

The Norfolk Ancestor



SEPTEMBER 2021



The Journal of the Norfolk Family History Society

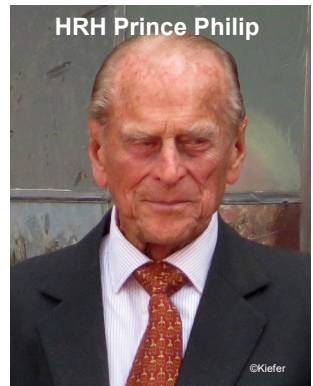
Formerly Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society

Sandringham– the Royal Connection

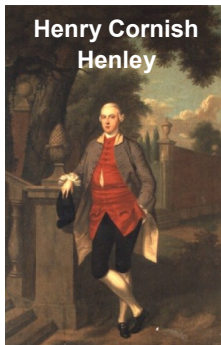
In April 2021, the nation joined with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in mourning the death of her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. As a tribute to the late prince, we take a look at the history of the Norfolk royal residence for which both the Queen and the Prince shared such affection.

THE picture on the cover shows Sandringham House near King's Lynn in West Norfolk. It is one of the two royal residences privately owned by the Queen and, when the Duke retired from official royal duties in 2017, he chose to set up home in a house situated on the 8,000 hectare Sandringham estate.

The name Sandringham is derived from the words 'Sant Dersingham', meaning the sandy part of Dersingham, which appeared in the Domesday Book of 1086. There is some evidence of a residence on the house site dating from 1296 and there were several Roman fortifications in the North Norfolk area, including a villa near to Appleton Farm on the estate.



In the 16th century, the land was owned by the COBBE family and passed on to James HOSTE in 1686. It passed down the Hoste family until Susan Hoste married Henry Cornish HENLEY in 1752. He decided in 1771, to clear the site and build a Georgian mansion with a white stucco exterior. Unfortunately he died in 1773 before the house was completed and it was left to his son, also called Henry, to finish the job.



When Henry Hoste Henley died in 1833 without an heir, the property was bought for £76,000 by a London silk merchant of Huguenot descent, by the name of John MOTTEUX. He already owned the Beachamwell Estate, west of Swaffham, including a stately home, which he had inherited from his father John in 1793. The Motteux family did much to improve the hamlet of Beachamwell, building a model village with an attractive church and stately hall. Both the Johns are honoured on plaques in St Mary's Church.

The younger John increased the family fortune by negotiating army contracts during the Napoleonic wars and built a village school. He also greatly improved his social standing in the community. To find out how the Sandringham estate eventually came into royal ownership turn to page 37.



Norfolk Family History Society

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IF you have an interest in Family History and would like to help to shape our future or have some spare time and would like to become involved in the life of our society please contact Volunteers' Co-ordinator Carol Reeve who will be able to give you more details of how you can help us. Carol's contact details are available towards the end of this edition.

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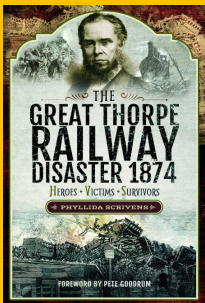
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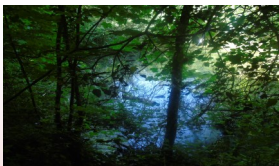
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Peter Steward	Joint Editor
Roger Morgan	Joint Editor
Rob Reeve	Proof Reader

Looking After The Past

From The Editor

HERE at the Norfolk Family History Society we are passionate about the past and family history.

The society is run by volunteers and we are looking for more help in a number of areas.

And the great thing is you don't have to live in Norfolk to be able to contribute to the success of the society.

We currently have over 3,600 members, making us one of the largest family history societies in the country. But we are always looking to expand and attract new members who want to learn about family history and the history of our county.

We have deliberately kept our membership fees low and you can find details of these and how to join the society on our website at www.norfolkfhs.org.uk and on page 19 of this edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

Membership gives you access to millions of records on our Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS), along with four magazines (either online or through the post) a year.

We also have a very active Facebook page which currently has over 3,200 members. Membership of this is free.

If you would like to volunteer to help the society and help us to look after our past please contact our volunteer co-ordinator Carol Reeve on volunteers@nfhs.co.uk.

We are particularly looking for somebody with IT skills and also somebody prepared to help with publicising and promoting the society. Full support and training will be given,

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We have made a slight change to the type setting for this edition. I know many people find difficulty in reading articles that have too much hyphenation at the end of lines. So we have tried to cut this to a minimum. I hope you enjoy our Autumn edition. The pre-Christmas edition will be with you at the beginning of December.



Kirby Hall Re-Opens By NFHS Chair Phil Whiscombe

Norfolk Family History Society Chair Phil Whiscombe talks about the re-opening of Kirby Hall.

WRITING this in mid-July, it's difficult to predict how far the UK Covid-19 restrictions will have been successfully relaxed by the time you receive this issue of the magazine, but it's good to be able to report that at last we were able to re-open Kirby Hall to visitors in June. Whilst this has been strictly on a pre-booked basis, if things go according to plan, then allowing visitors into the hall without pre-booking may have already taken place. However, please check for updated details on visiting restrictions and precautions before making a visit by looking on the Society website, checking on our Facebook page or by phoning Kirby Hall during normal opening hours. We look forward to welcoming members back to Kirby Hall whenever you are able to travel to Norwich.

Our venture into online events over the past months using the Zoom platform has proved very successful, with the encouraging response from our members residing both distant from Norwich in the UK and overseas being able to join us being particularly welcome. We now have a programme of online speakers for the next few months, the details of which can be found on the events tab of the Society website. In future we hope to re-introduce some talks in Kirby Hall again which, technology permitting, we should also be able to broadcast to our

wider membership using Zoom.

Members who have visited Kirby Hall in the past will be aware that we have accumulated a large number of family trees in hard copy donated by members over the years which have only been available for inspection in the library. These have all been scanned and placed on the Kirby Hall server and now a long-standing volunteer, Paul White, has accepted the challenge of uploading these to NORS. This is not a simple process and will take time to complete so if at first you cannot find a match for your surname search in the Family Trees section of NORS, please keep on trying.

Like many charities, the past year and a half of lockdowns and restrictions has been particularly challenging and consequently we are looking to drive up our membership numbers again so if you know of anyone in your family or circle of friends who is embarking on their family history research then do, please point them in the direction of the Society and encourage them to join – our membership rates are very reasonable! We would also welcome input from any of our members who may have experience in marketing and publicity who may be prepared to offer some voluntary assistance to us in publicising the Society more widely – an individual's location should not be a restriction for providing this support to us.

Recently a member suggested that the Society could raise some additional funding by registering for 'Amazon Smile' a straightforward way that

individuals can choose to support their favourite charitable organisation at no cost to them. The Society has now registered so if you feel you can support us in this way it would be most welcome. Details can be found at:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

I hope that you continue to stay well, enjoy this issue of the Norfolk Ancestor as well as furthering your family history research.



Alfred Clark and his Norfolk Wherry?

By Gina Langford

joined the Norfolk Family History Society because my mother's family (Ashbys) came from Southburgh, Norfolk, but I came

across a Norfolk connection with my father's family too.

My great-grandfather, Alfred Clark (1837-1905), was a self-made man of the Victorian era, whose life took him

from Hitchin in Hertfordshire, via Rochester (Kent) to Soham in Cambridgeshire.

As he went, he made his way upwards in life, first as a journeyman miller, then as an apprentice, until finally he was able to be secure and buy a lease on mills in Cambridgeshire, become an employer and settle down.

He was a strong family man and Congregationalist, and kept close ties with his family, particularly his sisters and then his children. He retired to the South Coast primarily because the climate would be good for his daughter, Lottie: the scourge of tuberculosis runs through his family.

By this time, you're probably saying: but what has this Cambridgeshire person got to do with Norfolk?

Amongst my very precious possessions relating to Alfred Clark is a photograph of him posing on what looks like a Norfolk Wherry, accompanied by female friends or relatives. I think it was taken in the 1890s.

He is lounging on the side of the boat, holding a painter and looking straight at the camera. A lady is looking out of the porthole in the same direction. She appears well-dressed.

There is a dinghy and various other characters are posed for the picture. Are they friends/relatives or crew? I find it difficult to judge.

Unfortunately, there is no documentation that explains this choice of boat, nor if it is actually Norfolk. He wonderfully wrote out his memoirs before he died, but not a word in them about time in Norfolk. He was an energetic traveller – often

taking the London train on a Sunday to hear a popular preacher give a sermon – so I can quite easily imagine him travelling from Soham (his home town) and reaching Norwich and Norfolk for a day or weekend on The Broads – or somewhere else.

On the other hand, the Great Ouse is not so far from Soham. It's really the type of boat that makes me think it must be Norfolk.

I had hoped to find that one of his children lived in the Norfolk area, but the censuses all give them, as adults, living in Soham, or nearby.

If anyone could share their ideas with me, I should be grateful. I realise that the surroundings are very difficult to identify, as are the faces. But I would appreciate thoughts on the boat: - whether this was a popular way of "second-homing" in Victorian times; are wherries found elsewhere?

I would appreciate any other information that would help me understand this great grandfather just that little bit more.

I can be contacted on:

gina@ginalangford.com

I would like to thank the Wherry Yacht Charter Charitable Trust website at:

www.wherryyachtcharter.org/about.php.

Wikipedia pages on Wherries were also consulted. These can be viewed on the website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norfolk_wherry#Further_reading



A Gateway To Safety

THIS sculpture depicts the arrival of children on the Kindertransport during the Second World War.

Aptly named “The Arrival” it is made from bronze and is by Frank Meisler. It is on the forecourt of Liverpool Street Station in London—the gateway station to East Anglia.

Photograph by the editor.

Helping With Catholic Records

DURING the period of over 200 years from the middle of the 16th century until the late 18th century, when the practice of the Roman Catholic faith was illegal in what is now the United Kingdom, Catholics had no churches and no official burial grounds.

Even well into the 19th century this was the case. Many Catholics were buried in the local Anglican churchyard as there was frequently nowhere else. This can make finding burials difficult for family historians looking for the graves of Catholics or even just a record of their deaths.

It was quite common for parish incumbents who were thorough in their work to indicate the religious affiliation of the deceased in their burial registers. The Catholic Family History Society at <https://catholicfhs.online/> has launched a database of such burials. This can be accessed from the website <https://catholicburials.weebly.com/>. It uses Google Sheets and so the data can be manipulated and searched or downloaded for that purpose.

The society is also looking for help with its records. It hopes that family historians who notice Catholic, Papist or Recusant burials in the course of their research will be able to submit their findings in one of the several ways explained on the ‘Contribute’ tab on the website.

Wartime Tragedies

Roger Morgan finds out about a series of long-forgotten tragedies which affected his family in 1917.

DURING the most recent lockdown due to Covid 19, I decided to revisit my family tree and contacted my cousin Ian, in order to compare notes. He told me that he had discovered a dark family secret that neither he, nor I, had ever been told about. It involved a number of tragedies that befell the family during the Great War.

Our great grandfather was John EVEREST, a farm labourer and carter. In 1874 John married Eliza WILLIAMS and over the next 24 years, the couple went on to have 13 children. Their second son, Henry James Everest, usually called Harry, was born in 1891. Census records show that he had several jobs, including farm labourer and cement loader but at some point, he joined the crew of a coastal transport ship called SS The Duchess. The Duchess was one of several small ships built

and owned by J Hay and Sons of Glasgow. It was a screw-driven steamer, launched in 1889 with a net tonnage (cargo capacity) of 187 tonnes. Its sister ships included The Duke, The Monarch, The Sultan and The Queen. Maritime records show that the Duchess plied its trade between many different ports, including Galway, Whitehaven, Limerick, Glasgow, Dieppe, Alderney, Dublin, London, Sunderland and Great Yarmouth. Harry joined the 14 man crew and became a fireman or stoker, working in the engine room.

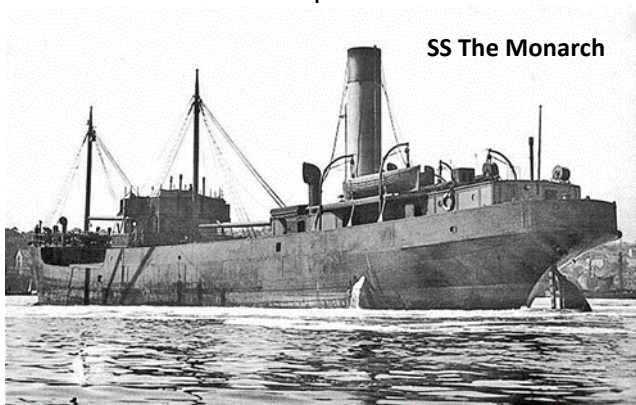
At the start of World War One, the government

Henry "Harry" Everest



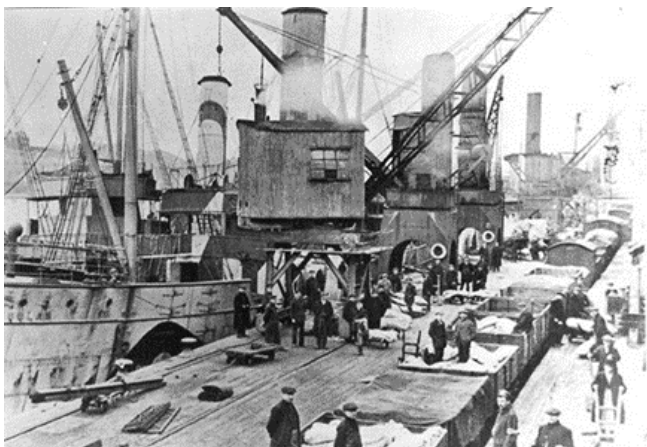
requisitioned hundreds of merchant vessels which were known as 'transports' and these spent the next four years carrying supplies over to the French channel ports, in support of the army. The ships were loaded in Newhaven and would wait just outside the breakwater until a tugboat came alongside with orders for the captain, giving him

SS The Monarch



instructions about where he had to go. The whole operation was a closely guarded secret. The ships, accompanied by a Royal Navy escort, would sail up the channel, close to the coast, until they reached Dungeness, where they would turn towards France.

At 9.08 pm on 30th June, 1917, the Duchess slipped out of Newhaven Harbour and made rendezvous with 27 other ships, just off the breakwater. The flotilla consisted of transports, minesweepers, torpedo boats and other support vessels and later that evening it set off along the coast towards Kent. Just after midnight, it reached a position seven miles off Eastbourne, east of the Royal Sovereign Light Tower, when a huge explosion took place and The Duchess was 'blown sky high'.

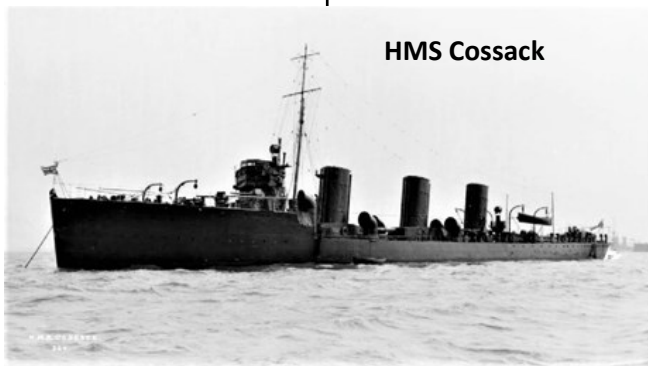


Loading Transports

Initially, it was thought that it had hit a floating mine, but eye-witness accounts contradicted this. It was clear that The Duchess had collided with one of the escort vessels, HMS Cossack, and during the collision some of Cossack's depth charges had exploded. As a result, The Duchess sank immediately and the stern was blown off the Royal Navy vessel. The log of the escort vessel Torpedo Boat 3 included the following information:

"1 July. 12.15 am: Transport and HMS Cossack collide. Depth Charges from Cossack blew up the Transport which sank 12.16 am. Closed Transport searched for survivors. Picked up four survivors of Transport SS Duchess 2.00 am. Proceeded to the Assistance of Cossack - took in tow. Arrived Newhaven and discharged survivors"

Given Harry's position in the engine room, he had no chance of surviving the explosion. Unfortunately, his name isn't commemorated on the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill, and he didn't qualify for the Mercantile Marine War Medal, as his death wasn't enemy related. The HMS Cossack was towed to Dover for



HMS Cossack



repairs and was later sold for scrap in 1919.

