

The Norfolk Ancestor



Volume Seven Part Four
DECEMBER 2010



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



More unknown photographs, see page 226

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FRONT COVER – a modern window, showing the Nativity, in St. Edmund Church, Acle. This photograph is, again, courtesy of Simon Knott’s excellent website, Norfolk Churches. There are now 853 churches recorded on the website. Take a look at www.norfolkchurches.co.uk

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.

Closed Friday December 17th 2010 to Tuesday January 4th 2011

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, December 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, photographs etc. has been obtained and the NFHS will not be held liable in the case of a subsequent query.

Articles should preferably be typed in a **10pt font for an A5 page with a 1.4cm border = about 450 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 Mar issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall no later than **20th Jan 2010.**

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



From the Editor
ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk

Dec 2010

Dear Members

There is a lot to report this time.

The AGM was held on 16th October at Kirby Hall. Please read the Chairman's report. There are several items that might prompt you to contact us, in fact, on which we would welcome feedback. As usual, there is a plea for volunteers, specifically for someone to arrange speakers for the Norwich Branch.

It is important that you read the notice about Christmas closing times. We don't want any members making fruitless journeys because of Kirby Hall closure.

There is also an important notice from our Treasurer at the back of the membership section (yellow pages) about a new 10 year membership.

We welcome the appointment of Mike Dack, Paul Harman and Margaret Murgatroyd as new Trustees of the Society. They have been putting in a great deal of hard work over the past months on transcripts, NORS and parish registers and it will be useful to have their expertise as Trustees.

Honor Jones, who is kindly prepared to look up references in the Ingworth Parish Registers, has now also offered to do look-ups in the North Erpingham Militia Lists. As 32 parishes are involved, I will be publishing lists over the next two or three issues.

We have also been struggling over the past 9 months to maintain Sunday opening. We shall be able to open every Sunday until Christmas (last day is 17th December), but there are likely to be problems from the New Year. From 2011, please phone in advance to see if anyone is likely to be on duty before making the journey on a Sunday

Finally, may I wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Denagh Hacon MN2671

INSIDE FRONT COVER

Mr Graham Johnson of Rotherham, South Yorks, has sent in a large selection of photographs from his family collection, two of which are reproduced here. Unfortunately they are not named or dated. More to follow. Can you help? The family moved from Norfolk c1890.



Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor

TRANSCRIPTIONS

"With all the problems people are experiencing with Transcriptions" wrote Helen Few MN10259 at the start of her letter to *The Ancestor* Sept 2010.

I began my research in 1970; what joy it would have been to experience then, some of today's so called "Transcription problems."

Transcribers make mistakes, some more than others, for a variety of reasons, which is why researchers should validate the results by referring to the original documents where possible. Researchers should also remember that Clerical errors are common in many Parish Registers. Enumerators and Registrars were not immune from the odd error and the Informants also made mistakes, sometimes deliberately.

I would like to thank and praise all Transcribers, most of whom give many hours of their time, with the only reward that of knowing that they are giving something back to a hobby which has given them so much pleasure. I would urge all transcribers to carry on the good work and say to Helen "May your errors be FEW"

Roy Scott MN 475

Our membership secretary received the following:

I am delighted to receive all my membership information, and must say I only had half an hour in your centre, as we were travelling through, but my husband and I were met with such friendliness and given help, even for that short time.

Please thank your volunteer members on our behalf.

Durrant Family

DIARY of EVENTS
December - December 2010

Date	Title	Speaker	Branch
8 Dec	No meeting		KL
10 Dec	Social Evening: The Friday night Committee.		NCH
2011			
Jan	No meeting		NCH
11 Jan	What are you doing with your Family History?	Members	Diss
12 Jan	Family History Sources on the Web	Derek Palgrave	KL
8 Feb	tba	Clive Paine	Diss
9 Feb	King of the Norfolk Poachers – his life and times	Charlotte Paten	KL
11 Feb	How not to destroy your heirlooms	Juliane Gregg	NCH
8 Mar	Toys of the Past	Katrina Silliprandi	Diss
11 March	History of Textiles	Cathy Terry	NCH
27 March	East Anglia Fair St. Andrews Hall, Norwich 10.00 to 4.00		
2 April	tba		London
8 April	Domestic Servants in 18 th /19 th Century Kitchens	Dr. Annie Gray	NCH
22 Oct	tba		London

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)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM

The Meeting opened with a welcome by the Chairman, Colin Skipper, who introduced the Trustees and their roles. He highlighted the achievements and progress made during the past year.

Membership for 2009-2010 was 4075, an increase of 24 on the previous year. Membership at the beginning of this month stands at 4005 compared with 3829 at the same time last year. These changes generate a lot of work for the Jean Stangroom - Membership Secretary, assisted by the Treasurer.

Interest rates remain low and this has affected income. 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. As a result of Carole sending a Gift Aid Form and/or Bankers Order Form to those members who had not previously signed one, the Society received an additional 308 B.O.s, 82 of which were from new members. In some cases we were able to claim Gift Aid going back several years, so that now we receive almost £6000 annually. Carole has started to scan our Gift Aid records so that a copy is held electronically. She would appreciate help in scanning; anyone with a few hours to spare, please contact her.

Mary Mitchell, the MI Coordinator, has added 16 surveys this year making a total of 738. She received regular queries from members, as well as participating in churchyard surveys.

The Projects Co-ordinator, Edmund Perry, has been overseeing the printing of 52 new parish registers (by Margaret Murgatroyd), as well as keeping a register of transcribers, supplying and receiving work – over 100 transcripts received this year. He has been very heavily involved in setting up NORS.

We have lost two Trustees during the year. Malcolm Cole-Wilkins retired due to ill health. He arranged the electronic versions of Parish Registers on the computers and was instrumental in getting the server/network working inside Kirby Hall.

Pat Mason, who many of you will know, worked for the Society for many years transcribing and doing research/look-ups. She resigned from the post of Company Secretary due to family and other work commitments. We hope she will be able to return to a more active role in the future as she knows a great deal about family history and the Library. All members thank her for what she has done for the Society.

There are many other Volunteers who do a great deal of useful work for the Society.

Christine Aberly runs the Bookstall and arranges attendance at Fairs. In addition she also arranges attendance at libraries, aided by Jean Stangroom,

where people can learn about the services we provide and how to use the records now available on the internet. She also helps with M.I. surveys. We thank her for her hard work.

Pam Bridge looks after Family Trees to which 53 were added between June 2009 and March 2010. Alan Bullard runs the 'look-up' service answering members' queries. Our thanks to them.

Thanks also to Library Volunteers who man the reception desk and keep the building open four days a week, plus many others who carry out various, useful tasks on behalf of the membership. Without their help the Society could not function and we are often under pressure to maintain our services, so if anyone could assist us by becoming a Volunteer, your help would be greatly appreciated.

During the year we changed our Webmaster. Terry Gray, who ran and greatly improved the site for several years and initiated the NORS site, had to resign due to work commitments and moving away from Norfolk. Carol Dew has taken over, even though she lives in Ayrshire, and plans several changes in layout and extra material in 2011.

Last year I reported we had spent a long time considering our online record site NORS, and that we hoped to make Parish Register Transcripts accessible to members. Edmund Perry spent a considerable amount of time 'cleaning' and Carole Taylor uploaded transcripts so that it was possible to test the site before we went live. Since then Edmund has formed a Projects Team which carries out cleaning and loading transcripts; issuing ID/passwords and correcting transcript errors. The 'cleaning job' has been speeded up by Paul Harman, a member, supplying a computer programme to do this, although transcripts still need to be visually checked before uploading.

To date 552 churches have been covered in part, including 5 in Suffolk and 79 Non-Conformist, making 1476 register transcripts of which Banns 232; Baptisms 526; Burials 365; Marriages 353. However, Holt and Yarmouth are still being worked on. Members can now search nearly 2 million names. Last year we hoped to have 400 registers available but to have nearly 1700 uploaded is an immense achievement in a short time, and from the feedback received from members, greatly appreciated. For all those involved we offer our thanks and appreciation for changing and improving membership accessibility to our records immeasurably.

What is next for NORS? We have a large number of M.I.s collected over many years. Many of these went onto the Bedford Memorial Index which was licensed to NAOMI, for a substantial payment. In April the licence agreement with NFHS ceased and NAOMI is closing down due to lack of revenue. Our records are being returned and converted to a template for NORS. We hope to make these surveys available next year for members to search. After this

we will consider any other records which might be suitable for uploading to and access on NORS.

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

Any other business

The Chairman reported that a Member had raised the matter of the printing costs and postage of the AGM Booklet and wondered whether the AGM Booklet should just be available online. A show of hands for (a) receiving it on line (via the Website) with booklets only going to Members on request, or (b) continuing to send out the Booklet, resulted in the latter receiving a slight majority. It was suggested that it should be sent out and go on the website. The Treasurer stressed that the Report and Accounts should be publicly available.

A question was asked about putting back copies of the Ancestor onto the Website. It was explained that some were available, but the problem lay in removing Members' addresses from the pdf versions. The Editor said we will investigate how to do this once the Website has been updated.

Thanks were given to Mr and Mrs Jim Barwick for taking on and running the Norwich Branch. However Jim will be retiring 24th March 2011 and a replacement will need to be found. Roger Peck will continue to do the introductions and publicity, and Jim reported that he had found speakers/topics and confirmed their attendance until next June.

A question was asked concerning email addresses being added to new Membership Lists in the Ancestor. The Editor said not all Members want their emails published; there is concern that they might be used by others such as organisations sending spam.

The Society's Membership of the Federation was raised. Why had we discontinued having our meetings listed in the Diary published by Poppyland? The Chairman explained that there was a charge for each separate Branch entry and the Treasurer felt that the extra costs involved were excessive. It was suggested that NFHS should be a Member and just register the Society's name with contact addresses published.

Two members, Mike Dack and Paul Harman, were identified and thanked by Edmund Perry for their roles in making NORS operative. Edmund said he was giving up the role of Projects Co-ordinator with Paul Harman becoming Transcripts Organiser, while he would again become the Company Secretary.

The Editor referred to the Advert in the September issue of the Ancestor for a Publicity Officer. So far there had been no responses but it was a useful and necessary role. If anyone is interested please contact the Editor.

LOOK UPS IN NORTH ERPINGHAM MILITIA LISTS, 1765

Honor Jones, MN424 is again offering to do look-ups from her records. This time it is the North Erpingham Militia Lists for 1765. 32 parishes are covered.

The Hundred of N. Erpingham, was signed by the Chief Constable: Wm.SPURRELL, dated May 10, 1785, at the "Kings Arms", in Cromer at 12 noon. Each Deputy Lieutenant of the various counties were required to list in writing, all men usually dwelling in each parish, distinguishing ages between 18 & 45, with their occupations, ages and any infirmities. Certain exemptions were allowed, e.g. poor men with three children born in Wedlock. A true copy of the parish list was to be posted on the Church or Chapel door of each parish. Any person thought to be aggrieved could appeal the ballot.

I will be including a few parishes at a time in the next three or four issues.

Entries are set out thus:

PLUMSTEAD: Thos. BOYDEN, Maltster, aged 32 (no children or infirmities noted)

OVERSTRAND: Charles LINES, Husbandman, aged 29 A poor man with 4 children, (nothing more)

SHERINGHAM: Thos. CLAVERWOOD, Husbandman, 38 Lame with 4 children.

Requests for look-ups can be either **by email** to Honor direct at honorable1@shaw.ca

or, if you do not have email,

by sending a **written request to Kirby Hall**, making sure you include an English stamped return addressed envelope. Replies cannot be made without the English sae. On the outer envelope please mark "**N. Erpingham Militia Look ups**". Your letter should include your **membership number**. A volunteer will pick up these requests and communicate with Honor in Canada.

This issue covers lists for Aldborough, Antingham, Aylmerton, Barningham Northwood, Barningham Town, East Beckham, Beeston Regis.

Many thanks to Honor for generously giving her time and energy to benefit other members.

Denagh Hacon, Editor

ALDBOROUGH MILITIA LIST 1765 - Full names noted. [occupations & ages given]

Bacon, Brown, Buttifant, Crosley, Cubitt, Gunton, Jones, Kettle, Learner, Pitcher, Purdy, Ramsdale, Randall, Reynolds, Scott, Sulk, Thaxter, Thornton, West.

ANTINGHAM MILITIA LIST 1765 - Full names & occupations noted. [ages not given]

Cock, Cole, Cooke, Cork, Cully, Bacon, Bailey, Dybell, Hewett, Harris, Holley, Howlet, Juby, Mash, Maries, Olley, Powell, Pratt, Seago, Sharp, Willament.

