

# *The Norfolk Ancestor*



SEPTEMBER 2022



**The Journal of the Norfolk Family History Society**

Formerly Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society

# Intwood Hall

**The picture on the front cover shows the impressive looking Intwood Hall which is situated in a 700 acre estate, just a few miles south of Norwich. The current house is very different from the original Tudor mansion which once stood on the site. Roger Morgan takes a brief look at the lives of some of the residents of the hall.**

THE story begins when Richard GRESHAM bought the manors of Keswick and Intwood between 1530 and 1537. Richard was born in Holt in 1445 and his parents were John Gresham (1460-1556) and Alice BLYTH from Long Stratton (1462-1522). He was apprenticed as a mercer in London and formed an import-export company with his brother John, trading mainly with the Low Countries.

Richard supplied King Henry VIII with velvets and satins and gradually amassed a large fortune. He became well known in Court and acted for the state in financial matters before he was appointed Sheriff of London in 1531. He became great friends with Cardinal Wolsey, even paying for the cardinal's funeral, and witnessed the execution of Anne Boleyn at the Tower of London in 1536. In 1537 he was made Lord Mayor of London and was knighted in the same year.

Sir Richard rebuilt Intwood Hall as a Tudor mansion and lived there for a few years until he died in 1548. He was succeeded by his second son, Thomas (1518-1579). He married Anne FERNELEY and the couple had one son, Richard, who predeceased both of them. Thomas was educated at Cambridge and also acted as a mercer in London. He was soon acting for the King in the Low Countries and became a financial expert, negotiating favourable foreign loans for the King.

He felt that London needed an Exchange, where merchants could meet inside, and he built one in Lombard Street. He employed a Flemish architect and the workmen came from the Low Countries. The Gresham device of a grasshopper was placed on the building's corners and it became known as the Royal Exchange after it was opened in 1571 by Elizabeth I. When Sir Thomas started to rebuild Intwood Hall he decided to remodel it in the Flemish style.

Once again he employed foreign architects and workers who imported their materials from overseas. The porch, some garden walls and a garden shelter with the initials 'RG' and the coat of arms survived the rebuild. Turn to page 39 for more.



# 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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**Peter Steward**

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**Roger Morgan**

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# News From Kirby Hall

The library at Kirby Hall in Norwich is close to the city centre and is open to the public at the following times:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am until 4 pm.

Saturdays from 10 am until 1 pm.

## The Wymer Trilogy

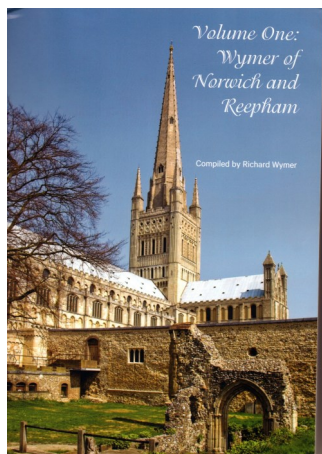
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**NFHS Librarian Ellen Carr recently received a parcel containing some important research as she relates here.**

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IT is always exciting to receive parcels containing research and I was aware that Richard Wymer was sending me three volumes of his One Name family history research from his home in Australia. However, I was very surprised with the size and the almost 6 kg weight of his volumes! This was a very expensive donation to post and many thanks to Richard for doing so.

Richard's research has taken 50 years to compile and is a testament to his hard work and diligence. His interest began as a child when teachers viewed his surname as being 'from any place other than Britain.' Family members were able to supply some information as far back as the 18th century and Richard's quest to find out more had begun. His volumes include many photos and charts as well as detailed text and are all beautifully presented. As well as text, all volumes contain detailed indexes of names and places so connections are easy to make.



**Volume One of the trilogy**

**Volume 1** covers details of the family at St Martin at Oak, Norwich, and the parish of Reepeham, as well as a section on several families from an earlier period before the commencement of church records. Family members have been identified from many Norfolk and Norwich parishes, other places in the UK, Afghanistan, India, Australia, Scotland, Canada, South Africa, New

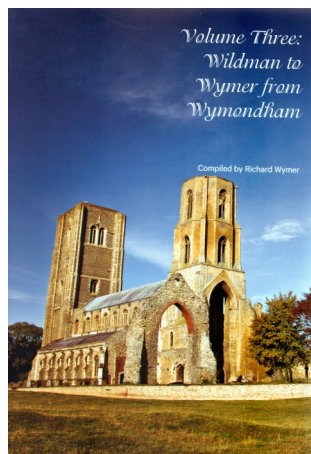
# News From Kirby Hall



Zealand, Ireland, USA, Wales, Jersey and Pakistan.

**Volume 2** (pictured on the left) concentrates on the part of the family from Yelverton, near Norwich, that has spread, over many years, across the UK. There is also information on a smaller family that moved from Suffolk to Weston Longville with a few descendants living in Cambridgeshire.

**Volume 3** (pictured right) details two families from Wymondham that were using the name Wildman prior to the end of the 18th century and changed to Wymer when they moved through Norfolk after the start of the Industrial Revolution.



All three volumes are available for viewing in our library at Kirby Hall and, while we do not do extensive research for people, members are able to ask us to look up individual names to see if there is any useful information we could share with them.

Many Thanks to Richard for all his hard work and for his very kind donation to our library.

## 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 |

# News From Kirby Hall

## Parish Register Transcription Project by NFHS Transcript Checker Margaret Murgatroyd.

THERE have been two important developments in the Parish Register Transcription project this year.

Firstly the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society (CHFHS) have generously donated their work on the Norfolk parishes on their WISMUS project to the NFHS. The WISMUS project involved the scanning of the West Norfolk Fenland parish records by the staff of the Wisbech and Fenland Museum using high quality equipment loaned by the Cambridgeshire County Archive Service with all staffing costs being paid for by CHFHS. This donation from CHFHS means we can now add data from the Fenland parishes to our Norfolk Online Record Search (NORS) and uploading will start in September.

I have been a volunteer transcriber for the WISMUS project so thought the format of the transcripts would differ from that needed for NORS and so it proved. After discussion and experimentation with methods of converting the files to the NORS format we decided to do the work in house. The baptism and burial files were relatively simple to convert but the marriages were more difficult, and it is thanks to Paul Harman that this was achieved. The transcripts were checked individually as certain records would not be found by a NORS search unless entered appropriately in the datasheet. For example, the mother's

maiden name had to be recorded in a separate column and aliases and the details of the fathers of illegitimate children needed to be recorded differently to give a result in a search of the database. The records of the ministers conducting the ceremonies were removed from the NORS search but can be accessed at Kirby Hall if needed.

This has all taken time but most of the registers up to the date of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths are now completed and will shortly be uploaded to NORS. Work is continuing with the post 1837 data and this will be added to NORS as it is completed.

We thank the CHFHS for their generosity in giving us this opportunity to expand our Norfolk parish registers coverage.

Secondly we would like to report that the majority of the Norwich parish register transcripts have been reviewed and new double-checked versions have replaced the old versions on NORS where necessary. This does not denigrate the original transcribers who did valuable work but they were on the whole working at a disadvantage. Compared with now, their fiche and film readers were very basic and reading some of the very small print was difficult

Reading handwriting in faded or water/

mouse/mould-damaged registers was a problem. In addition the transcripts were originally handwritten or typed and, in order to transfer them to NORS, they had to be copied onto templates. Copying is always a possible source of error and in the initial enthusiasm for expanding NORS limited checking was done at the time.

With our modern scanner we can now supply better jpeg images to transcribers who can now enlarge and enhance them to improve legibility. Unfortunately we still cannot be certain that there are no mistakes as the writing and the condition of the registers remain a problem.

The records for the parishes of St Paul and St Michael at Thorn were lost during the bombing in 1939-1945 so only old transcripts are available. The registers of some of the riverside parishes (St Mary Coslany, St Michael Coslany, St Martin at Oak, St Clement, St Edmund) were badly damaged by flooding and many entries are impossible to read. Archdeacons' Transcripts and Bishops' Transcripts have been used where possible but the records will probably never be complete.

We recommend further NORS searches especially if you know of Norwich connections as we may have revealed new data for you or changed data that you previously found.

This revision has taken nearly three years to complete and I can breathe a sigh of relief that it is finished! Thanks go to Paul White and Lyn Offord for their hard work on checking and Mike Dack for dealing with all the replacements needed on NORS.

We would remind members that whilst NFHS and CHFHS have used all reasonable efforts in scanning to ensure good quality images and our volunteers have produced the transcripts based on their reading of the scans, which in turn have been subjected to quality checking, the Societies cannot be held responsible for errors or differences in interpretation of images.

However, if you spot an error in a transcript, please send me a report, with supporting evidence if possible, to [transcriptcheck@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:transcriptcheck@nfhs.co.uk) and I will investigate and correct as needed.

You can read a message from Society chairman Phil Whiscombe later in this edition.

## AGM DATE

THE 2022 annual general meeting of the Norfolk Family History Society will be held at Kirby Hall on Saturday, October 22nd. This will be the second agm in 2022 after the previous year's meeting was held over due to lockdown.

The October date will get the society back on track with its annual meeting following on in subsequent years.

You will find a further notice of the AGM along with an agenda elsewhere in this edition and a proxy voting form is included on a separate sheet.

# Major Shoe Manufacturers

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## NFHS member Alan Churchyard relates the story of his connection to a Norwich shoemaking dynasty

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ONE of the largest shoe companies in Norwich, whose partnership was formed in the early 1930s, was Bally and Haldinstein Manufacturers..

Bally, a Swiss-based firm had developed a large export trade to our country and had opened a shop in London. When the government heavily increased export duties on shoes and other products, it made sense for Bally to seek a partner in this country.

They needed a first class firm to manufacture their luxury shoes under the Bally name. P Haldinstein and Sons Ltd (Haldinsteins) had a fine reputation for producing top-quality shoes. The firm was a perfect match for Bally.

Haldinsteins had a fascinating history. We can trace the beginnings of this conglomerate to a young French Jewish boy, David SOMAN – my three times great grandfather. David was born in 1793 at Epinal, Department des Vosges, France. His parents moved in his infancy to Luneville, Alsace, a small French town close to the German border.

Tragically, his parents died of a 'malignant fever' and, after their death, when he was only 10 years of age,



David commenced a tour through several European countries. David arrived in London in 1813, aged 20. He met and later married his cousin, Rosetta, daughter of Daniel SOLOMAN, a master weaver carrying on a lucrative business in the East End.

The couple moved to Norwich in 1815 where they lived above the shop and he started in business originally as a cap maker. He purchased the premises fronting Bedford Street and Bridewell Alley which later became the famous HOVELL store of basket makers.

Hovell's opened in 1864 and the shop still evokes memories of the wicker baskets hanging outside! David later started a boot and shoe company, a trade almost unknown in Norwich at that time.

His business increased to such an extent that others found it worth their while to follow - shoe making became the staple trade of Norwich. David and Rosetta had six sons and three daughters. Their daughter, Rachel (1827–1894), my two times great Aunt, married a Prussian Jew, Philip HALDINSTEIN in Norwich in 1846. He had been a cap maker in Lissa, Prussia and he became a naturalised British subject.

David Soman welcomed his son-in-law into his shoemaking company. David retired from the business in 1853 and Philip took over, re-naming the company 'Philip Haldinstein and Sons'. In 1870, Philip took his eldest son, Woolfe, into partnership, and Woolfe directed a branch of the company in London. Sadly, Woolfe died in 1896, just five years after his father Philip's passing at the age of 82.

The second son of Philip Haldinstein – Alfred Haldinstein – then became sole proprietor, assisted by his two sons, Henry and George Haldinstein. Besides the London branch, the firm then had outlets in Leicester, Kettering and Wyomondham.

The extensive main factory and offices in central Norwich were five and six storey buildings which ran between Queen Street, Princes Street, Redwell Street and Tombland.

At its peak, the firm employed over 2000 people. It was reported in the publication 'The Men who have made



Norwich' by Edward and Wilfred Burgess in 1904 - *'At each of the branch factories, there is a constant output of boots and shoes of all kinds – from ladies' and girls' lightest evening-dress shoes to men's heavy boots.'* Haldinsteins were turning out thousands of pairs of shoes each week.

Alfred Haldinstein (pictured above) was born in 1850. He was an important figure in late Victorian Norwich, serving as the City Sheriff 1897-8.

Alfred married twice. His first wife was Emma SAMUEL, daughter of a Norwich watchmaker, one of the oldest -established Jewish families in the City. They had seven children but Emma died in 1885, aged only 35. The widowed Alfred and his large family were living at 43 Unthank Road in 1891.



Some years later Alfred married for a second time, his new bride being Edith Rebecca EMANUEL. The couple had five children and had moved to a new, very large house, Thorpe Lodge (now

Broadland District Council offices).

Alfred paid £7,000 for the house which stood in over 10 acres and had extensive views towards Whittingham. It had 13 bedrooms, five dressing rooms and seven servants' bedrooms. At the rear were double coachhouses with stabling for 12 horses - the family was extremely wealthy and had six live-in servants.

Three of Alfred's children deserve particular acknowledgement in this article: Constance Emma Haldinstein was born in 1879 and was educated at Norwich High School for Girls then in the Assembly Rooms in Norwich. On 20th June, 1908, at the age of 29, Constance married Saloman ELIAS at the Jewish synagogue in King Street, Norwich. He was a doctor by profession, from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. They had two children.

Another daughter, Joyce Yolande Haldinstein was born in 1900. Despite having different mothers and a 21-year age gap, the two sisters were very close. Joyce followed her sister to Rotterdam and she also married a Dutchman at Norwich synagogue in 1925. He was Johan ROZENDAAL a manufacturer living in Enschede, a Dutch town close to the border with Germany. They had no children.

By 1940, The Elias family had been in the Netherlands for over 30 years, and the Rozendaals for 15 years. Then, suddenly and brutally, their lives changed for ever. The Germans invaded the Netherlands on 10th May 1940. After only six days fighting, the country was forced to surrender and came under Nazi rule. Deportations began in the summer of 1942.

Constance died, either on her way to or at Sobibor Concentration Camp. Her husband was gassed at Sobibor in May 1943 and their son Alfred was murdered in Auschwitz on 28th January, 1944. The couple's daughter Charlotte survived - she had married Max POLAK and moved to the United States before the war.

Joyce Rozendaal and her husband, Johan continued to live in Nazi-occupied Holland under appalling conditions but they managed separate dramatic escapes to Switzerland where they later reunited. Joyce wrote a number of letters describing her experiences. These have been preserved at the Weiner Library in London. The full story of the Haldinstein sisters is included in Frank Meeres' brilliant book - 'Ordinary Women : Extraordinary Lives.'

