

The Norfolk Ancestor



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DECEMBER 2009



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



Unknown
photographs
See P236



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FRONT COVER

The Adoration of the Shepherds, Mundesley Church. Yet again I must thank Simon Knott for his excellent website, www.norfolkchurches.co.uk. Simon Knott has also set up the www.suffolkchurches.co.uk website covering churches in Suffolk. Simon, you are a constant source of material for a hard pressed editor!!

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.

See also note on Stock Taking period over the Christmas break on the Editorial page

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.

The Norfolk Ancestor is a quarterly Journal published in March, June, September and December. Opinions expressed in this journal are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of either the Editor or the NFHS, which cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of facts in the articles submitted.

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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 December issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall no later than **20th January 2010**.

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



From the Editor

ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk

December 2009

Dear Members

First let me wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year. If 2009 has been a very difficult year for you, I hope 2010 will be much more rewarding.

I need to draw your attention to our Christmas stock taking period, see dates below. The shelves at Kirby Hall are jam packed and some reworking of the space is necessary as well as taking stock of all our holdings.

There are a number of lively articles for you, including one on the Society's benefactor, Baron Kirkby. I have also included a list of contact details for various officers of the Society. Most of us can now be contacted direct through our own email address.

I was pleased to receive two responses about the unknown school photograph on the inside front cover of the last issue. First from David Brown, MN10974, who ascertained that T. Nokes was the photographer, and second from Mrs Hazel Greensides MN939, who found the photograph reproduced in an Eastern Daily Press article dated 1993. It had been submitted by William Cooper for a series "School Faces of Yesteryear", and was a photo of Belauigh school that included his father Jack (John) Cooper, who was six at the time the photograph was taken and died in 1964 aged 72, so that dates the photograph to c1898.

This time I have several unknown photographs for the detectives among you and I look forward to hearing from you. I am always grateful to hear from members; without your correspondence, thoughts, ideas and articles the Ancestor would stagnate - and I would probably have to write everything myself!

Denagh Hacon MN2671

KIRBY HALL STOCK TAKING OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Please note that Kirby Hall will be closed for stock taking from Monday 14th December 2009 until Tuesday 5th January 2010.



Letters to the Editor



A GENTLE AND POLITE CORRECTION.

I am writing to you and B. Linden about the correct name for the church mentioned (*on page 197 in our last issue*). It should be **United Reformed Church** - I am sorry to say the name is often incorrectly printed in both books and the press.

The name is "Reformed" because the Church comes from a reformed tradition. In 1972 the United Reformed Church (often known as the URC) came into being. It now brings together English Presbyterians, English, Welsh and Scottish Congregationalists and members of the Church of Christ.

Perhaps you would kindly bear this in mind when preparing the Norfolk Ancestor for publication.

I eagerly await my copy of the Ancestor, and devour it from beginning to end! Thanks for your hard work. This summer I was in Norwich following up on my ancestor, John Culley, who was the instigator for the building of the first Norwich Corn Exchange!

Celia Johnson, MN3570

Editor: many thanks Celia, these details often escape us, and do need correcting. We shall bear this in mind in future!

NORFOLK FAMILY SEARCH

***Experienced Professional Genealogist offers a range of
Research and Photographic Services***

Website: www.norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk
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WHO TO CONTACT AND WHERE TO REACH THEM

Members Interests Lookups

- a. Address correspondence to: Peter Spurgeon
- b. By email: members@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Members Interests Lookup' as the email Subject

Research

- a. Address correspondence to: Alan Bullard
- b. By email: research@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Research Enquiry' as the email Subject and including your postal address in the message

Family Trees/Pedigrees

- a. Address correspondence to Karen Ainger
- b. By email: secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating the nature of your enquiry in the email Subject

Membership

- a. Address correspondence to: The Membership Secretary (Jean Stangroom)
- b. By email: membershipsecretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk

Publications and Bookshop

- a. Address correspondence to: Publications Secretary (Christine Abery)
- b. By email: nfhs@paston.co.uk stating 'Bookshop Enquiry' as the email Subject.

Projects

- a. Volunteers wishing to assist with transcriptions and project administration, etc. are welcome to contact: The Projects Coordinator (Edmund Perry)
- b. By email: transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Projects Enquiry' as the email Subject

Monumental Inscriptions

- a. Address correspondence to: Mary Mitchell
- b. By email: minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Monumental Inscriptions Enquiry' as the email Subject and including your postal address in the message

Trustees and Branch Representatives

- a. Address correspondence to relevant Trustee or Branch Representative, care of Kirby Hall
- b. By email: nfhs@paston.co.uk stating the nature of your enquiry in the email Subject

Treasurer

- a. Address correspondence to the Treasurer (Carole Taylor)
- b. By email: treasurer@norfolkfhs.org.uk

The Ancestor

- a. Address correspondence to Denagh Hacon
- b. By email: ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk

Website Matters

- a. Address correspondence to: NFHS webmaster (Terry Gray)
- b. By email: nfhswebmaster@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating the nature of your enquiry in the email Subject

Other

The following should be used for those topics not covered by the above.

- a. Address correspondence to: The Company Secretary (Pat Mason)
- b. By email: secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating the nature of your enquiry in the email Subject

All written correspondence should be addressed to the Kirby Hall address at the front of this magazine.

NEW VOLUNTEER

We have a volunteer who is willing to photocopy family trees/pedigrees for members. Her name is Karen Ainger and her contact details are listed above.

Thanks for volunteering Karen, welcome aboard.

SAD NEWS

Regular visitors to Kirby Hall will remember Barry Forster who died in early November. Barry was a long term member of the NFHS and a regular volunteer, both on Sundays when the library is open, and also travelling to help with the bookstall at fairs and other events.

His help was much appreciated and he will be missed.



WEBSITE

www.norfolkfhs.org.uk

CHECK IT OUT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT A.G.M. 10TH OCT. 2009

The Chairman began the meeting by introducing himself and other Trustees with a brief outline of their roles.

“The downturn in the economy has had an effect on our investment income, but we received a sizable donation during the year which eased the situation. Carole Taylor, Treasurer, makes sure that we get the best available return on our investments and keeps our claims for Gift Aid up to date. We now bank or invest with 4 banks to keep below the Government compensation limits should any bank fail. We have recently purchased a bespoke computer program which links the membership list to our financial records and will enable Gift Aid claims to be processed quickly.

The membership for 2008-9 was 4051 and so far this year stands at 3829. Jean Stangroom, membership secretary, and Christine Aberly, bookstall manager, attended sessions at local libraries to help people start their research, and was a good PR exercise.

In the last year 20 new M.I. surveys were added to the Library and Mary Mitchell who is in charge of our M I collection, received regular queries from members.

Edmund Perry our Projects Officer, has spent a lot of time in the last year printing new and enlarged transcripts for the Library and preparing transcripts for use on our web site. Over 300 new printed versions of registers have been added to the Library in the last year.

Pat Mason, Secretary, as well as her routine duties, often helps visitors and members find their way around the library. She has answered 115 requests from non-members for information in the last year.

Malcolm Cole-Wilkin has done an enormous amount of work in overseeing the installation of the server and network system linking the computers and printers together and providing a secure backup to all our files. Unfortunately Malcolm has been ill for the last few months, and we wish him a speedy recovery.”

The Chairman also thanked other volunteers. “Pauline Westgate, who ran the ‘look up’ service for many years, decided to retire in 2009. This job has been taken over by Alan Bullard and about 130 requests by email and letter have been answered in the year.

Janet Hawksley who for many years looked after our magazine collection and provided copies of pedigrees when requested, also retired this year. The magazine collection is now looked after by the desk volunteers.

Chairperson of the Norwich branch, Barbara Walker, retired due to illness, but happily has recovered and is able to visit us and attend meetings. The branch is now run by Jim Barwick and Roger Peck who have made a good start by preparing an interesting programme of future events.

We attended a number of fairs during the year where we had the chance to meet some of our members and to take on new ones. Christine Abery arranges for us to attend these events and has also managed to sell a large number of books and CDs which has helped the Society's funds.

Our thanks also go to volunteers who man the desk, provide transcripts of registers and help the Society in so many ways.

Each year I ask for volunteers to come forward to help in running the Society, as each year a few have to give up, often due to age, and have to be replaced. This year a letter was sent out to members in the Norwich area asking if they could help, as there was a good chance that we would have to curtail our opening hours due to shortage of volunteers. We have had a good response to our appeal and members have come forward not only to man the desk but also to take on other jobs. More volunteers are still required, as the amount of work to be done does not seem to decrease. It is nice to see that Dennis Thompson has recovered from a long illness and is able to help us again by filming registers and scanning our existing registers.

During the year we completed the renovation of Kirby Hall by replacing the last of the single glazed windows with double glazing, double glazed the entrance screen and insulated plumbing. We don't expect to have to spend a lot on maintenance in the near future.

Finally, the most important and time consuming business that the Trustees have been concerned with during the last year has been NORS – Norfolk Online Record Search, based on transcripts available in Kirby Hall Library, which is to be placed on the Society's web site.

The intention is that access by members will be available by January 2010. All members with email addresses will be sent a letter by Carole, containing their personal User Name ID and Password to access NORS."

Colin Skipper, Chairman, NFHS

The Chairman's report was followed by the formal business of the AGM.

DIARY of EVENTS
December 2009 – January 2010

Date	Title	Speaker	Branch
1 Dec	Gt. Yarmouth in the 20 th Century	Colin Tooke	GY
8 Dec	An evening with Pip Wright and his guitar		Diss
9 Dec	No meeting West Norfolk		KL
11 Dec	Social evening – members only		Nch
14 Dec to 5 Jan – Kirby Hall closure for stock taking			
2010			
5 Jan	Member Help Member - Old books and Printed Ephemera. Bring Diaries, ships log, old letters, biographies etc		GY
8 Jan	Magic Lantern Show, Norwich + others 1860 - 1910	Richard Fiddy	Nch
12 Jan	"From Poacher to Pillar of Society - the story of a remarkable man"..		Diss
13 Jan	Fenland Railways	Andrew Ingram	KL
2 Feb	Member help Member – Guide to Genealogical Research - continuation of hand out from last year		GY
9 Feb	Lloyd George Domesday & National Farm Survey	Paul Blake	Diss
10 Feb	Family History Sources on the Web	Derek Palgrave	KL
12 Feb	Norfolk Regiment Territorials Battalion 1908-1945	Neil Storey	Nch
2 Mar	The good, the Bad, the Prostitute and the Leper in late C14 th Gt Yarmouth	Dr. Janka Rodiewicz	GY
9 Mar	The Foundling Hospital London	Dr Paul Davies	Diss
6 Mar	TBA		London
10 Mar	Writing Family Biographies	Geoffrey Lee	KL
12 Mar	A Norfolk Journey	Keith Skipper	Nch

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)



THE PRIDE OF NORFOLK An Illustrated History of the Territorials by Neil R.Storey. Halsgrove 2009 Hardback A4 size 160 pp; price £23.25. inc postage.

Reading this book on Armistice Day was a poignant and sombre reminder of the tragedy of two World Wars, the awful suffering and terrible loss of life.

Two Norfolk Infantry Battalions of Territorial soldiers came into being in 1908 as part of a national volunteer part-time army raised specifically to defend Britain. They were not obliged to serve overseas but in 1914 they answered the call and were sent to fight the Turks, taking heavy casualties. The author clears up the supposed 'disappearance' of the entire 5th Battalion or 'Sandringham Company' of the Norfolk Regiment at Anafarta Ova, Gallipoli Peninsula, 12th August 1915, and recounts the lost battles fought in Gaza, Palestine.

In 1939 Norfolk men stood ready to defend Britain's shores. The new 7th Battalion fought in France before Dunkirk and later in the Normandy campaign 1944 but the 4th, 5th and 6th were eventually shipped out to Malaya. They arrived at Singapore 29th January 1942 only for the base to surrender 15th February. They spent the next three and a half years as prisoners of war, in a grim struggle for survival at the hands of cruel and ruthless Japanese captors.

The text includes first-hand accounts of bravery in combat and is illustrated with an extraordinary collection of many previously unpublished photographs. A Roll of Honour 1914-18 and 1939-45 lists all the dead and where they are buried or commemorated plus their Decorations and Awards. It "captures the sense of duty and pride of the men who served" and is "an indispensable reference work for both military and family historians".

A Family of Brickmakers and Craftsmen: A Genealogical Account of the Frost Family in East Norfolk by Patrick Palgrave-Moore 2009 Hardback A4 100 pp.

