

The Norfolk Ancestor



Volume Six Part Two
JUNE 2009



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



The man's photo is unnamed. On the back of the woman's photo is the name Mary Clack July 1899. Could they be members of your family? See the paragraph on the Editor's letter page.

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FRONT COVER

The picture of the Reredos in Earsham Parish Church is reproduced from the Norfolk Churches website – www.norfolkchurches.co.uk – which has excellent photographs of 774 Norfolk Churches. There is also a sister site – www.suffolkchurches.co.uk. Both sites are the work of Simon Knott.

NOTICES

KIRBY HALL LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Tuesday	10 a.m - 1 p.m.	Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m - 1 p.m.	Sunday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

All CORRESPONDENCE to an Officer of the Society should be addressed to KIRBY HALL which is the registered address of the NFHS - please quote your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Articles for future editions always required - submit and see! But please note, the Editor cannot guarantee the issue in which your article will appear. Every effort will be made to reproduce articles as presented but **the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary.** The Editor will assume that all necessary authorisation for attachments or photographs has been obtained and the NFHS will not be held liable in the case of a subsequent query.

Articles should be preferably typed in a **10pt font for an A5 page with a 1.4cm border = about 550 words per page without photos.**

Please keep articles to 4 pages maximum.

E-mail or CD versions are most helpful.

All material from regular contributors for inclusion in the Sept issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall no later than **20th July 2009.**

Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.



From the Editor

June 2009

Dear Members

Many thanks for all your letters and emails with queries and articles, which have resulted in the large Notes and Queries section in this issue.

You responded to the Did You Know item about Mousehold Aerodrome and also to the article on the Napoleonic P.O.Ws. The author, Patricia Wills-Jones, was delighted with the response and will provide a follow up in a later issue.

You will see in the business items on the following page that the Look-Ups service **will** be continuing, but that the Family Tree/Pedigrees service **will not**. In fact we are always in need of volunteers for any number of tasks, so if you have an hour or two to spare each week and would like to get involved with the Society, please contact our Secretary, Pat Mason.

You will also see that there have been changes to the organisation of the Norwich Branch.

Renewals

May I remind any of you who have not yet renewed your membership that this could be the last issue you receive!! I know that these once a year payments are easily overlooked, but if you do not renew your membership you will not receive future issues as your name will be removed from our database.

Denagh Hacon MN2671

Inside Front Cover

These two photographs were found together at a jumble sale, in a very dilapidated folder. Presumably the people are related in some way. The photo of the woman has the name Mary Clack and the date July 1899 on the back. There is no name or date on the man's photo. If you think they might be related to you please let us know.

Look-ups Service and Family Trees/Pedigrees

We are pleased to report that Alan Bullard has agreed to take on the Look-ups Service following the retirement of Pauline Westgate, so this service will continue for members.

However, we still have no one to do the Family Trees/Pedigrees service, following the retirement of Janet Hawksley. If anyone is prepared to take on this task, please contact the Secretary.

Norwich Branch

Barbara Walker has decided to retire as organiser of the Norwich Branch. She held this role for over 14 years; having joined the Society in 1989 she worked at first as a library volunteer.

Barbara had suffered health problems for several months, but members who attended the April meeting were pleased to see her looking well, after a short stay in hospital. Full retirement is, however, not on the cards, as Barbara has now joined Neil Storey on a project being run at the Holt Steam Railway Museum, telling children about her childhood in WW2.

Many thanks, Barbara, for all those years of hard work, and we look forward to seeing you at Branch Meetings.

The organisation of the Branch will now be taken over by Mr and Mrs Jim Barwick and Mr and Mrs Roger Peck.

Michael Tuffs, MN2036

We are sad to report that Michael Tuffs, a long term member of the NFHS and regular attender at Kirby Hall, died on 9th April aged 83, and was buried at Catton, Norwich. He told us that he always enjoyed coming to Kirby Hall to work on his family tree and census records.

We send our condolences to his family and friends.



Letters to the Editor



Contacting other members

I noticed two letters bemoaning the lack of replies to contacts regarding surname interests in *The Norfolk Ancestor* recently.

One of the issues I have is the fact that most contacts will be from existing members to new members. Hence we are being asked to supply a sae (I usually enclose a stamp and an address label) when most likely we are offering information rather than requesting it.

In any case, since many people now have internet access, why not give email addresses as well as postal addresses? Then the majority of contacts would be quick and free (or at least very inexpensive).

Brian Sugden MN8141, briansugden@tiscali.co.uk

There has been some response to the Did You Know item on Mousehold Aerodrome.

In the 1930 (or thereabouts) round Britain air race my father, who then worked for the Regent Oil Company based at Thorpe Station, took 2 gall tins of petrol to the airfield to refuel the planes as they came in.

When my parents married in September 1935, they had a day trip from the same aerodrome to Ramsgate in Kent. This was advertised as a trip in a modern airliner (actually an 8-seater De Haviland) with free-standing basketwork seats, run by a company called CRILLY AIRWAYS. My father (Stephen Ford) was at that time a lorry driver for the Eastern Roadways, based at Hall Road, Norwich. His Manager was the secretary of the Norwich Aero Club and was able to get my parents some discounted tickets for the flight at about £4 each instead of £5. All a long time ago!

David Ford MN7608

My most vivid recollection is of attending an Empire Air Day display at the aerodrome in, I think, 1938. The aircraft were the Handley Page Harrow and the Fairey Battle – then one of the stars of the RAF. There was a fly-over during the afternoon of another type of aircraft, either a Defiant or a Spitfire.

A glossy brochure was produced for the event, encouraging us to join the RAF, or ATC, but sadly I have lost my treasured copy. There was also an Air Defence League, which may have been the predecessor to the ATC. Perhaps some other member may still have a copy of the brochure.

Tom Jump MN11548

I would like to confirm that The Flying Corps did take over the old cavalry training ground and turned it into Mousehold Heath Aerodrome. Boulton & Paul then used it to test their planes from 1915 until 1934. The Norfolk and Norwich Aero Club was formed there in about 1930 but later moved to Swanton Morley in the late 1950s. During the Second World War it was used as a 'dummy' airfield with decoy aircraft in an attempt to fool German aircraft attacking Norwich.

There are also some useful web addresses:

www.localhistory.scit.wiv.ac.uk/Museum/Transport/planes/boultonPaul.htm

new.edp24.co.uk/content/PlaceinHistory/content/58BoultonPaul.aspx

www.norfolk-airfields.co.uk

forum.keypublishing.co.uk/archive/index.php?t-54178.html

Phil Innes MN2737

The article on the Napoleonic Prisoners of War also attracted attention (see two more letters on page 114)

Thank you for the remarkable response to this article in the March Ancestor. Based on the response and further research a report will appear in a future issue.

Patricia Wills-Jones MN6738

I very much enjoyed finding my ancestor, **Richard BULLEY**, in the transcribed list of British prisoners of war in Napoleonic France, a reference I doubt I would ever have found on my own.

The transcript lists him among prisoners at "Longivy". However, a search on Google suggests that a place of that name does not exist. From the photographic plate of the original reproduced on the back cover of the magazine, it is clear that the name should have read "**Longwy**", a town in France only a few miles from the border with Belgium and Luxembourg and not so very far from some of the other places mentioned (e.g. Bitche and Verdun).

Keith Bulley MN3724

DIARY of EVENTS June – Sept 2009

Date	Title	Speaker	Branch
June 2	A Gypsy Family History	Hazel Marsh	GY
June 9	Fervour Frolic and Fornication	Pip Wright	Diss
June 10	Censuses	Brian Jones	KL
June 12	A Gypsy in the Family	Geoff Lee	Nch
July 8	Tour of Trues Yard Fishing Museum	Dr Paul Richards	KL
July 10	Work with the Society Experts		Nch
July 14	East Anglian Clerical Characters	Roy Tricker	Diss
July 14	Branch visit to Kirby Hall 4 – 8 pm Inc demonstration of electronic registers	Edmund Perry / Malcolm Cole Wilkins	GY
Aug 11	TBA	Dr Simon Pawley	Diss
Aug 12	Members Evening		KL
Aug 14	Lucille Reeve, a Norfolk woman	Edmund Perry	Nch
August Bank Holiday – Book Stall at West Acre Estate			
Sept 1	In the Clink – Prison life in the 19 th Century	Nick Aber	GY
Sept 8	TBA	Ken Nockles	Diss
Sept 11	Your Ancestor's Population and Birth Control	Dr. Colin Chapman	Nch
Oct 3	Bookstall at the Suffolk Family History Fair, Debenham		
Oct 5	Victorian Farming Year	Stephen Pope	GY
Oct 9	The Formation of the Colman Collection	Dr. Clive Wilkins- Jones	Nch
Oct 13	The Second World War	Neil Storey	Diss
Oct 17	Agricultural labourers – the movement off the land	Gill Blanchard	London
Nov 3	All is not lost: tracking migration of paupers Gt. Yarmouth	Gill Blanchard	GY
Nov 10	The History of Family Homes	Geoffrey Lee	Diss
Nov 13	Freemen of Norwich/Town Close Charity	Mike Quinton	Nch

NB – In the last issue of the Ancestor an error was made to GY June entry. Please note that the speaker is as listed above, and Gill Blanchard will be the speaker in November.

BRANCH MEETING VENUES

Diss	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road Diss (A1066) SOUTH NORFOLK (2 nd Tuesday of each month, at 7.pm)
GY	Middlegate Hall, Christchurch, King Street, Great Yarmouth, EAST NORFOLK (1 st Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm)
Nch	Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich NORWICH (2 nd Friday of each month, at 7.30 pm)
KL	Thoresby College, South Quay Entrance, Kings Lynn WEST NORFOLK (2 nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm)
London	Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd LONDON EC1M 7BA (approx, every six months, 2 – 4.30 pm)

Notes from the bookstall



In this issue of the Norfolk Ancestor I have looked at books, DVDs and CDs on the market town of Wymondham. All the prices include postage within the UK.

A Wymondham Lad: Memories of the 1950s by Philip J Chapman – Price £9.00

Mr Chapman was born in Wymondham in 1935. He was finishing school at the start of the 1950s and this book tells of his early employment, national service, courtship and first years of marriage. Although the book is set only fifty years ago many things have changed.

The Wymondham Bridewell by Judy Hawkins Price £2.50

There has been a Bridewell in Wymondham since the early seventeenth century (possibly earlier). There is still a Bridewell which was built in the nineteenth century. This little book tells the story of the Bridewell and some of the people who worked there. There is a plan of the building dated 1865 showing the rooms.

Wymondham Born and Bred (DVD) – Price £14.00

This disc is from people who grew up in the town. It will be of great value to family historians looking back to years before, through and subsequent to the Second World War. Whether you have lived there all of your life, grew up in Wymondham and emigrated, or your family have come from there, you should enjoy hearing the stories.

Wymondham's Old Inns by Philip G Yaxley – Price £2.50

This Book gives a brief account of the ten pubs that still survive and many that have closed their doors. Until the 20th century the life of the town revolved around its pubs. In 1622 there were 33 Alehouses. A century later when the population was 3,213 there were 39 Alehouses. In the 19th century there were 30 pubs and inns. There is a map at the back which shows the position of 48 sites of drinking interest.

Wymondham Parish Gilds in the Early Sixteenth Century by Brenda Garrard – Price £8.25

The rich in a community would reduce the amount of time they spent in purgatory by leaving funds to a religious foundation to have prayers said for their souls. For the poorer majority such a legacy was not an option but membership of a religious gild was a very satisfactory alternative. The living poor would pray for the departed. The gilds also offered a daily support system for its members. This book looks at the parish gilds of Wymondham and how they fit into the community. There are a number of lists of members of gilds throughout the book.

Wymondham History of a Norfolk Market Town by Wymondham Heritage Society - Price £14.50 This is a well-illustrated book and a readable introduction to the history of Wymondham. It embraces major developments and events which have helped shape the town. The chapters are simply divided into time periods from early Wymondham to the Twentieth Century.

Wymondham: A Century Remembered by Philip Yaxley – Price £7.50 This is a book of pictures of the twentieth century from the annual show in 1909 to the first passenger train to run from Wymondham to Dereham for 30 years in 1999.

In and Around Wymondham Then and Now by Sarah Standley – Price £12.00 Another book of pictures (postcards and photographs). Each scene is depicted in its modern form and how it looked in the past.

