

The Norfolk Ancestor



DECEMBER 2022



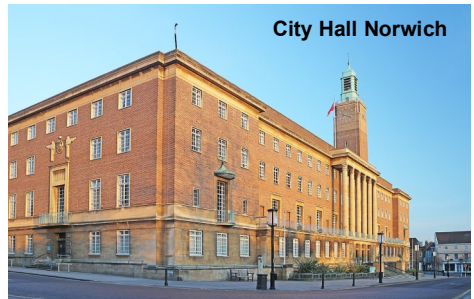
The Journal of the Norfolk Family History Society

Formerly Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society

City Hall Norwich

The picture on the front cover shows the City Hall in Norwich at Christmas. It is considered by many to be one of the finest municipal buildings in England built during the inter-war period. We take a brief look at the history of the building and its importance to the city.

PRIOR to 1938 when City Hall opened, the city's administrative departments had been based at the medieval Guildhall which was built in the years immediately after Henry IV's civic charter of 1404, which gave Norwich the status of a county in its own right.



City Hall Norwich

At the start of the 20th century, many of these departments had grown and, with more being added, the Guildhall was not big enough to house them all. The city gradually took over rooms in the late 19th century buildings which stood at the top of the market place.



Norwich Municipal offices 1934

The picture opposite shows the city's municipal buildings in 1934. The right-hand block was originally the Oxford Hotel and was acquired by the corporation in 1876. The whole block was subsequently purchased and used by the Town Clerk's, City Engineer's, and Estate Surveyor's departments. These would later be demolished when the new city hall had been built on the land behind them.

In 1928, the City Corporation contacted the Royal Institute of British Architects for advice on building a new civic centre and subsequently the architect Robert ATKINSON, who was known for his stylish art deco designs, was appointed to supervise the project. He designed the basic floor plan and layout and, in 1931, the Corporation set up a competition to attract detailed designs for the building. Atkinson would be the sole judge of the entries.

The organisers of the competition received 143 entries and the winner was a newly formed partnership of two established architects, Charles Holloway James and Stephen Rowland Pierce. However, progress towards the building of the centre was slow due to difficult planning problems and financial constraints caused by the Great Depression (1929-1939). The foundation stone wasn't laid until September, 1936. To find out what happened next, turn to page 51.

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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News From Kirby Hall

Remembering Colin

NFHS Honorary Life Member and former Company Secretary Edmund Perry pays tribute to Colin Skipper who has died at the age of 93.

COLIN GEOFFREY SKIPPER

3rd March 1929 - 1st August 2022

BORN in Norwich, the only child of Eric and Dorothy Skipper, Colin was educated at Town Close School. During World War Two, the family moved to Scotland whilst his father was involved in designing buildings for the Royal Navy.

They returned to Norwich and, after undertaking National Service with the Royal Engineers in Antwerp, Belgium, Colin followed a correspondence course to qualify as a quantity surveyor.

This continued a family tradition: his father was an architect and his great, great uncle, George Skipper, designed the iconic Royal Arcade in Norwich and the headquarters of Norwich Union (now Aviva) in Surrey Street.

Through his father's work as Diocesan Architect, Colin met his wife Brenda, the daughter of a local clergyman. Married in 1956, they had three children: Alistair, Diana and Edmund. A few years later, Colin found a position at Unsworth and Partners and moved to Newbury, Berkshire, where he purchased, redesigned and



extended a derelict cottage.

Retiring in 1995, Colin returned to his roots and settled in another lovely cottage at Great Ellingham where his great grandfather, Robert Skipper, a carpenter, journeyman, builder and tile manufacturer from Hingham, had married Elizabeth Wilemer from Great Ellingham in 1854.

This gave him the time and opportunity to research his family history, creating a mammoth one name study, a database of Skippers with over 17,000

News From Kirby Hall

names going back to the 1500s - now deposited in the Kirby Hall Library.

Colin became a trustee of the NFHS in 1998 and was tasked with finding new premises after Kirby House became damp. Having looked at a number of redundant churches, he recommended the former Gospel Hall at 70 Cleveland Road.

He arranged the purchase and was given a budget of £38,000 to carry out extensive renovation and redecoration, renaming it Kirby Hall. As recognition of all his hard work, the upstairs office was named the "Skipper Room."

Colin had two stints as chairman of the society: October 2001 to November 2004 and September 2006 to October 2011, during which time he continued to oversee the maintenance of the building and regularly fronted the society stall at various fairs in East



Janet Hawksby and Colin Skipper at work in Kirby House before the move to Kirby Hall.

Anglia.

He was a quiet, mild-mannered, self-effacing gentleman who made a major contribution to the Norfolk Family History Society. He spent his latter years in a care home at Attleborough, still researching his family history.

His funeral and burial were at Great Ellingham Church on 18th August.

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

A Message From The Editor

WELCOME to the final Norfolk Ancestor of 2022—yes the year has flown by yet again. I hope you enjoy some pre-Christmas reading. As usual we have a real mix of articles and I would like to thank all our contributors who regularly send in high-quality features.

I have been editor of Norfolk Ancestor for eight years and feel that it is now time to hand over the reins to someone else. I am very pleased to say that NFHS member and fellow Norwich City Football Club supporter Alan Harper has offered to take on the role of editor. Alan has been contributing articles for the Ancestor for a while and will bring a fresh approach to the magazine.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my eight years at the helm and would like to thank my fellow trustees for all their support. I believe the magazine took a huge step forward when we went full colour a few years ago. This helped us to enhance the content considerably.

I will be continuing as a trustee of the society, moving over to the role of publicity officer to help promote what we do and who we are and to improve our social media presence. I will also be contributing the occasional article for Ancestor.

All that remains is for me to thank you all for the many kind messages saying how much you enjoy the magazine. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and good luck with your family research in 2023.

Peter

The Norfolk Ancestor

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

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Two Graves, But Just One Body

Jill Morgan tells us the story of two graves for one man. But in which one was he buried?

JOHN Bullock's life and death are commemorated in his native Pulham Market, but also in Salt Lake City, Utah.

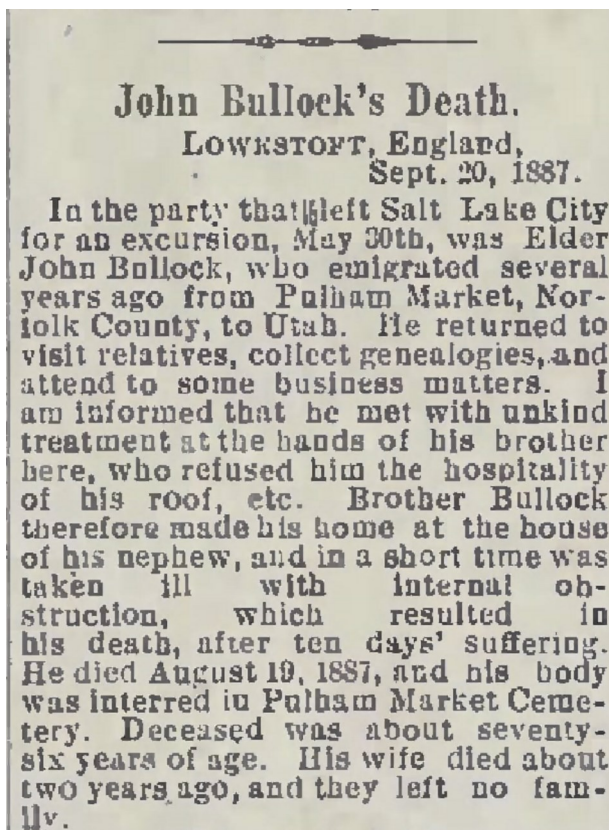
Was he buried with his brother in Norfolk or with his wife in America? There are no helpful phrases such as 'Here lieth the body' on either of the headstones to indicate which grave holds his remains, but fortunately this press item (opposite) from the Millennial Star clarifies the matter (see note on page 10).

Despite being given, as the item states, "unkind treatment at the hands of his brother," he was buried in the graveyard of St Mary Magdalene, Pulham Market in the burial ground adjacent to the churchyard. Which brother refused to take him into his home, we do not know.

There are several to choose from: Robert, William, George and James. Another George had died in infancy. But the cause of the animosity may well lie with the Utah connection, as John

Bullock was serving as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ['Mormons'] in Norfolk when he was taken ill and passed away.

He had returned to his place of birth to gather his genealogy, rather than to





Two graves but just one body

preach 'Mormon' doctrine, which was quite common in the later years of the 19th century and for older Latter Day Saints. John was born in Pulham Market in 1812 to Robert and Ann Bullock. He was the oldest of their eight children and was christened at St. Mary Magdalene.

He enlisted in the British Army at the age of 21 in 1834 and served as a Gunner and Driver in the Royal Artillery. However, he served only in Woolwich and for less than a year as he was invalided out in 1835 on health grounds.

His conduct and character as a soldier had been deemed good, but he was suffering from great general weakness. This was attributed to an ulcer which wouldn't heal; in addition to which he had a severe case of smallpox, contracted while in the military hospital.

Although we do not have his likeness,

his military record states that he was 5 ft 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in, had light hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion. His occupation was listed as gardener.

In 1849, he was baptised into the LDS Church, most probably while living in London. He and his wife Frances (nee Johnson) can be seen there in the 1851 census, in St Pancras, with John's occupation listed as policeman.

John and Frances didn't have any children. In the 1861 census they can be seen in Pulham, with John's occupation given as pensioner and Metropolitan Police Officer. They emigrated from Liverpool in July 1873 aboard the steamship Nevada in a party of almost 300 members of the LDS Church under the leadership of Elijah Box.

By this time, the Transcontinental Railroad was completed so they would

have crossed the plains of the American West in some comfort and certainly more speedily than previous LDS converts in their covered wagons.

The Bullocks settled in Salt Lake City, where Frances died in 1886. John was therefore a widower when he returned to Britain as a missionary.

John Bullock is buried in plot 206 of the burial ground (many thanks to the parish clerk for that information), in the third row back, to the right of the grave of George and Mary Hewlett. Presumably the same kindly nephew who took him in also arranged for his burial.

When a visit was made to the burial ground to identify the precise location of the grave, there appeared to be no headstone. However, closer inspection showed the headstone had fallen over and become covered with grass and moss.

Although his remains were never re-located to America, the headstone in Salt Lake City where his wife Frances was buried, also commemorates his death. The inscription reads:

"In 1892 the Millennial Star published a Roll of Honour, listing missionaries who had died in the field up to that date. John Bullock's name was among those listed. So although he left no



John's headstone is on the ground

IN MEMORY OF

JOHN BULLOCK

Born 6 Feb 1812

Pulham Market ENGLAND

Died Aug 19 1887

Also FRANCES

Wife of the above

Born 19 Dec 1807

Chatham ENGLAND

posterity and his very presence was a source of conflict for some of his family, he was neither forgotten nor neglected at his end."

NOTE: Millennial Star was a weekly publication of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Great Britain from 1840 until about 1939; thereafter it was published monthly until 1970. Searchable online at:

<https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/search/collection/MStar>

Finding A Birth Date

FOR ancestors born before the introduction of civil registration in 1837, it can sometimes be difficult to establish their actual birth date, or even a narrow range for it.

There's a good chance of finding a baptism record though, and a diligent curate may have written the birth date on it as well; but if he hadn't, we wouldn't know how close to their birth date they were baptised. Whilst we often assume the birth and baptism dates were close because of the fear of the child dying before it was admitted to the Church, that is not always the case. The dates can be years apart.

To help narrow down the range for a birth date, a technique using an easily constructed spreadsheet and chart can be employed, making the task quick and simple and a very visual way of analysing the data.

This technique uses all the available sources of information that have a

NFHS member Bruce Thirkettle gives a technique for narrowing down an ancestor's birth date range.

known date on which the ancestor's age is also recorded: it works as follows; see the example spreadsheet for Thomas Thirkettle, figure below.

Using the date of the source and the age shown on it, we can calculate the latest possible birth date and the earliest possible birth date for the birth based on the source date: the extreme cases.

Take the 1851 census data in figure 1 as an example. If his birthday was the actual date of the source, i.e. 60 that day, then the birth would have been exactly 60 years earlier: so 30 March 1791.

This is the latest possible birth date based on the source. If he was aged 60 on the day of the source, but his birthday was the next day, then his

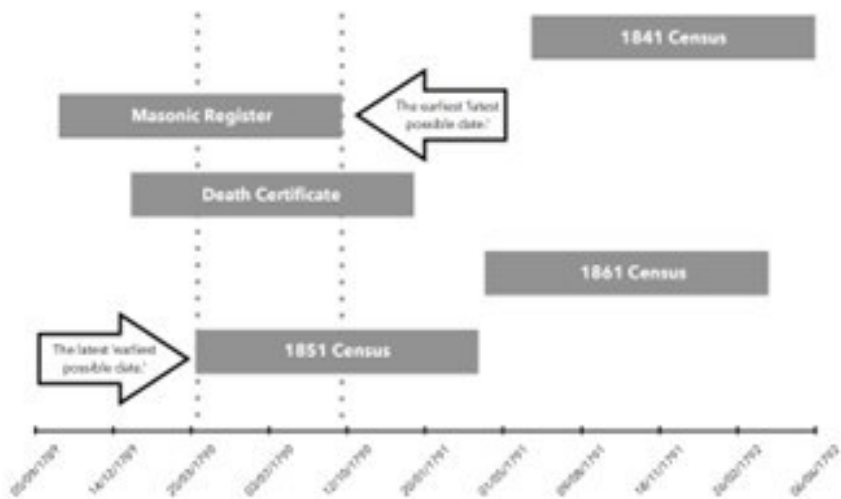
Source	1841 census	1851 census	1861 census	Death Certificate	Freemasons Membership Register
Date of Source	06/06/1841	30/03/1851	07/04/1861	06/01/1870	05/10/1830
Age on Source (years)	49	60	69	79	40
Earliest Possible Birth Date Based on Source	06/06/1791	30/03/1790	07/04/1791	06/01/1790	05/10/1789
Baptism Date	05/02/1792	05/02/1792	05/02/1792	05/02/1792	05/02/1792
Latest Possible Birth Date Based on Source	06/06/1792	30/03/1791	07/04/1792	06/01/1791	05/10/1790

birthday would be a year before the latest possible birth date: so 30th March 1790.

This is the earliest possible birth date based on the source: we'll ignore the one day error here for ease of calculation. We now have the extreme cases, and Thomas's birthday must lie on or between 30th March 1790 and

30th March 1791 based on this source.

The process is then repeated for each of the different sources that can be found. The results give a range of earliest and latest possible birth dates that we can then compare to each other, and to the baptism date.



2022 Annual General Meeting report by Alan Harper

THE first in-person AGM since 2019 and the first ever 'hybrid' AGM was held on 22nd October, well attended both at Kirby Hall and online. Phil Whiscombe, Chair, thanked members, volunteers and trustees for their "marvellous effort" in sustaining the society during the pandemic, including the monthly Zoom talks as a means to maintain contact with all members around the world. Phil confirmed the trustees would explore the practicality of holding some of those meetings at different times of the day to better suit the needs of overseas' participants. Thanks were expressed to volunteer Paul White for his efforts to scan and upload to NORS many of the family trees donated by members in the past and to trustee Charles Bush for overseeing the many improvements made to Kirby Hall recently.