I can only imagine the anguish felt by John and Eliza, when only a few weeks later they received a telegram telling them that their youngest son, (Arthur) Frank had been killed in action. At the start of the war, Frank was working as a carter on a farm with his father but in November, 1915, he signed up and joined the 1st Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry, the Royal Naval Division.

Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, had decided to embody two more naval brigades with surplus

men of the Naval Reserve, to join with the Marine Brigade to produce a composite Royal Naval Division.

Most of the recruits were reservists or men who had volunteered on the outbreak of war. The eight battalions were named after naval commanders, Drake, Benbow, Hawke, Collingwood, Nelson, Howe,

Hood and Anson, later being numbered from 1st to 8th. In the early days of the war, the men in the Division caused extreme annoyance to the men in the regular army divisions by being allowed to retain their sea-going slang, grow beards and retain their individuality.

Frank trained at Blandford Camp and then travelled to Base Camp at Etaples near Boulogne. He spent nine months working as a driver on the supply lines, but he was then transferred to the infantry and joined the Battalion near Arras. The Battle of Arras took place between



9th April and 16th May, 1917, where the British made some significant advances, taking over some German occupied trenches. In September, 1917, Frank was in the front line at Gavrelle, a small village just to the east of Arras. The Battalion was holding some German trenches in open fields close to the village. On the 3rd he was hit by a sniper and died instantly. Captain the Rev. W. Whitehead wrote to his parents informing them of his death and told them that he had been buried 'in a separate grave in a well-kept cemetery', and that 'a wooden cross with his name and regiment had been erected'.

Frank Everest was buried at Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St Laurent Blangy, just outside Arras. Ian and his brother

visited the grave in January 1983.

Further research into the family history, unfortunately revealed that the tragic events of 1917, did not end there. One of the boys' eight sisters was called Rhoda Marie Everest and in 1904 she married Bramwell Joseph Brown, a farm labourer. In November, 1915, at the age of 32 he signed up for the army. In July, 1916, he was transferred to the Hertfordshire Regiment as part of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Bramwell spent nearly two years in France until July, 1917, when the regiment took part in The Third Battle of Ypres, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele. On the 31st of the month, the regiment mounted an advance towards Pilckem Ridge and encountered sustained enemy machine gun fire. It suffered increasingly heavy casualties and was forced to withdraw, when they discovered that the enemy trenches had been unaffected by the artillery bombardment.

Bramwell was posted as 'missing in action' on 31st July, 1917. His



name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial, along with those of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.

As a footnote to the story, war-time tragedy returned to the family in 1943, when another of the boys' sisters, Annie, was killed along with her husband Bertram Friend, by German bombing in London. They were both buried in Charlton Cemetery.

I would like to thank my cousin Ian Everest for his help in producing this article. Ian is the former manager of Newhaven Fort and a public speaker for the Family History Federation. He has a keen interest in family history and regularly gives talks in the East Sussex area.

Many of the photographs in this article are the copyright of Ian.

Roger Morgan MN17267

Researching The Hayletts

Norfolk Family History Society member Juliet Bailey describes her journey delving into an unusual family surname

ONE of the first things I remember learning about my mother's family was the names of her grandparents and an unusual surname stuck with me – HAYLETT. When I started tracing my Haylett ancestors, I easily got back to the marriage of John Haylett and Mary HEWITT in Barton Turf in 1823, but I could not find out where John originated from. I wondered if I could identify earlier Hayletts and work my way forward to John and Mary, but that would only work if the surname was rare and localised, so those carrying it were related.

There are different views on the origin of the surname Haylett. The Oxford Dictionary of English Surnames (2005) suggested that Haylett was a derivative of Hey, meaning dweller by an enclosure but David Hey, an expert on the history of surnames, suggested (personal communication) that Haylett came from Heiloc / Haylock. There was consensus on the location of the early Hayletts with the first reference, according to the Dictionary, as Heylot in 1134-40 in Holme, Norfolk. Richard McKinley, in "Norfolk and Suffolk Surnames in the Middle Ages (1975)," noted that Haylot occurred at Hopton near Great Yarmouth in the 1200s both as a personal name and a surname. Edgar Powell, in "A Suffolk Hundred in the Year 1283 (1901)" named the

Hopton individuals as Haylot Pec and Gilbert Haylot. The next occurrences came from around 1340 in Lessingham, a village about 27 miles north of Hopton and five miles from Barton Turf. Lessingham and Hopton are close to the coast, so a family link seemed possible, but whether the Lessingham line were an offshoot of the Hopton family or a separate derivation of the surname was impossible to know.

Having established that Haylett arose as a surname in Norfolk around 800 years ago, I needed to look at more recent data. If Haylett was now widely distributed across England and Wales, and there were many bearers of the name, my chances of finding the correct early family would be slim. To help me work out what might be possible, I used two tools to look at the distribution of Haylett and its variants in 1881. At this date, although some people moved large distances, most stayed close to where they were born, and so distribution would shed light on migration and origins. The first tool I used was the Surname Atlas developed by Steve Archer (<http://www.archersoftware.co.uk/>), which is based on the 1881 census. There were 527 people in England called Haylett, plus a few variants: Haylet (9), Heylett (10), Haylott (6) and Hailott (1). There were none in Wales or Scotland. Of the 527, 329 lived in Norfolk (Figure 1). The next largest group were in London

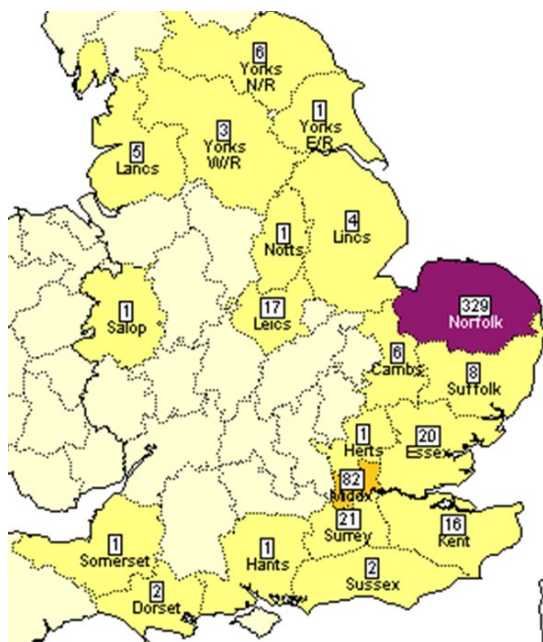


Figure 1—Distribution of Hayletts in 1881

(82) – a common pattern due to economic migration to the capital - and small numbers in other counties, predominantly in Eastern England, probably representing the emigration of an individual or a family. This software also provided distribution by the 1881 poor law unions which showed that the highest concentrations of Hayletts were in Downham, Depwade, Flegg, Smallburgh and Great Yarmouth, the last three being in the north east, around the Broads (Figure 2). The second tool used was the GB names profiler developed by University College London at <http://gbnames.publicprofiler.org> which showed that, in 1881, Haylett was the 6607th most common surname in the UK – Smith was number one. Haylett was, therefore, a rare surname,

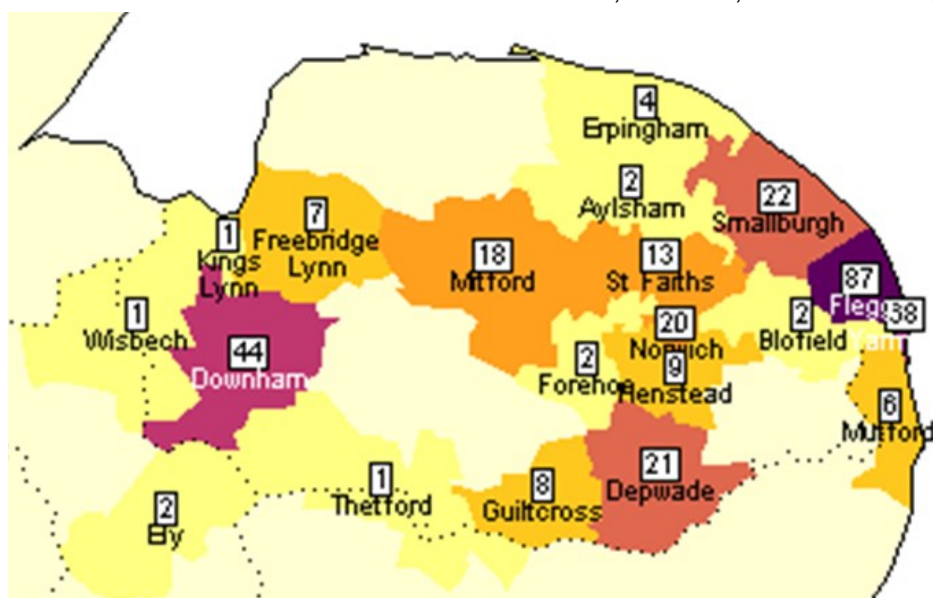


Figure 2—Hayletts by Poor Law Union in Norfolk

highly concentrated in Norfolk, particularly in the north-east of the county and probably arose from descendants of one or a very small number of founders. These results suggested it was worth trying to follow the early Hayletts to try to find John Haylett's origins. Using British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>, I searched for Haylett and its variants in Norfolk. The most common early spelling was Heylot and the majority of references mentioned Lessingham. There were 12 references in ancient deeds, close rolls and antiquarian histories to the Heylot family of Lessingham from 1340–1460, including a lease from 1343 for the manor of Lessingham to William, son of Edmund Heylot. Lessingham was clearly a major centre for the family and the documents suggested they were well off. Of course, my branch might not be related to the Lessingham family, but I decided to take a chance.

I found around 20 relevant Haylett wills in the Norfolk Records' Office, starting with the will of Thomas of Lessingham (d.1508) and his wife Alice (d.1527). Thomas was presumably a descendant of the Heylots who lived in Lessingham from 1340 to 1460, but I have not yet been able to make a definite link. The manorial records are in King's College Archive, so perhaps one day I will be able to go back further.

Four of Thomas and Alice's sons – William, Robert, Thomas and Christopher – also left wills which allowed me to trace the family until parish registers started. Several of the wills listed the names and places of residence of their siblings and named their nephews and nieces as well as their own children. Records like parish registers and hearth tax returns helped

me to confirm the developing tree. By the early 1600s, the family had left Lessingham and moved to nearby villages such as Ingham and Palling. Thankfully, many branches stayed in the same village for multiple generations, which helped when deciding which Haylett was which. The fact many of the family made wills indicated they had some money but by the 1600s most were husbandmen and small landowners, suggesting that their wealth was gradually diminishing. The spelling of Haylett varied until the mid-1600s but then settled, more or less, to the modern Haylett. As I tracked the family, I was having trouble linking to John in Barton Turf. The breakthrough came with documents, held at NRO, about a land dispute in Barton Turf which named John Russels Haylett and his sons. The names and location fitted and, using the new middle name, I found that John was born in Happisburgh, son of Samuel Haylett and Elizabeth RUSSELS. Samuel was the son of a Nathaniel Haylett who was already in my tree.

Although I hit some dead ends on the way, my approach had paid off, giving me a 16-generation tree starting with Thomas Heylot of Lessingham, my 13 x great-grandfather (Figure 3). The journey took me from Lessingham to Palling, Hickling, Potter Heigham, Happisburgh and Barton Turf. On the way, I learnt a lot about the wider Haylett family and uncovered interesting stories – Christopher the bailiff of Great Yarmouth featured in Norfolk Ancestor (June 2020) – and there is more to discover. I never thought I would be able to find ancestors from 500 years ago, but it was all possible because of a rare surname.

Thomas (d.1508) → Thomas (d.1557) → Edmund (d.1557) → William (d.1591) →
 Edmund (d.1640) → Richard (d.1684) → Nathaniel (d.1731) → Samuel (d.1754) →
 Nathaniel (d.?) → Samuel (d.1847) → John (d.1871) → James (d.1883) →
 Susannah (d. 1933) → John (d.1974) → Dorothy (d.2009) → Juliet

Figure 3: The final tree with dates of death

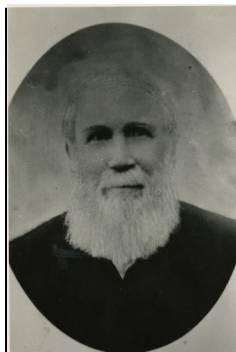
The Story of the Walker Family

By Ivan Badcock

Michael and Sarah, my great great grandparents, arrived at Launceston on 31st March, 1842, after leaving on 8th November, 1841, from Gravesend, a port on the Thames, 21 miles from central London. They were travelling aboard the sailing ship *Arab* and left carrying 205 emigrants and five paying passengers, besides the crew and cargo. The emigrants were mostly rural workers from Somerset.

The *Arab* was a three masted barque of 296 tons and had been built in 1827. Its master was Captain William WESTMORLAND. It was a very trying voyage, mostly due to stormy conditions. During the voyage three deaths and five births were recorded.

Michael and Sarah had both grown up at Tottington, Norfolk, and married there on 1st December, 1834. Michael was recorded as an agricultural labourer and Sarah a domestic, with Michael being 21 years of age and Sarah a year younger. Family stories relate they had been sweethearts from their young years. Clearly they belonged to the working class.



Michael Walker



Sarah Walker

At Tottington three sons were born to the family, William (1835), John (1839) and Samuel George (1841). A further 10 children would be born in Van Dieman's Land.

Both the Walker and Goss families had lived in the Tottington region for generations. Michael was the sixth child of John Walker (1778-1870) and Mary Ann (nee CLARKE) (1785-1872) and had nine siblings. Sarah was the eighth child of Thomas Goss (1768-1856) and Hannah (nee BURROUGHS) Goss (1779-1852). She had 11 siblings. Sarah and three of her brothers and their families would all emigrate to Van Diemen's Land, later known as Tasmania.

Emigration

England in the 1840s was in severe depression and had a high unemployment rate. Wages were low, resulting in much poverty. There was a clamour to direct the "surplus" population to emigrate, with Van Diemen's Land one of the places being promoted. Sarah's brother John (b.1804), with wife Ann (AYERS) and children, had emigrated to Van Diemen's Land arriving December, 1841. Thomas (b.1807) and his wife Martha and four children reached Geelong, Victoria, on 4th May, 1854 but soon moved to Launceston, Van Diemen's Land. The last to arrive was Sarah's brother, Robert (b.1818) and his wife Susannah and their two children, reaching Launceston, mid-June 1855.

The Voyage

A diary record of the voyage is available and details the events, trials and hardships encountered by those travelling. It was kept by a passenger, William JOHNSTONE, from departure to arrival at Launceston. It is a typed

copy but of poor print quality making it unreadable in places.

Departure was planned for 1st November, 1841. However due to "circumstances" (not explained) the



Oil sketch of old homestead. Tea Tree Farm, Exton

Arab was detained there during the week. The passengers were taken aboard on Saturday, 6th November and set sail on Monday, 8th November, 1841, but there was a delay until 10am due to fog.

On reaching Dral (Deal?) a port town where the North Sea and English Channel meet, and entrance to the Thames, they anchored there until Sunday 14th November because of adverse weather. Soon after getting underway, they were hit by a violent storm. William Johnstone recorded the event as follows – *"the vessel pitching and tossing most cruelly and waves crashing over the bulwarks. The between decks were the emigrants, were all stowed away (sometimes a man and his wife and two children in one bed) were in a most horrible*

condition. The seas had washed down the hatchways and the floor a complete pond, many of the beds drenched through and through. In addition to these delights, with some four or five exceptions, they were all violently seasick – all calling out for brandy The squall had come on so suddenly that their boxes were all adrift, flying about from one side to the other, with nearly 50 whining sick squalling children to complete their misery”.

William further noted “The emigrants, chiefly Somersetshire labourers, all lamented their foolishness in leaving home”.

“Sleep at night was out of the question. The awful creaking of every part of the vessel, hollering of the sailors, and roaring of the sea, with noises of every description completely prevented it. The Captain who said he had never had such a thrashing in the Channel before, did not take off his clothes for several days together, remaining on deck nearly all night.”

