

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



**Volume Eleven    Part Three**  
**SEPTEMBER 2014**



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

## The Front Cover

On the cover of this edition of the "Norfolk Ancestor" is a photograph of one of a set of six bas-reliefs, celebrating the medieval wool trade, by John Moray-Smith. It is called "Ships in Port" and is approximately 162cms x 92cms.

The bas-relief is one of the five remaining panels commissioned by Morgans



brewery for the opening of the "Woolpack" in 1938 and can still be seen today although they have been moved from their original positions behind the bar to a dining area. The fate of the sixth panel is unknown. Another bas-relief from "The Woolpack" "Wool Sales and Dyeing" can be seen on the inside of the back cover, it is 180cms x 92cms.

Prior to the "The Woolpack" a pub called "The Woolpocket" had been on the site since 1760.

A very interesting letter has been received from John Sendall regarding his memories of the Moray-Smiths. Please see below.

**Paul Harman MN 3205**

*Dear Mr Harman,*

*Although I knew John, my recollections are mainly of his wife (whose name I learn from your notes was Katrina). She was an acquaintance of my mother, probably through the Women's Institute or left wing politics - in both of which my mother was active. As I kept rabbits, my mother introduced me to Mrs Moray-Smith in the early 1950's (when I was about 10) in her capacity as a leading light in the Costessey Fur and Feather Club. She bred Ermine Rex rabbits and I purchased several of these from her and won prizes with them and their offspring at the said Fur and Feather Club and shows in the Norwich area. She often took her rabbits for sale at Norwich Cattle Market where there was a special section for such domestic animals and poultry at the*

*Continued on inside back cover*

# Norfolk Family History Society

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Registered Office address:  
Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS

## Headquarters and Library

Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich NR2 1LS

Telephone No. (01603) 763718

NFHS Web pages: <http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>

For a full list of contacts with email addresses please see page 174

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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 NFHS EVENTS****From September 2014**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event</b>                                                                | <b>Speaker</b>  | <b>Group</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 9 Sep       | Samplers in Family History                                                  | Edna Buggey     | Diss         |
| 12 Sep      | Norwich City and Industries                                                 | Nick Williams   | Norwich      |
| 10 Oct      | TBA - See NFHS Website for latest                                           |                 | Norwich      |
| 14 Oct      | Rural Norfolk Women                                                         | Charlotte Paton | Diss         |
| 18 Oct      | NFHS AGM 12.00 noon at Kirby Hall                                           |                 |              |
| 18 Oct      | How to research the Norfolk Men and Women who served in the First World War | Simon Fowler    | London       |
| 11 Nov      | In the Footsteps of our Fathers                                             | Beverley Cooper | Diss         |
| 14 Nov      | TBA - See NFHS Website for latest                                           |                 | Norwich      |

**Upcoming Events which NFHS will attend**

| <b>Date</b>            | <b>Event</b>                         | <b>Location</b>                                                                         |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Sep                  | Harleston History Fair               | St John The Baptist Church,<br>Church Broad Street, Harleston,<br>IP20 9AZ              |
| 11 Oct                 | Suffolk Family History Fair and AGM  | University College Suffolk,<br>Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay<br>Ipswich,<br>IP4 1QJ |
| 25 Oct                 | Cambridge FHS<br>Family History Fair | Girton Glebe Primary School,<br>Cambridge Road, Girton<br>CB3 0PN                       |
| 16-18<br>April<br>2015 | Who Do You Think You Are?            | Birmingham NEC                                                                          |

## Exodus From Norfolk in Late 19th Century by Fay Harrison

The 1870s and 1880s saw extensive rural depopulation of Norfolk as people migrated to urban and industrial areas, with significant numbers choosing to move overseas to the USA, Canada and Australia. There are several examples in my own paternal family history from the North Norfolk area, see table below.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                         | Birth | Moved From        | Moved To            | Relationships                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                | John Bumfrey            | 1837  | Baconsthorpe      | Middlesborough      | Brother of 4 and 6                                                |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                | Joseph Bumfrey          | 1840  | Matlask           | Newcastle           | Cousin of 1, 4 and 6                                              |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                | Henry Bumfrey           | 1843  | Wickmere          | Norwich             | 1 <sup>st</sup> cousin, once removed of 1, 4 and 6                |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stephen Bumfrey         | 1843  | Baconsthorpe      | See note 1          | Brother of 1 and 6                                                |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                | William James Bumfrey   | 1849  | West Beckham      | South Shields       | Brother of 10                                                     |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                | Benjamin George Bumfrey | 1848  | Baconsthorpe      | Newcastle           | Brother of 1 and 4                                                |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                | William Bumfrey         | 1845  | Matlask           | Newcastle           | Brother of 8, Cousin of 1, 4 and 6                                |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                                | George Bumfrey          | 1852  | Matlask           | Newcastle           | Brother of 7, Cousin of 1, 4 and 6                                |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                | James Bumfrey           | 1852  | Metton            | Pegswood, Newcastle | 1 <sup>st</sup> cousin, once removed of 1, 4 and 6                |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                                               | Henry Bumfrey           | 1857  | West Beckham      | Tynemouth           | Brother of 5                                                      |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                               | John Bumfrey            | 1834  | Knapton           | Hampshire           | Brother of 12                                                     |
| 12                                                                                                                                                                                               | James Bumfrey           | 1846  | Knapton           | Berkshire           | Brother of 11.                                                    |
| 13                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ernest C R Bumfrey      | 1916  | Erpingham         | Durham S E          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Cousin 3 times removed of 7                       |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                                               | Reginald Albert Bumfrey | 1897  | Letheringsett     | Tynemouth           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Cousin once removed of 13                         |
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                               | James Bumfrey           | 1872  | Barningham Winter | Eastnor, Hereford   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Cousin once removed of 13 and 14                  |
| 16                                                                                                                                                                                               | John Henry Bumfrey      | 1850  | Bessingham        | Stockton on Tees    |                                                                   |
| 17                                                                                                                                                                                               | James William Bumfrey   | 1881  | Erpingham         | Dewsbury, Yorks     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Cousin once removed of 13 and 16 and cousin of 14 |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                               | John William Bumfrey    | 1861  | Smallburgh        | Canada              | Nephew of 11 and 12                                               |
| Note 1. A death of Stephen Bumfrey recorded in Easington, Co Durham, in 1929, aged 86. No other information found to confirm he moved there but no Bumfrey births found in Co Durham before 1872 |                         |       |                   |                     |                                                                   |
| 19                                                                                                                                                                                               | Edward Dyball           | 1800  | Brampton          | USA                 |                                                                   |

John BUMFREY (11) was the subject of my article in December 2012 of "The Norfolk Ancestor."

Edward DYBALL (my gx3grandfather) may have had more than the usual reason for making a fresh start in the USA. He was 50 when he emigrated in May 1851. He had been married twice, firstly to Hannah BULLIMORE, who died about 1835, and then to Elizabeth IVES who died about 1847. He had seven children, the youngest being 10 when they left England. They travelled aboard the sailing vessel SS Savannah, arriving in New York on 8th July, 1851. The journey took six weeks and four days. Initially they remained in New York due to a shortage of funds and then in 1858 went to Madison County, New York State, and later settled in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, where he became a farmer. His children Jeremiah, Elizabeth, Anne and John went with him. Some children of his third wife's previous marriage to William MEDDLAR, also emigrated with them; William, Henry, George, Walter and Elizabeth. Her son Robert went later in 1853.

Robert fought in the American Civil War in Company H, 87th Infantry Regiment Illinois, from 1862 to 1864.

Henry also fought in the American Civil War in Company 1, 38th Infantry Regiment Illinois, from 21st September 1861. He died on 3rd August 1864 in Andersonville as a prisoner of war, the cause of his death is given as Scorbutus.

George also fought in Company 1, Ohio 58th Infantry Regiment from 10th October 1861 to 1st June 1862. His family in Norfolk remained in touch by letter, two of which I have. The first is from his granddaughter Georgianna (aged about 15) and his daughter in law Mary Ann (my gx2grandmother), dated December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1882; the second, dated July 5th 1894, again from Mary Ann to Elizabeth DYBALL (b 9th August 1837) daughter of Edward and his second wife.

Both letters are transcribed as written, including spelling and punctuation. [Apart from the notes by Fay in square brackets and the capitalized surnames. Editor]

## Letter 1, Burgh Dec 18 1882

*Dear Grandfather*

*I now write these few lines to you in answer to your kind and welcome letter which we received and was glad to hear that you were pretty well as it leaves us at the present we were glad to hear that you are all doing well My Grandmother Bloom [Elizabeth NOBBS b 1802 Buxton, d Nov 1881] is dead she have been dead a year last November and Sam PIKE is dead he died last April and Sally is in the Infirmary and is a very poor creature Father went to see her last Sunday the 10th of December and she is very comfortable and is better off than she has been for years Sister Eliza [Eliza DYBALL b 6 Sep 1852 Burgh, d 1893 Kettlestone] is married and have got 6 children and my Brother Ted [Edward Thomas DYBALL b 1856 Burgh, d 1898 London] is married and live in London but he have not got any children yet and my Brother Charley [Charles DYBALL b 29 May 1859 Burgh] is married and live at North Walsham and he have got 4 children and Brother George [George DYBALL b 22 Feb 1850 Burgh. emigrated to South America in 1868] we have not heard of for 6 or 7 years*

*I and Father went down to Yarmouth last July and see Uncle James [James Bullimore DYBALL b1826 Trimmingham, d 1904 in Great Yarmouth Workhouse] and they were all quite well and all his family are married we have had a very good Harvest over here but we had a great deal of rain*

*Dear father you see my daughter have been writing to you but I must write a little we are all glad to hear you are all doing well We are not so bad of here as when you was here but to the naibours that was here when you was here there is but few of them William Flatman and his wife are dead Bob Flatman is a live giting a old man now Thoss Butterfield is dead and his wife quit helpless Bob and wife i have no seen since i had your letter but they are quit well Mrs Barr is dead and have been dead this 12 years and the family are all a way here is very few that know any thing*

## **Letter 2, Burgh July 5 1894**

*Dear Sister*

*I now write this few lines to answer your kind letter and was glad to hear from you well you now about my dear husbands [Edward DYBALL b 1826 Brampton, d 1893 Burgh] being dead poor dear he was a grate suffer and my dear daughter [Eliza DYBALL {Green} b 6 Sep 1852 Burgh, d 1893 Kettlestone]*

*I was all most destracted she left 10 children 5 are got away but there is 5 at home the youngest is 3 years old 1 married but my youngest daughter [Georgianna DYBALL b 1867 Burgh] is not well she have a bad sore on her leg {UNCLEAR} and that keep gathering and breaking and is bad and she look so bad she is married and have 2 little girls [Anna and Elizabeth HINSLEY]*

*I hope this will find you and all your family well as I myself are ? well I have only 1 son in Burgh that Charlie [Charles DYBALL b 29 May 1859 Burgh] my Ted [Edward Thomas DYBALL b 1856 Burgh] is in London he have been there 20 years he is doing very well Give my kind love to Ann and all your family well Here is not much of your mother family in Burgh have heard 2 cousins James and Susie and they send their kind love to you all we are having some hot weather here but it has been very cold*

*My George [George DYBALL b 22 Feb 1850 Burgh] often writ to me he was quit well when he wrot last of {UNCLEAR} he have been in South America 26 years come Micklemas God bless him {UNCLEAR} hope to meet him in Heven and many more please God but we must trust and give in Jesus Christ for it is through his mercy we may gain Heven So now with my kindest love I remain your loving sister*

*M A DYBALL*

**Fay Harrison MN 13405 mervyn-harrison@lineone.net**

## A Sad Tale As a Mystery is Solved by Elaine Cordingley



FOR many years I have been unable to trace the whereabouts of William HEWITT, the brother of my great-grandfather Ernest HEWITT.

He was born in September 1866, the first son of John HEWITT and Mary Ann BIANCHI, daughter of Giovanni BIANCHI the plaster model maker of George Street, Norwich.

John and Mary had married in February 1866 in St George's Colegate. Mary was 18. Their son was named William Bianchi HEWITT, retaining Mary's name as a middle name.