Following Alfred's death in 1923, his son George Haldinstein took full control of the business which produced high-quality footwear for ladies and children. They had the honour of making shoes for Mary, Princess Royal, daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, when she married Viscount Lascelles in 1922. The same reputation initiated the partnership agreement with Bally of Switzerland. Paul MOLL was sent over to establish the collaboration. Paul's family (which included his nine-year old son Walter who later became a director

of the Norwich business) arrived in Norwich in April 1934.

Between 1934 and the outbreak of World War Two the partnership of Bally and Haldinstein successfully developed the company. There were some major changes to follow. Firstly, George Haldinstein, who was Jewish, was worried about a Nazi invasion and moved to South Africa. At the end of the war George, who still owned 51% of the company, returned to Norwich. Paul MOLL felt the time was right for Bally to buy George out, which they did in 1946.

The company became Bally Shoe Factories (Norwich) Limited. WALTER MOLL who had followed in his father's footsteps became one of the biggest names in Norwich's then thriving shoe industry. In 1969, Bally moved to new premises in Hall Road, Norwich, where higher productivity resulted.

In the years that followed, Walter having retired, there was a management buy-out in 1997. The new owners renamed the famous old company Eaton International Limited. Sadly, in 1999 the new company called in the receivers and shoe manufacturing ceased.

It would seem that the Haldinstein name was ultimately to disappear. Some male Haldinsteins either had no heirs or were killed in the First World War.

Being British with a German sounding name was problematic so in 1915, Philip, the son of Woolfe Haldinstein (1849–1896), changed his name to Haldin.

In 1905 he founded The Court Line. In



1939 he was knighted and became Sir Philip Haldin. He served as President of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom from 1940–41. He was a Shipping Magnate and also a great collector of art and antiques.

He died in 1953 at his home, Lympne Place, Folkestone. His art collection was sold by auction in 2015. Sir Philip was described as a man of great charm and a loyal friend.

I have given a copy of my full family tree to the Norfolk Family History Society and this can be inspected at the Headquarters, Kirby Hall, 70 St Giles Street, Norwich.

In addition to further links with the Haldinstein and Soman families, it contains details of many other families including: CARO, CHURCHYARD, COHEN, EBBAGE, MIDDLETON, PYE and WARREN.

# Thinking Outside The Box

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**NFHS member and volunteer Heather Etteridge explains how we should think outside the box when trying to find those elusive ancestors.**

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## **Name Variations**

When searching for those elusive ancestors, it is always worth considering name variations - both in the first name and the family name.

With my own surname, I have come across numerous variations of 'Etteridge' – for example Etridge, Ettridge, Etheridge, Utteridge.



## **Inquest into the Death of Dinah Bert**

In connection with my One-Place Study of Great Ellingham, I came across the report of an inquest into the death of Dinah Bert.

The Norwich Mercury of 15th May, 1861, reported that the 81-year-old widow was thrown from a carrier's cart whilst travelling from Great Ellingham to Norwich. Dinah suffered leg fractures and, sadly, died five days later in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

## **Who was Dinah Bert?**

I wanted to know more about Dinah Bert. In particular, was she a Great Ellingham woman?

A search for Dinah Bert living in Great

Ellingham at the time of the 1861 census proved negative. A search of the GRO Index confirmed a death registered in the June Quarter of 1861 in the Norwich District for Dinah Best aged 81.

I looked again at the 1861 census. I found Dinah Beets, a widow, aged 80 years, boarding with the household of Martha Starke at Green Lane, Little Ellingham.

Given that during the 19th century many people had little or no literacy skills, it follows that on occasions the persons recording information would just write down what they heard, or thought they heard. Accordingly, we can find many variations in the spelling of names.



Holy Trinity Church, Scoulton



Headstone For John and  
Dinah Beets

Therefore, I believe that Dinah Bert the subject of the inquest, Dinah Best found in the GRO Index for Deaths in 1861, and Dinah Beets living in Green Lane, Little Ellingham in 1861, is one and the same person.

### Dinah Beets

*Chapel Street, Rockland St Peter*

The 1851 census captures 70-year-old widow Dinah Beets living in Chapel Street, Rockland St Peter. The census confirms that Dinah was born in Wymondham and that she was a housekeeper. Other members of the household are 25-year-old George Kerrison, 37-year-old John Hall and 15-year-old Sarah Webster.

Ten years earlier, the 1841 census finds Dinah Betts living at Rockland Cottage, Rockland St Peter.

### Widow of John Beets

I believe that the Dinah referred to in the various documentation as Dinah Bert, Dinah Best, Dinah Beets and Dinah Betts is **Dinah Beets** the widow of John Beets. I subsequently found reference to a burial in Scoulton for Dinah Beets. On a visit to Scoulton Parish Church, I found a headstone for

John Beets and his wife Dinah.

John Beets died on March 5th, 1836. Dinah's date of death is recorded on the headstone as 9th May, 1861. This concurs with the inquest report for Dinah Bert published in the Norwich Mercury.

### Wymondham Born

I looked at the Wymondham Parish Registers for a possible baptism entry for Dinah. Working back from her age at death, Dinah would have been born around 1780. I found: Dinah daughter of John and Susanna Gay on 11th August, 1780.

Nonetheless, given that variations can occur in first names, we should not ignore: Diana daughter of George and Esther Barnard on February 8th, 1779.

Diana daughter of William and Sarah Drake on 4th October, 1780.

I favour Dinah the daughter of John and Susanna Gay but, as this is only a hunch, it may not be correct. Of course, the marriage entry for John and Dinah Beets may clarify Dinah's maiden name. However, I have yet to find it!

**A warm welcome to NFHS member Alan Harper who will be writing regularly in the Ancestor on a whole host of topics. Alan starts with a declaration**



# Descended From Vikings

YES, it is official: I am descended from the Vikings.

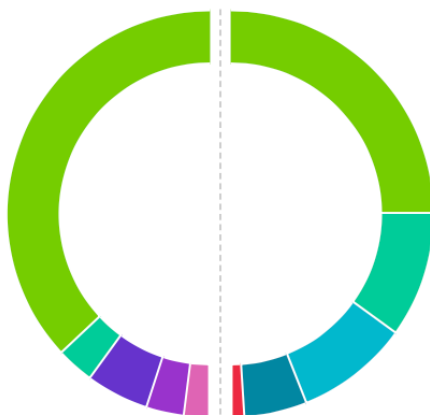
But before I get too carried away, or I hear you all scream “so what, aren’t we all” - well, yes, everyone of European descent is descended from the Scandinavian race of people who invaded the British Isles about 1,200 years ago.

The whys and wherefores of that assertion is a bit beyond the scope of this article, but what I did not know until recently was that ‘Vikings’ come in different flavours, and the flavour I thought I might be most closely aligned to turned out not to be the case at all.

But I am jumping ahead and we maybe need a (quick) history lesson to remind us just who the ‘Vikings’ were. They didn’t all wear horned helmets and they didn’t all rape and pillage. But they did leave behind many legacies including the suffix ‘by’ to place names, meaning dwelling place or farmstead, one we in Norfolk see in many villages around the county.

One way to figure out what ‘descended from the Vikings’ actually means is to take a look at some new DNA features made available over the past few months from two of the major commercial providers of DNA analysis. DNA is a complex subject, but here’s

Parent 1 Parent 2



The Ancestry Graph

my assessment of those new features, what it tells me about myself and therefore the type of new information - including about Vikings - you might learn about your own ancestry.

First, from [ancestry.co.uk](https://ancestry.co.uk), is a new ethnicity inheritance feature, available without additional charge to all existing AncestryDNA customers. Previously, AncestryDNA provided a single ethnicity estimate for the person whose DNA was being analysed - i.e. me. It listed in percentage terms those populations world-wide to which my DNA is most closely matched. For me,

the most recent figures are 62% England and Northwestern Europe which in turn is heavily concentrated in Norfolk, then 13% Norway, 9% Wales, and the remainder split between Germanic Europe, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden and Denmark, and the Basque region.

The new ethnicity inheritance feature splits my ethnicity into two, one for each parent, with each parent's ethnicity estimate separately identified and displayed graphically.

For me, the largest green section is England and Northwestern Europe for both my parents, down to a small pink chunk for 'Parent 1' (Sweden and Denmark) and red for 'Parent 2' (Basque). What the feature doesn't do (yet) is identify which is my father and which my mother - but I can make an intuitive guesstimate of which is which.

Since I already also know that my paternal haplogroup (bear with me) is R-L21 which has its peak population in Ireland, then it would seem most likely the Parent 1 (which contains a purple 'Ireland' segment) is my father and Parent 2, which doesn't have an Ireland segment, is my mother. Haplogroup's is another (and complicated) story, but I know also from other DNA analysis I've had from other platforms that there is chunk of Iberian ancestry for my mother but not my father (dovetailing perhaps with the red Basque chunk for Parent 2) and a



A Viking Longboat—[www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com)

bigger Scandinavian chunk for my mother than my father (again consistent with the comparative size of the turquoise-green 'Norway' sections). In fact, this kind of approach - using

existing knowledge to deduce which parent is likely to be which - is exactly what the ancestry website suggests on its (very informative) help pages.

Even so, making comparisons between, and trying to make assumptions about, DNA results from different platforms is fraught with difficulty, both from the point of view that different platforms are trying to achieve different things, and the very-fast moving nature of the science. However, the bottom line is that since I appear to have inherited DNA segments with deep ancestral origins in the Scandinavian region from both parents I was quite attracted by the second new feature that has recently come on to the market - Viking Ancestry, from [www.livingdna.com](http://www.livingdna.com).

This feature offered (and I quote) to "estimate the amount of DNA you share with the ancient Vikings. We also compute your genetic similarity against four Viking populations and tell you which of these population groups you are most genetically related to." At a modest cost of £20, I was quite excited by the prospect of (so I thought) nailing down my Viking roots a little more precisely.

(Viking Ancestry is an add-on feature

to other services provided by LivingDNA - it can't be purchased on its own.)

What I actually got (and it was pretty quick - the site met its promise of results in 48 hours) was a 'Viking Index' of 44%, being - supposedly - the amount of DNA I share with ancient Vikings. The LivingDNA platform says that to get this figure it computes the genetic similarities between my DNA and DNA obtained from 446 ancient Vikings and an unspecified number of non-Viking samples.

The result is further qualified with the statement that "if your Viking Index is xx%, this means that your DNA is more similar to Viking DNA than xx% (the same percentage) of all Living DNA customers" and cautioned further that, for various reasons, surviving Viking DNA is skewed towards the upper echelons of their society.

So, actually, all that the feature offers is a comparison between my DNA and that of a very small sample of Viking individuals from specific locations and then compares that to other customers. That, to my mind, is not quite the same as saying that I share 44% of my DNA with ancient Vikings, albeit 'estimate' is

the operative word used by LivingDNA here.

The four Viking populations which, according to LivingDNA, can be identified as distinct are Norwegian; Swedish and Danish; British and North Atlantic; and Eastern European. Given the apportionment of my DNA in those and other regions as I described earlier, I anticipated that it would be either British and North Atlantic, or Norwegian Vikings, with whom I am most closely associated. It isn't. According to LivingDNA. It's neither of those: the results say that I am most closely matched to the Vikings of Eastern Europe - the Varangians - associated with an area which includes parts of today's Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

This area doesn't appear on my [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) ethnicity estimate. In conclusion, the [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) ethnicity inheritance by parent is potentially an exciting development if, like me, you are especially interested in deep ancestry.

Viking Ancestry from [www.livingDNA.com](http://www.livingDNA.com) promises much but perhaps poses more questions than it answers.



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Tel: 01493 655222

[www.ppfimages.co.uk](http://www.ppfimages.co.uk)



# 'Superior' Immigrants From Norfolk

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**NFHS members Sally and Peter Cotterell are proud members of the Penguin History Group and it has nothing to do with birds. Here they relate the story of their ancestors the Lings.**

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ON 31st March, 1855, a sailing ship, the "Whirlwind", docked in Launceston with much rejoicing after an epic voyage from England filled with dramas.

The "Whirlwind" had been commissioned by the Launceston Immigration Society to bring "superior immigrants" from Norfolk. Their agent, the Rev Benjamin Drake, a Congregational Church minister, had personally selected several hundred immigrants, mainly agricultural labourers, to help ease the labour shortage in Van Diemen's Land (soon to become Tasmania) created by the end of convict transportation and the discovery of gold in Victoria.

In 1856 Drake was sent back to England to select more immigrants and on 28th August, 1857, the Southern Eagle arrived in Launceston carrying a second consignment.

Among the many immigrants were three Ling families destined for Penguin. William and Eliza Ling, nee Dove and Leonard and Mary Ling, nee Chapman arrived on the Whirlwind



**William and Eliza Ling**

and Joseph and Eliza Ling, nee Thurlow (Joseph was Leonard's brother) arrived on the Southern Eagle. William and Eliza settled near Forth, while Leonard and Mary, and later Joseph and Eliza, settled in Deloraine.

They gained experience in colonial farming, paid off their indenture to the

Immigration Society and acquired some capital before taking up their own land.

By the early 1860s these Ling families had made their way west to help establish the new settlements of Penguin and Sulphur Creek. Penguin in the 1860s was virgin land of scrub and huge trees.

Leaving family behind and, armed with crosscut saws and axes, the first task was to clear enough land near a water source to erect a 'house', often a sapling and mud-daubed dwelling, and the remainder of the family made the move west. The first crops were planted among the trees.

Hardship and tragedy were part of daily life. William and Eliza had lost a young son, John, in 1855 on the voyage to Launceston, while Joseph and Eliza's three year old son, Leonard, was tragically killed when a huge fern tree fell on him at Penguin in 1863.

These early pioneers were also men and women of deep and abiding faith. They helped establish the Primitive Methodist congregation in Penguin on the site of the current Uniting Church. William and his son, George, were lay preachers, and William, George and Joseph were among the original trustees of the new congregation.

In memory of these early pioneers, the Penguin History Group decided to host a *Ling Families in Penguin Exhibition* featuring photographs, family trees, stories, war service records, artefacts, and memorabilia from each of the three original families.

The creation of the exhibition was led by Sally Cotterell, John Cannon and

Julie Bott, each of whom are direct descendants of William and Eliza, with invaluable assistance from members of the Penguin History Group.

A self-guided tour of the Penguin General Cemetery where many of the pioneers are buried was available from the Penguin History Rooms.

The official opening of the Exhibition was on Saturday 14th May, 2022, in the Penguin Uniting Church.

Display spaces were open in the Church Hall and in the Penguin History Rooms – old Railway Station. There was also a church service at the Uniting Church on Sunday 15th May.

There are now over 20,000 Ling descendants and many still live on the North West Coast of Tasmania.

They have married into many other notable Penguin families who originated from the Norfolk area: Yaxley, Revell, Monson, Barker, Spinks, and Turner, to name a few.