AYLMERTON MILITIA LIST 1765 - Full names & occupations noted. [ages not given]

Allen, Cable, Cawston, Chapman, Cooper, Crane, Feilds, (sic), Fish, Fox,, Gregory, Hammond, King, Laines, Little, Massingham, Miller, Oliver, Page, Pegg, Richardson, Scot, Smith, Story, Swallow

BARNINGHAM NORTHWOOD MILITIA LIST 1765. Full names, occupations & ages given

Attle, Cock, Everet, Harper, Leak, Mays, Partridg, Pierson, Sparrow.

BARNINGHAM TOWN MILITIA LIST 1765. Full names, occupations & ages given.

Bear, Brown, Ives, Pearson, Pull, Pearson, Silk, Spooner, Starling.

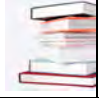
EAST BECKHAM MILITIA LIST 1765 Full names, occupations & ages given.

Abbs, Barber, Barnes, Bullock, Burrell, Bush, Crake, Leak, Smith

BEESTON REGIS MILITIA LIST 1765. Full names, occupations & ages given

Bly, Buyshop, Cubitt, Digby, Lown, Midelton, Numan, Ward, Wight.

BOOK REVIEWS



CAISTER The Sea Story by David Higgins. softback 106 pages
Phoenix Publications 2010. Price: £11.50

During the closing years of the 18th century “Caister men took to the sea in earnest” and this book traces the rise and decline of the Caister Company of Beachmen making a living from salvaging until the 1880s when they turned into proper lifeboatmen, right through to 1969 when the R.N.L.I. Lifeboat Station was closed and then replaced by the Caister Volunteer Rescue Service in the 1970s. It is a remarkable story alongside which is the history of the village and its inhabitants ‘longshore fishing and working the luggers of the Yarmouth deep-sea fisheries for Spring mackerel and Autumn herring until the 1860s. Thereafter the introduction of trawling smacks became a lucrative business until the poor seasons of the 1880s when many Caister owners went out of business. Three survived into the 1890s using steam drifters which contributed to the golden years before 1914. Drifters and crews were requisitioned during the Great War but afterwards the demand for herring from Germany and Russia never recovered and the industry declined in the 1920s-1930s. Caister men and boats served again 1939-45 but during the 1950s most drifters went to the breakers yard and by 1961 the long tradition of Caister deep-sea boat owning was over as was the Yarmouth herring fishery. However, ‘longshore fishing from the beach remained relatively steady and is still active today. The author draws on primary sources particularly newspaper reports, and details names, places, boats and many interesting stories about the numerous wrecks and salvage activities, the people involved, their tragedies and acts of heroism. The text is well illustrated with 105 maps, drawings and photos, and contains an Index of People and an Index of Vessels mentioned. It is a fitting tribute to the “Caister men who Never Turn Back”.

Edmund Perry MN3181

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PROJECTS

The following PRTs have been printed and shelved:

PARISHES	Baptisms	Marriages	Burials
Burgh next Aylsham	1813-1902		1812-1901
Carleton Rode	1813-1861		
Cockley Cley	1691-1837	1695-1737	1691-1906
Fring	1671-1812		
Hellesdon St Mary	1813-1880		
Old Buckenham			1813=1901
Reymerston ATs	1725-1812		1726-1812
Smallburgh ATs	1725-1728		1725-1728
Smallburgh	1561-1812	1561-1837	
Southborough ATs	1725-1812		1725-1812
Sustead	1813-1880		
Wendling	1813-1880		
Westfield ATs	1725-1812	1725-1812	1726-1812

The printed material is a finding aid; further unprinted data is available on computer in Kirby Hall. There is a back-log of printing, owing to concentration on NORS, but this is now being tackled.

Our thanks to the following transcribers for work received: Vicky Ellis - Saham Toney Marriages & Stanford Marriages 1837- 1906; Helen Few - South Lynn Burials 1813-1901; Patrick French - Cromer Bapts 1785-1813; David Hallums - Carbrooke Burials 1857-1901; Marriages 1837-1901; Keith Jay -Gt Yarmouth St Nicholas Banns 1754-1761; Lynn Kerslake - Acle Banns 1823- 2005; Burials 1813-1984; Graham King - Garboldisham Marriages 1609-1837; Margaret Murgatroyd - Fornsett St Peter Banns 1755-1900 & Marriages 1754-1902; Sue Roberts - Gt Yarmouth St James Baptisms 1921-1936; Ivan Slapp - Beeston nr Mileham Marriages 1624-1812; Vivienne Sharples ATs - Garveston, Smallburgh, Salhouse, Salthouse, Southburgh, Reedham, Reymerston, Whinburgh, Westfield; Ivan Slapp - Beeston nr. Mileham Marriages 1624-1812; Peter Smith - Heigham St. Phillip Mariages 1871-1909; Dina Smith – Martham Marriages 1920-1945 ; Elizabeth Wiggins - South Lynn All Sts Marriages 1813-1837.

After eighteen months practically working full-time on Transcripts, I have passed the baton to **Mr. Paul Harman, Transcripts Organiser** now responsible for organising/updating the electronic versions of transcripts inside Kirby Hall on the computer network; receiving new transcripts and 'cleaning' them ready to upload onto NORS; and using the Transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk email address. I will remain part of the Projects Team and as the Company Secretary, liaise with transcribers until Paul finds his feet and can take over that role as well. We have 'uploaded'

onto NORS most of the electronic versions of transcripts (BBBM) the Society possessed: some 1800 files with about 2 million Names/rows can be surname-searched. 150 transcripts remain to be cleaned/uploaded as well as older handwritten and typed transcripts on the shelves which need to be put into Excel spreadsheets and there are others still not in our template format.

Mike Dack is i/c NORS Admin; **John Brundall** is cleaning old Excel PRTs to send to **Peter Spurgeon** to upload onto NORS. **Margaret Murgatroyd** is i/c Printing and shelving PRTs inside the Library. Recently we met to discuss the past year's experience and the presentation of Transcripts. In future we will use the NORS template / classifications for transcribing and printing – this means a few changes to 'Notes for Transcribers'. The Norfolk, Norwich and Non-Conformist PRT Folders on the Library server will be removed onto a separate hard-drive and replaced with the new .csv NORS versions but only as chrono versions (if Visitors want Alpha sorts they can do this themselves). A programme named AstroGrep has been put on the computers to allow a Surname Search similar to NORS on all the new.csv files. This will bring up a list of all the villages where the specified Surname occurs; one click on the village details the events at the bottom of a split screen; two clicks on the village brings up the whole transcript (something you cannot do on NORS); and if you use the SAVE option, all the events for that surname will be listed village by village for printing off (invaluable for Visitors doing a single name study) but we will not allow downloading to memory sticks or CDs. Of course you can go directly to the NORS site using the internet inside KH and you may still have to refer to the printed versions if they are not in electronic format and not on the computer. We hope Visitors will make more use of the computer spreadsheet records.

NORS – if you have not received an access letter, and have an email address, please email us at NORS@Norfolkfhs.org.uk with your name, membership number and address and **Judith Parks** will send you an email containing your User Name and Password

Before I sign off, a few comments about the 'cleaning' work we have completed. Most Transcripts are not exact copies of Parish Registers. The original Blue Books and Monographs published by the NNGS presented Registers as they appeared, with all the comments, extra information, etc, and often with BMD muddled together. They are neither easy to follow nor to search. In the 1970s/80s individual transcribers began to separate out Baptisms, Burials, Banns and Marriages (BBBM), put the information into columns and Index/Alpha sort Surnames. There was no agreed format so transcripts came in all sorts of spreadsheets. Attempts were made, notably by Malcolm Palmer, to create a uniform presentation for printing and keeping an electronic record. Following this, Dennis Thompson produced 'templates' for the BBBM to fit an A4 landscape page. These became the standard spreadsheets used by NFHS transcribers and the Excel electronic record of

PRTs apart from some changes in classifications and column order, plus turning Excel into .CSV files, these templates have been used for NORS. However, they have required a huge amount of time and effort to tidy up/prepare. This 'cleaning' process has been the subject of much discussion particularly the changes made, removals, corrections, additions, the use of agreed abbreviations, etc.

Concern has been expressed about alterations made to the original transcriber's work and the level of accuracy relative to the actual Registers. This is not a new issue since some church registers are copies by later Vicars who made their own additions/alterations. Before standardised printed Parish Registers, BBBM events were recorded in a variety of styles. Traditionally the Date appeared at the end of the event in any fashion. Transcripts have long placed dates in the first column and systematised the presentation. However, many transcribers have used their own style which we have altered to our chosen format of dd.mm.yyyy (i.e. 05.12.1742).

Names in Registers are written in longhand, usually lower case and in sequence = *John son of William and Mary Peel*. Transcribers have typed SURNAMES in capitals and Forenames in lower case and separated Father and Mother =

John	William	Mary	PEEL
------	---------	------	------

 which we have now altered to

PEEL	John	William	Mary
------	------	---------	------

 for NORS uploads. Over the years Transcribers have used their own abbreviations; we have tried to simplify and standardise so that letters have an obvious meaning. There should be a list of these on the Website Information about NORS.

The BBBM templates have columns for all generic material but for NORS the last column has been changed from Misc. to Notes. The latter has often contained Birth dates, 'base born', illegitimate, and notation by the Vicar but also comments by the Transcriber, like 'illegible', 'no name', 'unreadable'. We would like the latter placed inside square [] brackets. A number of transcripts exist electronically because they were scanned into the computer but this has added errors by putting data in the wrong cells/columns and creating hieroglyphs. Sometimes names become numbers – so March as a forename can end up as 36222 - or words become number/letters -so **.12.ased** = deceased; and **.08.tine** = Augustine!

Transcripts can only ever be a guide – transcribers are fallible. Few people have had any training in Latin or old English, interpreting handwriting and reading poor quality fiche/film. Having cleaned over a thousand transcripts, it's obvious to me that there is plenty of guesswork particularly for early surnames. Whether one should make corrections to these is a moot point. Obviously one doesn't want to modernise old names but where it becomes obvious that the transcriber had no idea about the actual Norfolk name, then surely it doesn't hurt to make the correction and say so in the Notes column? Where Surnames are missing we have used the word BLANK? so that

members can search using this as a name. Where there have been numerous blank cells, unknowns and illegibles or names with only middle and end letters, I have tried to go back to the fiche/film and check/complete. Recently I've used the Family Search pilot website containing digital images of many Norfolk Parish Registers. This has revealed innumerable errors and omissions that certain transcripts have had to be re-transcribed. Others have had a beginning date applied at the point where the transcript becomes usable - for instance the early Yarmouth Baptism Transcript contains hundreds of empty cells which would be pointless uploading onto NORS.

Transcripts can be messy because of bad habits, aberrations and oddities. Why do so many transcripts have a ? placed in front of the name when there is uncertainty. This isn't correct English. ?**Mary** should be **Mary?**. Moreover the situation is made worse when the transcriber has placed everything in brackets. Why put (?**AKERS**) for the Surname when **AKERS?** is much clearer and on NORS allows a search whereas brackets and ? at front of name does not. A liberal use of * or **? or ???????? or # or ! in transcripts doesn't help with understanding and there is no need. They act as wild cards in the NORS program and have had to be removed.

You often see Surnames written like **LOVE JUNIOR** which isn't correct - people may have referred to a person as such but their Surname is LOVE and the junior belongs to the forename so one may have a John LOVE father and John LOVE son who are then **John senior** and **John junior**. **RICHES ALIAS WAITE** may be true but the 'alias' or 'aka' should be in lower case and this would be better in the Notes Column? **CODLING/SPINSTER** as a surname is plainly misleading - should be CODLING and then spinster written in the Notes. **RIX WIDOW** is equally daft - RIX is the surname and widow should go into Notes. Why is **Gent** so often written in the Notes when this is better as Occupation or Profession? Far too often forenames are not recorded but given an *. So Frederick Charles Edward becomes Frederick C*E**, with the Charles Edward found in Notes.

Examples of strange entries are legion and sometimes humorous - for instance in Baptisms I've come across (**blank**) **Mr Mrs ILLEGIBLE**, in Burials, **John UNKNOWN; Robt UNREADABLE** and **Francis DEAD** - they would fill a whole book. To avert the worst of such problems in the future, we have produced a couple of sheets of '**NOTES For Transcribers**' and BBBM Templates based on the NORS .csv versions, to try and bring some uniformity. Whether these will make a difference remains to be seen as we still receive transcripts with examples of the problems mentioned mainly because transcribers persist in doing their own thing! However, 'cleaning' has tidied up most of the anomalies and produced transcripts for NORS which are not just neater and easier to search but in most cases superior (more names and dates completed) to the printed or Excel versions.