This study of the FROST Family, found around the coastal region of N E Norfolk from the 17th century onwards, traces their origin and existence in villages such as Runton, Cromer, Bodham and Costessey. It describes the development of their brickmaking business interests and the settlement of a branch in Norwich where they became skilled whitesmiths and craftsmen.

A Chapter is devoted to the many descendents of Philip Frost who emigrated in 1820 from Sustead in Norfolk to the Cape Colony South Africa, starting brickworks at Uitenhage. A final Chapter concerns several other Frost Families grouped around the Reepham, Kerdiston, Hackford area. The book contains numerous Family trees with hundreds of names and potted biographies, copies of documents, maps and photographs, all of which provide a wealth of information about people who “made substantial contributions to the life of those around them, enriching the culture and providing long-lasting evidence of their skills and services”. Although produced for the benefit of family members by private circulation, a copy (donated by Patrick) is available in the Pedigree section of the Kirby Hall Library for members to consult.

Edmund Perry MN 3181

PROJECTS – by Edmund Perry

For the moment we have ceased major printing of transcripts in order to concentrate on the NORS website. I would like to thank the following for work sent in: Eric Rivett; Samantha King; Vicky Ellis; Nigel Upstone; Graham King; Mags Hobby; Ivan Slapp; Gay Wheeler; Helen Few; Jon Gilbert; Stephen Fisher; Barbara Purdy; Terry Miller; Sheila Miller; Pat Mason – and anyone else I have omitted.

A big thank you to John Brundell and Rosalind Montague for cleaning transcripts; Mike Dack, Peter Spurgeon; Denagh Hacon for uploading and to Carole Taylor for doing the Admin on the NORS site. Also to Margaret Murgotroyd who has taken over printing transcripts and maintaining the PRT List in the Library and to Dennis Thompson for digital photography particularly the CD of all Acle Registers.

This ‘Projects Team’ would welcome any offers of assistance with what is a demanding workload.

We decided to defer launching the NORS link on the Website until January so as to tidy up the overall presentation and administration. Full details will be issued to members when we roll-out. At present we have uploaded about 330 transcripts from 150 separate villages covering about half a million names.

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.

SURNAME

AREA

BEAUMONT	Potter Heigham, Hickling, Hanworth, Gresham
CANNELL	Norwich
EASTER	Pentney, Seething
EVANS	Acle to Hamburg
FLEET	Gt. Yarmouth
LEEDS/SCOPE	Norwich and N. Norfolk area
PIKE	Stuston, Diss, Garboldisham, Hethersett
PLATTEN	Hoveton, Norwich
SCOTT/ NORMAN	Horsham St. Faiths, Felthorpe
SUTTON	Cawston, Hevingham, Marsham

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: kgbj@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

September Dr Nick Aber with and his wife, Annette, gave an informative talk entitled 'In the Clink - 19th century prison life'. There were main prisons at Norwich Castle, Yarmouth Tollhouse, Thetford and Kings Lynn, with Bridewells at Acle, Swaffham, Aylsham, and Wymondham.

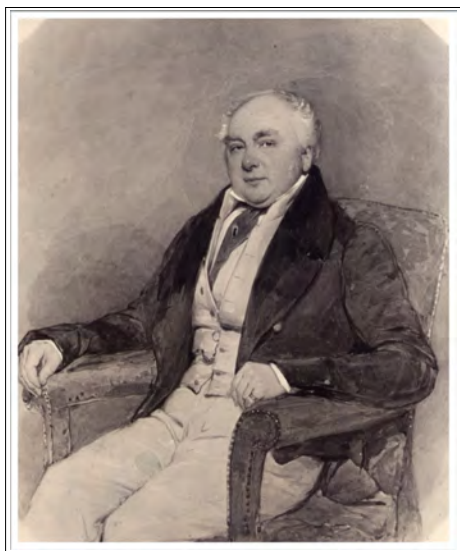
The latter were houses of correction where prisoners were housed after sentence to work on mat making, weaving etc. The main prisons were for those sentences to hard labour on the treadmill, holding those awaiting sentence and debtors, with very like life described in Dickens' Little Dorritt.



Prison inspectors reports survive for many prisons, such as one in 1840 on Norwich Castle that reported even prostitutes were allowed to visit. Between 1830-70 women prisoners were mainly being held at Wymondham Bridewell, which was the first women only prison in Europe.

After 1860 more emphasis

was put on punishment rather than rehabilitation. No longer were prisoners taught to read and write in order to better their chances of employment upon release, and the hammocks went and the board bed introduced.



In 1877 jails were nationalised and small jails were closed to save money, and women were moved to Norwich Castle, as there were not so many debtors imprisoned.

A technical hitch meant we were unable to see a drawing of one of the Jailers who lived with their family in the prison, but the Abers emailed his picture the following day.

John Johnson (from a portrait in the Norfolk Museums Service collections) Gaoler at Norfolk County Gaol 1797- 1843

In a survey carried out in 1840 he was the longest serving Jailer in England.

The October meeting saw the return of Stephen Pope whose illustrated talk took us through the 'Victorian farming year', with the farming year beginning on September the 29th.

It is thought that workers did not sing to keep in rhythm whilst winnowing, or the dust would have got into their mouths, but as many were bell ringers they practiced ringing the changes to keep a rhythm.

Coming from a fishing community, I had never heard of a Judas sheep. It is a sheep that is hand reared and when put back into the flock on seeing the shepherd will run to greet him and in so doing, the rest of the flock follow.

While its thought that 'ag. labs' didn't move around as time passed, one of our members recalled driving through various villages with a family member who would say 'we lived here, or we lived there', and since becoming a family historian regrets never making a note of where exactly the relation was indicating.

Fascinating photographs highlighted the seasonality of farm work and the people from yesteryear when many men and women, such as Mr. Edwards of Reedham, were still gainfully employed at 70.



London Branch Report - Mary Seeley

Our last meeting for 2009 took place on 17th October. The promise to hear a talk on rural migration by Gill Blanchard of PastSearch was a great draw, and 19 people duly arrived at the Society of Genealogists lecture room.

Gill's talk looked specifically at Norfolk agricultural labourers and migration. Most of us have wandering "ag labs" somewhere in the family tree and this was a great opportunity to learn what factors influenced their movements, whether from parish to parish, to a new county or town, or overseas. Obviously, this was a huge topic, but Gill gave us an excellent framework and plentiful suggestions as to where to find that missing evidence.

Norfolk has always had a strong rural identity and was once one of the wealthiest counties in England on the strength of the wool trade. The term "ag lab" was shorthand coined by the 19th century censuses to cover a large variety of skills and work experiences of men, women and children employed in agriculture. Where people were on this scale affected their movements - were they "tied" to a job and a cottage, or were they perhaps "yeomen" with more status and independence? Gill pointed out that family history is inextricably linked to local history - it is important to understand what is going on in the locality as a motive for people moving, and although prior to about 1800, the population was fairly static, people have always moved from place to place and for the same reasons - necessity, opportunity adventure and romance. The improvements in transport in the 19th century speeded up the trend. Trade Directories are an invaluable source of information about the environment of a parish.

Prior to the censuses, parish records and oral histories provide the core of evidence to track ancestors and trace population movements. People tended to move in family groups and sometimes one member - father or brother perhaps - went first, and other family members followed.

Returning to "pre-census" days, people tended to move in incremental stages, and parish records of contingent parishes prove invaluable for tracking children born along the way. Settlement records - the statements of individuals requesting poor relief - provide a first hand account, and frequently outline the journeys from parish to parish made by the individual in question, whether in search of work or following family ties. If there is census data, Gill reminded us of the importance of checking adjacent pages to see if there are people from the same family, or otherwise linked to your ancestor or the area he or she came from - actually an easier task when one was scrolling through reels and reels of microfilms.

If you are interested in plotting trends in migration over the years, the Census Monitor website uses data from official government records as well as the censuses. There was a 43% decrease in people working in agriculture in Norfolk between 1861 and 1931 and by 1991, less than 2% of the population were involved in agriculture in this primarily rural county.

Gill ended her talk with a discussion on assisted emigration, Schemes started in the early 19th century, and parish records such as the vestry minute books can again indicate if there was a drive in a particular area to encourage people to seek work in Canada, Australia or New Zealand. People with skills - such as shoemakers and blacksmiths - were targeted by these schemes and the government paid to assist these people's passage. Alternatively, people were given assistance to go to the industrialised north of Britain, where labour was required in mines and factories. Well into the 20th century, charities such as Barnardo's and the Children's Society sent children overseas, ostensibly for a "better life".

Gill ended her talk to much applause and then took questions from the audience. Rural migration was a huge topic to cover, but Gill had given us all an excellent overview of what might have driven our ancestors to pack their bags and how we might track their adventures hundreds of years later.



South Norfolk Branch Report – Betty Morley and Chris Allen

In August our speaker was Simon Pawley with a talk entitled "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Bigamist" or "How history finally caught up with John Hill".

Simon warned us that this was going to be an unusual talk, basically an interesting story with some lessons to be learned. He went on to outline the case of the said John Hill. He had married first in 1849, his wife gave birth to their child in the workhouse in July 1851 but after that date he was not to be found. In the vernacular, John had "done a bunk" and was not traced in his lifetime. However, with hindsight and the plethora of historical records now available, Simon was able to show us how he had been able to trace much of John's subsequent life, including the various ships he sailed on (yes, he really did "run away to sea"! including his eventual second bigamous marriage in July 1876. Many different sources were described and explained during this talk and I would think it very likely that most of those present went away from this meeting with inspiration and new ideas. John Hill finally died in 1905 aged 71, a pensioner of the Royal Marines. His sins did eventually find him out, but not for 104 years!

Our September speaker was Ken Nockles, one of our own members – of many years standing. His talk was “Passing on a Maiden Name”. Ken had done a lot of work in preparing his talk, with OHP transparencies of charts, photographs and official records. His delivery was gentle and charming and he made many humorous comments relating to the behaviour of his ancestors.

His maternal Grandma Larkins was third illegitimate child of great grandmother and she wanted her surname – Bruce – passed on. Ken decided to research both the passing on of maiden surnames and illegitimacy in Gamlingay.

Gamlingay parish records of baptisms produced many anomalies still unexplained – e.g. average baptisms per month thirty one but occasionally the number was over two hundred! It was agreed that most of us have examples of illegitimacy in our families and that the practice of passing on maternal surnames by adding them as forenames can be really helpful too.

Ken recommends the book “Gamlingay” by James Brown (ISBN 0-304-31628-8) to those with family from this village.

An enjoyable evening, also attended by two very welcome members of Norwich Branch.

Neil Storey returned in October to give us a most interesting talk about WWII in Norfolk and in particular the work of the Territorial Army and the Home Guard. It is useful to know that the ARP records were kept by the County Councils and passed to local Records Offices in Eastern England. There is also a most interesting and informative book about the Home Guard in Norfolk. It contains many photographs which may be useful for those researching family members in one of these units.

The rise of fascism and Nazism in Europe after the 1st World War concerned many people. With the onset of the Spanish Civil War it was realised that warfare in the air was going to be a considerable threat so the Eastern Command began to look at anti-aircraft defences and set up Air Raid Committees in 1935. The Territorial Army played an important part and trained at Weybourne.

It was thought a German invasion could easily take place on the East Coast so up went the pill boxes and tank traps and many cans till be found today especially among the sand dunes of Winterton and Hemsby. Bombs destined for Norwich were occasionally dumped over the dunes as well. The Army Bomb Disposal Group came in and cleared the dune area when someone was blown up by a discarded bomb in Winterton.

1941 saw the start of the firebombing in Norwich and several of our members remembered the bombing of Caley's sweet factory and the Laurence Scott Engineering works. As children in Norwich they had to find alternative routes to school and the shops. I was interested to hear that some buildings like the Weybourne Springs Hotel were actually demolished as they were considered to be a very obvious landmark for the German bombers. Several other interesting facts came to light – the first Zeppelin flight was over Eastern England, the first decoration for bravery during WWII was for a soldier from Norfolk. Altogether a fascinating evening which members really enjoyed.



West Norfolk Branch report - Brenda Leedell

Our August meeting was one of our regular members' evenings at which we do not have a booked speaker. However, Rosemary Harris and Bronwyn Fisher brought along some family heirlooms and each gave a short talk about the items. Bronwyn brought along some lace items that had been worked by one of her ancestors and Rosemary brought some silverware handed down through several generations. The history behind these items was fascinating and of course to any family historian of great value. Thanks to Rosemary and Bronwyn for bringing them along.

In September Martin Edwards of www.Roll-of-Honour.com was our speaker and came to talk about Boer War Research. If you have a missing relative on the 1901 Census, it may be that he was in South Africa fighting the Boers.

