

News

Volume 5 Issue 7



Letter

Summer 2009



‘Let’s Look at a Church’ No.54 – All Saints Wood Norton

‘All Saints is not the only church to have served the tiny village of Wood Norton, there were once two seemingly operating alongside each other despite the fact that there was only ever one parish here. Wood Norton possibly means ‘settlement at the north woods’ and indeed it is on record that in early times the area was heavily wooded providing charcoal for the monastery at Bury St. Edmunds with which it was connected. The present church is a pleasant building of rather squat and compact appearance and as we approach it we at once notice the contrast between the red brick and tile of the upper half and the fine knapped flint and stone work of the lower. If one looks carefully at the south nave wall it is possible to pick out a large number of pieces of conglomerate or ‘puddingstone’ which gets its name from the fact that it looks like a plum pudding stuffed with fruit being composed of a mixture of different irregular sized pebbles held together in a type of sandstone. East Anglia has few native rocks and such boulders deposited by glacial action have long been valued and in some cases invested with magical qualities – two small puddingstones outside a barn at Sheringham are reputed to get up and run across the road at cock crow. All Saints has a single bell ‘a good casting of resonant tone’ according to a report by the diocesan Advisor of Bells in 1987 which tells us that at the end of the 17th century there were three bells hung not in the tower but in a low shed in the churchyard and ‘the houses in the parish being scattered and at a distance, it was impossible for the parishioners to know when they should repair to church’. This is unsurprising as the bells in question were cracked, perhaps damaged when the upper part of the tower became dilapidated necessitating replacement of the original flint with the brick mentioned earlier. At

the same time the Bishop allowed the offending bells to be melted down and cast into the present single one. The interior of the church is ordinary enough but well kept and pleasing. A large bulbous font of fantastical design said to date from the 14th century catches the eye as one enters and it is worth seeking out a corbel or roof support in the south wall carved as the grotesque head of a pig or perhaps a demon with its tongue sticking out to greet the curious visitor. Also of interest is a piscina built into an angle of the chancel wall which has intricate carving and by its style dates from about 1300 as does the adjacent priest's door. We rather admired the three light window above the altar but perhaps it is rather too Victorian for some tastes. These are just some of the rewarding features found in All Saints but we had heard about Wood Norton's other church, St. Peter's, and were determined to seek it out. A narrow road took us away from the churchyard and almost immediately we spied in a field a stone monument bearing the legend: *Look, what a horse should have he did not lack/Save so proud a rider on so proud a back* and were fascinated to see the grave of Georgian Silver 1799-2005 an Arabian stallion no doubt as worthy in his own way as some of the two legged souls interred at All Saints. After about half a mile we reach Manor Farm and the owner who has lived here since 1943 kindly showed us the brick barn which formed the nave of St. Peter's and which despite having a modern roof still shows sign of earlier ecclesiastical use, notably two well preserved perpendicular windows and a doorway. St Peter's was a much smaller, simpler building than All Saints and seems to have been allowed to fall into decay after 1600 when the two livings were consolidated under William Marshall the first rector of All Saints with St. Peter's who was blessed with '90 Communicants and no Recusants'. It remains something of a mystery as to why such a relatively small settlement, even by medieval standards, as Wood Norton was served for over three hundred years by two churches. Answers on a postcard please!

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD 407) and comprise Baptisms 1722-1920, Marriages 1723-1985, Burials 1722-2000 and Banns 1794-1825 and 1845-1878. The Banns for the period 1754-1793 are unfit for production but microform copies of these along with all the other existing registers are available for research. Archdeacon's and Bishop's Transcripts cover Baptisms 1600-1925, Marriages 1600-1837 and Burials 1600-1925 as well as a modern unpublished transcript for all three which continues up to the 1990s. Also at the Record Office are various items from the Parish Chest including a Rate List for 1871 and an 1811 inclosure of Hindolveston, Swanton Novers and Wood Norton with allotment to trustees for the poor marked and a statement of claims.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

A few words from your Editor ...

Hello again, and thank you once again to everyone who sent me contributions for the Newsletter, I apologise if I haven't been able to include your contribution this time, but they are still on my computer.

Format for Newsletter Contributions Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, then please email the file to me at Familyhis@aol.com or post in on a CD/floppy disk or handwritten, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter.

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter July 10th 2009.

Kate Easdown

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Books are Best

During a conversation with my granddaughter's husband, who is not into family history, he admitted that he never ever used a reference book as everything he needed was on the Internet. Personally, although undoubtedly the Internet has made many aspects of family history research easier I, like many of my generation, prefer a book.