It was confirmed that Peter Steward would stand down as editor of the magazine

but continue to be active for the Society in a publicity role, with Peter's successor Alan Harper introduced to members. Four Honorary Memberships had been conferred during the year under review, for Roger Bellingier, Mary Mitchell, Mike Dack and Margaret Murgatroyd. The desire for more volunteers remains, and for a younger demographic to become engaged with the society. Development work continues apace on the society's new website, albeit held back a little by Covid, with a launch to members now targeted for the early part of 2023 subject to testing. Much discussion revolved around the delayed publication of the society's draft accounts for the year ended March 2022. Carole Taylor, Treasurer, confirmed steps are in place to prevent a recurrence. The Society is not immune from financial pressures with Kirby Hall overheads and postage costs particularly susceptible (the latter mitigated in part given around half of all members subscribe to the online version of Norfolk Ancestor), and members were given early notification of a small increase to subscription rates from next year. All three trustees standing for re-election were re-appointed: Carole Taylor, Carol Reeve and Ellen Carr.

Honorary Membership of the Society For Two Stalwarts

By NFHS Chairman Phil Whiscombe

It is a great pleasure for the trustees to be able to award honorary membership of the society to volunteers who have given exceptional service over a period of many years.

Last year we were able to award this honour to two long serving stalwarts, Roy Scott and Paul Harman, both of whom would be familiar faces to any member who has regularly visited Kirby Hall.

Paul Harman with his background in telecoms and information technology was instrumental in the organisation and implementation of the computers with all their associated equipment and systems for the first time in Kirby Hall. In addition, he provided that essential first level of IT support to users of very varying abilities for many years. Paul also went on to organise the transcribing of genealogical data for the NORS website and in 2010 became a trustee, serving in that role until 2015. He continues his volunteering with the society today, transcribing the Norwich Birth and Death returns for uploading to NORS.

Roy Scott also served as a trustee from 1998 through to 2006 a period that included the transfer of the Society's headquarters from Kirby House to our present home in Kirby Hall. He fulfilled the role of membership secretary for about eight years which included the responsibility for compiling lists of new members and members' interests for the Norfolk Ancestor. As well as being a regular and very knowledgeable volunteer on the desk, Roy gave several talks to members at Kirby Hall including on his excellent research into the bombing of Norwich during the Blitz. It is impossible to truly quantify the contribution that Roy and Paul have made to the society but the trustees are very grateful for the time and expertise that they have given freely, together with their dedicated work in helping to raise the quality of the society's services.

A Tailor's Tale

By Alan Harper



daughter,
Dorothy
Hannah.

Beneath his signature the
address is now number
120.

In Kelly's 1912 Directory of
Norfolk he is confirmed at
120 Magdalen Street.
Counting the number of
properties between the
two aforementioned yards

WITHIN my somewhat eclectic collection of "old stuff" is the wooden clothes hanger pictured above. It is engraved on one side with E. H. DRAKE, TAILOR & COSTUMIER and on the other with 120, Magdalen Street, NORWICH.

Knowledge of its age and how I came by it is lost in the mists of time, but using some of the Trade Directories available at Kirby Hall to trace the history of Mr. Drake's shop can provide some clues. The earliest appearance of Mr. Drake is in Kelly's 1904 Directory of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk which reveals his given names as Edgar Henry, but at 114 Magdalen Street; four years previously those premises were occupied by Henry Bailey, boot maker.

Magdalen Street is a major north-south thoroughfare in Norwich; the even numbers are on the west side and number 114, between Cross Keys Yard and Beckham's Yard, is towards the northern end, near the Blind Asylum.

The 1911 Census shows Edgar as a 33 year old tailor, married to Isabel Gertrude and they have a four-year old

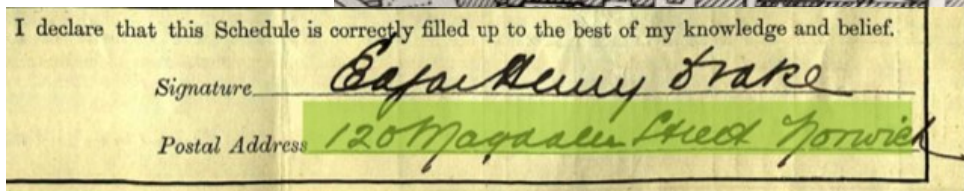
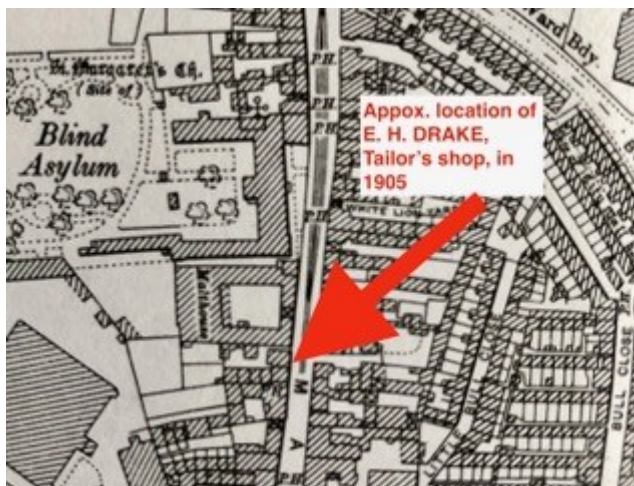
in the 1904 and 1912 directories indicates some property renumbering has gone on rather than Mr. Drake moving three doors down the road; numbers 114 and 116 are also absent from the 1912 directory.

It also places him there in August 1912, when the area around Magdalen Street was one of the worst affected in the devastating Norwich floods. He remains at number 120 until at least 1933, when Kelly's Directory of Norfolk and Suffolk lists 14 tailors, clothiers, drapers and outfitters on Magdalen Street - an extraordinary number and four more than were there in 1904.

I have no known ancestral connection to Edgar Drake, so bearing in mind the time period for the existence of his shop extrapolated from the trade directories, my supposition is that it may have been my maternal grandfather Benjamin Stark who had been a customer and acquired the clothes hanger which then found its way to me; this is plausible as, aged in his thirties in the 1920s, he lived just around the corner from the shop at Bull Close - on the right edge of the map

extract.

I'd like to find a more deserving home for the clothes hanger. If Edgar Henry Drake, only son of F. Drake, or Isabel Gertrude née Howard, second daughter of W. Howard, are your ancestors, you have the evidence to prove it, and you would like it as a family heirloom, do get in touch with me via Norfolk Ancestor.



If there are no claimants by the time of the next issue, I will offer it to Norfolk Museums Service.

Other sources: Norwich Mercury, 10th October 1903, which lists Edgar and Isabel's marriage five days earlier and names their fathers.

All photographs by the author. Edgar Henry Drake signature from 1911 Census, TNA Ref: RG14, Registration District 225, Piece 11258. Map extract from Old Ordnance Survey Maps, The Godfrey Edition, Norwich (North) 1905, Norfolk Sheet 63:11 in the author's private collection

VOLUNTEERS

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

If you can spare anything from a couple of hours a week, or even a month, to come into Kirby Hall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday or require further information, please email volunteers@nfhs.co.uk, please include your membership number.

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

Memories of a South Norfolk Country Girl

Chris Bell tells us how a chance find helped his understanding of what life was like for a young girl in South Norfolk at the beginning of the 20th century.

WHEN my grandmother passed away in 1979, I came across postcards, exercise books and legal documents that provide a fascinating insight into the early life of a country girl from South Norfolk.

Her life follows a path that was common to many girls from rural areas at that time.

Rosetta was born on 7th June 1895 in South Lopham, to George Musk and his wife Elizabeth nee Copping. She was the sixth of seven surviving children born between 1878 and 1899.

Her earliest ancestors that can be traced with some certainty were quite prosperous. By the time that Rose came along, however, the fortunes of the family had somewhat declined. Her great grandfather had been transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1832 and her father had lost his job as a railway porter in London.

It was rumoured that this was because he drank too much. In the early 1880s they were forced to return to their roots and lived in various rented cottages on the Norfolk/Suffolk border



near Diss. George became a mole catcher to make ends meet and was known as 'Hookie' because he had a fearsome right hook in a fight. He is reputed to have tipped two men in a cart into a ditch near 'The Crown' Public House in South Lopham.

As was usual with many girls of that time, Rose left school at 14 and went into service. According to a

policy paper by Lucy Delap on the 'historyandpolicy.org' website entitled "Yes Ma'am: domestic workers and employment rights," 41% of Britain's female workforce were employed as servants in 1891, going down to 24% by 1931. This sizeable proportion of the population is sometimes overlooked in history.

Lucy comments that unlike in Downton Abbey, most households didn't have large numbers of servants but usually only one or two who had to work very hard.

My grandmother worked in households that fell into this latter

category. She began her time in service in the nearby town of Diss, where she can be found on the 1911 census living in Mere Street as a servant in the household of Mrs Ethel Powell, a widow.

By January 1913 she had managed to secure a post as a maid at Stockton Rectory, Norfolk, working for the Rev William Stephens and his wife Mary Louisa. We can date when she was there because she kept a notebook detailing her wages and outgoings.

Life must have been quite boring for a girl of 17 living in a sleepy hamlet. The Stephens also employed a second maid, May, who was presumably a similar age to Rose.

The two girls amused themselves in their spare time by copying out popular songs of the day and writing poetry. In my grandmother's notebook we found the amusing rhyme above about her employers.

There are detailed accounts of Rose's expenditure for 4th January and 4th February 1913.

In January her wages were £1. Of this one shilling was paid out to cover insurance and she had other expenditure of 17s. 5½d. This included

A song composed by two girls living at Stockton Rectory

You'll be glad to hear the story of a parson and his wife
Who lived at Stockton Rectory and led a dull old life.

To church he used to go and preach a sermon, lo!

Then he'd come home and mob the maids if his dinner
wasn't so.

They called each other darling dear and ducky on the sly

But woebetide if anything happened to his rabbit pie

You never saw him smile at all excepting late at night

When he came out to see Rose and May sometimes he'd
be alright.

At times he used to have a drop of whiskey (sic) on the sly

He used to call it medicine and then he'd wink his eye.

His wife she was a rum old dear and as ugly as could be.

Sometimes she used to trim his hair and make him a sight
to see.

We found them both a nickname, for they were a funny pair.

Her we called Jemima and the other Shuffles dear.

Sometimes they'd go out for a walk, it was a sight to see.

One was going higgley hob and the other hobble hee.

Her teeth were like great gravestones and her hair as black
as coal

But his was grey and curly and his teeth..... unfinished.

paying out 2s. 11½d for a lawn apron;
12 yards of white calico which cost 6s.
9d; two side combs and one back
comb at 3s. 6d and three oranges for
3d. Church collection was 2d. In
February her wages were higher, £1.
8s. 0d, so presumably she didn't start
work until a few days into the month of
January. Her February outgoings
include walking shoes and house
shoes costing 8s. 11d and 2s. 11½d
respectively. By March she had given
up accounting for every penny.

Her notebook contains detailed
drawings of different ways to fold a
napkin - essential for a maid to know!

I wondered what her employers, the Stephens, were really like. Looking at their marriage certificate it seems that they were married late in life in 1903 when he was 52 and she was 47 so they would have been approaching 62 and 57 at the beginning of 1913. Neither of them had been married before.

They married at St Mark's Westminster on 7th July and made their home at Stockton, where William was the rector. It must have been rather a culture shock for the daughter of an eminent London surgeon to relocate to Stockton.

Mary Louisa Stephens, nee Croft, died on 27th January 1914, a year after this poem was written and was probably not in the best of health when she employed my grandmother. William remained at Stockton Rectory and died on 6th October 1920 (norfolkonline.recordsearch.co.uk) having been rector of the parish for 20 years. The couple must have seemed 'rum old dears' to two young girls.

My grandmother didn't stay at the rectory for long. We have a book of Common Prayer, bought from Harmers bookshop in Beccles with an



inscription in the front:

'To dear Rose
with love from May.

In memory of many pleasant hours
spent together

June 7 1913'. (my grandmother's 18th



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birthday). I have in my possession a collection of postcards that my grandmother was sent over the years, detailing her whereabouts. Unfortunately someone has tried to remove the stamps from some of the cards so the postmark with the date is sometimes missing.

Between 4th December 1915 and 26th April 1916 she was living at Ingrams Well in Sudbury. Whilst in Sudbury she received a notebook from her future sister-in-law Lily Fellingham in Bressingham with a collection of hand-written recitations that Lily had read out in chapel.

She suggested that Rose might like to try them out in Sudbury. They are not all religious. One is called 'Curfew Must not Ring Tonight'. This is a narrative poem written in 1867 by Rose Hartwick Thorpe and set in Oliver Cromwell's time.

It was a favourite of Queen Victoria. The other recitations are so obscure I can't find any trace of them! Always intent on bettering herself, by 8th September 1916 Rose had moved to 'Penrith' 4th Avenue, Frinton on Sea.

There are also postcards sent to her at 'Hasketon' 3rd Avenue Frinton on Sea and to 17 Beverley Road in Colchester c/o Mrs Green who may



have been her employer. By 27th February 1917 she is living closer to home at 'Danecroft' in Stowmarket.

She is then working for a Colonel St John Fancourt Michell Fancourt (yes, that is his name according to Burke's Peerage) and his wife. Unfortunately he passes away in the June of that year.

A postcard dated 28th March 1919 from another future sister-in-law, Gertrude Fellingham shows that by then she had moved to 15 Old Court Mansions, Kensington W8.

A search of the 1921 census shows her resident there, in the household of Mrs Ethel Fancourt, a widow. It seems that Mrs Fancourt took her with her when she moved to the London property after the death of her husband.

This was not a tiny residence. It comprised nine rooms and Rose was the only resident maid. Lizzie Green, Rose's friend was the cook. It is believed that Rose cooked the meals

if Lizzie was away.

She obviously liked being in London as she had several professional photographs taken while she was there.

Rose spent many weekends with her sister Sophie Thorp who had married and lived in West Norwood.

By 25th June 1922, six months before she was married, Rose was living at the 'Homestead' in Woolverstone near Ipswich working for Mr William Claud Swanzy Cleaver and Mrs Sybil Constantia Cleaver. William Cleaver is described as a West African merchant in the 1911 census.

When Rose left the Cleavers' employment to marry her childhood sweetheart Frederick Fellingham, she was given a set of silver coffee spoons, presumably a wedding present. The box still contains Mrs Claud Cleaver's calling card.

After the wedding at Bressingham Church on 6th January 1923, Rose and Fred went to live in a thatched cottage on the Low Common in South Lopham.

After years of living in various places including London, my grandmother was bored to tears, so in 1926 they moved with their daughter, my two-year-old mother Peggy, to Rickinghall over the border in Suffolk.

An opportunity had arisen to rent a cottage with an attached sweet cum tobacconist's shop. My grandmother ran this as her business with her name over the door.

My grandfather operated his own business as a fowl dealer from the old

outbuildings in the back yard. Seven years later Hannah Lines, the owner of the premises, died so my grandmother had the opportunity to buy the cottage and sweetshop.

