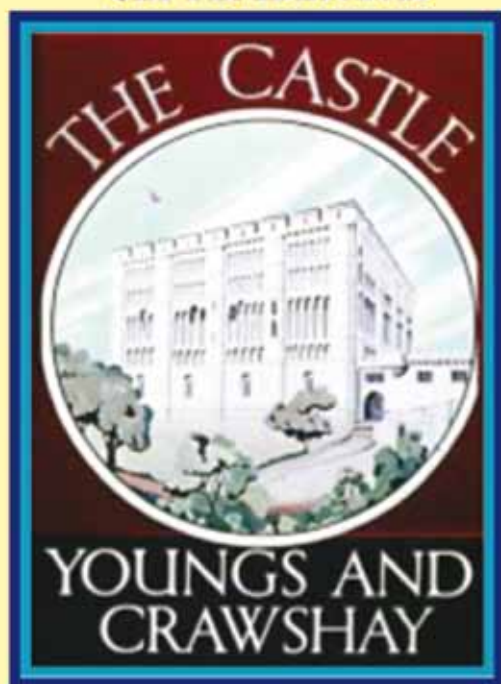


The Norfolk Ancestor



Volume Ten Part Three
SEPTEMBER 2013



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

“I MEANT TO PUT A HOLE IN THE KING’S HEAD”

“I mean to put a hole in the King’s head!” was the shocking statement heard in the Norwich Guildhall Council Chamber. The gasps from the other Councillors were audible as Alderman Jonathan Davey made this statement and then would not explain it or withdraw it. Jonathan Davey was well known for his Republican tendencies and Britain, in 1813, was still on edge after the bloody revolution in neighbouring France.

A police guard was put around his house and the main turnpike road to London was watched closely in case Jonathan Davey made the move to London to carry out his threat to ‘put a hole’ in George III’s head.

A few days after Davey made this statement a notice was put in the local press about a public house on Gentlemen’s Walk that was up for auction, and Davey purchased it. The next day a large hole appeared in it as workmen began to demolish it. The public house was called ‘The King’s Head’ (pictured below) and Davey was demolishing it to make an access from the Market Place to the Castle. The access road is now named ‘Davey Place’, Davey was also responsible for the building of the first Foundry Bridge and Eaton Hall.



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The Norfolk Ancestor

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

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Kirby Hall Library Opening Times

Tuesday and Thursday	10.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am - 4.00pm
First and last Sunday in the month	10.00am - 1.00pm

GROUP MEETING VENUES

DISS	Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss (A1066) SOUTH NORFOLK (2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm) £1 per member - £2 for non-members
NORWICH	Kirby Hall, 70 St Giles Street, Norwich (2nd Friday of each month at 7.30 pm)
LONDON	Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road. London EC1M 7BA (Approximately every six months, 2.00 - 4.00pm)



DIARY of EVENTS

From September 2013

Date	Event	Speaker	Group
Sunday 1 September	Fair - Friends of Catton Park	12noon - 4.00pm	
Tuesday 10 September	Frederick Rolfe - King of the Norfolk Poachers	Charlotte Paton (Author)	Diss
Friday 13 September	Workhouses - their history and records	Gill Blanchard	Norwich
Tuesday 8 October	The Dark Side -Victorian Underworld	Ian Waller	Diss
Friday 11 October	Norwich Boot and Shoe Trade	Michael & Frances Holmes	Norwich
Saturday 12 October	Norfolk Family History Society AGM	12.30pm	Kirby Hall
Saturday 19 October	Members Day at Society of Genealogists		London
Saturday 19 October	Suffolk Fair - Needham Market		
Saturday 26 October	Cambridge Family History Fair (Girton Glebe Primary School)		
Friday 8 November	TBA please watch the website for information		Norwich
Tuesday 12 November	The Gunpowder Plot	Mike Wabe	Diss
Tuesday 10 December	A Regency Christmas	Frances Hart	Diss
Friday 13 December	Social Evening - Members only		Norwich
2014			
Friday 10 January	No meeting		Norwich
Tuesday 14 January 2014	TBA	Mark Hall	Diss
Tuesday 11 February	All the Fun of the Fair	Stanley Summers & Frances Hart	Diss
Tuesday 11 March	The Blackest Streets	Sally Wise (Author)	Diss
Tuesday 8 April	The Royal Hospital Chelsea	Brian Cumming MBE KstG	Diss

CHRISTMAS OPENING AT KIRBY HALL

PLEASE NOTE:

Kirby Hall will be **CLOSED** from Thursday 19 December 2013

RE-OPENING on Tuesday 7 January 2014



Dear Members,

This is my third edition of your magazine, 'The Norfolk Ancestor' and I have really enjoyed my role as Editor. I have made some changes in the last two issues, change of format, font and I have tried to add more visuals to the magazine. In this issue I have made quite a radical change by turning the magazine around. In previous issues the front section has concentrated on reports and information that appear on a regular basis. I felt this was unusual for a magazine as most of the magazines that you pick up at the newsagents have articles and features in their front sections.



I hope that you approve of the new layout and I can assure you that in future you will know where to find things. Please do not hesitate to let me know your views and I am always pleased to listen to suggestions of how we can improve your magazine.

Please continue to send in your contributions. I feel that shorter more anecdotal articles make for good and easy reading, especially if they have some form of illustrations or photographs. If you are considering submitting an article and have no images, a photograph of you, the author, would be quite acceptable and I'm sure readers would like to put a face to the name.

Robin Whitmore, Editor

ADVERTISEMENTS in *The Norfolk Ancestor*

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Cost:	1/4 page	£40.00
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The NFHS thanks all its advertisers for their support

The Front Cover

The picture on the front cover is the pub sign for The Castle at Spitalfields, Thorpe Hamlet. The pub opened in 1830 and in 1876 and 1928 the landlords were convicted for allowing after hours drinking and drunkardness. This picture is reproduced by the kind permission of Arthur Panks' (the artist) Family. You can view this and other pub signs at http://www.norwich-pubs-breweries.co.uk/pub_signs/pub_signs_norfolk.shtm. Alternatively go to <http://www.norwich-heritage.co.uk> to view other work and see their plans for this year's project. Norwich Heritage Projects can be contacted at info@norwich-heritage.co.uk.

WIGS, WATCHES AND WONDER CURES - THE LAMBERTS OF GREAT YARMOUTH

After 39 years, my family history research had seemingly come to a grinding halt. I knew my 5xgt grandfather was Benjamin LAMBERT, that he was a 'silversmith' according to his 1777 will, and that his wife Ann's maiden name was WEBBER, but despite this I hadn't been able to find out any more. In 'brick wall' moments like this I usually Google a few key words, but not expecting to find much of direct relevance. On this occasion though, I came across numerous references to Benjamin LAMBERT in the British Newspaper Archive (BNA). Why had I never discovered this valuable resource before? The answer was in the March 2013 edition of this magazine, the BNA had only been established in December 2011.

By following up the references in chronological order, and using other sources I subsequently located, I was able to compile the 30-year history of the LAMBERT family wholesale/retail business in Great Yarmouth from advertisements and announcements published in the *Ipswich Journal* and *Norfolk Chronicle*.

In 1752, my 5xgt grandfather Benjamin LAMBERT (born 1737) began a six-year barber's apprenticeship in Yarmouth under Elizabeth FAIRLIE. After completing his apprenticeship, Benjamin must have gone to London as, on his return to Yarmouth in 1764, he described himself in the *Ipswich Journal* as 'Lambert from London'. He bought Elizabeth FAIRLIE's shop 'on the Quay, near the bridge' and set up as 'Peruke-Maker, Hair-Cutter and Dresser, to the Ladies and Gentlemen'.

Two years later, Benjamin married Ann

WEBER at St Nicholas, Yarmouth. He was 29 but Ann was a 'minor'. She must have been aged 16-20 as the legal age for marriage was by then 16, having been raised from 12 only three years earlier.

When Benjamin LAMBERT advertised his business in the *Ipswich Journal* in 1772 he also described himself as a 'perfumer' and was selling, amongst other things, 'Warren's Quintessence of Lavender', 'Bloom of Circassia' and 'Royal Liquid of Violets'. By May 1774, Benjamin's business had expanded into other areas. He advertised himself as 'Silversmith, Jeweller and Toy-man' (meaning he sold trinkets). In addition to jewellery, he sold domestic items such as sugar dishes and milk buckets. At the beginning of 1775, Benjamin took on John OLIVE as apprentice peruke-maker.

Benjamin was becoming a regular visitor to London to purchase his stock. An advertisement in the *Ipswich Journal* of June 1775 showed his range of domestic goods had expanded considerably to include items such as tea caddies, urns and tongs, coffee pots, tureen ladles and fish trowels. He had also 'engaged for the ladies a hair-dresser from Bath, capable of dressing in the most fashionable way'.

From 1777 onwards, Benjamin LAMBERT was increasingly being appointed the Yarmouth agent for medicinal 'cures' and listed in advertisements placed by their London-based manufacturers. Mr Spilsbury's Antiscorbutic Drops, for example, were available from 'Mr Benjamin Lambert's, at the Civet Cat, near the New Hall on the Quay, Yarmouth'. The African civet is the

main species from which the musky scent used in perfumery is obtained, so it's likely Benjamin erected a sign showing the civet cat to attract public attention.

Business continued to prosper. Advertisements in the *Ipswich Journal* of 1777 showed that Benjamin had begun sourcing goods from Birmingham. By May of that year he was also calling himself a 'hardwareman' and he had enlarged his shop 'very considerably'. In July, he described himself as '*Silversmith, Jeweller, Watchmaker and Toyman*'.

Following a lead suggested to me by The Goldsmith's Company in London, I discovered the details of an insurance policy which Benjamin had taken out with Sun Insurance in August 1777. The total value insured for his £1 premium was £1,000, equivalent to about £100k today based on the Retail Price Index. The valuation at the time was £300 for his house and shop, £100 for domestic contents and £600 for his 'utensils' (working tools) and stock.

Benjamin seldom mentioned prices in his advertisements, but in a 1778 issue of the *Norfolk Chronicle* he mentioned '*plain gold watches*' priced at 7 to 20 guineas - equivalent to £700 - £2,000 in today's terms. He had also engaged two hairdressers from London for the Bathing Season (July and August) '*that ladies and gentlemen may be waited on with punctuality, and dressed in the newest fashion*' and was offering lodgings for the Season. Three years later, in the *Ipswich Journal* of 1781, he advertised a '*Tea-room with two bed-chambers, to let for the Bath Season*'.