The war with the Boers saw many changes in the way the British conducted their wars. Some of which you may think were brought in much later. Many people think that WW1 was the first time that trench warfare was used but it was actually in the South African wars. This was the first conflict for which men volunteered in their thousands. The Boer's were expert at guerrilla warfare, which was virtually unknown previously and of course, the British were the first to introduce concentration camps during this time, in which women and children were imprisoned.

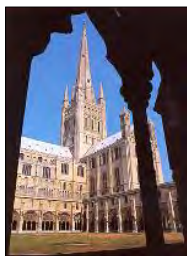
Around 6 to 7,000 men died in the conflict but many more – around 14,000 died of disease such as Typhoid contracted from polluted river water.

Dr Julian Litten was our speaker in October and spoke to us about the Hardwick Road Cemetery, King's Lynn. On the internet Dr Litten is described as a funerary historian and has been involved in many national projects and written many books and essays, too numerous to mention here.

Locally, Dr Litten is Chairman of the Friends of Hardwick Road Cemetery and Churchwarden at All Saints Church, King's Lynn.

Dr Litten began with a history of the graveyards of the churches within King's Lynn town. I was surprised to hear that St James' Park, in the centre of the town, is the graveyard of St James' Church, which no longer exists. Initially it was All Saints Church and St Margaret's Church who purchased land in Hardwick Road for burials, as their respective churchyards were full. With the 1854 Burial Act the Borough Council took over the graveyards for all denominations and the King's Lynn Burial Board took over the organisation of the Cemetery.

We then looked at some of the more notable graves within the Cemetery. The Friends of the Hardwick Road Cemetery have transcribed the burial records for the Cemetery and will do look ups (for a fee), although researchers need to be aware that many of the graves do not have a memorial. We were treated to a fascinating and humorous look at the Victorian way of death.



Norwich Branch Report – Roy Scott

On 14th August we were treated to a very interesting talk by Edmund Perry, the Society's Project Coordinator, on the subject of Lucilla Reeve, a Norfolk woman. Ed has an extensive knowledge of this remarkable Norfolk woman, having written the preface to *FARMING ON A BATTLEGROUND* by a *NORFOLK WOMAN*, a book in autobiographical format about the life and work of Lucilla Reeve from 1938 to 1948 and published by Geo. R Reeve Ltd. Ed followed this up with *TOTTINGTON A LOST VILLAGE IN NORFOLK*, which he wrote with his mother Hilda Perry, who actually knew Lucilla Reeve.

Lucilla Reeve was born in 1889 at Hunstanton, but being illegitimate; she was brought up by her grandparents in the village of Tottington and was educated at the village school. She grew up to be a self-sufficient, hard working, unmarried career woman, doing a man's job as the Land Agent of the Merton estate. Lucilla was considered unconventional, with her Eton crop hairstyle, speeding around the estate on her motorcycle or in her sports car, yet holding beliefs in witchcraft and ghosts. She was an accomplished water diviner as well as a writer of fiction, poetry and newspaper articles.

She was a staunch supporter of the Royal Family, writing poetry and naming several woods after them, but before the Second World War she became interested in National Socialism and met with Oswald Mosley on a number of occasions.

In 1938 the Army requisitioned this large area of Norfolk, and this is now known as the Stanford Battle Area. Lucilla remained to live locally albeit in a wooden shed in Merton Woods. Sadly Miss Reeve took her own life in 1950. Her body was originally buried outside St Andrews churchyard in Tottington in unconsecrated ground, but years later the Army extended the wire fence to incorporate her grave inside the churchyard.

Edmund's talk covering the life of the remarkable Lucilla Reeve left me pondering two questions. How did a village school deep in the heart of Norfolk manage to produce a woman of such talent and ability; but the biggest question of all, was her father, whoever he was, proud of his daughter.

On September 11th Dr Colin Chapman's talk entitled "Your Ancestor's Population and Birth Control" was delivered to an apprehensive audience of 29. His description of some of the birth control methods used by our ancestors ranging from jumping up and down, sneezing to extract of weasels' testicles or crocodile dung; were greeted with disbelief, amusement, or disgust. Various devices gradually revealed from Dr Chapman's black bag were certainly not for the squeamish or faint hearted.

To summarise Dr Chapman's arguments it would seem there is much recorded evidence of birth control methods being used since before biblical times, but the main controlling factor of levels in the population were famine, pestilence, infant mortality and war.

This situation remained until the work of Marie Stopes (1888-1958) and Margaret Sanger (1883-1966) in the U.S.A. came to prominence during the Twentieth Century and birth control became a factor in limiting the size of the population.

The plan for the October meeting of the Norwich Branch was thrown into disarray when, late in the afternoon, we received news of the hospitalisation of the speaker. We wish Dr Clive Wilkins-Jones a speedy recovery and hope that a date can be arranged next year for his talk on the Colman Collection.

Edmund Perry stepped into the breach by giving a presentation on the preparation of the Society's collection of Parish Register Transcriptions to be made available to members via the Society's web site known as NORS, Norfolk Online Record Search. When this facility "goes live" early next year, it will be of significant value to our members, especially to those who are unable to visit Kirby Hall. The huge task of standardising, cleaning and uploading the data into the format to be used is progressing steadily and I wish this hard working, dedicated team every success as they approach the big day.

THE LONDON GAZETTE - TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION

One family historian writes:

"...from my personal perspective in the London Gazette online archive I found:

- My French great great grandfather submitted three patents for inventions whilst he was living in London " improvements in apparatus or instruments for describing or drawing elliptical figures" " improvements in ornamenting transparent or partially transparent glass" ; "improvements in apparatus for aerial locomotion "
- Another great great grandfather was made bankrupt in 1867
- The record of an ancestor applying for British naturalisation
- A distant German relative who had his British assets sequestered under the WWII Trading with the Enemy legislation!"

But first:

Samuel Pepys, Lord Byron and Charles Dickens are amongst the famous names to have written of the London Gazette, Britain's oldest continuously-published newspaper. It has recorded significant political events, the everyday working of government and to some extent the lives of ordinary everyday people since the plague of 1665 drove King Charles II from London. The issue of September 10th 1666 faithfully records the inexorable spread of the Great Fire of London despite "*His Majesties (sic) own...personal plans to apply all possible remedies to prevent it*" (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/85)

By the early eighteenth Century the Admiralty and War Office published despatches in the Gazette and submitted details of the appointments and promotions of their officers, a process continuing even today and known as "being gazetted" and in 1712 an "*Act to Relieve Insolvent Debtors*" required publication of insolvency announcements. Military despatches published included those of particular importance, Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar and the first news of Wellington's victory at Waterloo. (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/15858; www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/17028)

The Gazette continued to grow, the railway building boom of 1845, legislation on Patents and Company Law in the 1850s and 1860s, and from 1870 notice of civil service recruitment and examinations contributed to the publication. Civil service notices continued through the first half of the twentieth century and included bodies such as the post office that we don't today regard as civil service.

In 1899 a Naturalization Act (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27039/pages/13) resulted in the regular publication of lists of those granted British citizenship and in 1925 the Trustee Act (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/33120/pages/84) picked up pre-existing practice by specifying certain legal privileges for executors giving notice of deceased's estates in the Gazette. Notices of this type are placed even today, providing family historians with a rich trail of information.

In 1843 British commanders mentioned rank and file soldiers (Other Ranks) by name in their despatches for the first time. With the introduction during the Crimean War of three medals to be awarded to Other Ranks for brave conduct, details of the actions for which they were awarded – known as citations – were published in the Gazette. The best-known of these is the Victoria Cross, the first examples being awarded for service in the Crimean War (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/21971).

At the turn of the century despatches from the Boer War were frequently accompanied by regular lists of those awarded medals or whose conduct was to be noted. Whilst the names of those whose conduct was noteworthy are sometimes recorded within the text of a despatch, it became common practice to provide a separate list of such names after the main despatch, an appearance in such lists becoming known as a “mention in despatches”. Awards of a new medal for naval officers, the Conspicuous Service Cross (later the Distinguished Service Cross) were gazetted from 1901 (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27328/pages/4330).

WW1 led to changes to the Honours and Awards system, reflecting the nature of the conflict. Existing medals for bravery were extended by the creation of the Military Cross (MC), the Military Medal (MM). By 1920 over 120,000 MMs and 40,000 MCs had been gazetted.

The Order of the British Empire was introduced by King George V in June 1917. These awards rewarded British and Empire civilians who were helping the war effort and for the first time recognised the contribution of women. The order recognised outstanding military service of a non-combatant nature or a distinguished contribution to the state in the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service and charitable work. With these regular awards came the institution of the Birthday and New Year Honours Lists, (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/30111/supplements/5453). WW2 saw a similar expansion of the Gazette to that of 1914: extensive lists of promotions and regular supplements of Honours and Awards.

Although it has been available in public libraries for many years, the official nature of the material recorded in the Gazette has meant a limited circulation, making access difficult for many interested users. The Gazette recognised this and now 99%+ of London Gazettes are available online with most being key word searchable.

The best tip to get the most from the web archive is to use the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)/Help screens, the diversity of content makes it a complex publication and search is a skill unless you have an unusual surname!

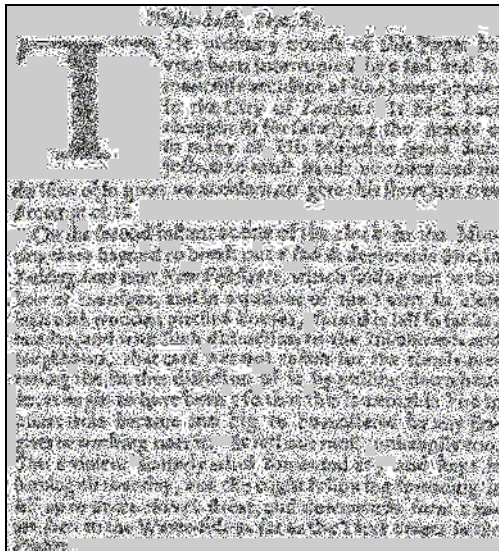
Today's Gazette still thrives with daily publication of notices and military, honours and other supplements. Whether you are researching a person or a social trend, the Gazette is a treasure trove of family and other history and will probably have something of interest.

For more information about the London Gazette visit us at www.london-gazette.co.uk/about, a special search facility is available for beginners at www.london-gazette.co.uk/search/steps/1 or use advanced search www.london-gazette.co.uk/search.

With thanks to Jon Mills, author and publisher of the series "Within The Island Fortress: the uniforms insignia and ephemera of the home front in Britain 1939-1945"

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/85:



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‘GONE FOR A SOLDIER’

by Peter Bailey, Chairman, Families in British India Society

Norfolk men have always held to the tradition of service to their country on land, sea and in the air. A number of them volunteered for service with others such as the armies of the powerful “Honourable East India Company” (EIC) who, until 1858, largely controlled India.

The EIC, referred to colloquially as ‘John Company’ was hugely wealthy and controlled three broadly distinct armies, one for each of the three ‘Presidencies’ into which their Indian territories were divided: Bombay, Bengal and Madras. A number of men were selected to garrison the Company’s territory in the Atlantic Ocean - the island of St. Helena. In the early days these armies were officered by Europeans but largely employed locally recruited Indo-Portuguese ‘Topaz’ as its soldiers. Then, in the mid-eighteenth century, the decision was made to recruit numbers of Britons and Swiss mercenaries to man its armies.

The appeal of life in the armies of India was high. Firstly, the Company could offer the stability of a regular income and, in later years, an attractive pension. Secondly, as its power and influence expanded, it was able to promote soldiers to positions of administrative responsibility with a salary and status not easily achievable at home.

Lists of soldiers who embarked in the Company’s ships for India are available at the Oriental & India Office records at the British Library (Series L/MIL/9/-). They commence in 1741 and continue up to and beyond the demise of the EIC following the Mutiny of 1857. Soldiers from all over the British Isles were sent to India at the rate of two to three thousand per year. In the early days, ships carried thirty to forty men at a time on the six or seven month voyage. This rapidly increased to one or two hundred men at a time and the voyage decreased to three months.

The Families in British India Society (FIBIS) was established to advise and assist in the research of ancestors who served in British India. It is in the process of entering details of army recruits into a database and so far has included close to 5000 thousand between 1741 and 1754. These, together with data on over half a million others who served in British India may be viewed free-of-charge in its searchable web-site at www.fibis.org Typically of English counties, there are about 30 from Norfolk, with a good indication that some of these may have agreed to go together. These 30 are listed in the table.