Recently, whilst recording the Memorial Inscriptions at Bawdeswell, we discovered that the church had been destroyed in 1944 when a RAF Mosquito crashed into it - not due to enemy action but (it was suspected) due to severe icing. Using the Internet it was fairly easy to discover details of the aircrew, their Squadron and the aircraft concerned but having spent my wage earning life as an aircraft engineer I was curious to know what anti-icing provisions were fitted to a Mosquito. However, I just couldn't get 'Google' to understand my question and after a while gave up.

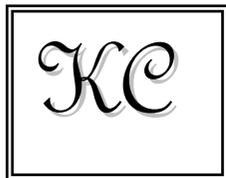
By coincidence whilst visiting a friend I noticed that on his bookshelf he had a set of books on 'aircraft' - a series that had been bound from weekly or monthly parts. We quickly found 'Mosquito' in the index and he loaned me a couple of the relevant volumes. It was easy reading with plenty of pictures and I quickly learnt a lot about the Mosquito. Apparently, although later known as the 'wooden wonder', initially the authorities had consistently rejected the design. Eventually the advantages of this twin-engine light bomber were realised and from a 'rubbished' idea more than 7500 were built. The book had a cutaway drawing of the aircraft, from which I was able to surmise that there was no provision for aircraft anti-icing, other than for windscreens. I had the answer but as usual, one answer created another question - How did the pilot overcome the problem of descending from altitude during icing conditions? What I really needed was another book, or better still a home library! Of course I could go to the public library, but nowadays that would probably be 'hit and miss' and I would have to consult their catalogue on a computer screen and order 'likely' titles.

So, if I want to continue with my research, it will have to be back to 'Google' and try to get into its *way of thinking*. Yes books may be best and, although I think my grandson-in-law is missing out, I am going to have to concede that just maybe, for practical purposes he has a point.

Footnote and another *Food for Thought*: When I returned the borrowed 'aircraft' books my friend admitted that I was the first person to refer to them since he had lived in that house - about twenty years!

TFG

KENNY'S COLUMN



Hello again everyone! Although most haven't seen me I am still about. I am still alive and kicking! I am still trying to push the boundaries of my family history research! Of late I have also been involved, and in fact still am in the process of doing some genealogical research for a very dear friend of mine.

Here's a small tip. I don't know if any of you have wanted to subscribe to a website so that research can be done at home on your PC. I was in that position. But on investigating, Ancestry was too pricey for me to be able to afford. Also, it didn't seem clear to me as to what I would actually get for my money as there are different subscription packages. Yes, I could go to the Dereham Library but in my research 1 hour every now and again but that didn't help me enough. Then in the January edition of FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE on the inside front cover I found out about 'The Genealogist'. They have quite a few options and I went for the option of paying £39 for 6 months. This gives me a chance to do an unlimited amount of research in that time. I feel as though I have arrived at last! I passed on that tip in case it might help you.

Another thing that has happened in my research is that I have completely finished a significant stage of my CLAXTON Census database where I am collecting all the Claxtons, from all the Censuses, in all of Norfolk. I now have gone all the returns and have all this information, though I have **not** completely finished the database. So if anyone wants to know if or how many CLAXTONS there were in your village or town in one the census years just email me on prayersoldier@talktalk.net – because I've covered it!! Til next time.
Kenny

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS AT MNFHS MEETINGS

- 17th June - "Records of the 17th and 18th Century" by Michael Gandy
- 15th July - "The Norfolk Weavers" Cathy Terry
- 19th August - "Identifying and Dating Victorian Photographs" by Tom Doig
- 16th September – AGM ... followed by a Quiz

NORFOLK GPO

A little while ago in the course of my research I stumbled across the excellent East Dereham Roll of Honour website, my research being a study of Norfolk GPO staff lost in the Great War. It soon led me to MNFHS and an enquiry if I might like to submit a piece for your newsletter.

Why GPO staff ? I worked for Royal Mail for some 30 + years before accepting voluntary redundancy at the end of 2004. I have always had a love of history of any sort and perhaps as a frustrated archivist or curator, took every opportunity during my service to 'save' old Post Office items and information before they were lost forever. I had started to do a little research on members of my family lost during the Great War and one day toward the end of my service found myself looking at the Great War memorial in the Norwich Mail Centre and jotting down the dozen or so names, with a view to trying to find out their stories. It soon struck me that there must be staff that were lost from other Norfolk towns and villages and to cut a long story short, the project soon took off and became a study of Norfolk GPO staff lost, followed inevitably by similar for Suffolk.