The retail and wholesale activities evidently continued to do very well. In the *Ipswich Journal* of July 1783 Benjamin LAMBERT announced that he had again

enlarged his shop, but by the summer of 1785 he had outgrown these premises on Hall Quay. He moved to the Market Place where he took over Mrs BROWNE's former millinery shop and was also able to offer accommodation which was rather more upmarket: '*Very commodius, airy and pleasant lodgings, consisting of a Tea-room, 27 feet by 18, with a Parlour, Kitchen, Five best beds, with four servants rooms*'. Sadly, Benjamin died only six months later, in February 1786, aged 49. He was buried at St Nicholas, Yarmouth and an obituary appeared in both the *Norfolk Chronicle* and *Ipswich Journal*. His detailed will made provision for his wife and for the support of their (unnamed) children up to the age of 21. Samuel BARKER, his 'esteemed friend', who became Mayor of Yarmouth in 1800, was the sole Executor.

Benjamin LAMBERT's widow, Ann, continued to run the business for the next seven years. She placed advertisements in both the *Norfolk Chronicle* and the *Ipswich Journal* which said she would continue the hairdressing and wig-making business '*having taken into partnership E Barber, a servant of her late husband*'. This 'E Barber' was probably Ezra BARBER who took on Willam FLEMING as apprentice peruke-maker the following year.

In April 1787, Ann placed an advertisement in the *Norfolk Chronicle* which showed that her son Benjamin (born 1767, my 5xgt uncle) was regularly visiting London to obtain new stock. She also put the record straight about a damaging rumour which had been '*wantonly circulated that Ann Lambert was declining business*'.

In July 1793, Benjamin married Ann BAILEY (BAYLY or BAYLEY), born 1765, of Bowes Farm, Edmonton, Middlesex.

Their marriage was announced the following month in the *Ipswich Journal*. Richard BAYLY, one of the witnesses, was a watchmaker of Red Lion Street, Clerkenwell, and it is likely that Benjamin had met Ann (probably his daughter) on his trips to London.

In August 1793, Benjamin announced that he had taken full ownership of the Lambert family business and that the premises had been enlarged again. His heavy emphasis on the haberdashery aspect of the company suggested a possible change in direction for the business. He also indicated a vacancy for an apprentice but apparently without success, as the following February he placed specific notices in both the *Norfolk Chronicle* and the *Ipswich Journal*.

From September 1794, Benjamin also described himself as a bookseller and, additionally, was selling second-hand items such as watches, silver teapots and tankards. New to his range of wares were silk, linen, hat covers, bathing caps and umbrellas, lute strings, and white ivory and satin wood tea caddies.

Sadly, Benjamin's reign as head of the

family business was very short-lived. He died on 21 December 1794 at the age of only 27, as reported in the *Norfolk Chronicle*. His simple will was dated only six weeks earlier, which suggests he knew he had a serious health problem. He was buried at Holy Trinity, Caister-on-Sea.

Three months later, in March 1795, Ralph WARD bought the business having first sold his own braziers and tin-ware shop and manufactory, which faced the Old Broad Row, to Henry GLASSPOOLE. Ralph published an announcement in the *Ipswich Journal* in March of that year with regard to his purchase of the former Lambert business '*which he intends to continue in its usual style of neatness, elegance and worth, forming an extensive assemblance of jewellery, gold and silver goods, watches, and the various articles of London, Birmingham and Sheffield manufactories*'.

There was evidently still a Lambert family involvement in the business long after its purchase by Ralph WARD, as illustrated by an obituary notice which appeared in the *Norfolk Chronicle* on November 1807: '*Wednesday last, at Mr*



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Ward's in Yarmouth, Miss Lambert, daughter of the late Mr. B Lambert, of that place. Her many good qualities and amiable disposition will endear her memory to her friends, and her virtuous and blameless life has, it is hoped, procured for her the reward of the righteous'.

This was Mary Ann LAMBERT, born 1796, the elder daughter of Benjamin LAMBERT (1737-1786) who founded the business back in 1764.

Ralph WARD died in June 1815 but five months passed before notices to debtors and creditors began appearing in the *Norfolk Chronicle*. A further eight months passed before the premises - a 'desirable and commodius freehold messuage and shop ... situate in the most eligible part of Yarmouth Market Place' - were advertised to be sold by auction at the Star Tavern on the Quay, Yarmouth.



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(www.BritishNewspaperArchive.co.uk)

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(www.ancestry.co.uk)

Sun Insurance Policy Register

(Old Series) 1777

(London Metropolitan Archives)

Kett's Directory of London & Westminster

& Borough of Southwark, 1794

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LESSONS LEARNED ON A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE AROUND THE MOUNTAINS OF NORFOLK

Judi Lawton, a Norfolk resident and member of the Northumberland and Durham FHS thought her search for a possible ancestor would be of interest to our members.

I was lucky enough to inherit two family bibles, ROBSON/JOICEY and DAVI(D)SON/FORD. These gave me a great head-start on my maternal family tree which grew and flourished on either side of the Tyne. As I learned to my cost, even the dates recorded there (presumably retrospectively), were not all correct. Various pieces of paper comprised the treasure preserved between the beautifully illustrated pages; a receipt dated 1862 for dressing the grave of two DAVIDSON infants, Margaret & Joseph, who I know died of *scarlatin maligna*, August 1856 at Heugh Terrace, South Shields; this was duly stamped 'Inland Revenue' and oversigned across a Victorian One Penny lilac. Next, a rather fragile, handsized paper Union Jack - was it waved at Victoria's coronation celebrations, I wonder? Sentimental Victorian scraps and sanctimonious biblical texts, a faded photograph of a JOICEY family tombstone, miraculously found to be still standing in St. Peter's Churchyard, Harton, South Shields, (sincere thanks to the staff of the South Tyneside Cemeteries and Crematoria Dept. for their invaluable help). An astrological reading by one, Ernestine, all added to the interest and excitement; I only wish Ernestine had named the intended recipient. Family lore has it that one of Edward JOICEY's was a great believer in astronomy, perhaps it was for

him - which one? We have several!

Most puzzling of all was a christening card in respect of Arthur Ford MOUNTAIN dated April 5th 1899 at St Mary's Church, Tyne Dock, South Shields. Sponsors Sarah FORD, John MOUNTAIN and William MOUNTAIN.

I had a great uncle Arthur FORD born South Shields 1882. He was the youngest child of the seven born to my Great Grandparents, Benjamin FORD born London/Middlesex 1831 and his wife Sarah DAVISON born 1845 in South Shields and daughter of keelman, James DAVISON and his wife Mary CURR(E)Y. Of the seven Ford children only one was a girl, Margaret ELLEN, born 1875. As Sarah Ford was one of the sponsors at the baptism, it occurred to me that Margaret Ellen may have married a MOUNTAIN and named her child after her favourite younger brother.

The surname immediately struck a misplaced chord as I moved to Norfolk many years ago and recognised MOUNTAIN as a name indigenous to that county. What was one of my family doing married to someone from 'foreign parts'? I guessed there would be a marine connection as most of the family were involved in keels, coal and related river or seagoing trades.

I searched everywhere for a family unit incorporating Margaret Ellen and young Arthur Ford Mountain. I was unable to find a compatible marriage but the 1901 census showed me a John MOUNTAIN with wife Margaret and daughter Elizabeth Ann aged 10, living at 28 Livingstone Street, South Shields. As BMD shows the

death of an Arthur Ford MOUNTAIN in the third quarter of 1900 the other information fitted quite nicely. I had totally convinced myself that Margaret had married a MOUNTAIN and it seriously affected my ability to keep an open mind.

In the interests of peaceful nights I should have left it there but now fired by curiosity, I wished to establish, absolutely, the facts about Margaret Ellen. Lateral thinking and hours of abortive research led me through many possible scenarios including my Great Uncle Arthur having been a very naughty boy with a young lady called MOUNTAIN and his mother, Sarah, feeling ashamed or guilty enough to sponsor the child. I then shifted the blame to Margaret Ellen. Had she ignored the dire warnings of what happened to young ladies who did not listen to their elders and betters and let their guard down? Had the 'dire' warnings been somewhat more explicit, I strongly suspect there may have been fewer illegitimacies! Had Margaret given birth to an illegitimate child, then named and shamed the errant father?

By this time I had caught enough red herrings to fill a trawl but 'the lure of the chase' and all that.....Of course it could all have been resolved earlier had I sent for a official documentation but having purchased so many mainline certificates the purse strings squeaked very hard at the prospect of going out on a limb for details of a mere 'twig'. We've all been there!

Three years down the line and still beset by brainteasing re little Arthur Ford MOUNTAIN, I released the moths and sent for the record of his birth. Another lesson learned - he has no familial connection whatever! Born at 262 South

Eldon Street, South Shields on the 12th March 1899 he is the son of William MOUNTAIN, coal trimmer and Susan MOUNTAIN formerly GIFFORD. Census information shows William to be from coastal Norfolk although Susan was born in Shields. By 1899 she had not learned to write and on registering her son's birth just made her mark.

Why was little Arthur named after my great uncle? Heaven knows. I wondered if perhaps a young, unmarried Susan had 'got into trouble', and the Ford's had been supportive until William 'came up to scratch' but records show Susan and William married in South Shields in the first quarter of 1880 and at the time of young Arthur's birth already had 3 other children, Jane c.1880, John c.1882 Hannah c.1890. So it seems that although Sarah sponsored this late arrival, no salacious story lies behind this anomaly. Perhaps Sarah and family had shown the MOUNTAINS some kindness and they named him in gratitude, or perhaps they were simply very good friends as the menfolk most likely worked together. Curiosity partially satisfied I have now shelved the search on the MOUNTAINS, which leaves me with young Arthur Ford MOUNTAIN's birth certificate and his beautiful baptism card. It is very sad that the poor little chap did not make it onto any census return but on the plus side, because of the card, at least his existence has not gone unnoticed down the generations. In order that he may achieve his rightful place in family history, I will be only too delighted to gift the documents to his proven descendants.

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SEARCHING FOR JACOB

Researching the line of my maternal grandmother, Hilda May ROBINSON, 1897-1954, was relatively easy until I got back to my 3x great-grandfather Jacob ROBINSON, a brickmaker, born in Norwich. Unable to find a record of Jacob's birth/baptism, I sent for his marriage certificate which was very little help because his father's name was omitted and his age was given as 'a minor', but at least I had now confirmed that his wife was Margaret BRIDGES.