* * * * *

Obviously, the NFHS is pleased to receive any transcriber work, in whatever state or format, even if it means some tidying and checking. On behalf of the Trustees and all members I express sincere appreciation to all those who have transcribed for the Society in the past and to those presently active, especially members who have taken on whole parishes/churches such as in Norwich where the early Registers are not easy to work on, and particularly someone like Ken Stokes who has spent decades tackling the 'fog' of Yarmouth. Without their considerable efforts we would not possess the extensive and unique collection of Parish Register Transcripts which are now available for Surname search on NORS - the achievement of which the NFHS should be rightly proud. My thanks to everyone who has helped on this enormous on-going project.

Edmund Perry Ex-Projects Co-ordinator

<p style="text-align: center;">MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS <i>(minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk)</i></p>

Now that we have had another AGM it is time that I thanked everyone who has sent in a survey of the monumental inscriptions of a particular church/churchyard over the past year. I received 17 new surveys – Alderford, Attlebridge, Belaugh, Bracon Ash, Bircham Newton, Great Ellingham, Hedenham, Hevingham, Kenninghall, Marsham, North Elmham, Norwich Earlham Cemetery (two more volumes), Seething, South Repps, South Runcton and Spooner Row. Some surveys are done by a group (like the Mid Norfolk FHS), and others are done by individuals but they are all valuable contributions to the collection of MIs that we have at Kirby Hall.

Patrick Palgrave-Moore is gradually adding to the Earlham Cemetery records (we now have 6 volumes) and is including the burial records as well, which is a great asset for anyone looking for family/ancestors in Norwich. John Pepperdine has completed 5 surveys this year, and Graham Loveday King, Mary Lancefield, Sandra Hopwell and Tony Armsby have also sent in new surveys this past year. It is impossible to mention everybody who has helped to add to our MI collection but thank you to you all.

As you will have read in the last issue of "The Ancestor" it is hoped to start adding MIs to the NORS website some time next year. Some of the surveys that we have will need to be retyped for inputting to NORS or amended so that they are suitable for uploading to NORS. If anyone feels able to help with this job or would like to know what is involved please get in touch with me by email or post at Kirby Hall.

Mary Mitchell, MI Co-ordinator, MN3328

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

BURLINGHAM	Snetterton
DANE/DEAN	Ingham, Sutton, Sea Palling to London
GLOVER	Carleton Rode
HALE/THOMPSON	Norwich - Rolled Up Version
HOTSON	Loddon, Long Stratton
LOVEL/LAWS	Norwich to Australia
OBEE	Horning
REYNOLDS	Wymondham
WATLING	Norfolk

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.

UNWANTED BDM CERTIFICATES

We are happy to receive unwanted BDM certificates – if you have purchased certificates that turn out to be incorrect, we can find a good home for them as an aid to research. May I take this opportunity to thank those members who have already sent in unwanted certificates.

For those members who come into Kirby Hall, may I remind you that there is an index (top shelf above Family Tree boxes) of birth, death and marriage certificates held in the strongroom. The file is clearly marked and is fully indexed. This can be a great source of information. A list showing the certificates held is also included in the family tree boxes under the appropriate names.

Pam Bridge Family Tree Co-ordinator MN3292

USEFUL WEBSITES

Wills and Administrations

At the end of her recent talk on Wills and Administrations, Gill Blanchard gave the names of some useful websites for you to use to try to trace Wills made by your ancestors. These are listed on page 247.

Old photographs - www.photodetective.co.uk

Another excellent website that recently came to my attention is. This is a very informative website to help you date your old photographs using clues provided by clothing and props. The author of the website, Geoff Caulton, chose to limit the range of photographs from 1901 to 1953. Photographs are divided into Edwardian, WW1, 1920s, 1930s, WW2 and Post War. So if you have any old photos that you want to date, this website is worth a look. Of particular interest are the uniforms, which can be dated using emblems and cap badges, all carefully explained by Geoff. Geoff Caulton would be pleased to have feedback.

Second Boer War - <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Boer/>

Ancestry has launched the Casualties of the Boer War 1899-1902 collection. It contains more than 55,000 records of British soldiers who were captured, wounded or killed during the 2nd Boer War. The War began in October 1899 and continued for a further 3 years. Dysentery, typhoid fever and intestine infections account for 12,000 deaths in the collection; 86 British Troops were killed or injured by lightning and one soldier who was eaten by a crocodile at the Usutu River!!

If you have ancestors missing from the 1901 census, it is worth having a look at this website. He could have been away fighting in South Africa, or may have been a casualty, so this data may prove useful. If it was your ancestor who was eaten by the crocodile I'd love to hear from you!! - *Editor*

NORFOLK RESEARCH

PARISH RECORDS CENSUS SEARCHES

CERTIFICATES

£5 per hour

Send SAE or IRC for details

W. Hepburn

11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9JE

Email: willie.h.1945@virgin.net



GROUP REPORTS

Correspondence about individual groups 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)



West Norfolk Group report Brenda Leedell

August was one of our member help member evening that unfortunately, on this occasion, was not well attended. This was a great shame as we had with us two members from Buckinghamshire, who were taking a break in the area, who have a lot of knowledge and experience gained over many years. They were able to help several members who were present and an interesting discussion took place. Thank you Gillian and Chad.

In September our speaker Brian Jones gave an entertaining talk on some of the less savoury aspects of our ancestor's behaviour. He provided a chronological summary of the forms of punishment for serious and less serious crimes, graphically illustrated with examples of actual crimes and punishment metered out. Transportation was initially to the Americas in the 17th century until the war of independence, then to Australia, and finally to the Hulks moored up with no likelihood of going anywhere. In Victorian times purpose built prisons were built initially privately then state run, and long prison sentences became fashionable. Until then you were usually only imprisoned whilst you were innocent awaiting trial, with the punishment being the "short sharp shock" of whipping, flogging or execution. Victorian prisoners were set pointless manual tasks such as walking on the treadmill or cranking the handle of a bucket wheel in a box of sand, with a set number of rotations necessary to earn food. In the latter case the resistance was controlled by the

warder using a screw, which is claimed to be the origin of the slang term “screws” for prison officers.

Brian pointed to numerous sources for research including court records and proceedings, diaries and of course newspapers. These sources not only provide information on our criminal ancestors, but witnesses, jurors, addresses and a host of other detailed information. He warned that searching these records was fascinating and can become all consuming with transcripts running to tens of pages, but many of these sources were now becoming accessible on-line. (*This report by Chris Manning*)

At our October meeting Tom Doig spoke to us about dating Carte d’Visite – the old photographs that we have in our collection and can’t quite place. Using unusual techniques, we looked for clues to their identification and procedures for dating them. Mainly ignoring the styles of dress of the subject, we looked at the type of photograph, the design of the mount, the style of pose etc to narrow down the year in which the photograph was taken. Overall, a very informative and amusing evening and Tom was kept very busy after his main talk looking at the photographs that members had been invited to bring along for him to look at. Several members were very pleased with the results.



***London Group Report
Mary Seeley***

BRANCH MEETING: OCTOBER 2010

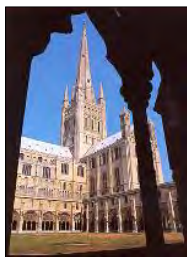
There was a very good attendance on 23rd October 2010 for Else Churchill’s talk entitled “*I’m stuck! How can I find my London ancestors?*”

Else specifically looked at how we might use online resources and the resources in the Library at the Society of Genealogists to locate those ancestors who might seem to have otherwise become lost in the “Great Wen”. Her “vital questions” on “who, what, where and when” are a vital guide to selecting the most appropriate records. She reminded us how London was defined in previous centuries - prior to the London Country Council being founded in 1888, many areas we now think of as being in London were described as Middlesex, Essex, Kent and Surrey.

Else advised us on the delights of Phillimore's atlas, and how to become adept with services such as FreeBMD, Genuki, online records from local register offices and guides at the SoG, and, importantly, how to use them to our best advantage.

The issue of handwriting in old records has accounted for many lost ancestors where names are mis-transcribed - Else's example, Francis Fewell, who married in 1861, turned up on the census for that year as Francis Quell. Else lead us through Pallot and Boyd's Marriage Indexes to talk about pre-civil registration records and records of the clandestine marriages at venues as diverse as St. James Dukes Place, and the Fleet Prison. How to find banns, records for the nonconformist churches, trade directories from the 17th century onwards, poll books of those entitled to vote, rate books and tax exemptions, apprenticeships, wills. There are perhaps times when we should be thankful of the paperwork and the bureaucratic jungle that has left behind such a useful source of information.

Thanks to Else, I think we are all more adept at exploring this perhaps uncharted territory and perhaps we will now come back with amazing discoveries.



***Norwich Group Report
Roy Scott***

Friday 13th August 2010 Member's Meeting.

A few members brought their family history problems to the meeting. The combined wealth of experience of the members present was evident and many fresh avenues of research were suggested. The opportunity was also taken to remind members of the various ways to search and access the extensive records available at Kirby Hall. The Chairman also allowed me time to give a very short talk and power point display about the Norwich Health Records available on film at The Archive Centre and the Forum in Norwich. The records are weekly returns of Norwich births, deaths and vaccinations, covering the period from the 1880s to 1960s. Despite gaps these can be extremely valuable to researchers with Norwich families. Two additional volunteers were recruited to assist with the ongoing project to transcribe the earliest surviving Death Registers.

Friday 10th September 2010

There was a large turnout at Kirby Hall for a slide show depicting the numerous Norwich Industries, of days gone by. The show lasted about an hour, with Peter Salt showing the slides and his wife Rosemary reading the script to accompany the pictures. The evening successfully informed those new to the area and reminded the older local members present, of the vast array of industries, which once existed alongside the dominant shoe trade in Norwich. Sadly most of the industries are no more, but there were slides showing the early days of banking and insurance which still employs many Norwich workers. There were a number of slides showing workers posing for group photographs at their various places of work, unfortunately for the family historians present there were no names to accompany the slides. However a great deal could be gleaned about the working lives of our Grandfathers from this entertaining lecture.

Friday 8th October 2010 Norwich Branch Meeting

Gill Blanchard gave the members present an introduction into using Wills & Administrations for Family History. Gill a professional researcher and qualified tutor, really knows her subject and somehow managed to deliver the talk on this complex subject in an understandable way, with lots of practical advice. Wills and Administrations were generally proved in church courts before 1858.

Wills could be made by anyone except children, lunatics, convicted traitors, felons, and married women. Until the Married Women's Property Act of 1882 married women could not make a will without their husbands consent.

Administrations were granted, on application, when a person died without making a will. Inventories were obligatory until 1782 as Administrators were responsible for distributing the deceased belongings, so obliged to supply a "*true and perfect inventory of the goods and chattels.*" Real Estate, debts and liabilities were not included.

After 11th January 1858 Civil District Probate Registries opened, replacing the church courts.

Only about 10% of the population made a will, but it was not just the rich and famous, sometimes people of modest means can be located. If you cannot find a will or administration for your own ancestor, one made by a person in a similar trade or profession, especially if an Inventory is included, could give you an insight into their lifestyle.

For finding Wills & administrations, the following addresses, websites and locations were recommended by Gill Blanchard:-

Principal Probate Registry (Family Division), First Avenue House 42-49 High Holborn London WC1V 6NP Tele 020 7947 6000 personal applications for wills from 1858.

Probate Sub Registry Duncombe Place York YO1 2EA postal applications www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/courtfinder/forms/pa1s0405.pdf

The National Archives Kew TW9 4DU Tele 02088763444 enquiry@pro.gov.uk. Over 1million PCC wills from 1385-1858 at www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk

Origins Network at www.britishorigins.com - Indexes to some probate records incl. new National Index.

Ancestry.co.uk at www.ancestry.co.uk National Probate Calendar.1861-1941

London Wills online London Metropolitan Archives free index to wills proved in Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex 1809-1810 www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/wills.

