

The Norfolk Ancestor



Volume Eleven Part Two
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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 a bas-relief by John Moray-Smith, on the gable end of the “Prince of Denmark” Public House which stands at the corner of Denmark Road and Sprowston Road in Norwich and is pictured below.



This is probably the largest of Moray-Smith's murals and is estimated to be 3x4 metres. It was commissioned in 1939 and was restored in 2007 by A. Murray.

More information about the “Prince of Denmark” and its licencees can be found at: <http://www.norfolkpubs.co.uk/norwich/pnorwich/nchpod.htm>.

John's works are not restricted to Norwich and Norfolk. He is also known to have had three plaques in the “Men of March” pub in March, Cambridgeshire which have been photographed but are now “missing”.

Very little is known about the lives of John Moray-Smith and his family. We highlighted a number of facts about the artist in the last edition. He is viewed in many quarters as Norwich's most elusive and prolific public artist. It is believed that he had two daughters, Sonia and Zana, although searches of local records have failed to find them.

If you know any more details about John, his wife and family, please let us know by contacting me at: ancestor@nfhs.co.uk.

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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

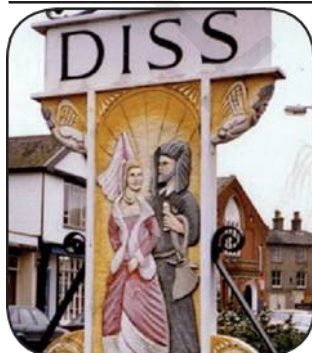
Diss Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Diss (A1066)
SOUTH NORFOLK (2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm)
£1 per member - £2 for non-members

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 June 2014

Date	Event	Speaker	Group
10 Jun	Teenage Valour - The stories of the five youngest recipients of the Victoria Cross	Edith Morley	Diss
13 Jun	Norwich in the Sixties	Pete Goodrum	Nch
8 Jul	Terror in the Night - 1953 North Sea Surge	Michael Holland	Diss
11 Jul	Norwich Mousehold Heath Walk	William Stewart	Nch
8 Aug	Member Help Member		Nch
12 Aug	Gone to Look for America! - An English Merchant in C18th and C19th Baltimore	Dr Simon Pawley	Diss
12 Sep	Norwich City of Industries	Nick Williams	Nch
14 Oct	Rural Norfolk Women	Charlotte Paton	Diss

Other Local Events

Date	Event	Speaker	Location
3 Jun	St Benet's Literary Connections	Caroline Davison	Green Room at Norfolk Archive Centre
4 Jun	Stories from St Benet's	Anne Lovejoy	Norwich Millennium Library
10 Jun	Landscape of St Benet's Abbey	Prof Tom Williamson	Green Room at Norfolk Archive Centre
17 Jun	St Benet's Trade and Agriculture	Alison Yardy	Green Room at Norfolk Archive Centre
18 Jun	Workhouses and Their Records	Elizabeth Budd	Norwich Millennium Library
24 Jun	Broads Tourism talk	Clive Wilkins-Jones	Green Room at Norfolk Archive Centre
2 Aug	Syderstone Family History Day		See page 93 for details

From Freethorpe to Canada and Back via WWI – Part 2

Ellen Carr continues the history of Sidney ALEXANDER

ONE of the things which becomes apparent from reading the 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion War Diaries is that the men were frequently moved about and marched several miles to new locations. It is often said that WW1 was trench warfare and static and while that is true of the actual trenches, the men were anything but! In eight days at the end of November and beginning of December 1916 the 50th Battalion were in Varennes, Herissart, Beauquesne, Mezerolles, Aubrometz, Huclier and Divion. Quite a tour.

The Diaries list men who were awarded honours although most of these were officers. One of the exceptions was sniper H. NORWEST, who on April 28, 1918, “accounted for his hundredth German,” a record enjoyed by few, if any other snipers in the British Army. Norwest’s methods are peculiarly his own. ‘Wait until not a single Hun has a chance of seeing your rifle flash, then get your man’ is his motto. On one occasion he waited two days for two enemy snipers. At last he caught them off guard and one went down followed by the other in 15 minutes. Very few men could display the patience employed by Norwest. On June 10 he was awarded a bar to his Military Medal “for his century of observed hits.” Although I cannot find a record of Sidney’s medals it doesn’t make him any less of a hero in my eyes. It was noted on 6 June, 1917 that Sidney was entitled to the Good Conduct Badge awarded in the field. A good soldier!

Sometimes in the most serious situation, levity shines through! At Vimy Ridge on 3 February, 1917, a raid was carried out into the enemy trenches over a frontage of 250 yards. The whole operation took just 20 minutes and involved over 100 men. The diary records “Time the show commenced. 9 pm” as if it was not a military operation in which over 100 enemy and six Canadians were killed but rather a night out! On March 27, 1918 “Lieuts. GORDON and MONTGOMERY-BELL had an exciting journey back, the train being heavily bombed and everyone had to take to the fields.” A dangerous experience that is described as ‘exciting.’ Is this perhaps the way many soldiers found how to cope with the conditions around them?

Another example of the use of black humour shows itself in April 1918. “A few days ago a Subaltern of ‘A’ Company wired Capt. STEPHEN, who was then acting Company Commander, that our machine guns were firing short and asked for instructions. He received the reply ‘Duck’. Short and concise instructions! The diary does not record his reaction to the reply! Simple orders can also raise a smile. During May 1918, “From motives of economy, the sandbag covering for the steel helmet discarded and all ‘Tin Lizzies’ painted service colour and sprinkled with sand.” They might have looked similar but their effectiveness is dubious. Although fighting a war, the soldiers were not immune to what was affecting the rest of Europe in 1918. In April “Several of the Headquarters’ Officers are ill with influenza and a number of the men as well.” A week later “There are still a large

number of Officers and Other Ranks going sick with influenza.” Indeed Sidney’s Medical Examination, given when being demobilised, shows that he suffered “June 1918 influenza 3 days in bed.” It is estimated that WW1 claimed 16 million lives but the influenza epidemic that swept the world killed an estimated 50 million people. The war diaries do not give any records of deaths from this disease. In fact on 30 April “The MO reports quite a number of men still going sick, but the old cases are clearing up nicely.” There were no further mentions of the illness so perhaps it did not cause too many problems for the troops of the 50th although the concert on 28 June, 1918 was cancelled as the “Band down with influenza.”

It was very important to keep the men fit and mentally occupied when in reserve, so sports were organised. These included lacrosse, football, baseball, cricket, quoits, tug-of-war, wrestling on horseback, mule racing and boxing! Some Japanese comrades also included Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling. In March 1918 “Football games were played this afternoon” resulting in a tie for first place between ‘B’ and ‘C’ companies. The play-off a few days later resulted in another draw, even after extra time. Two days later another game also resulted in a draw. The fact that the game was replayed several times shows how important these inter-company sports were to the men.

Although, admittedly towards the end of the war, the importance of the sports for morale is shown when on June 11, 1918 the “Eliminating contests for Brigade Sports tomorrow interfered with training.” Men were also sent with “24 hours rations to Pernes to take part in Divisional Sports.” Apparently the 50th battalion were good at cross country and the 16lb shot put! Even training in tactics was made into competitions. In May 1918 at Marqueffles Farm, the “Tactics were in the nature of a competition between companies, an attack practice.....” It resulted in “Free beer for ‘A’ Company when we can get it.” The free beer duly arrived the next day! I do not know if Sidney was in ‘A’ Company or not but I like to think he got some of the beer.

Sometimes these training sessions did not work out as planned. On June 20, 1918, “Battalion Tactical Scheme with tanks was carried out at Marqueffles.... The show started well but owing to the well-intentioned ‘butting-in’ of Brigade staff, was not an unqualified success.... Many lessons have been learned.” I wonder what the ordinary soldiers thought of the officers, especially the ones who interfered! The men were also entertained by several concert parties throughout their time in France. I am intrigued by the “Concert for the men in the Theatre by ‘The Very Lights’ an Imperial combination” in May 1918.

The condition of the trenches obviously depended a lot on the weather and a great deal of time was spent by the soldiers on maintaining the trenches and extending them if possible. Rain led to “trenches very muddy and much work necessary to make them passable.” “Trenches in an atrocious condition” “Trenches in desperate condition and raid by the 46th battalion timed for 6.00 pm called off.” “Ground vile” “Camp filthy dirty as usual...” “Very difficult to move about...” All these accounts came from January 1918 but by March “Full

advantage is being taken of the unusually fine weather to improve the trenches which are now in splendid condition.” Sometimes the weather was useful however. On April 13, 1918 “The fog admitted of considerable reconnaissance in the morning.... a patrol worked along Ouse Valley towards Viscount Street where voices were heard. The fog lifted suddenly and patrol had to return hastily.”



Only those who have taken part in armed conflict can understand the feeling of the soldiers, who like Sidney, had enlisted for the duration of the war, when on November 11, 1918 “Official notice received that Armistice would be effected at 11.00 hours and massed bands played the National Anthems of the Allies.”

There were visits to the troops from H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and the Belgian King followed by the Regimental Colours, which had been left at Bramshott Church in 1916, being brought from England. A very symbolic event that must have lifted the spirits of the men.

The battalion arrived back at Bramshott on March 27 1919 and the 50th battalion embarked from Liverpool for Canada a month later aboard the ‘S.S. Empress of Britain’ arriving back in Quebec on 4 June. Sidney was discharged from the army five days later on the 9 June. He was entitled to a ‘War Service Gratuity’ of \$420 but not a pension.

There are no records of any injuries to Sidney during his service in France. His discharge medical describes him as having good nutrition and good physique although his dental records show he was in need of some fillings! He appears to have come through 4 years and 2 months of the war physically unscathed. Unlike his brother, John, who was killed in April 1918 at Dranoutre near Mount Kemmel. He was only 22 years old and is buried at Tyne Cot, the largest British war cemetery in Belgium. Sidney’s residence on discharge is given as Parkland, Alberta but for whatever reason, his Canadian adventure was nearly over. He left Quebec aboard the “Empress of France” on 3 December, 1919 bound for Liverpool and travelling third class. He came home and settled in Suffolk where he died in March 1977.

