrying an extra armed driver. Charley got shot in the hand and ran but left behind his hat, some food, his glasses and an embossed handkerchief which proved to be his undoing as the Wells Fargo agents managed to track him through a San Francisco laundry. He was arrested, charged and spent the next few years in San Quentin Prison. He was released in 1888 and disappeared but as Nick said there must be more to be told about this story.

## September Meeting

I can still vividly recall one particular geography lesson when I was a schoolgirl, a very long time ago I might add. Our teacher handed some maps for us to study at the start of the lesson. She told us how to find churches, railways, escarpments, rivers, farms and much else. I was enthralled and it was my first introduction to an Ordnance survey map but since then I have taken them for granted with little thought about their backstory.

On 10th September, member Jill Wright (pictured opposite) spoke to the Diss Group on 'Locating Your Ancestor -Using maps on the genealogical path' and what an interesting story it was.

Maps had been around in an inaccurate form for centuries. Following the Jacobite uprising of 1745, an accurate map of Scotland had been produced but there was no equal for England until the Napoleonic Wars gave rise to fears of the possibility that Britain would be invaded. If that occurred, the army would need accurate maps showing the coast and lines of communication. The Board of Ordnance was commissioned to produce an accurate map of Kent, which was the most vulnerable county if the worst should happen. During the early years the Board was based in The Tower of London but relocated to Southamp-



ton following a fire at the Tower.

Those early maps were very basic and produced by copper plate engraving. Jill said that the small lines used to denote relief made Norfolk look quite hilly. However, the maps were frequently updated over the years to show more features as the landscape of the country changed with the needs of an expanding civilisation which required more roads and railways and buildings. There was an unavoidable holdup due to World War One and then again when World War Two broke out.

Jill has amassed a vast collection of maps which she brought along, many purchased from second hand shops. She even has a fifth edition of the Ordnance Survey Popular series which are very hard to come by these days. As time went on people needed maps for different reasons such as walking and motor-ing and Jill brought along many of the editions familiar to our members including the New Popular, Vanguard, Pathfinder, Explorer and Landranger series.

As we were sitting in groups around tables for this meeting, we were able to examine the maps that Jill passed round.

Even with the most basic information, a map can often be very useful. You can see where your ancestor was born, lived or died or track them if they moved. You can locate their nearest railway or workhouse and check out factories where they may have worked. You can find historical maps at local record offices or local studies libraries. Norwich has all the 6" maps of Norfolk, which was the standard for many years, mainly in country areas. Urban areas were usually scaled at 25" to the mile.

It is also useful to know the parish boundaries in respect of the Poor Law Unions and the Hundreds. Most record offices have downloadable maps. Jill also pointed out that Ordnance Survey produced a half inch map for cyclists as did Bartholomews.

Also it is worth checking the enumerators' book when looking at census returns. There should be a description of his route and it may be possible to walk in his footsteps. Tithe Maps and Apportionments can also be very helpful as they give details of owners, occupiers, land use, rents and more.

Now we have Google Maps which have some useful applications like being able to look back 50 years and we can download maps from the internet but in a way the old paper maps we may still possess, bearing the marks of being unfolded and refolded countless times are a tangible link to our own history. However,

I do think that the Sat Nav has many advantages in our modern high speed world. Had the technology been available in the 1980s I wouldn't have had to suffer my ex husband's fury when I failed to alert him that we were approaching our exit on the Peripherique, the notorious road that girdles Paris! After all, he had only thrown the map onto my lap a few seconds earlier. On reflection I'm sure that this hi tech navigation aid has been the saviour of many relationships.