Norfolk Archive Centre Martineau Lane Norwich NR1 2DQ Tel: 01603 222599 email norrec@norfolk.gov.uk have indexes of Norfolk Wills and Administrations held. Indexes can also be searched on line at <http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/nroindex.htm>

Norfolk Heritage Centre The Forum Norwich NR2 1TF hold Indexes and Abstracts for the whole of England & Wales 1858-1966



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NORFOLK RECORD OFFICE REPORT FOR THE NORFOLK ANCESTOR

New Parish Register Accessions, August-October 2010

Belton	baptisms	1813-1865, 1903-1991
Carleton Rode	baptisms	1861-2009 1887-2008
Earlham St Mary	marriages	1956-1991
Tibenham	marriages	1975-1989

Leading the Way exhibition at The Archive Centre

The next major exhibition (14 January-16 March) will showcase the recently catalogued archive of G. King and Sons Ltd, lead glaziers of Norwich, a business first established in 1927. Under Dennis King, the son of the firm's founder, the company became the leading stained glass conservation firm in Britain. Relating to ecclesiastical and vernacular stained glass throughout England and internationally, the records comprise 38.5 cubic metres of photographs, full-sized cartoons (many in colour), cutline rubbings, related working documents, and the records of the business from 1927 to its closure in 2003. The archive has benefited from two awards of external project funding, the first to save it from export to the United States, the second to catalogue it and deal with some elements of conservation.

Norwich Dragon Festival events

The Norwich Dragon Festival runs from 12 to 27 February 2011 (see <http://www.heritagecity.org/projects/norwich-dragon-festival-2011.htm> for more information). The NRO is contributing three events to the programme.

Lunchtime talk. Wednesday, 16 February 2011, 1-1.45 p.m.
'Dreigiau Cochion ac Eraill: Red Dragons and Others'. Norfolk's County Archivist, John Alban, a native of a land where the dragon is revered, looks at how the dragon has been viewed over the centuries in Great Britain and Europe. Free of charge. No booking required.

Children's activity. Tuesday, 22 February 2011, 2-3.30 p.m. *Making Stained Glass*. See examples of dragons included in stained glass within Norfolk's archives, before having a go at creating your own. Free of charge. Please book a place by calling 01603 222599. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult.

Children's activity. Thursday, 24 February 2011, 2-3.30 p.m. *Block printing*. See examples of dragons included in Norfolk's archives and find out about printing techniques, before having a go at creating your own block print. Please book a place by calling 01603 222599. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult.

All three events will take place in The Green Room at The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DQ.

American servicemen in Norfolk's archives

The Evelyn Cohen and Jordan Uttal memorial cataloguing project is a new project to update the catalogue of the internationally significant archives of the 2nd Air Division, United States Army Air Force (USAAF), Memorial Trust and Memorial Library. Funded through a donation made by the 2nd Air Division Association, with contributions from the Norfolk Record Office and the Norfolk Library and Information Service, it began at the Record Office in June and will run for ten months. The NRO's autumn *Newsletter* (available on the NRO website) has features which relate to experiences captured in the 2nd Air Division archives.

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.



WEBSITE
www.norfolkfhs.org.uk

CHECK IT OUT

WHO TO CONTACT AND WHERE TO REACH THEM

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

Family Trees/Pedigrees: a. Address correspondence to Karen Ainger
b. By email: secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating the nature of your enquiry.

Members Interests: a. Address correspondence to: Peter Spurgeon
b. By email: membersinterests@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Members Interests Lookup'.

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

Monumental Inscriptions: a. Address correspondence to: MI Coordinator (Mary Mitchell)
b. By email: minscriptions@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Monumental Inscriptions Enquiry' including your postal address in the message

NORS: nors@norfolkfhs.org.uk –passwords dealt with by Judith Parks

Projects

a. Volunteers wishing to assist with transcriptions etc. are welcome to contact: The Transcripts Organiser (Paul Harman)
b. By email: transcriptorganiser@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating 'Transcripts Enquiry'.

Publications and Bookshop:

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

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

The Ancestor: a. Address correspondence to the Editor (Denagh Hacon)
b. By email: ancestoreditor@norfolkfhs.org.uk

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

Trustees and Branch Representatives

a. Correspondence to relevant Trustee or Branch Representative, c/o Kirby Hall
b. By email: nfhs@paston.co.uk stating the nature of your enquiry in the email Subject

Website Matters: a. Address correspondence to: NFHS webmaster
b. By email: nfhswebmaster@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating the nature of your enquiry.

Other

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

a. Address correspondence to: The Company Secretary (Edmund Perry)
b. By email: secretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk stating the nature of your enquiry.



New Members and Members Interests

December 2010

Email: membershipsecretary@norfolkfhs.org.uk

Compiled by Jean Stangroom, Membership Secretary

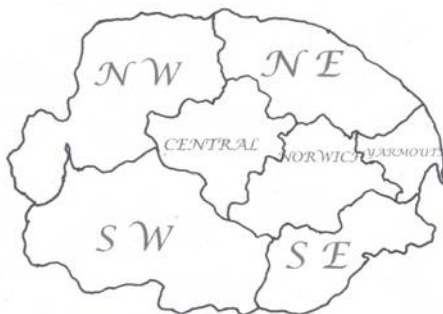
We regularly receive calls and emails from new members whose name and address have been published, but not their interests.

A new member's name and address may be received before the print deadline and therefore appear in one issue of the Journal, and their interests received after the print deadline and are therefore printed in the next issue.

We make every effort to keep this slippage to a minimum, but to make it easier for you to check your details and interests, the information on New Members and Members Interests will be in the middle of the Journal on tinted paper. You can then easily remove and keep these pages for future reference.

If we have made an error with your name or address please contact us as soon as possible so that we can correct the error.

NB Please remember to supply your POSTCODE with your address.



N = Central
NE = North East
NC = Norwich & District
NW = North West
SE = South East
SW = South West

YM = Gt. Yarmouth

Other areas are identified by Chapman codes; a copy of these can be obtained from Kirby Hall

THE AMYS FAMILY – EARLY DAYS Part 2

Part 1 appeared in The Ancestor, June 2010

In 1349, the Black Death arrived in Norfolk with devastating consequences – Yarmouth, a thriving commercial centre, lost over two thirds of its population; over two hundred new clergy had to be found for the county; Norwich probably lost two fifths of its population and was visited again by the plague in 1361 and 1369.

We do not know of course what happened to **Henry Amys**, but we do know he had a son, **Thomas**, who survived. **Thomas** would have been born around 1330 so at least he had youth on his side. Thomas appears again in the Poll Tax of 1379 where for Barton Turf it states *12d Thomas Amys Willelmus & Johannes filii eius* (Thomas Amys and his sons William and John). They were all charged a groat (4d) each and everyone over 16 had to pay this tax. This then suggests that **William** and **John** were born around 1360. I do not know whether they were in any way involved in the Poll Tax revolt of 1381, but the rebellion was put down brutally by the local gentry under the leadership of **Hugh DESPENSER**, Bishop of Norwich, and as the final confrontation took place in June of that year in nearby North Walsham, where the leader, **Geoffrey LITSTER** was summarily executed, the Amys family would at least have been aware of the events.

Meanwhile, in the same year, in the neighbouring parish of Neatishead, another **Amys** family, who presumably were brothers or cousins of the Barton Turf family, is having a problem with debts:

NEATISHEAD MANOR COURT 1381

iiid And that the offspring of Geoffrey Amys do not have to respond to the pleas of Alice de Dunham concerning his debts.

iiid And Alice de Dunham asked through the Bailiff for Geoffrey Amys to settle his debts.

AT THE COURT ON THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE END OF SAINT PETER AD VINCULA (August 1st)

xid And to her Margaret the wife of Geoffrey Amys + her heirs two acres + three and a half roods with one house and one rood of marsh to hold to her after the plea of J Kemp + others. And to her Beatrice Guerand for a year one and a half acres + ten roods of land + one rood of marsh though after that the reversion belongs to Margaret Amys + her heirs on the plea of Nicholas de Haddon + J Kemp.

In the meantime their cousins in Barton Turf were leading a more respectable and less troublesome existence – that is with the exception of Agnes! Nicholas Amys was the son of either John or William Amys and was born around 1395. The Barton Turf and Berry Hall Account Roll and the Barton Turf Manor Court Roll begin in the first quarter of the fifteenth century and the first entry concerning Nicholas says:

1421/2

And on payment for several rights to fish from the aforesaid riverbank called Wytheswat + declared by the bondman Nicholas Amys.

1422/3

The same. Wherefore Nicholas Amys made his payment annually of iiis iiiid

In 1427 Agnes Amys and her cows make an appearance; I do not know who she is – she could be the sister of Nicholas or even his mother:

BURYHALLE *The General Court held here on the Thursday after the Feast of Conception of Our Lady Mary the Virgin (December 8th) in the sixth year of the reign of Henry the Sixth after the conquest.*

Item that Agnes Amys had caused damage through forty cows being in the great dyke which was said to be in the close called Burwade Heyth and after that for one piece of woodland being destroyed there. Therefore in mercy.

Then in 1433 Nicholas rented some land:

The Court held at this place on the Thursday nearest to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th) in the twelfth year of Henry the Sixth after the conquest.

And to Nicholas iiij acres of land and iii roods in a piece called Halleblake Lands with I rood at Grisetoft formerly rented by Henry Joye to hold to that same Nicholas + his assigns at the aforesaid Feast To hand over thence to the lord every year iii quarters + ii bushels the aforesaid measuring to be arranged. This rent was recorded in the Account Rolls in 1434, 1435, 1438 and 1440.

In 1435 there were some minor infringements to be answered for:

The Court held on the Wednesday nearest to the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel (September 29th) in the fourteenth year of the reign of Henry the Sixth: iiid And that Adam Ilwyn Nicholas Amys + Richard Baldwyn were obliged to pay homage to the Court for causing destruction. Therefore in Mercy.

And that Nicholas Amys similarly made a load there with a licence from the bailliff for one flock of sheep so that he asked for payment for the flock therewith.

Then in 1440:

The Court held at this place on the Friday nearest to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14th) in the nineteenth year of the reign of King Henry VI after the Conquest.

vid. And Richard Baldwyn + Nicholas Amys owed iiii each to be paid through the Court and they made default. Therefore in mercy. In 1441 there are some details of the selling of corn:

Corn sold and vii li for ix quarters and one bushel according to payment regulations in the corn's natural state from various pieces of ploughland by Nicholas Amys as is demonstrated from the beginning at iis vid per quarter.

Payment from sale and payment to the lord through the hands of Nicholas Amys who sold according to payment regulations acknowledged by the lord with payment of vii li xd.

And Alionora the wife of Nicholas Amys for three acres etc.

And which ix quarters I bushel was freely sold to the lord by Nicholas Amys of Berton.

And he remised ix quarters I bushel according to payment regulations and in conclusion this was paid in full.

This was repeated in 1443 and 1444 and after this there is no further mention of Nicholas, so he died sometime after this date. It was then left to his son Thomas Amys to lift the family fortunes and make a small fortune through the wool trade. (See *The Norfolk Ancestor* Vol 2 Part 4 "A Medieval Merchant Makes His Will")

Bibliography:

Norfolk Record Office:

- *Neatishead Manor Court Roll*
- *Barton Turf Berry Hall Account Roll*
- *Barton Turf Berry Hall Manor Court Roll*
- *Indenture. NCR Court Roll Case 1 Shelf b no 13 membrane 38*
- *Ancient Deeds Vol 4 A10120 A10584 A10638*

Lay Subsidy Rolls. Norfolk Historical Aids. Timothy Hawes

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A History of Norfolk. Susanna Wade Martins

Peter Mayes. MN3420

Nut Tree House, Bloxham, Oxon, OX15 4PH

Email: petermayes@tiscali.co.uk

THE ITALIAN JOB

I was born and grew up in South London. As far as we knew that was where we had always been - except my mother said that her father had mentioned that they had Spanish blood. About 20 years ago I was curious enough to start delving into the family history and managed to obtain the certificates for my mother's HEWITT line.

The first surprise was that great-grandfather Ernest Alexander HEWITT was born in Shoreditch, London in 1871. His father was John HEWITT, and his mother Mary Ann BIANCHI.

So far no Spanish – or could it have been Italian?

I found John and Mary's marriage in Norwich in 1866. Even more surprising to me, Mary Ann's father was Giovanni BIANCHI, artist. I found the family on the 1841, 1851 (occupation, figure maker) and 1861 census (plaster figure maker) at the same address in Bridge Street (now St Georges Street). By 1871, Giovanni gave his occupation as artist. He died of bronchitis in 1872 aged 65, and an obituary was printed in the Norwich Mercury referring to him as 'much respected'.