There was one drawback - she had to buy the three smaller cottages in the row as well, as the executors insisted on selling the cottages to one buyer.

My grandmother only had enough money to buy her own cottage but fortunately her brother William Musk of Scole came to her aid. He had become a prosperous farmer, self taught and highly regarded in South Norfolk. She obtained a mortgage of £200 from him, formally drawn up by a solicitor.

My grandfather said that he was happy for her to do this herself without his involvement. She paid the princely sum of £295 for the four cottages and shop, paying interest of £4 10s per centum per annum until 1946 when they had enough money to pay back the capital. We still have the original tenancy agreements drawn up with the tenants in 1933.

Rose ran her business until 1971, when she was approaching her 76th birthday and the change to decimalisation was a step too far. She continued to live at the former shop until she passed away on 4th April 1979.

Many girls from rural communities who sampled a different life beyond Norfolk would have had the aspiration to have a career or own a business.

If you married, a lot depended upon whether or not your husband would allow you to do it. In this respect my grandmother was very fortunate.

What's Your Verdict?

By Alan Harper

Another in our tales from the Norfolk Assizes, in which we invite you, the reader, to put yourselves in the position of an early 19th century jury and decide on your own verdict.

It is 1st November 1828. Mr. Maitland, an attorney, and his wife are in their gig (a light, two wheeled carriage pulled by a single horse) en route from Hockering, a village in mid-Norfolk, to the town of Dereham, about six miles away. Their horse has recently been a little flighty and, on at least one occasion has "lifted its legs". Reaching Etling Green close to their destination, they encounter a horse and tumbrel (an open cart) coming in the opposite direction at a "furious rate" straight towards them. The road here is about seven metres wide.

Only three boys are with the tumbrel, the eldest of whom - Thomas Johnson - is 12 years old. They have no reins with which to control their horse. All three are employed by local farmer Mr. Bunn. Mrs. Maitland, wary of her own horse's recent flighty attitude and apprehensive of the danger caused by the boys' oncoming horse, jumps out of her gig and in so doing breaks her leg just above the ankle.

The tumbrel horse, frightened by her action and shrieks of exclamation, darts to one side and just misses colliding with the gig before running down the road. Mrs M. is confined to bed for several weeks and will be lame for the rest of her life. Needing medical care from various doctors over some months comes at a cost of at least £15. At no time does Mr. Bunn inquire after

her wellbeing during her recovery or offer any apology.

Mr. Maitland brings a case against Mr. Bunn seeking recovery from him of the cost of his wife's medical care, claiming he - Bunn - has been careless by failing to ensure his horse was under proper control. Giving evidence, young Johnson says that his master's horse was frightened by a large dog in the roadway, that he does his best using a whip to keep it clear of the approaching gig, and that it doesn't break into a gallop until the gig is well past. He says he has driven the horse for several years and nothing like this has happened before. But he is blamed under cross-examination for failing to lead the horse as Mr. Bunn instructed him and for not using reins.

An eyewitness states that he thought Mr. Bunn's horse leading the tumbrel was a "fine spirited cart horse" but that the boys are perfectly capable of managing it. Another witness says that Mrs. M. would not have been injured had she stayed in the gig, and that the testimony of the boy Johnson was fabricated. The defence argument is that Mr. Bunn says he regrets the incident; that the boy was perfectly competent to manage his horse, which might have run away even with an experienced driver in similar circumstances; and that the only reason Mrs. M. had jumped from her gig was her own anxiety at the previous restlessness of her own horse. The defence argument is further bolstered by one Thomas Clark, who claims that on the day of the incident he is asked by Mr. M. to lend him a horse as his own had been kicking, on one other

occasion bundling both Mr. and Mrs. M. out of their gig but without injury. The jury is asked to decide whether Mr Bunn had been negligent in failing to ensure proper control of his horse, and whether the incident happened because Mrs. M, in jumping from her gig, was under a reasonable apprehension of danger from the approaching horse and tumbrel. Bear in mind that:

1/ The judge rules it immaterial whether it would have been safer for Mrs. M to sit still, provided there was sufficient alarm to cause her to take the action

she did. 2/ Mrs. M's own son says he would not describe his mother as a timid person. 3/ Mr. M. is comfortably able to afford the medical bill. 4/ No witnesses other than the youth Johnson mention the presence of a dog in the road.

So, what's your verdict? Was Mr. Bunn negligent, or was the tumbrel horse was controlled immaterial and Mrs Maitland had no reasonable cause to jump from her gig. You can find out whether you were right or wrong by turning to page 60.

Norfolk Christmastime Quiz by Alan Harper

Take a tour around Norfolk with our Christmas and winter themed quiz! Each of the place names in the county below contains the letters which make up a word or phrase associated with Christmas or wintertime. The first letter is given for you, and the number in brackets shows how many letters are in each answer. Example: Reymerston t (4) gives you tree. Questions 8, 11, 13 and 20 have two place names and those answers are two words. If you need another clue, turn to page 32. The answers are on page 60. Good luck!

1. Haveringland a (5)
2. Bawdeswell b (5)
3. Rackheath c (4)
4. Rockland St Mary c (5)
5. Brancaster Staithe c (4)
6. Topcroft Street f (5)
7. Framingham Pigot g (4)
8. Hickling / Upper Sheringham i/s (5/5)
9. Sheringham m (6)
10. Reymerston m (5)
11. Ingham Corner / Limpenhoe m/p (5/3)
12. Itteringham m (6)
13. Bunwell / Great Yarmouth n/y (3/4)
14. Fornsett St Peter p (7)
15. Neatishead s (5)
16. Wiggenhall St Germans s (6)
17. North Walsham s (4)
18. Horstead s (4)
19. Tilney All Saints t (6)
20. Mundesley / Shelton Green y/l (4/3)

Battle of Britain—The People's Project

A NATIONWIDE search for untold stories about the Battle of Britain has been launched by author and historian Dilip Sarkar MBE as he sets out to write the ultimate book about the event that changed history. Members of the Norfolk Family History Society are being invited to help the project by providing material or memories.

The author of more than 50 books, many about the Battle of Britain and the men who fought it, Dilip is planning a comprehensive, seven-volume history of the 1940 aerial conflict that saw the Royal Air Force deny Hitler's invasion plans.

The work is being published by Pen and Sword in association with the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, custodians of the National Memorial to the Few at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent, with the aim of including previously untold stories from around the country.

"The central story of the Battle of Britain, when fewer than 3,000 aircrew stopped Hitler in his tracks in the summer of 1940, is relatively well known, but it goes much wider than just the bravery of the men who took to the skies to defeat the Luftwaffe," Dilip explained.

"The aim of *Battle of Britain: The People's Project* is to unearth all the other stories. Tales of groundcrew, of volunteers, of factory workers and family members who 'did their bit' on the ground while the fighters tackled the threat in the air. These are stories I



want to tell as part of a comprehensive history of perhaps the most important battle fought by this country in the whole of the 20th century."

Dilip was inspired in part by visiting the family of Squadron Leader Tom Gleave, a Hurricane pilot based at RAF Kenley with No 253 Squadron in 1940, while researching another new book.

"Although I clearly knew the Tom Gleave story, during my visit I was shown a wealth of unpublished material and photographs, which made me wonder what other material people have tucked away in attics and cupboards," he explained.

"After all if such a huge amount of material relating to someone who was once as famous as Tom Gleave could stay undiscovered for many decades, then what else is out there? There must surely be many untold stories, particularly about less well-known aircrew, ground crew and civilians who found themselves caught up in this incredible story.

"I'm looking for anecdotes and family stories that highlight the bravery, the sacrifice and the determination shown by those who may not have flown a Spitfire or Hurricane but were an integral part of the Battle of Britain,"

Dilip added.

Those with stories to tell or material that could be included in the ultimate Battle of Britain reference work should head to the *Battle of Britain: The People's Project* website at <http://battleofbritainpeoplesproject.com>.

"The headlines may have been written in 1940 at airfields like RAF Kenley, but the stories are still being told today. Please help make this work as comprehensive as it can be," Dilip concluded.

A Writer of Comic and Satirical Literature

THE latest publication from the Norfolk Record Society is "The Literary Papers of the Reverend Jermyn Pratt (1723-1791)."

The Reverend Jermyn Pratt was a close friend of the poet Christopher Smart (1722-1771), who mentions Pratt and his sister Harriot in several of his poems, including the poem for which he is most famous, "Jubilate Agno" (1759-1763).

Jermyn Pratt was himself a highly idiosyncratic writer of comic and satirical literature. His often hilarious writings provide new insights into the distinctive literary culture in Norfolk and the ways the Anglican clergy participated in church and national politics. Pratt's dramatic, poetic, and essayistic writings also complement the diary of James Woodforde (1740-1803), painting a vivid picture of the pressures and pleasures of parish life in rural Norfolk.

More detail of the volume is on the society's website at:

<https://www.norfolkrecordsociety.org.uk>.

Copies can be purchased from that website for £25 plus postage and packaging.

Editors of the book are Ema Vyroubalová and James Robert Wood.

The society also posts regular blogs relating to past and present publications and these are also available from the website.

Another Query

I am trying to find information about my ancestors and complete our family tree, easier said than done. I found information on the 1939 census, with redacted information. Am I able to find out what was redacted, with members' help please? Sidney Gent, my grandad, was farm manager at Balaclava Farm, Ter-rington St Clements. Olive Gent my grandmother, William Gent b 1924, my dad (deceased), Jon Gent b 1935 (deceased). Then it says there is one other record redacted. Could that be something to do with my aunt, Patricia born 1927 (deceased) ?

I would be grateful for any information.

Carol Simpson nee Gent: Home 01304 812741, Mobile 07359081073.

The Decline and Fall of The Gleanes of Hardwick

By Timothy Baker

AT the beginning of the 17th century the Gleane family were among the civic elite of Norwich, then England's second city.

A century later, the family's main representatives were an imprisoned bankrupt and a probate official who would take his own life. They were victims of ambition, party politics, overspending, infant mortality, and 'melancholy madness'. In the male line they were doomed: their baronetcy, created in 1666, was extinct four generations later in 1745.

A monumental inscription at Hardwick, Norfolk, and a Latin begging letter in Cambridge University Library, dramatically illustrate their downfall. It was only through the female line, in the Morrell family in North America, and the Perfect family in England, that their descendants prospered.

Thomas Gleane (?-1603) was a draper or mercer in Mancroft, the richest part of Norwich, near the marketplace of what was then a great centre of woollen cloth manufacture, and the second city of England.

The market church is St Peter Mancroft, Norwich's grandest 'wool church'. Thomas's father, another Thomas Gleane, had also been of that parish. Other Gleanes were haberdashers at Diss, on the Norfolk border.

Thomas the younger was fully established among the civic elite. He was Mayor of Norwich three times, in

1583, 1592, and the year of his death, and the city's Member of Parliament in 1589. He used his wealth to acquire the manors of Hardwick and Boltons in the parish of Hardwick, ten miles south of Norwich in the direction of Diss. He married local gentry: first, at St Peter Mancroft, Alice Wolmer (c1541-1596), daughter of Robert Wolmer of Shotesham; and second Alice Barker, daughter of Henry Barker of Aylsham.

Thomas's and Alice Wolmer's son Sir Peter Gleane (1564-1633) took the family to the height of its fortunes. Educated at Clare Hall, Cambridge, in 1584 he married, at her home church, St Andrew's in Norwich, Maud Suckling (1566-1631), daughter of Robert Suckling, a Norwich mercer and merchant adventurer, twice Mayor and twice MP for the City.

Robert's grand tomb in St Andrew's Church, paid for by Maud's brother the Comptroller of the King's Household, Cavalier poet, wit, gallant, and gamester Sir John Suckling, testifies to the family's wealth and status. Another of Robert Suckling's descendants was the greatest of Norfolk's sons, Admiral Lord Nelson.

Sir Peter, a wine and timber merchant at Norwich and Diss, was Mayor of Norwich in 1615, knighted in 1624, added Irstead, Norfolk to the family estate, and was the largest householder in St Peter Mancroft parish in 1633, in which year he gave to it the elaborately worked silver gilt 'Gleane Cup', which remains the centre piece of the church's plate. He was Mayor of Norwich in 1615, and MP for

the City in 1628. He was buried with Maud in St Peter Mancroft Church, and bequeathed money for a tomb. Ominously, however, no monument was ever built, as the political uncertainty of King Charles I's clash with Parliament loomed.

Sir Peter reinforced the family's position in the Norwich oligarchy and Norfolk gentry through his children's marriages:

Mary Gleane (1585-1631) married William Pettus (1583-1648), son of Thomas Pettus who was Mayor of Norwich in 1614. Norfolk historian

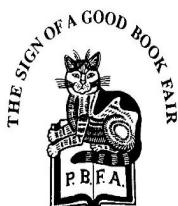
Francis Blomefield described the Pettuses as 'principal merchants of this city'.

Thomas Gleane (1586-1661), married first, at Redenhall, Norfolk, Elizabeth Brewse (1588-1636), daughter of Thomas Brewse of Little Wenham, Suffolk; and second Ann Waldegrave (?-c1642), daughter of Edward Waldegrave of Lawford, Essex, and widow of Sir Drue Drury, Baronet, Knight of the Shire for Norfolk in 1621, and MP for Thetford in 1624.

Elizabeth Gleane (c1590-?), married Henry Lane, of Mancroft and St

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Gregory, Norwich, who was Mayor of Norwich in 1640.

John Gleane (1593-1665) married Easter Lynnett (c1611-1657), established himself at South Elmham St Cross, Suffolk, and was father of Leonard Gleane (1635-1683), a woollen draper of St George Tomblond, Norwich. This branch of the family suffered heavy infant mortality.

Leonard Gleane (c1594-1654), of Saxlingham Nethergate, Norfolk, married Anne Puckle (1596-c1670), daughter of Samuel Puckle of Lowestoft, Suffolk, a London Merchant Taylor. Apart from Thomas Gleane's this was the only branch of Sir Peter's family known to have had an extensive, and continuing, progeny through the female line, some of whom, in the early generations, used 'Glean' as a boy's Christian name

Thomas Gleane's and Elizabeth Brewse's tomb in the chancel of St Margaret's Church at Hardwick, paid for by their son Peter, has the first monumental record of the family's genealogy:

'In Memorye of Thomas Gleane Esq. Eldest Sonne of Peter Gleane Knight & Dame Mawde His Wife. Likewise Elizabeth the Wife of the Said Thomas Daighter & Heire of Thomas Brevse Esq & Elizabeth His Wife, interred together in the Sacred Cœmiterye of this Church, who together had Seaven Sonns two only Srviveing both their Parents, Peter & John. Peter Gleane Esq Eldest Sonne of the Deceased Caved this Alter Table Heere to be Erected. He died 27 of Jan: Ano. Doni 1660 Aged [] She dyed the 22 of July Ano Doni 1636 Aged about 45.

No Person vpon Earth Can Happye

Bee

Beatitvde Comes after Exeqvie.'

Elizabeth Gleane the younger's husband Henry Lane was ejected from his Aldemanry of Norwich at the beginning of the Civil War in 1642 because of his Royalism. This was the beginning of more troubled and less prosperous times.