The contracted length of service in the early days was as little as five years. Later, however, following the promise of increased pension, most soldiers opted for ‘Unlimited Service’ of eighteen years with an option to serve three additional years. Of course, battle both with the enemy, with the climate, with mosquitoes and with the bacteria in India, greatly limited one’s chance of return. Furthermore, the attractive life for those promoted to administrative positions caused many to stay on. However, many did return to their native shore, including to Norfolk, possibly bringing a wife with them or possibly finding one on their return, to become ancestors of some of our readers!

SURNAME	Chr Name	Parish	Trade	Age	Ship	Sailed	Army
Patrick	Edward		Weaver	25	Beaufort	03-Feb 1740	Madras
Castell	Peter		Labourer	28	King William	07-Feb 1740	Madras
Worrell	Thomas		Labourer	25	Shaftsbury	22-Jan 1741	Madras
Cutbell	Thomas		Painter	22	Mariborough	22-Jan 1741	Madras
Cannell	Thos		Smith	21	Princess Amelia	04-Feb 1742	Madras
Thompson	James	Norwich	Weaver	21	Heathcote	14-Mar 1742	Madras
Carter	Charles		Labourer	21	York	11-Jan 1743	Madras
King	William		Shoemaker	19	York	11-Jan 1743	Madras
Ellis	Matthew	Norwich	Labourer	30	York	11-Jan 1743	Madras
Feddarmount	William	Norwich	Labourer	17	Prince of Wales	24-Nov 1743	Madras
Nicholls	Stephen		Labourer	19	Beaufort	30-Dec 1743	Madras
Eagle	James	Thatford	Taylor	18	True Briton	1753	Madras
Beer	Francis	Norwich	Weaver	16	Ilchester	1753	Madras
Bishop	John	Norwich	Weaver	19	Denham	1753	Bengal
Gunner	William	Smallbridge	Weaver	20	Denham	1753	Bengal
Audley	Thomas	Yarmouth	Labourer	21	York	1753	Madras
Simmons	William	Norwich	Weaver	24	York	1753	Madras
Budwell	William		Labourer	26	Warren	1753	Madras
Booth	Thomas		Labourer	18	Shaftsbury	1753	Bombay
Frost	John	Norwich	Labourer	23	Exeter	1754	Bencoolen
Nelson	John	Swaffham	Labourer	27	Exeter	1754	Bencoolen
Turner	James	Norwich	Labourer	26	Exeter	1754	Bencoolen
Frederick	William	N. Walsum	Weaver	26	Exeter	1754	Bencoolen
Marks	John	Long Stratton	Taylor	24	Prince George	1754	Madras
Browne	John	Badingham	Brick Maker	24	Prince George	1754	Madras
Humphrey	John	Norwich	Labourer	17	Prince of Wales	1754	Madras
Stapleton	John	Lynn	Weaver	19	Prince of Wales	1754	Madras
Branham	William	Yarmouth	Labourer	21	Bombay Castle	1754	Madras
Harrison	John	Wells	Bricklayer	20	Bombay Castle	1754	Madras
Raddock	Elisha	No. Loppum	Sawyer	23	Bombay Castle	1754	Madras
Spincks	William	Standforth	Bricklayer	18	Bombay Castle	1754	Madras
Francis	Thomas	Fundon	Breeches Maker	19	Rhoda	1754	Madras
Harvey	John	Raydon	Labourer	38	Rhoda	1754	Madras

**NORFOLK RECORD OFFICE REPORT
FOR THE NORFOLK ANCESTOR**

New Parish Register Accessions 17 July – 9 October 2009

Acle	baptisms	1883-1946
	marriages	1837-1997
	burials	1868-1918
	banns	1858-2004
Drayton	marriages	2003-2008
Fersfield	baptisms	1940-1970, 1981-2009
	burials	1947-2008
Fishley	baptisms	1855-1931, 1944-1973, 1995-2007
	marriages	1869, 1886, 1889, 1919, 1924, 1940, 1957-1989, 1999-2009
Gaywood	marriages	1977-1988
North Lopham	baptisms	1849-2009
	burials	1946-2009
Norwich, St Mary Coslany	banns	1868-1878

Exhibitions at The Archive Centre

Norfolk, People and Parliament, an exhibition produced in conjunction with the Parliamentary Archives, opens in The Archive Centre's Long Gallery during the week beginning 11 January, and continues until 31 March. Documents will cover topics such as crime and punishment, debtors and the parliamentary enclosure of land. The display will also incorporate documents on loan from the Parliamentary Archives, including the oldest surviving act of parliament, which relates to Norfolk and dates from 1497.

Free Access to the 1911 Census and to The National Archives' Documents Online Service

Norfolk Record Office is one of seven archive services in England and Wales which is offering free access to the 1911 census online, thanks to a partnership with The National Archives (TNA). This service began in early

September, but unfortunately final confirmation was not received in time for mention in the last issue of *The Norfolk Ancestor*. People can access the census *via* two terminals in the NRO's searchroom, and can print off entries at our usual charges. We have a limited number of credits, and projections suggest that these will run out before the end of the year, so anyone planning a special visit to the Record Office to see the census is advised to contact us in advance to check that the service is still available.

TNA has decided that as each regional archive exhausts its free 1911 census credit quota, it will provide three months' free access to the TNA's Documents Online service. This invaluable resource includes Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, 1384-1858, First World War medal index cards, and Royal Navy seamen registers, 1853-1923, as well as many other collections not available on other websites. Access will again be *via* two terminals in the NRO's searchroom. For more information about when this service will begin, please contact us, or look out for details on our website.

Annual Stocktaking Closure

The Record Office is closed for its annual stocktaking fortnight from Monday, 23 November until Friday, 4 December, re-opening on Saturday, 5 December.

Workshops and Evening Classes at The Archive Centre

On Saturday, 12 December, Frank Meeres will be leading a workshop followed by a walk on *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 to find out the answers to these questions. The session runs 10.00 a.m.-2.30 p.m., starting at The Archive Centre (bring lunch with you). Cost £10 per person.

A new evening class on the history of Norwich starts on Wednesday, 13 January, 7.00 p.m.-8.30 p.m. at The Archive Centre. The course, led by Frank Meeres, will look at the archives of the city and will also include three walks around Norwich. The cost is £70 for ten sessions.

Bookings can be made for both by contacting the Norfolk Record Office.

Talks and Workshops held elsewhere

Archivist Edwin King will be giving a talk, *Deans, Choristers and Ferrymen: researching Cathedral Personnel*, on 8 December at 1 p.m., at Norwich Cathedral Library. To book a place, please telephone the Cathedral Library on 01603 218443. Edwin will be repeating this talk as part of the spring series of lunchtime talks at the Record Office next year.

Staff at Norfolk Heritage Centre hold regular family history workshops at the Heritage Centre, which is based in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich. The workshops are all free of charge. Dates for December are:

Introduction to Family History presentation, 1 December, 2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.
Family History on the Internet, 8 December, 2.30 p.m.-4.00 p.m., with a repeat workshop, 15 December, 10.30 a.m.-12 noon.
Family History 'Drop-in' surgery, 22 December, 1.00 p.m.-3.00 p.m.

It is recommended (but not obligatory) that customers attend the introductory presentation before going to one of the internet sessions. To book a place, or to enquire about dates for January and February (yet to be decided at the time of going to press) please telephone the Norfolk Heritage Centre on 01603 774740 or email norfolk.studies.lib@norfolk.gov.uk.

For further information about workshops and evening classes, and for details of other events at the Record Office, see our website <http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>, telephone us on 01603 222599, or look out for posters at the Record Office.

Unknown photographs

About 30 unknown photographs were passed to me recently, 8 have been reproduced in this issue. They belong to Pat Thompson, a Gt. Yarmouth member, who inherited them from her aunt, Phyllis Spencer. All are unnamed and undated and she would welcome any help you can give in identifying them. I know there are a number of eagle eyed folk among you (*see my Editorial on last issue's unknown school photo*) so I am hoping you can throw some light on these photos. Do you have copies in your possession?

All are studio portraits, the majority of which were taken by Gt. Yarmouth photographers – Sherman's Pier Studio, Alfred Price, Frank H Sayers of 26 King Street, Ayers of 8 Regent Road, Tilley Bros of 92 Regent Road, Miller of 116 Regent Road and Millers Royal Photographic Studio of 14 King Street. In addition there were also portraits taken by Edwards & Co of 102 Leytonstone Road, Edwards & Co of Stratford and Forest Gate and T Wright of 199 East India Road, Poplar.

Can anyone date these photographs? In my view they look Edwardian, but I would appreciate an opinion from someone with more knowledge. Perhaps some of you also have some knowledge of the photographers themselves.

Denagh Hacon MN2671 Editor

BARON KIRKBY DE CLAREMONT

Most NFHS members have no idea why Kirby Hall is so named. It is in recognition of our benefactor **James Lewis KIRBY, Jr.** (born 13th July 1923 in Portsmouth, Virginia) who became a Life Member of the Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society in 1969.

In 1986 through a donation he enabled the NNGS to purchase the former Kirby House in Norwich which became the Library and H.Q. Since then through the Guildford Foundation, Baron Kirkby has provided generous funds which have been invested in M&G Charibonds and known as the Kirby Endowment Fund. This financial support enabled the NFHS to purchase Kirby Hall and use the Fund for maintenance of the building.

As the only child of **James Lewis KIRBY, Sr.** and **Dorette Niemeyer WIGG**, Lewis attended the Norfolk Academy, and three High Schools including the prestigious Episcopal High School in Virginia, before Princeton University. In 1942 he joined the Field Artillery of the 87th Division, rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and gained a number of citations during WWII. Discharged in 1945 he graduated from Princeton in 1948 and followed an Insurance career.

In 1954 he married **Ann Sutherland KIRBY** (no relation) and they lived in N.Y. then retired to Virginia. In 1975 they purchased Claremont Manor Plantation in Claremont Virginia, a picturesque 18th century manor house and park on the James River in Surry County Virginia. He and his wife Ann (who passed away in 1996) had three children and several grandchildren.

Lewis has been a member of several clubs and societies, collected numerous awards and decorations, including the Knight of the Order of Venzel bestowed by the Grand Duke Wladimer of Russia, who also ennobled the Kirby Family to hereditary status as Baron Kirkby De Claremont. Lewis has written 5 books about the Kirby Family and his Colonial forebears. A substantial part of that genealogical research concerns his ancestor, Thomas Kirby.

For many years Lewis Kirby offered a substantial cash reward (the "Challenge") for documentary proof of Thomas' lineage. He assisted in the writing of *'The Search for Mr. Thomas Kirbye, Gentleman* by Noel Currer-Briggs (published by Phillimore 1986) the culmination of 35 yrs of research, with all the Kirby lines traced and the various theories of who Thomas Kirby of Virginia actually was.

The Norfolk records were published in 1992 as *The Descent of James Lewis Kirby, Jr., from the Kirbys of Scarning, Norfolk*, by Patrick Palgrave-Moore and Noel Curren-Briggs. Further work was carried out by NFHS members, Charles Farrow, on the London & Kent area, and by Diana Spelman on Norfolk. *The Kirby Family Vol 1 The Kirkby Family of England* by Lewis Kirby (Plummer Printing Virginia 1994) tells the history of the 700 yrs on the Furness Peninsula of Lancashire. It is part of an intended trilogy to cover all the Kirby family history. *The Kirby Family of York County, Virginia* by James P. Flore (published 2005 by James Lewis Kirby) is a history of the family with short biographies of the male descendents and their various offspring.

The Surname, spelt variously Curby, Kerbie, Kerby, Kirbee, Kirbye, Kirby, derives from Kirkbye meaning “by the church” and can be traced back to 1047. It appears to originate in Furness in Cumberland, then Lancashire, Ireland and eventually Norfolk, England, from where a **Thomas KIRBY from Antingham** went in 1631 to look over the Crown colony of Virginia.

Thomas returned in 1642 with wife and children and purchased 450 acres in Poquoson, York County, Virginia - the Football Quarter Creek Plantation in Charles River. Thomas died in 1668, leaving the plantation to his young son Robert who married twice and fathered 14 children.

Lewis Kirby is one of his seventh generation descendents. The Kirby Family were Plantation owners for 240 yrs but gave up the Football Quarter which reverted to undeveloped farmland. (*see book titles above for lengthy and detailed history*).

Because of Lewis Kirby's intense interest in his family history he visited Poquoson in 1963 but not until the Kirby patent's location was mapped in 1976 could Football Quarter Creek be identified with certainty. After long negotiations with the then owner Mr. Topping, a 36 acre tract was leased in 1995 to The Virginia Foundation for Archaeological Research, Inc. for a proper investigation of the site. The property was purchased in 1996 and turned into Kirby Park 1998, a lasting memorial to Lewis' late wife Ann Kirby Kirby. It will have reconstructions of the plantation buildings, wells and other located features plus a museum to display artefacts and the history of Kirby plantation and Poquoson.