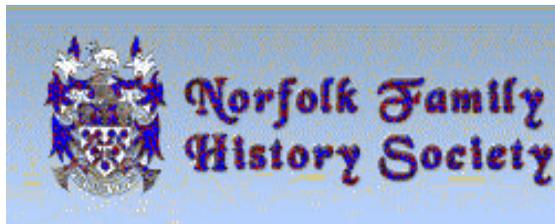
Wymondham CD – price £12.00 This is one of the popular series which gives copies of directories and poll books for Wymondham covering the period from 1769 to 1935. Please note there are no parish registers on these CDs.

*Christine Aberly
Bookstall Manager*

BOOK REVIEW

The Book of HEMPSTALL: A Treasure Trove of History by Maureen Cubitt, £19.99 Inc UK Postage £25.50 Overseas £35.00 This is the story of Hempstall, in South Norfolk and the Hundred of Depwade, written by Maureen Cubitt, nee Stammers, whose family has been at the heart of the village since 1841. If you have any family or connection with this area it is a must have addition to your bookshelves. To call the book a treasure trove of history is almost an understatement. The research that has gone into the writing of this edition of the Halsgrove 'Book of' series is tremendous and as for the quality, variety and sheer number of pictures I can only say 'amazing'. I loved the book and I can highly recommend it to you, even if you are not closely involved with Hempstall.

Susan Roberts, MN1182



WEBSITE
www.norfolkfhs.org.uk

CHECK IT OUT

	Price	Price inc UK P&P	Price inc overseas P&P
Our Publications			
Marriage Licence Bonds	£8.00	£9.00	£10.00
General Publications - Books			
BLAKENEY Glaven Historian Vol 11 includes Henry Tyrell Shipbuilder and the mysteries of STIFFKEY churchyard	£8.50	£10.50	£13.00
The Churchyard Memorials of St Nicholas Church, Blakeney Part 1 The East Ground by the History Centre Blakeney	£6.50	£8.25	£11.00
The Book of BLOFIELD and HEMBLINGTON by Barbara Pilch	£19.99	£25.50	£35.00
COSTESSEY Hall ; The Jerningham Family by Ernest G Gage	£7.50	£8.25	£11.25
The Book of HEMPNALL A Treasure Trove of History by Maureen P Cubitt	£19.99	£25.50	£35.00
Another Look Back at LYNN 1940s to 1970s by Bob Booth	11.99	£14.50	16.50
The Siege of KINGS LYNN 1643 edited by Susan Yaxley	£2.50	£3.50	4.50
Non-Conformist Registers MATTISHALL & DEREHAM Congregational 1772-1837 and MATTISHALL & WATTON Primitive Methodist 1832-1837	£5.00	£6.50	7.50
A History of the Assembly House, NORWICH by Andrew Stephenson	£4.95	£6.50	7.50
REEDHAM Memories by Sheila Hutchinson	£7.50	£9.00	11.50
The Mill House and Thereabouts , Recollections of an idyllic childhood in SPROWSTON Norfolk by Herbert C Harrison	£5.95	£7.50	10.00
STANFORD with STURSTON 1699-1837 (20 pages)	£2.50	£3.50	£4.50
TILNEY ALL SAINTS in Living Memory by June Mitchell	£6.99	£9.00	11.00
WYMONDHAM'S Old Inns	£1.75	£2.50	3.50
The WYMONDHAM Bridewell	£1.75	£2.50	2.50
GREAT YARMOUTH & GORLESTON The Twentieth Century 1900-1999 by Colin Tooke	£8.99	£11.00	13.00
The Rows and the Old Town of GREAT YARMOUTH	£5.99	£7.50	9.50
Silent Sentinels The Story of Norfolk's fixed defences during the twentieth century by Christopher Bird	£7.50	£9.00	11.00

Diary of an Optimist by Mary Barnard	£6.95	£8.50	10.50
Henry Despenser the Fighting Bishop A new view of an extraordinary medieval prelate by Richard Allington-Smith	£8.50	£10.00	12.00
The Boy at Willows End , A story based on true life by Frank Wrigley	£7.50	£9.00	11.00
The Lawless Coast , Smuggling, Anarchy and Murder in North Norfolk in the 1780s by Neil Holmes	£10.50	£12.00	14.00
Changing Agriculture in Georgian and Victorian Norfolk by Susanna Wade Martins	£8.95	£10.50	12.50
Norfolk Maritime Heroes and Legends by Mark Nicholls	£13.95	£15.50	17.50
The Lower Bure from Great Yarmouth to Upton by Sheila Hutchinson	£9.00	£10.50	12.50

General Publications - Maps

Fadens Map of Norfolk 1797	£7.95	£10.00	£14.00
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General publications - CDs

BLAKENEY Glaven Historian Vol 1-5, includes Wiveton Memorial inscriptions, the Blakeney Disaster of 1861 and ships of Blakeney	£10.00	£11.00	£12.00
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A Short Historical Guide to the Ancient Village of CASTLEACRE by H J Dukinfield Astley 1913	£4.45	£6.00	£7.00
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Parish Registers of NORTH ELMHAM	£11.45	£13.00	£14.00
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EMNETH St Edmund and the Parochial Cemetery - Memorial Inscriptions and Burial Register 1918-1980 bt Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
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History of the Parish of HEIGHAM by Walter Rye 1917	£7.45	£10.00	£11.75
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NORWICH Poll Book 1830	£8.45	£11.00	£12.75
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A Comprehensive History of NORWICH by A D Bayne - 1869	£8.45	£10.00	£11.75
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Marriages at NORWICH Cathedral 1697-1754 transcribed by T R Tallack & Frederic Johnson 1902	£8.45	£10.00	£11.75
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OUTWELL St Clement & the Parochial Cemetery - Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
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St James Church RUNCTON HOLME Memorial Inscriptions	£3.50	£4.50	£5.50
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The Registers of SIDESTRAND (1558-1858)	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00
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The Parishes and People TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT & ST JOHN -St Clement PR Transcripts 1900-1924; St John PR Transcripts 1538-1750 plus other details by Fenland Family History Society	£8.00	£9.00	£10.00
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TILNEY CUM ISLINGTON and ALL SAINTS

Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£8.00	£9.00	£10.00
UPWELL St Peter Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
UPWELL Parochial Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
UPWELL The Parish and Its People, includes memorial inscriptions for St Peter and the parochial cemetery and details of the Baptist church by Fenland Family History Society	£17.25	£18.25	£19.25
WALPOLE ST ANDREW Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
WALSOKEN ALL SAINTS and the parochial cemetery Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
WALSOKEN ALL SAINTS Baptisms 1850-1966; marriages 1868-1996 by Fenland Family History Society	£20.50	£21.50	£22.50
WEST WALTON St Mary the Virgin and the Parochial Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
WIGGENHALL St Mary and St Peter Memorial Inscriptions by Fenland Family History Society	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00
Norfolk Marriage Registers Volume One edited by WPW Phillimore and Frederic Johnson	£8.45	£11.00	£12.75
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk 1858 Post Office Directory	£17.45	£18.50	£19.50
Kellys 1937 Directory of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	£12.95	£14.00	£15.00
Pigot's Norfolk 1830 Trade Directory	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00
Norfolk 1888 Post Office Directory	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00
Pigot's Directory of Norfolk and Suffolk 1830	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00
Norfolk Poll Book 1768	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00
Norfolk Poll Book 1806	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00
Norfolk Poll Book 1817	£9.95	£11.00	£12.00

General publications - DVDs

For Remembrance

A DVD to record in perpetuity the Memorials to the Fallen, Rolls of Honour and Those Who Served Their Country from NORTH WALSHAM & District and The Paston School in The Great War 1914-1918 and The Second World War 1939-1945

£8.50 £9.50 £10.50

WYMONDHAM Born and Bred: Personal

Recollections of the Town and District

£12.95 £14.00 £15.00

The Winter of '47 A countdown to Disaster

£20.00 £21.00 £22.00

PROJECTS - Edmund Perry

The Trustees express their gratitude to members who continue to send in Parish Register Transcripts, Monumental Inscriptions, Family Trees and other contributions to Kirby Hall Library. No PRTs have been printed recently because we have concentrated on tidying up and alpha sorting electronic versions (see Website for new Listing); plus keeping records of transcribers' work and listing differences between the printed and the electronic versions. This has enabled us to plan for the future in terms of workload and priorities.

One suggestion has been to cease printing PRTs for the Library shelves since all new ones are now available on the computers, in both Chronological and Alphabetical versions. However, the Trustees feel that many visitors will continue to want to examine a printed version rather than just view on screen. This will be a mammoth task since we have identified 450 separate BMBB transcripts covering 165 Parishes which exist electronically but haven't been printed, bound, labelled. Many are short additions to existing transcripts and need to be integrated; others are new but unfinished; a few are complete. We intend to work through the list alphabetically.

The other side of the coin is to turn all the printed transcripts into standardised electronic versions using the BMBB templates. Many of the older versions were typed in a different format and do not lend themselves to being scanned even in OCR, so they require copy-typing onto Excel spreadsheets. Again these can be numbered in the hundreds so it will be a long process.

The Trustees are committed to the FRONTIS program as an addition to the NFHS Website for the searching of PRTs. This exists, with twenty Parishes uploaded, and continues to be tested. Several 'glitches' have come to light, most notably the ability of users to access a complete transcript by clicking on the View Data icons. The original intention was for Members to be able to do a search on SURNAME only and receive information such as the village; dates (Baptism, Burial, Marriage); parents and spouses names; ages; profession, etc. similar to Ancestry, Findmypast and FreeReg – none of which allow access to the original transcript. We are using a database of PRT electronic spreadsheets provided by transcribers over the past forty years. It was never our intention to allow these to be viewed in their entirety on screen and be copied/downloaded. The researcher can type in a name – Robert YOUNG – and will be presented with a list of the villages where this name occurs; how many times and whether BMBB. By clicking on the View Data for each village all the relevant entries can be checked, copied and printed but the whole transcript; (i.e. all the Baptisms or Burials 1538-1900) will not be available. At least that is the aim but we have a way to go yet. Hopefully in September each Member will be given an ID and password for access. After that we will gradually upload the hundreds of transcripts to the new Website.

FAMILY TREE APPEAL

The NFHS requests FAMILY TREES (even if incomplete) to add to its large collection. These have proved very helpful to other members. Since the last Ancestor Family Trees in respect of the following names have been received and lodged at Kirby Hall. A number of other contributions are currently being processed.

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>AREA</u>
ALLEN	Norwich to Yorkshire
BAKER	Weston Longville, Norwich, London
BATLEY	Hainford, Horsham St. Faiths
BUSH	Hingham, Dereham area, Wymondham area
CLAPHAM	Norwich
COPEMAN	Norwich, Little Melton to Australia
CROWE	Saham Toney, Aylsham
CURRY	Downham Market, Feltwell, Croydon, London
GREEN	Grimston, Dersingham, King's Lynn
HEROD	Stockton, Gt. Yarmouth, Norwich
KIDD	Horsham St. Faiths, Rackheath, Gunthorpe, etc.
KIRBY	Cromer, Norwich
LYON	Norwich, Hull
NELSON	Colkirk, King's Lynn
NELSON/ SOMERSET/ TRIBE	Burnham Thorpe
SPARROW	Walpole, Thorpe Abbots
TILLS	Hardingham
WOOR	KirbyCane

Areas shown indicate where the earliest generations or main concentrations of the family occurred.

Attention of Members submitting a Family Tree is drawn to Copyright Law.

Family Tree compilers are not restricted to any particular format. However the **FAMILY NAME** under which the Tree should be recorded must be emphasised.

Members' full postal address and Membership Number must always be included.

Full details can be found on our website.