The Gleanes were Royalists in the midst of a Parliamentary county. Thomas Gleane's and Elizabeth Brewse's son Sir Peter Gleane (1619-1696) went to Somerset to fight with Sir Thomas Bridges, where he 'raised and armed two foot companies at his own charge'.

It was while he was there that he presumably met his first wife Penelope Rodney (c1625-1689), daughter of Sir Edward Rodney of Rodney Stoke, Somerset, who was MP for Wells in 1621, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1640 (both Parliaments), and in the Royalist Oxford Parliament of 1644; and Knight of the Shire for Somerset in 1628. Rodney was another Royalist: though he claimed not to have taken up arms, he did raise a trained band which fought in Somerset and Cornwall in 1642-1644.

Peter's brother John Gleane (c1625-1671) led a quieter existence, marrying Elizabeth Astyn and living at Barton Hall, Great Stambridge, Essex. They had no known surviving offspring. As noted on the Hardwick tomb, none of Thomas Gleane's other children survived infancy. Peter Gleane remained a suspected Royalist under the Protectorate.

The guidebook of Hardwick Church suggested that the Parliamentarians demolished the manor house at

Hardwick to punish his allegiance, though such drastic action seems unlikely, as his father, who is not known to have been a belligerent, was presumably still occupying the estates through the Interregnum; other sources place the house's demolition in the early 18th century.

As the History of Parliament states, Peter did not compound with Parliament, presumably because in his father's lifetime he had no estates worth sequestrating. Even so, after the war the Gleanes seem to have lived at Grange Farm rather than the Hall, so perhaps the latter had become dilapidated.

Peter Gleane's spending was quite high enough on its own to eat into his inheritance. In 1666, he acquired a Baronetcy of England, during the Second Dutch War, when, as second in command to Horatio Townshend, Viscount Townshend, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Gleane helped to lead the defence of Great Yarmouth.

The History of Parliament quotes Robert Paston, 1st Earl of Yarmouth, the leader of the rival political faction in Norfolk, describing Sir Peter as 'a melancholy man', perhaps owing to financial difficulties. Gleane and Townshend were removed from local office in 1676.

Sir Peter appears then to have dissipated his fortune on election and legal expenses, at the time of the new fashion for contested elections. Norfolk was then one of the most populous counties of England, and must have been an expensive constituency to fight when bribery was an important source of votes. He was elected as Exclusionist (whig) Knight of the Shire for Norfolk in the second election of

1679, but the instability of his political position seems to have caused alarm among electors. Lord Yarmouth reported a speech to the freeholders, after the election, in which Gleane said 'that he would faithfully discharge his trust, by truly serving the King, and his mother the Church of England as it is now established, and his country, which speech did so far displease a great many of that part who did choose him, that if he had declared this as freely before the election, I believe he never had been elected by them, for they stick not to say already they fear he will turn pensioner'.

Even so, he stood again for, spent more money on, and won, the 1681 Norfolk election. He sat on five Parliamentary committees, but was never recorded as speaking in the House of Commons.

Sir Peter claimed £200 in expenses from Townshend, who instructed his agent to 'let Peter know that I would not for £500 be beholden to him for one pennyworth of service, or anything else'. Townshend authorised payment only of any amounts that had been promised to Gleane already, but nothing further.

In 1683, in the words of the History of Parliament, 'Gleane's melancholy took ... a morbid and extravagant form'. He built a tomb for himself and his wife, next to his father's in the chancel of Hardwick church, and composed for it an inscription whose self-justifying and self-pitying tone struck a note which his son repeated 20 years later in his begging letter to John Strype (see below):

'Under this stone is the burying place of Sr Peter Gleane barrt and his Lady Dame Penelope daughter to Sr Edward

Rodeney Knt. He served Charles the 1st in all the civil wars raised and armed two foot companies at his own charge. He served the Crown faithfully about 40 years in military offices, from a lieutenant to a colonel of foot and in this county of Norfolk as lieutenant colonel in the militia and was deputy lieutenant, and likewise colonel and deputy lieutenant for the City of Norwich.'

'In his civil station he bore the character of justice of peace within this county about 20 years and had the honor twice to be chosen one of the representatives of the same to serve in Parliament: In which several services for his King and country he spent his strength and weakened his fortunes and the wounds which that received were not healed in this year 1683.'

The mottos on the coats of arms on the tomb are 'Jay serve mon Roy' and, more belligerently, 'Non Generant Æquilæ Columbas'. ['I have served my King', and 'Eagles do not breed Doves'.]

Evidently there was by now no money left. Legal process was begun in 1686 to exact the fee of £1,095 still due, twenty years later, for Gleane's baronetcy, but was stayed by the Lord Treasurer, Laurence Hyde, 1st Earl of Rochester, presumably because he realised that there was no money left for it to be paid with.

Sir Peter was forced to sell Hardwick, to fellow baronet Sir John Holland, in order to raise money. When they died in 1689 and 1696 Penelope and Sir Peter were said to have been buried in the churchyard for lack of funds to open their tomb.

The decline of the Gleanes continued. Sir Peter's children were: Hannah

Gleane (c 1645-?), who married Thomas Morrell (? - 1704), and emigrated with him to New York following the cession of the colony by the Dutch in 1664. They were the ancestors of an extensive Morrell family in North America, and of a loyalist branch which went to Canada after the American Revolution;

Sir Thomas Gleane, 2nd Baronet (1652 - c 1703), educated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, who completed the dissipation of whatever remained of the family fortune, despite his marriage first, at Oby, Norfolk to Anne Mapes (?- 1681), of Rollesby, Norfolk, probably the daughter of Captain Francis Mapes, who had worked as a surveyor for the Virginia Company in America in the 1620s; and second, in London, to Frances Chamberlaine (c 1662 - ?), daughter of John Chamberlaine, of Newton Harcourt, Leicestershire;

Rodney Gleane (1653-?), educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he died while still a student;

Frances Gleane (1658-1675), who married John Pullin, without known surviving offspring.

Frances Chamberlaine must have brought estates with her, since her daughter later married a Leicester land agent managing her son's estates.

There was no escape for her husband, however. In the epitaph for Anne Mapes's ledger stone at Rollesby, Sir Thomas repeated the words his father had inscribed on his grandparents' tomb and which proved prescient of his own earthly fate:

'No person that's on earth can happy be

Beatitude comes after exequie.'

In 1698, Sir Thomas was imprisoned in the Fleet Prison for debt. In late 1703 or early 1704, still there, he wrote a begging letter, partly in Latin, reporting his miserable condition, to John Strype, antiquarian curate of Leyton, Essex, biographer, and reviser of John Stow's "Survey of London". Strype preserved it, and it is now item 222 in the Strype Collection in the Cambridge University Library:

'To the Reverend Dr Strype

Dr of Low Leighton at his house in Low Leighton in Essex.

This was in Latin but the translation is as follows:

But ye Cup of my affliction being yet not full and Bitter enough, in ye time of ye late great Tempest or Hurricane November 27th last by ye fall of a chimney at Chelsea where shee was in service my daughter not 20 yeares old had both her Arme and Leg Broken and will be a Cripple tis thought all her dayes: And by ye same Tempest my only deare son not five yeares old and all I had alive of nine sons was then destroyed, and is since dead to my endlesse discomfort in this world.

Temperet a Lachrymis quis jam jam talia fando?

Sorrows come sildome single; hard happs brake:

Like Throngs of Waves, upon each others neck.'

[Translations:

From Sir Thomas Gleane, Baronet of the order of creation of all England in the year [16]19, bearer of this letter.

Most Reverend Doctor of Holy Theology, your paternal kindness will

not despise this letter, however it be, presented by Sir Thomas Gleane, Baronet of all England, and the most impoverished member of the Church of England, heavily burdened by many necessities. From your clemency and sense of pious duty, condescend to alleviate my destitution, take pity on my worth and my poverty, and bestow upon me, in this my most wretched state, your compassion and charity. Take pity on me, incarcerated for three years in this most wretched Fleet Prison, almost bereft of clothing and starving for want of bread. Most distinguished Sir, overlook my boldness and importunate request, and bring me swift assistance in achieving my liberation from this prison. For the grace and proper safety of you and all that are yours I will most gratefully offer all my humblest prayers.

These words come from your most humble petitioner and pensioner, and most obedient servant.

In telling of such matters, who now could refrain from tears?]

How much of this is accurate is uncertain. At least one son did survive to succeed to the baronetcy, though some sources suggest, improbably, and perhaps on the strength of this letter, that the 3rd Baronet was Sir Thomas's brother. It is true that the great storm of 1703 toppled some 2,000 chimneys in London, including some at St James's Palace, where Queen Anne had to shelter in a cellar, and that casualties across England were in the thousands.

Only four of Sir Thomas's children are known, two by Anne Mapes:

Sir Peter Gleane (c1673-1719), 3rd Baronet, who married first Jane

Peters, daughter of John de la Pierre, a Flemish Huguenot physician of Canterbury; and second Margaret Harvey, daughter of Major Richard Harvey, of Tilmanstone, Kent;

Philip Mapes Gleane (?-1680), who presumably died in infancy, buried with his mother at Rollesby;

and two by Frances Chamberlaine:

Penelope Gleane, who presumably died in infancy; and Frances Gleane (1684-1747), who was about the right age to have been the victim of the Chelsea chimney, though there is no other evidence that she was; she married, at St Martin's church, Leicester, William Perfect (1685-1755).

After his letter to John Strype, the 2nd Baronet fades from history. The time of his death and the place of his burial are unknown. Quite possibly he died in the Fleet Prison soon after writing the letter.

The 3rd Baronet was educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, but the diminished status of the family is suggested by his taking a job, as Proctor of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Kent, a probate court for the Province of Canterbury.

He was a modest poet and wrote elegies on the deaths of Archbishop William Sancroft in 1693, and of Queen Mary II in 1694.

Evidently, however, he had inherited his grandfather's (and father's?) 'melancholy', for in 1719 he hanged himself. He was adjudged non compos mentis, and so allowed to be buried in St George's Church, Canterbury.

Sir Peter Gleane's and Jane Peters's son Sir Peter Gleane (c1696-1745), 4th and final Baronet, was an

apothecary in the parish of St Clement Danes, Westminster, where he was buried. He married Johanna Skinner (1710-1751), but had no surviving sons, so the ill-starred Gleane baronetcy died with him. Of his other children, several of whom died in infancy, at least two daughters survived to marry: Jane Gleane (c1696-?), who married Robert Edgecombe and Mary Gleane (c1701-?), who married George Turberville but neither seems to have had surviving children.

That left the 2nd Baronet's daughter Frances Gleane, who became the matriarch of the Perfect family.

According to family tradition William Perfect was land agent to her brother the 3rd Baronet, presumably managing whatever of the Newton Harcourt estates had survived the depredations of their father.

The early Gleanes might have looked askance at a member of the family marrying into trade. But Perfect was said to be descended from wool staplers 'of good estate' – the same business the Gleanes had made their money in – so it looks as though the marriage was a case of new money buying into the old genus.

After Leicester, for a while they were at Dorchester, Dorset, and then at Worcester, where Frances was buried in St Helen's Church. William, described in his epitaph as 'of the City of Worcester', was buried in St James's Church, East Malling, Kent, where his epitaph describes him as 'truly pious ... and of the strictest probity.'

Frances and William had an extensive and distinguished progeny.

Rev. William Perfect (1712-1757), educated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, vicar of East Mallington, married Sarah Weller (1708-1769), probably daughter of John Weller of Oxford. Their son was Dr William Perfect (c1734-1809), variolator, man midwife, mad doctor, freemason, and poet, whose worldwide progeny included: miniature artist George Perfect Harding (c1779-1853); Singapore merchant and porcelain collector William Gulland (1841-1906), botanist Edmund Warburg (1908-1966), Congregationalist minister and philanthropist Thomas Perfect (1825-1891), and physicist and telescope designer Dudley Perfect (1896-1964).

Chamberlaine Perfect (1715-?), a wool stapler of Stockport and Macclesfield, Cheshire, married first Elizabeth Rhodes (c 1718-?), and second Ann Haytor (1716- ?); Chamberlaine and Elizabeth had an extensive progeny, particularly in America.

Rev. John Perfect (1717-1794), educated at Christ Church, Oxford, rector of Sopworth, Wiltshire, curate of Great and Little Badminton, Gloucestershire and chaplain and tutor to the Duke of Beaufort, married Anne Hopkins (1723-1781), daughter of David Hopkins of Stanton Drew, Somerset.

Rev. Henry Seymour Perfect (1719-1801), educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, curate of Shangton and Knipton, Leicestershire, married Jane Partridge (?-c1799). Their daughters married money, as did their son Henry Perfect (1748-?), who however inherited the Gleane spendthriftiness: his two wives having died, taking their entailed fortunes with them, he turned to begging letter fraud, pretending to be a clergyman acting on behalf of poor widows, and was transported to Australia in 1805.

Through their daughters, Henry the elder and Jane had an extensive progeny.

Peter Gleane Perfect (c1720-?) stayed in Worcester, and married Anne Baylis without known surviving offspring.

Frances Perfect married a Mr Wroot of Chatham, Kent, without known surviving offspring.

Dr William Perfect, of West Mallington, Kent, specialised in humane treatment of lunatics. His grandmother lived until he was 13.

It may not be fanciful to wonder whether the history of 'melancholy' in her family might not have influenced his decision to specialise in insanity.

Hint For Those Stumped By Our Puzzle

If you are stuck trying to work out our Christmas quiz on page 22 you might find the following hints helpful.

Norfolk Christmastime Quiz Clues -The answers from 1 to 20 are in alphabetical order. Numbers 1, 18 and 19 are things you might put on your Christmas tree, numbers 2 and 4 are things you might hear, numbers 3, 8, 11 and 20 are things you might eat, and number 10 is something we hope you'll be.

Archives and Libraries: Research Results by Alan Harper

Earlier this year, NFHS members were given the opportunity to participate in a survey undertaken by Laura Thompson, a student at the University of Sheffield, as part of her dissertation on 'How do family historians use Libraries and Archives'.

Laura has now completed her work and has kindly given Norfolk Ancestor permission to share her findings.

Out of about 136 survey respondents from around the world, females undertaking their own family history research outnumber males by more than 2:1 (67% to 31%).

Nearly half (45%) of family historians fall in the age range 66 to 75, and only 6% are aged under 50.

In terms of usefulness of resources, about 46% thought the most useful source to gather information is via paid subscription services (eg Ancestry, Find My Past and so on) versus only 16% who regarded libraries as the most useful information source.

Indeed nine out of ten respondents had a paid-for subscription service but equally libraries and archives were almost universally cited by respondents as achieving a number of benefits, including developing new skills, improving knowledge, gaining a better understanding of family history and as an inspiration to find out more.

Sixty-one per cent of respondents visit an archive or library once a year, 23%

once a month, 8% once a week and only 7% never do so. An overwhelming proportion (85%) of researchers who do visit an archive or library spend two hours or longer while they are there.

Research shows that local family history societies provide an excellent level of help.

Free resources were, unsurprisingly, widely used and DNA tests have been undertaken by 70% of respondents.

Above all, Laura's work highlighted that the more resources that are used, the wider the range of information the researcher is likely to uncover.