On behalf of all members of the NFHS, the present Trustees express our thanks for Baron Kirkby's unflinching support of the Society. It is much appreciated.

Edmund Perry MN3181

BROADFIELDS AND LONG ALLEYS

The BRADFIELD family from Norfolk to London.

Bradfield -meaning 'broad open land'. Well, it would obviously be pretty impossible to say which bit of land my ancestors took their name from! But at least I think I have narrowed them down to a county, which is more than I had a year ago!

I have been researching my family tree for about 35 years but had not been able to trace my Bradfields before 1795 when **Benjamin BRADFIELD** married **Sarah ONIONS** in St Leonard's, **Shoreditch**. Being in London they could have been living anywhere by the time of the census of 1851, assuming they were still alive! So it was only with the computerised census that I was eventually able to resolve the mystery. I tried 'Ancestry' and 'Find my past' sites but only found Benjamin on 'The Genealogist' site at the LDS centre in London (I do not have Internet at home). It must have been the way it was indexed I think (as 'Benj') but at last he was there, living in Lambeth, with birthplace given in 1851 as '**Norfolk/Colton**'.

I had wondered before if they had Norfolk connections since there were very many Bradfield entries on the IGI for that county, but I could not find Benjamin there. It appears now of course that Colton records are not on the IGI! Anyway my first step was to join the Norfolk FHS as I knew nothing about the area. I was phoned before I even had my membership card by Jean Stangroom who had an indexed transcript of Colton registers. She gave me baptism and marriage details and I took more information from a film of the same at the LDS library. Thus I was able to find a Baptism for Benjamin in 1774, 5 siblings and their parents **George BRADFIELD** and **Sarah TOOKE** or Tuck who were married 1772 in Colton. There were also several other Bradfields getting married or buried in **Colton** or as witnesses and they appear to be siblings of George. None however of these earlier folk seem to have been baptised there.

Next stop was the Norfolk Record office in Norwich (good excuse for a short holiday!) and a Norfolk Consistory Court Will for a **Charles BRADFIELD** who died 1788 appears to be the father of George and siblings. It would seem that there was only the one family in Colton. This Will had been made out in 1779 by 'Charles Bradfield of Colton, Yeoman' and left £10 each to 5 of his children, £5 to each of 4 grandchildren (assuming I have translated it correctly!), but only 5 shillings each to George and his brother Charles. This may be because they had already had money. I wonder if it had been for an apprenticeship since I found another family member leaving money for his grandson to be apprenticed. George was still in Colton when the Will was made out (last child born there 1782) but as he does not appear to have died there I do wonder if it was he who made the move to London.

His brothers and sisters certainly stayed in Colton and spawned large families though mostly losing the surname through marriage of female line to **CUTBELL (or Cudbill)**; **DAVENEY: LOVETT and NORTON**. There may also be connections to a family in **Easton** (next village) mentioned in a land deed, since they had some of the same first names. One of George's brothers was living at **Stoke Ferry** at the time of the will and from a very good little book about that village (obtained through library lending service) I found there was a **James Bradfield** who was Lord of the Manor of Stoke Ferry – the money soon ran out though after three generations and mortgages!

George's mother Mary did not die until 1794 and does not mention George in her will. By 1795 George's son Benjamin (he who I had 'lost') was certainly in London and married at Shoreditch. Looking at St Leonard's Shoreditch PRs some years ago at the Guildhall I found he had 6 children baptised there when his occupation was given as either 'shoemaker' or 'cordwainer', (possibly depending on who made a note of it!). His address was Long Alley which is now part of Appold Street and Finsbury Avenue at the back of Broad Street Station. From then on our family stayed in the London area. By the 1841 census Benjamin was living in Vauxhall Road, Lambeth and still there in 1851 though his wife had died 1848. Benjamin is listed as being deaf but still making boots aged 76.

The bootmaking trade was carried on by Benjamin's son George Bradfield and also by a Benjamin who I think was another son. This George appears in trade directories, certificates and census as either boot or shoemaker in Lambeth from 1839 to 1866 and had married an Elizabeth Dowie in May 1837 at St Mary's Lambeth. They lived in Brook Street which backs onto what is now the Imperial War Museum but was then 'Bedlam' (Bethlehem Royal Hospital). Charles Booth's Survey of London 1889-1903 says of Brook Street 'mostly professional Music Hall men and women', and this is just the occupation of another George who was son of George the shoemaker.

George junior was born in 1839 in Lambeth Walk to George Bradfield and Elizabeth Dowie. By 1861 George jnr was 21, living with his parents and occupation a carver and gilder. He had the same occupation when he married Eliza Marsh in 1863 but by the birth of their son George William in 1867 he is described on certificate as 'traveller'. 1871 census he is 'traveller'; but by his mother's death in 1880 the administration documents call him a 'comedian'! I must admit I thought this a bit odd but he is also described as 'comedian' on 1881 and 1891 censuses. I have found out a great deal about his career from local papers and theatre programmes at several of the record offices and local studies libraries in London including the Theatre Museum archives when they were at Covent Garden.

His first appearance I have found was at Astley's Amphitheatre in Westminster Bridge Road in 1869 as 'Bobby Thompson' in a production of 'the Battle of Waterloo'. He performed there until 1877 and was in another production of 'Waterloo' in 1876 as a Colonel that time. From 1880 to 1883 George jnr performed at the Elephant and Castle Music Hall in mainly 'light' roles such as Father Dolan in 'The Shaugraun' and 'Graspall Gripper' in a pantomime called 'Bo-Peep, Boy Blue or the Grim Gold Goblin and the Great Gorilla'!! His daughter Eliza Minnie, my great grandmother, born in 1864, had been described as 'assistant in the theatre' at the 1881 census.

By the 1901 census George jnr was a moneylender (maybe to the theatrical artistes?). So how different would their life have been if they had stayed in Norfolk? I doubt if they would have used moneylenders or been to a Music Hall. They would probably have known, and most likely related to, every one in the village. But perhaps that is why some of the family had to leave, with a large family there were just not enough broad fields to go round and they had to head for the long alleys of London.

Mary Grisdale MN 11229

Do you remember when the Postman called on Christmas Day?

My father was Head Postmaster in Farnham, Surrey, from 1959 to 1961, and post was delivered on Christmas Day right up to 1961.

On Christmas morning Dad would go to the sorting office to have a chat with the postmen working there. At home, when the postman arrived with the post he would be invited inside by Mum and be given a small alcoholic drink. No doubt he would receive more small alcoholic drinks as he delivered the rest of the mail!!

All our presents would be under the tree, but my sister and I would not be allowed to open them until Dad had returned home, Christmas dinner was over and we had listened to the Queen at 3 o'clock.

This started a family tradition. From then on our presents were never opened until after the Queen's Christmas message, even though there were no more deliveries of post on Christmas Day and Dad didn't have to go to work.

Mary Mitchell MN 3328

AN UNUSUAL RESULT

One of the earliest ideas of family history was prompted by a silver cup, which stood on a mantelpiece in my parent's house in the late nineteen sixties. The cup, (now in the bank!) which bears some resemblance to a communion chalice, has an inscription stating that it was presented to *'Mr. D Sewell for producing the best COW at the Norfolk Agricultural Show 1803'*. My father recalls the cup on a mantelpiece at his grandfather's house in Upper Norwood, in the early 1930s, but knew little about it, other than the obvious conclusion that D. Sewell was an ancestor and presumably successful farmer.

Research confirmed that **D. SEWELL (Daniel)** was a 3 x great grandfather, who was then resident at Langford Hall, near Thetford. Today, only the church remains of Langford, it has become one of Norfolk's 'ghost villages', demolished to make way for the Stanford Army Training Camp in 1942. *A photograph of this church can be viewed on 'google Earth'*. The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, has parish records dating from around 1775, though there are some overlapping entries with the registers of neighbouring Ickborough. Fortunately both sets of parish registers have been transcribed and published as parts 18 and 19 of the Monograph series, by the N.N.G.S. In the early 1980s, the then Commander-in-Chief of the camp, Col. I. McKinnon, very kindly visited the church on my behalf and found a ledger slab in the floor dedicated to one 'Lydia Sewell, died aged 12 years in 1784'. The parish registers confirmed the entry and revealed many more. Lydia was the youngest sister of Daniel Sewell and would have been a 4x great aunt. Other entries include Daniel's daughter Ann, who died aged 19 in 1819 and states that she was *'buried in the vault under this church'*.

Langford, from the records that survive, appears to have been relatively small. Only two residents were assessed for land tax: Lord Petre, the principle landowner and Daniel Sewell, landowner and tenant of the Hall. Daniel was also the land tax assessor, as well as a farmer. As the Petre family were and still are resident in Ingatestone Essex, many of the documents relating to their Norfolk properties have been donated to the Essex Records Office. Although general baptism, marriage and burial registers for Langford are held at Norwich, anybody tracing ancestors in Langford or the villages in the immediate vicinity might consider consulting the Essex Records Office at Chelmsford for additional information.

It was found that the Petre estate books and accounts for Langford Hall had survived and one of the archivists kindly sent an extract of entries relating to Daniel Sewell for 1801-03.

For 1803, entries showed that he paid for:-	
1 year's poor rate for Buckenham plantation	£2. 8. 0
1 year's land tax	£7.10.08
1 year's window tax for Langford House	£7. 9. 0

There were also details of various goods bought and sold, such as the purchase of a new horse, an old chaise cart and for 383 foot of Alder at 10^d a foot, £15.19.02 (current value £15.96).

Many more entries provided a glimpse of what would have been the day to day running of a landed estate in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century. However, it was an entry for October 9th 1802 that was most interesting. It was for the '*purchase of a milch cow fourteen guineas*'. (Could it have been the same one that won the cup?). Fourteen guineas or fourteen pounds and fourteen shillings (£14.70) would be worth over £630.19 at today's prices. (This value was calculated by taking £1.00 in 1802 to be worth £42.87 by December 2005. The 1802 figure was provided by the Bank of England in 'Equivalent contemporary values of the pound, A Historical Series 1270 – 2005')

Research may have uncovered more details of the life of Daniel Sewell and his family, but I never expected to trace his cow!

Dr. J. Sewell MN2422

NOTE: KIRBY HALL CLOSURE FOR STOCKTAKING

Kirby Hall Library will be closed for stock taking over the Christmas period, so please check the dates on the Editorial page.

MISCELLANY

From the book "Colonial Era Cemetery of Norfolk Island" by R Nixon Dalkin

"Sacred to the Memory of Fred Lambert, Native of Thetford who departed this life 8 February 1842, aged 22"

Lambert was a convict who came out on the ship "Mangles". He was said to have died of "febris" "exceedingly liable to catch cold; had consumption". Norfolk Island was a penal colony in the South Pacific.

June Marriage MN1494

THE GREENACRES OF NORTH RUNCTON

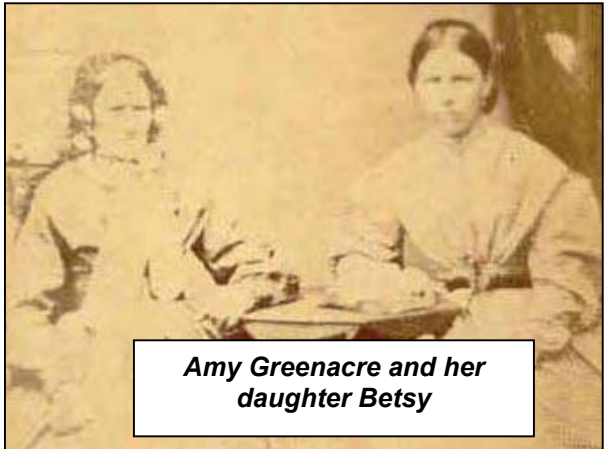
Although the name **GREENACRE** suggests something very English, the parish records of North Runcton, near King's Lynn, indicate that the name might have been originally Dutch. We have one Elizabeth Groonacros dying in the parish in 1823 aged 95, even now a considerable age, and you can see how the name develops by studying the Registers. My great great grandfather, **William**, was born in 1799 and in 1823 married **Amy Gore**, whose family farmed nearby. They had the usual large family, all but one of whom survived into adulthood, but were dealt a huge blow in 1848 when William died suddenly. His widow took over the running of the farm, but by all accounts she was no business-woman and disaster was never very far away. However, a saviour called **Thomas Nurse** stepped in and took the family under his wing. It is said he admired the way Amy tried to hold the family together and keep the farm going. Tommy Nurse was a jeweller in Lynn, unmarried and with considerable lands at Runcton, Heacham and Snettisham, and he did what he could to give the family support and assistance.