Sources:

Library and Archives of Canada: War diaries of 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion

Ref: MIKAN no. 1883262 and 2006067 RG11-371-2-E

Sidney’s Service records: Ref:RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 82-20

Ancestry: UK Census returns 1911

Immigration and emigration passenger lists

General background research on the internet

Ellen Carr MN 9159

Family History Events Outside Norfolk

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

The annual **Yorkshire Family History** Fair will take place on 28th June at the Knavesmire Exhibition Centre on York Racecourse from 10 a.m until 4.30 p.m. Further details are available on the web site www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com

Buckinghamshire Family History Society will be holding an open day on 26th July from 10 a.m until 4 p.m at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury. Facilities available will include a database containing over five million names, parish registers and transcripts. Admission and parking is free. More information is available at www.bucksfhs.org.uk.

This year sees the 40th anniversary of the **Essex Society for Family History** and they will be marking the occasion with a conference entitled "Dig For the Past, Look to the Future." This will be held from the 29th to the 31st August at the Holiday Inn, Basildon. Full details are available on the Society's web site at www.esfh.org.uk

Field Dalling Burials 23rd September 1837.

Joshua COE aged 79 years

"This man was found dead kneeling by his bedside as if in prayer 21st September 1837. Can we conceive any thing more delightful than to end time in prayer and to begin eternity with praise! As I hope this poor man did!!!"

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The Search for William Samuel Hogge (1812-1852)

Hugh Tweed goes in search of the scion of a notable Norfolk family, son of Biggleswade, Cavalry Officer and British Government envoy

Some years ago, while researching the history of the HOGGE family, I came across a bronze memorial plaque in the chancel of the parish church in Thornham, North Norfolk, which simply said that a Major HOGGE, of the 7th Dragoon Guards, had died in South Africa in 1852. I knew that he was a relation, albeit a distant one, but who was he and what had he been doing in South Africa in the mid 19th century?

In early 2011, and quite out of the blue, I was given a packet of papers, long hidden away in a family trunk, by a cousin who knew I was interested in researching the family history. This packet contained transcripts of documents that had been made by yet another cousin, now deceased, but who had been born and lived all his life in South Africa. He had discovered many letters and official despatches, from different sources, written by or about this Major HOGGE, and during the latter stages of his life decided to transcribe them so that others might be able to piece together Major HOGGE's story. This I have tried to do.

Of course when I opened the packet I didn't really know what I was looking at but it slowly began to emerge that this was a man, born in Biggleswade into a well-to-do family with deep roots in Norfolk, who had purchased a commission in the 7th Dragoon Guards, and who had been sent with his regiment to the eastern frontier of Cape Colony, the territory at the foot of the African continent taken over from the Dutch at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars. The reason they had been sent there was to keep the peace between white settlers, many of them British, who had arrived in 1820, and the local Xhosa people. Matters became so serious that hostilities broke out early in 1846, in the conflict known as 'The War of the Axe', and HOGGE and his regiment were fully engaged over the next 21 months in trying to enforce peace. With peace restored, HOGGE returned with his regiment to England in 1848 and, after resigning his commission, settled down with his new wife and baby daughter in rural Bedfordshire. His quiet life was not to last for long. In early 1851 he was approached by the Colonial Secretary, Earl GREY, to return to Africa in a civilian capacity as an Assistant Commissioner to help the governor of Cape Colony, Sir Harry SMITH, to bring about peace on Cape Colony's continuing troubled eastern frontier. Once there, however, it didn't take HOGGE long to realise that it was not in the lush coastal areas of the eastern frontier that he would be needed but in the arid hinterland in a recently

annexed territory known as the Orange River Sovereignty, where emigrant Boer farmers, who had trekked north in the Great Trek that started in 1836, were coming into conflict with the indigenous Basuto tribe under their paramount chief Moshoeshoe.

I realised that this was a significant, if little known, piece of British Imperial history and discovered on the web the official despatches and papers that had been produced at the time and published in *'Accounts and Papers of the House of Commons, 1852'*. This gave reports, from the points of view of both Earl GREY and Harry SMITH, as well as others involved at the time, of what was actually happening on the ground, and helped to piece together the story in which HOGGE, along with another Assistant Commissioner, Charles Mostyn OWEN, was to play a part.

In exceptionally difficult circumstances, in inhospitable country, far from his wife and child who had accompanied him as far as Cape Town, and with little guidance from SMITH, he was able to secure an agreement in January 1852 with Andries PRETORIUS, the Boer leader, that effectively gave the Boers the right to settle on the far side of the Vaal River and set up their own independent state – the Transvaal. This agreement, known as the Sand River Convention, is commemorated by a stone monument overlooking the Sand River and on which is fixed a metal plaque bearing the names of PRETORIUS, HOGGE and OWEN.

HOGGE also attempted to settle matters with Basuto chief, Moshoeshoe, but before he was able to complete all negotiations successfully he contracted 'bilious fever' and died unexpectedly in Bloemfontein in June 1852 at the age of only 40. Although he did not live to see it, the British Government was to sign the Bloemfontein Convention, modelled on the agreement with PRETORIUS, with another group of Boers two years later and which led to the establishment of the independent Boer republic of the Orange Free State. Its 160th anniversary will be celebrated in 2014.

During the time that HOGGE was travelling to and around the Orange River Sovereignty, he wrote many letters to his wife in Cape Town. She returned to England after his death and evidently kept those letters, for many years later they were found and eventually acquired by the South African government for lodging in state archives. It was these letters that my South African cousin had transcribed. In November 2012 I travelled to South Africa with my wife to meet up with this South African cousin's daughter and husband, resident in today's Eastern Cape Province. Together we drove up to Bloemfontein, in Free State

Province, and were able to see for ourselves where HOGGE had signed the Sand River Convention. We also went to the cemetery in Bloemfontein where he had been buried – but of his headstone there was no sign. However, scratching away the dirt and leaves, we found it, broken and weathered by time and with most of the inscription missing. We contacted a local undertaker who agreed to replace it with a granite slab, which would be more durable than a headstone, and engrave on it the original inscription, the text of which we had found among the papers. On 29 April, 2013, the grave was rededicated in accordance with the rites of the Anglican Church.

In researching this story I have had recourse to the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, the National Archives at Kew, the museum of the Royal Dragoon Guards in York, the library at Durham University, the Free State Archives, the National Library of South Africa, the Biggleswade History Society and many other sources of information. HOGGE's full story was published as '*Dashing Dragoon, Anguished Emissary*' in December 2013 by Matador, the self-publishing arm of Troubador Publishing. Further information can be obtained by going to: http://www.troubador.co.uk/book_info.asp?bookid=2358

Hugh Tweed MN 14088

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EDITOR'S CORNER with Peter Steward

I was delighted to be asked to be the new editor of Ancestor and become involved in the Norwich Family History Society.

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and all those who have contributed articles for this edition. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes and become acquainted with the software used for producing the magazine. I am hugely grateful to Paul Harman for all his help, support and expertise in producing this edition.

I thought it would be interesting to start a regular column on a variety of family history related topics, some personal and some based on articles I have written for newspapers and magazines over the past few years. This will be a mixture of personal reminiscences, alongside stories of family searches, interesting genealogy scraps and anything else that comes into my head. So here goes:

In keeping with many people I only really became interested in family history when I reached my forties. I guess it was a mixture of realisation that none of us are immortal and a need to know just where individual roots were planted.

There has never been a better time to research family history thanks to the fantastic resources that are now available, not only at places like Kirby Hall and record offices throughout the country, but also via the Internet. This is a two way thing. Not only does it give us the chance to research existing material, it also gives us the opportunity to build on our own experiences and document them for future generations.

I believe we have a duty to make our research a living thing by sharing it wherever possible with others. Whether this is via personal contact, the publication of family trees or through new web sites and the use of social media it doesn't matter. What is important is that we leave a heritage for future generations. Often our perception of the past is gained through history books written in the present. This is all changing. Future generations will have the contemporaneous accounts of 20th and 21st century life written by those living those lives.

I often think that people undertaking family research fall into two camps – those slightly afraid and concerned about what skeletons they may turn up and those who delight in finding those skeletons. I am firmly in the second camp. I find it delightful to uncover rogues and vagabonds, family scandals and even rather unsavoury episodes from the past.

For me finding names, occupations and family details of ancestors is only half the job. I think it is just as important to understand the times those people were living in by placing them in an historical context. Asking questions such as "What was life like in those days?"

I have found surprises along my family history journey. As far as I know I may not have any murderers or vagabonds but I have found the occasional philanderer,

alcoholic and one relative who was run over by a horse and cart on his way back from Great Yarmouth races.

But above all I found people and lots of them and that destroyed my preconceptions of my family. When people asked me about my family my response was always along the lines of “I only have a really small one.”

Without the knowledge that I have now acquired my response was “my mother and father are dead, I have an elderly Aunt, a cousin and her son, a wife, two sons and a grandson” and that would be it.

But then I saw the light. I decided to start on family research and found that my paternal grandfather had numerous brothers I knew nothing about, my paternal grandmother had more sisters than I knew about. All had children of their own and so the whole thing began to mushroom.

Then things started to get very interesting. I was contacted out of the blue by a third cousin who was researching the same lines as myself. She had very close Norfolk roots. We met up and she has become more like the sister I never had than a distant cousin. From her research I uncovered fascinating stories that led me to visit Utah in the United States where I found that I had literally tens of relatives who all belonged to the Mormon faith.

Their Matriarch Doris had been born and was married in Norwich and was a STEWARD by birth. Doris had married John DURRANT, adopted the Mormon faith and moved to the Salt Lake City area of the United States where all her children apart from one were born. Thus followed children of the children and children of the children’s children (a vague reference there to the Moody Blues for anybody interested in music) as again the family mushroomed. Whilst in Utah I went to a mini family re-union and there was something very surreal about being in a house with over 20 other people who were all strangers but also relatives. I learnt about Mormonism, attended a Mormon service and heard about an area of the world that had previously been alien to me.

But it didn’t stop there. My and my cousin’s research on the DEW and SANDALL families of Great Yarmouth established that I was the third cousin of a former top ranking Norfolk Police Officer who was one of my bosses when I worked for Norfolk Constabulary. SANDALL is his surname and was also my maternal grandmother’s maiden name.

Genealogy, history and family research has enriched my life, brought me new relatives and friends and taught me that I am not as “alone in the world” as I thought. It has so far been a wonderful journey and one that continues to amaze as new snippets of information come to light.

In the next edition I will explain how the writings of a Norfolk Rector have enhanced my understanding of the First World War in this its centenary year.