And pleasingly for everyone connected to NFHS, members of local family history societies who offer support to family historians were cited by respondents as being more likely to provide an 'excellent' level of help than were librarians and only marginally less likely to do so than archivists.

None of us who are members and volunteers at NFHS need any reminding of the benefits to be accrued from membership, not only to help in the thrill of our own family history chase but in the sense of satisfaction gained from helping others as well, and now the evidence proves it!

Our thanks again to Laura for allowing access to her work in the preparation of this article.

All data is sourced from her own work with representative numbers recalculated for easy reference to percentages where appropriate.

Zoom Dates For Your Diaries

We are continuing with our series of Zoom talks with a number lined-up for members in the next three months.

December 14th—Two Wars, Two Wives.

Jackie Depelle gives us 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.

January 24th 2023—Exploring Your Ancestor's Parish Church and Churchyard. by Celia Heritage.

What to look out for and how it would have been when your ancestors were there. Covers church interior, gravestones, styles, symbolism, Reformation, and burial.

February 23rd—Tulips, Topiary, Tradescanth and Thyme: 17th century gardens By Janet Few.

This talk is delivered by Mistress Agnes on one of her rare visits from the 17th century. She will describe gardening and the importance of gardens in their time, ranging from the country house gardens of Inigo Jones to the labourers' cottage garden. Find out how vital gardens were to the household economy of our ancestors and how various plants could be used. Find out what would be eaten? Which plants were used in the production of textiles? What form of pest control was used? Why do we plant bay trees outside our door? What plants have a household use? How can plants be used to cure illnesses? Mistress Agnes will answer all these questions and share her experience of the Stuart period.

Zoom talks open to members about five minutes prior to talk-commencement.

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Royal Celebration Ends In Disaster

By Juliet Bailey

THE article by Heather Etteridge on royal occasions in the June 2022 issue of *Norfolk Ancestor* reminded me about the sad fate of my ancestor David Hewitt.

My 3 x great-grandfather William Hewitt (1800-1878) and four of his brothers worked as gamekeepers in Norfolk in the Victorian period. One brother, Robert Hewitt (1796-1864), worked as a gamekeeper for the Petre family of Westwick from 1828 until his death. Robert was succeeded as gamekeeper for the Westwick estate by his son Robert Jr (1820-1885) who, when he retired about 1870, was succeeded by his brother Thomas (1837-1877). Thomas' son, David Hewitt (1865-1902), was the third generation to work for the Petre family at Westwick.

On 9th August 1902, the Petre family decided to host a village celebration for the coronation of King Edward VII and David helped out, with fatal consequences. The inquest report in the newspaper described what happened:

“On Saturday afternoon last, the Coronation was being celebrated at the Park, and the deceased was taking part in the discharge of large guns standing on the grounds. He had been sponging the guns out after they had

been fired. One of the guns had been discharged twice, and the deceased was in the act of pushing home the charge on the third occasion when the powder, which weighed about 12 ounces, exploded.

Witnesses next saw the deceased lying on the ground moaning and discovered that one of his hands had been blown off and the other was shattered, that his eyesight was gone, and his face was much discoloured. Jessie H. Mock, gunner of the Royal



Navy had instructed the deceased and another man how to sponge the guns out. One of the guns had been discharged twice and he then saw the deceased with a wet sponge ready to sponge it out a third time. The deceased apparently did not push the sponge home but drew it out after having forced it half way down. If the sponge had been properly used and had been rammed in up to the chamber, any fire inside would have been extinguished. Dr Leslie Hughes, house surgeon at the hospital, said

that deceased was suffering greatly from shock and in the evening both arms were amputated, but he died at 4 o'clock the following morning.

"Death was due to shock from the injuries sustained. A verdict of death from injuries received in consequence of the premature explosion of a cannon was returned."

David was buried at St. Botolph's Church on the Westwick estate, close to several family members. A photograph of his gravestone is opposite.

The other picture on the previous page was shared with me by a distant relative and another Hewitt descendant and is reported to be David Hewitt standing next to the duck decoy on the Westwick estate.



WE welcome articles, photographs and news from members.

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

ancestor@nfhs.co.uk

or by post to Kirby Hall, 70 St Giles Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1LS.

The deadline for copy for the March 2023 edition is January 15th. Any submissions received after this date will be automatically carried forward to the June 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>

Education Records—An Introduction

Richard Ashberry gives some tips on using education records

Types of Records Available

School records such as reports, team/group photographs, certificates of achievement (both academic and for sports etc), speech day programmes and school magazines are often found in family papers and this is especially useful for later records which may not yet be open to public consultation or may have been destroyed.

If the name of the school is known, then it may still be there and in possession of its own archives, otherwise records are most likely to be held in the local studies library or County Record Office.

Trade and other directories will be useful in establishing which schools existed at given places and points in time and make it easier to track which ones an ancestor could have attended. This will considerably narrow the search to see if any records do remain in the archives.

Public school records may have been published and will probably contain comprehensive information including ages, details of the father and many other details about the school such as who worked there and what its achievements were. Public school records are more likely to be available and usually contain a wealth of information.

A list of potential types of record

includes:

- Records of individual schools mainly dating from the mid-19th century onwards.
- Logbooks – these were mainly only created by primary schools, the earliest date from 1862 but many start once the school became under the Inspectorate. They were compiled by head teachers and will include inspectors' reports, details of day-to-day occurrences in the school, attendances, reasons for absence, accidents and illnesses of staff and children, weather conditions, visits to the school, punishments, local celebrations, awarding of prizes, grants etc.
- Admission registers dating mainly from the 1880s. These may include dates, ages, father's occupation, date and reason for leaving, previous and next place of education.
- Plans and photographs may date from the 1860s, but most will be much later. They could include photographs of the school buildings, groups of children (may be named) and other school activities. Plans are mostly likely to show existing layout and, where applicable, plans for expansion and the addition of new facilities.
- Punishment books may give names, ages, nature of the offence and punishment given.
- Local newspapers often carry reports and pictures of school achievements (and latterly educational failings) and activities.

- Timetables, curriculum and examples of teaching and learning aids.
- Financial records, inventories.
- Printed material such as brochures, information for parents and inspection reports.
- Examination entries and results.
- Minutes and other records of School Boards and governing bodies.

It should be noted that the above is a fairly comprehensive list of what could be available but, in many cases, very few, if any, substantial records may survive. Success is always more likely if one's ancestor was educated in a public school.

Having ancestors from Cambridgeshire, I had a look on the online catalogue for the Cambridgeshire Record Office and found that a considerable number of educational records were available. As I had only limited time to visit the record office, I decided to look at records from two areas of interest:

Haddenham – the parish where most of my ancestors originated.

Ely – where again some of my ancestors originated but where there were many more surviving records which would enable me to discover what genealogical use they may be, either to me (hopefully) or to other people researching the area.

I examined a number of records from various schools in Ely at the Cambridgeshire Record Office, but because of their delicate nature and a prohibitive cost for a photography permit, I have added below some

example transcriptions of some of them which give a flavour of what potentially could be found.

Log book of Ely Girls School 1894-1914

This provided an alphabetical index of teachers, giving their start and/or end dates and a reference to a more detailed entry in the log itself:

- *06/09/1909 – Re-opened school Olive French commenced as St-Fr*
- *10/09/1909 – Olive French attended on Wednesday morning instead of Thursday morning to observe Wednesday's lessons.*
- *30/11/1909 – Miss Fox resigned her post as S Fr. Timetable altered in the afternoon from 3pm to allow children to present small present to Miss Fox and to have some fun.*
- *W/ending July 20th, 1894 – A poor attendance on Monday afternoon owing to very wet weather. A holiday on Tuesday for the Sunday School treat. Numbers much lower during the week owing to measles having broken out amongst the younger children. A Fall visited on Wednesday morning. Average for the week 251.*
- *W/ending April 13th, 1894 – Examined and tested the School Registers and found them correct (242 present) Signed Edward H Lowe, correspondent. Attendances lower throughout the week. Many parents being engaged on out door work. Average for the week 243.*

Room nor	Size (ft)	Children (8sq ft each)	Children (10 sq ft each)
1	35x18	79	63
2	60x18	135	108
3	33x16	66	53
4	32x14	56	45
	Total	336	279

Also in the logbook was an accommodation plan which gave an insight into how the classes were accommodated and the numbers involved:

Summary of Inspection Report of Ely Girls School

The tone, discipline and attainments of this school are alike, all excellent. The spelling of the fourth standard is the weakest point – Reading, Recitation, Drill and Kindergarten work done by the lower standards deserve special commendation. Cookery and Dairy Work are very well taught.

Admission Registers

A number of these were examined:

- Ely Girls School 1884
- Ely Market Street National School 1949-1953
- Ely Prickwillow St James National School 1878-1901

- Ely Adelaide Bridge National School 1879-1937

Ely Stuntney National School 1880-1913

They were all very similar and provided details to varying degrees, an example of the most complete is given below but all contained at least the admission date, date of birth, name of child, leaving date and why they left.

Many had an alphabetical (by first letter) index showing the name and admission number which would enable the researcher to quickly find the entry for a specific child. The Table below is a transcript from Ely Girls School in 1894:

Miscellaneous documents

Inspection reports – these very clearly show the good and bad points of the school:

“The children want careful systematic

Admission number	842	860
Date of admission	18-06-94	10-09-94
Date of birth	..-07-86	25-04-83
Surname	Page	French
Child's Christian name	Susannah	Gloria
Father's Christian name	Henry	Samuel
Mother's Christian name	Alice	Julia
Residence	Newnham	Station Road
Occupation	Lab	Inspector at station
Reason for leaving	Home circumstances	Apprentice to dress making
Date of withdrawal	14-06-97	05-02-97

teaching" (Stuntney National School 1864)

Reports were frequent of the inspection of religious education by the Diocese of Ely and again these were very blunt, categorising performance as good, fair or fail.

These inspection reports did not contain any specific names, apart from the occasional teacher, but as in many of these records, they do give a very good idea of how schools worked and what was taught.

Examination Schedules – these gave the results of pupils' examinations in reading, writing and arithmetic and did give names together with the child's examination performance, date of admission, age and attendance record.

All this is very useful information specific to a child but only if the school attended is actually known. A very detailed schedule of the topics to be covered in drawing lessons was found for each standard – a precursor to the national curriculum!

Genealogical Use of Records

Records of education are of best use to genealogists when they provide ages and details of fathers including names, addresses, academic history, occupation etc.

The main sources of this information are the admission registers and if one is fortunate enough to have an ancestor attend a school where the records survive, then all this information could be available and provide useful data for inclusion in one's family history.

Other records such as punishment books and examination schedules also name pupils so would be useful in

enriching their history.

Log books rarely provided personal information with the exception of some which provide lists of the start and finish dates of teachers and sometimes their subject and registration numbers so this could be useful if an ancestor is a teacher.

Most of the records surviving do not actually provide genealogical data, but as has been described in a previous section, they can provide a very vivid account of life in the school at the time together with examples of the type of education children received, their attendance and attainment.

Some of the most useful educational records will be the pupil based ones retained by families such as certificates, reports, examples of work, achievements in sport, music etc.

It should be noted that whereas the records of some schools, particularly the public schools, have survived remarkably complete, many of those in more traditional schools have not survived.

If one is to stand any chance of finding information about an ancestor, then one must establish which school (or potential range of schools) they attended in order to find those records.

Directories are useful for establishing which schools existed at a particular time and these should be the first port of call if the school is not known from other sources.

Tertiary education records, particularly from the older universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, are very full and rich in genealogical information and some are indexed and available online now.

Letters, Notes and Queries

More About Unthank

I found Roger Morgan's article on Intwood Hall (September 2002 Ancestor) to be very interesting and I am especially grateful for his tracing the evolution of the name of Unthank Road in Norwich.

My fourth great grandfather was Dr. John Murray (1721-1792), one of the founding physicians of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. In doing further research on the hospital, I was intrigued to find that Unthank Road ran beside the original building. "Aha! I thought. I know where that name comes from." Dr. Murray was born in Roxburghshire near Hawick - on a farm named Unthank.

I theorised that Dr. M had used his influence to get the road named to commemorate his birthplace. A bit later on, however, more research revealed that Unthank was a surname well established in Norwich well before Dr. Murray's arrival, so my theory crashed and burned. Mr. Morgan's explanation further confirms this. So the Unthank connection appears to be pure coincidence. The lesson to be learned is never to rule out the role of coincidence in doing family research.

Robert Clinton—Mayfield, East Sussex

A Puritan Great Migration

I have traditionally thought that my 10th great-grandfather Joseph Grafton (1596-1682) originated in Southwold, Suffolk and emigrated to Salem, Massachusetts around 1635 as part of the Puritan Great Migration. His American descendants are well documented in the 1928 book entitled *The Grafton Family of Salem* by Belknap. This is freely available online here:

<https://ia600204.us.archive.org/27/items/grafonfamilyofs00belk/grafonfamilyofs00belk.pdf>

Now via staff at WikiTree the genealogical evidence suggests that Joseph Grafton came from Great Yarmouth in Norfolk. The records can be located here:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Grafton-13>

We are currently attempting to trace probate records via the Norfolk Records Office.

I would value collaboration with any NFHS members who are interested in the Graftons.

My email address is michael.pomerantz44@gmail.com

Michael Pomerantz

Research Becomes Addictive

I STARTED researching my family tree over 20 years ago and was a complete amateur at genealogy but my late husband was researching his tree so I thought I would follow suit. Little did I know how addictive it would become.

My father's side of the family seemed to be a good place to start and I asked him where his grandmother Jane Elizabeth Hylton Burcham was born and he told me Norfolk. This surprised me as he and his mother were both born in Hackney, London.

At this time all I knew from him was that my great grandmother was brought up on a farm in Norfolk and had a baby born the other side of the blanket, (his words not mine) and had met his grandfather William Cooper in Norwich.

They left Norfolk in 1882 and set up home together in London with her child who he knew as Uncle Henry and he went on to mention that Jane never went to school and could neither read nor write but, over time, William taught her to write her name.

A burial card which I had for her enabled me to work out her date of birth and I sent for her birth certificate and on receiving this started many years of research into her early life. I started from her and worked my way backwards to find her family.

There were not many records you could trace at that time, mainly just the census but thankfully, over the years, due to the internet, many more records were put online which made searching a lot easier. Over the years I came across many things that had happened in my great grandmother's life and feel sure many were well kept secrets but this made my research far more interesting to find 'skeletons' in the cupboard. I managed to search for Burchams way back to the 1700s when my 4x grandfather Hall

NFHS member Janice Brown tells us about some unexpected DNA results, family secrets and possible bigamy.

Burcham was born in 1756 at Baconsthorpe, Norfolk. He married Lydia Massingham in 1775 and they had eight children, their youngest was John born 1802 and he was my 3x grandfather.

John, a farm labourer, married Elizabeth Digby in 1820 at Brampton, Norfolk, and they also had eight children. In 1837 their daughter (my 2x grandmother) Mary Ann Burcham was born and the 1841 Census shows the family were living at Low Street, Brampton, Aylsham. By 1851, the Census shows the family were living at Cole Yard Row, Oxnead and Brampton and Mary Ann was now 14.