Name variations of ROBINSON, ROBERTSON, and Jasper ROBERSON made searching the Census frustrating but all possibilities were duly saved including a Jacob ROBINSON entered in the 1891 census as brother-in-law, which didn't tally, and a Jacob ROBINSON whose age in 1901 was transcribed as 15.

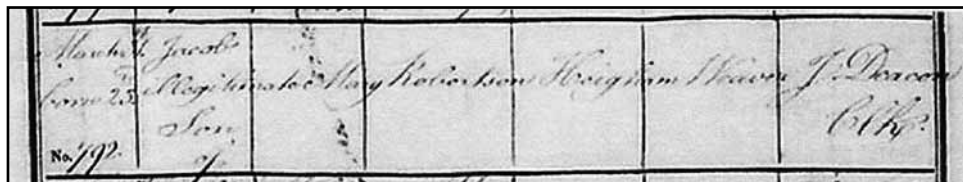
One day a message popped up in my www.genesreunited.com inbox from a lady called Janet who was researching the same family. We compared notes and quickly concluded that Jacob is our common ancestor, 3x great-grandfather to us both, making us 4th cousins twice removed. We were both delighted with the connection, agreed to put our heads together, and after much unpicking and reassembling we made some sense of the information acquired so far, deciding that the enumerator had mistakenly put down brother-in-law instead of father-in-law in

1891 and a check of the original 1901 document correctly revealed Jacob's age as 75.

With renewed enthusiasm we looked again for Jacob's beginnings and eventually found, on www.familysearch.org, the baptism of an illegitimate child, Jacob ROBERTSON, in 1828. Janet and I were beginning to hope we may have found 'our' Jacob when we discovered a Mary ROBINSON later married a John SEELEY and, in our www.ancestry.com shoebox we had the 1841 Census with Jasper ROBERSON living with John and Mary SEELEY. Bingo!

Now all we needed to complete the puzzle was a record of Jacob's death. There was only one Jacob ROBINSON (ROBERSON, ROBERTSON or ROBINSON), in Norwich, who could possibly fit the bill but he was only 67 at the time of his death, in 1903, making him around 12 years old when he married - a minor indeed! However, a copy of the death certificate proved it was indeed the man in question, he'd simply been given the wrong age.

We now had the full story - or so we thought! However, browsing the Norfolk Chronicle on www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk we turned up two articles to add interest and pad out our family tree. One from 1863 was a very detailed and much reported



story of Janet's 2x great-grandfather being shot in the face by a gamekeeper at the age of nine, the other from 1839 described how Jacob ROBINSON, aged 13, had witnessed a robbery.

Recently Janet, who lives in Devon, made her yearly pilgrimage to her mother's grave in Norfolk. We spent a lovely day together, mostly driving round Norwich, particularly Sprowston, identifying various 'ROBINSON' landmarks. We were convinced we would find a grave for Jacob at Sprowston's St Margaret and St Mary Church and were disappointed not to find him there. However I have since found his burial on www.norfolkfhs.org.uk and was happy to find that he and Margaret share a grave at Earlham Cemetery.

During her stay Janet visited some ROBINSON relative who gave her the featured photograph of unidentified ROBINSON ancestors, possibly brothers. I wonder if Norfolk Ancestor readers might recognise them or, if it would be possible to date the photograph, to help us to narrow down the possibilities. It would certainly add the icing on the cake!



Unidentified ROBINSON ancestors

Gill Girling MN 12729

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THORPE HAMLET in WORLD WAR ONE

Thorpe Hamlet History Group is preparing an Occasional Paper describing everyday life in the Hamlet during the First World War. The group is appealing for help from members of the NFHS who may have family connections and histories related to Thorpe Hamlet during that period.

They would like to hear from anyone who has photographs, postcards, correspondence, documents, newspaper cuttings, family history information, in fact anything relating to any aspect of life in the Hamlet, during the period 1914-1918. If you are willing to share any information or material with the Group for inclusion in the Paper due acknowledgement would, of course, be given to your contribution. Thorpe Hamlet is still a village within a city and it was even more so 100 years ago making it a particularly interesting area to study. There was much activity in the area to support the war effort. Britannia Barracks housed hundreds of soldiers, Thorpe station was a busy main-line terminus, two huge factories, Laurence Scott and Boulton and Paul, and a number of smaller firms manufactured munitions, aircraft and other war supplies, and many women took over men's work while the men were away in the forces.

Apart from the interesting and valuable record of life a century ago in a unique part of Norwich, members might find that inclusion of their own information will reveal hitherto unknown links with others interested in the same area or family events.

If you can help in any way, please contact Jim and June Marriage on 01603 436149,

email jim.marriage@btinternet.com, or write to them at 22, Cintra Road, Norwich, NR1 4AE.

Members of NFHS having links with the Hamlet may be interested in two not-for-profit Occasional Papers already published by the Group:

Thorpe Hamlet Street Names, which researches the origins of street names in the Hamlet, published 2009, price £2.00 and

Shops in Thorpe Hamlet, then and now, published 2012, price £4.50.

Both of these booklets can be obtained from Jim and June Marriage, as above.

The Group meets monthly at Plumstead Road Library, Thorpe Hamlet.

Tony Smith NFHS MN 10542
Member of the Thorpe Hamlet History Group



'KILLED BY A BULL' - an outspoken Norfolk Parson

Among the "accidental and sudden deaths" noted by Elizabeth Wiggins in the last number of *The Norfolk Ancestor's* "Norfolk Margins", the untimely demise of William TRIANCE 1764-1832 and my x2 great-grandfather owes the preservation of its detail to the vicar of Middleton, the Rev. Dean Peter Scrimshire WOOD LL.D.

An Eccentric Incumbent.

Members who are lucky enough to research their ancestors in Middleton Parish Registers will remember Rev. WOOD's caustic comments, laboured humour, and moral judgements about his flock strewn throughout the registers and Overseers' account books.

As a trained lawyer (a fact which he mentions several times in the registers), his insistence on correct procedures at Select Vestry meetings must have driven the members to distraction;

"Memorandum - the wives of all those men that have parish relief to work six hours of every day in summer, namely from 9 until 12 and from 2 until 5, and in winter from 10 until 12 and from 1 until 3 o'clock...the Overseer to furnish every such woman with a broom, a hoe and a scraper... to cut the weeds by the side of the roads and to scrape the dirt from the roads in winter". Dire financial penalties awaited those women who absented themselves from their task.

Not content with keeping the lower orders up to the mark, Rev. WOOD saw that parish Vestry members were not immune from censure. Miller and Overseer, Robert SANDS, felt the vicar's displeasure when he noted in 1821 that: *"Henceforth the Overseer always provides*

the best bread flour at 2d. per stone for those who require parish relief". Was the problem with the quality or the price or with Mr. SANDS himself?

A bigger row broke out in February 1822 when the vicar announced to an astonished Vestry meeting that: *"The Overseer of the Poor has paid out of parish funds, that is out of money raised by a rate, part of the wages of able-bodied men, being labourers and employed by farmers in this parish"*.

Miller SANDS' mistake was to employ the men, HEARNE and HAYLETT, to repair a farm road at Blackborough End. It might be argued that this was useful public work, employing otherwise idle hands. However, the vicar pointed out that Middleton's recent Enclosure Award had designated the lane as private property, and so its maintenance must be paid from the owner's wage bill.

The stunned Vestry adjourned their meeting for three days. They rose from their chairs with the vicar's denunciation of his Overseer ringing in their ears: *"I declare that such disposal of parish money is unlawful and unjust, I take this opportunity of announcing that I intend to appeal against the Overseer's accounts, from which it will appear that money raised by rate has been unlawfully disbursed"*.

Anti-climax was swift to follow. Mr SANDS wisely absented himself from the next meeting: *"In consequence of the Overseer not having attended, no business can be done, and the Vestry is again adjourned (for one week)"*.

The following minutes contain no further reference to the incident. Back in

1819, Rev WOOD had ridden post-haste to the magistrate, Sir M B FOLKES of Hillington Hall during a previous run-in with Vestry members, but Robert SANDS continued in office for the rest of the year.

One clue as to why the matter dropped like a stone lies in a reference to Mr CURLE, the Vicar's Warden. He too had employed a certain John MARSHALL for similar: "*Illegal and unjustly expended wages*". If the vicar's right-hand man was guilty of the same misdemeanour, perhaps it was better to forgive and forget.

Satire and Sympathy.

In the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars the pages of Middleton Registers and Account books reveal a place where the poorer classes took a casual attitude towards marriage and personal relationships. Illegitimacy, a high degree of inter-marriage, early death and the long queue for parish relief show an unpleasant world of poverty on the farms and in the stone quarries. Thus the vicar's verdict on my ancestors: "*These men are illegitimates and are sometimes known as Thacker, alias Tuck, alias Hunt*". James Ashley, the village constable was: "*A publican and beggar-maker*". The unfortunate Sarah FORSTER, Mary ARMES, Mary DRIVER and others all merit the title: "*Whores and mantraps*". The father of several children among these women was one Thomas TURNBULL or "*Town bull*", according to the vicar.

Rev WOOD thought that the occupations column of the parish register was the vehicle for his personal brand of humour. Thus we read: "*James RAYNER (baker) - Master of the Rolls..... Harry BACK (carpenter) - the chopper of chips... William GAMBLE (farmer and vestry member) - a cut-throat of pigs*".

Unlike my THACKER ancestors, William (killed by a bull) TRIANCE kept mainly clear of parish relief. He was a cordwainer, and must have been frequently hard-pressed to stay solvent. In December 1820 the Overseers' account book states: "*Agreed to be responsible to the leather cutter to the amount of £5-0-0, due Michaelmas next in order to keep TRANCE(sic) off the parish, TRIANCE having agreed to pay the above sum to the parish before that time*".

A high-profile, strong minded pastor of the best Anglican tradition, Peter WOOD blended humanity and hard work with amazing double standards. He saw no irony in the fact that his grown-up son resided workless at the vicarage which was staffed by a cook, butler and three female servants. He was once genuinely outraged to receive a letter from Sir M B FOLKES: "*Being much mortified to learn from my gamekeeper that you had been shooting on my property, without the least previous communication, close to a willow plantation where it had been my practice to raise and preserve some pheasants*".

Thus Rev. WOOD, the poacher-priest, is redeemed by opening a human dimension on the formal accounts and statistics which record the lives of most of our ancestors.