I wasn't sure what a figure maker was, however at about that time I was contacted by another researcher, and miraculously we had the same tree! She is descended from one of Giovanni's sons, Giovanni Alessandro, so we are distantly related. What a joy to have met another researcher! We have corresponded ever since.

Back to Norwich – and many years later – we discover Giovanni's work took a sinister turn, when we find out he made the death masks of some notorious murderers, some of which are in Norwich castle museum: James Greenacre executed 1837, Daniel Good (1842), Samuel Yarham (1846), James Bloomfield Rush (1849), Henry Groom (1851), and William Thompson (1854).



The archivist and staff at the museum were extremely helpful in showing us the casts and G *Bianchi* signature on the reverse.

Later, through a book reference, we discover a further cast he made of Johnson Jex, the blacksmith and scientist who died 1852, which resides in Letheringsett church.

I still do not know what other items Giovanni may have produced, and searches for old pictures of his shop in St Georges St have so far been unsuccessful. From the census it appears to have been near the

corner with Colegate, maybe even where the 'By Appointment' restaurant presently stands. In the 1850 Hunt's directory he is listed under 'Modellers and Moulders'.

When did Giovanni leave Italy? Where was he born? Did he reside anywhere before Norwich? He married Sarah RIVETT (from Great Yarmouth) in Ipswich in June 1837, (he was 28 and she was 18) and their first son Alessandro was born a month later (!) but only survived 10 months. They went on to have 8 more children of whom only 4 survived to adulthood. My descendency is from their first daughter Maria Anna, later anglicised to Mary Ann.

Shortly before Giovanni's death in Norwich, all of his family had moved to East London, mainly Bethnal Green and Shoreditch area. His wife Sarah died in Hope Street, Hackney, in 1877 aged 59. Later on, the HEWITTS and some BIANCHI descendants moved 'south of the river' to Bermondsey and Camberwell.

Giovanni's place of birth was always shown as Italy, but annoyingly no location. The migration of Italian 'figurinai' has now become my research topic. These itinerant workers left Italy in groups and travelled to various countries selling their figures, sometimes making several journeys and returning home between trips. Their main area of origin is reported to have been around Lucca in Tuscany.

We are taking a holiday to Italy shortly, and will visit the Museum of Figurinai in Coreglia. The actress Susan Sarandon went there on the BBC programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?', as she has a figure-maker as an ancestor. She was lucky enough to find her ancestor in a passenger list. Let's hope I will be as fortunate!

Elaine Cordingley MN 12207

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GEORGE FREDERICK LYON

The trouble with writing family history is that it is often only of interest to the immediate family. Sometimes, a short chapter has more general appeal and I hope that this story about my Uncle George may stir some memories.

George Frederick Lyon, born November 20th 1889, in Norwich, was the fourth child of **George Hodgson Lyon** and **Susannah (Green)**. In 1891, when George was two years old, the family lived at 12 Weeds Square, at the bottom of Gas Hill, off Riverside Road in Norwich. Weeds Square was described as a 'tenement with one pump in the middle to serve all the residents.'



Gas Hill c1905
Picture with permission of
Norfolk County Council Library
Service

George's father was a cooper by trade and came from Hull. He met Susannah Green in King's Lynn where she was in service. She came from Dersingham where her father was an agricultural labourer.

They married in King's Lynn in 1882 but moved to Norwich in about 1886. Family stories say that George Hodgson Lyon worked at the vinegar works near Prince of Wales' Road, and at Bullard's Brewery. By 1901 the family had moved to the top of Gas Hill, 49 St Leonard's Road. George (jnr) went to school at the Norwich Model School for Boys with his brothers. He was obviously interested in becoming a teacher from a very early age as he was awarded a certificate in Religious Teaching and described as a 'pupil teacher' at Thorpe School when he was only 11 years old. While he was still attending the Model School, he was given an award from May's Charity in 1904 as well as a prize for drawing. After continuing as a pupil teacher, George undertook a one-year course at Birmingham University Elementary Teaching Department ending in 1910. He became a 'Certified teacher' in 1912.

In the Census of 1911, George is shown as an 'Elementary School Teacher' living in a boarding house owned by Mr & Mrs Palmer in Walsoken in Cambridgeshire. Also lodging in the house was Rose Ellen Sampson, described as a 'Manageress of a Branch Shop'. George and Rose already knew each other, as in 1901, Rose was living with her parents, William and

Frances Sampson, at 48 St Leonard's Road, while George and family lived at number 49. George and Rose were married in the summer of 1915.

George enlisted in the First World War in August or September 1914. He recalled that his brother Stephen, a Lieutenant in the King's Own Scottish Borderers, was fighting in the retreat from Mons which was at the end of August 1914. His mother had written to him to say that as she had one boy fighting to kill people, she wanted George to go into the Army to mend people, so he elected to join the Royal Army Medical Corps.

George was probably older than most recruits, being 25, and was promoted very quickly; the marriage certificate of George and Rose (dated July 4th 1915) states that he was a Sergeant Major in the RAMC. He was probably on embarkation leave when they married as his medal certificate shows that he was in Egypt from 27th July 1915. There is no doubt that George was a very successful member of the RAMC as he was 'mentioned in a despatch' on March 29th 1917 'for gallant and distinguished services in the Field' and was also awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal which was considered to be the second ranking gallantry medal after the Victoria Cross.

I could not find where George taught when he was discharged from the RAMC, but I knew that he was Head Teacher of Larkman Lane Primary School.

The school opened in April 1939. The official Opening Ceremony took place on May 11th and was attended by the Lord Mayor of Norwich, various Aldermen and the Director of Education, E. W. Woodhead. The Norwich Education Committee was reorganising elementary schools 'in the light of modern educational practice'. The new Earlham Estate of 2,500 houses had been built in order to move people away from the very poor housing in the inner city area. Larkman Lane School, with 320 children on roll, was one of three schools intended to provide nursery, infants and junior education on the same site, the philosophy being 'The Schools have been planned to minister to the modern conception of education with its stress on the importance of sunshine and fresh air, activity and social training'.

I have used the Head Teacher's Log Book to provide valuable information on the running of the school during the Second World War. This is available at the Norwich Record Office (ACC2007/133).

War was declared on September 3rd 1939 and the children were instructed not to attend school. However, staff attended and were given instruction on gas precautions, first aid and so on. The school could not be reopened until sufficient air raid shelters had been built to accommodate all the children. This would take a long time so, when shelters had been built for 40 children, they were allowed to attend in groups of 40. On October 18th, the diary records that 3 groups of 40 children attended daily from 9-10.20, 10.30-12 &

2-2.30. Each group attended for 2 periods weekly. As more shelters became available so more children could attend.

In January and February 1940, the weather was very severe with heavy snowfalls and persistent frost. The school had to be closed at times because no fuel had arrived. As other schools in the city became damaged by air raids, children were sent to the Larkman Lane buildings. Miss Lillian Burton, a teacher at another school, recalled 'As a wartime emergency, senior children of the estate who previously attended Wensum View and Norman Schools, were moved to Larkman Lane - adequate staff went with them. This posed many difficulties with lack of space and resulted in half-time education for all the pupils'. In April 1940 there were '760 children on roll with 8 classrooms, 4 ½ classes in corridors. Use of hall every afternoon. – am 480 children - pm 535 children'. Because of continuing difficulties, the Government cancelled school holidays at Whitsun and the summer holiday was reduced to 2 weeks.

In the logbook, George had a habit of calling the shelters 'trenches', and he records how the children were often in 'the trenches' for long periods of the day. 'Dinner' children had to be fed in the trenches. By September 1940 the school roll had increased to 803 and part-time attendance was still the norm. On May 8th 1941, the school was damaged by enemy action and practically all the windows at the front were smashed. The School was closed until May 19th.

George's personal life was equally upsetting. His wife, Rose, was in very poor health and died of consumption in September 1941. During this period George was an air raid warden in Norwich, and became a casualty of the Baedeker Raids on April 27th 1942. His car was hit somewhere near the Earl of Leicester public house and it was necessary for part of his right arm to be amputated. A contributor to 'Memories of Thorpe Hamlet' recounts, 'The story went that his car was blown over and caught fire; his arm was trapped and he cut off his own arm with a penknife to escape!' I doubt if that is strictly true!

George was away from the school until July 20th 1942. When the school opened after the summer holidays in September 1942, George had married Margaret Restieaux, a member of his staff since the school opened. By September 1942, another school - Gurney Primary – had opened and taken some of the children so that there were only 687 on the books. The following years were notable for the visits of His Majesty's Inspectors to oversee the working of the school. On December 10th 1943, Mr Rutherford (HMI) 'commented on the excellent tone and the happy friendliness of children and staff.' On June 8th 1944, the same inspector with a colleague 'expressed pleasure and satisfaction at the work, keenness and tone of the school.' The most glowing of the reports is that of November 28th-30th 1950:

'The Department is fortunate in the choice of the headmaster who has been in charge since the opening. He is endowed with a deep sense of service to the community, a devotion to duty and a love of children. He has a respect for hard work and desirable standards of achievement in both work and behaviour and he has a close knowledge of his staff, and of the children and the homes from which they come. He is supported by a loyal, hardworking staff of 5 qualified assistants who are inspired by his leadership, obvious sincerity and cheerfulness and whose work in all aspects of the school life is characterised by a marked devotion to duty. They, in their turn, recognise their social responsibilities to the children. Five members of staff are gaining their early years of experience. The headmaster is well able to help them for, in addition to his other qualities, he is a very good teacher.'

George and Margaret retired from the school on July 21st 1952, but they continued to lead very busy lives. George died in 1984 and Margaret in 1988.

Julia Blackburn, MN2120

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Christine Hood, BA
Cert. Local History (UEA)

**137a Nelson Street
Norwich
Norfolk NR2 4DS**

**e-mail:
pinpoint1@btinternet.com**

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Marriages Recorded in the Sacrist's Register of Norwich Cathedral 1697-1754.

In the March 2010 journal the above book was reviewed.

This might be of more interest to members than its title suggests as it is a major source for runaway marriages that otherwise cannot be traced.

Apparently before Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 (hence the cut-off date for the book) a couple who did not have the approval of their parents could escape to Norwich cathedral and buy a marriage license from the archdeacon or similar. If they then hurried and found an obliging canon he could marry them at once in one of the side chapels of the cathedral before the family could intervene. This list shows brides and grooms from all over the diocese.

Using the original list in Kirby House I found my ancestor WILLIAM GEORGE of Loddon, who married SUSANNAH FRYER of Seething in 1719. I would not have traced this marriage without this list so it is well worth a try if you are drawing a blank.

Jennifer Tyson MN. 4240

OBITUARY – CLIFFORD STIMPSON

He had been in failing health for some time, and following a short illness passed away peacefully in Zaccary Merton Hospital, rustington, West Sussex on Tuesday 14th September. Following retirement in 1981, Mum (Jean) and Dad moved to Sussex to be nearer to family, on the South Coast and in the home counties. They joined Angmering Baptist Church and were both active members there until ill health prevented them attending, some 5 years ago. Despite failing health himself, Dad continued to care for my mother at home until his death. She has now become resident at Oakland's Grange Residential Care Home, St. Flora's road, Littlehampton, BN17 6BB

Nigel J. Stimpson, Felpham, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex.

A RIGHT ROYAL CELEBRATION IN THELVETON

When searching parish registers I have learned to take a peek at the inside front and back covers (which are almost always reproduced in digital and microform copies) and at any marginal or additional scribbblings which are clearly not the usual baptism, marriage, banns or burial entries. I have found some wonderfully detailed accounts of local events, early census listings of households, terriers and much more. One such delightful entry is written in the front cover of the Church of St Andrew, Thelveton Register of Baptisms, 1813-1901. In it the Rector records the local celebrations held in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. I have transcribed the complete entry below:

On Friday June 18th 1897 the Diamond Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria was celebrated in the Parish of Thelveton.

To mark the sense of the importance of the occasion, and in thankfulness to Almighty God for the many benefits bestowed on our country during the past sixty years a Dinner was given in Mr George Symonds' barn to all the employees of the Thelveton & Walcot Green estates above 15 years of age, residing in the Parishes of Thelveton, Scole, Dickleburgh, Walcot Green and Shimpling, together with their wives, also a Tea to all the same persons, and all the children in the Parish of Thelveton. To the Dinner some 150 people sat down, and to the Tea about 235. At the former meal the Queen's health was drunk with enthusiasm as was also the case with regard to the Prince & Princess of Wales [&] the rest of the Royal Family.