They have contributed leaders in all walks of life over many generations, including Barry Ling OAM (Order of Australia Medal) who officially opened the exhibition. They have gone to war on our behalf and worked hard to secure our prosperity.

William and Eliza, Leonard and Mary, and Joseph and Eliza left Norfolk for a new land knowing they would never return. They carved out the present and dreamed of a better future.

They could not have imagined that 160 years later they would be remembered and celebrated for their courage, tenacity, hope and unswerving faith.

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## Avoiding Research Pitfalls

THE publication of the 1921 census earlier this year initiated a significant number of queries and concerns about the accuracy and perceived availability of records which was making it difficult to find individuals in some cases. One of the reasons for this could be that in the ten years since the release of the 1911 census, family history research has become much more a web-based activity and I think we may have lost some of the traditional research skills with the expectation that the web will give us an instant and accurate response to our search. It is the purpose of this article to be a reminder as to what can go wrong and to give some solutions to enable individual records to be found and to bring back "research" into family history.

Firstly, remember that transcription errors are common – comparing similar letters on the manuscript can help to refine the search results. Use wildcards in your search and be imaginative!

Secondly, don't rely on a transcription – these are secondary documents and may contain errors – always look at the original if possible. Ink may fade over time leading to difficulty in reading it and then transcription errors are much more likely.

Note that transposition errors (i.e., reversal of letters in a name) are also common.

In the 1911 and 1921 censuses the head of the household completed the form and may have spelt names etc. wrongly. In the earlier censuses a similar issue could arise with the interpretations of the enumerators. People may be recorded using nicknames or assumed names rather than their recorded birth names. The swapping of first and middle names is also common.

Relationships may not be accurately described or the meaning may have been different to what it is today e.g. in laws, step son etc.

Birthplace searches are unreliable – place names may not be normalised so may be difficult to find in the index. Most counties are fine as there are fewer of them and they will be more widely known. However, there may be a need to use places to track the same family if there are several with the same name and also use places when trying to establish the birthplace in order to identify other records. Note that places may be streets, hamlets, parishes, towns or registration districts.

Gender is not much use as most first names in Victorian times were generally gender specific. It can be used to halve search possibilities on a surname although this won't work if there is a gender transcription error in the index.

Online indexes may not be the panacea for everyone, CD Rom and microfilm enable one to look at full communities easier than the online versions although some indexes do now include a place search (post 1911).

Occupation is not very helpful as there are many names for the same occupation and they may be recorded differently perhaps in order to raise status. Occupation can be used as an initial search field if known but should be one of the first to be removed from the search form if a name cannot be found where expected.

### **Imaginative approaches**

One needs to look at each piece of information critically and look for a wider range of data from other sources to

corroborate what the truth actually is.

One should always examine the original images in detail because of the fallibility of the indexes. By going through each enumeration district, other relatives may be found by chance as often relatives did live very close together.

Researchers can search later censuses to match up particular properties so as to create a history of the family if they haven't moved. The 1841 census wasn't so good as it didn't provide addresses and there is a need to check neighbours to match them. Online censuses enable one to browse a parish using the search facility.

Try using the more uncommon names for census searches rather than the head of the household – this should limit the numbers returned. Remember although you may think your name is uncommon, as mine is, I have found two households with the same names and similar ages on more than one occasion – often looking at historical naming patterns helps to identify the correct one.

An important point is not to put too much information on the search screen to start with – it is easier to add criteria than to remove them if the results are too many or too few.

Note down the registration district, city, town, village and parish plus the piece number, enumeration district number, folio and page number of any search undertaken. This will ensure easier reference back to the return if further analysis is required. Also record any unsuccessful searches so that they are not repeated.

Always record all members of the household even if they are not related – they may later turn out to be relevant. Also record any other households in a multi occupied residence – they may turn out to be connected.

Note down all variants of names searched, and parameters used, in case

you can't find the person. Be prepared to use more than one online index – they vary and ancestors may be differently transcribed/indexed on each.

Make sure you are familiar with using the wildcard to search if names can't be found. Note that the wildcard will pick up some variations but not short abbreviations.

Forename searching – a person may use a middle name or nickname on the form. The name may have been abbreviated e.g., Bob or Dick so it is important to remember this when entering search criteria. Be very careful of switching on exact matches as this could severely limit potential hits.

Trace a family back through all the censuses if possible. Note that ages and names can vary significantly for a number of reasons.

Marks through the data made by analysts were in colour in the original enumeration books so you could still read the underlying data but in the scanning of the images this was then recorded in monochrome which could make it very difficult to decipher. It may be worthwhile to use an image editing program to vary parameters such as brightness and contrast to see if that helps.

Be careful with age as it only works to subtract age from census year to get birth year if born between January and April. Otherwise, it will be one year out. Therefore, search on a birth year range of at least +/- 2. The 1841 census needs a wider range given that adult ages are in five year increments.

Use high level geographic searches as you may not be sure of actual names of parishes, streets, villages etc. Old maps showing parish boundaries can be extremely helpful in deciding where to search and looking for family migration routes.

Some indexes now have the facility to search for a combination of forenames

within a household. This is particularly useful with a common surname to isolate the possibilities. Finally, do not trust a single bit of information – think widely, get corroborating evidence, look at the actual census returns and be ready for the unexpected, it may be true!

## **Why you may not find your ancestors**

### **Civil disobedience**

Some people tried to avoid the census – although this could be quite difficult as enumerators were often local people familiar with the neighbourhood. Refusing to give information was an offence and could result in a fine (1851 Census Act). These were reported in 1841 although more relaxed by 1851 (the Registrar General linked refusal to cooperate to insanity and as numbers were so low it was not worth prosecuting!). Whilst incidents of refusal to give information did occur, they were generally very rare and the chances of avoidance were very slim.

### **Under-enumeration**

Not all enumerators were as efficient as they should have been and some properties or individuals in them did get missed. Enumerators were reluctant to enter some properties or even areas. Boarders and lodgers could be missed (there were different requirements for each) as the householder may not have thought it necessary to include them or lodgers could have forgotten to hand their individual form in. Lodging house landlords and landladies may have completed their form as soon as they got it rather than wait for the actual night of the census and so missed some new arrivals or wrongly recorded those that may have left. Statisticians suggested that missing people were balanced by those recorded twice so numbers remained correct (not helpful to family historians!).

### **Away from home**

People may have been absent from the country and some may have travelled for

business. Others may have been in the forces, fishermen or sailors. Unsuccessful migrants may have come back so could be missing from one or more censuses. These types of event were rare so it is important not to jump to conclusions without some further evidence.

### **Name unknown**

This was one of the trickiest to spot. The researcher needs to recognise that a number of people lived outside of or on the fringe of normal society. These included vagrants, tramps, gypsies etc. They may have been counted – on a caravan site or at a fair for example - but no names were given to be able to identify them. It was often considered impossible to deliver the forms although some enumerators tried harder than others. Hundreds or thousands of people were recorded like this – numbers at a site – and if these were your ancestors then it is highly unlikely they could be identified as such.

### **Missing censuses**

Large sections of the census are known to be missing. Original householders' schedules were destroyed once the data was transcribed onto the summary sheets so there was no second source of reference to fall back on and the summary books were not well cared for. There were times when the whereabouts of part of the census was unknown. The 1851 census was completely missing for a time! Books suffered damage when used by statisticians going through them several times to extract data. The 1861 census suffered more than others where front and back pages and other single pages were missing. Some are not just odd pages – whole sub-districts and in one case an entire registration district has been lost or destroyed. In my own research the 1861 returns for Ely, Cambridgeshire, are missing thus making a huge gap in my research. The 1841 and 1861 returns were stored in an attic in the House of Commons for a time in a haphazard and

disorganised manner. Some have turned up in collections of private papers so yet more could be discovered. Fortunately, all records are now stored properly so this should not happen any more.

### **Is the census wrong?**

Enumerators often had to carry out their transcriptions in less than ideal conditions and could easily make a mistake with name, age or place of birth. There was little incentive for them to create a quality product, they were not at all well paid. Mistakes could be made by the enumerator, householder or transcriber but the effect on family historians is the same.

### **Reading the writing**

There was potential for transcription errors from household schedules to enumerators' summaries. Indexing can insert a further set of transcription errors although search engines are now much more able to spot variations thus making it a bit easier for the researcher.

Handwriting can be very difficult to read – personal names and birthplaces seem to be the most affected. The enumerator had to make intelligent guesses if they couldn't read the householder's writing – if he didn't have a full knowledge of all the names he had to write as he saw it. Researchers must try and decipher which facts are true and which are not. How do we know which are downright lies?

### **Errors**

The accuracy of data relied on the original source and they could have many reasons for getting it wrong. Spelling, regional accents, misinterpretations, misunderstanding came into play. Many people had a habit of lying or just didn't know so guessed – this was particularly prevalent with age given the importance of key ages for marriage, work etc.

### **Names**

Names were spelt differently, particularly prior to universal education when spelling became important. This is very widespread

so the researcher should prioritise making a list of all the variants of their name. A householder may complete forms on behalf of a lodger who they may not know well. Forenames were less of a problem as there weren't as many as now. But people changed their forenames or used their middle one or a nickname and this makes it more difficult to follow them through the censuses or even to find them.

### **Ages**

These were notoriously inaccurate and could change by more than 10 years between censuses. Birthdays weren't celebrated and the state didn't have the detail of information that they have now. Age was not seen as important other than for things like marriage, benefits etc. This may be ignorance or deception. One needs to note in the 1841 census that adult ages were rounded down to nearest five years. Also censuses were normally taken in March or April so a two year old in 1901 was more likely to be born in 1898 than 1899.

### **Birthplaces**

Many people didn't actually know where they were born. Orphans, adoptees or those brought up some distance from where they were born may have n/k recorded. Birthplace detail could range from just country, county, place or full address. The same place may appear different in different degrees of precision. People may have lied to manipulate the Poor Law because of fear of being moved from their homes. County boundaries changed or a place may be very close to more than one boundary so the place could be wrongly recorded in the county.

### **In conclusion**

Two points:

Censuses are not undertaken for family historians! They were devised to produce statistics.

There is no telling what one might find in the census return – one needs to be prepared for all eventualities.

# Is This Norfolk's Most Gruesome Road?

**By Alan Harper**

In the village of Yaxham in mid-Norfolk, just north of East Dereham, is Cutthroat Lane, a long straight road heading roughly east-north-east out of the village.

It is an 18th century enclosure road, meaning it was wide and straight enough to allow for the movement of cattle from one field to another, thus avoiding damage to country lanes.

However, it gets its name (supposedly) because it is where, in the dim and distant past, a young woman's throat was brutally cut. Near the eastern end of Cutthroat Lane, on Bradley (sometimes Badley) Moor is the site of the Yaxham village gibbet. In 1785, we are told on the Heritage Notice Board in the porch of St. Peter's Church in the village, a criminal named CLIFFE was hanged there.

Although he had nothing to do with the young woman's death, his crime was no less vicious. There is more than one version of his story, but one version goes as follows: On 11th February, 1785, two brothers, Peter and Henry SEAMAN, having indulged themselves in a local hostelry, were making their way home across the fields when they were set upon by a footpad (or highwayman).

The brothers, having been knocked to the ground, were between them relieved of two and a half gold guineas, a silver crown, and a hat. Soon afterwards, a man - his frock-coat spattered in blood - went into a pub in



Dereham where he was arrested - that man was James Cliffe (often referenced as Clifton or Cliften). Peter was the more seriously injured brother and died a few days later. Cliffe was now under suspicion for murder. Despite pleading his innocence, at Thetford Assizes on 21st March, 1785, he was duly convicted and sentenced to death. Executed a few days later at Norwich Castle, Cliffe's body was returned to Yaxham where it was hung

from the gibbet on Cutthroat Lane as a deterrent - and there it remained for, allegedly, 25 years. The Norwich Mercury dated 24th January, 1903, says "Hundreds of the country people came to see the ghastly spectacle and the result was, that for many weeks, the vicinity resembled a fair. On Sundays particularly, booths were erected for the sale of drink, and there were some very hilarious scenes." "Years later his bones were unearthed and removed by souvenir hunters," says the information panel in the parish church.

Some sources say the bones were ploughed up and the skull taken into

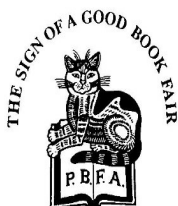
private possession. A more grizzly relic would be hard to imagine. The iron headpiece of Yaxham village gibbet was for many years exhibited at Norwich Castle Museum. Two bars are crossed and bent to form a cage with one cut short, presumably for the face, and the others attached to a hinged collar.

The swivel eye on top is nearly worn through. For an alternative version of Cliffe/Clifton's story, see <http://yaxham.com/yaxhams-ghost-story/>

Road sign image by the author.  
Yaxham gibbet image © Norfolk Museums Service. NWHCM: 1999.184.132.

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# From Convict To Pioneer

**Brian Ahearn tells us the story of a woman who turned from being a convict into a pioneer of the New World.**

IN the mist-laden afternoon of Tuesday, the 30th day of November in 1810, a young girl named Mary Abbey and 49-year-old John Willett were watching a house in Mileham Village in Norfolk. At 3 p.m. its owner, yeoman John Stroulger, emerged, shut the door behind him and headed off. Moments later, the pair were at the door. Mary, holding a sack, Willett picking the lock. Once inside, they set to work locating valuables they could sell or trade at local pawn shops. Mary stuffed the sack with clothes while Willett rummaged through drawers searching for money. When satisfied with their haul, they hurried out and walked quickly down the road.

Mary's parents, Charles Abbey/Abby and Marianne Story, were struggling farmers supporting eight children, Mary, Raisin, Lydia, Charles, Sarah, James, Hannah and Amy. The valuables were traced to a pawn shop and identified. Mary and John Willett were arrested and charged 'on a violent suspicion of burglariously

breaking into the house of the said John Stroulger, and stealing linen and other articles'. The value exceeded £12, so the crime came under the 'Bloody code'. It carried the death penalty.

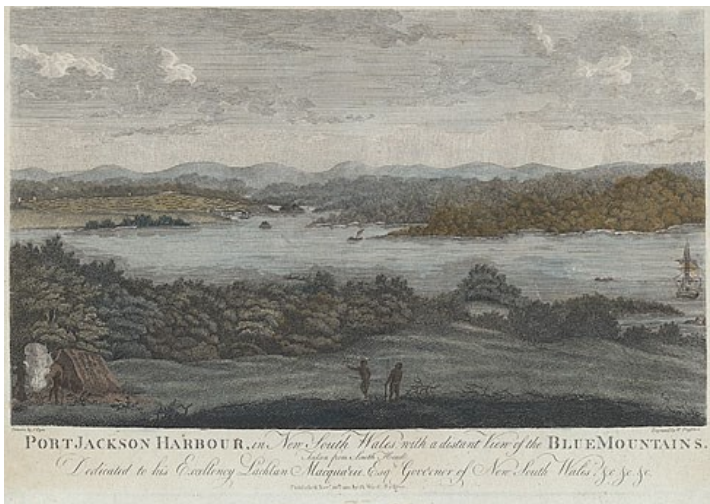
On Saturday 23rd March, 1811, Mary appeared before Sir James Mansfield, Sir Nash Grose and other Justices at the Lent Assizes for the Norfolk Circuit at Thetford. She was escorted into the noisy courtroom, glaring down at her was a jury of 19 imposing gentlemen and two knights. When a tearful Mary stepped up into the dock, the clerk glared before reading the charges against her.