Pam Bridge Family Tree Co-ordinator MN3292



BRANCH REPORTS

Correspondence about individual branches and meetings should be addressed to the following branch organisers

East Norfolk: Mrs Patricia Wills-Jones, Email: patricia.willsjones@btinternet.com

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

West Norfolk: Mrs Brenda Leedell, Email: kqbj@dell4277.plus.com

Norwich: Mr and Mrs Jim Barwick, Mr and Mrs Roger Peck

London: Miss Mary Seeley, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Rd,
London N16 8SB E-mail: mary975@btinternet.com (home) and
ms28@soas.ac.uk (work)

East Norfolk Branch Report – Patricia Wills-Jones and Susan Roberts



In March, talk on Life in the Great Yarmouth Workhouse, was actually about one inmate and her extraordinary 'sampler'. Whilst resident in the female lunatic ward at the Workhouse, Lorina Bulwer created her 'letter' about 1900. It measures 12' x 1' and takes the form of one long, unpunctuated rant, entirely in upper case. It is made from colourful scraps of, mainly cotton, material and it is thought she worked 3 lines a day. She is furious at finding herself in the workhouse with no rights, and labelled a lunatic. All she would have of her own would have been her clothes and they would be the same uniform as every other resident. Lorina was born in Beccles in 1838 to William John & Ann nee Turner. Having heard so much about the contents of the 'letter' we could only speculate how this unmarried middle aged woman ended up in such circumstances. Was she 'mad' or did her sister and sister-in-law cheat her of her inheritance by putting her away from the world as she claimed. Did she become disturbed and bitter when taken from a caring, quiet home life when her mother died and placed in a large, noisy, crowded environment. We were left with so much to think about and a desire to find out more about this troubled soul.

Susan was as good as her word because within days she had researched and drawn up Lorina Bulwer's family treewhich is equally as fascinating as the original talk.

Our speaker **for April** was Dick Rayner. About to retire from BT some years ago, Dick said he was looking forward to doing nothing for the rest of his life, and went off to the pub. Over a pint he met someone researching military

history and by the time he had left the pub he was hooked. The talk he gave us reflected aspects of his addiction. Dick took us through various slides of memorials at home and abroad, sparking a debate along the way which lasted long after he had left.



Norwich Branch Report – Roy Scott

The February meeting was chaired by me due to the absence of Barbara Walker, through illness and the members present wished to convey their best wishes to her.

The well attended meeting was advised of changes to the March meeting to enable members to receive advice on the workings of the recently installed indexes on the Society's computers.

The meeting was then entertained by Mr Charles Lewis who gave a talk and slide show on the numerous, beautiful Georgian buildings still surviving in Norwich and relayed some information about the men who built them.

In March Norwich Branch members were reminded how lucky they are to live within close proximity of Kirby Hall Library, where the electronic spreadsheets of the parish register transcripts are now accessible via the Kirby Hall computers plus a Surname Index as well as free access to Ancestry and Findmypast. Edmund Perry and Malcolm Cole-Wilkin, who have spent many hours preparing the registers and the Index, demonstrated how much easier it is to search the very large and fast growing collections using the computers. I have been researching family history for many years and in many places, but a recent morning session on a Kirby Hall computer proved to be very fruitful. There is no suggestion that indexes or even transcripts can replace looking at the original document but sometimes they give you a clue as to where to look. We were also told that those unable to visit Kirby Hall should not despair because plans are progressing to make the indexes available to members only via the web site.

At the **April meeting**, the new branch organisers Jim & Maureen Barwick and Brenda & Roger Peck introduced themselves before proceeding to conduct the meeting with skill and enthusiasm.

They gave an assurance that Kirby Hall Library will be open for research from 4pm on the afternoon before each Norwich branch meeting and they urged members attending to take advantage of an early start.

Neil Storey's entertaining talk gave members added insight and revealed hidden meanings in an array of projected photographs depicting various tradesmen at their Norfolk premises. His friendly competent style lead to a lively evening with the added bonus of the 30 plus members present giving Barbara Walker a standing ovation when she made a surprise return to the audience after her recent illness.



South Norfolk Branch Report - Laraine Hake

February

This meeting had to be cancelled because of the unexpected snow that fell on South Norfolk, with more predicted that evening!

March The History of Barometers by Mr. Patrick Marney.



Early Stick barometers.

Patrick took us on a journey in time through the barometer's early development as a scientific instrument in the mid 1600s by Torricellian in Italy to its use as a domestic one in the Victorian era. The early instruments in this country in the late 1600s used a thin glass tube which held mercury in an upright position against a mounted scale. By the early 1700s they were often made with the finest walnut mountings and styled in a similar way to long case clocks of the same period. Always they were made by the finest craftsmen and this was reflected in the price! By 1780 Italian immigrants, who were skilled glass blowers, produced 'bulb' tubes making it possible to make a much more affordable barometer. Pine carcasses and mahogany veneers were also used to cheapen the

instruments. Into the mid Victorian age it became fashionable for professionals such as doctors, dentist and ships chandlers to purchase them and have their own commercial trading name added.

Barometers have taken on many forms, shapes and styles over the years. The Wheel barometer has a dial read-out on the front and is shaped like a banjo. Dial read-outs went from Rain – Fair – Dry – Very Dry. All were influenced by the fashions of their era in the casings used and the decorations added such as inlays of mother of pearl and ivory. As time progressed thermometers, hygrometers, levels and clocks were all combined with the barometers.

Aneroid barometers were developed in the mid 1800s by Lucien Vidi who brought his idea to England due to the lack of interest in his native France. This new method of recording atmospheric pressure was not based on the traditional, but fragile, glass tube of mercury so was particularly useful for seafarers. 'Aneroid' literally means 'without liquid' as the actual method used is an expansion / contraction vacuum bulb which provides a read out on a dial like the wheel barometer.

When Patrick Marney was a small boy he enjoyed working in his father's workshop and followed him in to the same industry. He has been privileged to work with many fine craftsmen over the years, learning their skills as well. Now he works with museums and National Trust properties restoring and repairing instruments just as his father did. He is one of the fortunate few whose hobby is also his work and the love of his craft shone through.



Wheel barometers.

For further information visit Patrick's website: <http://www.patrickmarney.co.uk/>

April

We saw the return of Jim Lees, who specialises in Military Research, who gave us an excellent talk as a continuation and follow-up to our meeting in November, guiding us in the identification of military items from photographs. Using examples of pictures and postcards from Jim's own collection, we were given lots of ideas. Previously we had looked at the badges and insignia on the uniforms but now we were also reminded that type of photograph, name and address of the photographer and a good look at the background or area in which the photograph was taken can all be used as an aid to pinpoint the date and location in which the photograph was taken; a photograph of a military band, when enlarged considerably, showed a man in a turban in the background, indicating that the unit was likely to have been stationed in India at that time.

Once again we were fascinated and amazed by Jim's knowledge and ability to recognise and analyse badges to identify the regiments, following this up by

looking at the war records and diaries of the battalions involved. He had managed to identify some individuals by name from the medals on his chest, using them to research further.

We moved from WW1 to between the wars, into WW2 and further, ending with two particular photographs. One photograph, of two members of The Life Guards, was of father and son. The other showed the Band of the 1st Royal Dragoons in Germany in 1968. The very upright drummer boy was Jim Lees himself, in 1968!

It can truly be said that we had been shown examples of the detective aspect of family history taken to the extreme – it was inspiring!



West Norfolk Branch report - Brenda Leedell

In February we welcomed Neil Storey once again who came over to talk to us about Norfolk at War, specifically WW1 and the run up to. Lessons had been learned from the Boer War and after the Esher Report in 1904 there was a radical reorganisation of the army. At the outbreak of war the Norfolk Regiment Territorials were prepared and ready and mustered in Dereham ready for action. Recruitment was initially brisk but increased greatly after the harvest was in. The Defence of the Realm Act greatly affected rural East Anglia as horses and wagons were commandeered for the war effort. Neil's evocative photographs illustrated the effect the war had on the people and landscape of Norfolk, together with Neil's usual humorous anecdotes and observations made for an interesting and informative evening.

March - Dr Paul Richards, historian and author of several books on King's Lynn is so well known locally that it ensured our biggest turnout for sometime. He discussed the Bagge, Everard, Hogg and Browne families, the major players in the economy of King's Lynn from around 1700. These were the brewers, bankers and merchants in which was then a major port. As usual, Dr Richards gave us an interesting talk evoking the sounds, smells and discomforts of the times.

Our April meeting was one of our regular members' evenings. The theme for the evening was "Unexpected Discoveries in the 1911 Census". There were, of course, some surprises and some discoveries, which answered some questions and raised even more. Another member asked for help researching in the Channel Islands and received a few tips from someone who had been down that road before him. Malcolm as usual provided the teas/coffees and biscuits and the evening ended on a high.



London Branch Report - Mary Seeley

The next meeting of the London Branch will be on **Saturday 17th October**, between 2 and 4 p.m., at the Society of Genealogists. Gill Blanchard of PastSearch will be giving a talk on agricultural labourers, the movement off the land and sources where such information can be found (with particular emphasis on the 19th century). This promises to be a fascinating presentation, developing some of the themes we discussed at our last Members' Day.

The Members' Day was held on 7th March, and was a great success. Fifteen people attended to hear a selection of talks and presentations from members of the Society on the theme of migration and emigration.

Marion Attew opened the programme with a vivid account of her great-grandmother's sisters, who emigrated to Tasmania in 1862. Elizabeth BYE, her husband, Henry, and sister Harriet MACROW followed in the footsteps of a cousin, Judd MACROW, who had left England in 1857. Their emigration was facilitated by a government scheme to assist those affected by the mid-19th century agricultural depression. So many people from East Anglia settled in that part of Tasmania that it became known as Norfolk Creek. Marion illustrated her talk with a selection of documents and she read from copies of letters to and from the sisters and their mother, who had remained in Norfolk.

On a lighter note, **Alan Fisk** looked at the migration of East Anglian expressions into North American speech - a process that had been going on since the first settlers crossed the Atlantic in the 17th century. Alan's cinematic example showed how a typical "Western" would have been packed full of phrases of East Anglian origin - a deck of cards, varmint, chow (for food), dough (for money) ... and even a cowboy was originally an East Anglian cowherder. The archetypal "Southern drawl" also bears a marked resemblance to an East Anglian pronunciation - with long vowel sounds and adopted words such as "sassy" - originally "saucy".

Mary Grisdale's talk was on a family's journey from Norfolk to London - her "Broad Fields and Long Alleys" is the fruit of 35 years of research into her BRADFIELD ancestors. Benjamin BRADFIELD was born in Norfolk in 1772, but had moved to London by 1795, when he married Sarah ONIONS at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The family later lived in Long Alley, near where Broad Street Station now is. Mary told us how 19th century BRADFIELDS found fame as music-hall artistes.

Les Crome took us further afield again with his account of the life of Robert CROME from Norwich, who enlisted in the army of the East India Company in 1792 and served in the army of the Madras Presidency for his entire career. In 1808, Robert married Mary LOVELL, a “native” of Sri Lanka - LOVELL probably being the name of the missionary who baptised her. Robert was tragically killed in action in 1817 in the East India Company’s skirmish with the ruler of the Marathi State, but his descendents remained in India, largely as army musicians. Their story provided a vivid insight into the life of the Anglo-Indian community in the 18th and early 19th centuries and their changing fortunes under the Raj.

Robert Clinton had some stories with New World connections that began with John MURRAY an 18th century naval surgeon, who retrained as a physician and left his native Scotland to marry a Norfolk woman, Mary BOYLES in 1752 and settle in Wells-next-the-Sea. John’s sister, Elizabeth had emigrated to Boston, where she was “in trade”, and his daughters went to America to be apprenticed to their aunt. Elizabeth BOYLE married into the WHEATEN family, who were important members of Maryland and New York City society - but she and her husband made the daunting trans-Atlantic voyage to visit the BOYLE family and for the children to be baptised in Norwich. Robert also intrigued us with the story of a Georgian silver sugar basket, belonging to the BOYLE family that had also crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic.

Geoffrey Kirk gave another reason for migration when he told us about his grandfather, who was born in Bintry, near East Dereham and was apprenticed as a carpenter - however, in 1890, he was working further afield for a firm of French construction engineers in Chartres.

Jessica Skipton concluded with a brief talk that tied neatly in with our future programme in October - reasons for migration and emigration - “Did they jump or were they pushed”. Many factors conspired to encourage or drive people to leave their homes - whether to seek work in another county or trade, or perhaps try their luck in the metropolis of London or even on the other side of the world. Her ancestors chose the latter option and went to New York. Jessica has written a report on this for an Open University course, and kindly provided copies for some of us to take away.

This was a memorable afternoon, full of fascinating stories and intriguing facts. I would like once more to thank everyone who contributed and who helped make this day such a success.