Peter Steward MN 14801

The Runaways by Margaret Murgatroyd

“BOY, 14, missing after row with parents”, “Fifteen-year-old disappears with man met in a chat-room”. These are the present day headlines but in the background many missing people are recorded in the files of the police and the Salvation Army. In the days of our ancestors these organisations were not linked up nationwide so what happened when somebody disappeared? The newspapers’ small notices in the Classified Columns were used by relatives who had enough money to pay for the notice, or by the parishes. The newspapers, available online on findmypast.co.uk and on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, are searchable though occasionally the text-recognition software does turn up some peculiar results.

These small notices about absconders are a mine of information about the person’s age, appearance and clothing as well as employment and abode and sometimes family. For instance John HOUCHIN left his wife in Watton in April 1816. He is described as about six feet tall with light hair and sandy whiskers and freckles on his face. He was about 21 years old and a thatcher by trade and was supposed to have been in Scarning. In this case his clothing is not mentioned but in the case of Robert EMMS alias WALKER not only was his appearance detailed but also the clothes he was wearing when he left – light-coloured old coat and waistcoat and old breeches - and in addition those in which he was last seen - old blue coat with large buttons, light-coloured waistcoat, black breeches and a bound hat. It was also noted that he had been in Wymondham Bridewell several times for diverse offences and was not fit to be at large! The saddest description I have come across was inserted by the Overseers of Reedham for Robert HILTON “a pauper, an insane person, with a chain on his leg”. Concern about his welfare must have prompted this notice rather than financial considerations.

Overseers of the Poor

Most of the notices were placed by the parish Overseers of the Poor. Under the Elizabethan poor laws a person without work or a home was classed as a vagrant and harshly treated, being whipped, driven out and denied help. The fines for anyone harbouring a vagrant were severe, 10 shillings or more (about £500 in today’s money based on average earnings). The Act of Settlement 1662 decreed that each individual had to have a parish of settlement where he/she was born, lived and worked. Anyone leaving his place of settlement could be removed within 40 days unless he found work or rented property worth £10 per annum. If he stayed 40 days he was considered settled in the new parish. Up until the 1834

Poor Law Amendment Act each parish was responsible for its own poor so efforts were made to prevent new paupers from settling in the parish or those already there becoming a burden upon the parish. As a result a man abandoning his wife and children was keenly sought and rewards offered for his apprehension.

In January, 1810, Robert JOHNSON absconded, leaving a wife and five children in Feltwell. The family was removed to Stow Bardolph which was the wife's place of settlement before her marriage. In March the Overseers of the Poor at Stow Bardolph advertised for information offering a reward of ten guineas plus reasonable expenses to anyone bringing him to them. This large sum indicates the cost to the parish of supporting a woman and five children. Robert was described as being about 40 years old, five foot nine and a half inches tall with grey hair, a fresh complexion, brown eyes and a cut on the right side of his head. He had a swollen leg which had been very sore and usually he wore a handkerchief tied round it. He had on a brown coat with a blue great-coat over it and dark velveteen breeches and was accompanied by a small black dog. He was suspected of being in the Holbeach area. He was promised that if he returned immediately he would be "excused and by no means punished".

Mostly we can only speculate on the reasons for men abandoning their families, perhaps looking for work, avoiding the law or just worn down by having a large number of children to support. Not so with Henry PALMER, a shepherd employed by Mr SNASDELL of Narborough who left his family and was seen boarding a coach at Swaffham with a young woman.

Rewards and Threats

Apprentices and employees appear frequently in the notices with offers of rewards for their apprehension and threats of legal action against anyone harbouring or employing them. The apprentices were often told that if they came back they would be forgiven.

Small workhouses existing prior to the 1834 Act were run by charitable organisations or the parish but as a result of the 1834 Act district workhouses designed to be inhospitable places were set up. Sometimes the inmates ran away with workhouse property. This was usually the workhouse clothing which the inmates were obliged to wear and they were charged with theft when caught.

It was not just men who absconded leaving their work, families and crimes behind them. On 5 July, 1806 William SMITH the Governor of the Hindolveston Workhouse asked for information about Mary BROWN, a widow who had run away on 29 June taking a striped wrapper, a drab kersey coat, a round chip hat

covered with black silk, two hessian aprons, three handkerchiefs, one hemp shift striped and a pair of shoes and stockings belonging to the parish.

There are several reports of wives who left home and their husbands gave notice that they would not be held responsible for any debts incurred by the errant spouses. In some cases the notice discloses a village scandal as at Upwell where Philis HARPER ran away with a near relative of her husband. An intriguing small item reports that the wife of a highly respectable Rector of a parish near Norwich eloped with a "Lothario", also a clergyman, from the adjoining parish. One itches to know more!

On the subject of elopement, a couple from East Rudham were pursued by the girl's father who forbade any clergyman of Norwich and Norfolk to marry them as his daughter was under the age of 19 years. Robert FLOOD issued this dictat in the Norfolk Chronicle on 5 January, 1822 but he was too late. His daughter Susanna and Thomas PYLE had reached London and were married after banns at Spitalfields Christ Church with St Mary and St Stephen on February 11th.

Margaret Murgatroyd MN 10400

Health and Safety in the 19th Century by Fay Harrison

WE are all aware of the preoccupation with Health and Safety issues impacting on all of our lives today, sometimes to ridiculous extremes. However, it was not always so as the following case of Henry BUMFREY illustrates.

Henry was born in 1857 in West Beckham, Norfolk. He migrated north to County Durham around 1880, aged about 23. The following report appeared in Shields Daily Gazette on Tuesday 26 October, 1897, under the heading: "The Fatality at the Whitley Brickworks, Proceedings Under The Factory Act. Tynemouth Petty Sessions."

Yesterday, John O. NICHOLSON, brick manufacturer, Whitley, was charged under the Factory and Workshops Act with not having a horizontal shaft at his brickworks properly fenced, on the 23rd September.

Mr R. JOHNSON, Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Act, said that these proceedings were taken under sections 82 and 5 of the Act. The 82nd Section provided that if any person was killed or suffered bodily injury through a machine not being properly fenced, the employer would be liable to a fine of £100 [*approx £10,000 in today's values*], which would be given to the injured person or the relatives of the deceased.

The defendant was charged with not properly fencing a horizontal shaft which amounted to neglect, and (Mr JOHNSON) alleged that the foreman of the factory,

a man named Henry BUMFREY, was killed on the 23rd Sept. On that date BUMFREY was seen going to the rear of the machine with shovel to clear away the accumulated clay, and was not seen again until he was found dead. The shaft, which made 120 revolutions per minute, had what was technically called a loose collar, which was fastened by a set of bolts.

The man who found the deceased, found him fastened by his neck tie and waistcoat to the set bolt, his neck having thus been broken. It would probably be submitted for the defence that the deceased had no business being where he was found while the machinery was in motion. That he would admit, but at the same time must point out that there was a passage behind machine 18 inches wide, and did go behind the machinery whilst it was in motion.

That did not exonerate the employer from any neglect not having it properly fenced - Mr WHITEHORN, who appeared for the defence, said perhaps he could shorten the case. He admitted that there was no fencing as the inspector complained, but his contention was that the machine was in such a position as not to require fencing. That was as far as the Act went.

Wm. BALL, employed at the factory, said he found the deceased with his neck broken behind the machinery, on the 23rd September. There was passage two feet wide leading to the back of the machine. While shovelling the clay out, the set bolt had evidently caught his waistcoat. Witness had been at brickworks all his life, and had worked at similar machines, but had never seen them fenced. There was no necessity for the deceased to go to the back of the machine while it was in motion.

By the direction of the inspector they had since been fenced. A lad named CUTHBERTSON gave evidence, and in reply Mr WHITEHORN said a boy was employed to clean out the machine, and performed that work at breakfast time, dinner time, and after the factory was closed. Deceased could, by using rake provided for the purpose, have cleaned the machine out from the front.

By the clerk: Deceased was in the habit of going behind machine every day. The Chairman: presume he may take it for granted that the machine was properly fenced at the front side? Mr JOHNSON: Yes. Mr WHITEHORN said it was a case of being wise after the accident. There was a limitation to the fencing of machinery provided in the Act, the machinery was in such a position and of such construction as to be equally safe. He submitted that in this case the machinery was in such a position as not to require fencing, although since the accident, and under the direction of the Inspector they had fenced the place.

The Bench said they had decided to dismiss the case. Mr WHITEHORN intimated that Mr NICHOLSON and his partner (Mr GIBSON), had determined to voluntarily compensate the widow of the deceased, who had been a good servant.

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

Tragedy and Art in the Chambers Family by Alison Cameron

ALISON Cameron contacted us with copies of paintings and drawings of Norwich by her 2X Great Uncles – Henry William CHAMBERS (1844-1860) and Arthur John CHAMBERS (1856-1933).

Both artists were sons of Henry Jacob Chambers who was a copperplate printer and painter and latterly lived in Bethel Street, Norwich. Amongst the beauty of the art work was a tragic story.

Henry William Chambers (1844 -1860)

Henry was baptised in St Giles, Norwich on 16 August, 1844. He was clearly a talented artist. At the age of 13 he produced a drawing of an inn, location as yet unknown, very similar in style to that of his father.

Sadly, Henry William did not live to realise his talent. He was working as a clerk to a solicitor, Mr KITSON (possibly John KITSON (b 1789) who was Registrar of Probate) when he was drowned in the River Wensum at Heigham when out with friends. He couldn't swim. The Coroner brought a verdict of 'accidental death'. Henry was not quite 16.

Arthur John Chambers (1858-1933)

Arthur John was born in the June quarter of 1856 and was baptised at St Giles Church on 23 May, 1858. In 1871 at the age of 14 he was an Attorney's clerk but by the age of 24 he was an Architect's assistant and a full architect by 1891. Throughout this time he lived at home with his parents at 67 Bethel Street and was in Kelly's Directory for 1892 as an architect at that address. His father died in 1877 and his mother in 1897 and Arthur remained in this house after his mother's death, living with his unmarried sister, Fanny Ellen (aged 50).