References:

Middleton Parish Registers, Overseers' Account Books, Folkes collection all at Norfolk Record Office.

Terry Thacker MN 10850

BURIED IN THE BACK GARDEN

Anyone who hasn't viewed Wendii Miller's extraordinary video on YouTube or www.huffingtonpost.co.uk about the DIY burial of her 98-year-old mother Doris Isobel (1913-2011) should take the time to do so. After a dreadful experience at the Registrar of Deaths Office, Wendii collected her Mother's corpse from Grimsby Hospital mortuary, put it in the back of a camper van and drove around for three days: *"she went to the beach, and saw her friends, and sat on hilltops gazing at the view....She was dead....and I was beginning a process of grieving, and accepting, and driving ma around was brilliant. I wish I had taken her to a lot more places"*. Eventually she took her Mother to a nature reserve near Harrogate called Gertrude's Pasture, dug a grave, placed the body in a natural cotton sheet, filled in the soil, and replaced the turf.

In these days of outrageous funeral expenses, it is refreshing to find that there is no legal requirement to use the services of a funeral director, or a coffin, or a church service or have a headstone in some derelict graveyard. Which brought me to contemplating my own demise and arranging everything beforehand. Of course one can be cremated and have the ashes scattered on the rose bushes or placed in an attractive container but how about having the actual body buried in one's own garden? There are famous cases of this. When the author Barbara Cartland passed away in 2000 just short of her 99th birthday she was buried in a cardboard coffin beneath a favourite tree in her back garden. Princess Diana gave permission for her friends Rosa MONCTON and Dominic LAWSON to



have their still-born daughter Natalia buried in the private walled garden of Kensington Palace.

No laws prevent people being buried in their own garden. Planning permission is not required. The Burial Laws Amendment Act 1880 requires that a lawful certificate of the cause of death be registered with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages which issues a Certificate for Burial. One has to make a register for the grave - a piece of paper with the name, address, date of birth, age, date and place of burial. Also a plan of the house and garden marked with the location of the grave plus confirmation that the Environment Agency has been consulted. Evidently it is necessary to obtain consent from the local authority since decomposing corpses can pose a health risk to the living. This comes within the

definition of "clinical waste" and as such cannot be disposed of except under the provisions of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and the Environment Protection Act 1990.

Several sites on the internet explain how this can be done: see

www.funeralhelper.org. &

www.gardenlaw.co.uk-garden-burials.

Some practical considerations are the size of the garden; the proximity of the grave to neighbours' houses and their possible objections; whether the family may wish to move the body after the property is sold; the likelihood of anyone wanting to visit the grave in the future and whether purchasers would want to buy a house with a body buried in the garden. It may reduce the value of the property and/or make it more difficult to sell. An exhumation licence will be needed if the remains have to be removed.

None of which need affect me because my house is situated in front of the local

church with the graveyard behind my back fence and the church drive down one side - it makes for very quiet neighbours!

Some years ago I owned a white Toyota Celica which had 250,000 miles on the clock. I always thought it would make a unique burial casket. I could have excavated a large pit near my back fence, placed the vehicle in a sort of mausoleum and have myself buried sitting upright in the front seat. The plot of land would be left to the church in my Will and since the fence is mine it could be moved forward so that my grave ended up in the churchyard. Fanciful I know but still a lot cheaper than the average funeral cost of £5000. Sadly the car went to a scrap merchant. Actually I wouldn't mind my corpse ending up in a grave like that of Wendii's Mum.

Edmund Perry MN 3181

DEATH OF A TRAFALGAR VETERAN

Several years ago I shared a house with a chap whose family roots were in Great Yarmouth. In passing one day he said that one of his ancestors was supposed to have been on board HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

Being of a curious nature and never more happy than when I'm in a library or with my head stuck in a book, I decided to do some digging. What was revealed was a fascinating story of a young boy, pressed ganged from The Wrestler's Inn in Yarmouth, who served in the war against Napoleon. He was shipwrecked in the

Mediterranean and ended up on Nelson's flag ship just before the Battle of Trafalgar.

Invalided out of the Royal Navy he became keeper of the Fort at Great Yarmouth before becoming Keeper of the Nelson Monument where his stories of the national hero Nelson made him a favourite of visitors. One distinguished visitor who heard his tales used him as the basis for one of his iconic characters in one of his most loved novels.

The obituary below that appeared in the Yarmouth Independent on 16 November 1867 sums up the main events of his life.

“Death of a Trafalgar Veteran

Our readers will regret to hear of the death of James Sharman, the well known keeper of Nelson’s Monument, who was one of the crew that manned the ‘Victory’, Nelson’s Flagship, at the memorable engagement at Trafalgar.

SHARMAN was a native of Yarmouth, and entered the Navy in 1799, having been pressed, when a waiting lad at the ‘Wrestlers’ Inn’, on board H.M.S. Weazel, Capt, DURBEN. After four year’s service he was wrecked off Cabaretta Point, near Gibraltar, and then joined the Victory, under Captain Thomas Masterman HARDY. He was present at Trafalgar, where he is said to have assisted in the sad office of carrying the dying NELSON from the lower deck to the cockpit. Having been successfully drafted to the ‘Ocean’, the ‘Mildred’ (Milford), and ‘The Prince Frederick’, from which he was discharged through illness, he was subsequently admitted to Greenwich Hospital, but the confinement did not suit him, and on the warm recommendation of his old commander, Capt. HARDY, he was appointed to the office of Keeper of Nelson’s Monument at Yarmouth. This office he held for nearly fifty years, though for some time past his custodianship has been merely nominal, in consequence of the increasing infirmities of age.

SHARMAN was a genuine specimen of the British tar, and he was never tired of recounting the gallant exploits of his idol NELSON, whom he considered the greatest man that ever lived. He was much sought after by visitors as one of the curiosities of the place, he made himself a general favourite by his simple manners and his fondness for spinning yarns about his adventures. He is believed

*The Nelson
Monument
Great Yarmouth*



to be the last survivor of the ‘Victory’s’ crew.

About a fortnight ago the old man’s usual health failed him, and gradually became

worse until Wednesday week when he breathed his last, having attained the ripe age of 82 years. He retained his faculties almost unimpaired to the last. As one of the relics of NELSON's last and most famous engagements - the last we believe of the 'Victory's crew - SHARMAN would, it might have been supposed, have been entitled as an 'old salt', to a sailor's funeral, but though resources were at hand to pay due honour to his memory, owing to some inadvertence on the part of his relatives this last tribute was wanting, and his remains were on Sunday borne to the Parish Church, followed only by members of his family.

SHARMAN is supposed to have been the original of Dickens' Ham Peggotty in the tale of 'David Copperfield'. The reader will not fail to remember the graphic description of a tempest and a shipwreck on our coast, and the deed of daring performed by Ham in dashing into the surf to save a struggling mariner. The incidents are no creation of the novelist's brain: they occurred here many years ago, the prototype of the brave Ham being James SHARMAN, as will appear from the following facts detailed in the local papers of the day:-

On the 25 November 1829, the Brig 'Hammond' from Newcastle to London, during a tremendous tempest of both wind and wave, parted from her only chain, and came on shore south of the Monument, near the harbour, but owing to there being loose sand between the vessel and the beach, she was unable to come nearer than three or four hundred yards. All attempts to reach the vessel from the shore had failed, and the day fast closing in, the sight it may readily be

believed was distressing enough, but the lingering light of heaven displayed one yet more appalling - amid rage of warring elements the wreck parted, a mast falling on either side, burying as was supposed the whole crew in the surging tide. About seven o'clock in the evening, however, SMITH, a preventive man, brought in a report to the 'Fort' public house, that he heard groans upon the wreck. Upon this SHARMAN, Keeper of the Monument, went down to the shore with the man, and attaching a rope to his waist, which he gave to Smith to hold, he ventured through the surf to where the wreck had drifted. The surf carried him three times off his legs, and the fourth time with his back on the wreck, the sea all this time running mountainous high, and the night as dark as pitch. After some search he discovered a man clinging to the breast hook, who informed him that three other men had been but a few minutes before washed off by the sea. SHARMAN took the rope from off his own body, tied it round that of the man, took him up in his arms, and plunged with him into the swelling surf, at the same time calling to Smith to haul ashore, and the man was thus rescued from sharing the fate of his six companions while SHARMAN, in the heroic endeavour to save the life of a fellow creature, left himself to the mercy of the waves, and the chance of getting to shore."

Robin Whitmore MN 11725

*James SHARMAN
- a drawing taken
from a
photograph*



The Colman Archive

The Norwich Society have held talks with Unilever regarding the Colman Archive and the following article appeared in the Norwich Society Annual Review 2012. With the consent of the Norfolk Society and the article's author, Alan Metters, a member of the Norfolk Records Committee and Trustee of the Norwich Society, it is replicated below.

The records of J & J Colman of Norwich were deposited in the Norfolk Record Office in 1975 and 1984, and were catalogued at the company's expense, in 1986. That catalogue can still be consulted. It shows the archive contained the expected cashbooks and ledgers and extensive deeds relating to various places in and around Norwich, along with some properties in London and Middlesex; most, however, were emphatically Norfolk records.

Following Colman's absorption into Unilever plc, and after prolonged negotiations to keep the archive in Norwich, most of this material was removed in 2000 to Unilever's repository in Port Sunlight, where it remains. Some manorial court books for Carrow and Trowse were left at the NRO, mainly because at the time it was the most appropriate place of legal deposit for that type of record.

The Society has recently held talks with Unilever to see whether any part of this archive could be returned to Norfolk, to make it more readily available to local people; or, failing that, whether digitised copies could be given to the NRO (as has already been done for one small section

of the deeds). The company, however, wishes to keep its archive intact and in one place, while the cost currently makes large-scale copying impractical. Consequently, anyone wishing to use the Colman Archive must either travel to Merseyside or correspond with the company archivist (see the company website: www.unilever.com/aboutus/ourhistory/unilever_archives/). The staff at Port Sunlight are as helpful as they can be and have promised that an online catalogue will soon be available. We hope that new technologies, and a more favourable financial climate, will lead to a more satisfactory outcome.

Alan Metters

For more information about the Norwich Society log on to their website at www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk

Whitlingham Hall - once the home of the Colman family



NOTES AND QUERIES

World War I Nurses in Norwich

With reference to the photograph of a group of WWI nurses on the back cover of the March issue of 'The Norfolk Ancestor' Chris Hood has written to say that St Andrew's Hospital at Thorpe (Thorpe Lunatic Asylum) was used as a major military hospital during WWI. There is a staff register covering May 1915 to August 1916 at the Norfolk Record Office (ref.