In the 1871 census they were living in Watson's Buildings, off King Street. John was a boot riveter and Mary a machinist, probably at the same works. Their second child, Ellen Georgiana born 1869, died when she was only a few weeks old.

Probably after Giovanni BIANCHI'S death in 1872 they moved to London, and Ernest Alexander HEWITT, my great-grandfather, was born in Shoreditch. John was still a shoemaker.

Four years later in 1875, Mary Ann died. By then the family were in Southwark and John was a brewer's drayman. The family obviously fell on hard times, and in the 1881 census the boys William and Ernest were in the Boys' Home in Norwich. A search through the "admissions to the Norwich workhouse" at Norwich Record Office shows that they were admitted on 19th July 1878 "and passed from Shoreditch", aged 11 and 6, three years after their mother died.

I continued to trace Ernest through the censuses, but could not find William. Then I heard that quite often boys from children's homes joined the Navy. I soon found his Navy record online at TNA\* and ordered the document.

Now the mystery was solved. He had joined the navy in July 1882, aged 15, and trained for two years in Portsmouth. He officially signed up for 10 years on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1884, and was assigned to HMS Goshawk.

The record stops in 1886 at Port Royal. So I had to find what the ship was doing at that time. A Google search revealed that it had



been in Jamaica in June 1886 when a tragedy occurred. Several men had gone ashore for the evening and, on rowing back to the ship, a storm caught the boat and it overturned, drowning 14 out of the 19 men. A list of the men was shown in a newspaper report, and William HEWITT was amongst them.

The Navy erected a monument in the Old Naval Cemetery in Port Royal, Jamaica to commemorate the tragedy. I found a picture of it on the website 'Findagrave', and his name appears on it.

Furthermore in August 2013, the Royal Navy visited the cemetery and tidied it. A report in 'navynews.co.uk' shows a picture of the renovated memorial.



So a sad tale of a missing ancestor – but at last the mystery is solved.

Elaine Cordingley MN 12207

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### **Extract from the Eastern Daily Press, 1st January, 1876**

Wilson Eleanor, railway clerk, has been fined 20 shilling and costs at Darlington for putting his arm round the waist of a girl named Emma Little. The parties were returning home together from a choir practice, and while walking, the defendant attempted to give his companion a squeeze. She

responded by breaking her umbrella across his head and a charge of wilful damages was also preferred against him for the injury sustained by the umbrella, but as it was proved that the girl herself had done the damage, the second charge was dismissed.

## EDITOR'S CORNER with Peter Steward

RESEARCH is a wonderful thing. It can uncover snippets of history lost for generations and it can also be extremely exciting and stimulating.

When I offered to construct a web site reflecting the village of Hethersett during the two World Wars, I had no idea of the wealth of material that would be unearthed from the village archives. Hidden away in a collection of over 5,000 items were the village church magazines. Nothing greatly surprising in that you might say, but it was the content of these rather yellowing historic tomes that was to surprise and delight.

I began reading and gradually built up a mental picture of what life was like in the village both before, during and after the World Wars. But the goldmine of information came in the shape of letters written by The Rector of Hethersett, the Rev Frederic JARVIS.

For this worthy churchman talked in great detail about the effect that the First World War had on the village and those left behind. He also talked at length about what was happening on the Western Front and then, for a period of a year, left the village to serve as a chaplain in France - at times getting very close to the action through serving at military hospitals.

Before "going off to War", Rev JARVIS admitted to much soul searching at leaving his parish behind. But he felt that he had a calling and his letters home from the front give a flavour not only of the dangers and heartbreak of war but also some of the lighter moments that you somehow believe are documented to keep up the spirits of both troops and the writer himself.

On numerous occasions the Rector points out that by necessity his letters are subject to censorship, suggesting that he cannot fully reflect on the horrors of some of the things he has witnessed at first hand. He does point out that some of the things he had witnessed would remain with him for the remainder of his life. After a year on the Western Front the Rector returned to Hethersett (then a relatively small village of 1,000 people compared with the sprawl of 6,000 that we have today). He served the village until 1932 when he made the short journey down the road to become vicar of Wymondham. He subsequently wrote a history of Wymondham Abbey which is still available in Norwich Central Library and which also turns up occasionally on the ebay web site. For me the sheer joy of finding a previously hidden source of history and at the same time stumbling on a contemporaneous account, documented at the time, makes research such a powerful historic tool. To be able to bring this to a wider audience through modern

Media underlines fully the links between our present world and the past. Now when I wander through the village I have a distinct feeling that I am walking in the Rector's footsteps.

In addition his letters bring many local residents and the village back to life and it is difficult when reading them to grasp the fact that what appears to be a living document was actually written 100 years ago. The problem for modern day historians and researchers is of course trying to place ourselves back into those times and pretend that any subsequent knowledge we have picked up just doesn't exist. Sadly I have tried without success to find descendants of Frederic Jarvis. All I know is that he was married and had at least one child. I would love to hear from anyone who has any more information about Frederic.

You can read more about the Rev. Frederic Jarvis and read what he had to say about the War and many other articles on wartime in a Norfolk village by visiting [www.hethersettatwar.weebly.com](http://www.hethersettatwar.weebly.com). Incidentally Frederic's successor went on to write in the parish magazine about the Second World War, which in itself gives a unique insight into the build up and consequences of that conflict.

Peter Steward MN 14801

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## Memories of Tragic Gladys by Keith Patterson and Pamela Adlam

IN the 1990s I (Keith) was researching some family history which took me to St Nicholas Church, Buckenham, Norfolk. I was looking for the PATTERSON family who lived in Buckenham and its neighbouring village Hassingham. My Gt. Grandparents lived in Hassingham, but were buried at Buckenham.

I soon found their headstone. My Gt. Grandfather died in 1914 and on his stone they had put that he had been clerk to the parish council of both villages. A space had been left for his wife who died May 1927, but for some reason her name had never been added. My Gt. Grandfather's name was William PATTERSON, born 1852 in Lingwood Workhouse. His wife, my Gt. Grandmother was Anna BALLS, born 1855. They had a large family of 13 children who all survived to become adults.

A few years later I went back to Buckenham Churchyard and was amazed at what I found. The stone had been taken up and cleaned and a name added to the space left for his wife. But it was the wrong name. The name that had been added was Elizabeth. His wife's name was Anna. Every document which applied to her from her birth certificate, every census from 1861 to 1911, her marriage certificate, death certificate and her burial entry in Buckenham Church was Anna. I could find no record of her having a middle name.

I thought the only way to solve the mystery as to who paid for this work almost 80 years after Anna's death was to inquire at the local stonemasons. I hit lucky first time, the local man had done the job and gave me a contact number. It was that of a lady who lived in Worthing. I rang her and she explained that she put the order in for work on the stone on behalf of her uncle Peter PARRY. William and Anna were Peter's grandparents, but to me and Pamela they were our Gt. Grandparents. Peter's mother Lillian was sister to my grandfather William Jr. and Pamela's grandmother Ethel. She explained that she had taken Peter back to have a look at the area where his roots were on his mother's side.

He looked at the stone in Buckenham Churchyard and said he would like to pay for the work to be done to add the name of his grandmother. His niece explained that he was in poor health when she took him on this trip and that he was now in a nursing home. I asked if he had done any research before he instructed the stonemason. She said he had done it from memory. I asked her not to tell him about what I had found, but I did send him copies of all the records I had to prove it was Anna. I think the name Elizabeth came from his father's side. But this was not the end of the mystery. Beside the grave of William and Anna is a small stone

with the name Gladys. She died in 1915 aged seven years. But there was no surname so I took no notice of it. Pamela will tell you the story of Little Gladys as our story continues.

On 4th July, 2010 my brother, sister and I went with Keith to Buckenham to see our Gt. Grandparents' gravestone. As we stood by their grave my sister noticed the small stone beside them with the name Gladys. Since Keith's last visit to the grave we had discovered on the 1911 census a little girl by the name of Gladys Mildred PATTERSON who was the daughter of our grandmother Ethel PATTERSON. In 1911 our grandmother married Albert Howard SPOONER. They had 10 children, one being our father who was born in 1914. We knew all our aunts and uncles so why didn't we know Gladys? We felt sure that if our dad had known of Gladys he would have mentioned her. We obtained her birth certificate and searched for her but couldn't find any trace. So was this our little Gladys? As we read the inscription on her stone, we were sure it was. It was so strange we instantly felt this overwhelming love for her. Why hadn't we known or even heard of her until a few months ago?

We then checked and obtained her death certificate which confirmed that it was her, born 1908 and died 1915. Then another mystery. She had died from measles at the Royal Eastern Counties Institution, Colchester. The hospital was private, they took no paupers. What was she doing there so far from home? We researched the hospital and found it described as "a hospital for idiot and imbeciles." Poor little Gladys - what was wrong with her? I spoke to my cousin who was daughter to my Aunt and she said her mum had mentioned our grandmother having a baby that died. My Aunt told me that her mother had never mentioned it and she thought the child was only a baby when it died.. My Aunt said "the baby weren't quite right" and that answered our question as to why she was in that hospital. But still the mystery "why so far from home and how severely handicapped was she? Was this the best hospital they could find to look after her?" Was it her grandparents couldn't look after her? We may never know the real answers. We do know they loved her dearly as they brought her body home to be buried next to her granddad. At the top of her stone are two little angels and underneath the beautiful inscription:

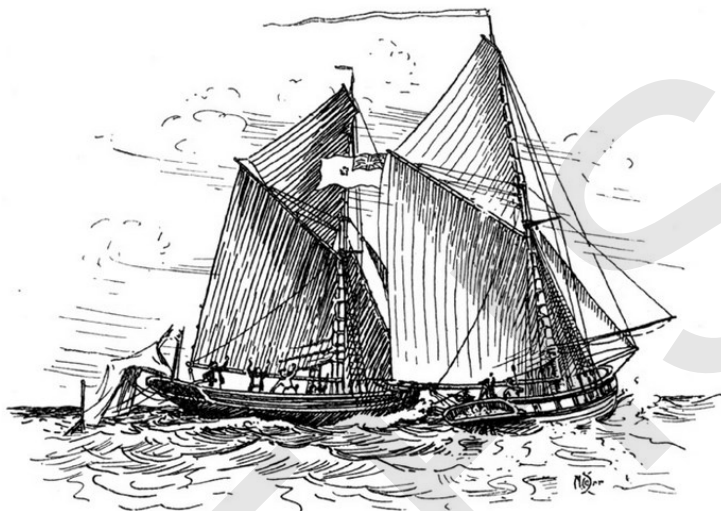
*Affectionate Remembrance of Our Darling Little Gladys who  
Fell Asleep July 21st, 1915, aged seven years six months.*

Our Grandmother would have been the last person to think of Little Gladys. She died in 1959. But now Little Gladys' memory will live on

**Keith Patterson MN 3389 and Pamela Adlam MN 14044**

## Unexpected Advancement by David Culley

IN the latter part of the 18th century, about the time when smuggling was a respectable if risky occupation, two members of the CULLEY family suddenly rose from relative obscurity to join the gentry.



Roger CULLEY was born in 1770 at Ingworth. His father Benjamin was a shoemaker and migrated to Bacton in 1776. Roger became a bricklayer and his brothers were another shoemaker and a blacksmith. But, by the early years of the 19th century Roger is a Yeoman, owning his house and farming a considerable acreage (Tithe Map and Enclosure notice dated 1813).

I found he had, in a manner of speaking, won the lottery. In 1795, aged 25, he married the 40 year old widow of Charles GEE, a notorious smuggler, who seems likely to have fled the country after murdering an exciseman offshore near Bacton. A reward of £100 was offered for GEE's arrest, sufficient no doubt for him to make himself scarce.

*His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Persons concerned in this most atrocious Outrage and Murder, is hereby pleased to promise his most gracious Pardon to any one of them (except the said Charles GEE) who shall discover his Accomplices therein, so that two or more of them may be apprehended and convicted of the said Offence.*

*And as a further Encouragement, the Commissioners of his Majesties Customs do hereby promise a Reward of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS to any Person or Persons who shall apprehend and take, or cause to be apprehended and taken, the said Charles GEE to be paid by the Receiver General of his Majesties Customs upon his conviction.*

Some time during the following 10 years, Charles either died or was deemed to be dead, leaving Mary free to remarry. As Mary CULLEY she had one further child, Mary, who in 1825 married Roger CUBITT gent, "late of Wiveton Hall."