In mid-1909 Arthur married Ellen Elizabeth BOWEN (b1860), daughter of Mark BOWEN (1823-1865) and Mary Ann. Mark had died in 1865 leaving Mary Ann to bring up her two children, Ellen and William and in 1861 she was Mistress of the Dental Infirmary, according to the census. They lived in Rigby's Court which was off Bethel Street. So Arthur and Ellen may well have known each other as children. Ellen became a school mistress which



67 Bethel Street, Norwich



she gave up on her marriage. Arthur and Ellen had moved to 127 Earlham Road by 1911. Ellen died in 1920 and Arthur, still living at 127, died in 1933 leaving an estate of £3286. They had no children. The photograph on the opposite page is of 67 Bethel Street, Norwich, home of Henry Jacob Chambers and his family

(taken in 2010). Above entitled "At Ryburgh 1840" is by Henry Jacob Chambers. Adjacent is a drawing by Henry William Chambers. There are more drawings by this talented duo on the back and inside back covers of this edition of *The Norfolk Ancestor*.

Do let me know if you have any further information on any of the drawings.



Alison Cameron MN 10867 alicam14@btinternet.com

Transported to Tasmania by John Wemhof

IN genealogy research, I can disappear down a rabbit hole. I get lost following a line of inquiry as far as I can while knowing it has no connection to my tree. I wondered what became of an ancestor's sibling. In this case, it was, "What happened to many-times great uncle Thomas?" I had identified Thomas PLAIN son of Henry PLAIN and Mary BAILEY, who was baptised at St. Margaret's, Breckles in 1811, as a younger brother of James. Thomas disappears. I cannot associate any subsequent marriage, census or burial records to him. However, I came across a newspaper article in the *Bury and Norwich Post* on 2 November, 1842. It referred to the conviction of a Thomas PLAIN in King's Lynn, "The prisoners, the oldest of whom did not appear more than 12 years of age, pleaded guilty, and were sentenced, Wm. PANTON and Thomas PLAIN to ten years' transportation." His age piqued my interest. Even with the harsher justice of the era, it still seemed excessive to send pre-pubescent boys into exile. So began my voyage down the rabbit hole.

The heinous crime, for which the sentence was imposed, took place on 7 August 1842 in King's Lynn. The *Cambridge Independent Press* issue of 27 August, 1842 gave a description of the offence, "Commitment - At the Petty Sessions held at the Guild Hall, on Monday last, four boys, namely, Wm. PANTON, Edward MINDHAM, Thomas and John PLAIN, were committed for trial, charged with having broken into the house of Captain THOMPSON, on Sunday the 7th inst., during the absence of the family, and stealing money therefrom to the amount of about £5; also a variety of articles, including some brandy and wine." Captain Allen THOMPSON was a merchant marine Master. He and his wife had a home on Priory Lane in King's Lynn.

Boys Plead Guilty

Both the *Bury and Norwich Post* and the *Cambridge Independent Press* reported on the boys' 24 October, 1842 appearance at the King's Lynn Quarter Sessions. The boys were described as being less than 12-years-old. They all pleaded guilty to the charge. The court sentenced Thomas PLAIN and William PANTON to ten years transportation. John PLAIN's sentence was three months' hard labour and to be whipped privately twice. Edward MINDHAM got off lightly with only two months imprisonment and a single whipping. The England and Wales Criminal Registers gave closer estimates of their ages. Edward MINDHAM was the oldest at about 16-years-old. William PANTON was estimated to be twelve although, from his baptism record, he was actually about 13 1/2-years old. Thomas and John PLAIN were 15 and 11 respectively.

Thomas PLAIN and William PANTON got mention in the *Norfolk Chronicle* of 26 November, 1842. The article stated that on Monday, 21 November, 1862, the boys, both twice-convicted felons, were removed from the gaol in King's Lynn to Chatham. The story seemed to suggest the writer expected they would serve their

sentences in England, at either Chatham or the Isle of Wight. That Thomas PLAIN was to be transported must have been a tremendous torment for his family.

Thomas was born on 6 August, 1827, and baptised in South Lynn on 26 August, 1827. He was the son of William PLAIN (born ca. 1786 Sculthorpe) and his wife, Ann (born ca. 1790 King's Lynn). William was a porter/labourer living at various residences in King's Lynn, including Providence Row. Of the 12 children born to William and Ann, only six survived to the 1841 Census. Robert Richard (1817) lived in St. Margaret's Parish, King's Lynn with his uncle (?), James PLAIN. Elizabeth (1819), William-Henry (1824), Thomas (1827), John (1831) and Mary-Ann (1833) all lived with their mother, Ann, in the same parish. William was not present with the family at that time. William's absence was due to being in prison.

On 23 July, 1838, in King's Lynn, William PLAIN/PLANE, age 52 years was convicted of Receiving Stolen Property (a substantial quantity of corn/wheat) and sentenced to seven years' transportation. William appealed the transportation portion of the sentence based on undue hardship to his wife and family in a petition to Home Secretary John RUSSELL on 2 August, 1838. Thomas JACKSON, Prosecutor, and 16 citizens, supported his petition. However, on 6 August, 1838, William was confined on the Prison Hulk Ganymede, moored at Chatham. On his arrival at the hulk, he was listed as a 53-year-old illiterate fisherman who was married with six children. During his incarceration, he displayed a sullen disposition but good behaviour. William remained in prison until pardoned on 12 August, 1841. William eventually returned to his family in King's Lynn.

A Private Whipping

Young Thomas did not learn from his father's experience. On 11 July, 1842, he was convicted of stealing money from the home of John FRANCIS. The sentence was 14 days' imprisonment and a private whipping. He was in trouble again within a few months to earn his second conviction and the sentence of transportation. Unlike his father, Thomas would not escape his fate. Thomas PLAIN and William PANTON were incarcerated on the Prison Hulk Euryalus at Chatham on 22 November, 1842.

The hulk register noted that Thomas was of bad character and connexions (sic). The record shows Thomas and William were shipped to Van Diemen's Land on 19 May, 1843. The convict ship Asiatic set sail from Sheerness on 26 May, 1843 with 188 male convicts, including Thomas PLANE and William PANTON, bound for Van Diemen's Land. It put in for re-supply at the Cape of Good Hope after 119 days. The Asiatic anchored at Hobart Town on 23 September, 1843. A journey of nearly four months.

Thomas' convict records reveal he was a 4 foot-6 inch, 15-year-old, with a sallow complexion, brown hair and blue eyes, and had his initials "T.P." tattooed on his right arm. Thomas had no trade other than labourer and could neither read nor write. His illiteracy might explain why his name appears in the records as PLAIN,

PLANE, or PLAINE. Thomas told his gaolers his offence was housebreaking and stealing a lump of sugar (and perhaps something else but the writing is not clear). On the hulk, Thomas' behaviour was "orderly". The surgeon on the Asiatic noted Thomas' conduct as "good".

While under supervision in Tasmania, Thomas had three minor disciplinary issues. In 1844, he was absent without leave; the punishment was 25 straps on the breeches. Five years later, he was reprimanded for some form of misconduct. He was given one month's hard labour for habitual drunkenness in 1851. In 1850, Thomas was granted a Ticket of Leave and in 1852, he was issued his Certificate of Freedom.

Establishing A Home

Thomas PLAIN(E)/PLANE does not appear in any index of Tasmanian marriage or birth records as groom or father but it appears he did establish a home and family. Thomas PLAIN died on 11 February, 1876. On the civil registration of death, his occupation was listed as "fisherman" and the cause of death was "pulmonary consumption". The death notice in *The Mercury (Hobart)* newspaper, 12 February 1876 stated that he had died after a long and painful illness, "which he bore with Christian fortitude." The notice seems to suggest he had family or close friends.

Another death notice in *The Mercury* confirmed that Thomas had at least one child. A death notice in the 13 February, 1877 edition read; "PLANE-On 10 February, at her mother's residence, Goulburn Street, opposite St. John's Church, Mary Ann PLANE, after a long and painful illness, in the 18th year of her age." The civil registration of death revealed that she, like her father, died of tuberculosis. While none of this furthered my family tree in the least, it was interesting to trace the life of a sullen and dissolute juvenile delinquent, or perhaps just a young scallywag looking for adventure, from Norfolk halfway around the world to Van Diemen's Land.

John Wemhof MN14391



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Two Robinsons - A Problem Solved by Mary Mitchell

OVER the years as I have researched my family, the CHAPLIN and ROBINSON connection has caused me many hours of frustration.

My 3xgreat-grandmother Mary CHAPLIN (nee ROBINSON), who lived in Geldeston, had a brother named Samuel ROBINSON. But the problem that needed solving was whether the Samuel ROBINSON who lived in Geldeston from (at least) 1769, when he signed a document which records what took place '*At a towne metting have been made chose of Mr John Richards to serve overseers offis for the year ensuing*' to 1788 when he is mentioned as paying £2 18s 4d to the Overseers from Easter 1788 to Easter 1789 [Found in the Geldeston records Overseers accounts PD542/105 (MF720/6) in the NRO], is the same Samuel ROBINSON who died at Holton, Suffolk on 22 May, 1810.

In the Holton Samuel ROBINSON's will of 14 May, 1810 he mentions '*that he my said son Samuel shall pay unto all the children of my sister Mary CHAPMAN [sic] the wife of William CHAPMAN [sic] of Geldestone in the said county of Suffolk the sum of ten pounds each on their severally attaining their ages of twenty one years and pay unto the said Mary CHAPMAN[sic] during her life legal interest on the said several legacies for her better maintenance and bringing up of her said children*' and William CHAPLIN (Mary's husband) mentions, in a codicil to his will dated 24 August, 1830, his wife's brother Samuel ROBINSON and the money that was left by Samuel to his children.

This Samuel had married Mary COSSEY on 5 November, 1789 at Claxton near Norwich. Their first child, Harriet, was baptised on 18 July, 1790 at St Benedict's Church Norwich and then they moved to Fressingfield where their next four children, a son and three daughters, were baptised. I have not found a baptism record for their sixth child, another daughter, although according to census returns she was also born in Fressingfield. Samuel died in Holton on 16 May, 1810, two days after he made his will, and was buried in Holton St Peter churchyard on 22 May.

Back to the Samuel who lived in Geldeston. My cousin, Linda CHAPLIN MN7309, had been sent a copy of an advertisement from the Norwich Mercury of Saturday January 13 1776 (page 3) which advertised the sale of Geldeston Staithe and Wharf which was owned by Samuel ROBINSON. The advert stated '*The Reason for all the Premises being to be disposed of, arises from the present Proprietor's Intention of going to reside in London in a capital Mercantile Business*'. However this sale did not take place and in the Norfolk Chronicle of Saturday 20 August, 1785 (page 3) the Staithe was up for sale again with the following statement in the middle of the advert - '*This estate is extremely eligible and admirably situated for the trade of a merchant, which Mr SAMUEL ROBINSON, the present proprietor (who is going to decline business), now carries on in an extensive way*'. There is also an advert in the Norwich Chronicle of 31 May, 1783 (page 3) which mentions that Samuel ROBINSON is the proprietor of the theatre in Bungay.