Norfolk Record Office report for the *Norfolk Ancestor*

New Parish Register Accessions 16 January – 16 April 2009

Arminghall	baptisms	1813-2007
	burials	1813-2007
Barton Turf	marriages	1998-2008
Bodney	banns	1823-1958, 1968-1980, 2000
Didlington	banns	1824-1955, 1966, 1979-1992
Ellingham	marriages	1994-2004
Gillingham	marriages	1994-2007
Hemblington	marriages	1968-2003
Kessingland	marriages	1984-1994
	banns	1953-1986
Rockland St Mary	marriages	1990-2006
Surlingham	marriages	1997-2008
Swannington	marriages	1838-2008
Warham All Saints	banns	1824-1883, 1893-1894, 1913, 1926-2000
Welborne	marriages	1981-2008
Worthing	baptisms	1813-2005
	marriages	1837-1917, 1929-2005
	burials	1814-2005

Exhibitions at The Archive Centre

Our next exhibition will be on the theme of childhood between 1860 and 1918. Jointly produced by the Record Office and the East Anglian Film Archive, this display aims to bring alive a sense of childhood during this period by featuring local archive films and photographs, as well as artefacts from the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service. The exhibition will run from early June until the end of August. It will be followed in September by *Norwich Pattern Books: a Preservation Project. Interwoven Evidence of a vibrant eighteenth-century Textile Industry.*

Lunchtime Talks

We will be holding the following lunchtime talks in the Green Room at The Archive Centre between 1 – 1.45 p.m:

Thursday, 4 June	<i>Crime and Misdemeanour in the late fourteenth-century Great Yarmouth</i> , by Janka Rodziewicz
Tuesday, 16 June	<i>Commoners and Kings – 1,000 years of refugees in Norfolk</i> , by Frank Meeres, as part of Refugee Week
Thursday, 18 June	<i>'A Welcome without Reservation'? Norfolk and the Hungarian Diaspora of 1956</i> , by Clive Wilkins-Jones, as part of Refugee Week

Tuesday, 7 July	<i>Lifting the lid: an insight into the work of conservators and archivists</i> , by Lucy Purvis and Nick Sellwood
Tuesday, 21 July	<i>The work of the Norfolk Sound Archive: learning from the British Library</i> , by Jonathan Draper

Saturday Workshops at the Norfolk Record Office

We will be holding workshops at the Record Office on the second Saturday of each month, looking at topics of local interest and at the archives that support them. The normal pattern will be a two-hour session in the Record Office, followed by a break for lunch and then a 90-minute walk or outing to illustrate the themes of the morning (this pattern may vary on occasion). Each workshop begins at 10.00 a.m. and costs £10. Bookings can be made by contacting the Norfolk Record Office.

Saturday, 13 June *Tom Paine, born in Thetford, Citizen of the World*

In the week of the 200th anniversary of the death of Thomas Paine, learn about him and his importance - and why President Obama quoted from this Norfolk-born man during his inaugural speech! The afternoon walk will be in Thetford.

Saturday, 11 July *Learning about Lakenham*

Each Norwich suburb has its own fascinating history, which we will investigate using the archives of the Record Office, beginning with the Office's home environment - Lakenham.

Saturday, 8 August *Norwich and its Rivers*

A workshop looking at the importance of the rivers in the development of the city, followed by an 'archival' river walk, looking at Norwich from a different viewpoint.

Saturday, 12 September *A Walk through time in Whitlingham*

A look at the history of the area around Whitlingham, Norwich's own country park, followed by a walk down Whitlingham Lane.

Saturday, 10 October *Thinking about Thorpe Hamlet*

Discover more about the history of the Hamlet, have a look at maps and the other kinds of resources you can use to take on further research for yourself - if you want to!

Saturday, 14 November *Norfolk in Two World Wars*

Following Armistice Day we look at how the county has been affected by two World Wars and the archival sources for people interested in learning more about events that affected every family.

Saturday, 12 December *Norwich and the Reformation*

Why does Norwich have so many churches? What is the difference between a monk and a friar and why does it matter to our understanding of today's city? What does today's city tell us about its explosive sixteenth-century past? Come along and find out.

Gateways to the Past – Evening Classes at the Norfolk Record Office

These new courses look at the history of our county, and at the archival sources that bring this history to life. The courses are for everyone, whether you are a newcomer to Norfolk or have lived here all your life. The three courses each run for ten weeks, from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Occasional sessions will be 'in the field' rather than at The Archive Centre. Price: £70 per ten-week term. Bookings can be made by contacting the Norfolk Record Office.

Village and Town

Ten sessions, starting Wednesday, 27 May 2009

Whether you are interested in a particular house or community, or you want to add enjoyment to walks in Norfolk by learning more about the history of the county, its churches and its buildings, this is the course for you.

Landscape, Climate and People: Continuity and Change

Ten sessions, starting Wednesday, 16 September 2009

A look at the archival sources that can be used to examine changes in the environment, landscape and climate of the county over more than a thousand years.

Citizens!

Ten sessions, starting Wednesday, 13 January 2010

Rights and duties of individuals, differences in attitudes over the ages to crimes and the way they are punished, and the struggle for the right to vote, are just some of the themes we look at as we try to understand what it has meant to be a 'citizen' in Norfolk in the past, and what it means today.

Norwich, City of Refuge: a walk

Conducted by Frank Meeres on Monday, 15 June, 2.00 p.m.-3.30 p.m.

A ninety-minute walk through the centre of Norwich, looking at the lasting impact made on the city landscape and environment by refugees over many hundreds of years. Norwich has many fascinating stories to tell about refugees in its past: come along and learn about them. The walk will start at the Erpingham Gate, at Norwich Cathedral Close, and will finish at Norwich Roman Catholic Cathedral. This is a family-friendly event, and people of all ages are welcome. Places are limited, so please book on (01603) 222677. The walk is free of charge.

AN UNREMARKABLE MAN – AN EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY

My husband's maternal grandfather, Ernest Charles STURMAN died on 3rd November, 1993, New Costessey. He was born on 15th May, 1900 at Gomshall, Surrey. During the time I was fortunate to know this lovely, gentle, man, I discussed my interest in family history with him and his wife. Neither were personally very interested, making the research of this branch of my husband's family quite difficult and a long term project.

Easy enough to discover was that Ernest Charles STURMAN of Goose Green, Gomshall, Surrey, married Lilian Ida STURMAN of 49 Green Avenue, Ealing on 19th February, 1928 at St. Paul's, Ealing, Middlesex. Their fathers' were William STURMAN and Edwin Godfrey STURMAN respectively. Ernest Charles was a builder, William a cowman, and Edwin Godfrey a park keeper. Ernest and Lilian had twins – Dorothy Jean and Douglas Godfrey - on 30th June, 1932, at Kingswood Cottage, Gomshall. Lilian's health had never been good, so her father, deciding that a home 'over a cowshed' was no place to raise children, loaned the couple money to purchase 62, Woking Road, Guildford. Dorothy and Douglas each married and had one child. Douglas stayed in Guildford; Dorothy eventually moved to New Costessey, Norwich. This seems a totally unremarkable family situation.

Lilian told me about her much beloved brothers who served in the Royal Navy during two World Wars; that her own mother died when she was only eleven years old, and that she then had a step-mother who she greatly disliked, to the point that she actually ran away from home. The Sturman family, she said, came from the Norfolk/Suffolk border. She remembered visiting family at Bungay in Suffolk. Generations of this family can be found in Geldeston, Gillingham, Stockton and Bunwell in Norfolk. A family tree leads me directly back to John STURMAN of Bunwell (1724-1793) and his wife Alice RICHES, with a possibility that John was the son of Daniel STURMAN and his wife Elizabeth who died 1752 and 1739 respectively.

The problem was that Ernest Charles STURMAN never had a birth certificate; he did not know his date of birth, believing he was born in 1901. He was born to an unmarried woman, who 'did not want him', and was fostered by William Harrison STURMAN and his wife Emma (JONES) who had married at St. Andrew, Kingswood, Surrey on 18th October, 1881.

William Harrison, (Harry), was born in Alconbury, Huntingdonshire. It was William and Emma who Ernest Charles considered to be his parents. I was left wondering how a small child could end up in the care of 'foster parents' with the same name.

The obvious solution was that there was a family link; maybe a sister, niece or other relation had found themselves in trouble and the baby had been

kept in the family. I researched the Huntingdonshire family, and the possibility of a link with the Norfolk families, without success.

I had a letter in my possession from 'THE HAVEN FOR HOMELESS LITTLE ONES', Castle House, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, stating that the home was pleased that Mrs. Emma Sturman was willing to continue to look after the child and the mother was apparently helping towards his upkeep. There were three very sad letters from a C.E. Sturman or E. Sturman asking how 'Ernie' was, enclosing or promising money and talking about visiting him because she missed him and often thought of him. Finally there was a bill dated November 15th 1900 for 10/6 for Professional Attendance to Mrs. Sturman of Margery Farm for the 1st half year of 1900, which was apparently a doctor's bill, because Ernest Charles was a delicate baby.

I searched the birth registers at St. Catherine's House, for both Charles Ernest and Ernest Charles Sturman. Despite his insistence that he was born in May 1901, I looked in 1900 too. Still no luck! I think he was secretly relieved! He was convinced that a birth certificate did not exist and I had proved him right. Had we found the information prior to his death I probably wouldn't have told him, because he did not want to know.

Nearly thirteen years after Ernest Charles Sturman died, we spent a day at the NRO investigating the Sturman family previously mentioned and hoping for the link to Ernest Charles along the way. Towards the end of our visit we took one last look at the entry in the 1901 Census for William and Emma Sturman of Kingswood, Surrey and there was Ernest STEARMAN, 10 months, a boarder born in Stafford, London!

Later at home, we instantly accessed FREEBMD and there he was! His birth certificate duly arrived; he was the son of Matilda Clara STEARMAN a general servant, born 16th May 1900 at Ely House, the Union Workhouse, Stratford, West Ham. He was a cockney. We told his daughter our great news; she then told us that he said he was a cockney, but that she had never believed him!

Further checking produced the birth certificate of Matilda Clara STEARMAN. She was born 8th February, 1878 at 3, Yardley St., Preston, Shoreham, to William George STEARMAN and Matilda (MILLER). William married Matilda on 20th June 1874 at Preston, Sussex, William George being the son of William Stephen STEARMAN a boot maker. Matilda Clara's mother died on 4th November 1882 at 24 York Road, Brighton, aged just 28, of emphysema 7 weeks and asphyxia. The 1881 census showed this family living at 15, Campbell Road, Preston, Brighton, with their sons George, William, Charles and Frederick, but no Matilda Clara. However a Maria STEARMAN, granddaughter aged 2 was found living with Stenning and Jane MILLER, the parents of Matilda STEARMAN (MILLER), at Brighton.

William S. STEARMAN, son of George STEARMAN, both shoemakers, married Ann TERRY at St. Nicholas Church, Brighton, 22nd December 1852, In 1871 they had seven children living with them aged from 17 years to 9 months. Having found this Sussex family, I assumed that this was where I would find the STEARMANs, the name was similar to STURMAN, but came from a different part of the country, or did it? According to the 1871 census William S. STEARMAN was born c1826 in Norwich, Norfolk! His death certificate names him as William Stephen STEARMAN, who died on 2nd September 1882, of cirrhosis of the liver 1 year and atrophy 6 months, a commercial traveller aged 55 of 107 Clarendon Road, Hove, Sussex. Ann survived him by almost 30 years.

About this time I joined the Sussex Family History Society and gave my interests as STEARMAN, MILLER and other related names. I received a solitary reply from a fellow researcher whose wife had direct links to the same family, but had never heard of Matilda Clara. He told me of his research which included the Norfolk family. William Stephen STEARMAN was the son of George STEARMAN and Rhoda WOODCOCK. In 1851 Census George STEARMAN aged 49 a cordwainer, born at Aylsham, Norfolk and his wife Rhoda aged 59 born at St. Faiths, Norfolk were living at 102 White Friars Street, St. Martins at Palace, Norwich, with their children William, Eliza, Rhoda and Rachel, all born in Norwich.

The Aylsham registers revealed George STEARMAN to be the son of James STEARMAN and Ann (BARNES), baptised on 6th November 1801. Other children found were William (1797), James (1799), Francis (1803), Francis (1805), Margaret Ann ((1807) and Robert (1809). This at last brought me to where I had expected to be, the linking of the STEARMAN and STURMAN/STERMAN/STIRMAN spellings of the name. Between 1758 – 1776 John STEARMAN/STIRMAN and his wife Martha (MEAKE) married 22nd July, 1758 at Aylsham and six children were baptised, Stephen (1758) Thomas (1760), Bridget (1764), John (1768) our James (1772) and Ann (1776). This is however where the Aylsham entries stopped.