Roger, yeoman farmer, is found as a subscriber to worthy publications and as a contributor to a fund for the apprehension of Norfolk horse thieves. He is also surveyor of building work at Gimingham Workhouse so he retained an interest in his original metier and his step-son, Daniel GEE becomes "bricklayer employing three men" no doubt under his father-in-law's tutelage.

Roger was also able to buy his way out of being "pressed", as explained in the extract below which is taken from the autobiography of Elizabeth OAKLEY, Norfolk Record Society vol 56 Page115:

*"My Grandfather on the paternal side was a native of Witton in the county of Norfolk it is situated about 2 miles from the sea on the East coast, he was a labourer and his name was John GREEN.*

*About the year 1798 or 9 there was a great disturbance in Ireland and the King was in need of Soldiers and there was a gang of men sent out to press for men to go out as Soldiers and they pressed a well to do Farmer. His name was Roger CULLEY, this man did not want to leave his farm so he offered my Grandfather a sum of money to go in his stead, which he accepted. I do not remember the exact sum but it was several pounds and instead of leaving it to keep his wife and children, he gave my Grandmother a small sum and took the rest with him."*

Roger left his considerable wealth to his only child Mary CUBITT and to her children. There are also bequests for neighbours and an annuity and rent free use of her cottage for housekeeper, Ruth SWAN.

In 1895, one of Roger's grandchildren, another Mary, married Henry CULLEY, Yeoman of Dilham. This appears to be a coincidence as I have found no connection for several generations between Roger CULLEY and Henry CULLEY. However Henry's family also enjoyed a sudden rise to fortune in the late 18th century.

Henry CULLEY's great grandfather was Benjamin CULLEY. The first certain record of Ben is at the baptism of his children at Blofield from 1766 when, according to his age at death, he was 26. By 1776 he is the occupier of The Globe Inn at Blofield the remaining lease whereof he sells for £100 in that year. There appears to be no reference in Norfolk to his marriage or to the birth, marriage and death of a son William who (from Benjamin's 1814 will) predeceased his father.

There are several references to Ben being a surgeon. A possibility is a short naval career providing a sudden fortune from prize money, perhaps including the seizure of contraband but I have in mind too that the licensee of The Globe would be ideally placed, between Yarmouth and Norwich, to launder illicit spirits. His

eldest surviving son, John becomes, in order: a wine spirits and seed merchant, a valuer and auctioneer and a councillor and alderman of Norwich. An 1811 Norwich directory has him as "Liquor Merchant, St Andrew's Steps".

Another son, Major James CULLEY, fights in the Peninsular Campaign where he is wounded having been promoted from Captain (presumably a bought commission) and a further son, Robert CULLEY the grandfather of Henry, becomes a farmer of 200 odd acres, maltster and miller, at Witton by Blofield.

I do have a Benjamin who is only visible in the will of my 5x great uncle, Daniel CULLEY of Antingham. He is also a witness at their brother John CULLEY's marriage in 1759 at Suffield. Both John and Daniel were relatively small farmers.

Even if the Benjamins are one and the same, I am still no nearer understanding how Benjamin's family found the means to join the gentry.

Below, the relevant item from Daniel Culley's will dated 1822. No record of Ben's baptism has been found.

Below, the comparatively fluent signature of Ben as witness at brother John's marriage in 1759. A comparison with the signature on the sale of the lease is inconclusive.

| (The Year 1759)                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                             | Page (6) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| No. 10                                                                                                                                                                          | John Culley of the parish of Suffield                       |          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                 | single Man and Mary Hodge of the same parish daughter Woman | were     |
| Married in this Church by James Hines published his Abchurch Day of Sept <sup>r</sup> in the Year One Thousand seven Hundred and fifty nine by me Tho: Dayburn Min <sup>r</sup> |                                                             |          |
| This Marriage was solemnized between Us { John Culley Mary Hodge her mark                                                                                                       |                                                             |          |
| In the Presence of { Benjamin Culley John grand                                                                                                                                 |                                                             |          |

David Culley MN 14645

## Norfolk Record Society Publications

AMONG the Society's large collection of printed books are the volumes of the Norfolk Record Society. Founded in 1930, the Society has been producing an annual volume of great historical importance. Like many items in the Society's collection, unless members know what is available, they can so easily be overlooked. The subject matter of each volume is varied. Past volumes have included the Visitation Pedigrees, Musters, Court Depositions, Pedigrees, Indexes of wills, Freemen of Norwich, Congregational Registers, list of emigrants, and Hearth Tax Lists to name but a handful.

Basically these books fall into two categories. Firstly many of them are straightforward lists of individuals which are a vital source to the family historian to whatever walk of life families belong. Secondly, there are books of historical importance which contain a massive amount of social history often putting named individuals in their social context adding tremendously to a more complete knowledge of families being searched. These are often ignored by the family historian, but without them hidden clues may often lie undetected.

The Society is primarily concerned with it's annual publication, but its role over the years of acquiring documents for public preservation is probably unparalleled throughout the rest of the country. It is no secret that the largest collection of documents housed in the Norfolk Record Office came from the Norfolk Record Society and the Society's work is ongoing. The Society is currently interested in increasing its membership to those who are interested in preserving archives and willing to make some contribution to these ends. Membership of the Society, which is under the patronage of HRH the Duke of Gloucester, costs just £12 and this entitles each member to receive the current annual volume which in itself is worth at least £15, in addition to invitations to book launches, lectures and other social occasions.

If you feel you could make a contribution to the preservation of Norfolk's archive heritage then join the Society by writing to The Treasurer, Norfolk Record Society, 7 Church Farm, Colney, NR4 7TX enclosing a cheque for £12.



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## Family History Events Outside Norfolk

The following family history events may be of interest to our members

### **Suffolk Family History Society**

The Suffolk Family History Society will be holding a family history fair and its AGM on Saturday, October 11th from 10 am until 4 pm. There will be help with research, family history lectures and trade stands. Refreshments will be available and the event is being held at the Waterfront Building, University Campus Suffolk, IP4 1QJ. There is free parking opposite the venue and admission is free although there will be a small charge for non SFHS members attending talks.

More information is available at [www.suffolkfhs.co.uk](http://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk)

### **Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day**

St Firman's Church in Church Street, Thurlby will be holding a Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day from September 12th to 14th. The church dates back to 925 and will have the original registers dating back to the 16th Century on loan from Lincolnshire Archives. There will be over 800 photographs featuring village life since the late 1800s. There will also be a First World War theme. The venue will be open from 10 am until 5 pm on the Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m until 5 p.m on the Sunday. St Michael's Church, Langtoft (10 am until 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday) and St John's Church, Baston will also be open (10 am to 5 pm Friday and Saturday and 11 am until 5 pm on Sunday).

More information is available on the following web site: [www.lincsheritage.org](http://www.lincsheritage.org)

### **Cambridgeshire History Fair**

Cambridge Family History Society will be holding a family history fair at Girton Glebe Primary School, Girton, from 10 am on October 25th

More information is available at [www.cfhs.org.uk](http://www.cfhs.org.uk)

## Letter of Appreciation

Just a short note to let you know that I am deeply grateful for all the hard work which you all put in, transcribing and putting on line all the BMBs and monumental inscriptions. I am very appreciative, particularly as I live overseas and can rarely visit Kirby Hall. Long may you flourish. I would also like to say how much I enjoyed reading the June edition of Norfolk Ancestor. Thank you for taking the trouble to put together lots of interesting articles. I think your membership rates represent fantastic value for money.

**Evelyn O'Connor** MN14897

## Tragedy Comes to the Lloyd Family by Nigel Peacock

HAVING just read Peter Steward's Editor's Corner (June 2014 issue), I got to thinking about how we, especially through family history research, make new contacts from very diverse sources and how stories take hold of our imagination.

As well as being a member of the NFHS, I am involved in a local history group, the Tharston History Society, in South Norfolk. We have our own website and through this we were contacted by Jane whose 2x-great-grandparents, Robert and Matilda LLOYD, have memorials in St. Mary's Churchyard. Jane's connection to this family is through her grandmother, Rosa Matilda LLOYD, granddaughter of Robert and Matilda. A few days later a further e-mail arrived which contained the following:

*"... Basically, my Great Grandmother, Harriet LLOYD was killed by one of her sons in a dreadful accident, in April, 1906. I had two great uncles, both her sons. One, Robert E LLOYD (born 1895) shot his mother when he was 11 years old, accidentally with a shot gun and I have tracked down the inquest report in the paper. Apparently he wanted to shoot a pigeon on a roof and was told he was not to touch his father's gun. However, boys being what they are, he got the gun and it must have gone off accidentally, killing his mother Harriet LLOYD immediately. ..."*



With this potentially relating to Tharston I had to find out more! Initially I asked a few of the 'older' local residents if they had heard about this tragedy but none of them had. However, later Google searches gave several references to newspaper articles about the shooting. The tragedy was reported in many newspapers all over the British Isles.

The inquest was held on 17th April 1906 which concluded 'accidental death' but did chastise the father for leaving a gun loaded when not in use and for not being able to properly control his children. This was reported in The Eastern Daily Press on 18th April 1906.

At first no record beyond 1906 was found for Robert so we had no idea what happened to him after the shooting. Someone raised the issue that Robert's birth being in 1895 and with his parents' marriage being in 1900, it means that he may have been known as Robert E ALDRIDGE. Records were then found for the military career of a Robert Edward LLOYD ALDRIDGE whose date and place of birth was 26th December 1894 in Wacton, a village very close to Tharston. Everything in these records points to this being the correct person. There was also reference to his next of kin being Frederick and his residence as Halesworth.

When living at 9 Pritchard Road, Gilfach Goch, Glamorgan, Robert Edward LLOYD ALDRIDGE enlisted in the Welsh Regiment (Service No. 22782) on 17 Dec 1914. He served in WW1 being wounded twice (in the shoulder on 18 Aug 1915 and head on 6 May 1916) and was medically discharged in 15 Aug 1916. He later re-enlisted on 11 May 1921 in the Glamorgan Fortress R.E. (T.A.), (Service No. 2204352), and was promoted through Lance Corporal to Corporal to Sergeant, leaving the service on 30 Apr 1929 with a trade of painter. We now have people from a Glamorgan group trying to fill in the gap between 1906 and 1914.

Jane's e-mail also contained:

*"... The other son, my other Great Uncle, was Frederick Christopher LLOYD. He was killed in World War One, on 7th August 1918. He started off in the East Surrey regiment, Army No 38389, and when he was killed he was with the 11th Battalion the Royal Fusiliers, Army no 78817. He is buried at Beacon Cemetery, at Sully Laurette near Amiens, France. We visited this cemetery a couple of years ago and I felt proud to have been able to lay a small poppy wreath on his grave. I was probably the only person to do so since he was killed as I know of no other relatives of his. I wonder if his name is on the war memorial in Tharston? I have two photos of him, one in his army uniform and one of him driving a horse and cart in 1917, before he joined up, he would have been about 17 years old. ..."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a record for Frederick and for the Beacon Cemetery, Sully-Laurette where Frederick is buried. Below are the two pictures which are parts of postcard images of Frederick. The first is him in uniform. On the rear of the postcard are the words - to Miss R. LLOYD, Witton Rectory, Norwich - "Dear Rose, Just a line, this is my photograph. What do you think of it. Not very nice is it. Will write in a day or so. From Brother Fred xxx"

The second over the page is Frederick driving a cart when about 17 years old.

The name on the cart looks like Woods and from the military record saying he lived in Halesworth, maybe this was a local business. Kelly's Directory of 1900 gives a George WOODS having a butcher's business in Halesworth Market Place; is this who the cart belonged to and was Frederick working for a butcher? Contact has been made with the Halesworth and District Museum but no conclusion has yet been reached. Frederick Christopher LLOYD is not on the Roll of Honour in St. Mary's Church in Tharston but it is assumed that he should have been listed there. Some THS members have been looking into the Roll as part of the WW1 celebrations and have found he could or should have been included on it. The other place he might have been named is Halesworth, but does not appear to be there either.