“With the gale not abating on Sunday, the Captain determined to change his course for Falmouth and accordingly on Monday morning we were delighted by finding ourselves just entering

Carrick Heads. Many other vessels had sought the shelter of the harbour – one with bulwarks washed away, another with a broken mast gone and several, more or less damaged”.

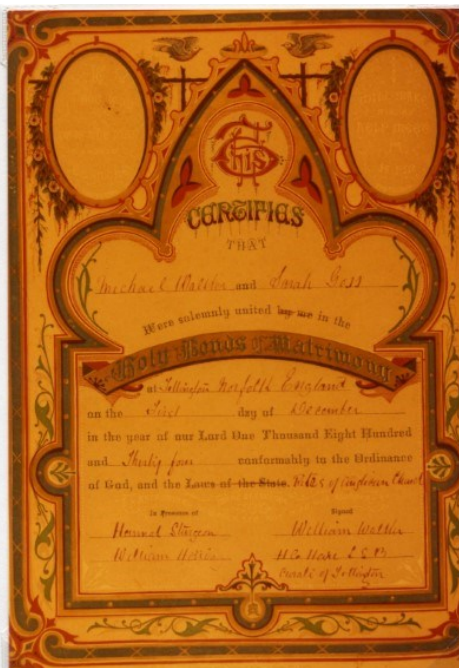
The Falmouth visit gave opportunity for recovery and the purchase of fresh provisions, with much of the livestock and poultry having been swept away in the storm. These provisions had been put on board to provide fresh food for the five passengers and the main crew, Captain William Westmorland, Chief Officer Mr. PLATER, and Surgeon Mr CORBOULD. The provisions loaded at Gravesend were, 13 sheep, 13 pigs, 10 dozen fowls, 1 dozen geese, 1 dozen turkeys, 2 dozen ducks and one goat (for milk). During the voyage, 13 piglets were born. Their daily drinks taken on board were, bottled ale, bottled porter, sherry, port, claret, brandy, rum, Geneva, gin, Hollands, lime juice, tea and coffee.

The voyage resumed from Falmouth on Thursday, 25th November, 1841.

Another severe storm was experienced near the Cape of Good Hope with William recording on 7th February, 1842: “A very heavy sea – pitching and tossing awfully, the Skipper thought even worse than in

Current Rates for Norfolk Family History Society Membership (rates)

Membership Type	One Year	10 Year	Life
Worldwide E Ancestor	£10	£75	£165
UK Posted Ancestor	£15	£120	£265
Europe Posted Airmail	£21	£157	£346
Rest of the World Posted Airmail	£25	£187	£412



the Channel – poor emigrants all sadly ill, and a repetition of many of the early scenes”.

Ship Life

On boarding, the Captain quickly laid down the rules to the emigrants. Many had gathered on the poop deck from where they were unceremoniously expelled by the Captain, who commanded them never to have the imprudence to show their faces there again.

It was made clear that they were mostly to remain in their cabins. There were some exceptions, being permitted to be on deck for Sunday's Divine Service and for the collection of food from the galley. The children were permitted to be on deck for two hours of a morning to attend learning programmes.

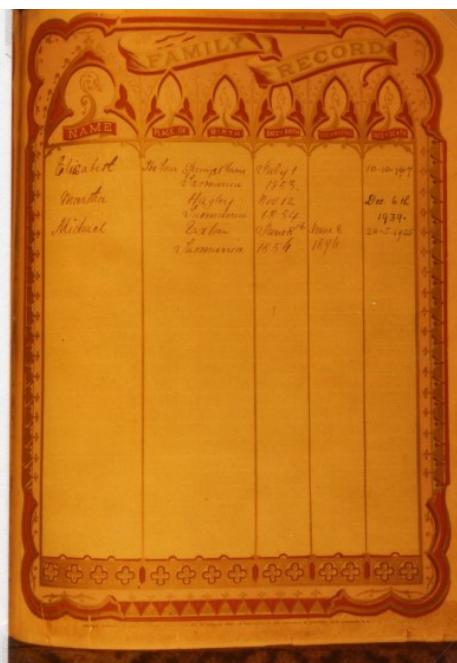
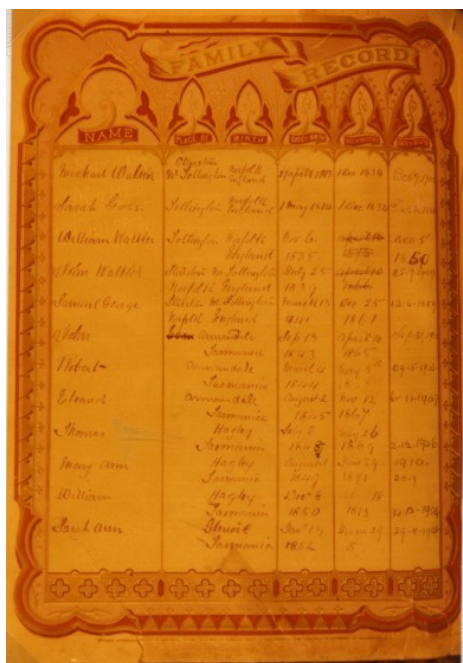
The deaths of three children occurred,

Pages from Michael and Sarah's Family Bible

the date given and some brief details. On 7th December, 1841, William recorded "... in the evening one of the migrants' children died, having been ill ever since it came on board, and was buried at 8 o'clock the next morning, the Surgeon acting as Chaplain". He was committed to the deep off the coast of France. This was John Walker, the two-year three-month old son of Michael and Sarah. Family stories say that he died from an asthma attack.

The other deaths occurred on 13th January, 1842, and 7th February, 1842.

At the end of the voyage William gave a summary on the emigrants and the trip, "Our greatest annoyance was the Emigrants – a most awful set, about 20 respectable out of the whole number. Scenes are daily occurring, which tho'



unnecessary to describe, yet most revolting – and scarcely be prevented. Fighting and swearing from morning till night – I would advise no-one to come out in an Emigrant Ship when another is in the berth. They were chiefly agricultural labourers from Somersetshire, who had been earning upon average, seven shillings and sixpence a week, on which they supported their wives and families.”

The Family at Van Diemen's Land/ Tasmania

After arrival at Launceston the family settled near Perth on “Annandale”, at that time a thousand acre farm on the Western side of the Midland Highway, between Gibbet Hill and Breadalbane and extending west as far as “Jessiefield”, later known as Pateena. Van Diemen's Land had been established as a convict settlement and colony in 1803 with the 1838 muster

recording 18,000 convicts and 28,000 free settlers. Around 5,000 convicts a year, at peak, were being received, with some 72,000 arriving over the 50 years of transportation.

Michael's occupation at the birth of his son, the second John Walker, on 13th September, 1842, is farm servant. Two further births were recorded at Annandale, Robert (1845) and Eleanor (1846) their first daughter.

Not far from their home was a gibbet which was detested by Sarah who frequently found it difficult to pass. It was situated by the roadside and was constantly in use, bodies of convicted criminals, who had been hanged, would be suspended by chains for all to see as a deterrent to others. Often they would be covered with tar so as to extend their body keeping.

Later in 1846, the family moved to

Hagley where Michael rented a farm from the Lyttleton estate, a 500 acre property known as "Greenhills". In addition to farming "Greenhills", Michael had charge of the adjoining property of "Hagley House", then owned by Isaac NOAKE of Longford.

In the Census taken on 3rd January, 1848, for Hagley, the residents were recorded and Michael and Sarah were recorded as living there with their five children, plus eight single males, three with Tickets of Leave and one in private employment, residing in a wooden house owned by Rev. R.R. DAVIES (the Church of England minister at Longford) with the Householder being Isaac Noake who was not living there.

Six children were born to Michael and Sarah during their stay at Hagley, Thomas (1848), Mary Ann (1849), William (1850), Sarah (1852), Elizabeth (1853) and Martha (1854).

The William born on 8th December, 1850, was named after his eldest brother who had lost his life one year and four days previously at barely 15 years of age in an accident at Exton when a cart overturned.

Towards the end of 1854, the family moved to Exton, where Michael spent the remaining 46 years of his life. He rented "Ti-tree Farm", which was part of the Rev. Samuel Martin's estate. Their last child Michael, was born at Exton on 8th June, 1856.

The period from 1855 to 1888 may be regarded as Michael's heyday. His friends and neighbours accepted him as a leader in church and municipal affairs and he appears to have been regarded as a prosperous and progressive farmer. He was an employer and a man of substance and

had crossed a great gulf from the position of labourer to that of a gentleman, a title applied to him in his latter years.

Sarah was a weighty person and in her later years became an invalid and was confined to her bed. The assistance of a housekeeper, Mary PATFIELD was obtained and, following Sarah's death, she became Michael's second wife, marrying at nearby Westbury on 8th January, 1890.

Following Mary's death, on 2nd September, 1892, Michael married for a third time on 18th March, 1893, to a widow, Margaretta SHAW (1829-1906).

Michael died on 9th August, 1900, at the age of 88 years and was buried at the Westbury Church of England Cemetery, beside his first wife Sarah and their first born son William.

Sarah lost only two of her 13 children, one at sea and the other as a result of an accident. The other 11 survived to an average age of 68. Her five daughters followed in her footsteps as good mothers and housewives, averaging a dozen grandchildren apiece. Of the first seven of Sarah's surviving children, six named a child after her, so that at one time the family boasted four first cousins who rejoiced in the name of Sarah Walker, plus two additional first cousins named Sarah Appleby and Sarah Richardson.

Church Associations

A noted feature of Michael, Sarah and family was their strong faith and active participation in the life of the Church.

The first indication is provided by the presentation of a family Bible just prior to departure by the Rev. Edward

SIMONS, Rector of Sturston, Norfolk. In the Bible which still exists is the inscription – *“This is the true Word of God, which alone can teach you what you must believe, and so to obtain spiritual life here, and eternal life hereafter. Read it with careful prayer to God, for the teaching and help of the Holy Spirit, and it will make you wise unto Salvation through faith, which is in Christ”.*

William Johnstone noted in his diary that some of the emigrants spent time reading their Bibles and religious tracts. Although no names are mentioned this may have included Michael and Sarah.

Near where they were living at Perth, the Wesleyans had built a church in 1840 named Salem, which Michael and

family began attending. In his memoirs Michael records he came under the influence of the Wesleyan Local Preachers which included a Mr. French (Francis), who was living at Longford and preaching in the area. At Salem Michael commenced teaching Sunday School classes, which he continued to do for many years.

A number of the descendants of both men were able to claim a relationship to both Michael and Francis French. When the history of each family was completed in the 1980s, of the 8,000 plus names in the Walker book, "A Goodly Heritage", around 4,000 of these also appeared in the French/Badcock book, "Go.....Be Fruitful and Multiply".

On moving to Hagley Michael records,

Michael and Sarah Walker's Children

William – born 1835 at Tottington, Norfolk, died 1849 at Exton, Tasmania

John – born 1839 at Tottington, Norfolk, died at sea, 7 December 1841

Samuel George – born 1841 at Tottington, Norfolk, died 1912

John – born 1842 at Perth V.D.L., died 1909

Robert Wilson – born 1845 at Perth V.D.L., died 1916

Ellen/Eleanor – born 1846, at Perth V.D.L., died 1907

Thomas – born 1848, at Hagley, Tasmania, died 1926

Mary Ann – born 1849, at Hagley Tas., died 1910

William – born 1850, at Hagley, Tas., died 1904

Sarah Ann – born 1852 at Hagley Tas., died 1926

Elizabeth – born 1853 at Hagley, Tas., died 1917

Martha – born 1854 at Hagley, Tas., died 1939

“In 1846 I came to Hagley, there was no church of any kind at that time, but we used to meet at Mr. Montgomery’s farm house and hold Services and Class Meetings”.

Michael’s memoirs continue, *“In 1854 I came to Exton, it was almost a wilderness, no church and few church going people. Brother Purton, who is now in Victoria, and myself got a few children together in a small cottage and commenced a Sunday School and had cottage prayer meetings. About 12 months after I came to Exton we thought we would try to build a church or chapel at Exton. After some troubles we had a little church built in 1856 and Mr. Woolnough took the services. The Methodist Sunday School was opened in 1854.”*

In Tasmania there are a large number of people descended from Norfolk families. These include Bishopsbourne, Goss, Page, Prewer, Bye, Brooks. On the North West coast of Tasmania when working there as a banker at Burnie, Ulverstone and Latrobe for about 12 years, I came across

numerous families who originated from Norfolk. They were good, hard-working, honest and respected citizens.

Ivan has his own history blog which can be accessed at

<https://historyoverdinner.com>

Unsticking The Starks

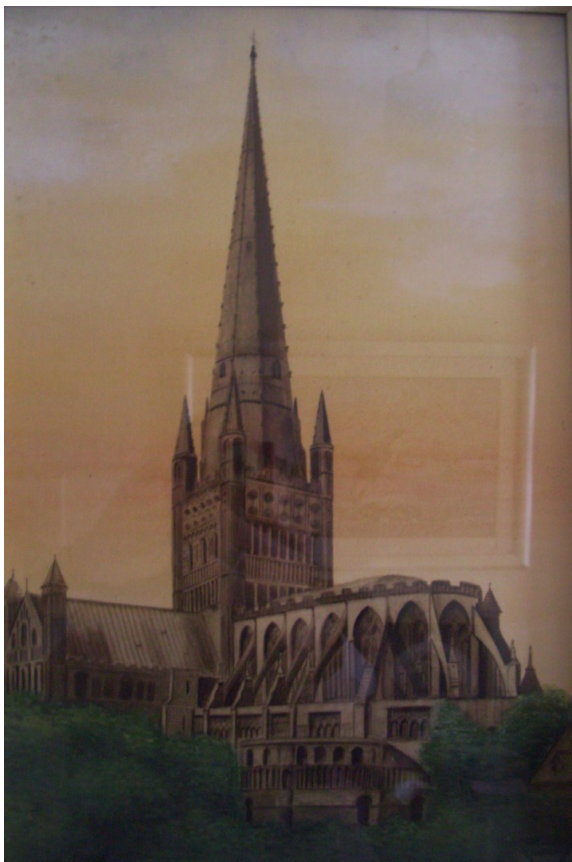
NFHS member Alan Harper marks his 10th anniversary of family research with the story of the Starks and his quest to find out the identity of “Uncle Jimmy.”

THIS year marks the 10th anniversary since I first embarked on what would turn out to be the magical journey of researching my family history.

For many years before 2011, my late mother had believed her father, Benjamin William STARK (1893-1945) to be a descendent of James STARK (1794-1859), one of the members of the Norwich Society of Artists.

I gathered from my mother that Benjamin himself had also believed this to be so and, although on what basis is not clear, Benjamin was a dab hand with a paintbrush, a skill perhaps stemming

from his practicality and craftsmanship from his trade as a boot- and shoe-maker.



We know of three, possibly four, watercolours which Benjamin painted in his lifetime, including the one of Norwich Cathedral included in this article which he painted from a postcard. It is undated but probably from the mid to late 1930s. Benjamin was said to have been keen to try oil painting as well but we do not know if he ever did so.

My mother also referred to there being an 'Uncle Jimmy' on her father's side of the family and, although the span of years between the respective lifespans of James Stark artist and Benjamin Stark, her father made a relationship quite as close as uncle between the two a near impossibility, the 'Jimmy' as a sobriquet for 'James' did add some credence to my mother's belief that there was a connection a bit further back. A further family legend held it that another of our Stark ancestors had fathered children when aged into his sixties.

But was any of this true? Could I prove (or disprove) it? The trigger I needed came from an unlikely source: in the autumn of 2010 The Telegraph newspaper published a free 48-page booklet "Trace Your Family History: The Essential Step-By-Step Guide", which I still have.

With that booklet came the realisation that, with a home computer, an organised mind and the expectation of a lot of patience, perspiration and perseverance along the way, researching family history was actually do-able and didn't need years of training or constant trips to The National Archives. I was off and running.

The Stark line of my tree soon started



Benjamin William Stark

to develop but the first significant challenges were about to emerge, pitfalls which even now other researchers with published trees online following the same line have fallen foul of. My mother knew her paternal grandfather also to be named Benjamin William Stark (1862-1931), also a boot-and shoe-maker in Norwich.