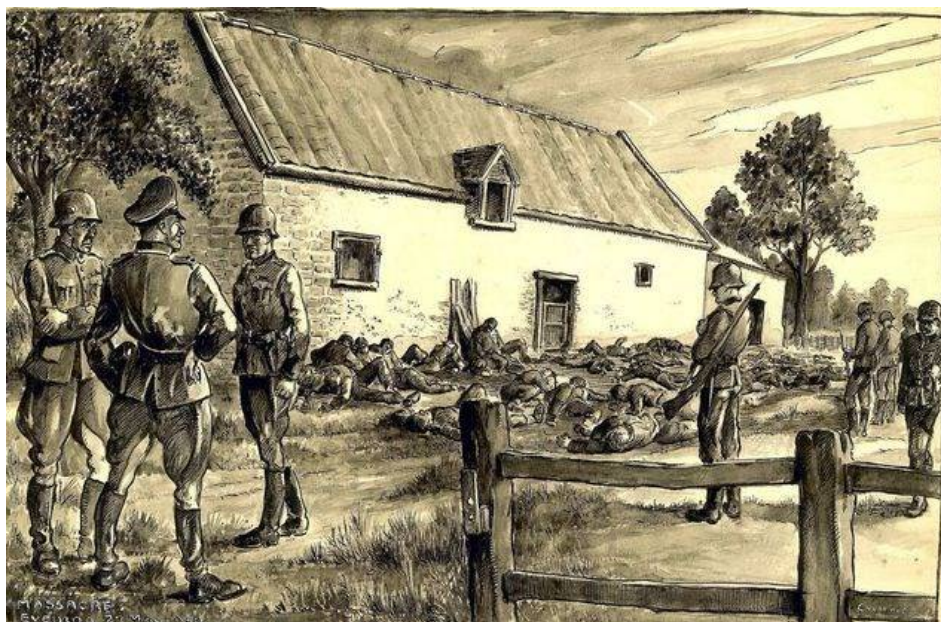
Jill had also prepared an extensive guide of all manner of maps and where to find them, which she handed out to us all. It is worth knowing that Ordnance Survey maps for the whole country can be accessed at The National Library of Scotland.

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## Massacre at Le Paradis

MUCH prominence has been given to the dramatic operation to rescue over 300,000 allied forces from the beaches of Dunkirk between 26th May and 4th June 1940 during some of the darkest days of World War Two. But there are other groups who have received little recognition for their heroism and self-sacrifice in the days prior to and during the evacuation.

Dunkirk took place because the Allies had underestimated their enemy. They had anticipated that the Germans would invade via the Low Countries, taking into account the strength of the Maginot Line. The French had built this fortification on the borders of Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Luxembourg in the



This drawing of the massacre was made by Captain Charles Long who is also featured in our story in Editor's Corner on page 22.

1930s. The Allies formed a front which connected to it and cut across Belgium but the opinion was that the terrain in the Ardennes Forest was so difficult it would be hard for the Germans to gain any ground there and if they did there would be time to get reinforcements.

They were wrong and the French line was too weak to withstand the onslaught. The Germans forced their way through, crossed the River Meuse and encircled much of the Allied forces leaving them no option other than to retreat. However, they could not have done so had it not been for those who stayed behind to fight to keep the corridors open in Pas de Calais in the face of the advancing German army. They have largely been forgotten by history.

On 9th July, representing the Le Paradis Commemoration Group, historians John Head and Nick Smith accompanied by Dennis O'Callaghan (son of Bill O'Callaghan one of the two survivors of the massacre) came to talk to The Diss Family History Group about the massacre of 97 men at Le Paradis in Pas de Calais on 27th May 1940.

The fighting had been fierce and the remaining splintered forces had been pushed back. One group, mainly men of the 2nd Battalion Royal Norfolks and the 1st Battalion the Royal Scots were defending the village of Le Paradis. The Royal Norfolks' main defensive position was at their fortified Headquarters, Duriez Farmhouse on the village outskirts. However, this soon became surrounded and under intensive attack.

Having little hope of retreat and running short of ammunition the commanding officer, Major Lysle Ryder surrendered, to the 14 Company SS Totenkopf (Death Heads) Division commanded by SS-Hauptsturmführer Fritz Knoechlein. Some had managed to escape from the farmhouse but those 99 who surrendered from the byre, including Major Ryder, were searched, some were beaten and some had their dog-tags removed. They were then marched to a barn and paddock in close proximity owned by Monsieur Louis Creton where they were massacred against the barn wall by two machine guns strategically placed in the paddock. Any survivors were either bayoneted or shot by pistol. Miraculously two men survived, protected by their dead comrades.



***The two survivors of the massacre. Bill O'Callaghan on the left and Bert Pooley on the right photographed in Hamburg for the trial of Fritz Knoechlein.***



They were Private Bill O'Callaghan from Dereham and Private Bert Pooley from Southall, London. Bert was unable to walk, having been badly wounded in the leg, so Bill, who had been shot in the arm, carried him on his back to the safety of a pig sty in another nearby farm owned by Madam Duquenne-Creton.

Regardless of the imminent danger they were cared for by the Creton family until it was opportune for them to be handed over to the Wehrmacht as prisoners of war. Owing to the seriousness of his injuries, Bert was repatriated to England in 1943 but his story was not believed. Bill waited out the war in various Prisoner of War camps in Poland until 1945. When he returned home he confirmed Bert's account.