The above is only part of the information we have collected on the LLOYD family and is concentrated on the two brothers, Robert and Frederick. The time from 1906 to 1918 must have been quite horrendous for the LLOYD family to deal with. It's stories like this that make family history interesting and brings people together to expand

the detail and understanding of the family and its life. It is hoped that more information on the lives of Robert LLOYD, his wife Matilda and other members of the LLOYD family will be found in time and if anyone can help please make contact.

**Nigel Peacock MN12938**

## **From Norfolk to Yorkshire' by Margaret Tadman**

BORN on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1797, Solomon SPOONER was baptised in Norwich that same day at the church of St. John Timberhill, the son of John SPOONER and his wife Mary, formerly named BOND.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 1819 Solomon married Maria SWANN at Fewston Parish Church, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, after the calling of banns. Maria had been baptised on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1792 (and perhaps born in 1791), also in Norwich but at the church of St. Augustine, the daughter of Robert SWAN and his wife Ann, formerly named PAULSON.

At marriage both were said to be of the parish of Fewston, he a "batchelor", she a "spinster", and both made their mark. The year before, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1818, Maria, a single woman living in Fewston, had a son baptised Henry SWANN, though he is not mentioned again and appears to have died.

So how and why did Solomon and Maria come to make the move from Norwich to a remote countryside parish in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and thence to the city of Leeds? In the June 2009 issue of The Yorkshire Family Historian, journal of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's Family History Section, Australian member Alan COCKSON wrote:

*Until the late 1790s East Anglia had been the premier centre of worsted cloth production. However, by 1800 the West Riding of Yorkshire had outpaced East Anglia in this industry. . . . The new-fangled mills were always crying out for more and more labour to service the spinning jennies and weaving looms.*

As noted in Pears' Cyclopaedia, 1927, "*worsted was a fabric made from long wools, or wools mixed with cotton or other fibrous material, first manufactured at, and deriving its name from, Worsted in Norfolk, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Norwich was, until the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the headquarters of this industry, but for more than 100 years (as of 1927) the worsted manufacturing centre has been Bradford*".

It seems likely, then, that Solomon and Maria moved north in search of work when he was around 20 years of age. A query to local historians brought a chorus of "West End" as the reason for the relocation. The hamlet of West End was, in the 1796 words of one native, Stephen HUDSON, 'in the township of Thruscross in the parish of Fewston in the Forest of Knaresborough in the county of York', standing on the River Washburn remote and obscure. How did the pair learn of the need for labour in the Washburn Valley: was it perhaps through word at the annual hiring fairs intended mainly for agricultural workers, or through landowners having property in both areas? There is no mention of Norfolk in papers held by West Yorkshire Archives. In his book "West End, A Sunken Village" (Smith Settle Ltd. 1992), Alastair Laurence writes:

*"As a result of all this new textile activity, the population of Thruscross soared to reach a peak of around 600 folk during the first three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, most of the water-powered industry in the valley was to have a lifespan of little more than 40 years. Competition from steam power, combined with the remoteness of the Washburn mills from the main commercial centres, caused them to die an early death, with very little local industrial activity taking place after 1840.*

*A large proportion of the local population vanished in search of work elsewhere, houses became uninhabited and derelict and West End, described as 'rather a wild part, and hard to get to', soon earned its reputation as the "Deserted Village".*

Alastair Laurence also conjectures that: "*a pre-existing pool of textile expertise may well have been called on when the mills opened in the 1790s; but by the second decade of the 1800s the mills' owners may have had to look further afield for their workers*".

Finally, in 1966, Thruscross Dam was constructed and West End sank below the waters of the Washburn, forming a reservoir serving Leeds and Bradford, to reappear briefly in the drought periods of 1989/90. We visited at this time and I was again led to wonder how strangers from Norfolk would have reached this remote spot, but on reflection think it probably seemed more remote to us than to them, travelling in the days before railways when travel was by coach, carriage, packhorse or shanks's pony and it was probably pretty much as difficult to reach one given place as it was to reach any other. In correspondence with J. F. Fone, a researcher interested in migration from Norfolk to Yorkshire in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, he wrote that:

*Conditions were very bad in Norfolk for weavers and he (Solomon) may have decided to move to Yorkshire which was still expanding. Assuming that he could not afford the boat fare to Hull, the normal way to go would be to walk, often timing the journey so that he ran out of money about harvest time so that he would be able to get work. Migrants from Norfolk traditionally settled in the worsted areas of Yorkshire as opposed to the woollen areas.*

Solomon and Maria had two daughters baptised whilst at Fewston, Marianne on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1821 and Eliza on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1822. Sadly the two little girls died less than two years later. Marianne was buried, as Mary Ann, on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1824, the day after the burial of her sister Eliza on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Their father Solomon was shown as a weaver and spinning master on these occasions. Five months earlier they had had a son, John, born on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1823, and four or five months after the burial of the baby girls the family moved to Leeds. Five sons were baptised at Leeds Parish Church: John on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1824; Thomas (my great-great-grandfather), born 17<sup>th</sup> February 1825 and baptised two years later on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1827; Henry baptised at one month in December 1826; William, in the month of his birth, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1828; and Solomon baptised 9<sup>th</sup> January 1831 at three weeks. Their father Solomon is shown as a weaver or linen weaver.

In the census of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1841 Solomon, employed in a flax mill, and Maria were living in the Holbeck area of Leeds, Solomon's age given as 45 (though actually 41) and Maria as aged 50.

The census showed that neither was born in Yorkshire. Son John was a blacksmith's lad, whilst Thomas and William were employed in a flax mill. Solomon, the youngest son, had died in Holbeck aged 8 in 1838, and Henry, who would have been 15, was also missing in 1841.

Eight years later, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1849, Maria died from apoplexia (9 days), aged 58, the wife of Solomon SPOONER, then a yarn maker-up. By the census of 30<sup>th</sup> March 1851, Solomon, now crucially shown to have been born in Norwich, Norfolk, was 53 years old, widowed and working as a bricklayer's labourer, living at 28 Canvass Street, where his wife had died 15 months earlier, with his son William, aged 22, a shoemaker, and still at home.

Mr. Fone wrote that: *"Leeds had its ups and downs at the commencement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and skilled hand loom weavers were not wanted after mechanisation. In 1841 Solomon was probably doing a very menial job in the flax mill and may very well have bettered himself in obtaining work as a 'brickie', which was much in demand at that time"*. Solomon died aged 59 on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1858, of asthma accelerated from excessive drinking, a labourer living in Holbeck. Information received from the Coroner for the Borough of Leeds noted that he had been found dead, and an inquest was held on the following day, 9<sup>th</sup> November 1858, at the Nelson Inn, Holbeck, reported in the *Leeds Intelligencer Supplement of Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 1858* as follows:

*The deceased, who resided at Holbeck, had been for some time suffering from asthma. On Monday, from an early hour until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he was drinking with his son William, who, at the latter hour, accompanied him home, the younger SPOONER, however, returning to the public-house. At 9 o'clock the deceased was found lying dead on the floor of the house, by his son John SPOONER. -*

Mr. Fone also wrote that *"Worsted weavers were reputed to celebrate with a holiday, St. Monday, every week"*

Back to Norfolk origins, I think that Soloman (as baptised in 1797) was probably the sixth child of John SPOONER and his wife Rebecca née BOND, earlier baptisms of their children being those of another Soloman in 1776, John 1784 (who married Elizabeth GRINT in 1801), Rebecca 1787, Mary Ann 1788/9 and Samuel 1795, the two Solomans at St. John Timberhill, the other four at St. Peter's Parmentergate.

However, our Solomon's mother was named (unclearly) as Mary, rather than Rebecca BOND, which raises some doubts. Maria was baptised at St. Augustine's and I think was the second child of Robert SWAN/N and his wife Ann née PAULSON (or PALLISON) who were married at St. Peter Mancroft on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1789. Six other children were baptised to them: Cornelius at St. Andrew's 1790, the others, at St. George Colegate, being Ruben 1794, Joseph 1796, Benjamin 1799, Sophia 1800 and Eliza 1804.

I would be interested to learn more of weavers in Norwich in the 1700s, and in hearing from anyone researching the families of SPOONER and SWANN, as well as BOND and PAULSON, in the hope of learning more about the earlier life of Solomon and Maria, my great-great-grandparents, and their predecessors. Solomon seems to be the given name in each generation with John frequently occurring, as does Eliza down the generations.

I believe that today the few SPOONERS in Leeds (where I was born) are most probably descendants of Solomon and Maria.

**Margaret Tadman** MN 14090 [margarettadman@btinternet.com](mailto:margarettadman@btinternet.com)

### **Extract from the Norwich Gazette of April 30th, 1709**

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| London - Last Good Friday four Old women were admitted pensioners at Merchant Taylors Hall, whose ages made four hundred and forty seven | years. One was one hundred and twenty five years old, the youngest one hundred and four years old. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*If you have any snippets of information from past newspapers and periodicals please send them to the Editor.*

## New Members and Members Interests to 3rd July 2014

Compiled by Jean Stangroom  
Membership Secretary  
email:membership@nfhs.co.uk



September is now upon us, how the time flies.

A couple of issues to tell you about, firstly, for those of you in the USA who haven't received a June issue of the Ancestor, all the "Norfolk Ancestors" were sent out with the correct addresses but several have been returned, this was down to the US postal service. I have emailed all the members whose "Norfolk Ancestor" have been returned. Those of you that have not yet received a copy, please would you be kind enough to read the

June issue on the website [www.norfolkfhs.org.uk](http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk). You must log in as a member first, go to "Members Login" at the top right hand corner, go to Membership drop down menu, click on Ancestor Magazine, where you will find back issues.

For those of you who have, or are likely to, move house please go on line to update your details, this automatically sends me an email, I can then update our mailing database.

Regarding Members Interests, could I remind you that when you fill in your interests online could you please keep to surnames only. If you enter Joe Bloggs, Joe will be removed, only BLOGGS will be entered when published in the Journal. Only one surname should be entered per box please, I can accept variations i.e. WAT(T)SON but not WATSON, WATTSON, WATTSONE etc.

When contacting the Society by email, letter or telephone, would you please quote your membership number as it will make enquiries easier to deal with as we have a large database with nearly 4000 members and your membership number will enable us to reply to the correct member.

***Annual General Meeting Notice***  
***The 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***  
*of the*  
***NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY***  
*will be held on*  
***Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 12.00 noon***  
*at*  
***Kirby Hall,***  
***70 St Giles Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1LS***

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

**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. **Please keep articles to 3 pages maximum - 1200 words approx.** Electronic versions are most helpful. Do remember to include your **Membership Number** with all submissions.

All material from **regular contributors** for inclusion in the **December 2014** issue should be sent to the Editor at Kirby Hall **NO LATER** than **7 October 2014**. Our thanks in advance to all those who submit material for publication.

### Notes and Queries

Notes and 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. **MEMBERSHIP NUMBER and email address should be included.**

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

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

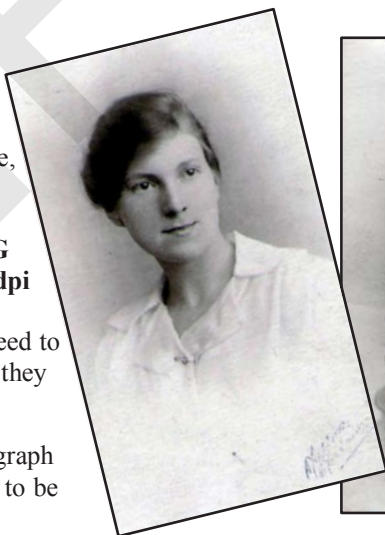
or by email to:

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

### Photographs

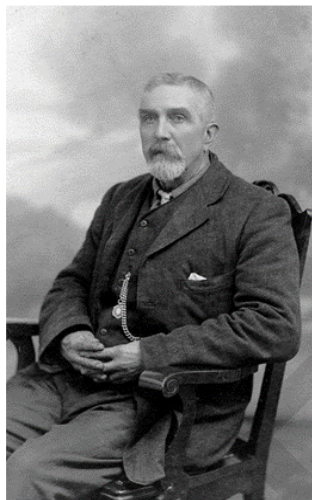
Photographs are always welcome, they liven up the layout. Preferably send in your photographs by email as a **JPEG** attachment (**Please scan at 300dpi if possible**). Photocopies do not always reproduce well as they need to be scanned into a computer and they lose clarity in the process.