When asked did she understand the charge, she simply nodded. She had no defence, her fate – to suffer death. Her accomplice, John Willett was also sentenced to death. Mary was transferred to Norwich Castle gaol; she found herself among women of the poorer classes, some with a bastard in their belly. Early on the morning of 20th April, 1811, she heard keys rattle, the door opened, the gaoler brought her before Secretary Ryder. He handed her a sheet of paper. She was unable to read it, so Ryder summarised the

## FELONS FOR TRIAL.

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| THOMAS LINCOLN, aged 19, | Committed October 8, 1810, by Frederick Keppel, Esq. charged on the oath of Joseph Harley, of Morton, in the said county, farmer, with feloniously stealing six lambs, his property.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| JOHN LINCOLN, aged 35,   | Strands also further charged before the same magistrate, with feloniously stealing two lambs, the property of John Beellone, of Great Wingham, and also with feloniously stealing a shearing ewe sheep, the property of Thomas Symonds, of Swannington, farmer.                                                                                                |
| JOHN WILLETT, aged 49,   | Committed October 13, 1810, by Dixon Holf, Clerk, and Frederick Keppel, Esq. on a violent suspicion of feloniously stealing, or being concerned with Thomas Lincoln in feloniously stealing six lambs, the property of Joseph Harley, of Morton, in the said county, farmer, and two lambs, the property of John Beellone, of Great Wingham, farmer.           |
| RICHARD RIX, aged 53,    | Committed October 27, 1810, by William Yonge and J. S. Watts, Clerks, charged on the oath of John Tibbett, of Melthold, labourer, and others, on suspicion of feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of the said John Tibbett, in the day time, no person being therein, and stealing thereout sundry articles of wearing apparel, his property. |
| MARY ABBEY, aged 19,     | Committed October 27, 1810, by S. T. Southwell and E. Stracey, Esqrs. charged on the oath of James Smith, of East Rudham, labourer, and Robert Uiton, of East Dereham, horse dealer, with feloniously stealing a bay mare, the property of the said James Smith.                                                                                               |
|                          | Strands also further charged before J. Browne, Esq. on the oath of William Holman, of Morton, in the said county, farmer, and others, on a violent suspicion of stealing a chestnut mare, his property.                                                                                                                                                        |
|                          | Committed December 1, 1810, by Dixon Holf, Clerk, charged on the oath of John Strolger, of Mileham, in the said county, yeoman, on a violent suspicion of burglariously breaking into the house of the said John Strolger, and stealing therefrom linen and other articles.                                                                                    |

contents: 'His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has thereupon been graciously pleased in the name and on the Behalf of His Majesty to extend the Royal Mercy ... And, you are to be transported to the Coast of New South Wales or some one of the Islands adjacent ... for and during your respective life.'



How Sydney Harbour would have looked when Mary arrived

Mary went white, covered her face and cried like a baby. On 4th June, 1812, Mary was loaded into a horse-drawn cell. Peering out of a window, she caught a glimpse of ships being loaded with goods and people. She had arrived at Portsmouth. Before long she was aboard the female convict transport *Minstrel*, one of 127 female convicts, 36 of whom were under the age of 21; there were 19 children as well. Mary's youth had been her salvation, the British needed women to populate the colony. John Willett embarked on the *Indefatigable* for Van Diemen's Land.

The *Minstrel* was 104.5 feet in length, 28.9 feet in breadth, and the height between decks 6.9 feet. The commander, John Reid, had a surgeon and a crew of 28 at his disposal. The *Minstrel* put to sea on 4th June, 1812, reaching Rio de Janeiro on 29th July, and left Rio on 11th August.

It was Sunday 25th October, 1812, when *Minstrel* sailed through the heads of Sydney Harbour. Surprisingly, only

one convict died. As the *Minstrel* began her slow journey down the magnificent harbour, she encountered boats crammed with men shouting and waving to the excited females hanging over the rails. The single women were well aware that they had been sent out as servants or potential wives. There were two possible outcomes. One was to be retained by government at a factory manufacturing cloth. The second, be assigned as domestic help or as a wife.

The following morning, the Superintendent of Convicts came on board to muster the convicts. Mary's identifying features were recorded. Officers were given priority, followed by settlers, then emancipated convicts.

Murty Ahern, a pardoned Irish convict, wanted a woman. Without hesitation, he selected Mary from the women vying for his attention. Straightaway, in the 'How Disposed of' list, Mary was recorded as 'wife to Murtagh Ahern



Liverpool'. It was as simple as that. No opportunity to ask questions of her master. Next, Mary was handed bedding and clothing, then led over to 45-year-old Murty Ahern. 'Is this one yours?', asked someone brandishing a paper. He nodded and falteringly signed the paper with an X. It was an indenture obliging him to retain her for three years. He gently took her hand and with shouts still ringing in their ears, they picked their way along the wharf.

As they walked, Mary, consumed by nerves, said little. What awaited her? Of one thing she was sure: she would have to perform duties that were beyond housework. Soon they came across a cart. Mary seated herself on its roughly sawn wooden seat. Murty took his place, flicked the reins and urged the horse to 'get up'. After following a bumpy, scrubby bush track, they veered off and stopped in front of

### Bark Huts

a bark hut positioned among towering gum trees. The settlement was aptly known as 'Bark Huts', inhabited by former 1798 Irish rebels and other emancipated convicts.

Murty yanked open the hut door. Mary's eyes adjusted to the gloom, she sat on a log stool, Murty squatted alongside and offered something doughy. She pulled off a chunk and stuffed it in her mouth. A warm mug of sweet tea was downed gratefully. After settling in, Mary knuckled down to cleaning, scrubbing and the grind of cooking and feeding the animals. Out in the blazing sun, she would clear scrub, and blisters soon surfaced. When the labour of the day was over, she and Murty would eat together and talk and gradually got to know each other.

During 1813, Mary delivered a son

named John. Murty and received in 1814 a grant of 40 acres at 'Irish Town' in Liverpool, the first free planned settlement of Australia. Mary was to give birth the following year. But first things first, a house had to be constructed, a daunting task in the densely wooded bushland. The accommodation was to be a two-room hut constructed of split timber; the roof covered with bark stripped from gum trees. The timber walls were given a sticky plaster made of soil, cow dung and grass to fill any cracks.

Now came the back-breaking work of land clearing. Murty was the primary labourer, Mary his offsider. Every day, Mary and Murty went to work clearing scrub land. It was monotonous, back-breaking work in an unforgiving climate.

In March, 1814, Murty's farming activities were put on hold. He accompanied Lieutenant Edward Lord to Van Diemen's Land and worked developing Lord's agricultural grants. He reflected on the brutality of the colony, definitely not a place to bring up his family. It was time to go home to Mary.

Murty arrived back in Sydney on 31st August, 1815, just in time to celebrate his daughter Mary's baptism. However, he remained concerned on two fronts, one that drought conditions had devastated his plantings and secondly, his hearing of serious unrest between settlers with outlying Aboriginal tribes, the previously friendly relationships began to sour. Groups began walking onto farms to help themselves to crops and settlers' animals. They did not recognise this as stealing, just taking what was living and growing on their land. Aborigines at Mulgoa speared to death a shepherd, they threw 50 of his

sheep over a cliff, then mutilated and gouged out the eyes of those remaining. Drought forced the warlike Gandangurra down from the mountains. They raided farms, a Mrs Lewis was killed and decapitated and her servant 'mangled'. All through this period of uncertainty Mary held her children tightly, afraid Aborigines would tear them apart. Murty and Mary were, by now, well known throughout Liverpool for their hard work, knowledge of cropping, blacksmithing and as a supplier of meat.

Murty wanted to erase Mary's fears of not having a future. He proposed to a delighted and much relieved Mary. Her children would soon become legitimate. Governor Lachlan Macquarie gave his permission to marry as Protestants, it would be on 9th September, 1815. Murty was recorded as being 33 years of age and Mary 23. Mary's name was registered with letter 'P' (Prisoner). Making the day special, an excited 'Mary Ahern' announced she was to deliver another addition to the family.

The year 1816 started well, Mary having their third child, a son named Michael. Murty became a police constable and a pound-keeper. In 1820, Mary, after three more births, gave birth to daughter Catherine, this brought the family number to seven. Almost immediately, Mary announced she was expecting yet again; Dennis was born in 1821. On 13th March of the same year Mary and Murty married again, this time as Catholics. Keeping up a reputation of arriving early and often, the number of Ahern children soon increased to ten.

Murty noted the increasing comings and goings past his land on Liverpool Road. Many were stopping to water

their horses, and themselves at local houses. He was sure an Inn was perfect for his blacksmith skills and Mary was a good cook! On 24th March, 1824, he received a publican's licence and he and Mary set about building the first inn on Liverpool Road, naming it, Speed the Plough.

Sadly, the public house did not prosper, probably because Murty was the inn's best customer. The population of New South Wales was 46,000 and soon to grow further, thanks to Mary. In 1831 she gave birth to daughter, Elizabeth. Mary's health deteriorated and she did not produce another child for three years. The strain of bringing up their children weighed heavily on the Aherns. Severe drought, fires and floods meant they were unable to produce sufficient food for their brood. Despite these difficult times another son, Peter, was added in 1833.

Mary, after giving birth to Peter, was not able to recover her health. She suffered for some time before being accepted by the Colonial Secretary for admission to a hospital in Sydney. On her return to the farm, the long-suffering Mary fell pregnant again, giving birth to daughter Sarah, baptised on 2nd February, 1836. Unsurprisingly, given Mary's history, another pregnancy followed. Emilia Elizabeth was born on 24th August 1837. She was Mary's 17th child, and as a blessing her last.

The afternoon of Thursday 25th January, 1838, was very hot, a typical summer's day in Liverpool. A group of local Aboriginal men walked onto the Ahern farm and wandered up towards the homestead. They carried spears loosely by their sides, they sat down

under the shade of a large gum tree. Mary came out wearing a wide-brimmed hat to shield herself from the blazing sun.

She walked slowly down to meet the visitors. They bowed slightly and started talking to her. One pointed to the house, they wanted Mary to give them 'strong drink'. She waved her hand in the air and told them, 'Sorry, there ain't any drink, so I can't give you any.' But the men were insistent and, when again Mary said no, they became agitated and their voices became louder and threatening. Again, Mary explained that she could not meet their demands and asked them to please go away. Instead, they clustered around her. The situation was becoming tense and eerily quiet. Fear flashed across Mary's face as she realised her predicament. She began to walk slowly back towards the house. Without warning, the men threw spears into her body. She fell to the ground, the cowardly attackers darting off through the scrub. There was no medical help and Mary was bleeding profusely. She died shortly after.

Murty experienced waves of anger, grief and confusion and contemplated revenge. The children struggled to understand why their mother was taken away. Gone was the comfort of her warm smile and hugs. For Murty, the loss of his life partner, who for so long had shared his struggles and pain, was suddenly gone, it was almost unbearable.

Mary was buried in the Liverpool Cemetery. She was at the time of her death aged 44 years. She had lived in the colony for 24 years, for 13 of which she was pregnant. Mary left behind one of the largest families in the district



of Liverpool and the colony she called home. Yet the letter 'P' prisoner, remained. At last, in death, she was free from servitude.

Murty left his farm, it had become too large to manage and he couldn't bear living on the farm where Mary was murdered. Murty Ahern closed his eyes and took his last breath on Thursday 27th August, 1852. He died in the Liverpool asylum for the mentally ill, destitute and infirm. He was buried in the Liverpool Cemetery to lie in company with his beloved Mary. Murty was 85.

Mary's family in Mileham were never to know the part she played in Liverpool and Australia's early development, or the fate of their beloved daughter. Her surviving children, by the end of the 1800s, had produced 83 grandchildren.

The City of Liverpool, on 5th May, 2021, celebrated the 200-year anniversary of their Pioneers' Memorial Park, the resting place of

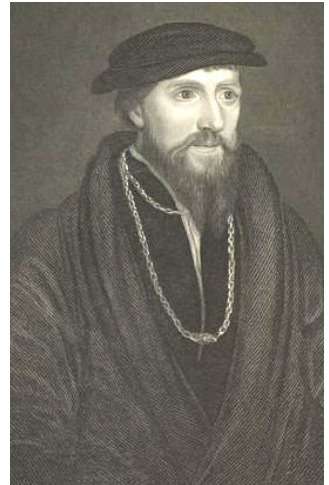


more than 13,000 people. In place today are headstones of significant pioneers who are buried there. Ahern descendants at the opening were invited to lay a white rose at the grave of Mary and Murty.

# The Dutch Connection Continued

Hans Van Den Dool continues his saga of a family connection between Norfolk and Holland with a concentration on Norwich and the surrounding areas.

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Sir Anthony Denny

## Lachilus name bearers in the second half of the 16th century.

This article is the third part of my articles about the Norfolk and Dutch Connection, or the roots of the Lachilus family. In my first two articles in The Norfolk Ancestor (December 2021 and June 2022) about the descendants in the Netherlands of East Anglian soldier **Daniel Latchellus** (1615-after 1657) and his ancestors, I traced their heritage back to his paternal grandfather (**John Lachelus of Beccles**, †1613) and his family.

The question is, can we trace this family further back? I found many individuals, in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries bearing the same family name. I will focus mostly in this article on the second half of the 16th century, when several persons with this name lived in and around Norwich. Their likely family relations are explained.

## John Lachelos of Stoke Holy Cross, husbandman (†1558)

A descendant from Norfolk residents, he became a wealthy farmer, who agreed before September 1545 with a Norwich attorney, Henry Attemer (†1559), that his son John would be trained in London as a writing clerk or

servant clerk “in arte et facultate scribendi” at Clifford’s Inn, one on the Inns of Chancery in London. At the time it

was customary that students in jurisprudence would be trained at an Inn of Chancery. In 1551 Attemer claimed damages from him, as he accused the son of stealing from two of his colleagues and had to be dismissed (Attemer vs. Lachelos).

His wife was called Agnes and he had beside a son John, a daughter Eling or Elyng, a daughter Alice, married to Henry Gibson, a barber, a granddaughter Dorothy Gibson and two godsons, John Lachylus and Howing.