Six years later, having left home, she was working as a housemaid on a farm and on January 18th 1857 gave birth to a daughter and named her Jane Elizabeth Hylton Burcham (my great grand-mother) and I was quite surprised to find that she was illegitimate, on her birth certificate the father's name was left blank.

Mary Ann registered the birth signing her name with an X meaning she could neither read nor write but was intelligent enough to leave a clue as to who the father was by entering the name Hylton on the certificate. If the name Hylton was a clue to the father then this man was my 2x grandfather and at this time I didn't think there would ever be any possibility of finding out his Christian name or more about him and trace him back to 1857.

However, during the 'Lockdown' in 2021 I was able to spend much more time on research and my son got interested in genealogy as he wanted to trace his father's side of the family. He took out a subscription with 'Ancestry' and

subsequently took a DNA test. He tried to persuade me to take one but I kept refusing mainly due to the cost of £70, but after a while relented and took a test.

There were no surprises as to where my ancestors lived as I already knew they came from Devon, Kent and Norfolk and I had 389 matches to 4th and 5th cousins and grandparents but scrolling through all the matches only found a few that matched my family name.

This is not surprising as women's names change on marriage. However, one name came up which almost jumped out at me from my laptop, it was Hylton and I never thought in a million years that my DNA could be linked to a man who fathered my great grandmother back in 1857.

The lady who had Hylton on her family tree was related by marriage to Keren Happuch Hylton who was born in 1847. This seemed to be a very unusual name but I did some research and found it is a Hebrew name from the book of Job in the Old Testament and was the name of Job's eldest daughter. I now had more research to do on finding the family of Keren Happuch Hylton and started with the 1851 Census (which was the nearest Census to 1857 when my great grandmother was born).

I typed in her name and by luck found her straightaway, she was one of ten children born to Richard Hylton and Mary Ann Hylton (nee Sewell). Richard Hylton was a miller and farmer and owned Water Mill Farm, in Felmingham, Norfolk. The farm had 130 acres and he employed seven men. Looking up Felmingham on the map I found it was not far from Aylsham where my great grandmother was born.

Water Mill Farm was previously owned by Thomas Sewell who died in June 1829 and on 21st July Richard married Mary Ann Sewell (Thomas's daughter). He was only 21 when he was granted a 14-year lease on Water Mill Farm on 26th August 1829.

My imagination then went into overdrive as I knew Mary Ann Burcham was working as a housemaid on a farm when she gave birth to her daughter in 1857. Looking in the 1851 Census, I needed to find how many brothers Keren Happuch Hylton had that could have been in their 20s in the year Mary Ann gave birth and more importantly this would give me a clue as to Jane Elizabeth's possible father.

At one point I did think that maybe the farmer Richard Hylton could have been the father but the 1951 Census shows he was 49 years of age and would have been 55 in 1857. Although it is not impossible to father a child at this age I dismissed this possibility and thought it was more likely to be one of his sons but I couldn't be sure as they all shared the same DNA. Richard Hylton had six sons but it was only the three eldest that would have been able to father a child in 1857.

William Charles, born 1833, would have been 24, Richard Thomas born 1838 would have been 19 and less of a possibility was Jonathan Edmund born 1841 who would have been 16. I am wondering whether there are descendants of the Hylton family still living in Norfolk that know of rumours passed down through the generations about a scandal involving a lowly housemaid who was made pregnant by a son of a wealthy farmer.

Not having a Welfare State in those days, how did Mary Ann survive on her own with a baby and without any possibility of marrying the father? So I did some research on the subject of illegitimacy. If an unmarried girl had a baby and the father refused to marry her she could go to the local 'Justice of the Peace' and name the father and then a 'Bastardy Bond' would be issued and the father could enter into an agreement to support the child.

I have no idea if a 'Bastardy Bond' was issued but have scrolled through some records that are online but to date have not found any for the name Hylton (more research is needed). I guess this is where

the search for my 2x grandfather will end. However, if I had not changed my mind and taken a DNA test I would not have got this far with the 'missing link' in my family tree.

Researching these 'Bastardy Bonds' was very fascinating and I found the majority were for men of prominent positions in life fathering a child with girls working as servants or farm hands, there were even two vicars. Four years after giving birth to Jane Elizabeth, Mary Ann married an agricultural labourer named Edward Needs and the 1861 Census shows they were living on a farm with Jane Elizabeth.

Mary Ann and Edward went on to have three children, all boys, but sadly in 1870 she died aged only 30, leaving Jane Elizabeth at the age of 14 without any parents.

The two eldest Hylton sons, Richard and William, lived at Water Mill Farm most of their young lives and only married after their father died in April 1878. Richard, aged 41, married Harriett Holmes, aged 25, in 1879. William, aged 47, married Mary Ellen Lown, aged 25, in 1880, (seems strange how both married late in life and to much younger spouses).

William died in 1885 aged 52, after only five years of marriage and Richard died in 1921 aged 84. After doing more research on the brothers, I came across another similarity regarding William as it seems that he fathered an illegitimate daughter with Mary Ellen Lown in April 1874 (six years before they married). They named the child Nellie Laker Hylton Lown. I have found a baptism entry in church records and William was named as the father, so he did take responsibility for his child, although the couple were not married at that time.

I am wondering whether he could also be responsible for fathering the child of Mary Ann Burcham all those years ago. It is only speculation on my part that farmer Richard Hylton may not have wanted his sons to marry and leave the farm and

perhaps he would have cut them out of their inheritance if they did and maybe that is why both sons married late in life and after his death. Richard Hylton, farmer and miller died in 1878 aged 76 and left an estate worth £4,950 (quite a lot of money in those days) and he must have left money to his sons as, on subsequent Census returns both sons' occupation is stated as "Annuitant".

The Executors of his will were his daughter Kezia Moon (nee Hylton) and his youngest son Frederick Richard Hylton. Now I switched back to researching the early life of Jane Elizabeth Hylton Burcham. After her mother's death in 1870, the 1871 Census shows her aged 15 living with Edward Needs, a widower, and her three half brothers George aged eight, James aged five and John aged three and her occupation was housekeeper.

Trying to find Jane Elizabeth or Edward Needs on the 1881 Census was unsuccessful and I assumed Edward Needs must have died (although I have never found a death return for him) but did find that two of his sons were inmates in The Union Work House, Horsham St Faith's - John Needs aged 12 and George Needs aged 18.

Unfortunately, no date of admission was indicated. This would have given me a clue as to the year their father may have died and I can't think of any other reason why he would have put his children into the workhouse if he was still living.

Their other brother James Needs, aged 15 was working as a farm servant in Great Plumstead. I certainly recall before my father had died that he told me that Jane Elizabeth arrived in London about 1882 aged 26 and realised that there is a gap of 10 years of Jane's life that were missing from the family tree and at this time I had no way of tracing her as these missing years were between the 1871 and 1881 Census.

Way back in the early years of research, a second cousin of mine who was also doing a family tree sent me a copy of a marriage certificate that she had found for Jane Elizabeth Hylton Burcham and a Frederick Drake.

The marriage took place at Norwich Registry Office on 27th October 1873. Frederick Drake was a cordwainer and was 19 and living at Silver Road, Pockthorpe. Jane Elizabeth was a factory hand and was 17 and living at Old Brew Yard, Norwich. I was not convinced that this was my Jane Elizabeth due to the fact that family members never mentioned a first marriage (if they did know it was certainly a well kept family secret).

The certificate shows Burcham was spelt with an (i) instead of (u) and that her father was Charles Bircham deceased, a farm labourer. I thought this could not be her marriage as I knew she did not have a father but, talking to a fellow researcher, she informed me that to hide illegitimacy (which was a stigma in those times) people invented names of fictitious fathers to enter on the marriage certificate.

By ignoring this certificate it was the first and one of the biggest mistakes I have made whilst researching, but I was only just beginning to learn about genealogy. Over the years I came to realise that information on certificates and Census records can be wrong, some mistakes were made by the enumerator who took the Census and other errors were made by people giving false information (ie lies).

As Jane Elizabeth was not on the 1881 Census I decided to look for my great grandfather William Cooper and managed to find him. The 1881 Census shows him living as a boarder at 11, Marion Street, Bethnal Green and he was 26, unmarried and a shoemaker. I had a copy of my grandmother's birth certificate dated 1889 which confirmed that William and Jane had been living together from 1882-1889 before having a family together, (seems odd being together for seven years before having a family).

The certificate shows my grandmother Jane Matilda Cooper was born on 2nd March 1889 at 22, Warburton Road, Hackney. Jane registered the birth signing the certificate J.E. Cooper and not with an X so by now William must have taught her to write her name.

This led me to believe that as she signed her name Cooper and not Burcham they must have married at some point and I spent many years searching for a marriage between 1882 and 1889 either in Norfolk or Hackney but never found one.

In 1992, the 1891 Census was put online so I was eager to search further for the Coopers and took out a monthly subscription with 'Find my Past'. I typed in William Cooper's name, date and place of birth, four possible matches came up, three were living in Norfolk and one living in Worcester. Unfortunately after clicking on the three matches living in Norfolk they were not my William Cooper. I did not want to waste my credits and never checked the Worcester match as I only knew the Coopers lived in Hackney.

This was the second mistake I made by ignoring this entry but a few years later I was searching the 1891 Census again for other family members and on this particular day I had one credit left which, if I did not use the subscription, would expire. I never expected this entry to be my William but would have lost the credit anyway so I clicked on the Worcester link and could not believe my eyes because I had found William and Jane. Imagine my surprise and what a result. The Census showed William Cooper, aged 35, a shoemaker, and Jane Cooper, aged 33. There was also, Henry Cooper aged 16, a shoemaker and his relationship to the head of the household was son. There was also Jane Matilda Cooper, daughter aged two (my grandmother).

The family were living at 138, Spa Row, Blockhouse, Worcester, but why they were living there is a mystery as they were back in Hackney three years later when they had another daughter in 1894. The

information on this Census gave me a birth date for Henry which was 1875 and, as his name was now Cooper, I assumed that William had adopted him and had given him his name.

Searching for a birth of Henry Burcham in 1875 drew a blank and then I had an idea that perhaps the marriage certificate that I ignored all those years ago was correct and searched for a Henry Drake but this also proved fruitless. Of course, by now I was thinking the reason why I could not find a marriage for Jane and William was because she was already married and divorce was very rare in those days and practically non-existent for poor farm people like Jane.

By 1911, William and Jane had three daughters: Jane Matilda aged 22, Margaret Mary Ann aged 17 and Florence Eugene aged 15 and they were living at 18, Warburton Square, Hackney. Henry was not living with them as he would have been 36 and married.

The 1911 Census was the first one to also show details of how many years the couple had been married and the Coopers stated 33. I do not want to use the phrase "I think they lied" but shall I say they were a bit economical with the truth about their marital status.

At this time I could go no further with the Coopers so switched to research the Burchams and did manage to go back to 1775 when my 4x grandfather Hal Burcham married and I wanted to go back further and trace where he was born in 1756. One wet Sunday morning I was scrolling through pages and pages of births on the 'Family Search' website for Burchams and kept telling myself, just one more page then I would stop for lunch.

I have found over the years scrolling through the birth or death indexes can be very addictive, rewarding or disappointing and on this day it was the latter.

However, the pages suddenly started to give details of marriages (which I was not

looking for) so just as I was about to stop at the bottom of the last page there was an entry for a marriage that made me delay my lunch even further.

I could hardly believe my luck as I had found a marriage entry between J. E. Burcham and William Cooper. After all those years of searching I had found a marriage for my great grandparents purely by chance. The marriage took place in Hackney but what was more surprising was the marriage date, the year was 1930!

Had I uncovered another family secret, finding that they had lived together for 42 years in a common law marriage? This then confirmed to me that Jane had married Frederick Drake at the age of 17 and without a divorce (or his death) had still been legally married all those years.

After discovering this information I sent for the marriage certificate as I wanted to find out who the witnesses were at the ceremony as this would give me a clue as to what family members knew of this marriage.

However, the witnesses' names were not family names that I knew of and I can only assume this was a secret marriage and am not surprised as Jane and William could have hardly announced to their three daughters that they had just got married and had been 'living in sin' for 43 years, (nobody would bat an eyelid in this day and age but in the 1930s it was still a stigma).

The marriage certificate shows the marriage took place at Hackney Register Office on 4th November 1930. William Cooper was aged 75, a retired boot maker and Jane Elizabeth BURCHAM was a spinster aged 73 (she omitted Hylton from her name).

If as I suspected Jane was still married she should have put on the certificate Jane Elizabeth Drake, formally Burcham, but at least on this certificate she never made up a name for her father, (this entry was left blank). However, if Frederick Drake had

died she should have put on the certificate that she was a widow and not a spinster.

I would like to think that the reason Jane and William married at this time was because Frederick had died (but how would she have known if she had not seen him for all those years) or perhaps did they commit 'Bigamy'? A lot of people did in those days and so I did some research on the subject.

In the Victorian and Edwardian times, it would have been impossible for vicars or registrars to check if that information on marriage certificates were correct, they just had to accept that the couple were telling the truth. It was very easy to get married again if you moved to a different town and, although it was (and still is) a criminal offence, prosecutions for bigamy were comparatively rare. Another explanation why they married at this time was perhaps that William was in ill health as he died three months later in February 1930.

After all those years of research, I had uncovered many family secrets and for me it was very rewarding and interesting to have made these discoveries all those years later and I thought there would not be any more 'Skeletons' in the cupboard, but I was wrong.

As previously mentioned during the 'Lockdown' in 2021 I did more research on Jane's early life between 1871-1881 and I discovered another sad secret.

I was curious as to why Jane's first marriage failed. I wondered could it have been that Frederick Drake left her with Henry and started a new life with someone else? If he had died, Jane would have been a widow which would not have been a stigma and she could have married William Cooper way back in 1882, but guess I will never know.

Most of my previous research was done using the 'Family Search' website (which was free) but, having taken the DNA Test with 'Ancestry' I got a three month free subscription with them and took full

advantage of using it as they had far more records on their site.

After having failed to find a birth certificate for Jane's son Henry on 'Family Search' I got lucky on 'Ancestry' and found him straightaway, and the certificate shows Henry Howard Drake born 16th June, 1875 at Meadows Yard, Norwich. His father was Henry Drake and his occupation was bootmaker. Jane registered the birth signing her name Jane Drake formally Burcham with an X.

This confused me even more as there was a discrepancy with the name of Henry's father because Henry's father was Frederick and not Henry. I assumed the registrar made an error stating the father's name and Jane would not have noticed it as she could not read.

Another observation that I made after studying Jane's marriage certificate was that it shows Jane and Frederick married on 27th October 1873 at Norwich Registry Office and I assumed that as Jane was only 17 she must have been pregnant but Henry was not born until 18 months later. Normally in those days the first born son would be named after the father, therefore, was he Henry Frederick's son?

'Ancestry' also had a 'school admission' record from Pritchard Road School, Bethnal Green for Henry in 1882. Henry was seven and his date of birth was the same as Henry Howard Drake but the records show his name is now Henry Cooper and his father is William Cooper. Not knowing what the law was regarding adoption in 1882, this now proved that William did adopt Henry (officially or unofficially) and bring him up as his own child and therefore Frederick Drake must have died. I searched for a death for him any time between 1873-1930 and the only death I could find was for a Frederick Thomas Drake who died on 8th February 1874 in Norwich but on the records no age was shown. As the date was so near to Jane's marriage date I wondered whether this could be Frederick (although he had

never used Thomas as a middle name on the marriage certificate).