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



## Leaving Norfolk by David Culley

MY wife's grandmother was a RIX. Annie Eliza RIX was born in Kilnhurst near Rotherham. She told how her grandfather, George RIX, had come to nearby Swinton in the spring of 1871 pushing a handcart from West Lexham in Norfolk. With him were four of his children whose ages were fifteen, twelve, five and three. His wife, Fanny, was five months pregnant with their last child. His eldest son Robert aged 22 was already in Swinton staying at the home of his great uncle who had migrated from Norfolk 20 years earlier. No doubt Robert had arranged for his family's reception in Swinton.



George Rix. 1825 - 1912  
Photo via Jean Burland also held by John (Robert) Rix.

There had been other children. Four of them died in 1864 of diphtheria and another two in the years before they departed. Like many labouring families in East Anglia at this time they had fallen on hard times though they were descended, through younger sons, from significant yeoman stock in West Norfolk. Three of George's cousins had migrated to South Yorkshire in search of secure work and two brothers joined the army.

The child Fanny was pregnant with was Eliza, born August 1871 in Swinton. When she was 15, Eliza eloped with 26 year old William HANBY. They went to Brockway, Michigan in the USA where George's brothers Robert and James were farming. There Eliza and William married in late 1887, returning to Swinton in January 1888 whereupon William abandoned his new wife. Here are the two letters they sent home to Eliza's parents, George and Fanny RIX.

Letter 1. Written by William at Eliza's dictation.

*Queenstown, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1887.*

*Dear Father and Mother,*

*You will no doubt have been greatly troubled about me going away in the manner in which I have done, but I ask of you both to forgive me. I am on my road to America, in the ship Pennsylvania. I asked my father the other week about going, and he would not hear of it, and I knew that if William went, and he would take me, that I should go with him. Dear mother, if you should never see either of us again, tell us in your first letter that you forgive us both. Dear mother my sister Elizabeth little thought that when she hoped I should not come back, that she would get her wish. Dear mother, as soon as you receive this letter, write to my uncle and brothers, and tell them that we are coming, as they will get your letter before we get there. Also send me a letter; I should like to hear from home once again. Tell*

William's mother, my Uncle's address, so that they can send him a letter. Give my very best love to my sister, also to my father: accept the same yourself, from your ever loving daughter, Eliza Rix. Written in haste, no time to write, more next time.

Annie Eliza Rix. 1887 – 1965



## Letter 2. Written by William.

Michigan November 25, 1887.

Dear Father and Mother,

Just a few lines, hoping to find you quite well as it leaves us at present. In reply to your letter, we both arrived at Michigan quite safe, and hope you will not bother yourself about us. At present we are both quite comfortable, and I am pleased to inform you that we got married on Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>. at my uncle's house and had quite a jolly party there. Robert had not the pleasure of being at the wedding, as he left here on Wednesday morning and went to the woods. We shall not perhaps see him any more at Michigan, as we should not think of staying at a place like this. You must not leave Swinton to come to America as you will be greatly disappointed if you do. You cannot imagine what kind of place it is - quite a change from Swinton. My aunt and Uncle wish to be kindly remembered to you, and they are both quite well. When you write you can address the letter to William Kanby at Mr. Robert Rix senior. Michigan. You know the proper address. Will you kindly say in your letter whether your son Robert's wife has got the last lot of money he sent on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. or not as we have not heard from her yet. Robert is quite well. You must excuse the letter. We will write you a longer letter next time as we are just going out for a drive, me and Eliza.

The courts awarded Eliza five shillings a week maintenance, but divorce under the 1857 Act was not an option. Luckily for Eliza, William came to an unfortunate end.

### The Blackburn Standard and Weekly Express of Saturday April 1st, 1893

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>On the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Darton Station near Barnsley, on Saturday night, a signalman named William Hanby, aged about twenty four years, was seen to leave his cabin, and was in the act of crossing the line to attend to a goods train which was standing on the up line when a passenger train came up and</i> | <i>knocked him down. His body was fearfully mangled, the head and one of the legs being severed. Death was instantaneous. Mr Taylor, the coroner, was a passenger by the same train. Hearing of the fatality he alighted, and an hour later held the inquest, which resulted in a verdict of "Accidental death" being returned.</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The article above appeared in The Blackburn Standard and Weekly Express of Saturday April 1st, 1893, thus freeing Eliza to marry again. His age is underestimated by some eight years.

The following article appeared in the Yale Expositor on April 23rd, 1897:

### **Yale Expositor on April 23rd, 1897**

*Robert RIX, living one mile north and one mile west of Yale in his comfortable home on the banks of Mill Creek, is one of the oldest pioneers of Brockway township. One year more, if he lives, will make it just half a century since he first struck the trail that led to his present quarters, which was then a dense wilderness, and neighbours few and far between. Robert is a thoroughbred Englishman, and in his life was a "bold sojer boy", having enlisted in the English Army when but a boy, and served his country and his Queen faithfully for nine years, being stationed near Tynemouth Castle, England, then at Gibraltar, and later at various military stations in the West Indies, until his regiment was ordered to New Brunswick where he remained for some time.*

*The station at New Brunswick where his regiment was located was only separated from Uncle Sam's domain by a very narrow stream over which there was a bridge that could be crossed by a hop, skip and jump. At this time Rob had been negotiating for the purchase of his discharge from the*

*army, the price being fixed and the money on hand, when the Colonel who was a very capricious man, in a very insolent manner refused to sanction the discharge although agreed upon, which naturally stirred up Rob's English blood to such a heat that he took the matter, and the money furnished by his friends, into his own hands, and one fine day went skipping over the border, singing gaily, "Good bye, my lover, good bye," and from thenceforth Robert has been a faithful subject of Uncle Sam, and has as faithfully followed the fortunes of the Republican party since its birth under the oaks over at Jackson.*

*Robert during his sojourn in the township, besides the valuable farm which he owns, has gathered together enough of this world's goods to make his life comfortable should he live to be a hundred years old. His wife still lives and has by her energy, thirst and good management been quite a help in securing the competency which they now enjoy.*

*The Expositor wishes our old friend may live long .and be happy."*

Robert RIX, born West Lexham 1812, staked all on successful desertion from his regiment. The gamble paid off. He was able to return his RIX family in The New World to the days of the prosperous Norfolk Yeoman.

His regiment was probably the 54th (West Norfolk) Regiment of Foot, which was stationed at Gibraltar, the West Indies and Canada between 1845 and 1854.

**David Culley MN14645**

## Antipodean Ancestors and a Curry by Peter Steward

LIFE and genealogy can throw up some strange twists, turns and co-incidences as I found out this year.

The list of pedigrees in this edition of the Ancestor includes the BACK Family. The BACKS are one of the best known and remembered families in Hethersett – landowners, property owners, and general benefactors of the village for hundreds of years. There is a road named after them (BACK Lane) and a room in the village hall (The Humphrey BACK) room.

I was minding my own business sitting at my computer one day earlier this year when I received an email from a family in Canberra, Australia, informing me that they would be travelling to the UK later in the month and would like to see Hethersett Hall, which was owned by one of their descendants, long before it became a residential care home.

Always one to sniff out a story for my village web site and the local Media, I offered to fix up a tour of the hall and get as much information from the village archives as I could. The BACK family have a fascinating history in themselves, but one far too long to go into in the limited space available here.

To cut a long story short, the BACK family from Canberra were given a guided tour of the home, along with brochures, books and historical details. They were also able to view a number of BACK family graves in the local churchyard.

That evening, having wished our Antipodean friends bon voyage on their way to their next stop in Ireland, I had a read through the brochure outlining the history of the hall and to my amazement found that the last owner before it became a residential home was one Sir William Arthur STEWARD who lived from 1901 until 1987 and was a Conservative MP for Woolwich West from 1950 until 1959. He was educated in Norwich and during the Second World War was a Squadron Leader in the RAF, serving as a senior catering officer.

In 1930 he took over the running of the Veeraswamy Indian restaurant in Regent Street, London, and was married to a singer of the day, Greta GAYE. The restaurant was a great success throughout the 1940s and 1950s and the first ever curry in a can was introduced under the Veeraswamy Food Products brand in the early 1950s. Sir William sold the restaurant in 1967, although the food products business continued to be owned by the couple until his death. The restaurant continues to trade.

I have been unable to trace thus far whether I am related to Sir William but it is interesting to note that his father, who was head gardener in Norwich Cathedral Close was named Arthur William STEWARD. My own father was also Arthur William and my grandfather was just plain Arthur. Too many co-incidences you might think but I'm still trying to find that elusive connection. I would welcome any information that anyone has on Sir William.

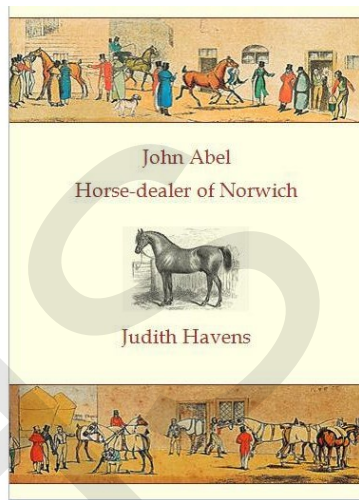
**Peter Steward MN 14801**

## Bookshelf - Reviews and News

**John Abel Horse-dealer of Norwich** by Judith Havens. A5 74pp Paperback 2014 Price £8

John "Jack" ABEL 1803-1883 was well-known in Norwich and further afield. He has a striking horse monument on his grave in Earlham Cemetery. This book reveals details of his fascinating life as publican, horse-dealer and breeder, farmer and money-lender. Using numerous maps, pictures and copies of documents, the author pinpoints many of the buildings and sites, long since vanished, with which he was associated.

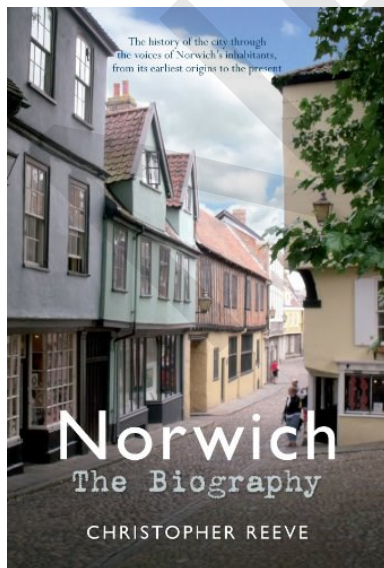
Much of the research was carried out in the NFHS Kirby Hall Library using a box of papers, purchased at auction, which reveal a great deal about the financial affairs of John ABEL and his family. An interesting and enjoyable biography of a colourful character whose story had faded into obscurity.



Reviewed by **Edmund Perry** MN 3181

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**NORWICH The Biography** by Christopher Reeve A5 198 x 124mm 253 pages 45 illustrations. Paperback 2014 Amberley. Price £12.99.



This small book combines the history of the great city of Norwich with personal details concerning the lives and labours, lamentations and loves, of both rich and poor, the great and the ungodly, throughout the past 1,000 years. Drawing on information derived from documents, tomb inscriptions, parish records, diaries and newspapers, the author conjures up a vivid panorama of life revealed through the voices of Norwich's past inhabitants.

Unfortunately some of the pictures in the middle section are too small to do them justice and the lack of street maps is a significant omission. Nevertheless, a very readable biography of the city and its people.