He made up his last will and testament on 3rd September, 1558, under the name of John Lachylus. It was proved in Norwich on 17th September, 1558, so he must have died on a day in between those dates. His wife Agnes and his son John Lachilus were appointed as executors. One of the interesting passages in his will refers to Thomas Billingford, gentleman. He forgives a debt and adds “so that he be

good to my sonne and bestows his goodwill upon him" (1).

His widow Agnes was likely buried in Stoke Holy Cross on 17th November, 1570.

**John Lachelos the younger (born after 1513, †1591) = John Lachelowe of St Peter Mancroft (?)**

A husbandman's son, he started as a legal trainee in London, lived in Stoke Holy Cross until about 1569 and moved to Norwich to be a scrivener. His birth can be calculated on the basis of his presence on the Muster lists of Norwich of 1573. He must therefore have been younger than 60 years at that time and his birth year can be calculated as after 1513.

As his father agreed with attorney Henry Attemer that he would be trained during 2 ½ years as a writing clerk or servant clerk "in arte et facultate scribendi" at Clifford's Inn, he would live for about four years in London, starting on 1st September, 1545, and ending his training in the course of 1547, but he did stay longer. Two of the chamber-fellows of Attemer, Robert Leverton (of Worstead, †1559) and John Bysshe (†1568) accused him of having stolen from their purses on 15th November, 1548 and 4th February, 1549, respectively(2). In 1551 a court case followed (3). He must have left London by that time and probably



married at Norwich.

Nearly three months after the death of his father, on 12th February, 1559, the registration took place of an alienation of land, because John Denny, esquire, received permission to grant "his manors of Lyng and Howhall, county Norfolk, and all lands to a Henry Bosseville and John Lachelos the younger, their heirs and assigns" (4). This John Denny, married to an Anne Bosseville was the son of Sir Thomas Denny of Howe and a nephew of Sir Anthony Denny (see portrait), one of the very few close friends of Henry VIII.

He must have resided in Stoke Holy Cross and married a woman called Elizabeth, probably on 13th August 1550/1 in Norwich, St Peter Parmentergate. There are three children clearly identifiable of this couple, all baptised in Stoke Holy Cross: Thomas, on 20th March, 1562, Christopher on 23rd January, 1564, and Alice, on 10th October, 1568.

In 1567, a complaint was lodged by Rolandus Morewood as plaintiff against John Lachelus or Lachelns, of Stoke Holy Cross, husbandman as defendant for trespass.

Sometime between 1568 and 1570 he moved to Norwich, where he resided in the ward of St Peter Mancroft and became probably father of more children. In the Norwich Landgable Assessment, we can find his residence: a John Lachelowe owns a tenement together with Richard Meke, a tailor, which was previously property of a widow, Elizabeth Byrche (born Bowen or Bowyn) (5). This property was situated south of what is now Bethel Street in Norwich and can be seen on the 1559 map of Norwich by William Cuningham.

He was at the time a scrivener and registered on Friday, 24th February 1570 as a Freeman of Norwich (6). There were 18 scriveners in Norwich in 1569 (7). As the register indicates he was not an apprentice before becoming a Freeman, he must have paid to become a Freeman. On the other hand, earlier name bearers, probably relatives, were already Freemen of Norwich in the 15th and 16th centuries.

In the Michaelmas term of 1571, he was very active as a plaintiff. First as John Lachelouse or Lachelonse against George Edmundes of Caistor St Edmunds, husbandman, for trespass, then secondly as John Lachelowe or Lachelouse, of Norwich, yeoman, about debt against Robert Pannell, of Wymondham, husbandman; Richard Wyseman, of Wymondham, yeoman and Edmund Panter or Panther, of Sethyng, husbandman, and thirdly again about debt as John Lachilns against defendants Roger

Barnes, of Plumstead, yeoman; Robert Clerke, of Hempnall, carpenter; and Edward Marmyng, of Plumstead, husbandman (8)

He seemed to have combined his task as a scrivener with innkeeping: on 22nd March, 1572 a case was heard in Norwich, when "John Lachelous [or Lachilos] of Norwich, innkeeper, was bound in £10 to appear at a next session and [to] "be of good behaviour towards Thomas Billingford of Blackford, gentleman". Four days earlier Billingford had sought Latchelous to be bound over [to be of good behaviour]. (9)

In the following years, 1573 and 1574, he figures three times on the Muster list of "St Peters of Mancrofte for armour per men". John Lachelo qualifies for half a bow in 1573 and a year later John Lachelow was furnished with one cross bow. The third time John Lachelow figures as a name only on the list for St Peter Mancroft.

It is interesting that on the same list also a John Bretten appears, who may be a close relative (brother or father) of Margerye Bretten, who has married a younger John Lathelus before 1580.

In 1578 he was as John Lachelowse of Norwich, innkeeper a plaintiff together with John Brasye of Norwich, a grocer, against defendant Thomas Gurlyng of Ingham, husbandman. This Brasye, or Brac(e)y, was also involved in the case in 1572.

Around this time, he must have disposed of the lands he purchased in Stoke Holy Cross in 1559, as in the will of the same Thomas Billingford, dated 12th July 1581 (10) an interesting passage appears. This Thomas was buried in Stoke Holy Cross on 14th

December, 1589 as Thomas Billingforthe the elder, esqr. His will was proven on 1st February, 1591, where is written: "...I the said Thomas Belingforde the elder do give and bequest onto Dorothy my wife and to her heires [follows inheritance] [...] excepted and repaired late lands parcel of the close called Wendlowe Close in Stoke aforesaid with (a?) tenement and four Acres amongst other lands and tenements I the said Thomas Belingford the elder *did lately purchase* of one John Lachilus [...]"

This property continued to derive its name from the Lachilus family, as in a sale of 1625 and a mortgage of 1629 references are still made of "a messuage called Lachelows" (11)

In 1588 "the wief of John Lacheleyes and his daughter" of St Peter Mancroft parish are heavily involved in a group of religious believers who are "popish and sectarye recusants", precursors of the puritans and are meeting in private conventicles around Norwich (12).

John Lachelowe himself may or may not have been involved in these religious activities. He died and is buried at St Peter Mancroft on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1591 as John Lacholowe. He seems not to have left a will.

A few years later, his widow and daughter Anne are indicted and, on a list, dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 1595, their names are recorded as Elizabeth Lachelow, Wydowe and Anne Lachelowe, Spynster.

### **John Latchelus, baxter of Beccles, Suffolk (before 1558? -†1613)**

This leaves us with the question: who was this third and obviously younger person, called John Lachelowse, and who had as wife the formerly Margery

Bretten of Ketteryngham and who are acting together during the Hilary Term of 1580 as plaintiffs in a case of debt against a Thomas Archer of Buxton, who was the defendant? In my opinion he is most likely the same as the godson John Lachylus who appears also in the will of his grandfather in 1558 and must have left the Norwich area in a time of religious unrest. The open question is still whether he was also a grandson of the scrivener, or that another reason exists for his family name. In Part IV I will evaluate some data on Stoke Holy Cross and Norwich in the hope to clarify.

Hans van den Dool, NHFS member 18970

Amsterdam

Contact:  
hanslj.vandendool@gmail.com.

Notes:

1. Norwich Consistory Court Probate Records Will Register Jerves 255, Date: 3 September 1558, probate: 17<sup>th</sup> September 1558.
2. The Men of Court 1440 to 1550: A prosopography of the Inns of Court and Chancery and the Courts of Law (The Selden Society), page 983
3. The Oxford History of the laws of England 1483-1558 by John Henry Baker, page 452
4. Calendar of Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, page 110
5. Norwich Landgable Assessment 1568-70 by Mary Rodger and May Wallace, Norwich, 1999
6. Percy Millicam, Freeman of Norwich 1548-1713, page 117
7. There were 18 scribes in Norwich in 1569: Source: C.W. Brooks, Pettyfoggers and Vipers in the Commonwealth: The

"Lower Branch" of the Legal Profession in the Provinces, page 44, note 86

8. All legal cases are found on the website of the Anglo-American Legal Tradition of the University of Houston (USA)

9. See website "Intoxicants & Early Modernity, England., 1580-1740, referring to NCR Case 20a/5 of the Quarter Sessions Minute Book 1571-1581, of Norwich from 1 January 1580 to: 16 September 1581 (sic) with session of 22 March 1572, Folio: 25v, relating to an unspecified offence.

10. Will of Thomas Bellingford (the elder) of Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk, The National Archives; PROB 11/77/71, dated 01 February 1591, signed on 12 July 1581

11. See: Calendar of Deeds, Enrolled within the County of Norfolk, communicated by Norwich Archeology, Vol. XIII by J.C. Tingey

12. Matthew Reynolds, "Godly reformers and their opponents in early modern England", 2005, page 95

Hans will conclude the chronicle of his family in the next edition of Norfolk Ancestor which will be published at the beginning of December.

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## Ancestor Puzzle Corner with Alan Harper—Norfolk-a-gram

Time to give that grey matter a work out. Warning - these are challenging!

Each of the four anagrams below contains the names of three parishes in Norfolk, all jumbled up. Some of the letters, and the number of letters in each parish name, have been filled in for you. All the parish names can be found in the 'Parish' dropdown list on the Norfolk Online Records Search on our website.

Solve them all to get 12 parish names. Rearrange the first letter of each to get a document of use to family historians looking for the father of an illegitimate child (that's another clue...). Answers on page 59.

1. Sell Don shadowy horse trip

\_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ (13) \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_ (6) \_ i \_ \_ (4)

2. Mock up shared horn night

\_ \_ \_ \_ p h \_ \_ (8) \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ g (7) \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ (6)

3. I tell son not every crab

\_ \_ \_ \_ e r \_ \_ \_ (9) \_ \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_ (7) \_ \_ \_ e (4)

4. Shade a boxed manner trance

\_ r \_ n \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (10) \_ \_ \_ d \_ a \_ (7) \_ \_ n \_ \_ \_ (6)

# Letters, Notes and Queries

## A Question of Mustard

Dear Editor

On a recent visit to the Bure Valley Railway I obtained a back number of 'The Norfolk Ancestor' in their Wroxham bookshop.

An elderly aunt (now deceased) told me of a story that one of our maternal ancestors was a lady of the Colman mustard family. She fell in love with a coachman, which her parents did not approve of because he was beneath their social class, so they eloped to Yorkshire. Unfortunately the coachman's surname has not come down to us. The only likely surnames I have from my mother's family are Langton and Kettlewell, both from the early 19th century in the Leeds area. Great-great grandfather Langton was a farrier but I know nothing of the Kettlewells.

I do not expect anyone to research this for me but would appreciate any suggestions of avenues to explore. For example, is there a museum of the Colman mustard factory, or do you know of anyone who has researched their family history?

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Perrins. michael.perrins1@btinternet.com

## 'Buried In Wollin'

On page 48 of the June issue, Hans Van Den Dool refers to William Latcholow having been 'buried in Wollin' and says 'no clear meaning of this term.' I would suggest that it refers to William having been buried 'in woollen,' which was the law at the time. Pauline Saul, in her excellent book *The Family Historian's Enquire Within*, says: "1667 & 1678 Legislation was passed requiring that all burials should be in a woollen shroud, and an affidavit made at each burial that this had been done otherwise a fine was payable... The Act... was repealed in 1814. Its purpose had been to help the wool trade.'

I always look forward to the arrival of my *Norfolk Ancestor*. One of these days I will get round to actually visiting Norfolk in search of my forebears!

Kind regards,

Barbara Roberts (MN3283)

Hans also wrote to us: "In my previous article in the *Norfolk Ancestor* of June 2022, page 48, I wrote that William Latcholow and his widow, Sary, were buried "in wollin" and that there was no clear meaning of this term. It meant of course that they were buried in wool, according to the Burying in Woollen Acts of 1666-1680. I thank the readers of the *Norfolk Ancestor* for their helpful reactions."

# Message From the Chairman

By Phil Whiscombe

After so many months of having to deal with the impact of the Covid pandemic it's good that I am able to report positive news from Kirby Hall. Firstly, elsewhere in this issue you will find an article by Margaret Murgatroyd announcing the release to NORS of the first tranche of data from the parish registers of the West Norfolk Fenland parishes and describing how this new data has been obtained. These parishes have not been particularly well represented in our NORS records in the past so we are pleased that we are now able to start addressing this shortcoming.

All the images and some of the transcribed data have been generously donated to us by the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society who also managed the scanning of the records by the Wisbech and Fenland Museum. We are indebted to the Society for allowing us the free use of this data and we hope that as the records are gradually uploaded you will find them a valuable resource. Secondly, before Covid struck we had planned some updating works for the Library which all came to a sudden halt once the pandemic restrictions came into force. Since things have relaxed Charles Bush, our trustee who looks after our premises, has worked hard to manage the implementation of all the outstanding items.

As well as the improvements to the kitchen and reception hall areas reported previously, the toilet facilities have now been brought into the 21st Century with updated sanitaryware, equipment and a layout that provides compliance with the disability discrimination aspects of the UK's 2010 Equality Act, a most important step in making the library accessible to all.

In this issue you will find details of the next Society AGM for the year ending 31st March, 2022, which is returning to the usual month of October and if you cannot join the meeting either in person or by means of Zoom then please complete and return the Proxy Form enclosed in the magazine. Your input into the Society and its future is important to us. You can also find the meeting agenda in the magazine. We hope that you find plenty to enjoy in this issue of Norfolk Ancestor.

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## Residential Lives

**On the inside cover Roger Morgan took a look at some of the lives of those who have lived at Intwood Hall. Here he continues their stories.**

When Kett's rebellion took place in 1549, the Earl of Warwick was sent by the young Edward VI with a large force to quell the uprising. He brought his son Robert Dudley with him, and they stayed at Stanfield Hall on the way to Intwood.

Dudley later became the Earl of Leicester and was a favourite and possible lover of Elizabeth I. At Stanfield Hall he met the 17-year old Amy ROBSART, daughter of Sir John Robsart.

Warwick reached Intwood Hall on August 22nd and took control of Norwich the following day, forcing the rebels on to Mousehold Heath. The battle took place on August 27th when Kett and his followers were defeated. Robert Dudley rode back to Stanfield to court the young Amy. The couple married in Surrey but Dudley was condemned to death in 1553 during the reign of Mary I. Amy visited him in the Tower of London and helped to pay his debts. In 1554 he was released. When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, Robert became one of her favourites in the court.

In 1560 Amy died in mysterious circumstances after she fell down a short flight of steps. She had a broken neck and two deep wounds in the back of her neck. There were rumours suggesting that Robert or even the Queen had somehow arranged her death. However, the investigation concluded that it was 'death by misfortune'. Public opinion resulted in a cooling of the relationship between Dudley and Elizabeth.