The health of the Squire, Edward Mann Esq^{re} & his family, of the Rector, the Rev^d Marcus E. W. Johnson and M^{rs} Johnson, of M^r & M^{rs} George Symonds, & of Robert Talbot (late Parish Clerk) were also drunk. Distributions were made of Jubilee Medallions, Books & Jubilee Tumblers presented by Edward Mann Esqre, W. T. Paulins Esqre & the Rev^d Marcus Johnson.

The weather proved inclement during the latter part of the afternoon and evening, interrupting the Sports which had been commenced. But a very enjoyable time was spent by young & old, & the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee will be long remembered in Thelveton.

The special service of Thanksgiving held on the following Sunday June 20th was very well attended.

At this time the Parish Deed Chest in the Vestry was kindly presented by Edward Mann Esq^{re}.

Marcus E. W. Johnson, Rector.

Sarah E Doig MN12258

sarah.doig@ancestral-heritage.co.uk, www.ancestral-heritage.co.uk

The Bardell & Cross Bardell families of West Norfolk

I started researching my family history a few years ago. Knowing that it was something I enjoyed doing, my sister in law, Jane, asked if I would like to do her line as well. Jane's paternal grandmother, Kate Howes, was born in Middleton, a few miles east of King's Lynn, in 1878. Kate was the first born daughter of Walter John & Maria Howes nee Bardell. Something that will become relevant later is the fact that Walter John Howes' brother, George, and his wife Mary nee Alecock, had several children including Philip George Howes born 1884 and Alfred Winter Howes born 1885, both in Middleton.

Taking the Bardell family back further, Maria was born in 1848 in Kentish Town, London, a daughter of Bedingfield & Alice Bardell. Going to the previous generation, the search moved back to Norfolk with Bedingfield Bardell baptised 1812 in Middleton, to Bedingfield and Mary Bardell.

At that stage, I ran into a brick wall. Though the 1851 census showed that a Bedingfield Bardell was born in West Bilney c1774, I couldn't locate his marriage. Also, the baptisms I had found for his children gave his wife's name as Mary Bardell late M. Burton or M. Buxton, I still don't know which. I noticed the surname Cross-Bardell cropping up on various websites. Though there was probably a link between the Bardells and Cross-Bardells, I thought it could be a case of a male Bardell marrying a female Cross and the double barrelled name coming into being.

I was unable to find Bedingfield Bardell's baptism in West Bilney Parish Register but there was Ann (1763), John (1770) and Benjamin (1774). They were all base born children of a Sarah Bardell, though John's entry did say that Sarah was a widow. I was fortunate enough to find burials in Middleton for a John Bardell in 1833 aged 61 yrs and a Bedingfield Bardell in 1855 aged 81 years. This encouraged me to look for Wills at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in Norwich. I had difficulty with the writing in the following Wills so concentrated on reading names of relatives.

John Bardell of Middleton's Will of 1833 mentions his wife Ann and nephews and nieces; Peter Stringer of Gayton, Bedingfield Bardell the Younger, now a private in the first regiment of Footguards, John Bardell of Blackborough, Sarah the wife of Edward Rippingale of Wiggenhall St Germans and Mary Bardell of Blackborough, Spinster. Blackborough End is very close to Middleton.

Of those nephews and nieces, the Bedingfield Bardell who was in the Army fits in nicely with the Bedingfield Bardell baptised in 1812 who would have been about the right age. He also had siblings, John baptised 1806 and Mary baptised 1814, who could have been the Spinster mentioned. Peter Stringer of Gayton may have been a son of Francis Stringer and Anna

Bardell (could be the Ann Bardell born 1763 to Sarah Bardell at West Bilney) though I have yet to find his baptism. Francis Stringer and Anna Bardell married 1787 at Bircham Tofts.

The Will of Bedingfield Bardell of Middleton who died in 1855 mentions his second wife Sarah. Bedingfield Bardell, a widower, married Sarah Canham at Middleton in 1828, presumably after the death of his wife Mary but I have not yet found Mary's burial. Also mentioned are sons John and Bedingfield who would have been the ones born c1806 and c1812 respectively and daughters Ann, Elizabeth and Mary. Finally, he names his grandchildren as John Cross and Mary, wife of John Scott of Wiggenhall.

That was my first indication of how the Bardell and Cross-Bardell connection could have come about so my next move was to have a look at census returns. The 1841 census has John Cross aged 20 yrs living with John Bardell (the one born 1806) his wife Susan and their family at Middleton and in 1851, a John Cross, 29 yrs, is shown as born at St Peters, Norfolk. He was married to Maria (nee Back) and had children, William 2 yrs and John 6 months. The 1861 census helped further in that it has John Cross as 40 yrs of age, born at Wiggenhall St. Germans.

Wiggenhall parishes included St Germans, St Mary Magdalen, St Mary the Virgin and St Peters. There was no sign of John Cross' baptism in St Germans so I looked through the other nearby parishes. Eventually, I had some luck while going through Wiggenhall St Peters baptisms. No John Cross but St Peters has the baptism of John, natural son of Sarah Bardell, on 12 Nov 1820.

St Peters marriages had William Cross marrying Sarah Bardell 1 Nov 1821. In addition to Sarah's son John, they had a daughter Mary, baptised 17 Nov 1822 at Wiggenhall St Germans. Freebmd has a Mary Ann Cross marrying a John Scott Mar Qr 1848 in Downham Registration District which fits in with the Mary, wife of John Scott of Wiggenhall mentioned in Bedingfield Bardell's 1855 Will. I have yet to find a burial for William Cross but the marriage register for St Peters includes the marriage of Edward Rippingale and Sarah Cross (widow) on 25 Jul 1828.

The above links Sarah the wife of Edward Rippingale mentioned in John Bardell's 1833 Will and John Cross who is named in Bedingfield Bardell's 1855 Will and gives every indication that they were mother and son and that Sarah was a sister of John Bardell (1806) and Bedingfield Bardell (1812). Edward & Sarah Rippingill are mentioned in the 1861 and 1871 censuses, both of which have Sarah as being born c1800 in Bury St Edmunds.

Looking again at censuses, John Cross was, as I have mentioned, listed as John Cross in the 1841, 51 and 61 censuses. However, in 1871, Cross has become his middle name and Bardell his surname. His wife Maria and children including William 22 yrs and John 20 years are also listed, proving

that this is the same family as mentioned in the 1851 census. There were other children which I have ignored in the interests of brevity.

Middleton parish register has William (?) son of John & Maria Bardell baptised 21 Jan 1849 and John son of John Cross & Maria Bardell baptised 6 Oct 1850. I have used a question mark where William's second Christian name should be as it is not very legible – could be James or Summers. Taking the William Bardell line towards the present day, I learned that William Summers Bardell married Sarah Catherine Warren 16 Sep 1875 at South Lynn.

They had several children including May Cross Bardell, born Mar Qr 1881 West Winch, baptised 17 Dec 1882 West Winch and Violet Cross Bardell, born Sep Qr 1887 West Winch bap 7 Oct 1888 West Winch . May Cross-Bardell married Philip George Howes Jun Qr 1912 in Freebridge Lynn RD and Violet Cross-Bardell married Alfred Winter Howes Sep Qr 1918 in Freebridge Lynn RD.

For some reason, the West Winch baptism register has most of the children of William Summers and Sarah Catherine Bardell as being born to John Summers & Sarah Catherine Bardell. I cannot think why, William Summers Bardell married Sarah Catherine Warren and all censuses give them as the childrens' parents.

That takes me back to my second paragraph in which I said that George Howes, had several children including Philip George Howes and Alfred Winter Howes.

I believe the Cross-Bardell surname evolved during the 19th century. John Bardell was born to Sarah Bardell in 1820, a year before she married William Cross. It makes sense that both mother's and son's surnames were altered. The Bardell name may have been tacked on the end before the 1871 census but that is the first I have seen of it. The name was not at the time hyphenated. However, the 1891 census on Freecen has the family of William Summers and Sarah Catherine Bardell nee Warren as Cross-Bardell including daughters May and Violet. Freebmd has May and Violet as Cross-Bardell when marrying Philip George Howes and Alfred Winter Howes respectively.

To conclude, I think the Bardell and Cross-Bardell families are all descended from Sarah Bardell who gave birth to Anne, John, Benjamin and Bedingfield in the 1760s and 1770s in West Bilney. One last thought, could Benjamin baptised 1774 and Bedingfield whose age in censuses and at death suggests a birth in about 1774 have been one and the same person?

Roland Green MN8565

E-mail: rog22@tiscali.co.uk

Elsie Mabel Duffield – Author of Adventures of a Doll Carriage

My mother, **Ina Kate Duffield**, born in 1896, was the seventh of a family of 8 children to blacksmith, wheelwright and farrier **George Duffield** and his wife, **Emily (nee Clarke)**. George was also a Methodist Lay Preacher for some 60 years in the Wymondham Circuit. His business was in Damgate Street, Wymondham, Norfolk where all the children were born and brought up.

They were a healthy lot and all lived to their late 80's or 90's. George, who was born in 1859, died at the grand old age of 96 in 1956 when living on another of the sisters' (the sixth child, Marjorie Mary) farm at Mautby near Caister-on-Sea. He was short and pugnacious and was known in the family as 'The Boss'.

Three of the girls emigrated to North America after the First World War, the second Winifred Katherine, the third Evelyn Sylvia and the fifth Elsie Mabel – all the children had two Christian names! The first two of these married Canadians who had come over here to fight in the 'Great War' but Elsie never married. She had wanted to be a nurse but was unable to because from an early age had experienced some deafness. So she trained as a Nanny and clearly was well regarded for early on she was nanny to Fay Compton's son, Anthony Pelissier. As well as being a well-known actress Fay Compton was also Compton Mackenzie's sister.

Elsie was too feisty a character however to survive for long in English households where her status was not well regarded and she decided to follow her two sisters and try her luck in North America. Hence the trip described in *Adventures of a Doll Pram*.

She lived the rest of her life in North America, although she revisited England about every other year to avoid the summer heat in New York and, in her retirement, lived with my cousin Inez (Winifred's daughter) in Hamilton, Ontario - Inez recently died aged 99. Elsie lived to the age of 100 and I flew out to her hundredth birthday party in Toronto in April 1992. She was nanny to the children of some of the richest families in New York, a lot of them Jewish, and in particular was nanny to Henry Ford's grandson.

In 1953/4 I spent 10 months flying training in Winnipeg as part of my National Service and during the time I was there my Aunt Evelyn (the aunt to whom the pram was taken) and her husband, Gordon, passed through Winnipeg and we met up. They drove me to the place where they had tried to make living in the wilderness north of Winnipeg, but it wasn't as far north as the place described in Aunt Elsie's account. Gordon was a bit of a rolling stone and tried many things before finally settling with the Post Office.

As an encouragement to people to populate the area north of Winnipeg the Canadian Government offered half mile square (160 acres) plots of land on which you had to build your own house, provide your own water, fell the trees and finally cultivate the land. All the government did was to provide a 'square pattern of roads'. This was a tough life and many people, used to the relative comforts of Western Europe, soon gave up including my uncle. However, if you survived 5 years, you were given the freehold and could then possibly take over an adjacent plot that had been abandoned or not taken up. Some people became large landowners this way. Those people who by and large stuck at it were from Eastern Europe and this is reflected in the surnames common in the Winnipeg telephone directory in 1953/4.

According to my latest information taken from a modern atlas and from Google Earth, Hodgson is still the end of the railway line and Dallas (not to be confused with the one in Texas) is still further into the wilderness north of there. It is some 150 miles from Winnipeg between lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba.

Geoff Havers (MN 1393)

[Editors note: Adventures of a Doll Carriage, which appeared in the last issue, was written by Elsie Mabel Duffield. Mr Geoff Havers, has her original handwritten script.]