Reviewed by **Edmund Perry** MN 3181

## Bookshelf - Reviews and News continued

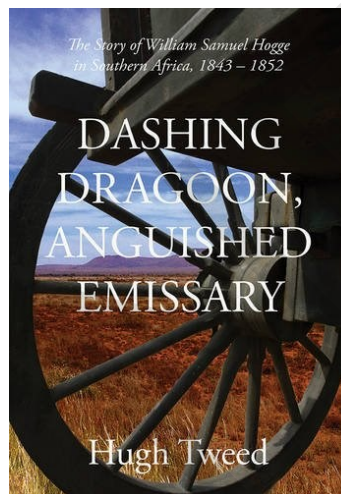
**From The Trade Bike To The World Wide Web: A History of the Shops and Trades of Gorleston-on-Sea** by Gorleston-on-Sea.Heritage Group.  
Paperback, A5, 192 pages.

A collection of articles on the theme of shops and trades covering the rich history of particular premises and reflecting memories of working lives and activities. It covers most of the main streets and the Sea Front but is only a cross-section of the many shopkeepers and businessmen who have made Gorleston a thriving commercial centre.

Very much a local history book, from the nineteenth century to the present day, providing potted biographies of numerous individuals and families with interesting facts and funny anecdotes. It is well illustrated but would have benefitted from less 'white space' and larger photographs of the people and places. Nevertheless, a fine effort from the Gorleston-on-Sea Heritage Group and a must buy for anyone either from the town or interested in its businesses and people.

Reviewed by **Edmund Perry MN3181**

**In the June edition of Norfolk Ancestor, we carried an article by Hugh TWEED on his search for William HOGGE. Hugh's book "Dashing Dragoon, Anguished Emissary" is available, priced at £14.99 (p&p extra)**



It tells the story of a former cavalry officer from Bedfordshire sent to southern Africa in the mid 19th century to try to bring about order in the troubled lands outside the boundaries of Cape Colony. William Samuel HOGGE's crowning achievements, the signing of the "Sand River Convention" with Boer leaders at the beginning of 1852, and accords with Moshoeshe I, paramount leader of the Basuto people, brought peace, for a time, to this part of the African continent. The drama is made more poignant by HOGGE's early death in the furtherance of his duties. This story, much of which is told by HOGGE himself through letters to his adored wife, is about great personal sacrifice and will appeal to anyone interested in one man's struggle against adversity as well as to students and followers of Victorian era

politics and military history, both in the UK and South Africa.

Any profits from the sale of the book will be donated to a UK based charity whose mission is to help vulnerable children in Lesoto to get the support they need to lead healthy and productive lives.

The book can be ordered via the internet at:-

[www.troubador.co.uk/book\\_info.asp?bookid=2358](http://www.troubador.co.uk/book_info.asp?bookid=2358)

## Notes and Queries

This section is designed for members looking for help in tracing family, those researching specific names, those who need genealogy help and also for any comments on Norfolk Ancestor and its content. Please supply your membership number and contact details so that others can contact you.

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### Norwich High School Book Offer

Whilst I have no connection with Norfolk, I have in my possession a book entitled "Norwich High School - 1875 - 1959." Inside, the inscription is 'C.M. Temple 1951 - Scholar. 1919 - 1952'. If anyone is interested, I am happy to forward it. It was printed by The Goose Press, 44 Bethel St. Norwich.

If interested please contact the Editor with your full name and address.

**Doreen Knights** Kent

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### Keen to Meet Up

I will be visiting Norfolk in October / November this year on a research project about my family surname - CULLING. I would like to meet anyone with this surname with a view to exchanging information and stories. My connection is to several gamekeepers in the area and my research is focussing on this group.

**Diane Foster (nee Culling)** MN12731 [geniegirl1010@gmail.com](mailto:geniegirl1010@gmail.com)

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Extract from the Eastern Daily Press. 1st January, 1876

#### Man Killed By A Mouse

A most extraordinary occurrence has been brought to light at an inquest held on the body of a man in South London. From the evidence it appears that in a workroom where many young girls were at work, a mouse suddenly made its appearance on a table, causing of course, considerable commotion and a general stampede. The intruder was seized, however, by a young man who happened to be present, but the mouse slipped out of his hand, and running up his sleeve, came out between his waistcoat and shirt at the neck. The unfortunate man had his mouth open, and the mouse, on the look out for some convenient place of concealment, darted thither, and in his

fright and surprise, the man actually swallowed it. That a mouse can exist for a considerable time without much air has long been a popular belief and was unfortunately proved to be a fact in the present instance, for the mouse began to tear and gnaw inside the man's throat and chest, and the result was that the unfortunate fellow died after a little time in the most horrible agony. Several witnesses have corroborated the above facts, and medical evidence having been given as to the cause of death, a verdict of accidental death was returned. The mouse has been preserved in spirits of wine, and has been placed in the museum of the London Hospital.

## World War One Centenary Projects

BY now most people will be aware of the numerous internet sites which allow access to WWI Records particularly [www.genesreunited.co.uk/articles/world](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/articles/world); [www.ancestry.co.uk/WWI](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/WWI); [www.forces-war-records.co.uk](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk); [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); and [www.genesreunited.co.uk/articles/world](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/articles/world); etc. There are also numerous Centenary Projects listed at [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org).

The National Archives (TNA) hold the official records of all the British armed forces for WWI - available at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war) which has details about the Imperial War Museum's (IWM) [www.operationwardiary.org](http://www.operationwardiary.org) digitisation and indexing project. Unit Diaries describe the day-to-day activities of each battalion, battery or division and contain thousands of names mainly of officers. So far only Western front units are going online in batches of 100 depending on the number of volunteers doing the indexing.

Other places like Gallipoli will be added if and when funds permit. It costs £3.36 per unit war diary download as a PDF file to browse but none are searchable. The Conscription Appeals project covers 11,307 cases from Middlesex Tribunal Records and a sample of records from the Central Tribunal held in TNA.

Unfortunately the case papers for most tribunals were destroyed at the end of the war.

The IWM is also launching [www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org](http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org) to create a permanent digital memorial to the 8 million men and women from Britain and the Commonwealth who served in WWI. If you register you will be able to upload your own records onto the site. IWM's War Memorials Archive at [www.ukniwm.org.uk](http://www.ukniwm.org.uk) includes 65,000 profiles but there are more to list.

The War Memorials Trust has uploaded 14,000 records at [www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk) and with the support of English Heritage is running a Conservation Team to identify and preserve these memorials.

The British Library at [www.bl.uk/world-war-one](http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one) includes fifty newly commissioned articles by historians on various aspects of WWI and it heads the UK contribution with 10,000 items added to [www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu) which brings together 400,000 rare documents and 660 hours of film from major European Libraries.

[details from Family Tree Magazine March 2014]

**Edmund Perry MN 3181**

**From the Framlingham Weekly News of 28th September, 1861**

Early closing - Shops will shut at 7 o'clock for the season

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Website:

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*Charles W. Farrow, FInstLEx  
9, Drayton Hall Lane,  
Scarning, Dereham NR19 2PY  
Phone: (01362) 699398*

e-mail: [charlesfarrowresearch@btinternet.com](mailto:charlesfarrowresearch@btinternet.com)

## Group Reports

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

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

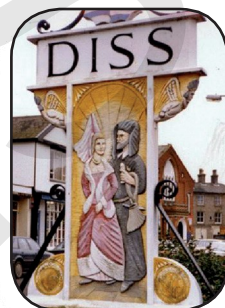
**Norwich:** Mr and Mrs Roger Peck, c/o Kirby Hall

**London:** Miss Mary Seeley, Flat 3, Butterfield House, 7 Allen Road, London N16 8SB

Email: [mary975@btinternet.com](mailto:mary975@btinternet.com) (home) and [ms28@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ms28@soas.ac.uk) (work).

### South Norfolk Group by Jenny Jenkins

The Diss branch of the Norfolk Family History Society visited The Royal Hospital Chelsea in April 2013. Our guide was Brian Cummings MBE KStG. Now in his eighties, he had been a Sergeant Major with The Royal Corps of Signals and it was a fascinating tour. Brian, apart from his knowledge of Chelsea and its history, is possessed with a ready wit and sense of humour which made the visit so enjoyable. We invited him to speak at one of our meetings and were delighted to welcome him at Diss Methodist Hall on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April.



Wearing his scarlet and navy uniform, an updated version of the one designed by The Duke of Marlborough in the 1700s, Brian began his talk with slides of the magnificent building which stands in 66 acres of land adjoining the Thames Embankment and now houses over 320 in-pensioners as they are known, including six females, the first of whom being admitted in 2009. The Royal Hospital was founded by Charles II in 1682 after it became apparent that many of the soldiers who had fought in the Civil War were now aging, frail and in desperate need of care and support within a safe refuge. Something had to be done and Charles, a king whom history remembers rather unkindly as more notable for his hedonistic lifestyle rather than any philanthropic inclinations, took note. He was inspired by Les Invalides, which had been established in Paris in 1670 to provide for French veterans, and wanted to create something similar. He took action and commissioned Christopher Wren to design and build it and thus the Royal Hospital was born.

Eligibility for admission is dependent upon the applicant being 65 years of age or more, unencumbered by any dependents and in reasonable health. He must be in receipt of an army pension and any officer who wishes to be admitted must have served in the ranks for 12 years. The applicant will be invited to attend an interview in the presence of the Matron, Padre and the Adjutant and, if successful will be invited to The Royal Hospital for a four day trial and then, if both sides are satisfied, he will be put on a waiting list, which is not generally very long.

Veterans choose to enter the Royal Hospital for a variety of reasons, but it is often loneliness which is the main reason. Here they will discover a community of comradeship and camaraderie where they can enjoy the rest of their lives, continue their hobbies wherever possible or take up new ones. If gardening is their interest then they can have an allotment. Although they surrender their Army Pension, all other income is retained so they have financial freedom as well as personal security.



There is an extensive choice of food on the menu which Brian says is superb. Meals are taken in the impressive Great Hall, lined with portraits and panels inscribed with the details of past campaigns and battles. A total of 250 people can be seated at one time and it was here that The Duke of Wellington's body lay in state after his death in 1852. The Royal Hospital is a place to live one's life as fully as possible and if, and when, illness strikes or just old age renders a pensioner unable to continue with daily life, the care in the infirmary is first class. Brian could not speak too highly about the dedication of all the medical staff and the facilities which include a hydrotherapy pool, a gym and a dementia wing.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the accommodation comprised of back to back corridors known as long wards, each corridor having a row of wooden berths measuring 6ft. square. In later years the berths were enlarged to 9 ft. square but toilets and showers were still shared until recently. Now a radical programme of refurbishment is almost complete and each berth has been extended to include an en suite shower and toilet and study plus an outside facing window.

On arrival two uniforms are issued, one being the scarlet worn on formal occasions and visits, the other the blue, for everyday and local excursions, plus three hats, a tricorne, a barrack hat and a shako. Also the new pensioner will be placed in one of the four companies of the Royal Hospital each headed by an ex-officer responsible for the welfare etc. of the Pensioners in his charge. However, as there is no ranking, they are in a socially level environment although medal ribbons are worn when in uniform with the insignia of the rank they reached in their military service. Many of the senior management also live on site so there is always support.

As Brian said, London with all it has to offer is on their doorstep but they may visit any country they desire, there are no restrictions providing they notify the Royal Hospital and it goes without saying that a high code of behaviour is expected

wherever they are. The iconic Royal Hospital is known across the world and there is no shortage of invitations arriving from far and wide. Theatres and sports clubs regularly donate tickets and they have an affiliation with Chelsea Football Club. The Ritz Hotel upholds a tradition of inviting four Pensioners to tea once a month and of course one can always spot the scarlet coats, brilliant among the crowds at The Chelsea Flower Show.

The major event of the year is Founder's Day held at the beginning of June to celebrate the birthday of Charles II and all must be on parade unless too ill. Family and friends are invited to join the celebrations. The gilded statue of Charles, dressed in Roman uniform in the courtyard is decorated with oak leaves to celebrate his escape when heir to the throne by hiding in an oak tree after being beaten in battle. The statue is interesting in that Charles is depicted in Roman dress, the reason being that he had heard that the King of France had done this and wanted the same. A member of the Royal Family is always present to inspect the men and women and take their salute as the four companies march past, resplendent in full scarlet and navy uniform with medals and the addition of a buttonhole of oak leaves. Those who are not mobile join their companies in wheelchairs or mobility scooters and are affectionately referred to as Cadagon's Light Horse. Afterwards there is a party for all with entertainment. Apparently a troupe of belly dancers have been part of the show for quite a number of years and, according to Brian, using the modern vernacular with his usual twinkle in the eye, "They are well fit"!