SAH 66) that might confirm whether one of Diane Kramer's relations was a nurse there.



Postcards from Great Yarmouth

Roger R Ball (MN 13834) writes about the Postcards from Great Yarmouth featured in the March issue of The Norfolk Ancestor. He writes: "I note from the inside front cover of The Norfolk Ancestor that someone called Lionel JONES had a great-grandmother called Gertrude NICHOLS. Whilst I cannot throw any light on the two photographs, Mr JONES may be interested to know that I had an uncle and aunt called John Robert NICHOLS and Doris Jessie NICHOLS (nee PITCHERS) who lived in Great Yarmouth. Doris was my mother's sister. I am aware that at one time John NICHOLS was an AA patrol man and rode around Norfolk in a motor cycle and sidecar - as they did from the start of the AA up until the late 1950s. This may have some connection with the motor cycle and sidecar in one of the photographs.



Norfolk Margins

Elizabeth Wiggins' article entitled 'Norfolk Margins' in the March issue of 'The Norfolk Ancestor' has prompted me to recall an example which turned my research into my husband's family tree on its head.

His 3xgt grandfather John BOLDERO was living in Castle Acre in 1841, 1851 and 1861 and was buried there in 1862. He was born c1795 in East Rudham.

Free Reg had a baptism at West Rudham in 1795 for John, son of William and Alice and a marriage for William BOLDERO and Alice WOOLARD in 1793 at West Rudham.

I then hit a brick wall as I could find no trace of William's origins in Norfolk and started to look at Suffolk where there were more possibilities.

Eventually a new website www.bolderofamilyhistory.com and its owner directed me to an entry in the Longham burial registers which reads: 'John HUBBARD was killed by a blow received in fighting with John BALDRICK June 29th and was buried July (?) 1794 - parish poor.'

NOTE: I have never been able to learn the real name of John BALDRICK. Sometimes he has been called BALTHORPE, at others BALDEROW or BALDROW, and at other times BALDRICK. As BALDRICK was given me the first time I had reason to register his name I have not thought proper to change it being doubtful of his real name.'

St John Priest - Curate

I had been looking for the wrong name! I soon found a baptism for him on 15 January 1770 at Longham, son of John and Mary BALDRICK. John BOLDROCK and Mary NICHOLLS were married on 25 March 1760 at South Acre, both being 'of this parish'.

However, I now have a new brick in the wall in John. If anybody can throw any light on his real name and origins I would be grateful if they would contact me.

Janice Thompson MN 10081

Have you got the correct man?

In the September 2012 issue of 'The Norfolk Ancestor' in Keith King's article entitled 'Have you got the right man?' rang a bell with me. His 3xgreat grand uncle James CURTIS figures in my wife's family tree, she being a descendant of James' grandfather, also James.

As a novice researcher I made the same mistake as Keith in confusing 'our' James with the other one he describes. I had found the other one on-line in someone's family tree but was doubtful about the entry which said that he had married a woman named Chelsea PEAS.

Now, I was just about prepared to accept that PEAS could be a valid surname but Chelsea as a given name in the mid 19th century? I thought not.

Someone, somewhere has misunderstood or had wrongly transcribed 'Chelsea Pens'.

David Brown MNI0974

Looking for information on ARTHUR HENRY BAKER born 1913

I am looking for information about my father-in-law on behalf of my husband, Brian Alfred. Arthur Henry BAKER born 1913 at Capel St Mary, Suffolk, later living at Weasenham and Bodam, Norfolk.

A member of the pre-war TA, he was called up at the beginning of the war, into the 7th Battalion, Royal Norfolks and later, having been posted in Normandy, to the 51st Highland Division. Captured June 1940 at St Valery, he then served as a POW throughout the war in Poznan, Poland, Stalag XXI-D.

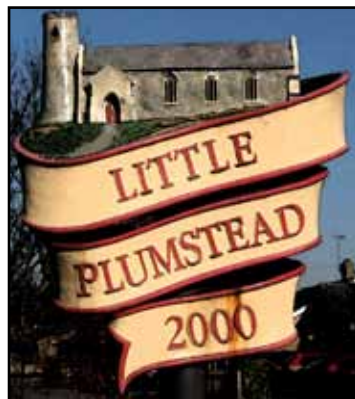
I cannot find any information about his march to Poland, his time there, or the date and where and when of his eventual release. Local Royal Norfolks records, Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow and the International Red Cross, Geneva, have all responded to enquiries, but their information has been very sparse.

I am hoping that a member of the NFHS can help. Someone perhaps whose relative served with my father-in-law through these traumatic years.

Margaret Baker MN 9307

Appeal for Photographic Data - Great/Little Plumstead, Norfolk c1900-1930

Great/Little Plumstead (near Norwich) - I have family 'roots' in these two villages through my Grandfather/Grandmother EDWARDS (my mother's family). Grandfather Arthur David EDWARDS came (migrated) from London to the Plumsteads c1902 and the family settled in Toad Lane, in a house/cottage called 'Orchard Cottage'. Fourteen (of 18) children were born there and raised (including my mother), albeit only nine survived to adulthood. I found the Plumsteads in 1953, (my first safari in to Norfolk) and as a result I have photos of the old village pub (The Hare), the school (I also have some school records recording one/two of my uncles attendance). It was several years later when I found 'Toad Lane' and 'Orchard Cottage'. I have re-visited several times over the years bringing other family members on 'the grand tour'.



To the main point of the appeal. I was wondering if any members of the NFHS, or indeed any of their families, friends or neighbours have, or have access to, any old photographs of Great/Little Plumstead c1900-1930, this being the main period for my Gf/Gm's family. Grandfather later (1920) moved from Toad Lane to the council houses near the 'Brick Kiln' pub. It was here that Gm Edwards died in 1930 and was buried in Little Plumstead churchyard. Gf died in 1941 at Bawburgh.

I am very interested and fascinated to see/hear what the life and times were like during the above period.

My grandfather was a 'journeyman plasterer' all his life.

I would very much like to hear from anyone who may be able to help me in my 'mission'. All replies and acknowledgements will be responded to.

I. J. Ironside MN 5979

18 Halifax Crescent, Blenheim Park, Sculthorpe, N. Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 7PS

William Laws-Lovel ex Norwich, England

I enjoyed Peter Lovel's article in the June issue of 'The Norfolk Ancestor' journal, concerning his research into his 2x great-grandfather William Laws/Lovel.

The article was of particular interest to me as the house that his 2x grandfather and friends attempted to break into on 12 July 1843 belonged to my 2x great-grandfather Frederick Gavel Mitchell.

Frederick Mitchell was a baker as was his father before him, and they are on my family tree as shown below:

I hope other members may find this interesting.

David W Hale MN 9326

Henry Mitchell = Charlotte Elizabeth Gavell

B 1786

B 1781 - M 1 Jan 1804

Frederick Gavell Mitchell = Harriet Elizabeth Cook

B 1810 - D 1881

B 1812 - M 3 June 1838 D 1884

James Staff = Harriet Vertue Mitchell

B 1838 D 1895

B 1841 - M 16 Aug 1858 D 1918

Charles Hale = Margaret Maria Staff

B 1877 D 1915

B 1877 - M 27 Sept 1898

Walter Cecil Hale = Ivy Maria Cullum

B 1901 D 1961

B 1906 - M 2 April 1931 D Nov 1987

David W Hale = Dorothy G Kemp

B 20 April 1943

B 18 May 1941 - M 1 June 1963

The article in The Norfolk Chronicle that tells of the attempted robbery at Frederick Gavell Mitchell's premises by William Laws.

'Wm. LAWS, aged 22, James HAGG, aged 20, and James SMITH alias BUTTON SMITH, aged 21, were charged with having burglariously broken and entered the dwelling house of Frederick Gavell MITCHELL, of St George Tombland, baker, with intent to steal.

Mr PALMER prosecuted the prisoners. He said information had been given to Mr MITCHELL that some parties had been trying his cellar shutter on the 12th July last, in consequence of which he and a neighbour named Mr. OAKLEY, watched till near 12 o'clock at night, when the prosecutor saw the prisoners, from a window opposite his house, come into the street, near the premises, but passengers being about they went away, and came back again in about 20 minutes. They then went directly to the cellar window shutters. HAGG lifted up the shutter and LAWS went down on his belly and got in feet first. HAGG then went one way along the pavement and SMITH the other, keeping watch. The two latter made off as soon as they perceived they had been detected. LAWS was secured on the premises, and SMITH and HAGG, from the description given, were afterwards taken into custody. - All the prisoners were found guilty. A former conviction for felony was proved against LAWS, who was sentenced to 15 years transportation; HAGG and SMITH each to 10 years transportation.

GROUP REPORTS

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

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

Norwich: Mr and Mrs Roger Peck, c/o Kirby Hall (see page 119)

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

NORWICH GROUP REPORT

Roy Scott

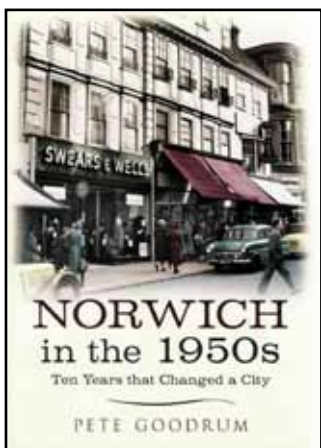
Norwich in the Fifties - Pete Goodrum - 10 May

There was a full house at Kirby Hall when Pete Goodrum, author of 'Norwich in the Fifties', talked about his book and about 1950's Norwich.

Following the war, when large parts of Norwich were bomb-damaged, there was a lot of work to be done rebuilding and repairing Norwich. A plan for Norwich dated 1945, (parts of which in fact had actually been drawn up and worked on before war broke out in 1939), was the basis for the work. In fact the plan was never fully implemented. At the start of the fifties Norwich was still scarred by the war, with children playing in the rubble of bomb sites.



Pete looked at a number of aspects of life in Norwich that changed during that decade: growing up, working life, shopping, entertainment, business etc.



By the end of the decade the retail heart of the city was reconstructed, new building programmes were underway and the manufacturing industries were making world class products with household names. Norwich is the birthplace of a number of well known organisations including Barclays Bank, Norwich Union (now Aviva), Colmans and Caley's. There was a brand new TV company, a modern newspaper company, and, of course, at the end of the decade, the 1959 cup run.