[These newspapers can be viewed on the FindMyPast website]. After 1789 the trail goes cold for this particular Samuel. Over many years Linda and I have tried to connect the two Samuel ROBINSONs but with no success. However last year when we were both on a visit to the Lowestoft Record Office I asked the staff if they had any information on the Bungay Theatre around the 1780s, but they couldn't find anything about the theatre for this date. They did ask me what I knew about Samuel ROBINSON so I explained about the two of them. When this information was put in to their computer it brought up documents that related to a Samuel ROBINSON late of Geldeston and now of Fressingfield! As you can imagine we couldn't wait to see these documents and find out what they said. The documents dated from 1779 and 1796/7.

The lease of 1 November, 1779 [880DI/86/18] states that the lease is between "*Nathaniel GODBOLD of Beccles gentleman*" and "*SAMUEL ROBINSON of Geldeston in the county of Norfolk merchant*" and refers to land in Bungay with particular mention of the manor of Bungay Soke, Castle Way and the Priory of Bungay. The indenture mentions the following people: Ann COOPER and William COOPER of Kessingland, John SCALES, John KITTERIDGE, William MUNDs, Valentine LUMLEY, Joseph DOWNING, William KINGSBURY, John MAPES, Andrew CO[A]NE, William VINCENT, William WILKERSON, William HOWS, Thomas SMEALS, William BERNARD, Valentine Lumley BERNERD, Robert BARETT, Sir John PLAYTERS, Edward ROGERS and Robert AGGAS.

It was the letter of Attorney dated 4 August, 1796 [880/D1/86/22] which proved that the two Samuels were the same person as it states "*To all to whom these presents shall come I Samuel ROBINSON late of Geldeston in the county of Norfolk but now of Fressingfield in the county of Suffolk Gentleman send greeting*". The indenture dated the 12 April, 1797 [880/D1/86/23] reiterates this by stating that the indenture is between William COOPER, Thomas BURNETT, James CHAPMAN and "*Samuel ROBINSON formerly of Geldeston in the county of Norfolk but now of Fressingfield in the said county of Suffolk Gentleman*".

We now had proof that the two Samuels were the same person. We were delighted that after so much time we had made the connection – the next part of the story was to find out how Samuel came to own the Staithe in Geldeston which was a large property. I have related this story to show how important Record Offices are in family history research. There are so many websites these days which make us feel that everything is on the web - but it isn't! We need to use the Record Offices or they will close and a valuable source will be lost to the public.

If anyone recognises any of the names I have mentioned in the documents I have transcribed, please contact me and I will send a transcript of the document. Also if you have any more information on the Robinson family both Linda and I would be happy to hear from you.

Mary Mitchell MN 3328 marmitch49@gmail.com

Centenary of World War One

TO mark this significant point in our history we are holding our second Family History Day on Saturday 2nd August, 2014 in the Amy Robsart Hall from 10am-5pm.

We want to concentrate on the men from Syderstone who fought and those who died in this awful conflict. We have a collection of photographs of local WW1 soldiers and sailors, which have been digitised and restored, but which are mainly un-named, together with a list of names of local soldiers and sailors who served their country.

We would love to put the names to the faces. Did any of your Syderstone family serve in WW1- have you got any photos or documents, can you identify any of the photographs? We would love to hear from you and perhaps we can name some people before August.

We also want to prepare a brief history of the men who served. The list we have is sometimes just surname and initial, so we have to establish the identity of these men first, can you help with this?

Also on display will be our ever growing collection of local family histories and photographs, together with books, memorabilia, maps etc. Entry will be free and refreshments will be available.

If you think you can help us, or would like to find out more about this project, please contact either of the following:

Sheila Riches MN10855 Tel. 01485 578171 sheilarriches@btinternet.com

Avril MacArthur MN 9439 Tel. 01485 578588 avril.macarthur1@btinternet.com

Identity Fraud in the 19th Century?

Sustead Baptisms 27th July 1828

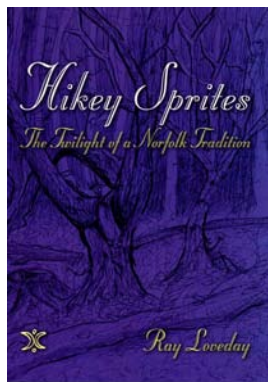
Joseph ARCHER (born June 19th 1828) son of Joseph (Husbandman) and Elizabeth (late ARCHER).

[Footnote] N.B. This child was represented at its Baptism as the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Archer, supposed to be Husband and Wife, and that it was born at Sustead, whereas it appears that he is the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Archer, and was born at Hamworth.

P. Johnson, Minister.

Book Review

Hikey Sprites – The Twilight of a Norfolk Tradition by Ray Loveday published by E Ray Loveday, printed by Swallowtail Print Ltd. Available direct from the author at 54C Pottergate, Norwich, NR2 1DY at £7.50 per copy including postage. Paperback 48 pages



They say you are never too old to learn new things and this offering from Ray Loveday MN 13707 is the first time I have come across the Hikey Sprite, despite being born and having lived in Norfolk for virtually my entire life. This is an update of the book first published by Ray in 2009 and he has kindly donated it to the NFHS library.

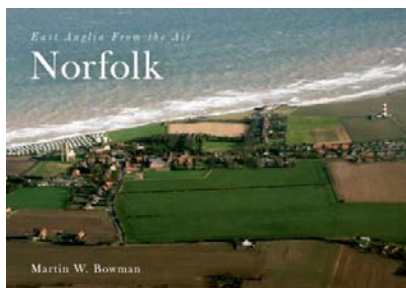
Hikey Sprites are essentially part of Norfolk folklore and this book includes illustrations, drawings and information on the alleged sightings of the little devil. Ray has interviewed numerous people to gain an understanding of this “Will-o-The-Wisp,” which was all too often used to frighten children.

Ray lists, in an almost academic study, the places that the Sprite has been seen, its use in literature and its place in Norfolk’s past.

Reviewed by **Peter Steward**

East Anglia from the Air NORFOLK by Martin W. Bowman. Paperback 160 pages, Amberley Publishing £17.99

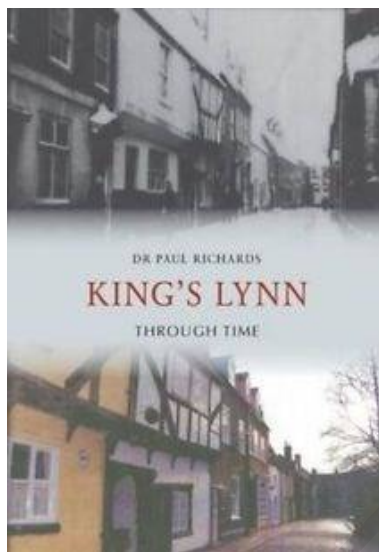
The full majesty of the Norfolk countryside unfolds from the air, as photographer Martin Bowman takes us on a series of airborne journeys from the city of Norwich with its wonderful castle and cathedral, from the meandering River Wensum, to the outlying towns and villages. Taken from a variety of aircraft, the photographs cover Norfolk from the wild northern tip of the county, including Holkham Bay and Hunstanton, along the coast over the holiday havens of Great Yarmouth, Sheringham and Cromer to the world-famous Norfolk Broads and then inland to Norwich and stately homes such as Holkham Hall and Sandringham. This is a book to delight anyone with an interest in the Norfolk landscape.



Reviewed by **Edmund Perry**

KING'S LYNN Through Time by Paul Richards. Paperback 95 pages, Amberley Publishing £14.99

The latest title in Amberley's extensive and highly successful *Through Time* series is a fascinating selection of nearly 200 images covering over 150 years, tracing the many ways in which King's Lynn has changed and developed as a major English port and market town. Despite redevelopment of its centre, Lynn continues to be an historic town of national importance with its riverside streets, their old merchant houses and warehouses.



The North Sea Haven Project has resulted in significant regeneration of the River Ouse waterfront. Dr. Richards has added many interesting facts and comments beneath the photographs.

Review by **Edmund Perry**

Notes and Queries

Searching For A Pilot

I am trying to locate the burial place of a pilot, named Peter A. TOWNSHEND, whose small plane crashed in the South of France on the 13th May, 1948. His body was repatriated. His father, Leonard TOWNSHEND, was a carver and gilder with a shop at 13 Charing Cross, Norwich at the time, and mother Mabel TOWNSHEND owned the shop called Aldertons in Swan Lane. Perhaps the local newspaper mentioned the fact not only because Peter was the son of someone well known in Norwich but also because he was taking from Paris to Cannes the sister of John F. KENNEDY, Lady HARTINGTON, nee Kathleen 'Kick' KENNEDY, who was killed as well as her companion Peter WENTWORTH, 8th Earl Fitzwilliam.

It must have made it to the local press and it is hoped that there is somewhere a mention of where Peter TOWNSHEND was buried or cremated. Any detail would be helpful.

Sophie Pigott MN 4295 pgotts41@yahoo.fr

French Connection

Mike Russell is appealing for any information and knowledge on the historic French name of BASTARD. His research has established that there were several Lords of the Manor with that name within Norfolk.

"With many years of research before the vast knowledge now available via the web site, I have traced this particular name through various counties including Devon, Cornwall, Hampshire, Somerset, Berkshire, London and, of course, Norfolk," he said. Mike has also received feedback from South Africa and Australia and is currently trying to find a link from the original arrival back in 1066 when lands were given to the supporters of the Conquest and Mike is trying to establish how the descendants may have spread into Norfolk.

Mike Russell MN 7861 michael.russell70@ntlworld.com

Great Yarmouth Anomaly

I have been researching my STACEY ancestry using the online images at FamilySearch of the parish records for St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth.

I have noticed that there is an anomaly in the marriage records in the 1640s. From 1640 to 1644 the number of marriages per annum was around 150, however in 1645 this drops to 78 and then steadily down to 13 by 1649. In some months there were no recorded marriages at all. During this time, the annual number of baptisms and burials continued at previous levels. Based on the baptism dates for their oldest children, I was expecting to find at least two marriages for my ancestors.

I assume that this drop-off in the number of marriages is a result of the English Civil War (1642-49). It is reported that the Puritans were in the ascendency in Great Yarmouth at this time and that St Nicholas Church was partitioned into three sections – one each for the Puritans, Protestants and Churchmen.