Previously I had found Blickling, Norfolk mentioned in connection with the marriage of Stephen STEARMAN, singleman of Blickling to Ann OLLEY of Aylsham by licence 29th July, 1730 at St. Mary Coslany, Norwich. Here I found a family of seven children born to this couple, almost certainly our John (1731), Bidy (1733), Sarah (1738), Thomas (1741), James (1744), Stephen (1749) and Ann (1752). I also found the burials of 'the wife of Stephen STEARMAN' 4th March, 1759 and Stephen himself on 17th August 1785.

It has taken me a very long time to trace this particular family and it is very unlikely that I will ever trace Ernest Charles STEARMAN's father, but I thought that about his mother for almost twenty years so I am not going to

give up just yet! With a little help and a lot of luck I have managed what I thought would be impossible research and now have a family tree covering seven generations leading up to the birth of an illegitimate child in a workhouse in West Ham, London.

Stephen STEARMAN = Ann OLLY (St Mary Coslany, Norwich 1730)

John = Martha MEAKE (Aylsham 1758)

James = Ann BARNES (Aylsham 1794)

George = Rhoda WOODCOCK

William Stephen = Ann TERRY (Brighton, 1852)

William George = Matilda MILLER (Preston 1874)

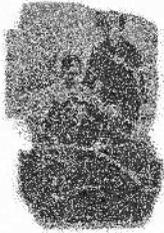
Matilda Clara

Ernest Charles = Lilian Ida STURMAN (Ealing 1928)

I wonder if there is anyone looking for William Stephen STEARMAN, or who perhaps has researched the STEARMAN family in Norfolk and wondered where William Stephen born c1826 could possibly have gone? Brighton, Sussex seems a very long way to go, and without some of the today's search tools, I may never have got this far.

I am left with a feeling of great sadness and pity for Matilda Clara STEARMAN. She made a mistake when becoming pregnant with her son, she was not a teenager, but about 22 years old. However, her mother died when she was just three or four and at the age of 2 she was apparently not living with her parents. Her maternal grandmother, Jane MILLER (MATTHEWS) died when she was only five, her maternal grandfather, Stenning MILLER when she was ten, and I believe she was probably living with this couple. Her paternal grandfather, William Stephen STURMAN also died when she was no more than four years old. She was in service in the 1891, a single mother separated from her child in 1901 and on 28th December, 1903 she registered her father's death. William George STEARMAN of 24 Avondale Road, Wimbledon, died on Boxing Day of Chronic Brights disease and Cerebral Haemorrhage. She was with him when he died and gave her own address as 4, Keswick Road, Putney. She apparently had no contact with her siblings, or at least very little, as the next generation knew nothing about her. We do know that she was still alive when Ernest Charles married in 1928, because his future father-in-law found her and wanted to invite her to the wedding, but Ernest Charles did not want anything to do with her and contact was lost again. Was she married? Were there other children later? It sounds to me to have been a very lonely life.

Sandra Trenor MN4364



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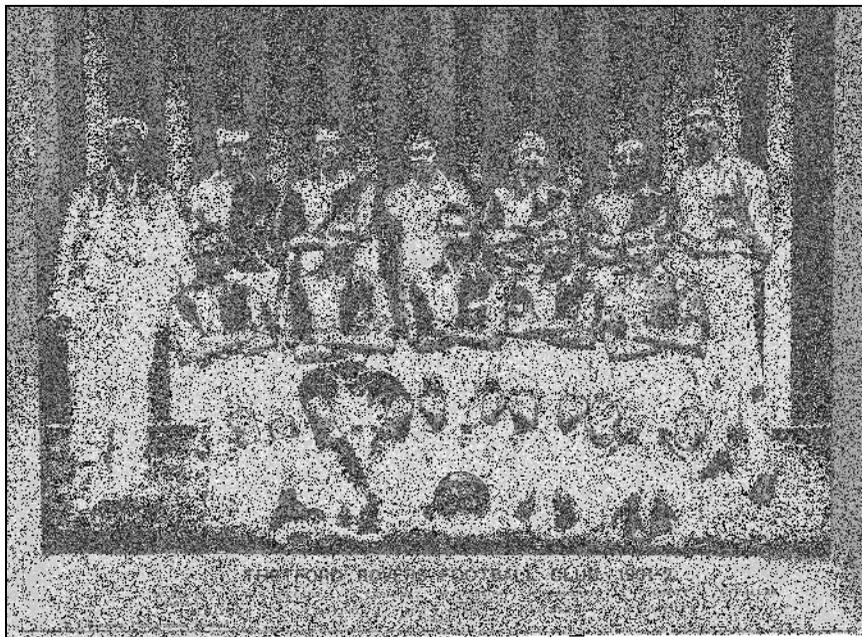
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THE THETFORD ROVERS – 1901-1902



Photographed by R.J. BANTOCK, Thetford.

I would like to introduce to you the 1901-2 Thetford Rovers Football squad. Standing in the back, from left to right, are: **W. BLICK** (Referee), **H.G. FOULGER**, **K. CRONSHEY**, **W. SPARROW** (Secretary), **H. BRADSHAW**, **G. ISSOTT**, and **W.J. ALLEN**. Sitting in the front, from left to right, are: **E. HAYLOCK**, **C.W. LING**, **E.C. TURNER** (Captain), **J. PALMER**, and **W. MONTAGUE**. They are a very dapper-looking bunch of young lads. Note that all but one player is wearing a two-tone uniform, and at least two types of crests are visible. Even though I do not know much about this photo, except what I can see visually, this is one of my favourite pictures. I thought that there may be others in the readership of the *Ancestor* who might enjoy it as well and be able to identify ancestors.

As a genealogist, I have come to greatly appreciate the power of photographs. They are not only wonderful remembrances of our own lives that we can cherish into our golden years and which will remind us of happy bygone days, but they also allow us to connect with our ancestors, some of whom we may never have met. In the above picture, the man standing on the far right is my great grandfather, William John ALLEN. I did not know him, because he passed away before I was born, but this picture gives me

a small glimpse into his life. He was a passionate football player and athlete in his youth.

Family stories say that the Rovers won a championship in this year, and that William John was offered a spot on a professional team. However, at this same time, his uncle John ALLEN, who had settled in Canada, invited him to cross the Atlantic and try his hand at farming. William John was faced with a tough choice. Should he follow his dream and continue playing football, while working in the hot, stinky iron works where he was currently apprenticed, or would he rather take up a new vocation altogether in a far-away country? He decided to go to Canada to try it out, and found the wide open spaces and clean air to be too much enticement, and so settled there. This was the start of my family line in Canada.

If anyone recognises one of their own ancestors in this picture, or knows anything about or is interested in this football club, I would love to hear from you.

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DIANA SPELMAN BA

**Norfolk Research Specialist
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Further to the article in the March 2009 Norfolk Ancestor entitled British Prisoners of war 1813 in Napoleonic France, the following two letters may shed light on the travails of a Napoleonic British prisoner of war.

Richard Lloyd, to whom the two letters are addressed, was my fifth great paternal grandfather. He was uncle to Henry Saint John, (the writer of the letters), Richard Lloyd's sister having married Thomas St. John.

In the letters, Henry St. John is appealing for money from his uncle. However, the first letter penned 6 August, 1811 (as well as the second letter the following year) was never seen by Richard Lloyd as he had been buried at Bawdeswell, Norfolk 20 April, 1811. As indicated by the second letter written in 1812 (and only delivered in 1814), Henry St. John would not have known that his uncle had passed away.

Letter from Henry St. John to Richard Lloyd

Briancon Prison In the Alps France,
6th August 1811

Honorable Sir,

I have taking the opportunity of writing Sir, Hoping to find you find you In good Health as it Leaves me at preasant, I am sorry to Inform you, I happind of this misfortune of being taking Prisoner on the fifth of May Last on the Plains of Almader, and on the 6th commenced me March for France which I arrived at Briancon Prison, on 31 of July after a very long march. I received you kind letter In, Catartia in Portugal Respecting my Mother's Death wich I amediately wrote In Return from that Place, and Likewise Sir wrote for you to Remit me the sum of five pounds which letter I did not receive before I was taking Prisoner, so by that means Sir, the Letter Remains at the Regiment, In the Hands of the Drum Major, whose name is Jones, if you'll be so kind as to remit in due time to the Regiment Sir, no doubt but the letter will be return to you Sir, I understand Sir there is a possibility of getting money from our friends in England which I shall esteem it as a great favour, Sir if you'll be so kind as to remit me the sum of Ten Pounds or Twenty Pounds, as I am in great distress for money, the money Sir can be paid into the Correspondent Bank in London, the Banker's name is Coats and Co. Strand London which they have connexion with the Bank in Paris, where I shall receive safe I have no doubt many of the Prisoners Receive their money from the Paris Bank very safe, I shall esteem it as a favour Sir if you'll Write as soon as possible Sir, I must make me self contented as well as I possibly can, till there comes an exchange of prisoners, Please Sir, to give my kind love to me Aunt and cousins.

I Remains Sir Your Dutiful Nephew

Henry St. John

P.S.

Direct to me In Briancon Prison In the Alps France

I hope Sir you'll be so kind as to remember me to Mr. And Mrs. Hicks.

The above is transcribed as written.

Second Letter from Henry St. John to Richard Lloyd

Briancon Prison Alps France June 10th, 1812

Honorable Sir,

I have now a favourable opportunity of writing you a Letter which I have often Lamented within myself being deprived of for some time, however I thank God for the Benevalence of my country in opening a communication with France, rendering to us poor unfortunate captives the liberty of once more receiving Correspondence with relations and friends - You will excuse me making any comments in my Letter only, what is particularly requisite in conjunction with my affairs as my situation in Life debars me from using too much freedom, I wish to state you my misfortune since I last wrote to you which was an answer to your letter sent me in Portugal which certified to me the decease of my mother which much affected me at the time and in return I wrote to you requesting a favour of a remittance but I have to regret that my misfortune, being deprived me of it, I suppose you perhaps may have heard of the action fought in May 1811 near Almada in Portugal on which day I unfortunately was made Prisoner of Warr, and marched from thence to this depot, On my arrival at this place at Least a short time after I fortunately upon enquire found out a Friend recolecting is name before, induced me to address myself to him and upon exchange of a Letter or two he intimated to me a recolecting your Person, at this time I was particularly distressed and wished to be informed if it was possible for me to present a Draft to you upon which he informed he would do his uttermost, consequently I gave a Dft for twenty pounds upon you last Sept. 1811 which I am anxiously waiting for _ I must confess Mr. Aufrere behaved to me as a Gentleman in relieving my distress at a time when Fortune seemed hard upon me, If this letter should meet your approbation I should wish you to allow me through the Hands of Mr. Aufrere, a sum of money annually which you would be able to do through the medium of his Banker in London, My duty to all me Friends and Relations. I shall be happy to receive a Letter from you when you find the communication is open, I remain Dear Sir

Your Affectionate Nephew

Henry St. John

The above letter was addressed to:

Richd Lloyd Esq
Bawdeswell near Norwich Norfolk
England

There is a note added below the address: "This did not arrive till April 30th 1814"

An indenture dated 12 February, 1816 reads in part, "...And whereas the said Mary Lloyd had issue by the said Thomas Saint John her first husband had children only namely Henry Saint John who afterwards became a private in the Coldstream Regiment of Guards..." and further, "...whereas the said Henry Saint John having entered into the Coldstream Regiment of Guards as herebefore stated went with his regiment on foreign service in the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen and he being then with his said Regiment marching through France departed this life in the French Hospital at Rennes in the department of Brittany in the said Kingdom of France on the eighth day of March in the said year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen a bachelor and intestate..." Quotations from EVL 19,446X3 - Norfolk Record Office

Henry found his way from Briancon prison subsequent to June 10th, 1812 only to survive another two years.

Rob Milson MN6325 – rrs@interbaun.com

Both original documents are in file PD 233/52 – Norfolk Record Office

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WILLIAM GUYTON (c 1816 –1884)
SECOND MAYOR OF WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, PART II

During William Guyton's protracted and rather obscure journey back to England, the London Gazette on 3 April 1846 published an official notice of the bankruptcy of 'George Butler Earp, of London, ship broker and emigration agent ... lately and formerly carrying on business in New Zealand ... under the firm of Ridgways, Guyton, and Earp'. Whatever the reason, the firm had clearly run into serious financial difficulties.