Members shared many of their memories with Pete, who is currently working on 'Norwich in the Sixties', and he expressed the hope that we would invite him for a return visit as he had enjoyed himself so much.

Newspapers in Family History - Rosemary Dixon - 14 June

Rosemary Dixon, Librarian at Archant, gave us a history of newspapers in Norwich and Norfolk, and then provided details of the facilities for research at the Archant library.

The first provincial newspaper, the Norwich Post, was produced in Norwich in 1701. The printer Francis Burgess set up a printing press at the Red Well in Norwich, (Redwell Street) during the summer of 1701. New newspapers were rapidly established - the Norwich Postman (December 1706) and the Norwich Gazette (January 1707).

The Gazette changed its name in 1771 to become the Norfolk Chronicle. The Postman merged with the Weekly Mercury, becoming the Norwich Mercury in 1726. It was published on the corner of Castle Street and London Street - the premises stood here for over 150 years. The Mercury was printed by the Whig William Chase and the Gazette by the Tory printer Henry Cross-Grave.

The newspaper library was set up in 1938. Original bound volumes of the Norwich Mercury from 1750 are still held in the archives along with many other Norfolk newspapers published over the centuries; also, of course, the Eastern Daily Press, launched in 1870, and the Evening News from 1882. Editions of the Evening News and all weekly titles are available on microfilm 1952 - 1996. Most editions of the Eastern Daily Press since 1870 to 1996 are available on Microfilm or CD. From 1996 the archive is digital.

Also available is a large library of cuttings, indexed by Places, Norwich, Subject and People, and a photo section indexed in the same way. This could help you find that elusive reference to your ancestor, but remember newspaper articles are not primary evidence, they provide supporting evidence to give you an insight into your ancestor's life.

Members of the public can visit by prior appointment for personal research Monday-Wednesday 9-12. Charges vary depending on query, please contact by email: library@archant.co.uk or phone 01603 628311.

Group visit to Norfolk Record Office - 12 July

On Friday 12th July, 25 members gathered at 18.30 for a tour of the Record Office. Some members do use the Record Office, but for others it was their first visit, and they were amazed at the wealth of records available to researchers. Victoria Draper, Archive Education and Outreach Officer, gave a brief history of the current building, which opened on 3 November 2003; the Record Office had been housed in temporary accommodation since the fire in the Central Library in 1994. It is also the home of the Norfolk Sound Archive and the East Anglian Film Archive.



Victoria showed members around the search facilities, explaining what is available and demonstrating how to find documents. We were also shown the storeroom, which has a sophisticated temperature control to prevent deterioration of documents. The storeroom we viewed was enormous; in fact there are three such storerooms. When documents are requested in the Searchroom only one person is on duty to retrieve documents from the three storerooms and then replace them later.

The visit finished with the chance to view a selection of interesting documents ranging from maps, parish registers and wills to an assortment of miscellaneous documents. Members were reluctant to leave and I think would have been happy to stay all evening.

LONDON GROUP REPORT

Mary Seeley

The next meeting of the London Group will be at the Society of Genealogists on Saturday 19 October (2.00pm - 4.30pm). It will be a Members' Day and anybody is welcome to contribute a talk on family or local history, or share a research conundrum. We will round off the afternoon with tea and biscuits.

Mary Seeley



SOUTH NORFOLK GROUP REPORT

Jenny Jenkins

Due to unseen circumstances the report for the South Norfolk Group was unavailable at the time of going to press. A shortened report of the meetings and activities that have taken place will be included in the next issue of 'The Norfolk Ancestor' (Editor)



A DELIGHTFUL EXAMPLE OF THE NORFOLK ACCENT



June Thomas MN 601 came across this delightful example of the Norfolk accent and writing down things phonetically rather than literally.

From Besthorpe Farm Accounts (Doc. ref. PD 309/35)

Oct 29 1748	Bought aleaven ens Paid Sary Day har weagers
Dec 1, 1748	Trashing of wate Paid erbige

LOST AT SEA

A woman visited Kirby Hall Library in the first week of July searching for information about a lost relative, Henry MUSSETT, mariner of Wells, who evidently died at sea and for whom no known burial exists. It reminded me of the numerous cases of unidentified bodies and limbs washed up on Norfolk beaches and recorded during the nineteenth century in the Parish Registers of many coastal towns. However, when boats were lost at sea the crew lists often recorded the names of those unfortunates. One such occurrence, in the Lowestoft Register, is a sad and poignant reminder of the dangers at sea and the terrible loss to a small community.

CULLINGHAM	James	62	Lowestoft	Husband of Alice
BOBBETT	James	37	Lowestoft	Husband of Sarah
CAPPS	Robt	16	Lowestoft	Son of John & Mary
SAUNDERS	Joseph	22	Lowestoft	Husband of Lydia
SAUNDERS	Wm.	20	Lowestoft	Son of Joseph & Mary
BALLS	Wm.	42	Lowestoft	Husband of Mary
COOPER	Thos.	27	Lowestoft	Husband of Mary Ann
LIFFEN	John	22	Lowestoft	Husband of Emily
STERRY	John	21	Lowestoft	Son of Joseph & Mary
CUSHING	Geo.	56	Lowestoft	Husband of Mary
ROSE	John	29	Lowestoft	Husband of Sarah
COOK	James	22	Lowestoft	Husband of Sarah
SMITH	James	51	Kirkley	Husband of Mary

All these men along with William Cooper CAPPS (buried 25th January in St.Margarets) and S. GILBY "were drowned in a Yawl on the 8th of January 1838 and the bodies were not recovered" (note in the Register signed by David Hogarth the curate).

The ill-fated Lowestoft yawl 'Peace' set off in a storm to go to a vessel which had hoisted a signal for a pilot. Altogether there were 15 widows and 55 fatherless children in the town as a result of the disaster.

Edmund Perry MN 3181



AGM and NEW CONSTITUTION

The revised Articles of Association were seen by the Trustees in May/June and sent to our solicitors Leathes Prior, 74 The Close, Norwich in July. Mr. Paul Warman, who helped draft the 1996 Memo & Articles, has amended and advised. Certain problems arose with the Charity Commission. To alter the **Objects** requires their permission which they were unwilling to give for the new wording. We have kept the four original Objects and introduced extra **Powers** which clearly state the activities being carried out by the NFHS such as Groups, Bookstall, Fairs, the Website and NORS. Charitable companies are free to make changes which are not '**regulated alterations**'. The latter includes (c) *any change which authorises the charity's funds or property to be used to benefit the directors or members*. Some years ago the Trustees took out Trustees Insurance through the Federation of Family History Societies with Towergate but it appears we needed consent in writing from the Commission. To fix this and other related issues about what the Society and the Trustees can or cannot do, I have followed closely the Charity Commission template version www.charitycommission.gov.uk - gd1textbw.pdf. for the New Constitution.

Last year the trustees decided not to send a hard copy of the AGM Booklet in the post to all members. Instead we placed it on the website. This was queried at the AGM 2012 where I explained it related to printing and the extra weight/postage costs when added to the Ancestor Magazine. Sending out printed copy to everyone when so few attend the AGM is wasteful from a cost-benefit point of view. If we send out the AGM Booklet (A5 x 6 pages) separately this year the cost of printing & postage is nearly £3000. Add to this the new Constitution document of similar size and the total cost would double. The trustees have decided to put both documents on the website in September and send electronic copies to the 3505 members who have email addresses and invite members who want one to request a hard copy. Those without an email may receive a hard copy depending on the logistics involved.

The AGM contains a **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** about the new Constitution (please look at the PROXY FORM). For those who cannot attend the AGM, the Trustees request you complete the Proxy Form and return it to me at Kirby Hall. This is very important for the future of the Society, to ensure that everything we do is legally correct. It has involved a lot of time and energy from those of us who are volunteers and considerable expense involving a solicitor. Hopefully, we will not need to do this for at least another twenty years. Please read the documents when they are available; complete and return the Proxy Form to provide us with as much membership support as possible. Thank you.

Edmund Perry, Company Secretary.



THE PARSON WOODFORDE SOCIETY JOURNAL

Additional Information

Katherine Solomon, Newsletter Editor of the **Parson Woodforde Society** has submitted more information, following the article by Liz Mann in the last edition of 'The Norfolk Ancestor'.



It is true that the Journals are a good source for reading the in-depth research already carried out by Society Members.

There is, however, a primary and much more wide-ranging source in the diaries themselves.

They are available for consultation in the Society's printed edition of 17 volumes, held in the **Heritage Library and Archive Centre** in Norwich. Volumes 8 - 17 relate to Norfolk.

James WOODFORDE's Diary started out as an account-book when he was a student at Oxford in 1759. His father told him to keep a record of everything he spent, and he kept it up for the rest of his life. Gradually, in the 1760s, the daily entry expanded from being a record of purchases to a fuller entry for each day. By the time he arrived in Norfolk in 1776, each day's entry is quite expansive, and continues to be so until his final illness in 1802. So there are over 25 years of detailed entries about his daily life in Norfolk.

The completed Diary was transcribed and printed by the Parson Woodforde Society in 17 volumes, published between 1979 and 2007. Each volume has a full index which includes many more local people than have been the subject of research up to now.

At the end of Volume 17 is an additional index, the **Index to the Complete Diary**, which tells you which volumes mention a particular person. Family history researchers wishing to trace a particular ancestor should first look in this 'Complete Diary Index', which will tell them which volumes their ancestor appears in. Then they should look in the index at the back of those volumes to find all the page references to their ancestor.

WOODFORDE's daily life included dealings not just with farmers, tradesmen and craftsmen of Weston Longville, but with a wider circle of surrounding villages, and with many shops and businesses in Norwich, his regular venue for shopping. His many friends (and enemies) among the local clergy often feature in the Diary.

I hope some of you are able to visit the Heritage Library and Archive centre and make use of the Diary

Parson Woodforde website, www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk, on the 'Publications' page, are two important links:

1. Index to Diaries, Vols 1-17, 1759-1802: This index includes everyone named in the 43-year diaries. It tells you which of the 17 diary volumes your

ancestor appears in. Once found, you will still need to go to the Heritage Library and Archive Centre to look up the relevant volume(s) and its own index.

2. Index of Journals 1968-2013; There are indexes for Names, Places, Subjects, Authors and Book Reviews. For researching ancestors, the first two indexes, Names and Places, would probably be more relevant.