Amy died in 1872 and her son Henry took over the farm but nothing in the archives indicates which particular farm they had at any time, although I believe they were tenants of Daniel Gurney, youngest brother of Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer, and at various stages had Manor, Primrose, Church and Meadow Farms. The Inventory of all the stock on the farm at the time of her death mentions one brown mare "Derby", one chestnut horse "Boxer", another brown mare "Diamond", and a roan horse "Prince", a donkey, a red and brown cow and a calf, a bull, chickens and pigs and lists all the harness, farm implements and the contents of the dairy, all valued at £217/4/10.

The eldest child, Elizabeth, or Betsy, was born very deaf and turned down several offers of marriage on the grounds that she "would be a burden to no man". She went to live with her brother and his family in Berwick Cottage, Rectory Lane, then called Cock Lane. Like all the family she had been left a sizeable legacy by Tommy Nurse on his death in 1880 and on this she lived very carefully. However, she lost something like £300 when Jarvis's Bank was declared insolvent, lost her faith in the whole banking business,

and took to pushing her money and valuables, including chickens that she thought the neighbours would try to pinch, about the countryside in an old pram. Not surprisingly, she became very well known in the Lynn area, and tales have been handed down of the racket made by this eccentric old lady counting out her money in a dark, candle-lit room, and of the farm labourers on a Friday night who, having had too much to drink at the Cock Inn down the road, would try and frighten her in her rather isolated cottage.



Amy Greenacre and her daughter Betsy

Betsy admired and respected the squire's family, by now Daniel's son, Sir Somerville Gurney, and when her niece Amy Kirby married Alfred Vare, she said the hat Amy had chosen was not grand enough, and gave her money to "get one like the Gurney girls". She died in Lynn in 1910 and we have a very abrupt letter from the Rector to her sister Maria in which he simply says "Our churchyard is so full that it is not possible for your sister to be buried near the other Greenacres. I have consulted Sir Somerville Gurney, my churchwarden, and we think that as she cannot be buried near them it will be best to have the funeral in Lynn. She cannot of course be buried as a resident of North Runcton and double fees are charged for non-parishioners." I don't know what changed the Rector's mind but the funeral eventually took place at Runcton and although her grave is unmarked we believe she is beneath the yew tree across the path from her relatives.

Maria and her sister Georgina were eventually sent out to work. Maria went into service at Runcton Hall, and I believe was Laura Troubridge's lady's maid for a time. Maria was considered to be delicate. "Pinch your cheeks, Marie, you look so pale!" was the frequent cry and her daughters often referred to her as "Poor dear little mother". During her time at the Hall she visited France and Germany, but she found it all a terrible strain, and came back looking paler than ever! Soon after Daniel's death Maria left the Gurneys and in 1881 married William Kirby, and started a new life in Lynn. She was 45 years old, and yet within a few years she had produced three children, one of whom was my grandmother. Georgina we think went straight to Tommy Nurse in Lynn as his housekeeper.

We do not know for certain who his family were, although there are quantities of Nurses mentioned in the Registers. In his will dated May 1874 he directs "that my body may be buried in the vault at North Runcton wherein my uncle Thomas Oldmeadow Nurse is buried and that my name and date of death be cut on the stone or slate covering of the said vault and that an iron palisading be erected round the said vault." Tommy died aged 90 in 1880 and his grave can be found just inside the churchyard gate. Georgina became quite a wealthy woman on his death, and shortly afterwards married John Farrow, a tea and coffee importer whose shop was on the corner of St James Street and Tower Street. If the papers that have come down to me are anything to go by, the couple were much involved in property dealings around Lynn, buying and selling houses, raising mortgages, lending money and providing funds for various developments. By 1905 the Farrow shop had closed and the couple had moved to 23 St James Street where Georgina and her husband died within two months of each other in 1905.



Georgina Farrow

The only other member of the family we have any record of is Henry, who took on the running of the farm on his mother's death. In 1886 he took on a larger farm as a tenant of Sir Somerville Gurney, paying a rent of £72 a year but from the beginning the farm was in difficulties and he eventually filed a petition for bankruptcy. We have a newspaper cutting outlining the details of the Court hearing and saying he had sold his wagon, horse-rake, mare, cart and harness for £12.

Henry married Louisa Cooper of Runcton in 1863 and had a family, whose descendents are alive today. Although we have nothing further in the archives about either Henry or his brother William, entered in the registers is the burial of Henry Greenacre in June 1903 aged 70.

I am immensely fortunate in that my ancestors kept so much of their correspondence and the family archive is extensive, which has helped considerably in piecing together their story and the stories of their friends. In many ways the biggest problem is knowing where to draw the line!

Jane Boyles MN10892

Runcton, Bereweke Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 6BL

CHARLES FARROW RESEARCH

Genealogical, Heraldic, Historical,
Legal and Manorial Research in
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK
& CAMBRIDGESHIRE

*also Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire
Lincolnshire, London, Middlesex & Northamptonshire.*

*Family Histories Compiled
Parish Registers Transcribed*

Charles W. Farrow FinstLEx
9, Drayton Hall Lane,
Scarning, Dereham NR19 2PY
Fax: (01362) 699398

e-mail: CharlesFarrowResearch@Freenet.co.uk

CHRISTMAS LETTERS

The first letter was written by Joseph Press aged 8 to his father. Dated December 8th 1856, Yarmouth

My Dear Father

I am going out on Christmas day to eat Roast Beef and plum pudding. I am very pleased with the gun given to me.

Second letter dated January 15th 1873

My Dear Mrs. Press

Thanks to you for the Xmas cards I think they were beautiful I was in the country when I received them could not offer to return the compliment as they were so pretty. Albert was very proud of his could not think where Mrs. Press could get them. I suppose it is too late to wish you the compliments of the season however if not merry I hope a happy one.

Joseph and Mary Press lived at 3 Albert Place Great Yarmouth

I wonder if anyone would know when the first Christmas cards were sent?
(see article on page 259)

Linda Smith nee Press MN8117 Press.gang1@ntlworld.com

HOWES IT GOING?

In spring 2008, the Norfolk Ancestor was kind enough to print an article from me outlining plans to establish a resource for students of the name **HOWES/HOWSE** in Norfolk. I thought readers might be interested in an update. We are now clear that we want to collect information on anyone with a Howes ancestor, anywhere.

At that time, our database then contained 2,100 names. It has now grown by a factor of eight, i.e. to almost 17,000 and is available on-line at www.howesfamilies.com. It is difficult to be precise but it appears that already fewer than 50% of the people in the site have roots in Norfolk. One-third of people in the study were born in Norfolk, and of those, two-thirds are named Howes.

Just saying that it is a database does not do it justice. Wherever we can, we obtain birth, marriage, death, residence, occupation, immigration and other details for each person and store them all online in a fully searchable form and we try to add value by linking people into family groups as we go, displaying the important places in their life on a map, and so on. We have close to 100,000 lines of data at this point. We have over 200 BMD certificates online and are willing to accept more, any time.

There are some wonderful stories of some individual Howes family members online. We have been able to help the Norwich City FC historian track down the nearest living relative of John William Howes, one of the club's founders and an extraordinary man, whose only daughter died many years ago. My own favourite is the wonderful piece of research by a site member in Utah, who traced her family back to Catfield in Norfolk and followed the family's move from Norwich to Salt Lake City in the early 1850's. She was able to track the ships the family took from Liverpool to New Orleans and then up the Mississippi to Iowa and then the name of the wagon train company used across the Great Plains. Sadly, the family lost their youngest child on the wagon train and through diligent research our site member managed to find a written record of the event by another person on the same wagon train and was hence able to ascertain the date of death of the poor child.

The site has been able to connect people from over ten countries back to their British heritage and many people now realize they have Norfolk roots who previously had no idea. Our record is taking one person back from 1900 to his oldest known Howes ancestor born in Great Yarmouth in 1612! Given the success of the site, and the difficulty of restricting any study geographically, I took the plunge a year ago and registered the project with the Guild of One Name Studies. That means that I am committing to gradually collecting data on the Howes name worldwide and to answering

questions from anyone, anywhere. The site won an award from GOONS last year in its first attempt. So far so good! What has created this success is a combination of simple hard work, a wonderfully flexible program for online display and most of all the collaborative efforts of NFHS members and almost 150 family historians from around the world. Too many people have helped for me to thank any one person and so I would like to give a very big thank you to everyone who has helped.

If you have **HOWES** connections, would you consider helping? Do you have data you can share? Could you help the research effort? Thanks for listening

Paul Howes MN 9132 mardler@hotmail.com

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS CARDS

www.ideafinder.com

A relatively recent phenomenon, the sending of **commercially printed Christmas cards** originated in London in 1843. Previously, people had exchanged handwritten holiday greetings (*see letters on page 257*), first in person, then via post.

The first Christmas card designed for sale was by London artist John Calcott Horsley. A respected illustrator of the day, Horsley was commissioned by Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy British businessman, who wanted a card he could proudly send to friends and professional acquaintances to wish them a "Merry Christmas".

Sir Henry Cole was a prominent innovator in the 1800s. He modernized the British postal system, managed construction of the Albert Hall, arranged for the Great Exhibition in 1851, and oversaw the inauguration of the Victoria and Albert Museum. In the summer of 1843, he commissioned Horsley to design an impressive card for that year's Christmas.

Horsley produced a triptych. Each of the two side panels depicted a good deed - clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. The centrepiece featured a party of adults and children, with plentiful food and drink (there was severe criticism from the British Temperance Movement).

The first Christmas card's inscription read: "Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you." "Merry" was then a spiritual word meaning "blessed," as in "merry old England." Of the original one thousand cards printed for Henry Cole, twelve exist today in private collections.

FRANCIS FAMILY REUNION

I have been gathering information on my Francis family history on and off since approximately 1978. Prior to that time my paternal grandmother **Lucy FRANCIS nee Turner Wilson** told me many stories about our Francis family roots in Norfolk, England. My curiosity was piqued from a very young age as my grandmother told me how much I physically resembled my English relatives. I was told stories of my great aunts being over 6' tall (I only grew to 5'6"!), and being writers, poets and artists. I was told stories of my great2 Aunt **Georgie Wiseman** who was an accomplished horsewoman and terrified of thunderstorms; of my great uncle **George "lawyer" Francis** who was a lawyer and a historian and lived in Burnham Market; that my grandfather's family home was Burnham Norton Hall in Norfolk and that he was educated at Islington College in King's Lynn. I longed for the opportunity to walk on the Norfolk soil of my ancestors and to try to envision what their lives must have been like. I also longed to know if the stories that my grandmother told me were true.

My paternal grandfather **John FRANCIS** emigrated from England to Canada on the 17th February, 1904 as verified by an entry in a small bible upon his departure. He was born on the 4th March, 1878 at Wood Norton, Norfolk and was the 3rd son and the 7th child born to **John Philip Francis** and **Harriet Rosa Wiseman**. He arrived in Montreal, Quebec and then travelled to Manitoba by train, settling in Boissevain, Manitoba for one year to learn how to do physical labor and to learn how to farm. In March 1905 before Saskatchewan became a Province, my grandfather travelled to Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada and established a homestead 12 miles west of Battleford. A home was built on the property in September 1905 and it was named Norton Farm.

On December 23rd, 1907, my paternal grandmother **Lucy Turner Wilson** arrived in Battleford. My grandparents were married on December 24th, 1907 in Battleford, Saskatchewan by the Reverend Ivor Jones. My grandmother was born in Blythe, Nottinghamshire on April 26th, 1882. Her parents, Frank and Hannah Eliza Turner Wilson nee Taylor were employed at the Victoria Inn in Burnham Market where my great grandfather was the licensed victualler. I don't know how my paternal grandparents met. My grandmother was a determined woman who aspired to take charge and change her lot in life. My grandfather reportedly had a life of privilege and was a dreamer, an intellectual, a painter and a poet. My grandfather returned only once to England in June 1920 as my great grandmother **Harriet Rosa Francis** was gravely ill. My great grandmother sent a request for him to come home to England and she then passed away on July 13th, 1920. Subsequent to this, I have a record of the auction that took place in September 1920 when all the contents in the hall were sold.