The Royal Hospital is funded by Central Government but they also need to fund-raise and to that end the grounds and some of the premises are hired out for weddings, banquets and other functions, including the Great Hall and Wren's chapel, which is also the parish church.

At the end of Brian's talk he received much applause. We then held a collection for the Royal Hospital and had a group photo taken with him.

A lot more about The Royal Hospital Chelsea can be discovered on their web site and a visit is well worth it.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May the Diss branch was delighted to welcome Mike Wabe in his recent incarnation as The Town Crier of Thetford. Mike, attired in one of his three official liveries, complete with tricorne hat and hand bell, spoke on the history and origins of the Town Crier or bellman as they were sometimes known, through the ages from ancient Greece when news was relayed by the Spartan runners until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the need for them gradually died out. Not a lot is known about them prior to the Norman conquest but they are depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry. In 1087 William decreed that each town should appoint a Town Crier to broadcast his new laws to a



largely illiterate populace and not only that but to warn of impending danger and the more mundane happenings of interest.

During the medieval period as trade increased, tradesmen formed guilds and inspectors were appointed to uphold controls such as the price charged for a loaf of bread and it was paramount that the rules were broadcast to the population so the Crier fulfilled the function of an oral newspaper, imparting news of royal events, executions, whippings, taxations, wars, notifications of markets and, much later in Victorian times, obituaries, advertisements and even errant wives.

Thus the Town Crier became a familiar figure on the streets with his bell and cry of “Oyez Oyez Oyez,” derived from the Norman French which means “Hear ye” and as a representative of the Crown an assault on a crier was considered an act of treason. By Tudor times because of the risk of fire and its subsequent rapid escalation among the close built wooden houses, night watchmen, or bellman were appointed to raise the alarm should fire break out.

Samuel Pepys writes in his diary in 1660 of staying up until he heard the Bellman’s cry of ‘all’s well’

Town Criers were people of standing in the community, usually men but surprisingly there were some women Criers and occasionally a husband and wife performed the role together, she ringing the hand bell and the husband doing the shouting. It was not unusual for the role to be passed from father to son. Of course it goes without saying that Criers should also be literate to enable them to read the proclamations at a place where people gathered, often at the door of an inn. Following the reading, the proclamation would be nailed to the door post, hence the origin of the term ‘posting a notice’ and incredibly nail holes can still be seen at the Bell Hotel in Thetford.

Although we always think of the Town Crier using a bell it was not mandatory and it is known that a few used a horn or a drum and the custom was not confined to this country and was adopted by many of the colonies.

Sadly very few records remain to give us a deeper knowledge of the Town Crier but many cities and towns are reviving the tradition and they are often requested for private functions and to promote their town in national and international competitions. As always, Mike had some very amusing anecdotes to relate and concluded the talk with an energetic and rousing demonstration of his skills. He has also commenced a new business doing Mystery and Murder events and we wish him all success with it.

## **TEENAGE VALOUR**

The Victoria Cross was introduced by Queen Victoria in 1856 to honour acts of valour during the Crimean War.

It is the highest military decoration awarded for valour ‘in the face of the enemy’ and may be awarded to a person of any rank in any service and to civilians under

military command and is usually presented to the recipient or their next of kin by the reigning monarch at Buckingham Palace.

Nine of the recipients were under the age of twenty at the time of the award (two were only fifteen years and three months old) and it appeared that no in depth study had ever been made in respect of these young heroes. Edith Morley decided to remedy this omission and, using various sources including the BMD, National Archives online, Regimental records and The Victoria Cross Association she has produced a comprehensive document entitled 'Teenage Valour – The Nine Youngest Recipients of The VC' and this was the topic of her talk at the Diss group meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

VCs came from all classes. Some lost their lives, some went on to live a quiet respectable existence, some were forgotten, some went on to fight in other campaigns and one ended his life in the workhouse. It was a well attended meeting followed by a lively discussion among the members and Edith was loudly applauded.

### **London Group Coming Date**

Simon Fowler will be giving a talk, provisionally entitled "How to Research the Norfolk Men and Women who Served in the First World War" at our next meeting at the Society of Genealogists on 18th October.

The London Group meets approximately every six months at 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA



### **Norwich Group Reports by Roy Scott and Denagh Hacon**

Frances and Michael Holmes gave a talk to the Norwich Group at Kirby Hall on 9th May with their subject being "Norwich Markets".

On previous occasions, this popular couple have given talks to the Norwich Group on the brewing industry and the boot and shoe trade. They made a welcome return to Kirby Hall to entertain and instruct the well attended meeting about the history and development of Norwich Market.

Frances and Michael are members of Norwich Heritage Projects, a self funding voluntary organisation, whose aim is to bring to life Norwich's rich heritage. The small group of enthusiasts combined to produce the book "A Market for Our Times" on which this talk was based.

We enjoyed the very professional presentation which included contemporary

drawings, paintings, maps and photographs telling the story of Norwich Provision Market, which despite all the odds, trades today on the same site it occupied in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

Norwich Castle overlooked the market place just as it does today, laid out in an area called “Mancroft” or “Magna Crofta” meaning big field. During medieval times the market established itself into a shape recognisable today, with all trades represented in different areas. Some of the smaller traders didn't have stalls, instead selling items from baskets or peds, which gave its name to Pudding Lane, which runs by St Peter Mancroft Churchyard.

The market place became so crowded that some subsidiary markets developed nearby and can be recognised by some of the street names - Maddermarket, Timber Hill, Hog Hill (now Orford Hill) and Rampant Horse Street named after an Inn which once stood near the horse market.

Civic government had outgrown the Market Toll House after the City was granted its Charter in 1404 and the Guildhall was built as a new commercial and administrative centre. Shops and businesses thrived in the buildings around the periphery of the market, many becoming Hotels, Inns and Taverns. In 1884 no fewer than 33 public houses could be named in the immediate vicinity. One building still in use today, with an address of 36 Market Place, started its life as a butcher's shop, before becoming The Baron of Beef public house. In 1874 its name was changed to the Sir Garnet Wolseley after the British Army Field Marshall. It still sells beer today under the name of the Garnet, but, together with the Walnut Tree Shades in Old Post Office Court, is perhaps the only survivor.

Traditionally stalls were cleared away at the end of trading and on Sundays the area was used by public speakers. It was the focal point of many political rallies and demonstrations of all kinds. During the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, soldiers often paraded there, and poignantly in 1927 the War Memorial was unveiled in front of the Guildhall.

After the demolition of many of the buildings at the top of the market place, to make room for the new City Hall, a memorial garden was built opposite and the war memorial was repositioned. This led to a major redevelopment of the market in 1938, when, for the first time, permanent stalls were provided with colourful striped, canvas roofs.

Further renovation took place in 1976 when lock-up stalls were introduced with services to meet the needs of new hygiene regulations. But it was not until the 2005 revamp that stalls were introduced to take account of the significantly sloping site on which the market has thrived for nearly 950 years.

**Roy Scott MN 475**

### **June Meeting**

Pete Goodrum gave another excellent talk to the Norwich group in June. Following his talk on “Norwich in the 1950s”, he returned to talk about the city in the 1960s.

Although there were huge changes in the 1950s, Norwich changed still further during the 1960s. Roads were widened to cope with increased traffic and a new flyover was built over Magdalen Street, while London Street became pedestrian only. The cattle market moved out of the city centre, and bigger buildings changed its skyline. The city gained a university and a new library, as well as County Hall and HM Stationery Office. The Haymarket Cinema disappeared, replaced by Peter Robinson's store. The old St. Stephen's, Stump Cross and parts of Magdalen Street also disappeared.

It was a time of great change when the young came into their own. Norwich was visited by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix, inspiring some top local talent, and the first students arrived at the ultra-modern University of East Anglia. Pete again took us back down memory lane and there was much reminiscence as he showed us some great photographs including some by the late George Plunkett, whose pictures are a window on a lost world.

**Denagh Hacon MN 2671**

### **July Meeting**

Mousehold Heath Walk led by Ranger William Stewart

It has become a tradition for the July meeting to be an outside event. A warm, fine evening enabled the Norwich Group to enjoy a guided walk across Mousehold Heath, a remnant of a once larger tract of open heath land formed on Ice Age sand and gravel. The heath, a valued resource for the people of Norwich, which once stretched as far as South Walsham, was maintained by the grazing of sheep and rabbits, gathering of firewood, and quarrying. Cartloads of sand, gravel, lime and flint have been removed for building the City and vast quantities of brick earth was quarried and fired during the 19th and 20th centuries to produce the distinctive "Norwich Red" bricks seen in many of the City's buildings.

Enclosure Acts, agriculture and development reduced the vast acreage to just under the 200 acres of heath land which remains today. The ownership of Mousehold passed from the Norwich Dean and Chapter to Norwich Corporation and was declared an outdoor leisure space for the citizens of Norwich in 1886.

Members assembled at the Car Park near the Fountain Ground Pavilion, now Zak's restaurant and proceeded along Birch Walk passing many deep brick pits, now wooded over. We skirted the ancient Lazaar House, built almost entirely from materials sourced from Mousehold and Gilman Road Lime Kiln which continued production until 1968. We stopped at the Vinegar Pond, so called because of the acidity of the water. Quarrying at this site ceased after 1880, but the hummocky ground nearby is the result of dumping bomb site rubble and soil, also tank manoeuvres during the Second World War, which left the wet hollow, fed by rainwater, to form the pond.

Today, Mousehold appears to be more woodland than the heath I remember in the 1940s and the Ranger confirmed that most of the trees are less than 60 years old. As our walk resumed we passed areas which are being cleared of trees and

bracken in an attempt to revert back to heath land. Eventually we arrived at the site of St William's Chapel near the junction of Gurney Road and Mousehold Lane. A Chapel dedicated in honour of William of Norwich, a child, said to have been killed by the Jews in 1137. Organised visits to this site, led by a Mousehold Ranger, are planned for the Heritage Open Days from 11th-14th September this



year. We made our way back to the pavilion, by following the route of a 1st World War light railway, used to transport ammunition from the factories at Salhouse Road to link with the Norwich Tramway at the Fountain, then on to Norwich Thorpe railway station, which gave access to the main rail network.

Trams ran from Norwich Railway Station to Mousehold Fountain, Sports Ground, Pavilion and

Bandstand, during the summer months until 1935. If you would like to find out more about Mousehold Heath there are good web sites at the following addresses:

<http://www.norwich.gov.uk/Environment/ParksAndOpenSpaces/WoodlandsHeathsAndMarshes/Pages/MouseholdHeath.aspx>

<http://www.heritagecity.org/research-centre/at-leisure-in-norwich/mousehold-heath.htm>

**Roy Scott MN 475**

### A Striking Wedding - Extract from Norfolk Chronicle and Norwich Gazette of 20th August, 1898

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A striking scene occurred at St. Nicholas' Church, King's Lynn, on the occasion of a gipsy wedding. The bride, Sylvester Thorpe, and the bridegroom, John Harris, and a married couple named Prince, who acted as best man and bridesmaid, all arrived in the same cab. The bride wore a gorgeous dress of maroon plush, surmounted by an immense hat covered with waving ostrich feathers. Her bridesmaid was attired in a</p> | <p>costume of golden plush. The bridegroom and his friend were in velvet with vermilion neckties. On leaving the church a piano organ was hired to play dance music, and the party enjoyed a lively waltz in the street. Revels and feasting were kept up for two days by a party of 50 gipsies and it was reported that the bride received a gift of a pink pot of sovereigns.</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## NFHS Website with Mike Dack

THE index of books and articles held at Kirby Hall has been comprehensively revised and updated - See under Website Library menu.