Katherine Solomon

NORFOLK RECORD OFFICE REPORT

New Parish Register Accessions, April-July 2013

Hilborough	marriages	1963-1986
Norwich St Andrew	baptisms	1877-2012
Norwich St Catherine	Mile Cross	
	baptisms	1962-1994
	marriages	1961-1987
	banns	1984-2001
Ormesby St Margaret	baptisms	1950-1998
	marriages	1971-2012
	banns	1964-2007
Sculthorpe	burials	1885-2012



We also received digital photographs of the following registers:

Loddon	burial register,	1851-2013 (catalogued as PD 595/244)
Sisland	burial register,	1851-2009 (catalogued as PD 641/27)

The original registers remain with the churches.

New Nonconformist Register Accessions

Easton Free Methodist Chapel (Norwich Circuit) Accession ACC 2013/2.
baptisms 1884-1921

Aylsham Methodist Chapel (North Norfolk Circuit)
Accession ACC 2013/38, box 6
marriages 1977-2003

The Methodist records have not yet been catalogued, but you can see them in our searchroom by quoting the accession references given above.

Introducing the New County Archivist

Gary Tuson joined us as Norfolk's new County Archivist on 12 August. He was previously County Archivist at Gwent Archives, where he moved the service to a new building in Ebbw Vale, and he has formerly worked in record offices in



*Gary Tuson
County Archivist*

Devon, Derbyshire and Glamorgan. Gary is looking forward to meeting everyone in Norfolk and to helping the service to carry on with the great work it has been doing.

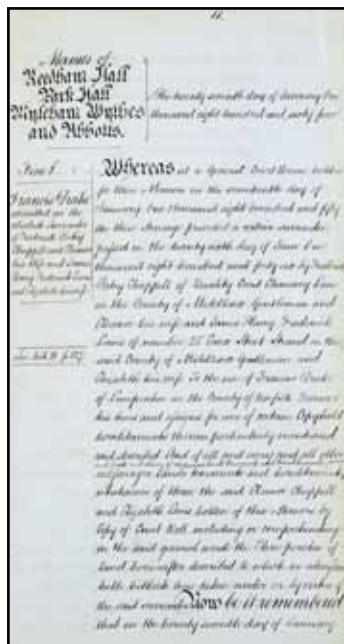
Manorial Documents Register

The Norfolk Manorial Documents Register (MDR) project is nearing completion, and the process of verifying, and adding to, the existing Register entries continues. Manorial records can be invaluable in supplementing more widely-known family history sources, and may shed additional light on the lives of ancestors. We hope that the MDR project will help to open up access to Norfolk's manorial records, so that they are more widely used.

The work centres on the authority record for each manor: an authoritative description, often with a short history, showing which families or institutions held the manor, how and when ownership changed over time, and the geographical area over which it had jurisdiction. Quite commonly, two, three or more manors operated in each Norfolk parish, while one manor might extend into several parishes.

In addition to updating the authority records (over 1,400 of them), we have so far provided The National Archives with around 2,000 additional catalogue entries, some of which relate to documents catalogued during the course of the project.

By the end of the Norfolk MDR project, in September 2013, most of the manorial records described in NROCAT will have been cross-referenced with the relevant authority records. This will enable users to search by ownership or by manor name. It will also make it easier to identify manorial records for a single manor which may belong to two or more different archive collections, and to see how they relate to one another.



Exhibitions in the Long Gallery

The Watling Way: City of

Opportunity continues in the Long Gallery until 12 October. Celebrating the lives and careers (civic and business) of father and son, Charles and Geoffrey WATLING, the exhibition also looks at the city they knew, and contributed to, in the twentieth century. Geoffrey WATLING's legacy to the city continues, through the



charity which bears his name. This year, the charity is celebrating the centenary of Geoffrey WATLING's birth, and the trustees have worked with us to create the exhibition.

This will be followed from 22 October 2013 to 25 January 2014 by **The Pastons and the Pursuit of Power**. The PASTON family of north Norfolk are famous for their letters and papers, which paint a vivid picture of life in the fifteenth century. The exhibition will showcase documents relating to the PASTONS and the publication of their letters, spanning the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries. Amongst the items on display will be the 'lost' Paston letter, sent by Sir John FASTOLF to John PASTON in c. 1455, which the Record Office acquired last year. In addition to archives held at the Norfolk Record Office, there will also be a rare opportunity to see documents held in private hands, including papers specially loaned by Sir Henry Paston-Bedingfeld of Oxburgh Hall and by Paston College, North Walsham.



Talks

Held in the Green Room at The Archive Centre, 1.00 p.m.-1.45 p.m., these talks are all free of charge.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 3 September | All Human Life is Here: Norfolk Manorial Documents by Frank Meeres |
| Monday 9 September | Emigration Fever 1836-7: One Way Voyages for the Norfolk Poor by Liz Budd |
| Monday 16 September | What else is in the Parish Chest? by Eve Read |
| Wednesday 25 September | The Heart and Sole of the City - the Story of the Norwich Boot and Shoe Trade by Frances and Michael Holmes |
| Tuesday 22 October, | The Pastons: Traditions and Innovations in Letter Writing by Dr Karen Smyth |
| Wednesday 30 October | A Fifteenth-century Paston Letter in the Norfolk Record Office by Dr John Alban |
| Wednesday 6 November | Sir John Fastolf and Politics by Dr Anthony Smith |
| Tuesday 12 November | Books the Pastons Read by Elizabeth McDonald |
| Tuesday 19 November | The Fall of the House of Paston by Dr Jean Agnew |
| Wednesday 27 November | The Paston Treasure: More than Meets the Eye by Dr Anna Green |

Tuesday 3 December **The Remarkable Mr Fenn** by Lucy Care
Wednesday 11 December **The Paston Heritage** by Dr Rob Knee.

Heritage Open Days Events at The Archive Centre

Booking (which is required for both the following events) opened on Monday, 5 August via the booking form in the Heritage Open Days Brochure or on the HEART Norwich website <http://www.heritagecity.org>.

Thursday, 12 September, 2 p.m.-3.30 p.m., a workshop on **'Tracing the History of your House'**.

Tuesday, 13 September, 2 p.m.-3 p.m., **'Lifting the Lid'**: find out about conservation work carried out at the Norfolk Record Office, before taking a look at the Conservation Studio.

Annual Stocktaking Closure

The Record Office will be closed for its annual stocktaking fortnight from Monday, 25 November until Saturday, 7 December, re-opening on Monday, 9 December.

Events at the Norfolk Heritage Centre, Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library

'Heritage Hour' runs at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich on Wednesdays at 12.30 p.m.-1.30 p.m. Sessions are free, but the room will accommodate 45 people only, and seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Talks will be:

Wednesday 11 September **Irish Family History** by Eve Read

Wednesday 25 September **Illegitimacy, including a Shipdham case study, 1785-1834** by Liz Budd

Wednesday 9 October **Historical emigration and immigration** by Liz Budd

Wednesday 23 October **Frayed: Textiles on the Edge** (relating to a textiles exhibition taking place at the Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth)

Wednesday 6 November **Title Deeds** by Eve Read

Wednesday 20 November **Beginners' House History** by Liz Budd.

On Wednesdays when there is no talk, and on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m., the Heritage Centre offers drop-in 'Ask an Archive Specialist' research clinics, aimed at people who are new to the Heritage Centre or who have questions about resources there.

For more information and to check times and themes (which may be subject to change), please contact Norfolk Heritage Centre by telephoning 01603 774740, emailing norfolk.studies.lib@norfolk.gov.uk or see the website at <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/heritagecentre>.

For further information about Norfolk Record Office news and events, see our website <http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>, telephone us on 01603 222599, or look out for posters at the Record Office. Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/norfolkrecordoffice or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NorfolkRO.

SPECIAL OFFER

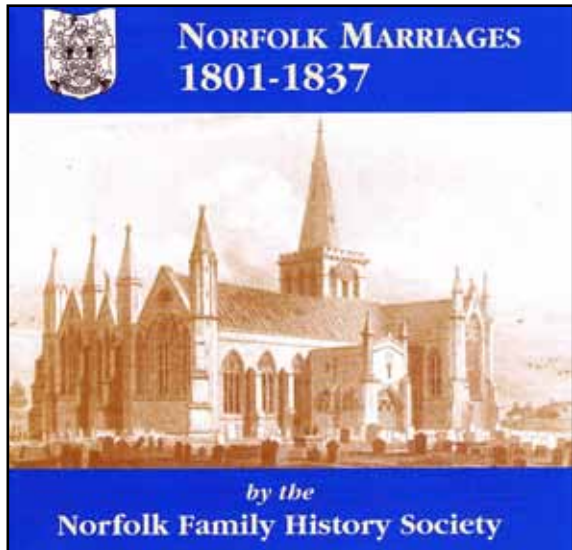
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NFHS WEBSITE - MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Did you know that since the introduction of our new website in November it is now possible to update your own Members' Interests and also contact other members who are researching the same surnames? This is a very useful facility as it provides a link in with other members and may help to expand your family tree.

NB. This option is only available while logged in as a member.

Go to our website www.norfolkfhs.org.uk and login under **Members Login**. This automatically opens your personal details - whilst here why not check that all details are up to date and amend if necessary? Your password can also be amended on this page to something more memorable.

Forgotten your password? Go to the login page and click on '**Forgotten Password**' and a new one will be sent by email, allow a few minutes after receipt to allow it to synchronise.

To view those members with similar interests click on '**Membership**' at the top of the page and select '**Members Interests**'.

Starting at the top of the page in the '**Surname**' box, clicking on '**ALL**' will display a list of all surnames that our members have registered. Selecting a name or keying a name in this box and clicking the '**SEARCH**' button will display a list of all members who are researching that particular surname. To contact one of these members just click '**contact**' to the right of their name and an email will be delivered containing their name and email address (if available) or their home address. If no emails are received please check your junk email box before raising a query.

Any interests previously registered with the Society are listed under '**Your Interests**'. Our research takes us in different directions at different times so it may be worthwhile checking that your interests are up to date. If there are any no longer needed click on '**delete**' against the relevant interest and it will be deleted. If there are any new ones to be added, up to 12 different interests are permitted by entering the details into the '**New Interest**' section. When entering a Norfolk interest select the '**area**' and '**period of interest**'. For the neighbouring counties of Cambridge, Essex, Suffolk and Lincolnshire select '**period of interest**'. Selecting **ALL** in the county assumes you are looking for that surname anywhere.