Back in Liverpool, July 1847 was a dramatic month for William Guyton.

On 27 July 1847 he married Sophia Guyton at St Paul's Church in Liverpool. Sophia Guyton was born in Norwich and her name and place of birth suggest that she was probably a cousin of William Guyton though the actual relationship has not yet been discovered. On their marriage certificate he was described as a merchant living in Everton.

Incredibly, on exactly the same day he was summoned to appear at 12 o'clock at the Liverpool District Court of Bankruptcy for his own bankruptcy to be heard. It is difficult to imagine two such significant events being conducted on the same day and the combined effect they must have had on the central participant. There were two further hearings and William Guyton was declared bankrupt on 17 September 1847.

What happened next remains a mystery and there is a gap of nearly four years before William Guyton re-emerges from the shadows. William and Sophia Guyton's first child, Joseph Hope Guyton, was born on 2 May 1849 in Walworth, South London. In the following census in March 1851, William Guyton was staying with his brother-in-law and sister, Henry and Rebecca Golding, in Liverpool where his occupation was given as merchant. Sophia Guyton was listed separately as head of household with Joseph Guyton aged 1 as the only occupants at a house in Belgrave Place, St George's Road, Great Yarmouth. Her occupation is described rather nicely as 'interest of money'. A second child, Rebecca Crane Guyton, was born in March 1852, this time in Everton. The family certainly moved around.

1853 was to prove another momentous year. On 4 June 1853 William and Sophia Guyton, their two young children, Joseph and Rebecca, and a servant set sail from Gravesend for Sydney on the Meridian. On board were a total of 26 cabin passengers, including the Guyton family, and 58 steerage passengers. The Meridian was a ship of 529 tons and described as a very fine vessel of her class. 'Her timbers and fittings were of live oak and teak, and her ironwork was of a very superior description. The spars of the

Meridian were of great size and strength ... though they made her very crank, and, consequently, uncomfortable as a passenger ship.'

The reasons for the journey must have been compelling as Sophia was already seven months pregnant and such a voyage was never to be undertaken lightly. About two months into the voyage, in late July or early August 1853, somewhere in the Indian Ocean, Sophia gave birth to her third child, Florence.

About three or four weeks later, on the night of 23 August 1853, a heavy gale sprang up and the captain altered course towards St Paul's Island in the centre of the Indian Ocean which he wished to sight in order to check his navigation. The gale increased the next day but the course enabled the vessel to run freely before the wind. About a quarter past seven that evening, a sudden shock made the vessel stagger violently. It quickly became apparent that the ship had run aground on the neighbouring island of Amsterdam. Waves crashed over the ship and the captain was swept away as he went on deck to investigate. Passengers and crew desperately sought refuge in the rigging and in one of the saloons where water rose up to their waists. About half past one in the morning the main mast collapsed over the side bringing down with it all the rigging. About the same time the ship broke in two and started to break up. Miraculously, the poop remained intact and offered some shelter. As morning dawned, it was found that the mast and rigging were forming a rough bridge to the shore. By six o'clock in the morning the majority of passengers had managed to scramble ashore. The only people to lose their lives were the captain, the chief cabin cook and a passenger.

For two days and nights the survivors huddled together on bare rocks at the foot of rough vertical cliffs. Bales of flannel and some red and blue shirts from the cargo were washed ashore together with a small quantity of provisions. These were just sufficient for a ration of one biscuit per person each day which, after two days, was reduced to half a biscuit. On the third day, the group moved about a third of a mile from the wreck and found a way to ascend the cliff where they formed a rough encampment and erected a signal post with two red shirts and some yards of white flannel.

The following morning the group was able to attract the attention of a passing whaler, the Monmouth from New York. Another gale made attempts at rescue impossible and the ship signalled that the coastline was too difficult to approach. The survivors would have to cross to a safer position on the opposite side of the island. This turned out to be a journey of three days through steep ravines and dense jungle in appalling conditions with only a few biscuits, some raw cabbage and limpets, and almost no water for sustenance. Eventually, exhausted and emaciated and unable to walk any

further, they were rescued by the Monmouth and taken to Mauritius where they arrived three weeks later,

At Port Louis in Mauritius the survivors waited for another vessel to continue their journey to Australia. They were eventually taken aboard the Emma Colvin which left Port Louis on 11 November 1853 and arrived at Melbourne on 24 December 1853. Some of the survivors continued onwards to Sydney on the ship London arriving in Sydney on 30 December 1853. Nearly seven months after leaving England, William and Sophia Guyton must have regarded it as a miracle that the whole family, including their latest daughter now aged about five months, had at last arrived safely in Sydney. As a mark of gratitude for their salvation, the infant was named Florence Monmouth Guyton after the whaler that had saved their lives.

The British Government subsequently expressed its gratitude for the rescue by the Monmouth and awarded its master, Captain Isaac Ludlow, a gift of 100 guineas and a gold chronometer which is now in the Cold Spring Harbor whaling museum in New York State.

The Guyton family settled in Sydney where William Guyton continued in business as a merchant. Two more daughters were born there, Marion Constance Guyton in about 1856 and Jessie Crane Guyton in 1857.

After so much travelling and the daunting experience of the shipwreck, the family might well have chosen to remain in Sydney which by now was a large and flourishing town. However, this was not to be. For reasons now lost in history, the family decided to return to their roots in England and were settled in Norwich by the time of the census in April 1861. William Guyton was now described as a retired hardware merchant at the still early age of only 45. Sophia, aged 44, and all five children, aged between 4 and 11, were at home.

The desire for travel and the attraction of the southern hemisphere must have finally evaporated and William and Sophia Guyton remained in Norwich for the rest of their lives until he died at the age of 68 on 30 June 1884 and she died at the age of 83 on 9 January 1900. However, somewhere, deep in the genes, the urge for travel must have persisted as their descendants dispersed across England, Australia and the United States.

An interesting postscript to the story is that for more than a hundred years William Guyton was the only Mayor of Wellington for whom a portrait was missing. In April 1954 the City Librarian of Wellington wrote a letter to The Times seeking a portrait of William Guyton to fill a gap in the city's records. Replies were received from descendants in Sydney and England, the one from England containing the only known photographs of William and Sophia

Guyton. The photograph of William Guyton shows a venerable old gentleman with a long, bushy beard and a face etched by a quite remarkable life: a youthful adventurer setting out from Liverpool, an enterprising merchant, a lively speaker at banquets at Barrett's Hotel, a brief but prominent tenure as second Mayor of Wellington at the age of 27, a bankruptcy, and a survivor of a dozen hazardous voyages and a traumatic shipwreck. After all that, Norwich must have seemed a safe and peaceful haven.

© **David F Guyton, Springfield, 22 Lache Lane, Chester CH4 7LR, England**

Note from the Editor: Mr Guyton has produced an extensive bibliography for both parts. If you wish to have a copy please write to or email the Editor c/o NFHS.

Bibliography for Part II

Censuses 1841-1901 at Ancestry.co.uk *
GRO Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes *
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Rosary Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions 1819-1896 & Burials 1821-1837 (NNGS)
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Family research as everyone knows needs some helpful breaks now and then. I would like to share mine with you to give hope to those who have hit the brick wall!

My mother Beryl Joyce Aldridge, nee Dickerson, was born in Carbrooke 87 years ago. Sadly for many years now she has not been able to remember much in the distant past, so tracing ancestors has proved quite difficult. But a series of happenings over time have come to my aid!

A number of years ago now while holidaying in East Anglia, my mother suddenly announced as we passed by Earsham Hall "I was in service there". That was it – no other information! We found some old photographs which showed mum in uniform, with others clearly in domestic service, but very few names and no identifiable place. Three years ago, again holidaying in Norfolk, my sister, knowing my interest, decided to buy me a family history magazine. There were two, but she eventually decided on Norfolk Roots, sadly no longer available as a magazine. Reading this during the holiday, I found on the last page a letter from Annabel Stretton-Derham of Earsham Hall, asking for information from anyone who had worked there, because she was proposing to write a social history of the place. It so happened that we had planned to go to Halesworth to meet a friend later that week, so we decided to visit Earsham Hall on the way back. Trying to trigger memories from my mother I asked again if she remembered anyone who worked with her. "Freddy the footman and Jim the chauffeur" came the reply! We visited the tearoom at the Hall and were introduced to Annabel. I promised to send copies of the photos that we had and with some embarrassment and amusement told her that Mum did remember Freddy the footman and Jim the chauffeur, though we could not vouch for the accuracy of this memory! A few months later we were invited to a reception at Earsham Hall where there was going to be an exhibition of photos and papers relating to the Hall, which has been used in its lifetime, not only as a residence, but also a school and evacuation home during the war. Many former residents, pupils and evacuees attended, though none we think that would have remembered my mother. Jim the chauffeur, though, was confirmed! An evacuee recognized my mother's photograph of a man we assumed was the gardener. He was Jim Huxtable, the chauffeur, who was pushing a wheelbarrow of scraps to the chickens! Another photo showing a rotating summerhouse with the head housemaid, Ada Rodwell, sitting outside it, was recognized by a former resident of the Hall, and the summerhouse is now in fact in his garden! All of this seemed to prove that my mother did indeed work there, probably in the late 1930s, though how she arrived there from Scoulton and Rocklands where she was brought up, we don't know.

A year later on our way back from holiday abroad a phone call came from my son saying Annabel says “that Freddy is alive and well and living in Lowestoft”! He had seen a report of the event at Earsham Hall and wrote a lovely long letter to Annabel describing his experiences there. Subsequently we visited him and he did indeed remember my mother.

While all the above was happening, I was contacted through Genes Reunited by two gentlemen researching the Dickerson family. When we compared trees they were able to fill in many gaps and I was able to help with a few family mysteries from my own experience.

On another visit to Norfolk we had stopped outside a house where I believed my mother had lived. The owner came out to enquire what we were doing and when I told him, he said we had better talk to his wife because she was a local historian! It got better, because she also had records from Scoulton Parish Church showing the burials and the plot numbers where my mother’s grandfather’s family, the Lister’s were buried. Genes Reunited had also helped me in that side of the family with a surprise contact from Australia. At a later date Kirby Hall Library, I believe has furnished me with a picture of my Great grandmother Emma Lister, whom nobody in the family seemed to have known about other than the photo my mother had of her. She died in the 1950s but none of our family knew of her and so we sadly have no contact with other members of the family. We didn’t know until recently that my grandmother had at least two more sisters, one of whom, Beryl, my mother was presumably named after.

You never know when a lead is going to turn up. The chances of all these “happenings” seemed impossible, so just keep hoping and “something **will** turn up”.

June Curtis, MN10532

DID YOU KNOW?

Pre-1841 census returns still survive for several Norfolk villages, including Baconsthorpe, 1768, 1801, 1811, 1821; Beeston, 1801; Bodham 1768 and 1821; Bradfield 1821.

Information is not as detailed as later census returns, and some give only numbers of people living in the village at the time of the census; but those returns with names can give you some idea whether your ancestors were living in the area at the time.

Visit <http://www.origins.org.uk/genuki/NFK/norfolk/census/pre1841.shtml> to look at the list of pre-1841 census returns available.

The Amys Family in the Doldrums

Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries my branch of this family had apparently led fairly settled and prosperous lives, leaving a good paper trail behind them for the genealogist – wills, administrations, much mention in Manor Court and Account rolls, Indentures, even Inquisitions Post Mortem – then suddenly after the death of Margaret Amys in Dilham in 1631, the trail dries up for a while. There are no more wills or administrations, very little information in the Manor Court rolls and just one Indenture. Christopher Amys, son of Nicholas and Margaret, is baptised in Dilham on the first February 1595 and somewhere along the line he marries Elizabeth, of whom I know nothing. In 1630, on his father's death, he becomes his chief heir and legatee: *It(e)m I give unto Christopher Amys my eldest sonn immediatly after the decease of Margaret my wife my choice Messuage wherein I now dwell situate lyinge and being in Westgate streete in Dilhamwith all the landes both free and bonde to the same belonging etc.....*

In his mother's will in 1631 he is named executor and legatee: *The rest of my moveable goods unbequeathed as Corne, Cattell, Chattells And also other Implements of howsholde I give and bequeath unto Christopher Amys my sonne etc.....*So he is not unprovided for.