Over many years of trying to be a genealogist, I found that I needed to act like a sleuth and investigate many errors on census returns that gave me many 'red herrings' making my search even harder. Sometimes I had to go with my 'gut feelings' about an entry even if it seemed inaccurate and most times my feelings were correct and of course luck played a big part.

For some reason I had a feeling about this death entry and sent for the certificate (something I have never done before unless I was 100% sure of my facts as the cost was £11).

However, when the certificate arrived I found it was not for Frederick but for an infant but was not disappointed. Purely just by instinct and luck I had found another family secret.

The certificate shows Frederick Thomas Drake died on 8th February 1874 at Priory Yard, Cowgate Street, Norwich, aged just three months. An inquest was held and the cause of death was natural causes. The Father was Frederick Drake a shoemaker. So I subsequently sent for the child's birth certificate to find out if Jane was the Mother.

Sure enough when the certificate arrived it showed Frederick Thomas Drake was born on 13th. November 1873 at Palace Street, St James, Norwich, the father was Frederick Drake, a shoe finisher, and the mother was Jane Drake, formally Burcham. Jane registered the birth, signing her name with an X. It seems therefore that Henry was not Jane's first child.

Studying again the dates on the marriage and birth certificate showed Jane had a baby just two weeks after her marriage to Frederick on 27th October 1873 but sadly the child died three months later (I wonder why they married so late into her pregnancy).

I can only speculate that if Jane and Frederick only married because she was pregnant and the baby died, they parted soon after and maybe Henry her second child was not Frederick's child and she made a false declaration on his birth certificate, naming her husband as the father and it was not an error on the part of the registrar, but I will never know for sure.

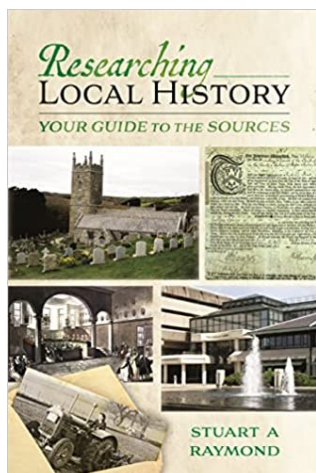
This might also explain why William Cooper was able to change Henry's name to his as perhaps Henry was illegitimate and was born 'the other side of the blanket' which my father told me all those years ago.

Jane's early life could not have been very happy, not knowing her father, losing her mother at 14, losing her first child aged three months and not having a successful first marriage. At least in the end she did have a happy 43 years with William and a marriage (whether legal or illegal) and had a son and three daughters and eventually 14 grandchildren.

William died of a cerebral haemorrhage and bronchitis on 4th February 1931 at 7, Croston Street, London Fields, aged 75 and was buried in Manor Park Cemetery. Jane survived William by eight years, dying on 14th November 1939 and, despite her trials and tribulations in her early life, lived to a good age of 83 and passed away quite peacefully in her sleep. So here ends the life story of my great grandmother. It may have taken many years of research but it has been so rewarding having discovered so many family secrets from the Victorian and Edwardian times which were so much different from the way we live now.

After the Coopers' deaths I can imagine when their daughters were sorting out all of their parents' belongings, how shocked they must have been to have uncovered all of these secrets and why they never shared them with my father I will never know. Perhaps these secrets had been hidden for such a long time they decided it was best to keep it that way.

Ancestor Bookshelf



Researching LOCAL HISTORY YOUR GUIDE TO THE SOURCES by Stuart A. Raymond

Pen & Sword Family History Series

Softback. Pages: 240. Price: £16.99

Illustrations: 40 black and white

ISBN: 9781526779427

Published: 28th June 2022

Review by NFHS Life Member Edmund Perry

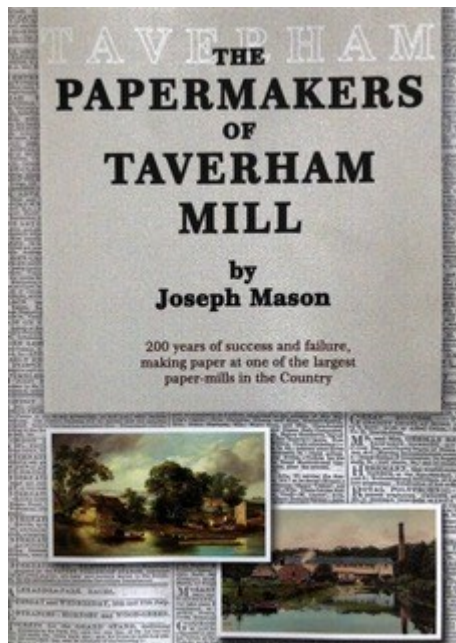
LOCAL history has been likened to a jigsaw puzzle and research compared to solving a giant maze. During the past 50 years, the study of how places and communities have changed, developed and grown over the centuries, has increased immensely with all sorts of books and periodicals being published, plus internet sites, devoted to family, town and village history, to social, economic or religious history. Most works of local history are still

compiled by amateur historians working independently or archivists employed by various organisations. These authors are often untrained and unaware of the increasing amount of source materials available, particularly those which have been digitised for the internet.

This is a welcome and useful guide by an author who has written numerous handbooks in the *Tracing Your Ancestors'* series and contributed many articles to local history journals. Stuart Raymond aims to make English local historians aware of the wide range of written sources available and to pose the questions which ought to be asked, identifying the specific sources which are likely to supply answers. He explains how and why sources were created, the uses to which they can be put, the limitation of the information provided, and some of the problems which may arise. The Chapter entitled *Preliminaries to Research* is a general overview of the most important resources regarding Books and Libraries; Archives and Record Offices; the Internet; Old documents; Calendars; Maps; Photographs and Prints; Parliamentary Papers; Newspapers and Journals; Place Names; Oral history; Measurements and Statistical analysis. Other chapter headings are self-explanatory: *People and Population; National and Local Government; Landed Property, Wealth and Poverty; Agriculture; Trade, Industry and Occupations; Living Conditions, Education, Religion and Leisure*; and he supplies an extensive subject Index. He admits to being selective, concentrating on sources relevant to parish history and barely mentioning prisons; military and political history; witchcraft; economic, oral and landscape history; topography, archaeology and architecture.

This book is well laid out and its contents readily accessible. The guidance enables one to explore and exploit the myriad sources available and exploit their vast range of information. It is a valuable guide not just for students, librarians, archivists and academics but for anyone researching local history, whether it be about a place, an individual, a family or an historical event.

Ancestor Bookshelf



The Papermakers of Taverham Mill by Joseph Mason, 2022. Paperback, 64 pages, A4 format.

Review by Alan Harper

I first became aware that Taverham was once the site of a paper mill quite recently when visiting the site - it is now a nature reserve - and it was by coincidence that the latest volume to be published by the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society covers the same subject. From its establishment in the early 18th century to eventual closure nearly 200 years later, the book is as much a potted biography of the individuals involved in the ownership and management of the mill as it is the industrial processes involved in paper production.

That makes it an excellent contextual companion for family and local history researchers, as we learn about the

relationship of the Sotherton and Branthwayt families, the clumsy attempts by one Richard Gardiner to marry into the former, the fate which befell the Ansted family consequent on the transition from hand to machine paper making, Richard Bacon who got carried away by his own enterprise and enthusiasm, the odd names which Mary Brown gave her illegitimate children, the wealth of Robert Hawkes and Simon Wilkin's descent into bankruptcy, the circumstances which led to Robert West damaging the mill machinery in 1830 and his subsequent transportation to Australia, the machinations at The Times newspaper and the involvement of the mill owners in them, and the Walter family who oversaw the mill's closure in 1899.

A measure of how meticulous is the research by Mr. Mason is that he writes in the preface that the book has been over two decades in preparation. The book is embellished with many illustrations, some in full colour, including contemporary maps, buildings, machinery, portraits and newspaper advertisements. Sourced from both primary and secondary documents, there is a selected bibliography, and foreword by Dr. Mary Fewster. Mr. Mason has set the standard to which all of us as family and local historians can aspire in creating our own written histories. See www.norfolkia.org.uk for more information.

Building The Civic Centre

The picture on the front cover shows the City Hall in Norwich at Christmas. It is considered by many to be one of the finest municipal buildings in England built during the inter-war period. Roger Morgan takes a brief look at the history of the building and its importance to the city.

THE first stage of the Norwich Civic Centre reconstruction plan, conceived during the 1920s, was the building of a brand-new fire station to replace the old one on Pottergate. This was built between 1932 and 1934 on a site in Bethel Street. It remained a fire station until it closed in August 2011 and in 2013, the building became the Isaac Newton Sixth Form Academy.

In order to build the new City Hall, the properties on the site close to St Peter Mancroft Church were gradually purchased by the Corporation and during 1935 they were demolished. The site was cleared and the foundation stone of the new building was laid on 24th September 1936 by the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Walter Riley. A second stone commemorating the architects was also laid.

The plans for the new five storey building included a series of offices for the various civic departments and a suite of committee and reception rooms including an octagonal Lord Mayor's parlour. There was also an ornate council chamber and a purpose-built police station in the south wing whilst at the other side of the main building was a 206ft (63m) clock tower. The northern wing was never finished.

It was decided that only the finest materials and the highest levels of



craftmanship would be used. Great attention was paid to the details and the bricks were custom made to be two inches longer than normal to match the buildings' elongated shape. The main entrance was topped by six polygonal columns and was flanked by two imposing bronze heraldic lions, designed by sculptor Alfred Hardiman.

Hardiman's colleague, James Woodford, was commissioned to





Site clearance April 1935

design three pairs of large bronze doors, decorated with 18 roundels. The roundels are relief sculptures, three to each door, depicting scenes from the trades, industries and history of the city. These included Kett's Rebellion, the Black Death, weaving, brewing, shoe, mustard, chocolate and silk making.

The striking frontage of the building is 280 feet (85 metres) wide and has a 200 feet long balcony which is one of the longest in Europe. It has long been rumoured that Adolph Hitler ordered his air force not to damage the building in World War Two because he admired its Art Deco design and wanted to give a victory speech from this balcony. This may or may not be true.

The most controversial part of the building was the clock tower on the north wing. It is 206 feet (63 metres) high and houses 'Great George', a 2.8 ton bronze bell with a notably deep tone. Critics said that the tower was an unnecessary expense and there were fears that it would dwarf the Guildhall.

The exterior architecture was considered to be very modern

for the times and was influenced by the Swedish Romantic Style. Comparisons to Stockholm's Concert Hall and City Hall, both completed in the 1920s, were made.

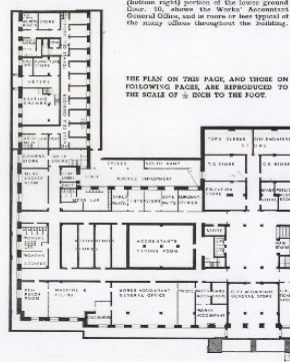
The interior is very Art Deco in style and the ornate council chamber still retains this look today. Once again, only the finest materials from around the world were used. It has desks in Honduras mahogany, edged with inlays of brass, and seats upholstered in finest Moroccan leather. Many of the rooms are panelled in elm, oak, teak and birch. The Lord Mayor's octagonal parlour is panelled in sycamore with French walnut trim, with the door finished in English walnut.

When the new building was completed, the old municipal offices in front of it were demolished, making the marketplace bigger. The official opening of City Hall took place on 29th October 1938. King George VI accompanied by Queen Elizabeth visited the city to perform the opening ceremony. They were greeted by a huge crowd which packed the marketplace. The King later visited Carrow Road for a football game.

Original plans

Lower Ground Floor

Design to the plan of the present the public can obtain direct access to the Registrar's Department from St. Peter Street without having to cross the city square, or, above the two Marriage Bells facing part of the department. Briefing doors, outside the two rooms to be used separately or together as required. The colour scheme is white and silver. The Police building is quite separate from the main building, the lower ground floor of which is represented by the basement of the Police block, the main meeting is below the north-east (former) part of the lower ground floor. It, above the Works' Accounts General Office, and in some or less typical of the many offices throughout the building.



It did not meet with unqualified approval. The comedian Norman Long likened it to a marmalade factory. (A year or so previously somebody else had compared the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon to a jam factory.)

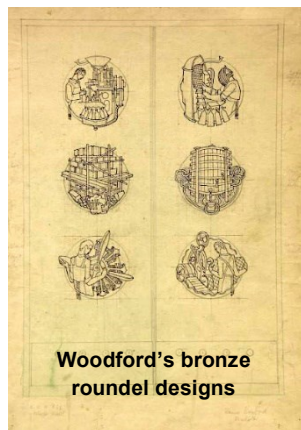
In recent years, plans to complete the north wing on St Giles Street to give the building symmetry and create a courtyard behind it, have been proposed.

This would make the three Hardiman sculptures of recreation, wisdom and education, currently hidden at the back of the building, more visible to the public.

It would also allow pedestrian access between Bethel Street and St Giles.



A Hardiman bronze lion



Woodford's bronze roundel designs



The Council Chamber



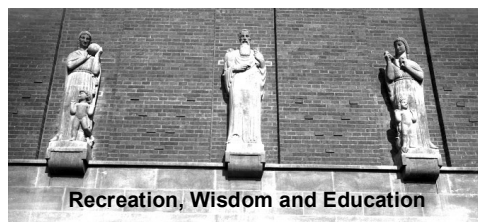
City Hall Opening 1938



Great George arrives



**George VI and
Queen Elizabeth
1938**



Recreation, Wisdom and Education



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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The Watsons of Methwold

by NFHS Member Rex Watson

IN 1588 the English navy destroyed the Spanish Armada.

In the same year, Thomas Watson appeared before the courts charged, with a number of others, for stealing rabbits from the warren of Thomas Wright in Methwold, Norfolk. The charge, and Thomas' defence, are in a document at the National Archives ref DL4/31/38.

The warren at Methwold was one of many large warrens in Norfolk. They were commercially important, providing both meat and fur, the latter in demand at the time for decorating clothes of the rich as well as coats for lesser mortals.

The charge against Thomas suggested that he should have been aware of local notices forbidding the taking of rabbits (or conies) from the warren. It is possible that this was a 'show trial' designed to discourage peasants since the Watsons had land and property (see later).

This picture of the Methwold warren is from an old estate map from 1699 held at the Norfolk Archives. It is just possible to see that the warren covered 1045 acres and had black or 'muel' rabbits as well as normal grey ones.

The black fur, as well as that from other variants such as silver, was much valued as trimming for robes. It is said that Methwold was granted a



licence to hold a market after Charles 1 enjoyed a meal cooked using muel rabbits from the warren. (The full map is a work of art worth seeing but too big to show here).



The question is: is Thomas Watson a relative of mine?

I have traced the Watson family back using the standard documents, birth marriage and death certificates,

censuses, parish records, wills and others to a Thomas Watson who married twice. I have yet to find the first marriage to Ann before 1714 with whom he had four children including my direct ancestor, another Thomas, baptised 1714. Following Ann's death he married Elizabeth Secker in Methwold in 1727 with whom he had one further child. Thomas left a detailed will suggesting he was quite well off.