If you don't confirm your agreement to your name being sent out then your interest can not be listed.

If agreement to disclose surname is not given interests cannot be added.

To remove contact details please delete all interests.

Go on - give it a try you may find a long lost relative.

Carole Taylor, Treasurer, MN 8745



NORS (Norfolk Online Record Search)

Loyal volunteers continue to diligently transcribe and upload many Norfolk Parish Registers, or freely give their time to record Monumental Inscriptions, this has resulted in the number of individual records on NORS to exceed 2.8 million, now available for all members to access!

To discover the most recent additions please view the '**Listing**' PDFs which can be found on the NORS screen, left hand side, at the top of the '**Browse Records**' menu.

Most notable recent additions include further sections of the Norwich Earlham Cemetery Burials, kindly and laboriously copy typed by member Eric Rivett from the earlier project work of Patrick Palgrave-Moore; records are typed into a format suitable for uploading to the internet. Another recent big upload with almost 11,000 records is Great Yarmouth Marriages 1700-1754, originally transcribed in 2008 by Ken Stokes, updated and prepared for NORS by Edmund Perry in 2013.

May I remind members once again that 'Login Username' comprises (membership number plus first 3 characters of surname, eg 12345DAC), also that forgotten passwords can be automatically replaced by using the 'Forgotten?' link, providing of course that the email address registered with the Society is up-to-date, just wait a few minutes after receipt of password before logging in, finally - remember, passwords are case sensitive.

Mike Dack - NORS Administrator

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01708 735810 or
www.slides2disk.co.uk



PEDIGREES added to Library Shelves

ARMSTRONG - The Diaries of Rev. Benjamin John (book by Herbert B. J. Armstrong (1949)

BLUNDERVILLE - Thomas of Newton Flotman 1522-1606 (by Arthur Campling in Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society (NNAS) 1923)

BOLEYN - The Boleyns of Blickling Hall 1450-1560

CORBRIDGE - James an 18th century Map Surveyor (by Raymond Frostick NNAS 2007)

LEGGE - Account of the Family C13th to 1663 (by A.G. Legge in NNAS 1896)

LOVELL - Notes on Family at East Harling (by George Lovell Harrison in NNAS 1912)

MARTIN - Memoir of Thomas, Gent 1696-1771 (by John Fenn 1784 in NNAS 1904)

MONEY - John - Wymondham's 17th century Godly Lecturer (by David Parr in NNAS 2007)

MURFORD - Nicholas a Yarmouth Salt Producer (by John K. Gruenfelder in NNAS 1991)

PASTON - Robert and the Yarmouth Collection (by Robert Wenley in NNAS 1991)

TASBURGH - of Bodney 1600-1783 (by Francis Young in NNAS 2011)

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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.

SURNAME	AREA
BARGEWELL	Ingham, Sea Palling, Grimsby
BARDLE	Various Norfolk Parishes (very large)
BROWNE	Norwich
CARRON	Biography of Wm CARRON, Pulham Market, Halesworth to Australia
CASTLE	Southtown, Great Yarmouth
CORNWELL	Barmer/Bagthorpe, Thetford, Ipswich
CROWE	Ranworth, Great Yarmouth
DRANE	Rushall, Thwaite St. Mary, Langley
ELLIS	Great Yarmouth to Essex
GRAY/SHREEVE	Great Yarmouth, Barton Turf, Southrepps
GILHAM	Great Yarmouth, Filby, Caister
HARDY	Norfolk & Isle of Wight (Disc)
HOLMAN/NEWBY	Salle, Gissing, Tibenham
HOVELL	Norwich
JARVIS	Norwich
LIVICK and variations	Wrenningham, Norwich
LOVERIDGE	Great Yarmouth
MASSINGHAM	Aylmerton, Cromer
MAYES	Norton Subcourse, Chedgrave, Rockland St. Mary, Caister
MEADOWS	Great Yarmouth
PASTON	Oxnead, Great Yarmouth (early)
PLAICE	Shouldham, Wiggshall to London (large)
SCARNELL/FRYER	Hempnall, Great Yarmouth
SEMMENS/SYMONDS/SIMMONS	Shipdham, Great Moulton. Hethel
WEBSDALE	Wymondham, Tibenham
WICKS	Norwich, Woolwich, France

Attention of Members submitting a Family Tree is drawn to Copyright Law. Full details can be found on our website.

UNWANTED BMD CERTIFICATES

Again this quarter I have received a lot of unwanted BMD certificates. May I once again thank all those who have sent them in. They are very helpful and much appreciated, so please keep them coming in.

GUIDELINES

Submitting an article:

Articles for future editions are 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 Norfolk Family History Society 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 400 words per page without photographs. Please keep articles to 3 pages maximum - 1200 words approx.** Email or CD versions are most helpful.

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **December 2013** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall **NO LATER** than **20 October 2013.**

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

Notes and Queries:

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 should be given in full (an email address alone is insufficient as this may limit response). **Membership number and email address should be included.**

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

Address correspondence to: **The Editor, c/o Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS.** Email ancestor@nfhs.co.uk

Photographs:

Photographs are always welcome, they liven up the layout. Preferably send in your photographs by email as a JPEG attachment (Please scan at 300dpi if possible). Photocopies do not always reproduce well as they need to be scanned into a computer and they lose clarity in the process.

If you send in an original photograph, please state whether you wish it to be returned to you.



WHO TO CONTACT AND WHERE TO REACH THEM

All written correspondence should be addressed to Kirby Hall, address on page 63.

- Family Trees:** Donations of family trees, pedigrees, wills and BMD certificates:
Address correspondence to **Pam Bridge**
By email: familytrees@nfhs.co.uk
- Copy requests:** For family trees, pedigrees and wills
Address correspondence to **Judith Parks**
By email: copyrequest@nfhs.co.uk
- Membership:** Address correspondence to the Membership Secretary, **Jean Stangroom**
By email: membership@nfhs.co.uk
- Members Interests:**
Address correspondence to **Peter Spurgeon**
By email: membersinterests@nfhs.co.uk
- Monumental inscriptions:**
Address correspondence to MI Co-ordinator, **Mary Mitchell**
By email: minscriptions@nfhs.co.uk
- NORS - Passwords:**
Address correspondence to **Judith Parks**
By email: nors@nfhs.co.uk
- NORS - Administration:**
Address correspondence to **Mike Dack**
By email: norsadmin@nfhs.co.uk
- Look-ups:** Address correspondence to **Alan Bullard**
By email: lookups@nfhs.co.uk
- Bookstall:** Address correspondence to **The Bookstall**
By email: bookstall@nfhs.co.uk
- Fairs:** Address correspondence to **Fairs**
By email: fairs@nfhs.co.uk
- The Ancestor:** Address correspondence to the Editor **Robin Whitmore**
By email: ancestor@nfhs.co.uk
- Transcripts:** Volunteers wishing to assist with transcription or similar work contact the
Transcripts Organiser, **Paul Harman**
By email: transcripts@nfhs.co.uk
- Treasurer:** Address correspondence to the Treasurer, **Carole Taylor**
By email: treasurer@nfhs.co.uk
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By email: volunteers@nfhs.co.uk
- Webmaster:** Address correspondence to the **WebMaster**
By email: webmaster@nfhs.co.uk
- Secretary:** Address correspondence to the Company Secretary, **Edmund Perry**
By email: secretary@nfhs.co.uk
- Enquiries:** For topics not covered in the above list, address correspondence to
Enquiries
By email: enquiries@nfhs.co.uk
Please state the nature of your enquiry in the email subject box

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Norwich, Norfolk. NR3 4TT, United Kingdom**

IF ONLY I HAD ... OR I'M GLAD I DID ...

I had heard my parents and grandparents talk about a change of surname in the family. Between 1851 and 1891 my great-grandfather Uriah HIRCOCK changed his name to Hugh LILLIE HARCOURT. This appears to have taken place gradually over time as the Census returns show the following surnames: Uriah HIRCOCK (1851) -> Uriah HIRCOCK (1861) -> Uriah L HARCOURT (1871) -> Hugh HIRCOCK (1881) -> Hugh HARCOURT (1891).

There is no doubt that these names are all referring to the same person taking into account family rumour, date and place of birth and other family members in the households. It is irksome that my mother, Uriah's grand-daughter, knew all about the name change and the reasons for it and she had promised to tell me all about it before she died. Hereby hangs the regret - she never did. I remember sitting beside her hospital bed and debating whether to ask her about it. Would asking her be an indication that she was about to die and maybe upset

her; a dilemma which sadly resolved itself all too quickly. My mother's late brother had all the documents that related to the name change and soon after my mother died my uncle's widow cleared out all the 'in-laws' papers and photographs with no reference to the rest of the family. I fear this is the end of the quest to solve this riddle but I will not give up - you never know what might turn up. If only I had ... Many years ago a casual conversation led to the discovery of a wonderful family photograph and the names of the subjects. The picture was found on the wall of a house in North Walsham which was known to have once been owned by the WILSON family. I found a local elderly gentleman who said that the baby in the picture was a Florence Harriet WILSON, my grandmother born in 1870, who he had known. She told him that it was her in the photograph along with her mother and father and grandfather (my great-great-grandfather William WILSON

born in 1811). This all gave more meaning to my father's stories about little granddad and his big granddad, which related to their size rather than their age. I'm glad I did . .

Hindsight is a wonderful thing but the experiences of others are something we can learn from and help to prevent family

information being lost forever. Ask about things **NOW** - make sure the 'if only I had' becomes the 'I'm glad I did'.

Anyone with interest in any of the names please make contact.

Nigel Peacock MN 12938



NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AGM

Saturday 12th October 12.30 at Kirby Hall

The AGM Booklet containing Agenda, Minutes, Trustees Report and the Accounts will not be sent out to members this year, but is available on the NFHS Website to view and/or download under Society, News, AGM - log on as a member.

Members wishing to receive a hard copy should write to the Company Secretary at Kirby Hall requesting a copy to be sent by post.



Heritage Open Days

Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September 2013



Many venues, all over Norfolk, from Kings Lynn to Great Yarmouth, not normally open to the general public will open their doors, at no charge, to allow those with a love of history, art and architecture, and the just plain nosey, to have a look round buildings not normally accessible on a day-to-day basis. The NFHS will be open to members of the public to help them with their with Family research.

Kirby Hall will be opening its doors on all four days between 10.00 and 4.00 pm no need to book

We look forward to seeing you!