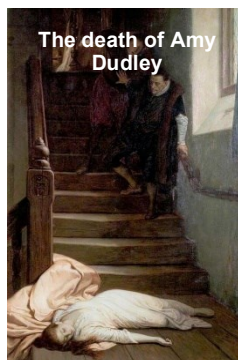
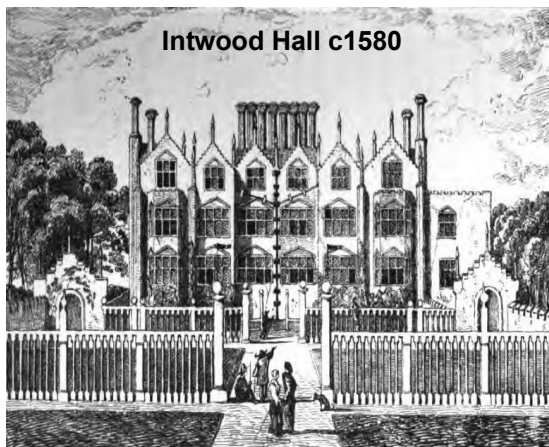
When Thomas Gresham died in 1579 he left the Intwood estate to his nephew William, as his only son had predeceased him. William sold the manor to Henry HOBART in 1596. Five years later, Henry also bought the manor of Keswick, thus reuniting the two manors. He pulled down Keswick Church and used the stone to restore Intwood Church. The Hobarts were a prominent East Anglian family. Henry



was the MP for St Ives before holding seats in both Yarmouth and Norwich. He was Steward of Norwich and was Attorney General for England and Wales from 1606 to 1613.

Henry married Dorothy BELL and the couple went on to have 14 children, 12 boys and two girls. They lived at Intwood until they bought the Blickling estate in 1616. Henry died at Blickling in 1625 and is buried in Blickling Church. The Hobarts employed Thomas Ivory to remodel the Assembly House in Norwich and various members of the family lived at Intwood Hall until it was sold by Henrietta Hobart to Joseph MUSKETT in 1800.

Joseph was from an old Quaker family. He was a wealthy man and he rebuilt the hall between 1803 and 1810 in a more fashionable Georgian style. His son Joseph Salusbury Muskett loved paintings and rare china so he built up a small collection at Intwood. He married Mary Jary in 1812 and a year later, they had a beautiful daughter, Mary Ann. However, Mary Muskett became attracted to their neighbour Richard (Dick) Hanbury Gurney. He weighed 19 stone, lived at Thickthorn and was a keen



sportsman, keeping horses, greyhounds and fighting cocks.

When Joseph found out about Mary and Dick's affair, he was furious and banished his wife to her father's house at

Burlingham. She

was never allowed back to Intwood or to see her daughter, Mary Ann. Joseph Muskett was 30 when his wife left and never remarried, devoting himself to his daughter. The couple lived very happily together at Intwood Hall. Mary had another illegitimate daughter, also called Mary (Jary) with Dick Gurney in 1830. The couple later married after Mary's divorce and lived happily at Thickthorn. Dick, despite his rakish reputation, remained faithful to his new wife.

In the 1830s, the young Mary Ann Muskett met Clement William UNTHANK. He was the grandson of William Unthank, a barber and wig

maker from Norwich. William's son, also called William, was an attorney in the firm of Foster and Unthank on Bank Plain and Clement also joined the firm. William Junior accumulated 2416 acres of land which ran between St Giles' Gate (at the top of Upper St Giles Street) and Intwood on the city's southern edges. Whilst courting Mary Ann, Clement could ride along the back lane, now called Unthank Road, all the way to Intwood without ever leaving his father's land.

After a year, Clement and Mary Ann married in 1835 and initially lived in Heigham House. They had four children, Mary Anne Clementine b 1843, Elizabeth Salusbury 1845-1938, Clement William Joseph 1847-1936 and John 1849-1867, before moving back to Intwood in 1855. Parts of the Heigham Estate were gradually sold for new housing with sites around Rupert Street, Newmarket Street and Vauxhall Street being developed.

Clement took a keen interest in the new houses and insisted that they were built to a uniformly high standard for working people. St Giles Road became known as Unthank Road. When Mary

**St Giles Gate**



Ann's weaker second son John died at the age of 18, she was inconsolable and wore mourning dress for the rest of her life. Clement died in 1884 and Mary Ann was determined that her eldest son Clement should return to Intwood. She built a dower house for herself to live in and eventually persuaded Colonel Clement Unthank to move into the main house with his family in 1887. Clement and his wife Judith eventually had 11 children. His mother Mary Ann died in 1888, aged 75.

The hall was transformed into a three-storey red brick Victorian house with long rambling corridors, to accommodate Clement's expanding family. The couple spent the winters away from Norfolk, hunting, and returned to Intwood for the summers. Their eldest son died from a fall in India whilst playing polo and was buried in Intwood Church.

As a result the Colonel's second son, John Salusbury, inherited the estate.

He was a military man and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Manchester Regiment in 1895 before transferring to the Durham

Light Infantry in 1896. He served in the Boer War and World War One and fought in the Battle of the Somme, bravely leading his troops into battle on horseback. He showed no fear of the Germans and was twice Mentioned in Dispatches, being awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in the 1918 New Year's Honours List.

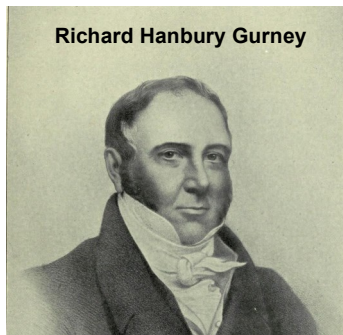
In his private life he married Jane BEWICKE in 1909 and they had a son, who died aged eight, and two daughters. He retired from the army in 1922 and took an active part in village life. He divorced Jane soon afterwards and later married Dorothy HEATON in 1943. During World War Two the couple shared the hall with the firm of Boulton and Paul to help the war effort. The old rambling hall became too hard to manage and so, after the war, parts of the building were demolished and the domestic staff was greatly reduced.

John died suddenly in 1959 at the age of 84 and the estate passed to his second daughter, Margaret. Her

**Sir Henry Hobart**



**Richard Hanbury Gurney**



mother Dorothy moved back to the Lake District and Margaret took over the management of the farming of the estate land.

She was well loved in the community and survived a fire and a burglary. She died in 1995 and the Intwood Hall estate passed to The Hon. Julian and Mrs DARLING: Mrs Darling's mother and Miss Unthank's mother were sisters.

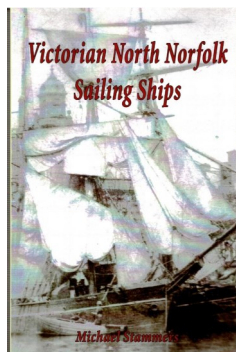
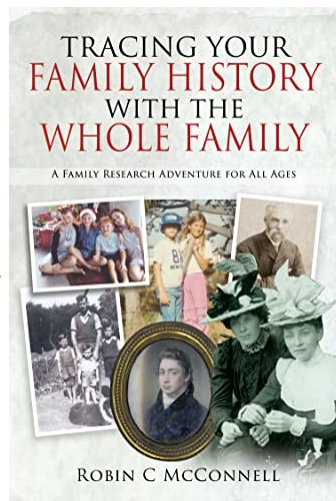


# Ancestor Bookshelf

**Tracing Your Family History with the Whole Family.** By Robin McConnell. Pen and Sword Books.

This book gives an interesting take on genealogy with tips on how to involve the entire family in putting together a personal history. The author argues that family members of all ages can be involved in research and sets out at length how this can be achieved and how a division of labour can enhance family history projects. There are a number of hints about how this can be achieved and how the whole family can truly own a family history project.

**Peter Steward**



**Victorian North Norfolk Sailing Ships by Michael Stammers.**

Published in 2012 this title is now available from City Books in limited numbers for £3.99.

It highlights the vibrant shipping scene all along the North Norfolk coast in the 19th century.

This was a time when tiny ports such as Brancaster or Blakeney thrived on exporting wheat and barley, and importing coal, timber and other commodities.

# NOTICE OF MEETING

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Family History Society will be held at Kirby Hall, 70 St Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS, on Saturday 22nd October at 12 Noon BST. A video link will also be available. Details and the AGM papers will be posted on the society website nearer the time of the meeting.

## AGENDA

| No. | Item                                                                                                                                                     | Reso- |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1   | Apologies for absence                                                                                                                                    |       |
| 2   | To accept the Minutes of the 2020-21 AGM held on 29 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                        | 1     |
| 3   | Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 29 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                      |       |
| 4   | To receive the Directors' / Trustees' Report for the year                                                                                                | 2     |
| 5   | To consider and approve the Accounts for the year ended                                                                                                  | 3     |
| 6   | To re-appoint ARGENTS, 15 Palace St., Norwich as the Reporting Accountants for the ensuing year and to authorise the trustees to fix their remuneration. | 4     |
| 7   | Re-appointment of Mrs Carole Taylor – see note 1.                                                                                                        | 5     |
| 8   | Re-appointment of Mrs Carol Reeve – see note 1                                                                                                           | 6     |
| 9   | Reappointment of Mrs Ellen Carr – see note 1                                                                                                             | 7     |
| 10  | To transact any other business of the Company.                                                                                                           | 8     |

### Note 1

In accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Society's Articles of Association the Trustees recommend that the following members of the board retiring by rotation be re-appointed:

Mrs Carole Taylor, currently the Society Treasurer, was appointed to the Board in 2008 and last re-appointed in 2019.

Mrs Carol Reeve, currently the Volunteers' Coordinator, was appointed to the Board in 2011 and last re-appointed in 2020.

Mrs Ellen Carr, currently the Society Librarian, was appointed to the Board in 2017 and last re-appointed in 2020

# Sale of a Wife by her Husband

By John Dyball

WHILE researching my family history, I came across this rather unusual newspaper article which was in the Norfolk Chronicle of Saturday May 5th, 1832, but which they had taken from the Lancaster Herald. 'On Saturday, the 7th inst. The inhabitants of this city, Carlisle, witnessed the sale of a wife by her husband, Joseph Thompson, who resides in a small village about three miles from this city. He rents a farm of about 42 or 44 acres, and was married at Hexham, in the year 1829, to his present wife. She is a spruce, lively, buxom damsel, apparently not exceeding 22 years of age, and appeared to feel a pleasure at the exchange she was about to make.'

They did not have any children and there were 'family disputes' so by mutual agreement they agreed to part. The sale was advertised, and many people attended. She 'appeared above the crowd, standing on a large oak chair, surrounded by many of her friends, with a rope or halter made of straw round her neck. The husband, who was also standing in an elevated position near her, proceeded to put her up for sale, and spoke as follows:-

"Gentlemen,- I have to offer to your notice my wife, Mary Anne Thompson, otherwise Williamson, whom I mean to sell to the highest and fairest bidder. Gentlemen, it is her wish as well as mine to part forever. She has been to me only a bosom serpent. I took her for my comfort, and the good of my house, but she has become my tormentor, a domestic curse, a night invasion, and a

daily devil." (Great laughter). He continued: "Now I have shown you the dark side of my wife, and told you her faults and failings, I will now introduce the bright and sunny side of her, and explain her qualifications and goodness. She can read novels, and milk cows; she can laugh and weep with the same ease that you can take a glass of ale when thirsty; indeed, gentlemen, she reminds me of what the poet says of women in general-

'Heaven gave to women the peculiar grace

To laugh, to weep, and cheat the human race'

She can make butter, and scold the maid, she can sing Moore's melodies and plait her frills and caps; she cannot make rum, gin, or whisky, but she is a good judge of the quality, from long experience of tasting them. I therefore offer her, with all her perfections and imperfections, for the sum of fifty shillings."

'After an hour or two she was purchased by Henry Mears, a pensioner, for the sum of twenty shillings and a Newfoundland dog. The happy pair immediately left town together, amidst the shouts and huzzas of the multitude, in which they were joined by Thompson, who, with the greatest good humour imaginable, proceeded to put the halter, which his wife had taken off, round the neck of his Newfoundland dog, and then proceeded to the first public house, where he spent the remainder of the day.'

# Officers of The Workhouse

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In the March 2022 edition of Norfolk Ancestor, NFHS member Robert Millward gave details of his research into Norfolk workhouses. Here Robert writes more about officers of workhouses and their duties.

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IN 1876, George C. T. Bartley wrote his book "A Handy Book for the Guardians of the Poor" and it gives guidance to the Guardians on how to handle most aspects of the job. It provides an insight into many aspects such as

- The habit of dependency on the parish and its treatment
- The habit of Indolence and its treatment
- The want of thrift and its treatment
- The habit of deception and its treatment
- The habit of children failing to look after their parents and its treatment
- Sickness and its treatment
- Widows and their treatment
- Deserted wives and their treatment
- Drunkenness and its treatment
- Extravagant paupers and their treatment
- Imposture in illness and its treatment
- The spread of contagious disease and its treatment
- Non-residential cases and their treatment
- Casuals and their treatment
- Illegitimate births in the workhouse

- Workhouse schools
- Law of settlement
- Treatment of blind, deaf, dumb, lame, deformed, idiotic, imbecile, insane, and other permanently afflicted classes of the poor.

There is a theme in the above that relates to the widespread belief (at the time) that the poor were responsible for their plight and the need to "correct" their behaviour by treatment.

There was also a desire to ensure that any cost that could be would be passed to family or another union to minimise costs. The habit of children failing to look after their parents seems to suggest that children were seen as being responsible for looking after their ageing parents.

The poor laws from 1601 did make children financially responsible for their parents (and vice versa) until it was repealed in 1948 with the advent of the National Health Service.

Though by this time, there is some recognition in the document that pursuing others (particularly unions) may cost more than just accepting the costs of non-settled paupers especially if other unions also took this view. Though whether this was ever followed, is not clear.

Interestingly, the book doesn't cover the unusual aspects encountered in Great Yarmouth. For example, when a shipwreck led to deaths, the bodies were taken to the workhouse for the inquest and subsequent burial. Presumably the Guardians allowed this as extraordinary expenditure. So far, I haven't found any newspaper articles that say they recovered costs from the lost ship's insurers.

## Relieving Officers

The relieving officers were an important part of the workhouse system as they provided access to relief for the poor and monitored if it was working or not. The text says that it was important to have the right personality for the job rather than employing anyone and that it was important to pay the right rate for the officer to ensure the system worked properly. It also lays out the tasks for a relieving officer as follows.

- The distribution of the relief granted by the board.  
(In the different districts into which most unions are divided, there were usually a number of centres for the purpose of distribution; each of these had to be visited at least once a week).
- Visit schools to look up school attendance, particularly in cases which the officer knows to be doubtful or irregular.
- The investigation of new applications for relief, that is a hunting up of the circumstances and histories of the fresh cases who come back each week before the board.

(This often involved travelling from one part of the union to another and even outside the boundaries of the union).