His birth certificate proves him to be the son of William Stark and Mary Ann Stark, late CROTCH, formerly HOOK. My challenge then was to find out which of those two surnames was Mary Ann's maiden name (it is of course Hook): some researchers erroneously trace her ancestry back through a Crotch male line, wrongly so all for want of sight of a document. Enough

said. However the Crotch reference certainly made sense to me. My mother also knew that she was (somehow) related to one of her teachers, a 'Miss Crotch' (*see footnote) so with that knowledge came confidence that, as a fledgling family history researcher, I was on the right lines. But from now on I was into uncharted territory with no further first hand knowledge to verify my findings.

Not only was Mary Ann twice married, so too was William

himself, first in 1823 to Mary MOSS at Norwich St Michael at Thorn (evidence of this location would prove crucial later) and then in 1858 to the aforementioned Mary Ann formerly Hook.

Tracing William, a hand loom silk weaver, back through the censuses finds he gave his age as 35 in 1841 (where ages are rounded down to the nearest five years), 46 in 1851 and 56 in 1861.

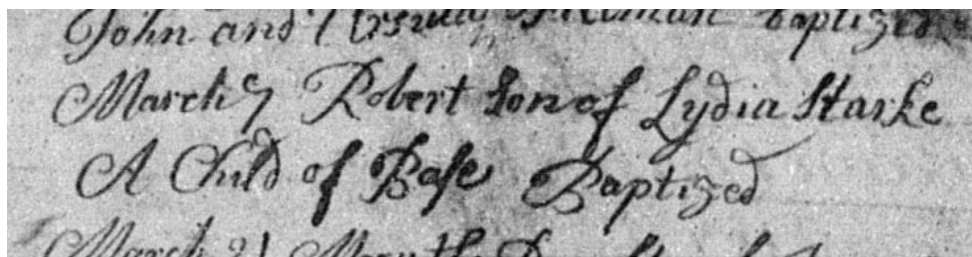
On the 1858 marriage certificate, however, he gave his age as 50, probably massaged down a bit to narrow the age difference between himself and Mary Ann (she gave her age as 31). Manipulation/incorrect recording/lack of knowledge of the correct age is another trap which once again has caught out fellow researchers:



The shoe last used by my grandfather, and possibly also by his father. It is a hefty family heirloom to have!

I remember seeing one example of a tree containing the same William Stark living all his life in Norwich but buried in a tiny parish in the middle of Wales - seemingly because that researcher took his marriage age as gospel and that was the only burial which "fitted". I mean, c'mon guys, is it likely? My heart sinks. He was actually buried in Norwich City Cemetery, Earlham Road, on 9th October, 1864, having died six days earlier.

The possibility of a connection between James Stark, artist, and my William - given that the latter lived in the courts and yards of Norwich in a humble occupation and in probable semi-poverty - seemed to be diminishing. Wisely or otherwise, in parallel to my tree I also worked on creating a separate paper tree of artist James Stark's close family.



His life is well documented online for readers interested to find out more. James' local ancestry is an absorbing tale in itself. His father, Michael Stark (c.1749-1831), was a prominent dyer who came to Norwich from Fife, Scotland and discovered how to dye silk and worsted yarns in exactly the same shade of red. Michael's wife, Jane née IVORY, was a niece of Thomas Ivory, architect, renowned for the Octagon Chapel, Assembly House and other buildings of note.

But back to William. In anticipation, then, of a baptism around 1804/5, possibly in Norwich St Michael at Thorn, came my next challenge by virtue of there being no surviving parish registers for that parish thanks to the efforts of the Luftwaffe. Cometh the hour cometh the document.

I can still remember the sense of satisfaction at the Norfolk Record Office when I found William in the Archdeacon's Transcript for Norwich St Michael at Thorn, baptised 23rd December, 1804, born three days earlier, son of Robert Stark and Sarah his wife. Right place, right time.

What's more, evidence of William's birth proved that the last of his 15 children, 13 by wife number one plus two by wife number two, was indeed my great-grandfather Benjamin William born in 1862 when William was aged 58 - not quite the 60-plus as the family

Extract from parish register for Norwich St Julian showing the illegitimacy of my 3x great-grandfather Robert Stark in 1773. NRO Ref: PD 31/2.

myth had suggested, but close enough to again prove I had the right person, and a pretty good anecdote to survive through the generations as accurately as it did for 150 years.

We can assume that William's life was no less challenging than that of many others in Georgian and early Victorian Norwich. For example, within the space of four days in autumn 1854, William buried his first wife Mary née Moss, his daughter Rachel aged 14 and son Robert aged 23. The three burials are consecutive entries in the Norwich All Saints burial register. We do not know their cause of death but cholera is a distinct possibility - Norwich did not get its first sewers until 1870.

On to Robert Stark. Spoiler alert - another surprise lay in wait. A silk weaver, his marriage to Sarah HINDES on 10th November, 1793, at Norwich St Julian, the baptisms of their ten children, all at Norwich St Michael at Thorn and Robert's burial in the same parish on 4th January, 1835, were all easy to find.

So too was his baptism on 7th March,

1773, at Norwich St Julian - but here's the sucker punch. He was the illegitimate son of Lydia Starke (note the addition of the 'e' to her surname). A brother to Robert named Stephen, also illegitimate, followed five years later. There is a possible marriage of Lydia to George BRISTOW at Norwich St Julian's on 5th June, 1783, (an alternative marriage of a Lydia Stark(e) to John SHEPHERD in the same parish on 13th September, 1778, can probably be ruled out since that date precedes the baptism of Stephen). Robert's father is unknown.

With Lydia's birth likely to be around four decades or more before that of James Stark, artist, and possibly before that of his father Michael, and given that Michael was a Scottish immigrant, a link between my family and theirs could almost certainly be ruled out.

The family myth was just that - a myth. A possible baptism of Lydia is to Stephen Starke and Margaret his wife at Southburgh, Norfolk, on 11th May 1746; this requires further research but there is also a Robert Starke buried at Southburgh in 1820 and given that Robert and Stephen were the names Lydia chose for her two bastard sons a close relationship between the three looks plausible.

Lydia is also a given name which both my aforementioned ancestors William Stark and Robert Stark gave to one of their own daughters.

So, to recap: along this single line of my ancestry I've found: a widower who married a widow nearly 24 years younger than him, a 2x great-grandfather having children in his late fifties, a concentration of baptisms in a

parish for which there are no parish registers, a (small) name variant (Stark/Starke) and a 4x great-grandmother who had two illegitimate sons. Quite a lot to take in on my first foray into family history.

That just leaves the identity of the mysterious 'Uncle Jimmy'. Both my grandfather Benjamin William and great-grandfather Benjamin William had an uncle named 'James'. They are, respectively, James Robert Stark (1859-1942), shoemaker and latterly seedsman and corn dealer; and James Stark (1812-1834); the former seems a likely candidate.

Am I disappointed not to have a famous painter in my tree? No, of course not, and neither was my mother.

We cannot change where we come from and neither should we want to. It matters not a jot who we find in our ancestry.

At the last count, there are 67 individuals on my tree with the surname 'Stark(e)' descended from Lydia; it is an intriguing thought that, but for her infidelity, every single one of them would have had a different surname - and the story about the James Stark connection would never have arisen in the first place.

*Footnote: 'Miss Crotch' is Emily Jane Crotch (1877-1962). She was an assistant schoolmistress at Bull Close Infant/Primary Schools, 1898 to 1930 onwards and died a spinster. My mother was her half first cousin once removed.

Alan Harper

E-mail: mail@agharper.plus.com

More Zoom Talks Scheduled

THE series of talks for society members via the zoom platform have proved extremely popular, regularly attracting over 100.

In June Janet Few talked about tracing ancestors from the Victorian and 20th centuries with hints and tips and a list of helpful websites.

By the time you read this magazine we will have enjoyed a light-hearted account of the main hurdles our ancestors placed before us with “Searching For Dora” by Les Mitchinson in July and “Droughts, Deluges and Dust Devils—A look back at 350 years of South-East weather” by Ian Currie in August. This included snowdrifts, cricket ball sized hail, blazing summers, violent tornadoes and devastating floods.

The next talk will be on September 30th when Sarah Doig will give us the “A to Z of Curious Suffolk.” This will feature strange stories of mysteries, crimes and eccentrics. Sarah will lead a romp through the rolling countryside and along the shingled coastline of Suffolk, unearthing the strange and interesting tales of the county on the way.

On October 25th Norfolk Family History Society member and local author Phyllida Scrivens will talk about her new book “The Great Thorpe Railway Disaster of 1874: Heroes, Victims, Survivors.” We have a full feature on this book later in this edition.

In November (date to be announced) Janet Few returns with her talk “Sons of the Soil” which will guide us on how to research agricultural labouring ancestors.

All our talks are available free of charge to members of the Norfolk Family History Society. Details of how to join the society are available on our website.

E-Mails will be sent to members with joining instructions before each talk.

From The Transcripts

We thought the following might raise a smile. This is from the Lingwood Banns Register of 1814.

William STOUT of Cantley and Mary MERRISON of Lingwood. NB He was very drunk at the time. Ministers note—They did marry.

And this one from the Norwich St Etheldreda baptisms

09.01.1680/81 Jacob son of Mathew SALTER being the 30th child of his, 28 baptised. He later had a 31st child. We know he had at least two wives.

Time Travelling to Find Your Ancestors

Howard King, Trustee of Suffolk Family History Society and Chairman of the Ipswich Group of the Suffolk Family History Society tells us a little more about our near neighbours



Family History Researching has become very popular over the last year, when many have been locked down and wondering what to do with their time.

We at Suffolk Family History Society have been keeping busy over the last year and have seen a strong growth in membership, in Suffolk, elsewhere in the U.K. and overseas, prompted not only by interest in ZOOM talks we have been putting on regularly, but also the various new services we now offer Suffolk folk and those overseas with Suffolk family links.

Founded in Lowestoft in 1975, we currently have six active groups, and dispense research knowledge and advice on our website at:

www.suffolkfhs.org.uk

We also have a quarterly "Suffolk Roots" publication, a Facebook page, Suffolk Family Data CD Roms which are now available for download.... and of course ZOOM talks.

We are now working to reopen our Group Meetings in September, and will continue our ZOOM talks.

For more information please e-mail:

publicity@suffolkfhs.org.uk



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Disaster On The Track

NORFOLK Family History member and author Phyllida Scrivens has her third book published this month (September). Following the success of her previous two, Phyllida has turned her attention to a rail tragedy that shocked Norwich and the whole of Norfolk. Here she talks about her research journey in writing “The Great Thorpe Railway Disaster 1874: Heroes, Victims, Survivors.”

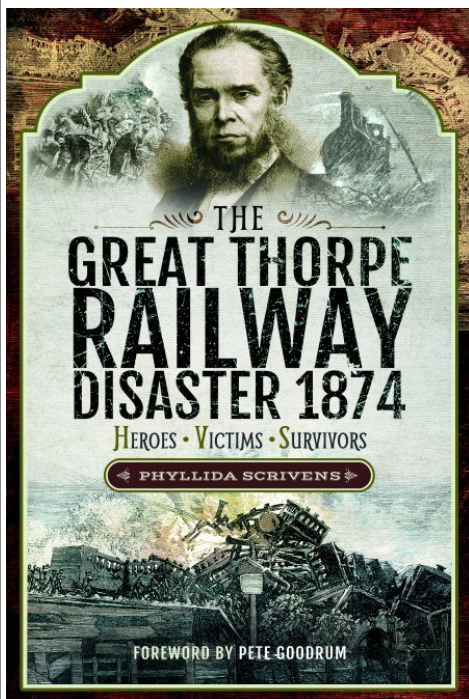


At Norwich Thorpe Station on the wet and windswept evening of 10th September, 1874, a momentary misunderstanding between the night inspector and young telegraph clerk resulted in an inevitable head-on collision between two full passenger trains, one from Lowestoft via Yarmouth and Brundall, the other from London to Yarmouth via Norwich.

The residents of the picturesque riverside village of Thorpe-Next-Norwich were shocked by a ‘deafening peal of thunder’, sending them running through the driving rain towards a scene of destruction. Surgeons were summoned from the city, as the dead, dying and injured were taken to a nearby inn (now known as the Rushcutters) and Stephen Field’s boatyard.

Every class of Victorian society was travelling that night, including ex-soldiers, gentlemen landowners, clergymen, doctors, businessmen, seamstresses, saddlers, domestic servants and a beautiful heiress. The resulting Board of Trade Inquiry

concluded that it was ‘the most serious collision between trains meeting one another on a single line of rails [...] that has yet been



The Three Tuns on the River Year
with the Railway Bridge depicted.
© Norfolk County Council



THORPE GARDENS, WITH THE FATAL RAILWAY BRIDGE AND FIELD'S BOAT-HOUSE IN THE DISTANCE.

experienced in this country.'

The story of this notorious Victorian railway disaster has long been a legend in Norwich, particularly in Thorpe-St-Andrew. Every year, around the 10th September anniversary, the local newspapers publish an article in tribute, usually including a list of the dead.

In August, 2004, I moved from Surrey to Norwich, finding a home in Thorpe-St-Andrew, overlooking the River Yare. At that time I had no idea how significant this specific location would become in my forthcoming writing career. As a new resident I immediately joined the Thorpe History Group, keen to learn more about my village.

I had come across a simple plaque honouring the victims of a Victorian railway accident and when local historian and writer Nick Williams was giving a talk about the disaster, I went

along. It proved to be a fascinating evening and I was haunted by the story of the catastrophic accident, which had taken place only yards from my new home, just beyond the railway bridge over the river at The Rushcutters, a pub known in the 1800s as The Three Tuns. And I often wondered about the identities of the victims, survivors and villagers who turned out in the rain to help.

It would be nearly 15 years, having achieved my life-long ambition to become a published writer, before I could begin my research, offering the concept to Pen and Sword books. Contract duly signed, I set to work, my intention to produce potted biographies of each of the 27 men, women and children known to have died. I began by using the same familiar family history and genealogy techniques honed during my research for my first two books, *"Escaping Hitler"* and *"The*

Lady Lord Mayors of Norwich." The Victorian journalists had helpfully published the names of the victims, listing their ages and occupations in both local and national newspapers.

To use modern day parlance, the story went 'viral' with the popular London Illustrated News commissioning a number of line drawings, created from witness accounts. These are reproduced in my book amongst a number of rarely seen images.

Two years of research followed, including the first eight months of the pandemic lock-down during 2020. With the closure of libraries, bookshops,

archives and Record Offices, I had to rely on the online genealogy sites, the British Newspaper Archive, online Trade Directories and second hand book sites such as Abe Books and Ebay, to find relevant reports, documents and accounts of people, places and events. Amongst many others I discovered characters such as Norwich draper George Womack, Gentleman farmer Stephen Abbott, Physician and pioneering photographer Dr William Bransby Francis, Engine driver Thomas Clarke, Auction house heiress Ellen Ramsdale, and two Norfolk Militia men, Colour Sergeant Robert Ward and Sergeant Major

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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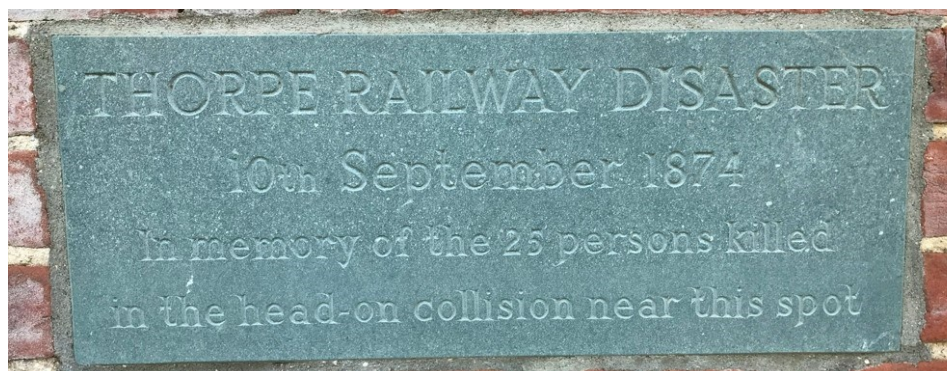
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Memorial Plaque in Girling's Lane, Thorpe St Andrew. © Phyllida Scrivens

Frederick Cassell, returning together from a fishing trip in Yarmouth.