Does any member know if there was in fact a reduced number of marriages or did people get married elsewhere and, if so, where? Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Stephen Turner, MN 13371 sjtkkt@bigpond.com

Requesting Information on John Robinson

I am researching my great-great grandfather, John Robinson. Records indicate that he was born 9 October, 1799 in Briston. Despite independently commissioned research I have been unable to locate any information about John's family or relevant records.

In 1819 he was sentenced by the Kent Assizes to death, which was later changed to transportation to Tasmania, where he passed away in 1876.

I would welcome any information about John's family or his history.

Tony Robinson MN 14586 tonyrobinson6@bigpond.com

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GILL BLANCHARD

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Group Reports

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

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

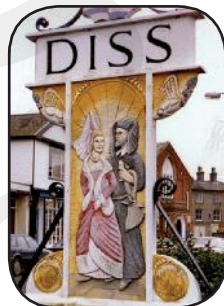
Norwich: Mr and Mrs Roger Peck, c/o Kirby Hall

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

South Norfolk Group

WE welcomed Sarah Wise as speaker to our February meeting. Sarah is author of the prize-winning "Italian Boy" and "Inconvenient People – Lunacy and the Mad Doctors in Victorian England". This evening her subject was "The Blackest Streets".

In 1887 Government Inspectors were sent to explore the horrifying - often lethal - living conditions of the Old Nichol, a notorious 15-acre slum in London's East End. Among much else they found that the rotting 100-year-old houses were some of the most lucrative properties in the capital for their absent slumlords. Peers of the Realm, local politicians, churchmen and lawyers were making profits on these death-traps of as much as 150 per cent per annum.



Before long, the Old Nichol became a focus of public attention. Journalists, the clergy, charity workers and others condemned its 6,000 inhabitants for their drunkenness and criminality. The solution to this 'problem' lay in internment camps, said some, or forced emigration - even policies designed to prevent breeding. Concentrating on the last 15 years of the nineteenth century, 'The Blackest Streets' is set in a turbulent period in London's history, when revolution was very much in the air - when unemployment, agricultural depression and a crackdown on parish relief provided a breeding ground for Communists and Anarchists. Sarah explored the real lives behind the statistics - the woodworkers, fish smokers, street hawkers and many more. She excavated the Old Nichol from the ruins of history, laying bare the social and political conditions that created and sustained this black hole which lay at the very heart of the Empire.

Much has been made in the past of all the inhabitants of the Nichol being dirty, criminal and without employment. In his novel "A Child of the Jago," Arthur Morrison says that no policeman would enter the alleys and rookeries of the Jago. This was not strictly true as according to the census several policemen actually lived in the Nichol. Not all but certainly some of the inhabitants of this dreadful place were clean and worked as self-employed hot potato sellers, boot menders, washerwomen, etc.

The dwellers of the Old Nichol lived in very crowded conditions – ten to a room being quite normal. The profiteering landlords received compensation when The Old Nichol was pulled down but the tenants were evicted with nowhere to go. Smart new buildings were put up but the rents were far too expensive which meant that the original occupants ended up either sleeping under arches or, if lucky, they obtained homes in other poor parts of London and thus created another Nichol.

* * *

Our February talk, entitled “War Memorials” and illustrated by excellent slides, was given by Roland Buggey. Roland has studied his subject for many years and has travelled all over the world visiting and photographing War Memorials. We were privileged to see and hear about Memorials from as far away as The Falkland Islands and as near as Diss. Some of the local ones we frequently pass by and it was interesting to stop and actually look at them.

Although there are earlier War Memorials, the vast majority are for the First World War. Because of the decision of the government not to return the bodies of dead soldiers, there were no graves and nowhere for the bereaved to mourn. Apart from National Monuments, the people wanted local ones and subscriptions were raised in most localities to enable the names of their dead to be recorded.

Betty Morley MN2797

London Group Report

LONDON BRANCH MEETING: MARCH 2014

THE London Branch met on March 15 at the Society of Genealogists for a Members’ Day themed around records and memorabilia of the First World War.

The meeting was a very successful one, with a number of members bringing photographs, original documents and other memorabilia relating to ancestors and relatives who had served and, in many cases, died in the First World War.

Nick and Gillian MACDONALD brought photographs and documents relating to Gillian’s grandfather, John MASON, who joined the Royal Navy in 1905 and served on HMS Collingwood between 1910 and 1919. His original service record showed he received a share in prize money from captured ships up until the early 1920s. A family story was that he had been on board the Collingwood at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. We also got to see his wedding photograph from August 1918, when he married Matilda PRITCHARD. This was a lovely picture crowded with relatives and friends, and beautiful hats (for the ladies)! Following naval tradition, the service (or “captain’s wedding”) was followed by the regular ceremony. The MacDonalds also mentioned HENDRY ancestors from Norfolk, who had been London-based and



had joined the East Surrey Regiment.

Les CROME spoke about his paternal grandfather, James CROME (whose family had left Norfolk for London at some time during the 18th century). James, aged 25 and a father of three, was living in Southwark in South-East London and working in a brewery when he enlisted in April 1915. His height was given on his Army enlistment form as 5 foot 3 1/2 inches.

James served as a Driver with the Royal Field Artillery from April 1915 to March 1920. He was in France from December 1915 to April 1919 and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field in January 1918, although he did not receive the medal from the Army until January 1919.

Although the official citation no longer exists at the Army Medal Office, a family story relates that James rescued horses when an ammunition dump caught fire following a German bombardment and then went back to put out the fire. James was not finally discharged until his demobilisation on 31 March 1920.

Rosemary FISHBURN brought a memorial plaque sent to the family of Walter Leslie MONK, inscribed with his name and campaign medals. Walter was probably a cousin, or related to Rosemary's husband's maternal grandmother, Eliza BUSBY (nee MONK). The plaque was found amongst Les FISHBURN's aunt's belongings after her death. Information from Naval Casualties 1914-1918 on Find my Past gives *b 15/6/98 Rating Ord.Tel. Ship HMS Invincible Date of death 31/05/1916, body not recovered for burial.*

Walter MONK had been a telegraph operator on board HMS Invincible and a quick smartphone search during the meeting confirmed that the warship was lost at the Battle of Jutland when a shell hit the magazine. The FISHBURN family originated from Holkham but had migrated to London to settle in the area around Stamford Hill and Tottenham. Rosemary's paternal grandmother was Maud KETTLE, born in Kenninghall.

Rosemary had also brought in a copy of the Territorial Service Gazette for Saturday June 23, 1917, full of requests for information/pictures of soldiers missing or killed and responses from comrades giving information. This issue included photographs of two cousins of Rosemary's maternal grandmother Katherine LAWRENCE (nee BENNETT) - Private E. (Eric) WILLIS, Middlesex Regiment, missing April 19, 1917, in Palestine [date of 2nd Battle of Gaza] and his brother Signaler A. E (Albert Ernest) WILLIS, Royal West Kent Regiment, who was killed on November 18 1916.

The request was for any news to be given to their mother Mrs WILLIS of 18 Coningham Road, Shepherd's Bush, W12. On another page is news sent from two fellow soldiers giving quite detailed information on how Albert Ernest WILLIS died and where he was buried. We were also able to look through the album containing a collection of postcards of places in France sent by Rosemary's maternal grandfather, Charles LAWRENCE (b. 1892 Richmond, Surrey) to her grandmother, Katherine (nee BENNETT) (b. Shepherd's Bush, 1890) whilst he was serving in France.

Marion ATTEW raised the conundrum of her ancestor Campbell MORRISON, who died in January 1917, and why he was not eligible for campaign medals. Was this because he was born in Dublin, or because he did not serve overseas? His son, born in 1906, made a claim for the medals in the 1920s. MORRISON was a Lieutenant Quartermaster for the Surrey Regiment and died in an accident at the base.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website has his name recorded on the Screen Wall of the Woodgrange Park Cemetery, East Ham and this memorial is for "those whose graves could not be marked on a headstone". Marion found a document entitled 'Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918', via Ancestry, that stated Campbell MORRISON "died, result of an accident, January 20, 1917". He was just 40.

Marion followed up members' suggestions to apply for the death certificate to throw more light on the matter. While it is definitely for the correct person, as name, date, address and name of informant tie in, it gives the cause of death in the London Hospital as 'Arterio Sclerosis' and 'Cerebral hemorrhage' (possibly a medical term for stroke?). This does not quite tie in with information received from elsewhere. The family lived in Brockley, London, SE4 and possibly he was buried closer to home.

Susan PORRETT told us the story of Percy James PORRETT (born 16th March 1886) who was one of the nine surviving children of John PORRETT, a wheelwright and carpenter of 6 Upton Road, Eaton, Norwich, and his wife Hannah (nee TUNMORE). Percy, who was employed as a "clerk in general hardware" according to the 1911 census, enlisted in February 1916, a month before conscription was introduced, and joined the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

After training, he was sent to France, where he was killed in action on the Somme in Picardy on 9th October 1916 during an attack on the German positions in the village of Gaudecourt. Percy, like so many of the soldiers who died in the conflict, has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, and on the Newmarket Road Memorial in Eaton. He had made his will, leaving £10 to "my dearest friend", Kathleen HARRISON (of 4 York Street, Norwich), with other bequests of £10 to his unmarried sisters, Florence and Rose PORRETT, and the rest of his estate to his father, John PORRETT, who died in 1920.

Cyril JACOB spoke about his father's elder brother, Robert JACOB, who had joined the Royal Flying Corp in 1916, and of a cousin's family in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, where a father and son had both lied about their ages in order to enlist successfully – the older man lowering his age, and his son raising it! Our next meeting will be on 18th October 2014. Keep an eye out for further details on the website and in the magazine.

Mary Seeley MN 3806

Norwich Group Reports by Roy Scott and Denagh Hacon

UP to mid-January, no speaker was booked for the February meeting. Peter and Rosemary Salt stepped in at very short notice. And although there was very little time to advertise the talk, the attendance was very good – a testimony I think to the quality of their talks. Peter and Rosemary give Still Life Talks – talks around a particular area of history in Norwich and Norfolk, illustrated by excellent photographs. The Norwich Group has had several of these talks and they usually guarantee good attendance.

The subject in February was Norfolk and Norwich in the Great War, and it transpired that this is also an area of history Peter himself is studying at present as a mature student.