- The making out of the various returns, clerical work etc and attending the weekly board meetings.
- Attending accidental cases which always came before the relieving officer in the discharge of his duties and which demanded immediate action.
- The visiting of the permanent cases.

(There were in most unions a large number of these whose names were on the annual revision lists. They mostly lived in separate tenements and according to the local government board, required to be visited at least once a quarter).

- The In-door cases to be watched.

(It was said that relieving officers had nothing to do with these, but this only applied to orphan children, all the others required to be more or less looked after. This was necessary to ensure that relations did not exist who were legally bound to assist them and that persons were not permanently kept in the house who should and could be maintained by relations).

The tasks of the relieving officer in larger unions required multiple officers to complete the work in a timely manner. The relieving officer had to keep a number of books, the application and report book, the out-door relief list, the outdoor relief list for vagrants, the abstract of the outdoor relief list, the receipt and expenditure book. There are a large number of lists and forms referred to in the instruction titled "Duties of Relieving Officers and

Poor Law Medical Officers" that may arise in workhouse documentation that may survive. The significance of lists suggests a military mind had created the document and system as both army and navy used lists heavily to manage personnel and stores.

### **Poor Law Medical officers**

In 1896, the Local Government Board wrote an instruction titled "Duties of Relieving Officers and Poor Law Medical Officers" This described the duties of Medical officers as follows. This applied to all medical officers appointed by the Guardians whether for the workhouse or for a district.

- To give to the guardians any reasonable information respecting the case of any pauper under his care regarding sickness and to attend any meeting of the board of guardians when required by them.
- To provide a certificate respecting children whom it is proposed to apprentice in conformity with article 59.
- To give a certificate under his hand in every case to the guardians or the relieving officer or the pauper on whom he is attending of the sickness of such pauper or other cause of his attendance when required.
- In keeping books prescribed by this order to employ so far as is practicable, the terms used or recommended in the regulations and statistical nosology (classification of diseases) issued by the registrar general and also to show when the visit or attendance made or given to any pauper was made or given

by any person employed by himself.

The medical officer had to arrange his own locum for when he was away or unable to attend to his duties. He was responsible for paying his locum.

The medical officer for the workhouse had the following duties.

- To attend at the workhouse at the periods fixed by the Guardians and also when sent for by the Master or Matron.
- To attend duly and punctually upon all poor persons in the workhouse requiring medical attendance, and according to his agreement, to supply the requisite medicines to such persons.
- To examine the state of the paupers on their admission into the workhouse and to give the requisite directions to the master according to articles 91 and 92
- To give directions and make suggestions as to the diet, classification and treatment of the sick paupers, and paupers of unsound mind, and to report to the Guardians any pauper of unsound mind in the workhouse whom he may deem to be dangerous or fit to send to a Lunatic asylum.
- To give all the necessary instructions as to the diet or treatment of children and women suckling children and to vaccinate such of the children as may require vaccination.
- To report in writing to the Guardians any defect in the diet, drainage, ventilation, warmth or other arrangements of the workhouse, or any excess in the

number of any class of inmates, which he may deem to be detrimental to the health of the inmates.

- To report in writing to the Guardians any defect which he may observe in the arrangements of the infirmary, and in the performance of their duties by the nurses of the sick.
- To make a return to the Guardians, at each ordinary meeting, in a book prepared according to the Form hereunto annexed, and to insert therein the date of every attendance and other particulars required by the form. The return should include the death of every pauper who dies in the workhouse and its apparent cause.
- To enter in the commencement of such book the proper dietary for the sick paupers in the house in so many different scales as he shall deem expedient.

The list of duties would seem well meaning, but history suggests the limited implementation of problems reported, certainly there were criticisms of the workhouse as follows:

In 1894, the British Medical Journal was looking at conditions in provincial workhouses and infirmaries. The commission were met at Great Yarmouth by the doctor (Dr Collier) with unusual and tedious formalities before being admitted into the gates.

The report criticised the Yarmouth infirmary for old and cramped wards. There were no trained staff for the

medical cases and at night no nurses were available. This is reported in the Norfolk News for 10th November 1894. The newspaper report went into substantial detail of the problems. This of course may have been due to the Guardians being unwilling to raise the local rate to pay for the necessary improvements.

There were also examples of alterations being carried out to rectify problems being reported in the newspapers. These included requests for quotes for building work.

Another aspect of the medical officer's duties was the large number of forms in the document that were needed. Examples included :- Workhouse Medical Relief Book, Dietary for Sick Paupers, statements of the state of the workhouse and many more.

An insight into the costs of medical care of the poor is given in a table of treatment charges as follows

- Treatment of compound fractures of the thigh
- Treatment of compound fractures or compound dislocations of the leg
- Amputation of leg, arm, foot or hand
- The operation for strangulated hernia
- Treatment of simple fractures or simple dislocations of the thigh or leg
- Amputation of a finger or toe
- Treatment of dislocations or fractures of the arm

The payment was £5 each for items one to four. Item five was £3, item six was £2 and item seven was £1. The price of £5 would cost in 2020

£680.24. These payments were to include supply of all apparatus and splints.

It was also the case that if the patient didn't survive 36 hours the payments were halved and if multiple injuries occurred, only the highest payment was made. Note that this was on top of his salary.

A research paper gives an idea of a medical officer's salary as being between £16 and £55 in 1840. The amount varied depending on which of the workhouses in the three unions was covered by the paper. This probably reflects the relative sizes of the workhouses.

### The workhouse porter

The workhouse porter was a very important part of the workhouse management and he worked directly for the Master.

In researching people for my family history, one of them was Ted Cryer and he was a member of the Leicester Borough Police Force from 1901 to 1903.

He left the police force to become a porter at the Leicester workhouse until sometime in 1905. The post of porter was different to the modern perception of a porter being a man on a railway station carrying luggage for passengers.

His previous experience as a policeman would have trained him well for his duties.

He had to control and record all people coming and going from the Gate, to receive all paupers who presented themselves for admission and to place them in the receiving ward until the Master and Matron could see them.

He also had to ensure order was kept and alcohol was not brought into the workhouse by anyone. He also held the keys during the day and opened and closed the doors in the morning and evening.

Essentially, he was a security guard and receptionist. He also continued his police work as a special constable even when he had moved on to other workhouses as a Master.

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**AGRA**  
Associate



## What's Your Verdict? By Alan Harper

### **Regular contributor Alan Harper invites you to be judge and jury**

27th April, 1831, in Little Walsingham. Samuel BOBBITT, carpenter, is a bit flustered. Two £10 notes, which he'd received for some work the week before, have gone missing. He had them the previous evening, but woke up this morning to find them gone. Two weeks later, on 10th May, Samuel got a letter within which was one of the £10 notes and an unsigned note which said 'all the rest is spent.' It seemed that the thief had been overcome with contrition and was trying to make things right as best he could. Samuel didn't recognise the handwriting, so showed it to (amongst other people in the village) the schoolmaster, who identified the writing as that of George CHRISTOPHER.

Several witnesses testified to the 'exceedingly' good character of the 'respectable looking young man' Mr. Christopher. The prosecution case rested entirely on the 'lame' evidence of his handwriting.

So: what's your verdict? Was George Christopher innocent, or was he found guilty of theft? Turn to page 59 to find out the verdict that was delivered.

WE welcome articles, photographs and news from members.

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

[ancestor@nfhs.co.uk](mailto: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. Any submissions received after this date will be automatically carried forward to the March 2023 edition.

## Facebook Page Here To Help

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 the address below and apply to join. We have thousands of members with individual local knowledge.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/familyhistorynorfolk>

# A Strange Find

John Dyball tells us about a strange find when researching his family tree.

WHILE researching my SKEET family history I came across an entry in the parish register for Morton St Margaret in 1833 that I had not seen before. Why would the Curate record that Mary Ann was a 'Married woman' and Abraham was a 'Single man'?

|          |        |          |       |        |            |                  |
|----------|--------|----------|-------|--------|------------|------------------|
| Nov.     | Martha | Mary Ann | Skeet | Morton | Married    | Rev. S. L. Vogan |
| 2        | Dr.    | and      | —     | Morton | woman      | Curate           |
| No. 103. | of     | Abraham  | Abel  | Morton | Single man |                  |
|          |        |          |       |        | Labourer   |                  |

Abraham and Mary Ann were indeed already married before Martha was born even though this had been in Norwich and not Morton.

|                                                                               |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of <u>St. Benedict</u>                     |                       |
| in the County of <u>City of Norwich</u> in the Year 18 <u>33</u>              |                       |
| <u>Abraham Abel</u>                                                           | of <u>this</u> Parish |
| and <u>Mary Ann Skeet</u>                                                     | of <u>this</u> Parish |
| were married in this <u>Church</u> by <u>Banns</u> with Consent of            |                       |
| this <u>twenty third</u> Day of                                               |                       |
| <u>July</u> in the Year one Thousand eight Hundred and <u>thirty three</u>    |                       |
| By me <u>R. S. L. Vogan Curate</u>                                            |                       |
| This Marriage was solemnized between us { <u>the mark of Abraham Abel</u> and |                       |
| { <u>Mary Ann Skeet</u> married banns                                         |                       |
| In the Presence of { <u>the mark of Maria Hudson</u>                          |                       |
| { <u>Abraham</u>                                                              |                       |
| No. <u>209</u>                                                                |                       |

Did the Curate know something that he did not record about the status of Mary Ann? I tried to find a baptism record for Mary Anne Skeet but could not find one that matched any possible dates. So I started to look at marriages in case the Curate knew of a previous marriage for her. Further research found Mary Ann Drydale/Dugdale had married Mark Skeet/Scate on 21st March, 1826, in Taverham.

So if Mary Anne was already married how could she marry Abraham? What had happened to Mark Skeet? The Norfolk Chronicle of June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1832 provided the answer!

**MARRIAGES** solemnized in the Parish of Lewisham  
 in the County of Norfolk in the Year 1833

Mark Skeet of this Parish  
Bachelor  
 and Mary Anne Heydale of this Parish  
Spinster  
 were married in this Lewisham by Ranne with Consent of  
 this Twenty first Day of  
March in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty six  
 By me Robert Skeet, Minister  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us { The Parson of Lewisham  
Marion Heydale  
 In the Presence of { The Parson of St. Andrew  
The Parson of St. Andrew  
 No. 16.

The Chronicle reported on June 9<sup>th</sup> that, along with Robert Skeet (his brother), Mark was committed for trial. The Jury having heard all the evidence, consulted for some time and returned a verdict of guilty. Mr Justice Gazelee decided to consider overnight 'whether he should be justified under the circumstances of the case in recommending the prisoner to mercy, and whether he ought, on the other hand, not only to pass the sentence of Death upon him, but to order it to be carried to execution.' (Norfolk Chronicle August 4<sup>th</sup> 1832).

Instead of execution, however, the judge sentenced him to be transported for life. On 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1832, he was on the Prison Hulk Leviathan in Portsmouth. He sailed for Tasmania – Van Dieman's Land – on April 6<sup>th</sup> 1833. He served 20 years and was pardoned in 1853. He died in Victoria, Australia, in 1880.

So when Abraham and Mary Anne 'married' in 1833, her first husband had just arrived in Tasmania, and she was already pregnant with Martha.

Is this what the Curate knew when Martha was born in November 1833?

You can view a newspaper cutting on the next page.

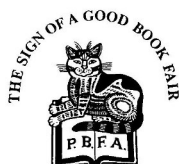
**Highway Robbery.**—On the night of yesterday se'n night, as Stephen Caley was returning from Mattishall to this city, he was overtaken by a man with whom he had a short time before been walking, when the fellow suddenly knocked him down, and after brutally beating him about the head and face, robbed him of 12l. 14s. Caley was brought to the Hospital, where he now remains suffering from the ill treatment he experienced. The man who robbed him has been apprehended and committed to the Castle,

It is with great sadness that we have to inform members of the death of Norfolk Family History Society trustee Steve Tartelin.

Steve, who had been ill for some time, was also responsible for co-ordinating the society's transcripts. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

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# Ancestor Bookshelf

## **How We Lived—A Collection of Reminiscences of East Dereham and the Surrounding Villages in the Early 1900s.**

**Review by NFHS member Iona Folliard.**

“How we lived” is based on Dr Susan Palmer’s collection of oral history transcripts given by residents of East Dereham and the surrounding villages in the 1980s. The contributors recall their lives in the area in the early to middle 20th century.

The book reveals a fascinating and honest account into the lives of ordinary people in and around East Dereham (usually just known as Dereham). Many of the families reveal interesting insights into the trades and businesses in the town, as well as the conditions which were typical of life in Norfolk during that period..

There are many photographs and family ephemera which help to illustrate their lives, as well as pictures of buildings in Dereham, some of which no longer exist following the building of the bypass.

Anyone interested in firemen will find the section by Ernie Tovell on retained firemen particularly interesting.

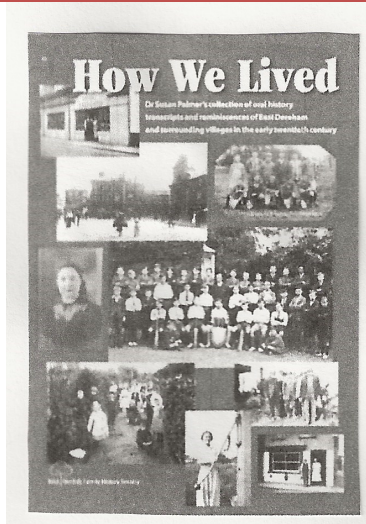
As a person not familiar with Dereham, I found some of the text difficult, especially that around the town section. Perhaps a street map of Dereham for that period would have helped me to locate the properties mentioned more easily.

Nevertheless it’s a very informative book on life and trades in Dereham and a must for anyone who had family there in that period.

The book is available by contacting the chairman of the Mid Norfolk Family History Society, Glynn Burrows, on [chairman@mnfhs.org](mailto:chairman@mnfhs.org). Copies cost £15 plus £4.50 for postage and packing.

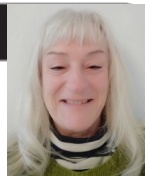
The original transcripts are in the Norfolk Records Office. These have now been added to and published in this format.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sadly Dr Palmer died in March at the age of 100. She was a highly respected Dereham GP for 30 years.



## Members' Interests

Compiled by Belinda Broad, Membership Secretary  
email: [membership@nfhs.co.uk](mailto:membership@nfhs.co.uk)



Hello and welcome to the autumn edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

It has been lovely to speak to so many of you either by telephone or e-mail and particularly good to see so many people enjoying our regular zoom talks which will continue.

You will be able to read details of coming talks elsewhere in this edition.

Why not sign up for the talks and say hello. It's all included with your membership and many of the talks are recorded and made available to members afterwards.