The truth could no longer be denied. Eventually Fritz Knoechlein was found and taken for interrogation along with other captured Germans including members of the Nazi Party and SS at The London Cage, a secret facility based at Numbers six, seven and eight Kensington Palace Gardens. He was tried for war crimes in Hamburg in 1948, found guilty and executed in 1949.

In 2018, The Le Paradis Commemoration Group was joined by Rob Edwards, an expert in memorials and who was also in attendance on the evening. It was then decided that the 97 who died at Le Paradis deserved a permanent memorial in Norfolk (there are four in France) and the Paradis Commemoration Group Memorial Appeal was launched.

It was a privilege to have the Le Paradis Commemoration Group with us on the night, together with the niece of Private Raymond Pigg whose family hadn't found out what had happened to him until they just happened to see a television programme about Le Paradis. From there they were able to solve the mystery. On a final note, the people of Le Paradis never forgot the men who died that day. In 1942 the bodies were exhumed and reburied in the churchyard. It is impossible to do justice to the impassioned presentation given by the Le Paradis Commemoration Group but you can read the full story at: [www.leparadis massacre.com](http://www.leparadis massacre.com).

Jenny Jenkins

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a result of the talk the commemoration group was able to meet with the family of Raymond Pigg and put together a page in tribute to his memory. This is available at:

The contact for the Diss Family History Group is

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

Coming events organised by the Diss group appear on the next page.

If you are a member of a local history group and would like to see your events reported and/or advertised free of charge in Norfolk Ancestor, please send details to the editor at the email address below.

[ancestor@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:ancestor@nfhs.co.uk)

# Diss Family History Group Coming Events

## 2019

10th December - Social evening with Christmas Fare and Talks by members.

## 2020

14th January - From Fisherman to Prisoner of War with Nick Woods

11th February - "The History of spoken English" with Charlie Haylock

10th March - To Be Announced.

14th April - "Researching the History of Your Home" with Stephen Poulter.

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

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **March 2020** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall or e-mailed to him **NO LATER** than **12th January**. Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.

## Notes and Queries

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

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

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

or by email to:

**ancestor@nfhs.co.uk**

## Photographs

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



# NFHS contacts and how to contact them

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

# Wymondham Market Cross

MARKET crosses date back to Anglo-Saxon times when they were placed in churchyards as places where travellers could meet and pray. However, they soon became sites where business could be carried out. The Church did not approve and, in the reign of Edward I, around 1285, markets were banned in churchyards.

Wymondham was an Anglo-Saxon settlement and had been granted a charter to hold a Friday market by King John in 1204. The original market cross was probably a simple cross on a stone base where traders would gather to sell their wares. By the 16th century it would have grown into a small town hall with a raised chamber above a small area for market stalls. It was illegal to trade out of hours and the cross became a centre for punishments to be carried out. Hangings for murder and robbery and whippings for beggars would be held there. Royal proclamations were read at the cross and bodies prior to burial at the Abbey would be laid there to allow people to pray. Religious mystery plays during fairs were performed there. It was at one of these events in 1549 that Robert Kett's Rebellion broke out. Kett, a Wymondham man, marched on Norwich with bloody consequences.



In 1615 three gypsies and a local woman started a fire in the town in which 327 people lost houses and the market cross was destroyed. The arsonists were hung for their crime and £15,000 of damage was done. It was important that the structure was rebuilt and a local farmer, Philip CULLYER paid £27.7s for this to be done. It was reopened in 1618 by Sir Henry HOBART of Blickling who dined on wine, beer, cake and sugar.



In the 1840s the upper storey was converted into a reading room but the building slowly deteriorated. It was in serious need of repair and was restored in 1863. It was troubled by vermin and to prevent further damage live rats were nailed to the building to deter other rats from entering. This practice continued until 1902 when it was reported in the papers that a young boy had been bitten by one of the rats!

By 1980, the posts were sinking and the staircase collapsing so a second restoration was needed. A total of £94,000 was used by builders G E Atthowe of Norwich and architects Fielden and Mawson to sort out the problems. Today it houses Wymondham's Tourist Information Centre. Regular Friday markets take place on the land next to the cross and Saturday farmers' markets are held once a month.

# Then and Now



The top photograph is a picture of the Market Cross in the centre of Wymondham. It was taken in April 1934 by renowned Norwich photographer George Plunkett. The second picture dates from October 2019. Apart from the tree, little has changed. To find out more turn to the inside back cover.