I found myself unearthing Norfolk and Suffolk locations such as The Rows in Great Yarmouth, Overstrand, Castle Acre, East Dereham, Beccles, Aldeburgh and Halesworth. I read accounts of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the Norfolk Asylum in Thorpe. Through my time both reading and writing, I attended weddings, births and funerals, uncovering secret families, adulterers and debtors. I witnessed inquests, inquiries, a manslaughter trial and compensation hearings.

I came across relevant obituaries published in 19th and early 20th century copies of the British Medical Journal and learnt much about the philanthropy of the wealthy and influential citizens of Norwich, including Jeremiah J. Colman who generously donated to the fund for the widows and orphans.

I have found that luck often plays a part when writing biography. I was keen to uncover a rare and specific contemporary article, and I asked members of Norfolk Family History

Society whether their library might own a copy of the East Anglian Handbook of 1875, in which I understood was an extensive and detailed account of the accident. Sadly for many months the quest proved hopeless. However, I was also in touch with the Brundall Local History Group, the village station being critical to the story.

I was directed to a gentleman called Graham Kenworthy, a Brundall resident, writer and authority on steam railways. He came to my house and to my amazement presented me with a facsimile of the said 1875 document, a gift from the Great Eastern Railway Society in Essex, where Graham was a senior member. The article was even more wide-ranging than I'd supposed, and it proved invaluable in my story telling. Sadly Graham died early in 2020, so he will never know how grateful I am for his thoughtfulness.

During the early planning stages, I made a decision to produce a group biography using a slightly different format from my earlier books. Although set firmly in fact, the book employs techniques borrowed from fiction writing, including suspense, drama, dialogue and informed speculation. I



The Crash Site—
Illustrated London News
19th September, 1874—©
The Victorian Picture Li-
brary.

present the events chronologically, without revealing who died and who survived until the appropriate stage of the narrative.

Accounts show that 27 men, women and children died either at the site or later due to their injuries, but I believe I have discovered a further victim, who later took his own life, succumbing to the mental issues arising from witnessing terrible scenes whilst helping the rescue effort in Thorpe.

Some survivors went on to live long and influential lives, including two future Mayors of Norwich. Others disappeared into history.

It was an honour to spend nearly two years discovering the stories behind the personalities who tragically and unexpectedly ended their days in the village of Thorpe St Andrew that

evening in 1874. For over 140 years they have been remembered only as a list of the dead. Now their stories have been told.

Phyllida Scrivens is a member of the Norfolk Family History Society and a regular speaker at our meetings.

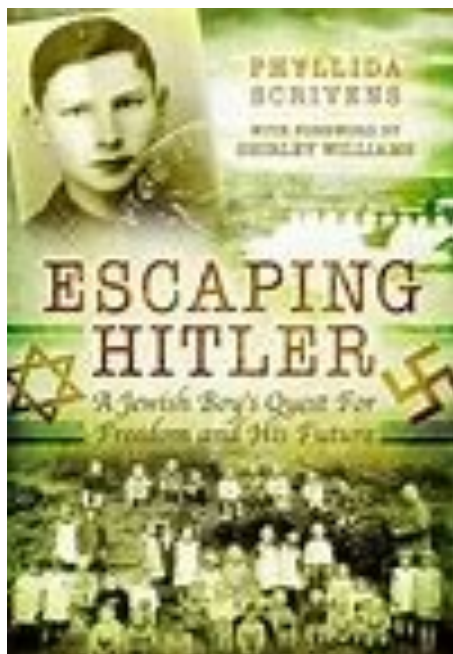
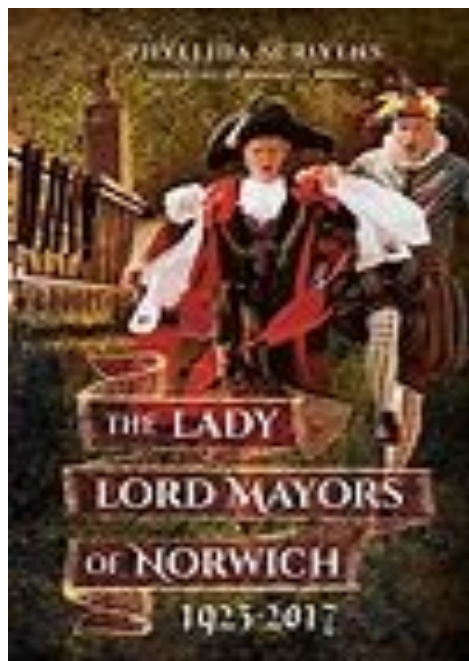
She will be sharing more stories and images from her book *The Great Thorpe Railway Disaster 1874* on the evening of 18th October on Zoom.

Signed copies can be purchased direct from the author by contacting her at:

**Phyllida.scrivens@icloud.com.
More information can be found at**

**[https://
thegreatthorperailwaydisaster1874.com](https://thegreatthorperailwaydisaster1874.com)**

Phyllida's Other Books



Escaping Hitler is the heart-warming story of a young German Jewish boy who escaped the Nazis and made his way to Norfolk where he became one of Norwich's best loved and leading citizens.

The Lady Lord Mayors of Norwich gives a loving portrayal of women who have served our capital city so well over almost 100 years. Both books are published by Pen and Sword and available from good bookshops and online.

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News Form NORS with Mike Dack

THANKS to one of the society's longest serving members volunteering to assist with uploads to the Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) we have added more than 100 PDF copies Family Trees, which are mostly hand written and submitted to share within the society.

These trees were previously only available to view at Kirby Hall, but have now been scanned and some are available to view online in PDF format, available to society members when logged onto our NORS website.

Putting all the trees online is a huge project and will take a long time to get anywhere near completion. Meanwhile a list of those trees currently available can be seen by visiting the NORS website and selecting 'News' - 'What's On NORS' - 'PDFs of Family Trees shared with the society'. Once you have found a name that you wish to view, simply enter that surname on the search facility and then press the search button and find it under the heading "Other" and "Family Trees."

Within the Search routine it is necessary to enter only a Surname although a 'Parish' can be added if known and then 'Search'.

Good luck with research.

Sandringham— the Royal Connection

Roger Morgan continues his story of Sandringham from the inside back cover.

John Motteux never lived at the hall at Sandringham and never furnished it. He was a frequent visitor and planted many pear trees in the garden and regularly returned to harvest the fruit. He became great friends with Sir Peter Clavering- COWPER and his wife Emily née LAMB. Earl Cowper was an influential Whig and was very close to the government of the time. Emily Lamb was the sister of William Lamb who, as Lord Melbourne, was British prime minister twice from 1834 to 1841. The Cowpers had two

daughters and three sons, the youngest being Charles Spencer Cowper who became a close friend of John Motteux.

Emily Cowper was not only noted for her kindness and generosity, but she also had extraordinary charm. Like many women of the age, she had several love affairs including one with Henry John TEMPLE, 3rd Viscount





Marlborough House 1850

Palmerston. It was even suggested that he was the father of her daughter Emily. When Earl Cowper died in 1837, it allowed her to spend more time with Palmerston and they married two years later. He changed from being a Tory to become a Whig.

John Motteux spent a lot of time with the family and added a further 1,000 acres to the Sandringham estate over the next four years. When he died in July, 1843 he left his Norfolk estates to his good friend Charles Spencer Cowper, who soon sold the Beachamwell estate and divided his time between London, Paris and Sandringham. He married in 1852 and brought his new wife Harriet to Sandringham. At the end of the 1850s, Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert, was looking for a property outside London, to buy for his eldest son Prince Albert Edward. When it was falsely reported that Harriet Cowper had died in Paris, it allowed Lord Palmerston to suggest to Queen Victoria that Sandringham was now deserted and would make an ideal home for the Prince of Wales.

The young prince 'Bertie' had had a difficult childhood and Victoria and Albert had forced him to do more and more work on his education. They constantly compared him to his more gifted older sister, Princess Victoria

and made his tutors set him extra work. As a result, he was prone to fits of rage and would throw things across the room. He was not a diligent student, but his true talents were those of charm, sociability and tact. He was a great success on his first tour of North America and it proved to have many diplomatic benefits for Great Britain.

Bertie hoped to join the army, but Victoria vetoed an active military career. He gained a reputation as a playboy whilst living at Marlborough House in London. He was determined to get some army experience and went on manoeuvres in July 1861. He visited the Grenadier Guards garrison at the Curragh Camp in Ireland where the officers played a trick on the prince. They smuggled the young Irish actress, Nellie Clifden, who Bertie had met previously in England, into his rooms. She stayed for three nights and when Prince Albert heard about the affair, he was mortified and visited Bertie in Cambridge. The Queen and Prince Albert were very worried about his morality and feared a possible pregnancy and embarrassing court case. They wanted to



Edward VII



Prince Albert

get him away from the so called 'Marlborough House set', a group of socialites who often visited Bertie's London residence. It included members of the British aristocracy, beautiful American women, actors and actresses as well as successful businessmen.

Prince Albert was persuaded by Palmerston to buy his stepson's estate at Sandringham to give his son a country seat away from London. Spencer Cowper had let it run down and many people were surprised when the royals agreed to pay the relatively high sum of £220,000 for the whole estate. It consisted of eight thousand acres, the nominal rental being about £7000 a year, but everything about Sandringham was at that time in very bad order. The house was small and dilapidated, and the shooting and outlying portions of the estate had been utterly neglected.

Prince Albert was not a well man, suffering from stomach cramps for several years and Bertie's indiscreet affair in Ireland did little to improve his health. By December 1861, his doctors diagnosed typhoid fever and he died at 10:50 p.m. on 14 December 1861 in the Blue Room at Windsor Castle. The official cause of death was typhoid fever, but it may have been Crohn's disease or abdominal cancer. Queen Victoria immediately went into mourning and some people said that she partly blamed Bertie's indiscretions for hastening her husband's death. She was however, determined to carry out



Sandringham East Side

©David Dixon



Queen Alexandra

Albert's wishes and the purchase of Sandringham went ahead as planned in 1862.

The Prince of Wales married Alexandra of Denmark on 10 March 1863 at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, when he was 21 and she was 18. Eighteen days later, he took his young bride to Sandringham on the Royal train with the engine painted white and decorated with flowers. It stopped at Wolferton station on the newly opened King's Lynn to Hunstanton line. The couple started to set up their home in Norfolk, but it soon became evident that the old house was too cramped for a growing family.

The couple held parties and dances for both the local residents and visitors from London. In 1870 the decision was made to demolish the old house and build a bigger one with more accommodation for the attendant servants of the frequent London visitors. The architect A.J. Humbert, who had done work on the Isle of Wight for Victoria and Albert, was engaged to design the new house and the builders, Messrs J and M GOGGS of Swaffham, were employed to carry out the work. The new red-brick house had a central saloon and provided living and sleeping accommodation over three stories with attics and a basement. It was

described in the Pevsner guide as “frenetic Jacobean”. Later on, a bachelors wing was added, a new billiard room was built and the conservatory was converted into a bowling alley. The wider estate was also transformed, with ornamental and kitchen gardens which employed over 100 gardeners, being established. New buildings were constructed including staff cottages, kennels, a school, a rectory and a staff clubhouse. The Prince made Sandringham into one of the finest sporting estates in the country. He even started the tradition of ‘Sandringham Time’, where the clocks were set half an hour ahead of GMT, to maximise the amount of daylight for shooting.

Despite his London playboy image, where he was rumoured to have had over fifty liaisons with young attractive women, Bertie settled well into country life in Norfolk. Alexandra remained faithful and seemed to tolerate her husband’s affairs. He proved to be a caring and benevolent landlord who believed in the welfare of his tenants. He felt that workers deserved a comfortable home to come home to after a hard day’s work and took pride in improving his estate cottages. He also took an interest in animal husbandry and won prizes at many agricultural shows, eventually becoming president of the Royal Agricultural Society. Whilst visiting Great Yarmouth to inspect the Norfolk Artillery Militia he said, “I regard myself as a Norfolk man”.

Lavish parties for his London based friends were held at the house with the guests arriving by train at Wolferton station. This station became increasingly important and in 1876

Wolferton station



©chalkietom

York Cottage



©The Giant Puffin at English Wikipedia

alterations were made, which included the building of a suite of ornate royal waiting rooms. Arriving dignitaries would be given tea and entertained, either in the ladies’ or the gentlemen’s room, while their luggage was taken from the train to the house. In the late 1890s the track was doubled to deal with the increased traffic and new sidings were installed to house the Royal Coaches. The records of the Station Master, H.L. SAWARD, show around 645 special royal trains in and out of Wolferton over a 27 year period.

In 1891 a fire engulfed the entire roof of the main house and all the rooms and their contents on the two upper floors, were destroyed. The bells of the various churches in the district clashed out the alarm. Gangs of men and women speedily set to work to

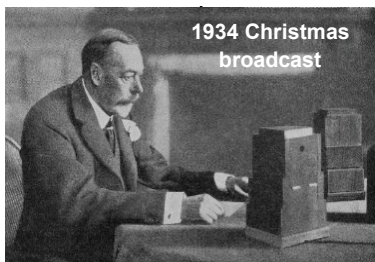
clear the principal lower rooms of their furniture and rare, valuable contents. The amount of damage done was about £15,000. The portion of the house which was destroyed was

rebuilt in a thoroughly fire-proof fashion, with iron and concrete floors and roofs; and the opportunity was taken to make many additions to various parts of the house, in fact about eighteen rooms were added. Bertie insisted that the rebuilding was carried out by local tradesmen.

Alexandra was very fond of animals, particularly horses and dogs. She regularly visited her four French ponies in the purpose-built stables. Parallel to the stables there was a building known as the kennels, which were very cleverly arranged, all fitted with hot-water pipes, and well ventilated. There was also a dog hospital and a nursery, always occupied by one or more litters. At one time, in the paddock between the stables and the kennels, there was a bear-pit, but the occupant was sent to the Zoo after the King's valued head-keeper, Mr. Jackson, had been hunted by Bruin, just when he was about to feed him with some peculiarly bearish delicacy!

Edward VII was king from 1901 until his death from a heart attack in 1910.

Alexandra took over the ownership of Sandringham and would often spend time there. He was succeeded by his second son, Prince George, as his eldest son, Prince Albert Victor, had died of pneumonia. When he was the Duke of York, George married his brother's former fiancé, Princess Mary of Teck, known as May. The couple



lived a quiet life at York Cottage, formerly known as the bachelors' cottage, a small house on the Sandringham estate, given to them as a wedding present by Edward VII, and they grew to love the place.

As King George V, he wrote, "Dear old Sandringham, the place I love better than anywhere else in the world,". Queen Alexandra died at Sandringham in November 1925.

George and Mary's five youngest children were born at Sandringham. George reigned from 1910 until his death in 1936. The stress of WW1 hit him hard, and he was not a well man, suffering from chronic bronchitis probably caused by heavy smoking. In 1932 he broadcast the first monarch's

Christmas message live from Sandringham, when he read a speech written by Rudyard Kipling. He died at Sandringham House in January 1936 and the ownership passed to his eldest son Edward, often called David by the family.

Edward VIII was more like his grandfather Edward VII, and enjoyed socialising and city life. He found Sandringham dull and boring, so he sold it to his younger brother, Prince Albert, who was much more at home there. He was a keen follower of country pursuits and was devoted to the estate like his father. In a letter to his mother, Queen Mary, he wrote, "I have always been happy here and I love the place". When Edward VIII abdicated over the Wallis Simpson affair, Albert took over and became George VI. In the early 20th century, George VI's youngest brother, Prince John, lived at Wood Farm on the

Sandringham Estate. Born in 1905, the prince was epileptic, and spent much of his life in relative seclusion at Sandringham. He died on 18 January 1919 age 14. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, lived at Wood Farm following his retirement from royal duties. The King was a heavy smoker and had an operation to remove part of his lung in 1951. He never fully recovered from this, and he died at Sandringham during the early morning of 6 February 1952. He had spent the previous day shooting on the estate, and had planned the next day's shoot, but he was discovered at 7.30 a.m. in his bedroom by his valet, having died of a coronary thrombosis at the age of 56.