Best wishes and happy hunting—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 up to 18th July, 2022.

| MN    | NAME       | Cnty | Area | Dates   |       |           |                 |
|-------|------------|------|------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------|
| 18907 | ALDEN      | NFK  | ALL  | 15C-19C | 19575 | HARRISON  | NFK NE ALL      |
| 9616  | BALDWIN    | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 9782  | KENT      | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 9782  | BLANCH     | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 7407  | LADLE     | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19591 | BKYTH      | NFK  | ALL  | 17C-18C | 7407  | LADLE     | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19591 | BLYTH      | NFK  | NC   | 17C-18C | 9782  | LING      | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19596 | BONE       | NFK  | CN   | 17C-18C | 19575 | LOVEDAY   | NFK SW ALL      |
| 19596 | BONE       | NFK  | CN   | 18C-19C | 17760 | LOVETT    | ESS ALL 18C-20C |
| 1490  | BORRMANN   | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19688 | MACE      | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19687 | CATTERMOLE | NFK  | SW   | 18C-20C | 19641 | MANNING   | NFK SW 18C-19C  |
| 19687 | CHILVERS   | SFK  | ALL  | 18C-20C | 19688 | MEARS     | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19459 | CHURCH     | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 15229 | OSWICK    | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19564 | CLEARE     | NFK  | NE   | 17C     | 19584 | PARKER    | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19606 | CORNELL    | ALL  | ALL  | ALL     | 19591 | PARSONS   | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19606 | CORNWELL   | ALL  | ALL  | ALL     | 19591 | PARSONS   | NFK NE 18C      |
| 17748 | COULSEY    | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19591 | PARSONS   | SFK ALL 18C-19C |
| 17373 | DAGLESS    | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 18092 | PLANE     | NFK YM 18C-19C  |
| 18183 | DAY        | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19564 | PRESS     | NFK NE 18C      |
| 19679 | ELLIS      | NFK  | NW   | 18C-19C | 19564 | RUDD      | NFK CN ALL      |
| 19670 | EVEY       | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 18792 | RUMP      | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 17373 | FARROW     | NFL  | ALL  | ALL     | 19688 | SAVAGE    | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19043 | FINCHAM    | NFK  | NW   | 18C-19C | 19606 | SHARR     | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19043 | FINCHAM    | NFK  | SW   | 18C-19C | 19606 | SHORE     | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19591 | FRANCIS(S) | NFK  | NE   | 17C-18C | 17373 | SIMMONS   | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 17749 | GALLANT    | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 18557 | SKILLINGS | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 17749 | GALLANT    | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19564 | SOUTHGATE | NFK NW 18C      |
| 18019 | GOODMAN    | NFK  | CN   | ALL     | 19564 | STARLING  | NFK NE 17C-18C  |
| 18019 | GOODMAN    | NFK  | CN   | ALL     | 19688 | THEOBALD  | ESS ALL ALL     |
| 18557 | GOWING     | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19688 | THOMPSON  | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 13668 | GOWING     | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19633 | TILNEY    | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 17373 | GRAND      | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19459 | WARNES    | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19687 | GRANT      | NFK  | SW   | 18C-20C | 1448  | WESTGATE  | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 9616  | GUYMER     | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19687 | WHITROD   | NFK SW 17C      |
| 19591 | HALLIFAX   | NFK  | NE   | 17C-18C | 19303 | WOOLNOUGH | NFK ALL ALL     |
| 19688 | HARRIS     | NFK  | ALL  | ALL     | 19564 | WARNES    | NFK ALL ALL     |
|       |            |      |      |         | 19564 | WORNS     | NFK CN 18C      |

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.

THE NFHS holds regular zoom talks for members who will be e-mailed the relevant links close to the time of the talks. Coming talks are:

### **October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Best Foot Forward - Shoemakers and cordwainers by Ian Waller.

Every community would have its shoemaker or cordwainer. They played an important role in the village. Mechanisation and mass production diminished their role significantly, but hand-made shoes are still available to this day. The talk examines what the cordwainer or shoemaker did, where the records are, and what happened when factories took over.

This talk will be recorded and placed on the events page of our website for two months for members only.

### **November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Nonconformity for family historians by Alan Ruston.

The various churches that have existed in Britain since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, what they were and are and the unique records they have left, very different from those of the Church of England.

This talk will be recorded and placed on the events page of our website for one week for members only.

### **December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Two Wars, Two Wives- the Stage is set by Jackie Depelle.

A case study including the First and Second World War years through research into the life and experiences of a British Civilian internee in Germany. From domestic service to civil service, stables to RHS gardens, good times and sad times, there are many unexpected connections in what was a far from ordinary life. This talk will be recorded and be available for four weeks.

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Email: [enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@norfolkfamilysearch.co.uk)

Or write to: Norfolk Family Search

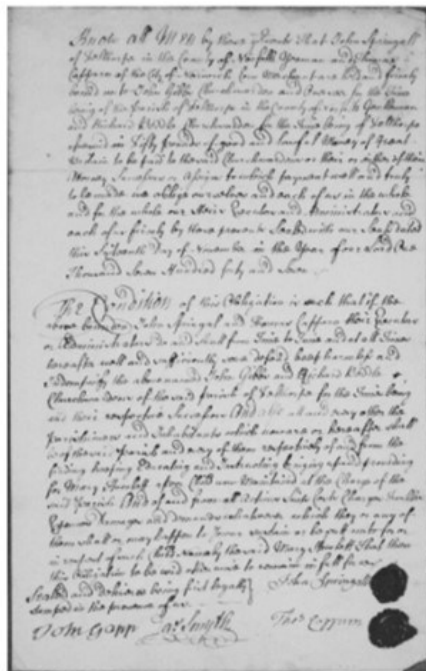
14 Silver Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 4TT, United Kingdom

Alan Harper gives you the answers to the Norfolk-a-gram puzzles and also Your Verdict.

## Norfolk-a-gram Answers

Ashwellthorpe, Roydon, Diss  
Shropham, Docking, Thurne  
Yelverton, Briston, Acle  
Brancaster, Needham, Oxnead

That gives you the letters A R D S D T Y B A B N O. Rearrange those letters to get BASTARDY BOND. A bastardy bond is the document created by the parish overseers requiring the father of an illegitimate child, if his identity had been revealed by the mother, to pay for the maintenance of that child, either by a regular payment or lump sum, should he refuse (or be unable) to marry the mother. Should dad do a runner, or default on his obligations, then, if the bond had been countersigned by a guarantor, he would become liable instead. Survival of bastardy bonds in Norfolk is, sporadic; the example shown is from Felthorpe in 1747 (NRO Ref: PD 45/55). Two men, John SPRINGAL(L) of Felthorpe, yeoman, probably the father, and Thomas CAPPURN of Norwich, corn merchant, are bound in the sum of £50 for the upkeep of 'poor child' Mary HOWLETT. As for Mary Howlett, herself daughter of Elizabeth Howlett and baptised at Felthorpe 22nd October 1747, my endeavours to find out with confidence what happened to her have drawn a blank. If you claim her as your ancestor then do share your findings with The Norfolk Ancestor .



What's Your Verdict - The jury found George CHRISTOPHER not guilty - and what's more they did so 'immediately'. Whether swayed by his act of contrition, or the somewhat flimsy evidence of the handwriting, we do not know. Source: Norwich Mercury, 30 July 1831, page 1 column G. The article refers to the banknotes as 'Fakenham Notes.' That may mean what at one time was known as Gurneys, Birkbecks, Barclay & Buxton Bank, which had an office in Fakenham ([www.banking-history.org.uk](http://www.banking-history.org.uk)). Samuel BOBBITT, the injured party, is my 3x great-grandfather. Perhaps he ought to have replaced his door locks, for this was not the only theft of which he was a victim. A year later William WALES and John PARKER, aged 16 and 15 respectively, were sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a private whipping for the theft of four sovereigns and two £10 notes from Samuel.

## Copyright Acknowledgement.

WE have received the following message from The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies following our article "Using Family Artefacts and Papers" in the June edition of Norfolk Ancestor:

"The article was based very directly on the documentation from our Correspondence Course in Genealogy. The questions posed at the beginning concerning John Bates is an assignment on the course. There were images, a photograph and texts taken directly from the course notes. This is in breach of our copyright."

We accept that the article contravened copyright and issue an apology to the IHGS with an acknowledgement that material used in this article belongs to and is the copyright of the Institute .

## 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](mailto: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  
Document transcription  
Manorial records  
Photography**



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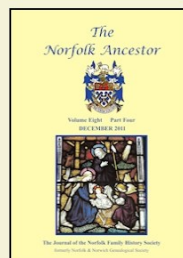
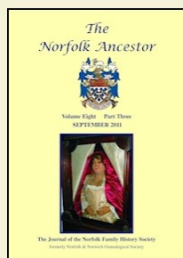
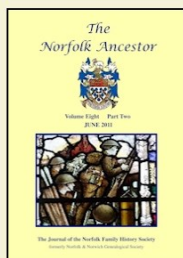
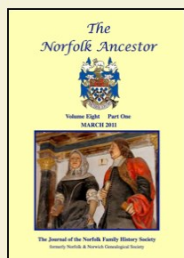
Contact Michael on:

01708 735810



***www.slides2disk.co.uk***

## **Scanned Ancestor Copies**



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

# NFHS contacts and how to contact them

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

| <b>Title</b>                   | <b>Responsibilities</b>                                   | <b>Name</b>      | <b>email address</b>        |
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**Or by post to the appropriate person at  
Kirby Hall, 70 St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS**

Mary Abbey, the 19-year-old lass from Mileham was honoured at an exhibition at the Liverpool Regional Museum with a large framed colour photograph of her tombstone and an engraved metal plaque. Her great great great grandson, historian Brian Ahearn presented the history of Mary and Murty's life on Saturday 23rd April 2022 at the Museum.



\* \* \*

Brian warmly welcomes questions covering Mary's life and will appreciate making contact with members of her family through his email: [baw2@bigpond.com](mailto:baw2@bigpond.com).

Opposite is a photo of Brian accepting a photo on behalf of the family.

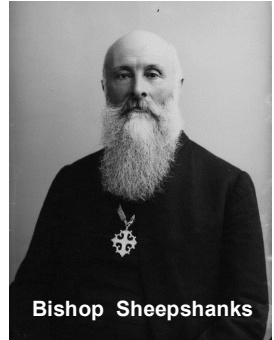
The photograph on the previous page of the headstone for Mary Aherne, Murtagh Aherne, William Aherne and Elizabeth Aherne is in Liverpool Pioneers' Memorial Park, New South Wales. Photographs commissioned by Liverpool Regional Museum 2021. Photographer: Michael Waite. Image from Liverpool Regional Museum Collection, Liverpool City Council, NSW, Australia and used with their kind permission.



# Bishop John Sheepshanks

THE person who links the two places overleaf is Bishop John Sheepshanks (1834-1912). He was born into a wealthy family in Belgravia and his parents were Thomas (1796–1875), rector of St John's, Coventry, and his wife, Katherine (née Smith, 1804–1869). John was educated at Coventry Grammar School and Christ's College Cambridge.

He became a curate at Leeds Parish Church after his ordination in 1857. In Leeds he met George Hills who became the Bishop of Columbia in Canada. He invited John to travel to Canada to become the Rector of New Westminster in 1859.



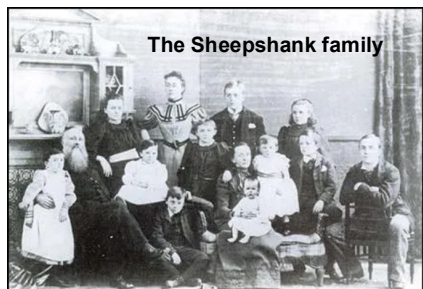
New Westminster was a British settlement on the Fraser River established in 1858 by Richard Clement Moody. He was the head of the Royal Engineers in Columbia who was given the task of finding a capital for the new English province which was later named British Columbia. Moody originally named it Queensborough, but on instructions from Queen Victoria it was renamed New Westminster.



When John arrived in 1859 the Cariboo Gold Rush was starting and the pioneering life was tough. The Church was little more than a wooden hut. He spent five years there under very harsh conditions, often waking up with his hair frozen together. He relished the challenge and it probably gave him his austere outlook later in life.

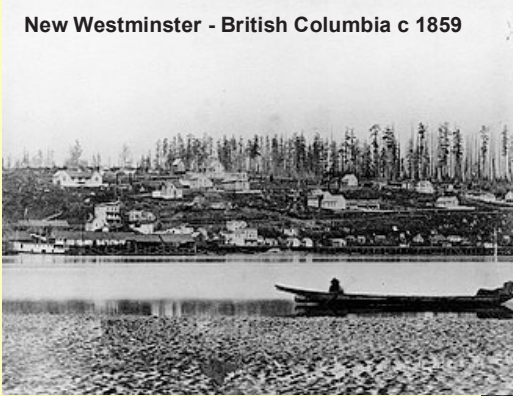
He returned to England in 1864 to raise funds for the church, via San Francisco and Utah where he met Brigham Young and preached to the Mormons. He went back to Canada to find that his church had burnt down and that the miners were leaving en masse so he did not remain there long. In 1867, he came home westwards, passing through Honolulu, Hong Kong, China, Mongolia, Siberia, Moscow and St Petersburg, having thus circumnavigated the globe.

John became a parish priest in Bilton near Harrogate. He met and married his wife Mary Ryott in Thirsk, when she was just 18 and he was 36. The couple were married for 42 years and had 17 children, 12 of whom survived to adulthood. John was made Bishop of Norwich in 1893, serving until he retired in 1909. He was a high church liberal who thought it important to know all the priests in his large diocese of Norwich, including all of Suffolk. He travelled around on the train, third class, to meet them all. When he died in 1912 whilst living in Bracondale, he left £43,000, equivalent to five million pounds today. He was buried in the cloisters of Norwich Cathedral. New Westminster is now a small city just south-east of Vancouver.

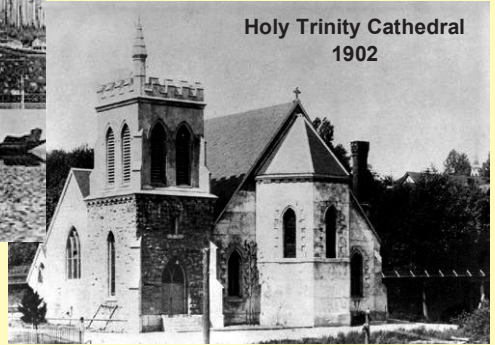


# What is the Connection?

New Westminster - British Columbia c 1859



Holy Trinity Cathedral  
1902



The top two pictures show the newly founded British settlement of New Westminster in British Columbia in 1859 and its later brick-built cathedral. The bottom picture shows Norwich Cathedral in 2019. Turn to the inside back cover to find out about the connection between the two places.

Norwich Cathedral  
2019