Unfortunately the parish records for Methwold only survive from 1683 and there is a gap from 1696 to 1703. It is likely that Thomas who married in 1714 was the son of Thomas and Dorothy Watson and was baptised in 1692. So what about any links to Thomas the rabbit stealer in 1588?

I made a list of all the Watson baptisms, marriages and burials in Methwold from 1683 to 1800. The name Thomas occurred frequently but two others, slightly less common in the wider community but well represented in the Watson families, were Simon and Lancelot.

I thought it was worth looking for Watsons with these names in other records in earlier centuries. Listed here are some that I found. Some of

these are interesting in their own right and as examples of what you can find if you look.

The name Thomas occurs in all generations of my family from 1692 to my grandfather, Archie Thomas Watson 1884-1963 and my father's brother Sydney Thomas 1904-1952. I leave readers to decide whether I am justified in claiming Thomas the rabbit stealer as a distant relative.

Early Watson records in Methwold at the National Archives

1556-58 C1/1417/4 John Crosse asks for Thomas Watson and his wife Joane to be taken before the Court of Chancery for taking over a house and land which he should have inherited on the death of his mother Agnes.

1558-1579 C3/ 154/92 Lancelot Watson married the widow of Robert Roose and is accused by John Roose, Robert's son, of keeping property John should have inherited. (Though this document is in a box with the wide date range shown it is likely to be around 1558).

A document in Norfolk Archives dated 6th March in the reign of Phillip and Mary records transfer of houses, land etc from Robert Roose to his son

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Richard Holt
Professional Genealogist

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AGRA
Associate



SCAN ME

John. Mary reigned 1553-1558 , married Phillip 11 of Spain in 1554).

I have seen suggestions that the above were a device used to pass property to someone not eligible to receive property according to the accepted rules of inheritance at that time.

1597 E179/152/494 A subsidy granted to Elizabeth 1. Tax was paid by Thomas and Lancelot Watson in Methwold. Sent to Exchange 1598.

1660 E179/253/38A John Watson and Thomas Watson paid tax 'for the raising of money for disbanding the forces by land and sea'.

1671 E179/303/4? Hearth tax exemptions. A useful long list of those residents of Methwold excused tax because they had less than two hearths and property of yearly value less than twenty shillings.

The list was signed by Jo Watson and Tho Watson, churchwardens, and included Simone Watson.

Wills Among others from Norfolk Archives.

1611 The will of Lancelot Watson. Money left to son Symone Watson and to Rose Watson (relationship not stated) Thomas Watson was Supervisor and one of three executors.

1613 The will of Thomas Watson. Thomas was obviously well off for the time. As well as houses and land left to his eldest sons, Lancelot and Robert, he left £37 to each of his elder daughters, Alice, Rose and Mary Ann, £40 to daughters Agnes and Charity, plus £100 to his youngest son Thomas.

1691 The will of Thomas Watson. He left goods and an allowance to his wife Joane, land and property to his sons Lancelot and John, an allowance to his daughter Elizabeth Jane and 20 shillings to Mary Cooper.

1704 The will of Lancelot Watson Goods etc to his wife Dinah and son Thomas.

Was Thomas a relative if not necessarily a direct ancestor?

Ref: The Archaeology of Rabbit Warrens, by Tom Williamson:

Shire Publications 2006. ISBN-10 0 7478 0616 0

Historic Photo Studios

Many of the society's members will be familiar with Robert Pols' books and articles for family and local historians on dating and interpreting old photographs.

Robert also published a comprehensive website of early photographic studios in Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Suffolk. It has now moved and can be found at

www.earlyphotostudios.uk

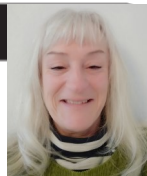
The site lists over 1,700 photographers operating in the seven counties between 1840 and 1916.

Also on the site is a list of Robert's books and a discount code to purchase these from the Federation of Family History Societies.

Paul Godfrey

Members' Interests

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



Season's greetings members on this the final month of 2022. It feels strange writing this at the end of October whilst the sun is shining and the weather is still so warm.

I often have requests from members who would like help contacting others on our website who are researching the same surname. You can do this by logging into your NFHS website account, clicking on "membership" on the blue band at the top of the page and then choosing "members interests" from the dropdown menu. In the search box type the name you are interested in and click the search button. You will then see other members who are searching that name. Click on the "contact" button and a message will be sent to that member with your email address.

At the last trustees' meeting it was agreed that we need to increase membership fees. This was set at £2 across all membership types. If you pay for your membership by bankers standing order could you please increase the amount.

Hoping you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, our last day of opening will be the 10th December and we will reopen on 15th January.

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 17th October

18907 ALDEN	NFK	ALL	15C-19C	19591 HALLIFAX	NFK	NE	17C-18C
19650 ALLCOCK	NFK	ALL	19C-20C	19688 HARRIS	NFK	ALL	ALL
9616 BALDWIN	NFK	ALL	ALL	19575 HARRISON	NFK	NE	ALL
17839 BALE	NFK	ALL	18C-19C	19650 HEWITT	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
9782 BLANCH	NFK	ALL	ALL	19650 HOWES	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
19591 BLYTH(E)	NFK	NC	17C-18C	19712 HUBBARD	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
19591 BLYTHE	NFK	NC	17C-18C	15904 JOHNSON	NFK	ALL	ALL
19596 BONE	NFK	CN	17C-18C	19650 KEENAN	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
19596 BONE	NFK	CN	18C-19C	9782 KENT	NFK	ALL	ALL
5209 BONE	NFK	ALL	ALL	7407 LADLE	NFK	ALL	ALL
5209 BONE	NFK	ALL	ALL	7407 LADLE	NFK	ALL	ALL
1490 BORRMANN	NFK	ALL	ALL	19760 LATHAN	NFK	ALL	ALL
19760 BOUGEN	NFK	ALL	ALL	9782 LING	NFK	ALL	ALL
19760 BOWGEN	NFK	ALL	ALL	19575 LOVEDAY	NFK	SW	ALL
19776 BROCK	NFK	ALL	ALL	17760 LOVETT	ESS	ALL	18C-20C
10802 BROWN	NFK	ALL	ALL	19688 MACE	NFK	ALL	ALL
19443 BUNN	NFK	CN	ALL	19641 MANNING	NFK	SW	18C-19C
19385 BURCHAM	NFK	NE	17C-19C	19688 MEARS	NFK	ALL	ALL
13900 BUXTON	NFK	ALL	ALL	19771 MILK	NFK	ALL	ALL
19687 CATTERMOLLE	NFK	SW	18C-20C	19798 MORNEMENT	NFK	ALL	15C-19C
19748 CATTERMOLLE	NFK	ALL	ALL	18904 MULLINGER	ALL	ALL	17C-19C
19687 CHILVERS	SFK	ALL	18C-20C	19650 NUDD	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
19459 CHURCH	NFK	ALL	ALL	15229 OSWICK	NFK	ALL	ALL
19564 CLEARE	NFK	NE	17C	19584 PARKER	NFK	ALL	ALL
19478 COLEMAN	NFK	ALL	ALL	19591 PARSONS	NFK	ALL	ALL
19282 COLQUHOUN	NFK	ALL	18C	19591 PARSONS	NFK	NE	18C
19732 COOPER	NFK	ALL	ALL	19591 PARSONS	SFK	ALL	18C-19C
19606 CORNELL	ALL	ALL	ALL	19650 PELLING	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
19606 CORNWELL	ALL	ALL	ALL	19800 PLUMSTED	NFK	ALL	17C-18C
17748 COULSEY	NFK	ALL	ALL	19811 POINTS	NFK	NC	ALL
19478 CURTIS	NFK	ALL	ALL	19811 POINTS	SFK	ALL	16C
17373 DAGLESS	NFK	ALL	ALL	19811 POYNTZ	NFK	NC	ALL
18183 DAY	NFK	ALL	ALL	19811 POYNTZ	SFK	ALL	16C
14461 DOSSETT	NFK	YM	ALL	19564 PRESS	NFK	NE	18C
19679 ELLIS	NFK	NW	18C-19C	18904 READ	ALL	ALL	17C-19C
14461 EMMERSON	NFK	YM	ALL	19675 ROBINSON	NFK	NE	16C-19C
19478 ENGLAND	NFK	ALL	ALL	14461 ROSE	NFK	YM	ALL
19670 EVELY	NFK	ALL	ALL	19650 ROWE	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
17373 FARROW	NFK	ALL	ALL	19564 RUDD	NFK	CN	ALL
19043 FINCHAM	NFK	NW	18C-19C	18792 RUMP	NFK	ALL	ALL
19043 FINCHAM	NFK	SW	18C-19C	19743 RYE	NFK	NE	15C-20C
19591 FRANCIS(S)	NFK	NE	17C-18C	19363 SANDELL	NFK	ALL	ALL
17749 GALLANT	NFK	ALL	ALL	19363 SANDELL	NFK	ALL	ALL
17749 GALLANT	NFK	ALL	ALL	19688 SAVAGE	NFK	ALL	ALL
18019 GOODMAN	NFK	CN	ALL	13900 SAVAGE	NFK	ALL	ALL
18019 GOODMAN	NFK	CN	ALL	19650 SELF	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
18557 GOWING	NFK	ALL	ALL	19363 SENDALL	NFK	ALL	ALL
13668 GOWING	NFK	ALL	ALL	19606 SHARR	NFK	ALL	ALL
19687 GRANT	NFK	SW	18C-20C	19606 SHORE	NFK	ALL	ALL
17373 GRAND	NFK	ALL	ALL	17373 SIMMONS	NFK	ALL	ALL
9616 GUYMER	NFK	ALL	ALL	18557 SKILLINGS	NFK	ALL	ALL
				19732 SKIPPER	NFK	ALL	ALL
				19564 SOUTHGATE	NFK	NW	18C

Members' Interests up to 17th October

19564 SOUTHGATE	NFK	NW	18C	19564 WARNES	NFK	CN	18C
19712 SPROATES	NFK	ALL	19C-20C	426 WATLING	ALL	ALL	ALL
19564 STARLING	NFK	NE	17C-18C	19675 WEBLIN	NFK	ALL	ALL
19688 THEOBALD	ESS	ALL	ALL	1448 WESTGATE	NFK	ALL	ALL
19688 THOMPSON	NFK	ALL	ALL	19687 WHITROD	NFK	SW	17C
19478 TILLS	NFK	ALL	ALL	19303 WOOLNOUGH	NFK	ALL	ALL
19633 TILNEY	NFK	ALL	ALL	19564 WORNES	NFK	CN	18C
18847 WALKER	NFK	ALL	ALL	19650 WRIGHT	NFK	ALL	19C-20C
19459 WARNES	NFK	ALL	ALL				

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.

Here Are Your Answers

Norfolk Christmastime Quiz (Page 22) - 1 angel 2 bells 3 cake 4 carol 5 crib 6 frost 7 gift 8 icing sugar 9 manger 10 merry

11 mince pie 12 mitten 13 new year 14 present 15 santa 16 sleigh 17 snow 18 star 19 tinsel 20 yule log.

What's Your Verdict (Page 21) - And the verdict was...the jury found in favour of the defendant Mr. Bunn, although it did take them 90 minutes to decide.

Mr. Maitland wasn't happy though and asked for a retrial, which duly took place about a year later. But it made no difference, as once again the verdict went against him. Sources: Norwich Mercury 27 March 1830 Norfolk Chronicle 26 March 1830.

Great Yarmouth Family

It was lovely back in September to meet up with Jim Lane who was visiting Kirby Hall in Norwich from Tasmania.

Jim was researching his family and their Great Yarmouth roots and after leaving Norwich visited the historic Rows at Yarmouth.

We will have a piece on this in the next edition of Norfolk Ancestor.

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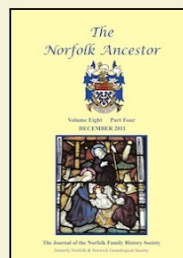
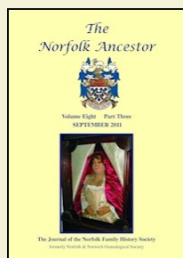
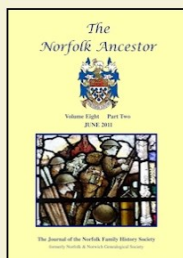
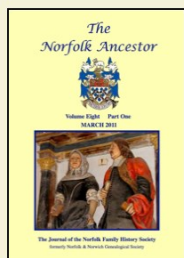
Contact Michael on:

01708 735810



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

NFHS contacts and how to contact them

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

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Webmaster	Web site	Webmaster	webmaster@nfhs.co.uk
Wills	Donations and Indexing of Wills	Denagh Hacon	wills@nfhs.co.uk

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

The Britons Arms

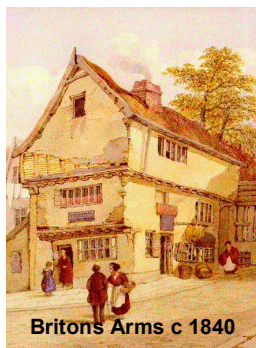
THE Britons Arms is a Grade Two listed medieval timber framed building standing on the corner of Elm Hill in Norwich. It stands in the churchyard of St Peter Hungate and was originally completed in 1254. Remains in the cellars are thought to date from the 13th century. In 1347 it was known as "Le Godes Hous", indicating a connection to the church.

One theory suggests that the house was once used as a beguinage which is a collection of small buildings used by Beguines. These were lay sisterhoods, founded in the 13th century in the Low Countries, comprising of religious women who sought to serve God without retiring from the world. However, this has been disputed as there are no others known to have existed anywhere else in Britain.



Analysis of the timbers indicate that they were imported from the Baltic region and sapwood samples show that they were cut between 1407 and 1420. Surviving archaeological evidence such as the brick chimney stack, the decorative doorways and fireplaces on all floor levels, indicate a high social status building.

The ownership passed through many families and generations until 1506 when it was owned by Geoffrey CLERK. In 1507, it was the only building to survive a massive fire which swept through Elm Hill. Two Great Fires destroyed over one thousand houses in Norwich, nearly half of the city.



It continued to be passed through a succession of Norwich merchants and traders. By 1666 it was called The Yard and was sold by a London merchant. It was associated with the wool trade until the mid 18th century when it was given the name the Britons Arms and became a public house.

The building remained a public house until 1941 when it was closed by the brewers Steward and Patteson. During World War Two it was used by ARP fire watchers. The brewers sold it to the City Council for a nominal sum of £10 in 1951. In 1954 it was listed as a Grade 2* Building.

In 1960, it reopened as a coffee shop run by Molly DRURY who was succeeded in the early seventies by sisters Sue SKIPPER and Gilly MIXER who then ran the business until 2020. Now owned by the Norwich Preservation Trust, it reopened in September 2021 with a new chef, Richard Ellis.

Then and Now



These two pictures show the Britons Arms situated in Elm Hill Norwich. The top one, taken by George Plunkett, is from 1934 and the bottom one was taken in 2022. The building is one of the oldest houses in Norwich and dates back to the 13th century. Turn to the inside back cover to read more about the history of the building.