On the 18th September 1636, when Christopher is forty-one years old, he has a son, Christopher, baptised in Dilham who is his only child. Where and when did he marry? Has he fathered any other children who did not survive? We probably shall never know. Maybe the answer lies in Tunstead, just up the road from Dilham where his family has had strong associations. Unfortunately the Tunstead parish registers have survived only from the 1670's and I am sure that the earlier registers would have had so much to reveal about the family because Christopher's grandfather and great-grandfather both died there. The one snippet of information I have about Christopher's life in Dilham is an Indenture made in the Commonwealth period, on the 10th September 1652: *Betwene Thomas WINDHAME of Felbrig in the Countie of Norf(olk) Esquire of the one parte and Christopher Amis of Dilham in the said Countie Husbandman of the other parte.*

So Christopher is a farmer, renting land for one year from the man whose living monument is the rebuilding of Felbrigg Hall. The fine Jacobean south front of Felbrigg Hall was the work of Thomas Windham and his father, Sir John Windham.

The Indenture says: *WITNESSETH that the said Thomas WINDHAM hath demised Granted and unto fearme letten lending lease.... unto the sayd Christopher Amys.....*

All those his Houses Barnes Stables Orchards Gardens Outhouses and home Stales together with the lands and pastures thereunto appartayning.....of him the sayde Christopher Amys or his Assignes etc.

This presumably was some of the bond land that Christopher had inherited from his father Nicholas and that Thomas Windham had recently purchased. The Indenture goes on to allow *free ingresse egress and regresse to and for the sayde Thomas Windham* and later continues with the interesting clause: *And allsoe delivering or causinge to be delivered at the sayde Mansion House in and upon the seaven and twenty daye of December next ensuinge the date hereof two fatt Capons.....*

So does Christopher himself, now aged 57, mount his horse after Christmas and ride the 15 or so miles from Dilham to Felbrigg, through North Walsham in the ice and snow and freezing east winds, in order to deliver two fat capons to Thomas Windham, then return the same day? Quite probably! I hope Thomas enjoyed them because he died just over a year later, on the 1st March 1654.

Christopher left Dilham sometime after 1660 and moved to Witton near Bacton to stay near or with his son Christopher Junior. There he died and was buried on the 8th July 1666, aged 71 – the same age as his father, Nicholas.

Christopher junior I know slightly more about than his father. He was a husbandman – a farmer – who lived in Witton for most of a very long life which was blighted by death and tragedy. How on earth did our forbears cope with the amount of family bereavement they had to bear? I find this extraordinarily difficult to imagine. Practically all my information on Christopher comes from the Dilham and Witton parish registers, but he did receive a gift from his uncle, Thomas Amys of Norwich in his will of 1653:

Item I doe alsoe give + bequeath unto Christopher Amis of Dilham my brothers sonne the summe of five pounds to be paid unto him w(i)thin one yeare next after my decease.

In 1657 at the age of 21 he married Bridget PARRANT, widow of William Parrant, in North Walsham and a copy of the banns still exists: *An intended marriage between Christopher Amis of Dilham singleman and husbandman on the one part and Bridgett Parrant of Witton next Bacton of the other part was published at the day as to place last before married according to the tennor of the said act and no exception was made against the time.*

The Parrants were a well-established farming and land owning family in Witton and had land in Ridlington, Witton, Crostwick and Walcott. There are however two mysteries about William Parrant's will.

It was made on the *three and twenty day of January in the yeare of Lord God 1654* while William was *sicke in body but of p(er)fect remembrance thanks be to God*. He was young – both his parents were witnesses to his will – and he was ill. I do not know exactly when he died, but the assumption is that it was fairly soon after the will was made.

There had to be a decent interval before Bridgett married again in 1657. But the will was not proved until *the one and twentieth day of September 1659 by the oath of Stephen Parrant the brother of the said dec(ease)d*. Why the delay? It was generally customary to have the will proven fairly soon after the death. The other mystery concerns the legacies – the main legatee is his brother, Stephen.

William had made sensible arrangements for his young daughter Margaret: *Item my will is that my executor Stephen Parrant my brother.....shall pay to Margaret Parrant my daughter five score pounds to be paid her Tenn Pound a yeare etc.....*

It was customary for farmers to leave their property to their widows, for the rest of their lives and then for it to be handed on to their children. William though seems to leave his wife virtually penniless:

Item my will and minde is that my executor shall give to Bridgett my wife twenty shillings one whole yeare after Thomas Parrants my fathers decease to begin + soe to continue till Margaret my daughter come to fourtene yeares of age if she shall soe long live. And Bridgett does not even inherit the furniture and effects: And my will and minde is that Margaret my daughter shall have all my houshold stufte excepting my apparrell.

Why was this? What had Bridgett done to receive such shabby treatment? Had she been casting her eyes elsewhere? On the other hand it was important to farmers that land should stay within the family, hence the legacy to Stephen; and Bridgett was likely to remarry and had a daughter and no sons, so the land would move to a name other than Parrant.

Christopher and Bridgett initially stayed in Dilham and their first son Nicholas was born there and baptised on the 2nd October 1660. Soon after this they moved to farm in Witton presumably on Parrant land so there was obviously no family feud. They were certainly there by 1664 because the Hearth Tax records them having just one hearth, whereas Stephen Parrant has three, and on November 20th of that year Robert, son of Christopher and Bridgett is baptised in Witton Church. Sadly, Robert is buried on May 21st 1666. Then more catastrophe – Bridgett Amys succumbs and is buried on November 22nd 1669.

Christopher does not waste time though and amazingly, two months later, on January 10th 1670 marries the 17-year-old Frances HASTED, daughter of Thomas and Ann Hasted of Happisburgh. Their first child, Elizabeth, was baptised on March 26th 1671 – then she was married to Will Wright of Lessingham at the age of 15 on 21st February 1687. To us today maybe all this haste appears unseemly; but the long hand of Death and plague(?) was on their shoulders and there was a strong biological need to create families as soon as practicable. Their next child, Ann, was baptised on May 20th 1673 and she survived to marry Nicholas Smyth at Witton on the 15th October 1695 and have a family. John arrived next and was baptised on May 24th 1675 but only survived for a few days and was buried on May 30th. Mary was baptised on November 12th 1676 and as far as I know she survived because there is no record of her death at Witton, but Martha only lasted a few months, from January 30th 1680 to October 29th. I suppose the heaviest cross that these parents had to bear was that Nicholas Amys, the first born of Christopher, died at the age of 21 on the 8th September 1682 – three sons now all gone. The only light left in this thick darkness was the birth of another son, James, on April 22nd 1682 to carry on the family name.

At Tunstead Manor Court held on 29th September 1700, land formerly tenanted by Christopher Amys senior was taken on by a relative, Thomas Steward, who was bailiff of the Court: *Christopher Amys from Thomas Steward to whom it was entrusted by the lord after the seizure of the land formerly belonging to Christopher Amys....One acre of land of natural soccage with a house built thereon...which beforehand was tenanted by Christopher and Elizabeth....* Then with regard to the same property, there was a special Court held at Tunstead on the 15th February 1703:

Special Court held at that place of the aforesaid Manor on the fifteenth day of February in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Annefor a suit of court from John SEAMAN in the presence of Arthur FRANTHWAY knight. The admission of John Seaman on the surrender of Thomas Steward and his wife and James Amys.

So young James, now 21, had ridden from Witton to the Manor Court at Tunstead to represent his family's interest in the transfer of ownership.

In the previous year the Land Tax and Poll Tax Records find Christopher Amys, Frances his wife and James Amys liable for 12 shillings but no land tax – I suppose assuming they owned none. Then at last, on the 12th August 1704 at St George Colegate, Norwich there was a happy event: James Amys, aged 22, married a distant relative, Sarah Warnes. Throughout the seventeenth century there had been some intermarriage between the yeoman families of Amys, Warnes and Steward and they had certainly known each other through the generations.

I hope that both sets of parents were able to attend the service at St George, Colegate for the fathers were elderly by the standard of the times – Christopher Amys was 68 and Michael Warnes was 66 - the Warnes family too had a longevity gene. Christopher eventually died at Witton in his 80th year in 1716 - thereby beating both his father and his grandfather - and Michael Warnes died at Scottow aged 75 in 1713; and with Michael's death the wheel of Fortune at last began its upward climb for this benighted family.

Peter Mayes MN3420

Bibliography: Norfolk Record Office:

- Dilham and Witton Parish Registers
- ANW Will of Thomas Amys 1654 H 37
- NCC Will of Nicholas Amys 1630 OW 98
- NCC Will of Margaret Amys 1631 160 Purcell
- ANW Will of William Parrant 1659 MFRO 326
- 1664 Norfolk Hearth Tax Records
- Indenture Lease of Land to Christopher Amys 1652 WKC 5/74 400 - 2
- Norfolk Rural Land and Poll Tax Assessments 1700 – 1702 Ed. Patrick Palgrave-Moore
- Tunstead Manor Court Roll

See also

The Norfolk Ancestor Vol 3 Part 5 March 2003 Christopher Amys – Tenant in Chief.

Pinpoint

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Notes & Queries:

Guidelines for Contributors

QUERIES predominate but offers of help and items of information and general interest may be included. Entries as brief as possible please, preferably less than 150 words, typed in a 10pt font.

Addresses given in full (an email alone is insufficient as this may limit responses). **Membership number 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 St, Norwich, NR2 1LS.**

E-mail: secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk

MARJORIE and MOLLIE COOK

My father, **Peter Cook**, was killed in 1943. Mother and I corresponded with his family in Blofield near Norwich but never met them. They moved to Blofield because my grandfather, **Irwin Cook**, had disappeared in 1914.

My grandmother, **Marjorie Cook (nee Wade)**, my father (then a baby) and his elder sister **Mollie** went to live with my grandmother's sister and brother-in-law (**Nell** and **Frank Wadge**) at their house, Tresco, in Blofield, near Norwich in about 1914. Their daughter, **Suzanne Wadge**, lived with them. She died in 1985 and is buried in Blofield churchyard, as is my grandmother who died in 1933.

For many years I have been trying to find out what my grandmother did between 1914 and 1933. I also need to know what happened to my father's sister, **Mollie**, who also disappeared after World War 2. I did hear that they may have both gone abroad. Any information would be gratefully received.

Mrs. B.A Tolley, MN10966 5 Brownhill Lane, Wembury, Plymouth, Devon, PL9 0JQ

JAMES CORNISH 1805 – 1874

I am trying to trace the parents and siblings of **James Cornish** my 2xgreat grandfather. On each census he gives his birthplace as Loddon in Norfolk, but when he joined a Revenue Cruiser as an experienced mariner in 1834 he gives his home as N. Yarmouth. He served on the cruiser for two years until 1836 when he became a coastguard in Sussex.

In 1841 he was living in a coastguard station cottage in Sussex with a Mary Cornish aged 25 and a Jemima Gilbert age 9 years. Presumably Mary is his wife as he has been given a cottage of his own. It is possible that Jemima was Mary's sister. His gravestone at West Itchenor in West Sussex gives his date of birth as 20 June 1805.

By the 1851 census James had been widowed and remarried, but unfortunately the certificate for his second marriage does not give the names of the fathers of either bride or groom. I have not been able to trace his first marriage. The only marriage I could find between a Mary Gilbert and a James Cornish was in Kilkhampton in Cornwall. This is not very likely to be him, but not impossible as he was a mariner before he joined the Revenue Service. James named his only child from his second marriage Edwin; which does not appear to have any link to his wife's family.

Does anyone have any knowledge of these families?

*Joyce Taylor, MN10898, 61 Applesham Way, Portslade, Brighton East Sussex BN41 2LN email jtaylor_41@btopenworld.com
(Please do not miss the underscore in my e-mail address).*

WILLIAM WEBSDALE/EMMA GOLDSON

I am seeking a photograph of the above named couple who were both born in Hardingham in the 1840s, but moved to London in service and married there in 1863. They had returned to Hardingham by 1881 and subsequently moved to Old Catton where they both died in 1915 and 1911 respectively.

Stephen Websdale MN687, 7 Ashley Close Hightown Ringwood BH24 1QG srwebsdale@btinternet.com

BASTARD FAMILY

I have been researching the **Bastard Family Tree** for many years and my research has led me to the Whitwell and Mileham area. I would like to invite fellow researchers to contact me in the hope that problems that have arisen in researching the Bastard ancestry can be resolved, e.g. I have come across three separate Coats of Arms (Devon, Dorset and Norfolk) which I feel might be linked.