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Charles W. Farrow FinstLEx
9, Drayton Hall Lane,
Scarning, Dereham NR19 2PY
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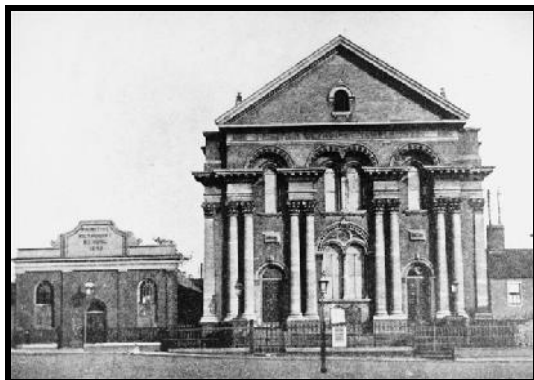
e-mail: CharlesFarrowResearch@btinternet.com

REVEREND EPHRAIM BLAKE



I have the above photo mounted on card from my husband's family taken by E Miller Gt Yarmouth. It is Rev Ephraim Blake and his descendants taken outside The Temple Gt Yarmouth. He was a Primitive Methodist minister from 1846 - 1889. He was born in Bury St Edmunds in 1822 and died in 1905. We are not sure when the photo was taken. We do know he served at Gt Yarmouth in 1863 - 1866, and that he retired in 1889 in Gt Yarmouth. We believe he had at least 12 children, hence all the descendants! He was my husband's greatx2 grandmother's brother. So you see the link is way back and sidestepping! I feel that there may well be descendants who would be glad to see this photo. Otherwise it sits in a box and although we as Methodists find it interesting I feel there may be others for whom it would be of more significance. If you have any information about, or are a descendant of Rev Blake, I would be interested to hear from you.

June Curtis MN 10532



The Temple, Great Yarmouth,
1902
Photograph with permission
of Norfolk County Council
Library Service

Notes & Queries:

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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

WILEY/LOCKETT

I am looking for the birth details and parentage of Thomas Shreeve Wiley (Willey/ Whiley/Wiley) born circa 1739 and his wife Susannah Locket of Ashmanhaugh born 1744. They were married in 1763 at St Martin`s Palace Plain and both are buried at St Georges Colegate, he in 1797 and she in 1802. Their son also Thomas Shreeve Wiley was apprenticed to Sam Owen a woolcomber of Norwich. The family settled in Norwich. I would be very grateful for any information or leads of any kind as I appear to be stuck!

Mary Wiley, Silva Felix, York Road, West Hagbourne, Didcot, OX11 ONH.

HARDING

I am trying to trace my ancestor, William Harding who married Jane Derisley at St James in London in July 1791. In 1809 he is recorded as being a schoolmaster in Lakenheath. We know this from the Cambridge Alumni as his son went there that year as a sizar. We have been to Lakenheath, Bury St. Edmunds etc. to try to find out how these two came to be in London in 1791 and what happened to them between then and 1809. We are mostly interested in finding out where they originated. Please can you offer any advice or help?

Claire Large, clairelarg@btinternet.com

HARRISON

My greatx2 grandfather Granger Harrison was married twice and had 17 children. He was born in 1841 at Little Downham and died at Hockwold in 1910. He was a fen farmer. Does anyone have a photograph of him, please, with or without his first wife Ellen or second wife Sally. Surely with his large number of descendants someone has a likeness? I should be so grateful to have a copy. All expenses reimbursed of course.

Mrs Sandra Adams, MN1212

55 Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 9BY

Email: TAdamschel@aol.com

LAWS-LOVEL

Searching for details on the Laws family of Barrack Street, St James Pockthorpe, Norwich (1800-1900).

Stephen and Susan Laws (nee Cordial/Condron or Cawdral) married 1814 St Helen's Pockthorpe. Their children all baptised except one at St James. Susan b: 1814, Stephen b: 1818, William b: 1820, Chris b: 1822. Ann b: 1824, James b: 1826 (Attleborough), Math b: 1828, Ben b: 1830, Elizabeth b: 1834, Mark b: 1839 & Mary Ann b: 1841. William possibly transported to Australia 1843, escaped 1851 and could have changed name to Lovel and went to the Goldfields at Ballarat. James supposedly lived in Paternoster Road, Norwich (address not located), another is said to have drowned at Great Yarmouth - captain of a small boat, and another a Homeopath. Any record of a William Lovel in Norwich same period welcomed

Peter Lovel MN 12093

3 Dawayne St East Burwood, Victoria, Australia 3151.

Email 'peter_lovel@optusnet.com.au'

STEWARDSON (occasionally STUARDSON)

This branch of my tree was based in Norwich; the earliest I've found being Solomon, born c1680. Two forenames occurred often: Nathaniel and George Nathaniel. Notably too, there were three cases of Christopher Chadley, the earliest born in 1833. Many were printers.

I've found another family of STEWARDSONs – in Fakenham – headed by Chadley, who started having children in 1799 including a Christopher. A Chadley was buried there in 1845, aged 73. This implies a birth date of 1772, but gives no birth place. Occupations include booksellers, printers and stationers.

The new NORS database shows 188 marriages in Terrington St Clement between 1818 and 1841, at which a Nathaniel or a George Nathaniel was a witness. But I can find no trace of any STEWARDSON being born, marrying, dying or living there.

I'm convinced these STEWARDSONs are connected in some way I've yet to find. Help and suggestions would be appreciated.

Anthony Williment, MN10619. 64 Barclay Road, Norwich, NR7 9Q9,
Email aj.williment@ntlworld.com

SIMPSON FAMILY HISTORY

I have inherited some merchant seamen discharge papers that I understand belonged to my maternal grandmother's grandfather.

My grandmother Kate Clara Howard Simpson b. 1900 was a bit cantankerous, hence I know very little of her family. The discharge papers, along with part of a ships agreement, span roughly 1834-1875. These have fascinated me and I would be interested to know if there is anywhere in Gt Yarmouth that could tell me anything about some of the ships mentioned on them or indeed Harry Simpson. One has an exotic sounding name the Duleep Singh. Is there a Fishermans or sailors museum in Gt Yarmouth?

Mrs Mandy Smith, 4 Duchess Close, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3SE.
Telephone: 01278 459790. Email address sewnsew@tesco.net

DIANA SPELMAN BA

**Norfolk Research Specialist
(since 1982)**

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



member

**74 Park Lane
NORWICH NR2 3EF
Tel: 01603 664186
Email: dianaspelman@waitrose.com**

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<ray.noble22@gmail.com>**

DNA PROJECTS

SINCLAIR / ST. CLAIR

I'm a member of the Sinclair / St. Clair family. I run their worldwide DNA study and we're recruiting folks in the UK who might be interested in helping with this study by taking the simply DNA test.

If you have members who have a derivative of the Sinclair surname - St. Clair, Sinkler, Saint Claire, etc - or if you know anyone in your area, would you please request they take a look at the extensive website I've built about our family?

www.StClairResearch.com

In some cases, we can help to defray the cost of the test, but this will have to be a determination based on how we view the value of the test subject's genealogy documents.

Thank you for any help in identifying folks from our family who may benefit from such a genealogy study.

Steve St. Clair

saintclair1398@gmail.com

RICKETTS AND VARIANTS DNA PROJECT

More participants are needed for this DNA project. To participate you must be male, or find a male in your tree, with either the name Ricketts or a variation thereof. You will be asked to undergo a genealogy DNA test.

Information about the one-name study can be found on <http://one-name.org/profiles/ricketts.html>. Alternatively look at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Ricketts/default.aspx>.

If this interests you please contact:

Sarah A. Dyson

Flat 12, Water Lane House

Water Lane,

Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1TJ

Telephone 020 8940 3563

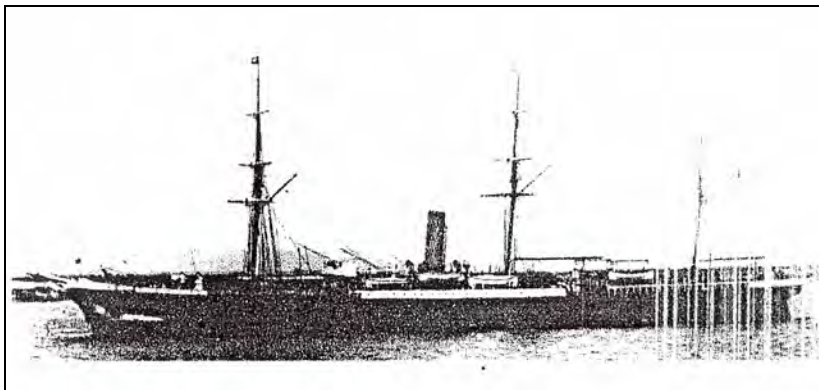
Email: ricketts@one-name.org.

ELSIE MAY BARTLE

Edited extracts of the Diary of her travels from Norfolk, England to New Zealand during November and December 1890

Editor's note: I recently received a very interesting article about the journey from Norfolk to New Zealand in 1890. It is too long to publish in the Ancestor (37pp), but I thought edited extracts would make interesting reading. A copy will be held at Kirby Hall Library.

The Bartle family travelled on the SS Kaikoura from London, via Plymouth, Teneriffe and Cape Town to Hobart and Wellington. Their final destination was Oakura.

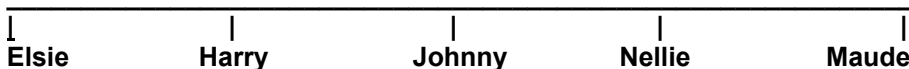


NZ Steamship Co ship SS Kaikoura.

The Bartle family was:

William Martin Bartle = Georgiana

|



Elsie's diary starts:

Tuesday Nov: 11th 1890.

We started for London at five o'clock in the afternoon. It was such a long, tiresome journey for it was quite dark, we could see nothing from the windows. We had gone a good way up the line when we discovered we had lost one of our boxes so at the next station Da gave the guard a note asking him to send a telegram back to Wymondham and ask them to send it on for we concluded we had left it there, and we got it in the morning. At Ely we tried to see if we could see the cathedral but it was too dark. When we got to Cambridge we began to get tired of the journey but there was a lot to see at the great station and we counted thirty engines.

We were very glad when we got to London for we were very tired but we had time to see that Liverpool Station was lit up with electric light which made everybody's face look blue. My aunt was there to meet us, we had to cross the streets under the very noses of horses but we got home safely and were very glad indeed to get to bed. But though the room was very clean there was a nasty smell about it, it is just the same all over London. We notice it more because we just come from the country I suppose.

Nov 13th

This is the day for starting. We were to go to the Albert Docks but we made a mistake. Instead of changing at the Custom House station we went on to Woolwich. The train did not go any further, so we had to go back again. This time we were right and got to the Docks safely. There lay the great ship with black painted sides and a great yellow funnel. I wondered whether it was possible for a ship like that to sink.

What a muddle everything was in, bedding boxes and luggage lumbering about. Men shouting and knocking, bells ringing on the ship and noise and confusion reigned supreme. We got on board at last and found our way into the steerage.

When we got below they had not quite finished putting up the benches. Johnny and Nelly and I stood quite still while the others went to find the cabins. Such funny little places with single and double berths.

The double berths meant for two are about a yard across. Maud and I had one, while two other girls had the two single berths, (a Miss Grey and a Miss Brown). In the middle there was room for about one to stand.

We were starting now but we could not feel it yet and only knew we were moving by the pier, which was getting further and further off. There were such a lot of people on the pier to see the ship off.

After that we all had to be examined to see if there was anything the matter with us. We passed the doctor who asked if we had been vaccinated and felt our pulse; we then went down the hatchway to have dinner (we wondered when we should). It was pea soup only they seemed to have forgotten the peas! We ate our soup as best we could out of mugs and plates or whatever came first.

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Nov 20th

We have been on board a week today and are at Tenerife. Coming along the coast was very pretty. Nelly and Johnny would not believe that the little white specks on shore were houses they looked so much like little stones. Nelly thought they were very much like Noah's Arks that Santy Claus had set out to dry.

In the bay it is very pretty indeed with the mountains at the back of the little white houses of the town and the calm blue sea and swarms of little boats coming out to us. They were soon on board, dark curly-headed men with oranges, pears, figs, grapes, and cigars. The sun is really scorching here and there is only one awning up.

The barge-men's dinners all came in baskets exactly alike. The baskets were nearly all filled with fruit and bread. Da begged a green fig from one of the men. I tasted it but did not like it. One of the men gave two oranges to Johnny and pointed to me as much to say, "Give her one too". During the day we bought three hundred oranges, they were fifty for a shilling.

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Nov 29th

Another child on board has the scarlatina and no wonder. There is a family here - the dirtiest people I ever saw in my life. The children seldom if ever have any shoes or stockings on, and are as black as any sweep you ever saw. The mother, well I do not believe she has washed her face or done her hair since she came on the ship.

There was fire drill again this afternoon directly after dinner. This afternoon I had a bath, the water being quite warm.

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Dec 5th

Hurrah, here is Saturday at last and there is land. We saw it just before dinnertime and some of us fancied we saw it long before we did. One of the quartermasters insisted on showing me the Table Mountain before I went down to dinner and at last after about five minutes anxious looking I saw, or thought I saw, it.