He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, who clearly shares his love for Sandringham. She continues the tradition of the royal family celebrating Christmas in Norfolk and usually extends her stay at Sandringham into February, to cover the anniversary of her father's death. On her accession, the Queen asked her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, to take on the responsibility for the management of the estate. Prince Phillip moved towards more self-sufficiency and generated more streams of income from the estate.

When he moved into Wood Farm after his retirement in 1917, the duke spent time developing his truffle farm, which now provides a valuable crop of black truffles. He lived with a small household and the Queen made regular private visits to the five-bedroomed, redbrick farmhouse. It was described in the Sunday Telegraph as 'a modest Norfolk bolthole fit for a queen'. She had an extended holiday there in 2020 where the couple spent

time together, leading a simple life away from the public eye. At Wood Farm, for the Queen and Prince Philip, it was a return to what they both thought of as one of the happiest, most normal times in their lives, from 1949 to 1951, which they spent on Malta.



King George VI



The Queen at Sandringham 2014

For a brief spell in their 73-year marriage, they were once again relatively free of duties and living together beside the sea.

Sandringham house and gardens are open to the public from 10-4 pm except Fridays when they are closed for group bookings and private tours.

Check the web site below for more information.

<https://sandringhamestate.co.uk/>

Sandringham Church



Historic Mooching

By Peter Steward

I LOVE having what I call a mooch around Norfolk Churchyards.

Virtually every one holds intriguing stories that come to light with a bit of after-visit research.

On a summer visit to North Norfolk, I found the headstone opposite in Weybourne Churchyard. It reads:

"Sacred to the memory of six sailors washed ashore from the wreck of SS George Royle Jan 17 1915 - John L. Cowdy Chief Engineer, W. Loft, M. Cuissipe, A. Laparillo, Name Unknown, Name Unknown.

So my inquisitive historical mind took over. And of course it is so easy to find details of virtually anything nowadays thanks to the internet which came up with a report from The Times Newspaper:

TWO WRECKS OFF SHERINGHAM, MANY LIVES LOST. SURVIVORS TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE

"Two steamers were wrecked off Sheringham Norfolk, during the heavy

GOD'S ACRE



gale at the weekend, with a loss of about 30 lives. One was the Penarth of Cardiff and the other vessel being that of the George Royle of Sunderland.

THE LOSS OF THE GEORGE ROYLE

"The George Royle, a vessel of 2,525 tons, which left the Tyne last Friday bound for St Nazaire, foundered during the early hours of yesterday morning a mile east of the Sheringham Shoal and three to four miles north of the coastguard station at Weybourne. Of her crew of 12 to 18 hands it is feared

that all were lost save five, who were taken off by a Lowestoft craft that had arrived at that port. Between 8 and 10 yesterday morning five bodies were recovered from the sea at Weybourne. Other bodies were soon floating past too far out to be recovered by the people on the shore, who included coastguards and territorials. One body was that of a little boy not more than 10 years of age. Later in the morning some other bodies were washed ashore at Mundesley, 16 miles to the eastward, for the wind and the set of the current would take them well out past Cromer, which is midway between there and Weybourne.

"At 3 o'clock in the morning the Cromer lifeboat was launched in response to flares seen from the north west of the town, which would be in the direction of Sheringham Shoal. The tide was about dead low and it was in the teeth of a perfect blizzard that her crew put off. No sooner had she taken to the water than a huge wave swept her broadside towards the eastern breakwater. To the onlookers, among whom was Mr Noel Buxton MP, only a dark speck was visible perilously near in, and only very smart seamanship on the part of her coxswain and crew saved them from being dashed against the breakwater. Once more they got her head onto the seas and at last they got safely off.

"By 8 o'clock the wreckage on the shore at Cromer told of disaster along the coast, and 2 empty boats came in at Weybourne, one being



Another of interest in the churchyard was a Commonwealth War Graves headstone to the memory of 2nd Lieutenant R. H. Beeton of the Royal Flying Corps who died on 1st February, 1918, aged just 18. Robert Henry Beeton was born on 27th March, 1899, and was the son of Robert Samuel and Julia Beeton, of Hill Crest, Weybourne. Robert Senior was a carpenter. Robert Junior attended Gresham's School as a day boy from 1911 to 1915 and went on to study business for a year at St. George's College, London. After that he went to the Royal Flying Corps Cadet School in Farnborough in 1917, and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in December. Robert died of severe burns received in a flying accident near Huntingdon on 1st February, 1918.

dashed to pieces as soon as it touched the shingle. The other boat contained provisions. " Weybourne Church is of great interest.as we will see below.

Ruins of A Priory

Weybourne on the North Norfolk coast was recorded in the Domesday Book as Wabrunna. At that time it had a Saxon Church.

Around 1200, an Augustinian Priory was founded on the site.

The priory incorporated the earlier Saxon Church into its new monastic church and a south aisle was added.

Weybourne was one of the smaller Augustinian houses and one of the first to be dissolved by Henry VIII, surrendering to the king in 1536. The priory church became the parish church of Weybourne.

Much of the medieval priory ruins are still standing and there is also a late Saxon tower that preceded the priory.

Weybourne Church and priory ruins are located on the A149 coast road just west of the town of Sheringham.



Making a Moot Point

By Peter Steward

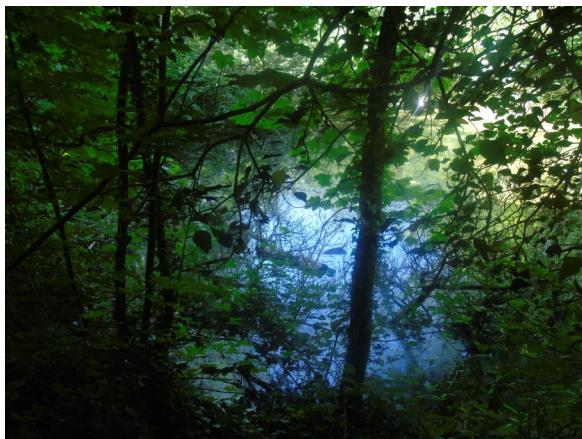
A NUMBER of years ago I went to a display in Wymondham Central Hall. That day featured a number of local groups and societies - one of which had details of an historic area of the town that I had never heard of despite living within a couple of miles of and regularly visiting the beautiful market town.

This area was known as Moot Hill and I made a mental note to try and find it one day and then forgot all about it. Then one rather hot day in summer I decided it would be a good idea to stay in the shade as much as possible on my daily walk.

So I concentrated on a woodland area I had visited before but never looked at in any depth. It turned out to be Moot Hill and the reason for my scurrying home to do some research.

It appears that there are earthwork remains and the site is designated as a scheduled monument which is protected by law. At some time there was a timber castle which I found really fascinating.

It is thought that the Motte was built by the D'Albini family sometime between 1088 and 1139. The feature is over 160 metres by 120 metres with a large bank and water filled ditch. The area also features water filled pits and ponds, lots of massive and very old trees and one area that gives the impression of



being a petrified forest.

Many years ago, the area was part of the Stanfield Estate and a gold ring belonging to Katherine Bigot, wife of Roger Fitz-Ort who owned Stanfield Manor in 1306 was also recovered in the area.

William d'Albiny came to England with William the Conqueror and acquired considerable tracts of land. He went on to become the founder of Wymondham Abbey.

The manor of Stanfield Hall belonged to the Earl Warren in the time of William the Conqueror. The first reference to the hall was in 1249 when Richard Curson, Prior of Wymondham, had his house and chapel there.

Numerous families owned it in the subsequent centuries including the Curson, de Mouton and de Salles. Then came the Appleyard family and from 1530 to 1546 it was the home of

Sir John and Dame Elizabeth Robsart whose only child Amy Robsart became the wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

She died in what many felt were suspicious circumstances after falling down a flight of stairs.

The hall was subsequently owned by James Altham, Edward Flowerdew, Lord Thomas Richardson, William Jermy and many more. In 1792 the hall was rebuilt by the Rev George Preston with bricks from Holkham. The rebuilding took five years and thereafter the hall changed hands on numerous occasions.

A full history of the hall is available on the internet, but by the end of the Second World War it was in a bad state of repair and was completely refurbished by Dr Harold Hudson. In 2004 Stanfield Hall and estate was put on the market for £1.5 million

The Hall was the scene of an infamous double murder that shocked Victorian England.

On the night of 28th November, 1848, Isaac Jermy left the Hall to take the evening air after a dinner party. He was ambushed and shot by a masked man, who then proceeded to shoot Isaac's son, his wife, and a maid. Isaac and his son were killed, and the two women were badly injured. James Blomfield Rush was arrested and put on trial in Norwich.



During his trial Rush defended himself, and his closing speech to the jury lasted 14 hours.

The jury took just ten minutes to find him guilty of murder, and he was hanged at Norwich Castle on 21st April 1849.

Between 12,000 and 20,000 people attended his execution, and special train services were run from London to Norwich for the occasion. Charles Dickens observed that it was 'a grand place for a scoundrel's exit'.

Photographs taken in this area around the Norfolk market town of Wymondham are by the editor.

Norfolk Strange But True

EVERYONE knows that Admiral Horatio Nelson was born and raised a Norfolk man but did you know that our Horatio was responsible for a superstition in cricket?

The score of 111 and any of its multiples (e.g 222, 333 etc) is thought to be extremely unlucky. Umpire David Shepherd was so suspicious that any time the score reached Nelson he would hop on one leg.

So how did the cricketing term Nelson come about? Well Nelson won most of his conquests on the sea and it is possible that the term Nelson in cricket refers to his three major naval victories (won, won, won). The other theory is it refers to the body parts he lost “one eye, one arm and one leg” although Nelson never lost a leg.”

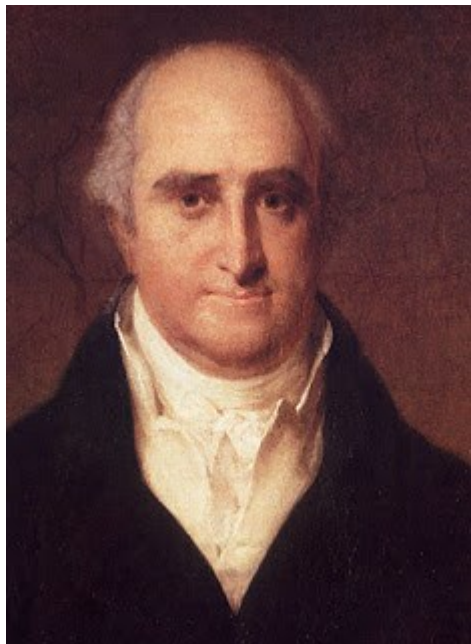
* * *

Whilst on the subject of cricket, did you know that Thomas Lord, the founder of Lord's Cricket ground which is the home of the sport lived for a number of years in Diss?

Lord was born in Yorkshire in 1755 but moved with his family to the Norfolk market town where he was brought up. He later moved to London,

* * *

There was a fascinating post on our Facebook page talking about the week in the summer when thousands of northerners descended on Great Yarmouth for their annual holiday. The person who posted knew this week had a name but couldn't remember what it



Thomas Lord—the man who will always be linked with the sport of cricket.

was.

It turns out it was called Wakes Week. Many industrial towns in the north of England virtually shut down for a week in the summer (often in July) with families hotfooting it to the seaside.

Originally Wakes Week was a religious celebration or feast but then developed into a secular holiday during the industrial revolution.

If you have any strange Norfolk tales please send them to the editor at

ancestor@nfhs.co.uk

An Interest Sparked

By Alan Farrow

THIS is the photo that got me interested in my family history. It featured in an article in the Southend-on-Sea, 'Southend Standard', in 1977.

I expect the photo to have been taken in George Daw's market garden in Syderstone.

The picture was probably taken in about 1907. On the right of the photo, with the dog, is my grandmother, Annie Edith FARROW (nee FRANKLING) and she is holding my uncle, (James Charles). On her left is my grandfather / her husband, (Christmas Lewis Farrow). The lady on the far left of the picture is Kate Elizabeth DAWES (nee Farrow, sister to Christmas Lewis) holding Kate. To her left is her husband Leonard Sunny John George Dawes. On the horse are Mildred, Lucy and Benjamin. Victoria Fanny Dawes is on the other horse. The man in the centre is George Daw with Frances Amelia ((nee SOFTLY). They are Leonard Sunny's father and mother.

On the horse are Mildred, Lucy and Benjamin. Benjamin tragically died in France, June 1918. In January 1934, even more tragically, Mildred (Milly) was murdered by her fiancée John DENNISON, who then went on to kill his mother (Fanny Dennison),



With my grandfather's name as Christmas Lewis Farrow it has made searching a little easier than some names. However, this still brings up a few others in Norfolk, with the same name- but not if Lewis is added. He was known to everyone as Lewis or Lou.

Lewis was born in Susted to Lewis Lovell Farrow and Georgianna (nee AMIS). He married my grandmother, from Wells, in 1906. They lived in Wells, until he died in 1930.

This was the result of him being in collision with a motor cycle near Morston Church. According to a newspaper report he was riding with no lights. Lewis had served in France during World War One, in the Army Veterinary Corp, looking after the horses. I have his pocket watch and inside is inscribed 'Hill 60, 17/3/15' The dial is showing some damage after

suffering an impact. Hill 60 was occupied by the Germans and undermined by the British, who packed the tunnels with explosives. On 17th. April, 1915, the mines were then blown, with debris being thrown nearly 90 metres into the air.

On clearing out the family home I was lucky to find many documents, receipts, letters and photos relating to the Farrow family before the First World War and the 1920s.

I had not been aware that Lewis had been involved with the licensing trade and had run the 'Rose and Crown' pub in Burnham Market, from 1909. He may have had this interest as his father had run a few pubs himself. This included the 'Crown and Anchor' in Weybourne from 1888,

(now Crown Cottages) and the 'Ostrich Inn' in Wells from about 1898.

His father was Lewis Lovell Farrow, born 1854 in East Beckham, to James Farrow and Elizabeth (nee EMERY). Looking at the 1871 census, of the 18 properties listed, in a population of 63 there are 23 Farrowes living in four of the houses.

The Frankling side of the family are from Binham, going further back to the 17th Century. Their roots are in Buxton.

After Lewis's death my grandmother moved the family to Southend on Sea, where her sister-in-law, Kate had been living since the late 1890s. She and Sunny had set up the coach building business.

	Birth	Death	Place of Birth
Kate Dawes (Farrow)	1876	1946	Metton
Kate (Kitty) Dawes jnr.	1905		Prittlewell, Essex
Sunny Dawes	1873	1943	Syderstone
Milly Dawes	1904	1934	Rochford, Essex
Lucy Dawes	1901	1949	Rochford, Essex
Benjamin Dawes	1899	1918	Wells
Victoria Fanny Dawes	1897	1967	Weybourne
George Daw	1840	1909	Syderstone
Frances Daw (Softly)	1842	1898	West Rudham
Annie Farrow (Frankling)	1886	1972	Wells
James Charles Farrow	1906	1988	Wells
Christmas Lewis Farrow	1880	1930	Susted

Try Our Facebook Page

Have you tried our Facebook page. Membership is free and it may help you to break down a research brick wall. It also gives you the opportunity to contact and help other members in a friendly and safe environment. All you have to do is go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk> and apply to join. We have hundreds of members with invaluable local knowledge.

Letters, Notes and Queries

Hines Family Info Needed

I have been given the attached Watercolours of

1. My Gt Gt Gt Grandfather William Hines born 1810 died about 1832
2. I don't know who the female is but suspect it is William's mother Sarah Hines Nee Nichols.

William's parents were Daniel and Sarah Hines nee Nichols who married 2nd June, 1805, at St Martin Oak. Daniel was a weaver.

William married Sarah Goose 25th December, 1831.

They had two children

1. Lousia Goose born 4th January 1830 (Fathers name not listed and born before parents married).
2. George Hines Christened 29th April, 1832. William's occupation was given as Weaver.

A William Hines was buried 23rd April 1835 and is listed in the St Augustine Parish Register. His home was given as St Clement.