The circumstances leading up to meeting my Francis relatives in England began on February 1st, 2006. My husband and I attended the Southwest Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Heritage Dinner in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. We had the good fortune of sitting at a table with Norma and Cal Bristol. Norma told me that her roots are also in the area of Burnham Market in Norfolk and that she has belonged to the Norfolk Family History Society (MN 1737) for over ten years and is researching the Tweedy family. In 2006 Norma visited me at my home and lent me maps, brochures and several issues of the Norfolk Family History Society Journal among other resources. One day as I was reading through the September 2005 edition of the NFHS journal lent from Norma, I came across an addendum with an article contributed by Sue Francis (MN 5735). The names jumped off the page for me as I knew that my greatx2 grandfather's name was the Reverend Philip Francis of Stibbard Lodge, alumni of Cambridge. Another name that I recognized was Cubitt as my late uncle's name is Thomas Edward Cubitt Francis. I emailed Sue Francis and Sue emailed me back the next day and said "I am so glad you have gotten in touch!" Corroborating information started flowing between us as we put the pieces together regarding the Francis family and exchanged photographs and copies of correspondence. Sue is married to my fourth cousin, Richard Francis. Our common ancestor is our greatx3 grandfather, John Francis.

On a lovely autumn day in October 2006, Richard and Sue travelled from their home in Childrey, Oxfordshire to Norfolk and took photographs of Burnham Norton Hall, Stibbard Lodge and headstones at St. Margaret's Churchyard in Burnham Norton where many of my Francis, Mack and Wiseman ancestors are buried. Sue sent me the photographs and wrote a lovely note to say, "Norfolk is very pretty, you must come here." My husband and I began making plans for our trip to England!

Finally in June 2008, my husband and I flew to England and Richard and Sue met us at Heathrow airport. One month prior to the trip, I sent a video of us introducing ourselves to them. They were pleased to receive this and it helped to prepare them for our meeting.

We stayed in Childrey, Oxfordshire and then travelled to Yeovil, Somerset to meet with a third cousin, Major Teddy Warwick. He took us out for a pub lunch at the Mason Arms. On our way there, we saw a glimpse of Stonehenge as it was approaching the eve of the summer solstice gathering.

On June 21st, 2008 we travelled to Norfolk and stayed at a cottage called the Bridge Farm Barn close to Wareham and Holkham Hall and met another cousin, Richard's younger brother Charlie Francis and his wife Pam.

Burnham Norton Hall and surrounding property is now owned by the Earl of Leicester, so Sue had written to Viscountess Valeria Coke telling her about

me and the connection to the Hall. Sue was sent an invitation from Lady Coke for an opportunity to have tea in the garden.

On June 23rd, 2008 the culmination of my childhood dream happened! We entered the grounds of Burnham Norton Hall. I tried to position myself in a similar location to where my great aunt Eliza Rosa Francis (pen name Ruby Lynn) stood beside the column in the outer entrance from a photo taken 103 years ago. This was a very emotional time for me as I had dreamed of this opportunity. Lady Coke was very gracious and provided us with a wonderfully thorough and informative tour of the Manor house and the grounds. We have many photographs as precious memories.

Following our visit to Burnham Norton Hall we travelled to Wells-Next-The-Sea and enjoyed authentic English fish and chips and mushy peas! We met another fourth cousin, John Moore and his wife Lynda. John informed me that our Cubitt ancestors were master builders.

Next we were able to tour Stibbard Lodge. The Lodge was sold in 1920 by Roger Castell Damant, my grandfather's first cousin and purchased by the James Spencer Ashworth family. We had the pleasure of meeting several members of the family. It was the family home of my greatx2 grandparents, the Reverend Philip and Eliza Francis nee Lloyd. When they died in 1883 and 1864 respectively, the property was inherited by my greatx2 uncle, Edward Cubitt Francis, a Cambridge educated barrister and a solicitor. He was Lord of the Manor and was also a senior partner in the law firm of Francis and Back in Norwich, Norfolk.

My grandfather, John Francis died nine years before I was born. He fathered six children in Canada, five of whom survived to adulthood. Of the five, four were sons. My father, Charles Manley Francis was the only one to have children, my sister and myself. I have three daughters and two granddaughters; there are no males born into this branch of the family since my father's generation. The thrill of learning that we have blood relatives in England and to be told by Richard and Sue Francis that I resemble his aunt the late Deda Joan Francis, is another source of fascination!

I must thank Norma Bristol (MN 1737) who provided the light for my journey back to Norfolk. I am eternally grateful to Sue Francis (MN 5735) who took my hand from the time of our first email contact, stayed with me, went the extra mile and provided an absolute wealth of information regarding my branch of the Francis family. I would not have been able to do this on my own. I also wish to acknowledge the helpful information received from Diana Mansell, Jane Gray and Dr. Sally Francis in January and February of 2007.

Linda Dustan Selinger (nee Francis), MN 10241

A ONCE RESPECTABLE MAN

The Life and Crimes of a Victorian Criminal

On May 8th at Kirby House, I heard Mike Wabe giving a talk about Life in a Victorian Prison. I had a special reason for going; my great-grandfather was a convict and died in prison in 1888.

Thomas William HASTINGS was born in Mundesley, Norfolk in 1840 to **William and Elizabeth (née BACON)**. When Thomas was just ten years old, his father died, and he was sent to live with his schoolteacher cousin **Theophilus RUMP** in Trunch. By 1871 he was a greengrocer's porter living in West End Street, Heigham, near Norwich, and married to **Harriet Minter (née WARNER)**.

Thomas's first reported brush with the law was in 1877. George BURROWS, a stallholder on Norwich Market, reported the theft of a basket containing ten volumes of the History of England and various items of hardware. When the police investigated, a witness said he had seen a man carrying a hamper up the steps from the market. His description led to Detective RUSHMER going round to Thomas's house. He did not find the basket but Thomas admitted he had been drunk and had gone to the market for 'a natural purpose'. The next day the officer went again to Thomas's house and told Thomas he would have to accompany him to the police station.

"What was in the basket?" said Thomas, and, when told, replied "You won't find them now". The following day Pc REEVE found the basket minus the contents behind the Fishmonger's Arms public house. Thomas was acquitted due to the police not finding the missing property.

Within a month Thomas was again in court accused of stealing. He was seen acting suspiciously in Exchange Street by Detective MASON, who followed him to Mr ELLIS's stall on Norwich Market. There he watched Thomas uncover some orange boxes. A man called Esau HOBY came up to the stall when he heard the sound of breaking wood and Thomas ran off. The detective followed and apprehended him.

At the Shirehall court, Thomas said "I delivered some celery in a bag to a customer and, as I intended to buy some nuts and oranges from Mr ELLIS in the morning, I decided to leave the bag at his stall. I lifted up the canvass to place the bag underneath and when a man called out 'thief', I ran away. I am guiltless of the charge of stealing." Again, Thomas was acquitted.

Thomas apparently behaved himself for the next four years. He had, though, fallen on hard times, as the next court case shows. In the newspaper report, he was described as a labourer, living in Lincoln's Court, Grapes Hill. In February 1881 he was charged with burglariously breaking

and entering the cellar of a shop in Paragon Place, near Pottergate Street, belonging to Mrs Louisa Daplin WHITRICK, grocer, and stealing 14lbs of cheese and three rolls of butter. At about twelve o'clock on the night of the theft, before the burglary had been reported, Thomas was seen by Pc HOWARD walking along Grapes Hill, carrying something in the shape of a cheese. The officer followed Thomas home and asked him what had become of the cheese. Thomas said he knew nothing about any cheese but after a search, the officer found it behind a hedge and took Thomas into custody. At the police station, the butter was found in his coat pocket and also a box of matches.

At the hearing held at the Shirehall, Mrs WHITRICK's son said the cellar had a flap fastened by a cross bar and he had checked that this was secure at half-past eleven at night. After being called down at half-past two in the morning, he found the flap had been forced open, the cross bar being wrenched off the wood to which it was attached. When shown the butter and cheese and asked if they were similar to what was in the cellar, he replied, "I can swear to the butter but not to the cheese, as other people have cheese with the same mark". Mrs Whitrick, however, insisted that both were her property. Pc HOWARD stated that, when he had searched the cellar, he found, next to the butter, used matches of the same description as found on the prisoner. The evidence against Thomas was overwhelming, and he pleaded guilty. He said "I was destitute at the time and, going home late, I stumbled against the cellar flap, and finding it rotten, I was tempted to enter the premises".

Thomas was committed for trial at Ipswich Assizes, held three months later. Passing sentence, the judge, the Honourable Henry HAWKINS, said that no one would make him believe that in a city like Norwich a man need commit an offence of this sort in order to satisfy his cravings of hunger. He added, "The fact was the prisoner yielded to temptation and this is how people got themselves into trouble."

Thomas was given nine months hard labour at Norwich Castle prison (taking into account the fact that he had already been in prison for three months). One of the forms of hard labour was the treadmill, whose object was to physically punish the prisoners and to break their will. Ironically, it was Thomas's distant relation William CUBITT who was responsible for designing the prison treadmill.

After being released from prison, it was not long before Thomas was again up before the judge. Thomas FELL, who had stables in Church Street, Haymarket, reported the theft of twenty sacks to the police. He was told by Detective RUSHMER to go to the marine store in St Benedict's, owned by Mr BAGSHAW. He did so and found some of his missing property. Giving evidence at the hearing, George BLOWER, the manager of Bagshaw's shop,

stated that the prisoner, Thomas Hastings, had taken some sacks to his shop for which he paid him 6d.(2½p) a stone.

Detective RUSHMER said "I went to the prisoner's house and questioned him as to his possession of the sacks. After hesitating the prisoner said, 'I shall not answer'. I then arrested him."

At the Quarter Sessions held two months later, Thomas pleaded guilty, and, having been convicted on previous occasions, was given twelve months hard labour. Halfway through his sentence, Thomas's wife gave birth to their sixth child.

Despite being warned that he would be given penal servitude if he appeared in court again, Thomas's addiction to the bottle brought him before the Court six months later, but fortunately for him the judge was sympathetic to his plight.

Thomas was in the habit a going to the brewery tap in St Margaret's Plain, which was owned by Mrs M. A. ARNOLD. She had noticed on two occasions after Thomas had visited her premises she was missing a bottle of brandy. On the next occasion he was watched and seen to take a bottle from the window. When Thomas was seized in the street, he threw the bottle over the wall of the churchyard.

In court, Thomas pleaded for another chance, saying he had a wife and six children. Detective RUSHMER spoke on behalf of Thomas. "I have known the prisoner for seventeen years. For the first half of that period he was a respectable man in a good position, then he gave way to drink and got into crime."

The judge said, "This is the old story of drink. The prisoner's wife is a hard-working, respectable and industrious woman whose happiness he has destroyed by being addicted to the terrible drink." Addressing Thomas, the judge continued, "Perhaps a sentence of penal servitude ought to be passed upon you. You were once a respectable man and might again if you stopped putting strong drink down your throat. For years you were in a position of trust and confidence. I never liked to think that a man cannot reform and I am anxious to give you another chance. For your wife's and your children's sake I hope you refrain from the dreadful drink. The sentence of the court is that you will be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for twelve months."

With tears in his eyes Thomas said, "I am very much obliged to the magistrate." But Thomas was unable to keep away from the bottle and a year after leaving prison transgressed again. This proved to be his undoing, as it was a crime against a person. On Tuesday the 30th of March 1886, an errand boy, called Arthur BIRD, in the employ of David McEWAN, seedsman of Red Lion Street, was delivering two stone (13 kg) of seed potatoes, worth

five shillings (25p), to a gentleman living on Old Palace Road. When just past Alexandra Road, he was accosted by a man. The man asked, "Where are you going to 'lig' them", meaning the potatoes. Bird replied, "Up there", pointing up the road. "I have been waiting a hour for them", said the man, and took the potatoes from the boy. He walked along the street in the direction that the boy had been going. BIRD would later say in court that the man gave him the impression that he was the gentleman's gardener.

After the customer complained about not receiving the potatoes, the police made enquiries. The evidence pointed to Thomas. Detective BARLOW visited him at his home and asked him to account for his whereabouts the previous Tuesday. Thomas said, "Yes, I think I was at the 'Morning Star' in Duke's Palace". When told that he was being arrested for stealing the seed potatoes from a boy that particular afternoon, Thomas said he thought he could clear the matter up. On the way to the police station, Thomas admitted taking some seed potatoes sometime about Monday or Tuesday to a gardener on Newmarket Road. "My memory is rather bad. I have been drinking a bit lately."

At the Guildhall, Thomas, now described as a hawker, was identified by Arthur BIRD and was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions, which were held the next day. The jury found a verdict of guilty. Because Thomas had pleaded guilty to felony in 1884, the judge took a different view from the previous one and, in passing sentence, said that the prisoner had a very bad career. He then proceeded to list all the previous offences that Thomas had committed. He said the present case was rather a bad one, the way the potatoes had been taken from the boy, as it was calculated to get the boy into trouble. "I would not be doing my duty if I did not pass a sentence of penal servitude."