It was nearly four o'clock when we got there. The yellow flag was lying on the deck. When there is a yellow flag hoisted on a ship it is a sign that there is sickness on board and no one is allowed to come to or go from that unfortunate ship. But that flag was never hoisted. The health officer proclaimed that there was no quarantine for scarlatina.

On shore everything is dreadfully dear. Cheese was one shilling and five pence a pound, and fruit, a small pineapple was eighteen pence. Da bought a big rush basket filled with fruit and provisions; cheese, bacon, sardines, potted tongue and etc. I need not say that it was very late before we retired and that we had some danger of getting to bed in the dark. So much for Cape Town.

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Dec 25th

Christmas on the water. We had no carols last night; at least I did not hear any. How funny it seems, not a bit like Christmas. In the morning a little before breakfast, down came Mr. Morris the head steward with a box of sweets for all the children he could find. After breakfast (we had beef steak and a mutton chop), I went on deck where a lady was giving out cards to everyone. Everybody was wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and those who had cards were sending them to their most particular friends. A gentleman from the first class gave us all sweets, cherries, and gooseberries.

I happened to go downstairs just before dinner - the waiters were putting on tablecloths, such an event. Of course I ran and told the others and they were just as surprised as I was. We had tablecloths, knives, forks, and plates provided all proper, and waiters to wait on us.

There was soup for dinner and so much better than the soup we got other days, then there was beef and goose and potatoes peeled ready for us to eat. The plum pudding we had was so rich that it was very nearly black, brandy sauce with it too. So rich that many of us felt sick.

The afternoon was spent very nicely romping about the deck as though we had been at a real Christmas party. In the morning we had had a service by the Rev Mr. Baker. He was going to get off at Hobart so he said Good-bye. Of course we had all the Christmas hymns.

Then for tea we had cold beef, bread and butter, and cake. After tea we went on deck thinking what a nice day we had spent and wondering what Hobart would be like.

Dec 26th

Last night was awful. I do not believe I slept two hours all the time. They were unloading the cargo all night. Our hatchway has been taken up, so all

the noise is right outside our door. All night long I could hear either the bosun or one of the mates shouting out orders. Then there was the creaking and groaning of the boxes being hoisted up and the rattling of the machine just above my head. Altogether it was awful.

But then Hobart makes up for all that. It is exactly like one big garden with houses dotted about in it. There are hills at the back covered with trees, 'bush', Mr. Henry said was the proper name.

Harry got up a little earlier than we did and he said there was a beautiful rainbow at the back of the hills when he went on deck. I should like to have seen it. Mr. Henry said we might expect some rough weather now, so be prepared. It was very dull and the ship rolled awfully. Maud and I sat up on deck all the afternoon; it was fun to see the people rolling about the deck. Once the ship gave one tremendous roll and a girl who sitting on the deck with some cherries in her lap fell right over and the cherries rolled about the deck.

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Dec 31st - Wellington

In the morning Harry brought us some flowers when we were in bed. He had got up and with another boy had climbed one of the hills.

We carried all of our small luggage on board the Takapuna, the boat we were to go to Lyttleton in. It looked so small compared with the Kaikoura.

We went to see the museum but had not time to stop long. There were some very curious things there. Some remains of the Moa, and lots of Maorie (pronounced Marie) weapons.

We were in the stern end of the ship and had second class cabins, there was no third class. All the ladies sleep in one cabin and the gentlemen in another. For a long time there were a lot of porpoises alongside and they kept jumping up and down. Then in the evening the stewards had a banjo and sang songs for ever so long. Then we went to bed, Nell and I shared a bunk. There is nothing but a mattress and a pillow and a thick rug. A lifebelt is under every pillow in case of accident. We did not fully undress. Mrs. Davies and her sister slept on the floor because they were afraid of cockroaches.

Jan 1st (1891)

New Years morning we were up at six o'clock and on deck. We were getting near Lyttleton by this time and we were quite near the shore. We got there about seven o'clock and had breakfast on shore. Harry and I took a walk through the town and it is indeed a little town. You could not make it very

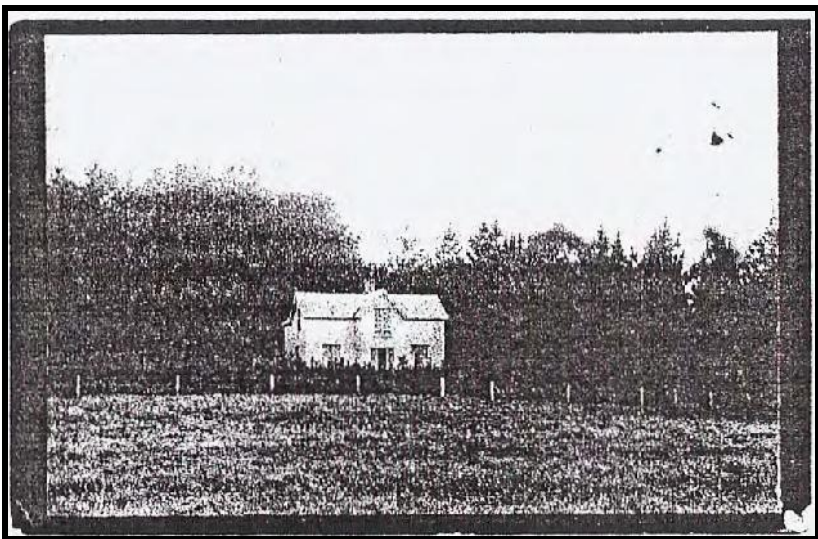
big, not if you tried, for there are hills directly at the back, like those at Wellington.

The trains here are so funny. A platform with rails at each end and a door on this platform then there are seats on either side with the windows at your back. There is no third class so we had to go second class and they are not half as comfortable as the third class at home, the train goes much slower too.

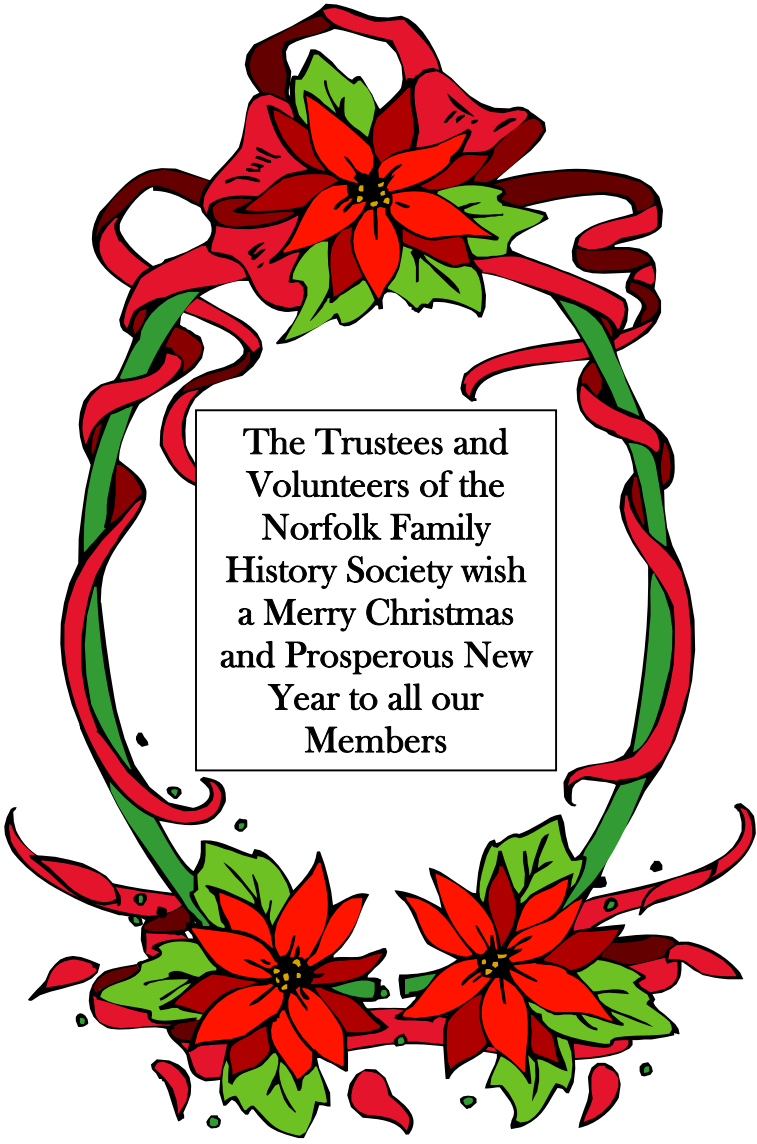
When we reached Christchurch it had been raining the whole time. First we walked through the town to an eating-house, where we had dinner; green peas among the other vegetables. Coming along we saw the Cathedral which has been deprived of the spire, broken off about half way down by an earthquake.

When we were about three miles from our destination it began to rain and kept on till we got there. It was about nine o'clock then, we had been seven hours on our journey. We had a good supper of bread and butter and eggs and then retired to bed. Harry and George slept together and we other five slept together, two at the foot and three at the head. Maud was sick several times in the night.

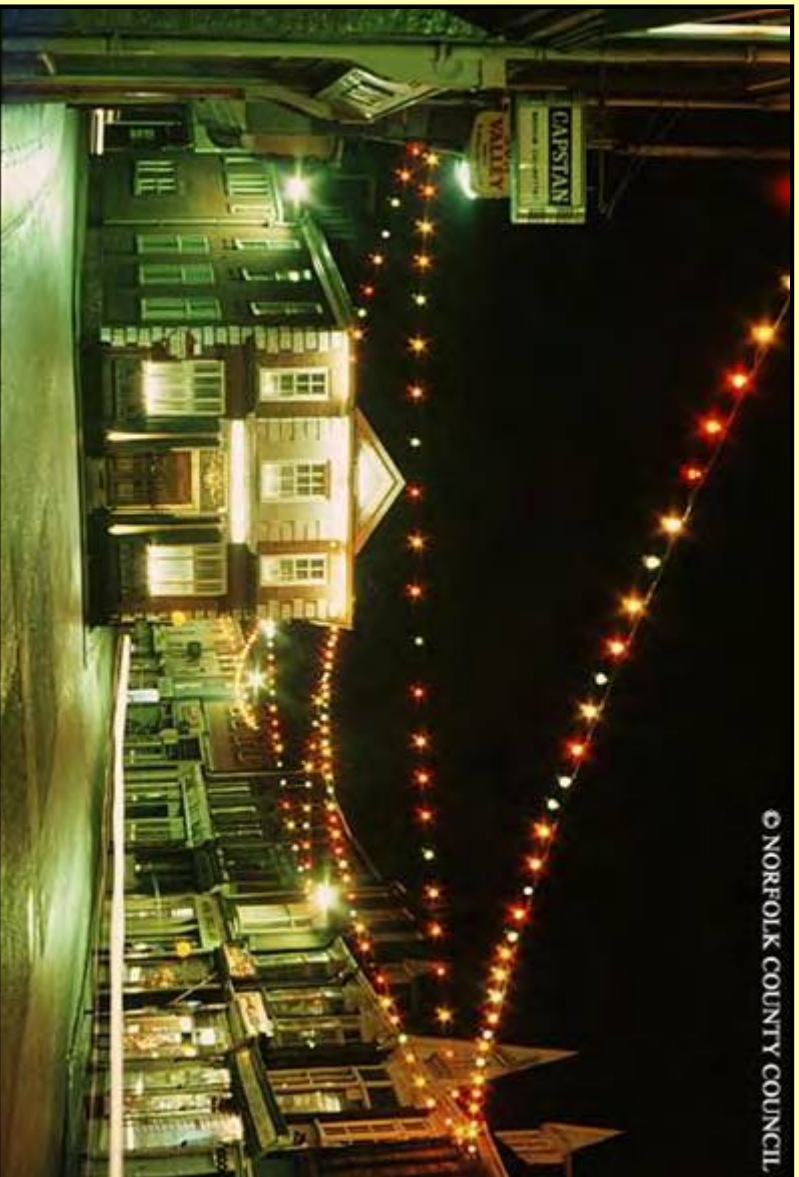
(Diary continues.....)



This photo was with the Bartle Taranaki photos and may be a house that William Martin Bartle and family lived in, quite possibly on this farm at Oakura. *(E.M. Price)*



The Trustees and
Volunteers of the
Norfolk Family
History Society wish
a Merry Christmas
and Prosperous New
Year to all our
Members



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Christmas lights, Magdalen Street, Norwich, 1963, prior to building the flyover and Anglia Square.
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