From this and other information I gather the family lived in St Clement and the churches they were involved in were St Augustine and St Martin Oak. When I visited Norwich a few years ago these churches were within a short walking distance.

Unfortunately, they were locked up at



Letters, Notes and Queries

the time.

The clothes William was wearing in the photo indicate he came from a family with a reasonable income.

I am especially interested in when Sarah, William's wife, died. Daughter Louisa was living with her Goose Grandparents at the time she married.

I have come across one or two other Sarah Hines but they don't appear to be the same person or I can't prove they are the same person I am looking for.

Terry Logan MN 4810.

Email: terry.logan@xtra.co.nz

Did your Ancestors live on Kett's Hill in Norwich? Do you recognise anyone?



This charming photo was in the family collection and the people shown are thought to be neighbours of my Great Uncle Edward Harrison and his wife Caroline (nee Wright). They lived at 119 Kett's Hill up to around 1925. A relative had

written some names in which are: (left to right) Mr/Mrs Rix, May Bell, Mr/Mrs Monument, Miss Monument and Connie Monument, Miss Sturgiss and Mr/Mrs Ringer and Sid and Ruby Ringer. Having done some research from Directories and the Census, this showed the following: 107 - Rix (Henry and Mary Jane) 111 - Monument (Rachel and Arthur, Connie) 117 - Sturgess (Maud Mary) 123 - Bell (Robert) If you recognise your relatives and would like a copy of the photo, or have more information, please contact me. Susan Keeys (MN6149). email: historicalone@pobroadband.co.uk.



Do you recognise anyone at this wedding? Again this was in the family photos. Written on the back 'Lily Spurgeon and George' - the bride and groom

I do know a few faces in the photo, 2nd right back row is my great-grandfather Charles Frederick Harrison, 3rd right, his son Edward (of 119 Kett's Hill) holding his son George age 2, and just peeping through at back (3rd left back row) is Caroline, Edward's wife (at the time pregnant with their daughter Dorothy who was born 1908) second right middle row is Jessie Harrison daughter of C F Harrison. The three men centre back row may have been employed by my great grandfather, who was a builder, the Dean's Verger and lived and worked in Cathedral Close. It does seem this is around 1908 from the above, but it would be nice to name some other faces.

Again, if you recognise anyone please get in touch. Susan Keeys MN6149, e-mail: historicalone@pobroadband.co.uk

Porchers of South Norfolk

WE have been contacted by author Mary Pilfold-Allan who is writing a book on Eliza Pilfold-Porcher.

Mary writes:

"I am trying to trace Porchers of Winfarthing/Shelfanger and Bressingham (1700 -1825) for a book on Eliza Pilfold-Porcher.

I am being helped with research from Utah where many of them went, including Eliza, but it is this end that is proving confusing.

I have William marrying Sarah Ralph 1760/61. She dies 1796 and he dies 1815 in Winfarthing Poor House. Before that he appears to have lived with his daughter Phoebe Porcher, at 2 The Rectory Cottages, Winfarthing but I cannot find any mention of Phoebe being born. Can you help please?"

If anyone can help, Mary's contact e-mail is: mary.basham@keme.co.uk.

NOTE— Robert Porcher was born in Diss in May 1825, the son of James Porcher and Sophie Adams. He married Eliza Pilfold on 4th April, 1847, in Cambridge. They emigrated to America on the English ship "Wisconsin," which departed Liverpool and arrived in New York on 13th August, 1872. They had 14 children.

Situated in the centre of Norwich, we have a large selection of new, second-hand and antiquarian books on Norfolk, Suffolk and the Broads.

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to purchase
small and large
libraries in any
subject*



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Ancestor Bookshelf

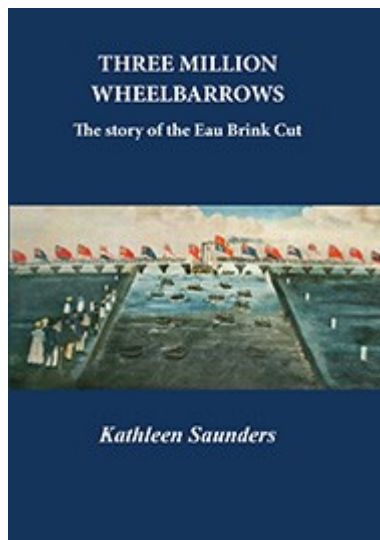
Author Kathleen Saunders has contacted us about her latest book ***“Three Million Wheelbarrows - The story of the Eau Brink Cut”*** which has been published to coincide with the Bicentenary this summer of the Cut and the first bridge over the River Great Ouse at King’s Lynn.

Kathleen writes: “ It may interest your readers because there are frequent mentions of individuals who were landowners, engineers, craftsmen or workmen, especially from the Marshland area.”

“Three Million Wheelbarrows” describes events leading up to the Eau Brink Cut from 1775 to 1821. Landowners wanted to straighten the River Great Ouse to improve drainage and protect their crops from flooding. The merchants of King’s Lynn Corporation feared this would create such violent currents that the harbour and barge transport network would be destroyed. A massive feat of negotiation by elite local characters and Britain’s legendary engineers was required to satisfy both factions. The book tells of the river’s resistance to human control and the impacts of our activities on the environment.

Three Million Wheelbarrows will interest local and family historians as many of the people involved will have descendants in the area. Those using the river for leisure, or historians of drainage, early steam engines, engineering, transport or Fenland’s Napoleonic wartime activities may also find useful information. Students of creative writing or the eco-humanities, combining history/geography with literature, ecology and the arts might also be curious.

Three Million Wheelbarrows -The story of the Eau Brink Cut by Kathleen Saunders is published by Mousehold Press and available from bookshops or www.bitternbooks.co.uk Tel: 01603 739635 Price £9.95 plus p+p. You can also purchase the book from: Central Stores, at Wiggshall St. Germans; Marshland Stores in Marshland Street, Terrington St. Clement; Leverington Stores, Church End, Leverington, Wisbech; GroundWorks Gallery, Purfleet Street, King’s Lynn; Etcetera Community Hub, York Row, Wisbech; Holt Books, Holt.; Jarrold’s Department Store, Norwich and City Books, Norwich.



Ancestor Bookshelf

**Humphry Repton and his Family—
Correspondence 1809-1816. Edited by
Dr Heather Falvey. Norfolk Record Soci-
ety Publications.**

THIS is the 2020 volume from the Norfolk Record Society in a long line of excellent niche publications going back to 1931. The society was founded in 1930 with the aim of publishing and making accessible documents relating to Norfolk and Norwich.

The letters give us an insight into the private life of celebrated landscape gardener Humphry Repton and are part of the collection of his fourth son William Repton (1783-1858) who was a solicitor in Aylsham.

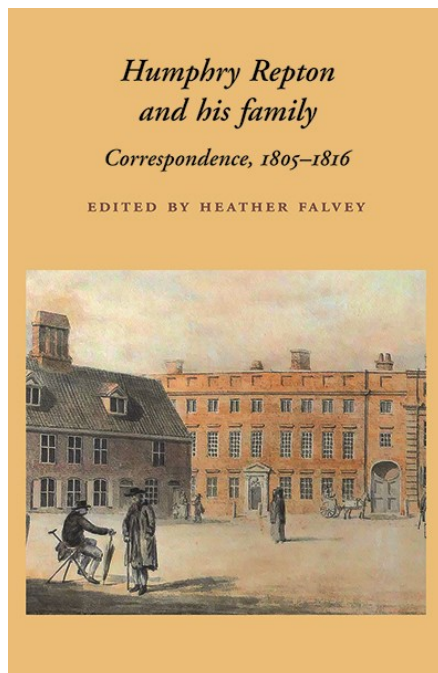
Repton Senior lived in Hare Street in Essex and the letters include his private thoughts written towards the end of his life. He gives an insight into business transactions and financial strains.

The book also includes letters and correspondence from his immediate family with lots of gossip about friends and acquaintances in Norfolk and Essex, giving us an insight into life in both Norfolk and Essex.

The letters and correspondence are surprisingly chatty and not stuffy in the least, although it takes a little getting used to the language of the time. It gives a wonderful and at times humorous insight into life of the early 19th century.

The book also includes biographies of family members in order to really bring the family to life. The letters show the concern that family members had for each other and how supportive they were.

More information on the Norfolk Record Society and its publications can be found by going to the website www.norfolkrecordsociety.org.uk or by emailing secretary@norfolkrecordsociety.org.uk.



Please note that Norfolk Family History Society does not sell any of the books reviewed in Norfolk Ancestor. Most can be bought from local bookshops or via the internet.

Outstanding Information

FOUNDER of Norfolk Family History Society, Patrick Palgrave Moore, has produced two stunning volumes of family research which have been donated to the library at Kirby Hall.



It was during the summer of 1968 as a young Norwich accountant that Patrick founded the NFHS which was then known as the Norfolk Genealogical Society. He explained the society's beginnings in a special article written for our 50th anniversary commemorative magazine which is still available to members online.

"During the summer of 1968 I was researching my family tree. I had been interested in the hobby since the age of 12 and was already in contact with fellow enthusiasts throughout the country. There was a growing awareness and interest in the hobby and the need to encourage a wider interest. "

That prompted Patrick to set up a society initially in his own cellar with the help of others and the following aims:

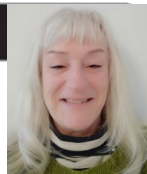
- To collect, publish and make accessible in the interests of genealogy and heraldry, any documents or records relating to the county of Norfolk
- To promote the preservation of such documents and records.
- To encourage the study of genealogy and heraldry.
- To give educational assistance by lectures or otherwise with reference to record research.

Now Patrick has produced two outstanding volumes on specific family names. The first volume is entitled "Farmers and Blacksmiths—An account of the family of Spanton." Full of illustrations, photographs, documents and 56 individual pedigrees, it gives a scholarly but highly readable history of literally hundreds of Spantons beginning with the Yorkshire roots of Peter de Spaunton who was born around 1170 and takes us up to the Spantons of the late 19th century. Patrick's great grandmother was a Spanton

The second is entitled "Memorials of the Flaxman Family" and begins with Robert Flaxman, a Yeoman, from Thurgarton who was born around 1500. Again this volume has helped Patrick to understand more about various branches of his own personal family tree. Both volumes are scholarly but highly readable, putting these families into the geographical and historical context of their times with plenty of Norfolk social history woven in as well.

Members' Interests

Compiled by Belinda Broad, Membership Secretary
email: membership@nfhs.co.uk



Hello and welcome to the September edition of Norfolk Ancestor. I would particularly like to welcome any new members who have joined us.

It has been decided to no longer provide a list of new members in the magazine due to the amount of space that this takes up. We will continue, however, to produce a list of members' interests, to help members to get in touch with others researching the same names.

You will see below a helpful map to explain the various geographical codes.

I would like to also mention our very active Facebook page which has helped many people break down those pesky brick walls. We currently have just under 3,500 members. Membership is free. Just go to www.facebook.com/groups/916674341698118 or just go to Facebook and search for Norfolk Family History Group

I'm looking forward to meeting as many members as possible once Kirby Hall is fully up and running again. Best Wishes.

Belinda

Members Interests Search Area Codes

KEY

- CN = Central
- NC = Norwich & District
- NE = North East
- NW = North West
- SE = South East



Other areas

are identified by Chapman codes.

A copy of these can be obtained from Kirby Hall.

Members' Interests

MN	Cnty	Name	Area	Date	MN	Cnty	Name	Area	Date
4272	NFK	AIINGER	ALL	ALL	18862	NFK	DENMARK	ALL	ALL
18809	NFK	APPLEYARD	ALL	ALL	18962	NFK	DENTON	NC	18C-19C
18729	NFK	ASHFIELD	ALL	ALL	18695	NFK	DOWNES	ALL	18C-19C
362	NFK	ATTOE	NC	18C-19C	3635	NFK	DREWELL	ALL	ALL
18862	NFK	AYLMER	ALL	16C	18820	NFK	DRIVER	SE	17C-20C
18729	NFK	BALLS	ALL	ALL	3635	NFK	DRURY	ALL	ALL
18860	NFK	BARKER	YM	17C-19C	18977	NFK	DUFFIELD	ALL	18C-19C
17830	NFK	BATTLEDORR	ALL	ALL	18862	NFK	DUNCH	ALL	ALL
18977	NFK	BEALES	ALL	18C-19C	17982	NFK	DURRELL	ALL	ALL
16977	NFK	BEANE	NE	ALL	18938	NFK	DYE	SW	15C-19C
16977	NFK	BEANE	NC	ALL	18846	NFK	DYKE	ALL	16C-20C
18960	NFK	BEEVOR	CN	17C-19C	18860	NFK	EBBAGE	YM	17C-19C
18963	NFK	BELIN	ALL	ALL	18811	NFK	ELGOOD	ALL	ALL
16004	NFK	BENEDICT	ALL	15C-17C	18963	NFK	ELSDEN	ALL	ALL
17584	NFK	BETTS	NC	ALL	18820	NFK	ELSEY	ALL	17C-20C
18729	NFK	BETTS	ALL	ALL	13944	NFK	ENGLISH	NW	ALL
18860	NFK	BETTS	YM	17C-18C	4272	NFK	FABB	ALL	ALL
18815	NFK	BETTS	ALL	ALL	12700	NFK	FAIRMAN	ALL	ALL
18602	NFK	BLACKBURN	ALL	ALL	12700	NFK	FAYERMAN	ALL	ALL
18602	SFK	BLACKBURN	ALL	ALL	3635	NFK	FEARNLEY	ALL	ALL
18602	NFK	BLACKBURN	NC	ALL	18602	NFK	FIDDY	NC	ALL
18759	NFK	BLANCHFLOWER	SE	ALL	5504	NFK	FITT	NE	16C-18C
18860	NFK	BOAST	YM	17C-19C	3586	NFK	FLINT	SE	18C-19C
18862	NFK	BRADY	ALL	ALL	362	NFK	FOWLENGER	ALL	18C
18963	NFK	BREESE	ALL	ALL	15901	NFK	FRANCIS	NC	15C-18C
17584	NFK	BREWER	YM	ALL	18939	NFK	FROST	ALL	ALL
18860	NFK	BROWN(E)	YM	15C-19C	3635	NFK	GANT	ALL	ALL
5096	NFK	BUCK	ALL	ALL	18854	NFK	GENT	ALL	ALL
16004	NFK	BURLINGHAM	ALL	15C-17C	18770	NFK	GILLINGWATER	SE	ALL
18775	NFK	BURLINGHAM	SW	17C-19C	18770	NFK	GILLINGWATER	YM	ALL
3635	NFK	BUTCHER	ALL	ALL	4272	NFK	GOTTS	ALL	ALL
18820	NFK	CARVER	SE	17C-20C	18602	NFK	GRIMES	NE	ALL
18815	NFK	CATCHPOLE	ALL	ALL	9064	NFK	GROUT	ALL	ALL
18775	NFK	CATLIN	SW	18C-19C	18963	NFK	GURNEY	ALL	ALL
18963	NFK	CHITTOCK	ALL	ALL	18862	NFK	HAGON	ALL	18C
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18759	NFK	COLEMAN	SE	ALL	3635	NFK	HART	ALL	ALL
6149	NFK	COMER	NC	18C-20C	15901	NFK	HAWES	CN	16C-17C
18963	NFK	COOK	ALL	ALL	15901	NFK	HEYWOOD	NC	16C-17C
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18860	NFK	CROW(E)	YM	19C	18555	NFK	JERNEGAN	ALL	15C-17C
17806	NFK	CUSHION	ALL	ALL	18951	NFK	JOLLY	NC	ALL
18815	NFK	DANIELS	ALL	ALL	18963	NFK	KERISON	ALL	ALL
18862	NFK	DAVISON	ALL	18C-19C	18902	SFK	KIRBY	ALL	18C-20C
18860	NFK	DAWSON	YM	17C-19C	18902	NFK	KIRBY	ALL	17C-20C
13944	NFK	DECK	ALL	ALL	17434	NFK	KNIGHTS	ALL	ALL
362	NFK	DEEKER	NE	18C	5386	NFK	KNIGHTS	YM	19C-20C