Also I have received mail from as far afield as Australia and South Africa where "family" members settled back in the mid 18th century. This Family had numerous children - often as many as six or seven – so I feel there must be many still living, or have links with Norfolk.

Unfortunately this name has had various alterations in spelling over the years, which makes research rather difficult.

Mike Russell MN7861, 37 Bardney Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5QG

ANNE ELIZABETH CLARKE

Any Information please regarding **Anne Elizabeth Clarke** born in Freethorpe, Norfolk in 1869 – parents **William and Emma Watson**. Anne once worked at Blickling Hall in Norfolk where she was a servant. While there she met a butler called 'Clarke' but when they started 'walking out' they were asked to leave, and I think they went to London to work and were later married.

Anne's sister, **Eliza Louise Clarke**, married **William Algenon Hilton**, who was a gamekeeper at Hanworth about 1902 and later at the Lower Blickling Park from about 1903.

If anyone has any information about Anne or her sister and in particular the Lower Blickling Park, I should be very grateful to hear from them.

Mrs J. A. Howard, MN1249, Ashby Lodge, Blocka Road, Ashby, Lowestoft NR32 5ND.

BENJAMIN AYDEN and ANN EMPSON (EMSON)

I am researching the **AYDEN** family and wonder if someone could help me regarding the following.

Benjamin Ayden and Ann Empson (Emson) married 3rd November 1791 in Reedham Parish Church, witnessed by **John Black and William Barns**.

I would appreciate any information about where **Benjamin and Ann** were born.

M. F Ayden, MN4416, 8 Baker Road, Shotley Gate, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1RT

EDWARD MILLS

I would appreciate any help in tracking down **Edward Mills** (wheelwright) who married **Ann Southgate** at Fincham, Norfolk on 20th Oct 1831. He and Ann had four children, William Redish (bn Fincham 4 August 1832) [a clue in the second name maybe?], Thomas (bn Shouldham 30 March 1834), Charlotte (bn abt 1835) and Edward (bn Watlington 22 Nov 1834). Ann died at Watlington on 8 July 1840 and her death was registered by her husband. The children, but not the father, were all in the Downham Union Workhouse in 1841 census and subsequently took the name **Southgate**. Where did **Edward Mills** come from or go to? He was clearly itinerant. Is this the usual Norfolk wheelwright practice?

Michael Southgate, MN970, The Cottage, Radwinter Manor, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 2SP, email Michael.southgate@btinternet.com

ELEANOR COXALL

Eleanor Coxall was born in 1795 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, the daughter of **Thomas and Elizabeth**, but by 1812 she was living in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, where she was a witness at the marriage of **Susannah Coxall** to **William Howlett**. She was also a witness in 1822 when Susannah married **Henry Granger**. Also living in Lynn, but born in Kent were her brother **William** and her sister **Mary Ann** who married **William Barker** in 1828. Eleanor had several illegitimate children in Lynn, before moving to London, where she apparently married **John Hall** from Lincolnshire. She had more children. I haven't been able to find Eleanor's marriage to John Hall. Was he the father of her illegitimate children? Nor have I found the marriage of Thomas Coxall to Elizabeth. Was it in Kent or Norfolk? Any information on this family would be very welcome.

Mrs Pam Studzinski, MN11503, 9 Willow Vale, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 9TE

JOHN MYHILL and ANN SHINN

John and Ann had two children baptised at St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, Richard in 1791 (my 3x gt grandfather) and Ann in 1799. There was at least one other child John, baptism not found. I have searched for place and date of marriage of John and Ann, so far without success. Their marriage was not at Great Yarmouth or nearby parishes. Does anyone know anything about this family? Richard and descendants later moved to Norwich.

Judith Gascoigne MN2360, 5 Berkeley Gardens, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TP. Email judithgascoigne@yahoo.co.uk

SAMUEL ENGALL

Samuel Engall born 21st December 1777 in Happisburgh to Samuel and Fanny Engall, and

Samuel Engall born 23rd December 1777 in Happisburgh to Joseph and Mary Engall.

I am trying to establish which **Samuel Engall** married **Charlotte Farman** at Witton in 1803. They had a son **Samuel**, born at Witton in 1811. He married **Elizabeth Adams** at Witton in 1830. I have no further details of either of the Samuels, and would be most interested to hear from anyone who has any information relating to either families.

*Nora Harrop MN10194, email: wattsatbl@hotmail.com
3 Balliol Gardens, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7LT*

ETHAL MAY SMITH

I am seeking information or contact with anyone who may have known/knew of **Ethal May Smith**, who lived in the Norwich area; c1881 Quakers Lane, St. Martin at Oak, c1891 and 1901, 8 Crown Court, St. Peter Hungate, Norwich. She is believed to be the sister of **Violet Elizabeth Smith** and daughter of **Charles Ambrose Smith** and **Ann nee Hall** (who married c1878, Norwich). Ethal is believed to have been a witness at her sister Violet's marriage 25 Dec 1915 at New Catton, Norwich. Information could help me regarding this family history 'mystery'; one last piece of family history jigsaw!! All replies will be acknowledged and responded to.

Mr I. J. Ironside MN5979, 18 Halifax Crescent, Blenheim Park, Sculthorpe, Nr Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 7PS

JONAS FAMILY

Wendy Jonas has been a member of the NFHS for some time and has never found mention of the name **JONAS** in The Ancestor. In the past she has found references to Jonas in Themelthorpe, and Jonas graves in Holt and Roughton,

She would welcome any help in expanding her research into this name.

Wendy Jonas, MN 3267 2 Alexander Court, Crows Road, Epping, Essex CM16 5DA

BARDELL and CROSS-BARDELL

I am trying to trace the **Bardell** family. Edward **Cross Bardell**, born in Middleton in 1857 was my gt. grandfather. He married **Emily Chilvers** in 1884 in Freebridge Lynn. They had two children, **Maria** in 1886 and **John** in 1887. I have records of them living in Melton Constable, Middleton and Swanton Novers. Maria married **Albert Margeson** and was my grandmother.

Edwards parents were **John Cross Bardell** born 1821 in Wiggshall St. Germans and **Maria Back** born 1825 in Middleton. I don't have a date or location of the marriage. They had seven children: William bn 1849, John bn 1851, Edward bn 1857, Frederick bn 1858, Fanny bn 1859, Martha bn 1862 and died 1864, and Martha bn 1864. All were born in Middleton where John was a farmer.

In some records the family name is **Cross-Bardell**, others show **Cross** and others **Bardell** with Cross as a middle name. I believe John's father's name may have been **Rippingall Cross**.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can help with any information about any member of the family.

Ann Batten, MN11433, 8 Bill Court, Alligator Creek, Qld, 4816, Australia

WILLIAM CUTTING

I am trying to find any Information on my GGG grandfather **William Cutting**, I think William was from Norfolk or Suffolk, as his son **Robert Cutting**, bn c1837, is in the 1861 census as **R Cutting** aged 24 serving with the first battalion the rifle brigade and shown as being born in Snetterton Norfolk. But a search of the Snetterton records by the NFHS could not find his baptism. He enlisted aged 18 at Bury St Edmunds. Robert married an **Isabella Carr** from Gateshead (hence the Geordie connection) at Portsea Island on the 17th July 1859 and on the wedding certificate his father is shown as William, occupation labourer.

I was able to find two Williams with sons called Robert in the 1841 and 1851 censuses, one from Kenninghall Norfolk and one from Haughley Suffolk, but I traced both of them and found both Roberts alive on the 1871 census, whereas my Robert had died while still in the army in Winchester on 22nd August 1869.

I also found an **E Cutting** on the 1861 census, he is also shown as being a soldier in the 1st battalion the rifle brigade aged 23. It also says he was born in Snetterton Norfolk, so this could be his brother or cousin.

I know quite a bit about my GG grandfather Robert the soldier, but have been unable to trace his birth at Snetterton, which I need to find to learn more about my GGG grandfather **William Cutting**.

If anyone from Norfolk or Suffolk has any information on a **William or Robert Cutting** from the Snetterton area or even Norfolk and Suffolk in general, I would be grateful for any help at all, no matter how small it seems.

*Robert Cutting, MN11435, rob.cutting@northumbria.ac.uk
14 Lanfield Avenue, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2NP*

CRASKE SURNAME PROJECT

Craske family historians have you hit a brick wall with your research? Would you like to know where the original **Craskes** were from? Why not join the DNA project for this surname. This entails taking a Y chromosome test. The result, if compared with other **Craske** Y chromosome results, could help trace your family line and may, eventually, be able to join all the family lines. This test applies to male Craskes who can trace their surname back through a male line. As **Craske** is registered as a surname project tests are done with a discount.

*If interested please contact Hilary Sheridan, MN 10618,
hsdan24@gmail.com 30, Barlow Close, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1NL*

DOBBS INFORMATION

Mr P. Kis has some surplus items of information relating to the Dobbs/Dabbs family of Seckington, Warwickshire, which he is happy to pass on to any of our members researching that name.

Please contact him at 25B Cambridge Street, Bridlington, E. Yorkshire

BACK ISSUES OF ANCESTOR FOR THE ISLE OF MAN

Miss Pauline Cowin is offering the back issues of The Ancestor to any interested party living on the ISLE of MAN.

Please contact her at 6 Maple Avenue, Peel IM5 1WP.

MICROFICHES

I wonder if anyone could please help me in the purchase of microfiches. I have a reader gathering dust in my loft and would like to buy any microfiches of censuses or registers that are no longer required by members or the Society itself. I cannot find any advertisements or reference in old copies of the Ancestor. Thank you

Vivienne Moss (Mrs) MN993

MARY ANNE DIGBY and WALTER JAMES MOORE

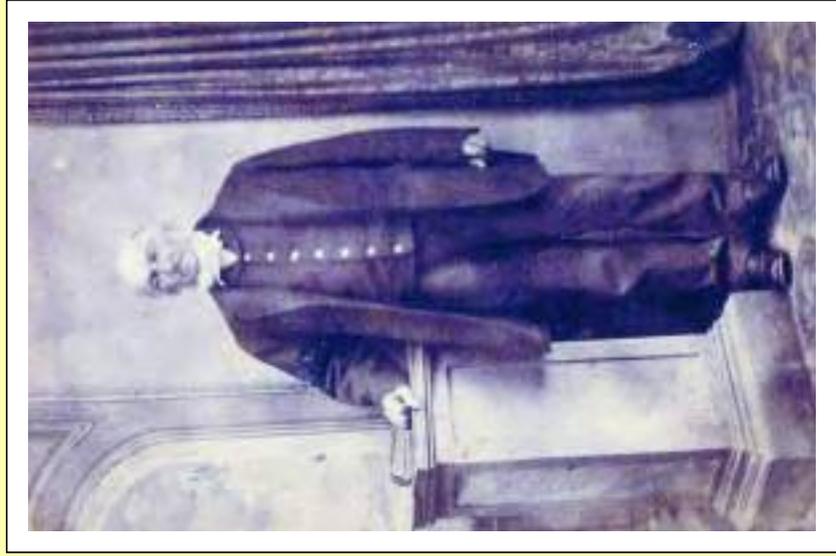
My great grandparents, Mary Anne Digby and Walter James Moore, were both from Norfolk and emigrated to Australia in 1868. I became fascinated with their lives because my cousins and I have inherited so much memorabilia from them and I know enough about them to want to know more.

I visited Norwich in October 2008 and met Chris Hood, who helped direct my research in the Public Record Office and the Library in Norwich. I also visited your headquarters. We found out a surprising amount.

Amongst many other objects we have some photos taken in Norwich in the early 1860's. I am pretty sure that one photo is my great grandmother, Mary Anne Digby, and two others are her grandparents, William Digby and his wife Judith. There is another photo of a man, younger than William Digby, much better dressed and seeming to be far more prosperous and confident than the photo I take to be William, who was a farm labourer at Blackwater farm near Great Witchingham. Yet to me he seems to look like a younger version of old William. I wonder if you or your readers can shed light on this. I attach his photo and the studio details along with the other three whose identity I am pretty sure about. (*See back cover and inside back cover*).

All the Norwich photos, except those I think are William and Judith Digby, have studio details on the back, yet these are obviously taken in a studio, possibly with the subjects wearing borrowed studio clothes.

Frances Hunt Digby, MN11212.



William Digby



Also a Digby? On the back of this photo it says
"Treble, Artist and Photographer, Victoria Hall, Norwich



Judith Digby



Mary Ann Digby