Previous volumes of The Norfolk Ancestor are now available in PDF format back to 1992. Early issues have been scanned double pages as printed, therefore it is necessary to read left hand pages down toward bottom of file and right hand pages up toward top of file.

Forgotten passwords can be replaced by clicking 'Forgotten password' next to the login box and entering membership number + first three characters of surname. An auto-generated password will be emailed within minutes, providing of course that the registered email address is up-to-date.

It was with sadness I learned of the passing of a member and personal friend Tony (A.G.E.) DACK, of Harpenden who died on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2014. Tony, assisted by his wife Jean, studied in great detail for more than 25 years, the various DACK family lines originating in Norfolk. I am aware that Tony assisted many society members including myself in their research, while freely sharing all his findings to the family boxes at Kirby Hall, most of which is now contained in 12 volumes of 'DACK families' on the pedigree shelf. Heartfelt condolences to Jean and family.

**Mike Dack** MN11670 (Acting Webmaster)

## NORS (Norfolk Online Record Search) with Mike Dack

TRANSCRIPTIONS of Norfolk parish records and monumental inscriptions continue to be uploaded. Recent additions include Norwich Death Returns for 1907 and 1908, more than 3600 records! These transcriptions are a valuable source of information for family history research as they include the deceased's actual address, cause of death, relative and occupation of deceased or relative.

Norwich Death Returns can be searched individually by year from the link near the bottom of NORS 'Browse Records' menu, however, a surname search using 'Find a person' will also display any results existing in the Death Returns.

Following the dedicated work of NFHS volunteers - now included on NORS is a listing of all birth, marriage and death certificates donated to NFHS and held at Kirby Hall. In reality this is much more than a list as all relevant information has been extracted from each certificate and is now viewable on NORS. As with the Death Returns 'Find a person' search will display any results from within these certificates, alternatively they alone can be searched at the bottom of the 'Browse Records' menu, then by clicking the icon beside any result, ALL details on the certificate will be displayed.

Parish records for Shouldham All Saints have been corrected by John Proctor and replaced following the discovery of a number of errors, these should be revisited by any member having an interest in them.

NB. Forgotten NORS passwords can be replaced by clicking "Forgotten password" next to the login box. An auto-generated password will be emailed within minutes, providing of course that the registered email address is up-to-date.

**Mike Dack** MN 11670

## **Kirby Hall Library Reports**

### **FAMILY TREES added to the Library**

|               |                                                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| ALLEN/CORBETT | King's Lynn, Glandford, Melton Constable         |
| BUNN          | Earsham                                          |
| DRURY         | Norwich (from Essex)                             |
| GIRDLESTONE   | Norwich, Holt, North Walsham, Great Yarmouth     |
| LUNN          | King's Lynn, Wereham, Little Dunham              |
| MARK          | Kenninghall, Garboldisham, Winfarthing to Canada |
| MOORE         | Norwich                                          |
| MORLEY        | Upwell, Stow Bardolph, Downham Market to USA     |
| SEWELL        | Hingham, Tasburgh, Thornage                      |
| SMITH         | Hingham, Norwich                                 |
| STACEY        | Great Yarmouth, London, Australia and Canada     |
| WATSON        | Watton, Hingham                                  |
| YOUNGS        | Norwich                                          |

**Pam Bridge** MN 3292

### **NORFOLK SURNAMES & PEDIGREES added to the Library**

ABEL, John, Horse-dealer of Norwich, by Judith Havens

BACK of Hethersett

BLOMEFIELD: Genealogy of the Reverend FRANCES by T.L.M. Hawes (NNAS)

BOILEAU of Tacolneston and Ketteringham

BOLEYNS at Blickling 1450-1560

FLEGG research oddments

IVORY: The Descendants of Thomas (died 1779) by Margaret Carey Evans (NNAS)

LEEDS name by County, Country, Year, Service, War, etc. Vol 1. (compiled by Everett Leeds)

REEVE of Norfolk – mainly King's Lynn (donation by Joan Matthews)

RISLEY, Sir John (1443-1512) Courtier and Councillor by Roger Virgoe (NNAS)

SCARNELL, Lawson (1767-1808) and Christmas FRYER (1794-1874) of Hempnall from Barrie Stevens

STACEY (Turner/Culley/Gray) Family Tree Notes (donation by Stephen Turner)

WHITE, Barnard 1813-1912 (includes surnames of Jefferson, Place & Syer) by Dantzel White Nelson

YOUNGS and MORGAN Families: History of (by Laura Orton and Giles Youngs)

**Edmund Perry** MN 3181

## Norfolk Record Office Report with Jenny Watts

New Parish Register Accessions, April-June 2014

|                 |           |           |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Bittering Parva | Baptisms  | 1816-2009 |
| Denver          | Baptisms  | 1872-1926 |
|                 | Burials   | 1854-1912 |
| Gayton Thorpe   | Burials   | 1813-1996 |
| Gressenhall     | Marriages | 1813-1837 |
| Longham         | Burials   | 1813-1983 |
| Narborough      | Banns     | 1969-2011 |
| Narford         | Banns     | 1992-2011 |
| Thorpe Market   | Marriages | 1960-1999 |
| Wendling        | Baptisms  | 1888-2012 |
|                 | Banns     | 1823-1979 |
| Westacre        | Baptisms  | 1869-2014 |

### Exhibitions in the Long Gallery

*Norfolk in the First World War* runs from 1 August until 31 October. Encompassing all aspects of the conflict, this exhibition looks at the experiences of Norfolk soldiers fighting on the Western Front, the Far East and Gallipoli, and of their fellow servicemen serving at sea and in the air; the role of women; and what it was like to live in Norfolk during this dramatic period of the county's history.

### Talks and other events

Our First World War exhibition will be accompanied by a series of lectures in the Green Room at The Archive Centre. All start at 1 p.m., and are free of charge.

Friday, 12 September, 'A Beginner's Guide to First World War Ancestry', by Elizabeth Budd

Thursday, 18 September, 'Archaeological Features of the First World War: what we have, what we've lost', by Claire Bradshaw, Community Archaeologist

Wednesday, 24 September, 'The War in the Air' [title to be confirmed], by Ian Maclaghén

Friday, 10 October, 'A Norfolk Man's War: the Hewetson Letters', by Frank Meeres.

For further details about events organised by the NRO, please visit [www.norfolkrecordoffice.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.norfolkrecordoffice.eventbrite.co.uk) or our website [www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events](http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/events), telephone us on 01603 222599, or look out for posters at the Record Office. You can join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/norfolkrecordoffice](https://www.facebook.com/norfolkrecordoffice) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/NorfolkRO](https://www.twitter.com/NorfolkRO).

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

'Heritage Hour' runs fortnightly on Wednesdays at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich.

### **Themes for Heritage Hour talks in September are:**

Wednesday, 10 September at 12.30 p.m. 'Norfolk in Maps' by Elizabeth Budd

Wednesday, 24 September at 12.30 p.m. '2nd Air Division State Registers', by Dr Rebecca McGann.

There will also be an additional talk on Tuesday, 2 September at 6 p.m., 'Workhouses and their Records' by Eve Read.

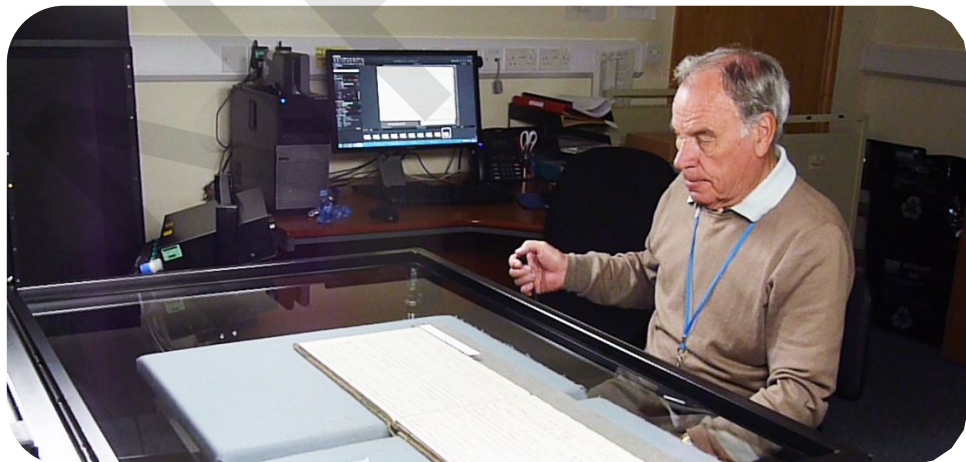
'Ask Norfolk Record Office' runs at the Heritage Centre on Wednesdays when there is no Heritage Hour talk, and at 5.30 p.m. every Tuesday evening.

For more information, for the titles of talks in October and November, and to check times and themes (which occasionally are subject to change), please visit [norfolkrecordoffice.eventbrite.co.uk](http://norfolkrecordoffice.eventbrite.co.uk) or telephone the Norfolk Heritage Centre on 01603 774740.

**Jenny Watts** - NRO Senior Archivist

## **Norfolk Family History Society at the NRO**

In conjunction with the NRO three members of NFHS have recently volunteered to work on photographing selected Norfolk parish registers that had not previously been copied. These images will then be made available to visitors in the NRO and also in Kirby Hall Library. The photography is carried out in the NRO's camera room using their high powered camera and equipment.



Bernard Hale can be seen here photographing a marriage register.

**Paul Harman** MN3205

# Norfolk Family History Society

## Let Us Know What You Think



WHAT articles do you enjoy reading in the Norfolk Ancestor and what would you like to see more of? We would like to hear from you.

With your help we can make the magazine more vibrant. We would welcome any comments (good or bad). They can be sent to the Editor via

e-mail at the contact address on page 174 of this edition or can be sent to him at Kirby Hall.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Don't forget that there's lots more information on our official web site.

<http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>

## Coming in December

IN the December issue we will take a look at the fascinating story of a woman thief from Norfolk who was transported to Australia and started a dynasty. There will also be our regular reports and information sections.

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Please state the nature of your enquiry in the email subject box and quote your **Membership Number**

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| <b>Wills</b>                       | Donations and Indexing of Wills                           | Ellen Carr          | <a href="mailto:wills@nfhs.co.uk">wills@nfhs.co.uk</a>                       |
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**Or by post to the appropriate person at  
Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS**

*Continued from inside front cover*

top of the market near the “Golden Ball” pub. You could always tell which ones were hers because she affixed a notice to their cages proclaiming “WATER DRINKER”. This was useful to know because rabbits accustomed to drinking water were less reliant on green food for moisture and therefore less prone to “pot belly”, often a fatal affliction.

Mrs Moray-Smith was considered an eccentric and she cut quite a figure with an Afro haircut (way ahead of her time!) steel rimmed glasses and an odd assortment of clothing. She was also an artist and supplemented what was probably a very meagre income by selling clay ornaments she crafted herself. My mother had a treasured figure Mrs Moray Smith marketed as “Costessey Charlie”, which was a rabbit dressed as Charlie Chaplin. He was to be seen grinning toothily from many a Costessey mantle shelf.

My mother told me about the mural on the “Coachmakers’ Arms” and how it came to be there and I often had time to examine it from my school bus when held up by traffic at St Stephen’s Gate.

It came as a surprise to learn from your notes in the March edition that John Moray-Smith was an Italian Gypsy, as I thought I remembered him as Eastern European. He too, dressed quaintly, sported a grey goatee beard and looked every bit the bohemian artist he was. The Moray-Smiths lived in Hill Road or one of the other similar, often unmade-up roads, accessed from the Norwich Road, Costessey

Yours sincerely  
John Sendall MN 14244

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Wool Sales and Dyeing. Bas-relief by John Moray-Smith, in “The Woolpack” Norwich.



# NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AGM

**Saturday 18th October at 12.00 noon at Kirby Hall**

The AGM Booklet containing the Agenda, Minutes, Trustees Report and the Accounts are available on the NFHS Website to view or download.

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



**Thursday 11th - Sunday  
14th September 2014**

Norfolk Family History Society will again be joining in with other venues across Norfolk when they open their doors to the public. NFHS volunteers will be available to help them with their Family research.

Individual bookings would be advisable.