Members' Interests

18759	NFK	LAMB	SE	ALL	18963	NFK	SPINKS	ALL	ALL
18695	NFK	LANCASTER	ALL	16C-18C	362	NFK	STANNARD	NC	ALL
18939	NFK	LANSDALL	ALL	ALL	18820	NFK	STEBBINGS	ALL	17C-20C
18977	NFK	LASKEY	ALL	18C-20C	18946	NFK	STOCKING	ALL	15C-19C
16400	NFK	LEADER	SE	18C-19C	17584	NFK	STONE	NC	ALL
362	NFK	LIFFEN	ALL	18C	10748	NFK	SUMMERS	ALL	ALL
18963	NFK	LIGHTING	ALL	ALL	18963	NFK	SUTTON	ALL	ALL
18902	NFK	LOOSE	ALL	ALL	18963	NFK	TANN	ALL	ALL
18862	NFK	LOVICK	ALL	18C	15901	NFK	TAYLOR	NC	16C-17C
15901	NFK	MARTIN	NW	15C-17C	362	NFK	THURLOW	NE	18C
17173	NFK	MATSELL	ALL	ALL	18951	NFK	TILNEY	ALL	ALL
18759	SFK	MAYHEW	ALL	ALL	18963	SFK	TORBOLD	ALL	ALL
17434	NFK	MCDONALD	ALL	ALL	18963	NFK	TOWER	ALL	ALL
18963	NFK	MENDHAM	ALL	ALL	17833	NFK	TRAPPIST	ALL	ALL
18860	NFK	MINNS	YM	18C-19C	18759	SFK	TRICKER	ALL	ALL
362	NFK	MOLL	NE	18C	18763	NFK	TRUELOVE	NC	ALL
18759	NFK	MOUGHTON	YM	ALL	18860	NFK	TUNGATE	YM	17C-19C
18963	NFK	MULLINGER	ALL	ALL	18790	NFK	TURNER	ALL	ALL
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18860	NFK	MUTTON	YM	18C-19C	18860	NFK	WAINFORD	YM	16C-18C
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18815	NFK	PARKINSON	ALL	ALL	18797	ALL	WITHAM	ALL	ALL
18602	NFK	PEARCE	NC	ALL	18797	ALL	WOODHOUSE	ALL	ALL
3635	NFK	POWLEY	ALL	ALL	18846	NFK	WYMER	ALL	ALL
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18862	NFK	PYLE	ALL	18C	18863	NFK	REEVE	ALL	17C-20C
18775	NFK	PYMAN	SW	17C-20C	7769	NFK	COUZENS	NW	19C-20C
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18602	NFK	READ	NC	ALL	18482	NFK	BOULTER	SE	18C-19C
3635	NFK	REYNOLDS	ALL	ALL	18482	NFK	GIBBS	SE	18C-19C
13748	NFK	RUST	SW	17C-18C	18482	NFK	SEAMAN	SE	18C-19C
15901	NFK	SADDLETON	NW	15C-17C	18482	NFK	ALDERSON	NC	18C-19C
18763	NFK	SADLER	NC	18C-20C	18482	NFK	MIDDLETON	NE	18C
18946	NFK	SAFFERY	ALL	15C-19C	18482	NFK	BAXTER	SE	18C
18963	NFK	SARGEANT	ALL	ALL	18482	NFK	KEMP	SE	17C-18C
18775	NFK	SAUNDERS	SW	18C-20C	18995	NFK	LYON	ALL	ALL
18775	NFK	SAUNDERSON	SW	17C-20C	18995	NFK	DRAKE	ALL	ALL
2742	NFK	SCOTTOW	ALL	ALL	18995	NFK	SOMAN	ALL	ALL
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18921	NFK	SMITH	SE	ALL	19005	NFK	ALEXANDER	ALL	18C-20C
15901	NFK	SOUTHGATE	NC	15C-18C	19013	NFK	RINGER	SE	ALL
17584	NFK	SPINK	YM	ALL	19015	NFK	GOLDSMITH	SE	16C-18C

Members' Interests

19015	NFK	GOLDSPINK	SE	16C-18C	19021	NFK	EASTOLL	NC	17C-19C
19015	NFK	BOWLES	NC	17C	19021	NFK	MOORE	SE	17C-19C
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19016	NFK	KETT	ALL	ALL	19021	NFK	SMITH	SW	17C-19C
19016	NFK	THAXTER	ALL	ALL	19021	NFK	CLARKE	SW	17C-19C
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9616	NFK	COZENS	ALL	ALL	19021	NFK	BUSSEY	NC	16C-18C
19028	NFK	KEY	NC	ALL	19021	NFK	MAYHEW	SE	17C-19C
19028	NFK	CHESTER	ALL	ALL	19021	NFK	BRIGHTON	NC	ALL
19028	NFK	BRIGGS	NC	ALL	19021	NFK	BRIGHTING	NC	17C-18C
19028	NFK	WYMER	NC	ALL	16478	NFK	DOUBLEDAY	ALL	ALL
19028	NFK	BRINDED	ALL	ALL	16478	NFK	WING	ALL	ALL
19028	NFK	LAKE	NC	ALL	18571	SFK	STANNARD	ALL	18C-19C
19031	NFK	RYE	ALL	ALL	18571	SFK	GOODRICH	ALL	17C-18C
19031	NFK	RYE	ALL	ALL	18571	SFK	GOODRAM	ALL	17C-18C
18933	NFK	SPINKS	ALL	ALL	18571	NFK	TOOLEY	YM	ALL
18933	NFK	SPINKS	ALL	ALL	18571	NFK	CHASEN	YM	18C-20C
19043	NFK	WATTS	NW	18C-19C	18571	NFK	BURGESS	YM	18C-19C
19043	NFK	COOPER	NW	18C-19C	18571	NFK	YAXLEY	YM	18C-19C
19043	NFK	COOPER	SW	18C-19C	18962	ESS	ELY	ALL	ALL
19043	NFK	NICHOLLS	NW	18C-19C	18962	ESS	WAYLEN	ALL	ALL
19048	NFK	RANT	ALL	ALL	18962	ESS	CUTMORE	ALL	ALL
19048	NFK	FOX	ALL	ALL	18962	NFK	COKER	ALL	ALL
7045	NFK	SANDELL	ALL	ALL	19085	NFK	KIRBY	ALL	ALL
17368	NFK	TIPPLE	ALL	ALL	19087	NFK	WARD	ALL	ALL
18037	NFK	HOOK	ALL	ALL	19087	NFK	DYBLE	ALL	ALL
18550	NFK	CORSTON	NW	ALL	19087	NFK	NARBURGH	ALL	ALL
18273	NFK	GRAVER	ALL	17C-18C	19087	NFK	CROW	ALL	ALL
18273	NFK	COPLAND	ALL	17C-19C	19087	NFK	MUNFORD	ALL	17C-18C
18273	NFK	DRUERY	ALL	17C-20C	19087	NFK	HOWARD	ALL	17C-18C
19040	NFK	LEMON	ALL	ALL	19087	NFK	RUSH	ALL	17C-18C
19040	NFK	ROSEMAN	ALL	ALL	19087	NFK	RUGH	ALL	17C-18C
15760	NFK	READ	ALL	ALL	19087	NFK	FEANE	ALL	17C-18C
18862	NFK	PLUMSTEAD	ALL	16C-19C	17976	NFK	GOODBODY	ALL	17C-19C
18862	NFK	MONEY	ALL	16C-19C	18962	NFK	SEXTON	NC	ALL
19054	NFK	DANN	SW	18C-19C	18962	NFK	WATLING	NC	ALL
19054	NFK	WRIGHT	SE	18C-20C	18933	NFK	SPINKS	ALL	ALL
19054	NFK	THURSTON	NE	18C-20C	18792	NFK	RUMPF	ALL	ALL
19062	NFK	BAILEY	ALL	ALL	18792	NFK	RUMP	NC	18C-19C
18697	NFK	MANN	YM	ALL	18792	NFK	RUMP	CN	18C-19C
19043	NFK	ORGANER	NW	18C	17305	NFK	HOWES	CN	18C
19043	NFK	ORGANER	SW	18C	17305	NFK	MARHAM	CN	18C
19073	NFK	GREEF	ALL	ALL	17305	NFK	CLAXTON	NE	18C
19073	ALL	GRIEF	ALL	ALL	17305	NFK	CARR	NC	18C
17725	NFK	PETCHELL	ALL	ALL	17305	NFK	BARSHAM	NW	18C
17725	SFK	PETCHELL	ALL	17C-19C	17305	NFK	SIMMONS	NW	18C-19C
17725	ESS	PETCHELL	ALL	18C-20C	19100	NFK	BUNN	ALL	ALL
19021	NFK	FINCHAM	SW	17C-20C	19100	NFK	JERMY	ALL	ALL
19021	NFK	EASTELL	NC	17C-19C	19100	NFK	YALLOP	ALL	ALL

Members' Interests

19100	NFK	SAYER	ALL	ALL	10308	NFK	STAGG	ALL	15C-18C
19100	NFK	MARGREE	ALL	ALL	10308	NFK	SUTTON	ALL	15C-18C
10308	NFK	POOLEY	ALL	15C-17C	10308	NFK	RUSHBROOK	ALL	15C-18C
10308	NFK	SEAMAN	ALL	ALL	19082	NFK	BELDING	NW	19C-20C
10308	NFK	DUFFIELD	ALL	16C-18C	19082	NFK	HASTINGS	NW	19C-20C
10308	NFK	WIGHTMAN	ALL	15C-18C	19082	NFK	HOLMES	NW	19C-20C

To contact other members researching the same surname -

First log-in to the NFHS Website. Then under the Membership/Members' Interests menu select the required surname from the drop-down list and click on "Contact".

An e-mail address or postal address will then be forwarded to you.

If an e-mail isn't received shortly after please check your spam folder.

VOLUNTEERS

The Norfolk Family History Society relies on the work of an army of volunteers and we are always looking for more.

If you can spare anything from a couple of hours a week, or even a month, to come into Kirby Hall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday or require further information, please email

volunteers@nfhs.co.uk, please include your membership number.

Any help at any time will be very welcome.

NB. It may be possible that some tasks could be undertaken at home. Any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

DIANA SPELMAN BA Norfolk Research Specialist (since 1982)

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



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Royal Seal of Approval

By Peter Steward

HER Royal Highness the Princess Royal gave her seal of approval to a new memorial in the grounds of Norwich Cathedral when she laid a wreath in July to the memory of 97 soldiers who lost their lives in a Second World War massacre on May 27th, 1940.

The massacre at Le Paradis saw 99 soldiers from the Second Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the First Battalion Royal Scots Regiment and others who had surrendered to German troops being marched along a road into a

field and lined-up against a barn and machine gunned.

Until now there have been numerous memorials in France to the fallen, but none in the UK. This is no longer the case thanks to a fitting memorial just around from the west door of the cathedral and close to the memorial to First World War heroine Edith Cavell.



Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal meets Brigadier Max Marriner (left), a trustee of Le Paradis Memorial Appeal, and Philip Curson whose father Serjeant William Curson died in the massacre.

The Princess Royal met Le Paradis Memorial Appeal trustees, members of Le Paradis Commemoration Group along with supporters, and a service of dedication was led by the Dean of Norwich Cathedral the Very Rev Jane Hedges and was supported by members of the cathedral choir. A full list of those who died in the massacre along with hundreds of articles on the massacre can be found on the website at

www.leparadismassacre.com

WE welcome articles, photographs and news from members.

Please send your submissions to the editor preferably by email at:

ancestor@nfhs.co.uk or by post to Kirby Hall, 70 St Giles Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1LS.

The deadline for copy for the December edition is October 15th.

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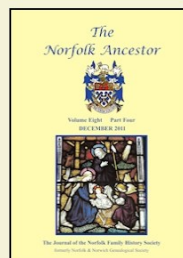
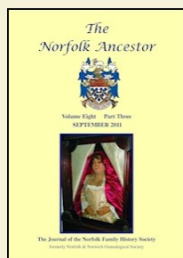
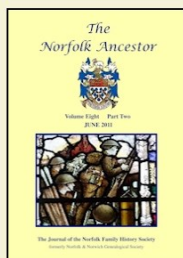
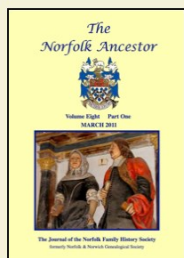
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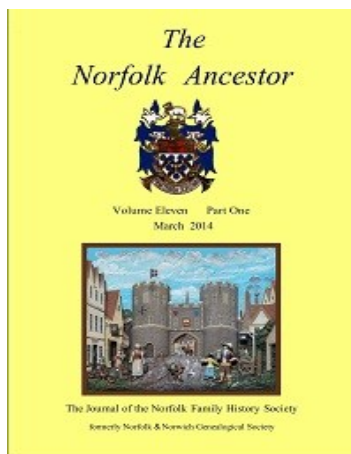


Copies of the Norfolk Ancestor from 1992 onwards are now available to Norfolk Family History Society members on the Society's web site.



Dr Patrick Mileham sent us the postcard above which depicts the Aylsham Regatta of July 1850—a watercolour painting by his ancestor Walter Mileham. Patrick writes: “I was intrigued with the list of mayors of Great Yarmouth in the Norfolk Ancestor of March, 2020. My father Colonel John Mileham wrote an article in 1982 for the Journal on Sir Thomas Browne-Mileham’s connection. He also worked on an account of the Money family, connected through my great great grandmother. Part of his typed up research was a piece called “Old Browne Mayors” who appear in your list and the many inter-connections in Yarmouth society in the 18th century with a possible Nelson connection. I have recently had this all digitised and offer it to the society.” So a big thank you to Patrick and we hope to feature some of the research in future editions.

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**Or by post to the appropriate person at
Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS**

The Story of Billy Bluelight



BILLY Bluelight's real name was William Cumming and he was born in Suffolk in 1859. His parents were Jacob Cullum (1838–1884), a miller from Debenham, and his wife Harriett née Leeder (1837-1913). The couple married in 1854 and by the 1871 Census had moved to the King Street area of Norwich and were living with six children, Harriet (15), Henry (13), William (11), Fanny (6), Walter (5) and Arthur (3).

Billy probably never went to school but he did teach himself to read and he worked briefly at Caley's chocolate factory. He did not find everyday life easy to cope with and, after his father died in 1884, he lived with his mother until her death in 1913.

In the winter months he would earn a living as a tinker, selling things like firewood, blackberries and Leach's cough sweets, often outside Colman's factory. However, it was in the summer, when he came into his own and became a Norwich legend. At around 11.30, when the pleasure cruisers like the Waterfly and the Yarmouth Belle came up the Yare taking passengers to Norwich, Billy would appear at the side of the river near Bramerton. Dressed in shorts and singlet with a striped cricket cap and wearing an array of medals, he would call out to the passengers with this famous rhyme:

"My name is Billy Bluelight, my age is 45, I hope to get to Carra Bridge before the boat arrive".

He would then sprint off along the river footpath, keeping up with the boat at Woods End and then disappear from view, by taking a short cut through Whitlingham Sewerage Farm, staying neck and neck with the boat at the old limekiln at Crown Point. As the boat negotiated the narrow bends in the river, Billy would take a detour over Trowse Bridge. By the time Carrow Bridge was reached, Billy would be there to receive the applause from the day trippers and collect the coins thrown to him on the path by the east Boom Tower. By 1907, Billy was a legend for his racing and street selling activities and he continued racing the boats well into the 1930s (when he was well over 45!)



The name 'Bluelight' may have come from the Victorian word for a teetotaler, which Billy was, and he often spoke out about the dangers of alcohol. Others suggest that it came from the blue tipped matches that he sold or his blue nose in winter. In the 1939 register, he was living alone in Palmer Road on the Mile Cross estate. In his eighties he entered the West Norwich Hospital and was later moved to St James Hospital at Shipmeadow, Suffolk where he died in 1949. He will always be remembered locally as one of 'nature's gentlemen'.

Roger Morgan MN17267

What is the Connection?



The top picture shows the statue of the Norwich-born eccentric known locally as Billy Bluelight on the River Yare at Bramerton. The bottom picture shows the steam-driven pleasure steamer, The Waterfly, which was featured in our March 2017 edition. To find out about the connection between them, turn to the inside back cover.