Local prisons like Norwich Castle only accommodated criminals imprisoned for up to two years. Thomas Hastings was sentenced to five years, so he was sent to one of the prisons that had been built to house convicts after deportation to Australia was abolished; he was sent to the Portland Convict Establishment near Weymouth in Dorset. This had been founded to provide labour for the construction of the nearby naval docks. Prisoners worked in the quarries that supplied the Portland stone and were kept watch over by warders with rifles.

On 23rd March 1888, two years into his sentence, my great-grandfather Thomas HASTINGS died. He was 47-years-old. The death certificate mysteriously gave the cause of death as 'coma'.

Derek Brocklebank MN871 derek.brockle@btinternet.com

SOURCES: Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, Census, Eastern Daily Press and Norwich Mercury Newspapers.

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: ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk

RUSHMER(E)/WOODS/DAVY/SCOTT

I am looking for information on the families of Charles RUSHMER(E) & Susanna WOODS. Charles was born in Brooke 1749, they married 1775 in Brooke and lived in Woodton.

Also the **DAVY** family of Kirby Bedon (Ann DAVY married John RUSHMERE 1800) and the **SCOTT** family of Fornsett St Peter/End/St Mary (Eliza SCOTT married William RUSHMER 1838 in Norwich)

Sandy Rushmer MN7809, 11 Kennthorpe, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0PS. E-mail: sandy.rushmer@ntlworld.com

CHURCH/HUNTER

I am trying to find the marriage of **JOHN CHURCH/MARY HUNTER** c.1785. Their son GEORGE was born in MILDENHALL, Suffolk in 1792 and married KESIA GARNER in 1814, also in Suffolk, but afterward the family was found in Gt.Hockham, Norfolk

Mrs. J.Church MN3173, 28 Falkland Rd., Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants. SO53 3GB

BONE

I am trying to find the birth place of my 3xgt Grandfather **John BONE** born 1787. According to the 1851 census his birthplace was recorded as Stratton, Norfolk. I have searched in vain for any records of the event but without a result.

Firstly, I am not sure which Stratton is referred to in the census: Long Stratton, Stratton St. Margaret or Stratton Strawless. Secondly I am not sure if there was a name pronunciation change e.g. BONE or BUNN.

John married **Mary Offord Butcher** in 1820 in East Hanningfield, Essex. I do not know his occupation at this time but on the 1851 census he is a tenant farmer at Brook Hall near Woodham Ferrers, Essex. He died in the Chelmsford Union Workhouse at Rettendon, Essex in 1875 aged 88 years. If anyone can help with more information I would be very grateful.

Roger Bone MN10753, 18 Avenue Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 4EP, E-mail: rebone@tiscali.co.uk

INFORMATION FOUND IN HOLLAND

I've just returned from a trip to Holland, and found in a graveyard in North Holland, a mention of a Great Yarmouth resident, and I thought that someone in your Society may have an interest in the surname.

The grave is in the graveyard at Callantsoog on the North Holland coast. I have a photograph of both the grave and the church and will be willing to forward copies to any interested party.

"In memory of John Wright of Ayr aged 47 years, Steward, and **Charles N P Moxon of Great Yarmouth aged 17, Apprentice**. who were drowned in the wreck of the ship Loch Moidart off Callantsoog. Sunday 26 January 1890."

Sue King

PRATT/WILSON

I would like to contact anyone with connections to/knowledge of **Edith Mary Pratt**, (father John Pratt), my grandmother. She was born in Sutton, Norfolk c1892. On the 1911 census she was a servant at 14 Princes Road, Gt. Yarmouth. In 1916 she gave birth to my mother, **Phyllis Myrtle Prince Pratt**, who was given up for adoption and was adopted by Stephen and Margaret Riches. In 1918 Edith had a 2nd illegitimate daughter Dorothy Grace. I have no knowledge of what happened to her. I suspect that she was also adopted. On both birth certificates Edith described herself as a housekeeper. She married **Edward Charles Wilson** in 1933 and had a legitimate daughter Ruth M Wilson, who I believe married Owen Lane in 1956. Edith Mary died in 1985 aged 92 in Great Yarmouth. I would be grateful if anyone who has information about Edith or Dorothy or in fact the Pratt line would contact me.

Sandie Anderson MN10736, 32 Hunter's Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3BA

BLYTH/BLYTHE/BLIGH

My research places by forbear, **ISAAC BLYTH**, born at Marsham 1692 with parents Isaac and Ann born c1650. They are surrounded by a host of Blyth families in the village! Where did they come from? "Blyth" in its various spellings from the ancient "blide" pops up in at least 120 Norfolk village registers. Some families come from connections in Barnham Broom and Mattishall, later villages North of Norwich, in the City and Great Yarmouth. Blyths date from c1360 in these areas; later there is an Archdeacon of Norfolk and later two Mayors of Norwich!

Has anyone any ideas on how the family spread out in Norfolk, and any links between the Blyth family members?

Kenneth Blyth (Revd). blythka@btinternet.com

Hamslade House, Bampton, Devon, EX169JA

BUSCALL FAMILY

I am trying to find any information about the BUSCALL family who lived in and around Necton, Little Fransham, Great and Little Dunham, East Dereham and Beeston between the 1700s and 1900s. **John BUSCALL** (1769? Necton) and then his son **John BUSCALL** (b1769 Necton) farmed Corbett's and Lang's End Farms in the 1840s-1860s.

I am particularly keen to find the parents of John BUSCALL (1769) and also information about any other children he and his wife Elisabeth (nee GIBSON) may have had. John BUSCALL (1769) had a son called George Goddard BUSCALL (b1824 Little Fransham) who lived in Little Dunham and East Dereham, and I would like to know whether he has any link to a Goddard Buscall of Swaffham.

Kaie Buscall MN 11897,

14 Rough Common Road, Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent CT2 9DJ.
kaiebuscall@talktalk.net

GEORGE STANLEY WATSON (GSW)

George Stanley Watson, a Saddler died 1956 aged 60 in Durham. He said that he left the family shop, run by his father and brother(s) in Swaffham, as the introduction of the tractor reduced the need for horses. He said that his father, **Frederick WATSON**, would meet the train and then deliver beer and provisions to farms, and that one of his brothers was named **Thomas WATSON**. One family member is sure he also had a sister who left home to go to London to become an actress.

We know that GSW fought in WW1 and he was shot in the head in France, although I cannot find any records on this either. The first factual record we

have is that he appears on the electoral register in Farnsfield (Nottingham) in 1924. I am hoping that someone has some information that might place him in the area between WW1 and 1924.

Keith Watson MN11981, 2 Oaklands, Woolpit, Suffolk. IP30 9QF.

MASON CARTER

My 4xgr grandfather Mason Carter was baptised in Wimbotsham. In the 1851 census his wife Rachel's (Mash) birth place is given as Seame, Norfolk. Is there somewhere called Seame in Norfolk or did she perhaps say 'same' when asked for her place of birth?

Mrs Lesley Kenny, MN11754, 15 Stanhope Road, Littlehampton, W. Sussex, BN17 6AQ

What do you think? The nearest is probably Saham Toney, but no baptism in Saham for Rachel Mash.

DEDICATION TO LOCAL MEN

For our family archives I am researching the World War II Destroyer HMS MARTIN and her crew. HMS MARTIN with a crew of 222 was torpedoed and sunk on the 10th November 1942 with the loss of 159, one of whom was my 18-year-old uncle Ordinary Seaman Thomas Cusack. After two years of research and contact with six of the survivors as well as some relatives of those who were lost, we decided to develop a website dedicated to the men who served in HMS MARTIN.

I am therefore contacting every Family History Society in counties where the men who were lost hail from in the hope that the Society will publish our website address and relatives of those men can contact us and forward information if they so wish.

The website address is: www.hmsmartin-g44.co.uk
<http://www.hmsmartin-g44.co.uk>

The men who hailed from your Norfolk are:

Leading Seaman GEORGE WILLIAM KING
Son of Mr and Mrs W.G.King of Winterton, Norfolk.

Tom Meaden, Poole, Dorset.

DUNT and Dusted

On the evening of Tuesday 20th October, Lloyd Jensen phoned Kirby Hall to say that having purchased a property in 1997 in Hornchurch, Essex, he discovered, in the loft, a whole box of very old books, two WW1 memorial plaques and a family photo album dating back to the 1870's. He wished to return these to descendants. The Album contained some splendid photos as well as a certificate of Baptism of **George Reginald DUNT**. The service plaques/medals were for two men who died in 1915 and whose names appear on the Upper Sheringham War Memorial. Private **Harold Robert DUNT** and Private **Sydney Charles DUNT**.

After several emails and phone calls on Wednesday morning, our Company Secretary, Pat Mason trawled Ancestry.com and within an hour had obtained all the following details:

William DUNT bn. 26.12.1858 at Brooke married **Louisa Mary (SEPPINGS?)** bn at Swanton Novers. William was living in Upper Sheringham 1890 as a Gardener at the Hall

Children:

George Reginald DUNT bn. 25.06.1892, bapt. 07.08.1892

Sydney Charles DUNT bn. 15.06.1894, bapt. 19.08.1894

Harold Robert DUNT bn. 30.11.1896, bapt. 11.04.1897

Caroline Mabel Seppings DUNT and **Charles Morris Seppings DUNT (twins)** bn. 16.04.1899, bapt. 21.05.1899

Pat also found the War records of Sydney and Harold but these were fire damaged during WWII and difficult to read. Their details were obtained from <http://www.roll-of-honour.com:80/Norfolk/UpperSheringham.html>

Harold Robert DUNT Private 124522, 7th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. Died of wounds 17th October 1915. Aged 18. Born Upper Sheringham, enlisted Norwich. Son of William and Louisa Mary Dunt, of Upper Sheringham, Norfolk. Brother of Sydney (below). Buried in ABBEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Somme, France. Plot III. Row B. Grave 14.

Sydney Charles DUNT Private 12660, "C" Company, 7th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 12th October 1915. Aged 21. Born Upper Sheringham, enlisted Norwich. Son of Louisa Mary Dunt, of The Gardens, Sheringham Hall, Sheringham, Norfolk, and the late William Dunt. Brother of Harold (above). No known grave. Commemorated on LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 30 and 31.

The twins married:

Caroline M.S. DUNT married **Alfred J. LAWS** Sept quarter 1934 Romford district Essex (GRO Reference is 4a 1766)

Charles M.S. DUNT married **Helen E. SIDELL** June quarter 1922 Mitford district Norfolk (GRO Reference 4b 634a)

Children of Charles

Peter R. DUNT born June quarter 1923 Erpingham district (N.E. Norfolk (GRO Ref. 4b 129) married Dec quarter 1949 Wolverhampton to **Dorris M. EDWARDS** (4b 909)

Jean E. DUNT born June quarter 1925 Mitford district (West of Norwich, Dereham area) (GRO Ref. 4b 360) married Sept quarter 1954 to **Gottfried R. BELGER** (9b 2145)

Children of Peter:

Ann E. DUNT born Sept quarter 1951 Wolverhampton GRO Ref. 9b 1307);

Jillian M. DUNT born March quarter 1955 Wharfedale (GRO Ref. 2d 723)

Alan C. DUNT born June quarter 1963 Fylde (GRO Ref. 10c 372)

Children of Jean:

Helen S. BELGER born June quarter 1955 Aylesbury (GRO Ref. 6a 461) and **Richard R. BELGER** born June quarter 1959 Aylesbury (GRO Ref. 6a 566)

This short Family Tree was emailed to Lloyd who then "googled" Helen's name to find she lives near Newcastle and is a Dr. H. S. Belger at the Brampton Medical Practice. He sent her the information, she confirmed being a descendant and wrote *"My Mum would be delighted to have particularly the medals & the album. The house you bought (was) where Aunt Mabel lived whom I presume must be Caroline Mabel Seppings Dunt. Interestingly I took my Mum on a wonderful trip down memory lane to Norfolk last June & we visited the Upper Sheringham church & saw the Memorial Cross"*.

So all ends well. It is amazing what a skilled researcher can do on the Internet nowadays. I suggested Pat goes to work for a company like Frasier & Frasier who have been featured on the BBC Programme 'Heir Hunters'. Hopefully not, because the Society could ill afford to lose someone with her experience and expertise.

Edmund Perry MN3181

N.B. We must stress this is not a service the Society offers, this was a one off case to assist in returning treasured family possessions to their rightful owner.



Above - Sydney
and Harold's war
medals

The inside page
of the Album -
photograph of
Caroline?



The Baptism
Certificate of
George Reginald Dunt





More unknown photographs, see page 236