It took a look at life around the City and County from 1909 to 1923, showing street scenes, housing, shops, farming, factories and entertainment in the early years of the 20th Century, illustrating how things changed from the halcyon days prior to WW1, through the war years to the post-war period. It covered military recruitment, war hospitals and technological innovations such as aeroplanes, air ships and motorised transport and, of course, covered changes that resulted from WW1 such as Poppy Day, council housing, unemployment schemes and female emancipation.

There were 38 members present on 14th March at Kirby Hall for a talk on Eminent Norwich Men by Barbara Miller from the Norwich Society.

William Appleyard - As a minor, William was admitted a freeman of Norwich in 1367 when his father Bartholomew, was a bailiff. During the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 he was given some responsibility for the defence of Norwich, being named as an assistant to the bailiffs for safeguarding the City against the Norfolk rebels led by Geoffrey Lister. He was elected to Parliament in 1383, serving for a total of 36 years. During this period of time he also served three terms as bailiff of Norwich in 1386, 1395 and 1401. A new charter granted by King Henry IV in 1403 allowed the citizens of Norwich to elect a Mayor in lieu of the four bailiffs. William Appleyard was elected as the first Mayor of Norwich, serving from 1403 to 1405. In 1406, after a disputed election, Walter Daniel became mayor. However, Appleyard was re-elected in 1411, 1412 and 1418. William Appleyard inherited a number of properties in Norwich, the most noteworthy being in the parish of St Andrew's. This building, dating from 1370, now houses the Bridewell Museum. In his will of 1419, Appleyard requested *'his place of burial to be wherever it pleased God'*, and instructed his executors to sell two properties in St. Andrew's parish to pay his debts. He died on 4th September, 1419, and was probably buried in St Andrew's parish, but the church was rebuilt in 1506 and there is no surviving memorial to him.

Thomas Erpingham - The Erpingham family were landholders, with a tradition of royal service and involvement in local government. Sir Thomas entered service as a retainer for John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. Thomas was appointed to a number of important positions in Norfolk, including the commission to preserve

local order after the Peasants' Revolt in 1381. When Henry IV returned to England in 1399, he and his loyal followers proceeded to tour Lancastrian strongholds, gathering support. Erpingham featured in the eventual capture of Richard and later guarded him at the Tower. Sir Thomas was rewarded for his services, by an appointment as Constable of Dover Castle, as well as gaining lands in Norfolk and Suffolk. Erpingham took full advantage of his relationship with the King, for the benefit of Norwich and the granting of a new charter to the City in 1403. The pinnacle of Sir Thomas' military career came in 1415 when at the age of 58 and a steward to Henry V, he fought at the Battle of Agincourt. After the Blackfriar's Church in Norwich was destroyed by fire in 1413, Sir Thomas Erpingham funded much of the rebuilding. The large nave now forms St Andrew's Hall. Towards the end of his life he lived in Norfolk where he continued to play a central role in the affairs of the City and left his lasting architectural legacy, the Erpingham Gate. It is believed Sir Thomas commissioned this entrance to Cathedral Close in 1420. He died soon after and was buried in a grand tomb in the Cathedral.

Augustine Steward - Augustine, the son of Geoffrey Steward, a Norwich Mercer and Alderman, was born in the parish of St George, Tombland, Norwich in 1491. Augustine became a highly successful Mercer and politician, being elected Sheriff of Norwich in 1526 and Mayor in 1534, 1546 and 1556. Augustine was also M.P for Norwich in 1542 and a Burgess in Parliament in 1547. During Kett's Rebellion in 1549, he was appointed deputy Mayor when the mayor of Norwich, Thomas Codd, was imprisoned by Robert Kett. His house in Tombland opposite the Cathedral's Erpingham Gate features prominently in the events surrounding the rebellion. He was a leading citizen of his time, taking a prominent role in rebuilding the Guildhall and obtaining for the City, Blackfriars' Convent, now St Andrew's Hall, from the Crown. He donated to Norwich a silver gilt, rock crystal mace, which now forms part of the City's regalia. Later he resided at Elm Hill in the building which now accommodates the Strangers' Club. He died in 1571 aged 79 and is buried in St Peter Hungate, next to his two wives, Elizabeth and Alice.

In April, 25 people were privileged to hear advice from Gill Blanchard, a professional researcher, qualified historian, published author and tutor. "Gill's Top Tips" for writing **your** story and bringing **your** ancestors to life, can and will help us produce better Family Histories. The key messages to underpinning any family history are, Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why? The latter probably being the most difficult question to answer. Don't just recite names and dates, make it interesting by integrating relevant illustrations, photographs and copies of postcards or old paintings to add colour. Use documents such as copies of parish register entries and census returns. Maps will pinpoint where your family lived and worked. It is important to clarify each part of your story by adding a two generation tree or family group sheet. Develop your own writing style and always make it clear when you are theorising. Newspapers are a useful resource to enable you to include topical local events which tell what was happening in your ancestor's area. National events of the time that impacted on their lives will add historical context to the story. Make sure the facts are correct. Gill recommended finding a "Fierce

Friend” to proof-read, review, criticise and also proof read your finished work. Whatever format you choose to present your work, be it a book or booklets, websites or blogs, accept that not everyone will like what you write or agree with your interpretations, but always remember, it is **your** story about **your** ancestors.

Gill Blanchard’s next book “*Writing Your Family History: A Guide for Family Historians*,” Published by Pen and Sword Books is out on September 30th .

Roy Scott MN475

Kirby Hall Library Report

THE big task of preparing the new library catalogue is complete and on the web-site with every book and leaflet and its location in the library listed.

A further 1794 BMD certificates donated by members have been catalogued ready for uploading onto NORS in July.

One afternoon in April ten Kirby Hall volunteers attended a course at Kirby Hall in emergency first aid. Our trainer taught us the basics of assessment, the all-important recovery position, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and dealing with cuts. Fainting, asthma attacks, angina and heart attacks were also discussed.

Everyone came away having learned a lot and feeling more prepared to deal with an emergency. We thank Tom Hickling for instructing us and helping us with the restocking of our First Aid box.

Margaret Murgatroyd MN 10400

FAMILY TREES added to the Library

BULL/YOUNGMAN	Aldeby, Blundeston
CRISP	Downham Market
DRURY	Costessey, Norwich from Essex
FISK/LONG	Great Yarmouth
FULCHER	Newton St. Faiths (Norwich) Horsford, Bridgham, Kenninghall,
JECKELLS	Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
RANSOME	Various Norfolk parishes (rolled-up version)
THORPE	Wattisham
YOUNGS	Woodton, N.Runcton, Swaffham, King's Lynn

May I once again thank all those who have sent in ‘unwanted’ BMD Certificates. They are very helpful and much appreciated, so please keep them coming. Liz Mann has been preparing a spreadsheet of the BMD certificates donated by members and the first part of the index will go online in July 2014.

Pam Bridge, Family Tree Co-ordinator MN3291

VILLAGE BOXES

For those of you researching ancestors who lived in Norfolk during the 1914/18 war, the Village Boxes of Attleborough, Dereham, Diss, Kessingland, Loddon, Sidestrand and Great Yarmouth might hold some information pertinent to your family.

Attleborough Village Box contains a piece on those who served in the war, including their ranks and injuries, written by Major J.H. Kennedy. There is also an interesting article on Attleborough Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital which was 'taken over' by the war office on April 15th 1917 and converted into an Auxiliary Military Hospital with 100 beds.

A Diary written by Terry Davy, and running from August 3rd 1914 to October 22nd 1922 (when the war memorial was unveiled by Prince Henry), is to be found in the Dereham Village Box.

Kessingland Village Box includes, The Story of Kessingland War Memorial. There are a few photos of soldiers in the Diss box, and 'Souvenirs to Old Worlledger' in the Great Yarmouth box. Sidestrand has a 'Story of a Village 1914' and Loddon 'More Aspects of War'.

For a list of what else is contained in the Village Boxes, use the drop down tool bar on the NORS website and type in the village name.

Judith Kilbourn, Village Box Organiser MN 12926

Coming in September

IN the September edition of the Norfolk Ancestor we will have the story of the search for William Hewitt and how a mystery was solved.

We will also have an article on the extensive depopulation of Norfolk in the 1870s and 1880s due to migration, and we will meet the Norfolk Rector who left his parish to serve on the Western Front in France during the First World War and the written legacy that he has left to be enjoyed in the centenary year of that great conflict.

There will also be all the usual reports, diary dates and contact information.

NFHS Website with Mike Dack

WHAT is available on the NFHS Website www.norfolkfhs.org.uk?

Members login: While much is available to all visitors, logging in provides additional access to the members only facilities, a successful login is indicated when the 'Members login' button changes to 'Logout'. Forgotten passwords can be replaced by clicking 'Forgotten password' next to the login box and entering membership number plus the first three characters of surname. An auto-generated password will be emailed within minutes, providing of course that the registered e-mail address is up-to-date.

Contact us: Society contacts and email addresses, Kirby Hall location map also a Site Map with quick-links to all pages on the website.

Links: Two pages of links to other websites useful for research mainly with a Norfolk association.

Notice board: Facility for members to post and exchange information.

Bookstall: Search for books and CDs direct from the society, view special offers and order online.

NORS: View the user guide, FAQ (Frequently asked questions) and login to NORS. (It is not necessary to first login to NFHS website if only using NORS).

Library: Under the library drop down menu are indexes of the extensive genealogical resource such as books, documents and maps held at Kirby Hall. (Note – these are lists only and items are not available to view online)

Events: Announcements of forthcoming local and national events.

Join: Join the society online or download application form. (Note - for Membership renewal first login and then renew under the 'Membership' menu)

Membership (Benefits): Login to - Amend personal details; View current and archived Norfolk Ancestor; Request look-up (not research) service; Register 'members interests' and contact members with same interests; Renew membership online.

Society: About the society, opening times, group information and news items.

Mike Dack MN11670 Acting Webmaster

NORS (Norfolk Online Record Search)

THE number of records available on NORS continues to increase. Uploads in 2014 until April include: Norwich Death Returns for 1904 and 1906 and Partial Parish Registers from Burnham Westgate, Fakenham, Field Dalling, Gooderstone, Houghton On The Hill, King's Lynn All Saints (Lynn South), Loddon, Thurton, North Walsham, Old Buckingham, Sustead, Swaffham, Norwich St.

Clement and Norwich St Stephen. Monumental inscriptions are included from Blakeney, Burnham Sutton, Ingoldisthorpe, Norwich Cathedral, Shelfanger, Shernbourne and Stoke Holy Cross.

These continual additions are made possible only through the diligence of many volunteers and transcribers, some of whom are listed here: Lyn Offord, Peter Austin, David Hallums, Dr T E Miller, Brian Margetson, Roy Scott, John Pepperdine and many others past and present, plus of course the transcript organiser Margaret Murgatroyd and MI organiser Mary Mitchell whom members should contact if they would like to contribute. Readers may be interested to see the current 'Top 20 Norfolk Surname Searches on NORS'. While this example is for the month of March 2014, it is fairly representative of most months.

Smith 2548	Brown 1340	Wright 1311	Baker 1283	Woodrow 1142
Seaman 1140	Howard 1045	Green 1001	Clarke 988	Chapman 981
Howes 977	Daines 970	Browne 925	Moore 919	Taylor 884
Ward 873	Mann 831	Riches 829	Jarvis 813	Barnard 781

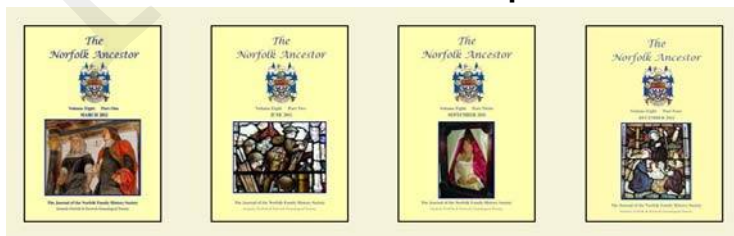
Please note that while total searches are retrievable, individual searches cannot be monitored. Members not already taking advantage of this great resource should really consider trying it now.

Forgotten passwords can be replaced by clicking 'Forgotten password' next to the login box. An auto-generated password will be e-mailed within minutes, providing of course that the registered e-mail address is up-to-date.

The 'Person Search' option is most recommended. The minimum input requirement is a surname only and results can be narrowed down by including forename and/or dates. The results from the 'Quick Search' option are useful to discover the distribution of an individual surname throughout Norfolk. A particular parish can be searched using the 'Browse Records' lists on the left hand side of the screen. The NORS 'user guide' and 'Frequently Asked Questions' are available on the NFHS website. Happy searching.

Mike Dack MN11670 Acting Webmaster

Scanned Ancestor Copies



Copies of the Norfolk Ancestor from 1992 onwards are now available to NFHS members on the Society's web site.

Norfolk Record Office Report with Jenny Watts

New Parish Register Accessions, January – April 2014

Framingham Pigot	marriages	2005-2013
Gorleston	baptisms	1852-1916
	marriages	1837-1911
	burials	1845-1915
	banns	1899-1914
Old Lakenham St John	baptisms	1978-2010
Stow Bedon	marriages	1837-2000
Topcroft	marriages	1954-1990

Exhibitions in the Long Gallery

Stories from St Benet's runs from 12 May until 25 July, and is organised in collaboration with the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, which oversaw the recent HLF-funded Conservation, Access and Community project at the site of this former Benedictine Abbey. The Abbey, in Horning, is often referred to as an 'icon of the Broads', a wealthy medieval monastic house whose ruins became a source of inspiration for artists and writers, as well as a popular destination for antiquaries and tourists alike. The exhibition features items from the NRO, as well as artwork and archaeological finds from the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. Highlights include a thirteenth-century Papal Bull, a John Sell Cotman drawing and several charming boating journals.

This will be followed from August until October by *Norfolk in the First World War*. 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. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of lunchtime talks; for details, please see our website or contact the Record Office.

Talks and other events

Both our Long Gallery exhibitions will be accompanied by a series of lectures. All will be held in the Green Room at The Archive Centre at 1p.m., and are free of charge. The June speakers for the St Benet's series will be:

3 June, Caroline Davison, 'St Benet's Literary Connections'

10 June, Professor Tom Williamson, on the landscape of St Benet's Abbey

17 June, Alison Yardy, 'St Benet's – Trade and Agriculture 1700-1900'

24 June, Clive Wilkins Jones, on Broads tourism.

4 August 2014 will see the launch of the NRO's First World War commemoration with an event at The Forum, Norwich.

Interested in history of house or military history workshops? Staff from the Norfolk Record Office will be holding sessions in libraries around Norfolk during Adult

Learners' Week, 14-21 June. Our usual children's summer holiday activities will be held in early August.

For further details about events organised by the NRO, please visit www.norfolkrecordoffice.eventbrite.co.uk.

Marriage Licence Bond Indexing Project

The NRO is seeking volunteers to help with a project to index our large collection of marriage licence bonds and affidavits, to make it easier for users to use this fantastic family history resource. You will need to be able to visit the Norfolk Record Office at The Archive Centre in Norwich, or at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. The NRO will provide training, but an ability to read eighteenth- and nineteenth-century handwriting and to use computer spreadsheet software would be very useful. If you would like to find out more, please contact us by e-mailing norfrec@norfolk.gov.uk or telephoning 01603 222599. If you are unable to visit us in Norwich but would like to help, we would still like to hear from you. At some point in the near future, we hope to have digitised images of the marriage licence records available so that volunteers can help remotely.

Changes in Opening Hours

A reminder that from 1 April 2014, the Record Office remains open until 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings, but is closed on Saturday mornings.

For further information about Norfolk Record Office news and events, see our website 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 or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NorfolkRO.

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

'Heritage Hour' is run by the Norfolk Record Office's Archive Specialists at the Norfolk Heritage Centre in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich. There are two Heritage Hours every week, one at 5.30 p.m. every Tuesday evening (a drop-in 'Ask an Archive Specialist' clinic) and one at 12.30 p.m. every Wednesday lunch-time (alternating between a research clinic and a talk/workshop).

Themes for Heritage Hour talks:

4 June 2014 'Stories from St Benet's: The exhibition' by Anne Lovejoy

18 June 2014 'Workhouses and their records' by Elizabeth Budd

Topics for July and August are still to be confirmed, but are likely to include Suffolk Genealogy, the story of smallpox vaccination in Norfolk, Nelson: Norfolk's legend, and Norfolk in the First World War.

There will be a series of twilight talks in June, organised in partnership with the UEA School of History, based on research being done by current PhD students.

Summer School returns to Norfolk Heritage Centre on Saturdays this July and August (12 and 26 July, 9 and 23 August), featuring workshops on parish registers, wills and other probate records, newspapers and military records.

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

Jenny Watts - NRO Archivist responsible for Parish Records



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 114 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>

NORFOLK FAMILY SEARCH

*Experienced Professional Genealogist
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Website: www.norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk

Email: enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk

Or write to: Norfolk Family Search
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**Family Histories Compiled
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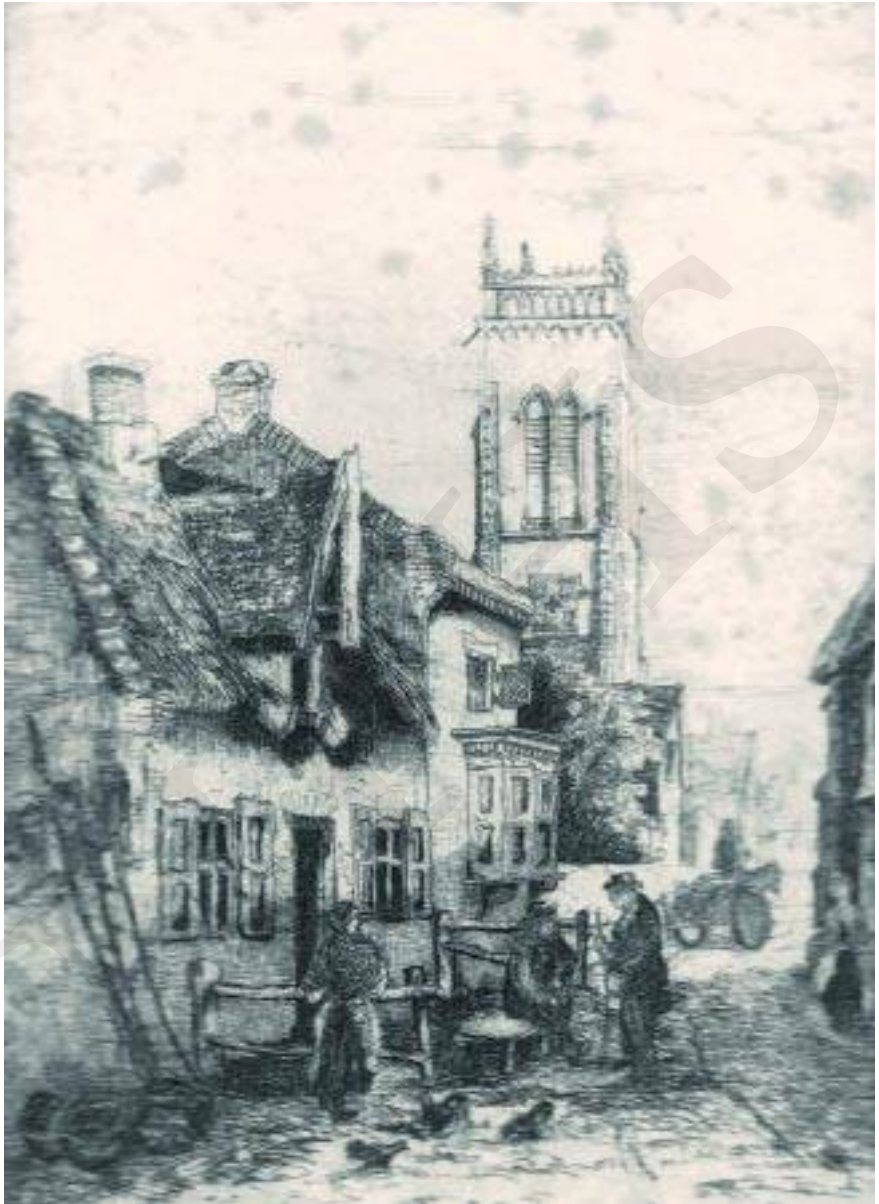
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**Or by post to the appropriate person at
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Here and on the back cover are more of the drawings by Arthur John Chambers (1858-1933). You can read about the artist, his brother Henry William Chambers and other members of the Chambers family on pages 76-77. The above is entitled Village Street 1875. On the back cover are two more images from Arthur John Chambers.