The Post Office of the early 20th Century was a world apart from the beleaguered and often criticised Post Office we have today. At the start of the Great War the GPO had already progressed for 70 years, from a service almost exclusively for the rich, to a universal and priced service aimed at the whole population. Parcel Post was introduced in 1883, privately produced postcards arrived in 1884 (creating a huge increase in social and holiday communication), and the telephone service was taken over by the Post Office in 1911. It was virtually impossible to communicate with anyone without using the services of the GPO. Working for the GPO had a degree of status. There was a semi military regime, uniforms, rigid command structure, and meeting the service standard was paramount. A government order of 1897 instructed the GPO to employ ex servicemen, and previous military or police service was looked upon favourably when one applied for a GPO vacancy from that time right through to the 1960's.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, the Post Office was the country's biggest employer. Many staff are recorded as territorials (the much maligned weekend soldiers) or army reservists, many who had seen service in South Africa fighting the Boer. When war was declared on 4th August most GPO reservists had already received their telegram instructing them to report to depot, territorials were soon put on alert and no doubt many more young GPO employees across the country strained to join the throng at the recruiting stations. It does appear that initially GPO staff were not allowed to volunteer but this was changed quite quickly. You can imagine the consternation of the GPO senior management that the service could not be

maintained if large numbers of staff went off to war. By mid 1916 some 35000 temporary staff were employed nationally to cover the loss of 54000 regular Post Office staff being away in the forces. Many were young women and some of the GPO staff books I have seen list names of these temporary staff, employed 'for the duration of the European War'.

For anyone trying to track down a Mid Norfolk GPO employee during this period, permanent or even temporary there is a good chance that something will come up. I myself have saved some old staff books, there are others that can be viewed and others are held at the Post Office Archive in London. The latter is an excellent archive with the most helpful staff you could wish for, and an enormous amount of information on the Post Office service and it's history, but the information held there on individuals who worked outside London is very sketchy. You can look at quite a lot of the catalogue and make contact via the internet - I would not recommend a visit there 'on spec'.

When they can be located and with luck, GPO staff books can give a reasonable amount of information about the person's service and their progression through the grades, their pay scales, and sometimes when they were on holiday, sick or left service. It was compulsory for many years that ladies who married left the service - what would they say today ! There are also some entries that show those local shops etc who were authorised to sell stamps.

Returning to the war, occasionally there is information that gives a real insight into an aspect that you haven't really thought of before. I have been sidetracked of late by the situation regarding those individuals disabled by their wounds etc. Information I have found shows some staff upon resumption of service, had regular sick leave due to malaria, headaches or respiratory problems. One individual left service not very long after resumption with the margin against his name marked 'insane'. I find it incredible that consistently in the staff books GPO staff returned from anything up to 4 years war service, had the maximum of a day or two off and then were expected to resume their jobs as if nothing had happened!

Having said that it does appear that the GPO were better than most at re-employing individuals disabled in the war. A 1932 seniority list I have for the Kings Lynn outdoor postal staff shows that 15 out of 40 men were disabled. There are also indications that every effort was made to relocate staff to a larger unit with indoor duties if they were struggling to carry out their pre war job eg delivery.

So I continue to look at the GPO men named on the Dereham War Memorial - messrs Abel, Bowers and JW Monument. A further name has also been suggested to me (Charles Bunting), which would make it 4 Dereham based GPO men lost in the Great War. If anyone is perhaps a relative of these chaps I would be pleased to

make contact and share information. Similarly if any MNFHS member has a Norfolk based relative (not necessarily who went off to war) who worked in the GPO during the late 19th century / early 20th, I would be happy to see if I could find anything. I do have a pretty good coverage of the Mid Norfolk area to date and am always adding to my database, not least from contact with family history groups such as yourselves.

Bob Andrews

(Any queries please contact the Editor – Kate)

THE OAKHAM POACHERS

It's funny how one thing can lead to another when researching family history. This happened to me when tracing the Perkins family who lived in Northamptonshire, and led me to discover that I had a connection with the Oakham Poachers. During a visit to Easton-on-the-Hill I looked at memorial inscriptions on the headstones in All Saints churchyard, and as some of the family were stone masons I had a field day! The church visitor's book had entries by several people who were also tracing their Perkins ancestors, and I subsequently contacted one of them. He sent me much information including the story of the poachers.

My great great grandfather, William Perkins (1802-1888), had seven brothers three of whom went poaching with William Lomas and William Claypole in Empingham Old Wood which belonged to Sir Gilbert Heathcote. I have abstracted the following account of the episode from The Lincoln, Rutland & Stamford Mercury of 15th March 1833.

On 29th January 1833 John aged 26, Robert 23, and George 20 (all stone masons) together with William Lomas aged 30, a slater, and William Claypole met at John's house in Ketton where they drank quarts of ale. At 9.30p.m. they went to Empingham Old Wood each armed with a gun. After bagging nine pheasants they were leaving the wood just after midnight when they were confronted by the gamekeepers Thomas Lomas, Thomas Peach, Thomas Beridger and Jonathan Morris. Peach, who was carrying a hay fork and had a pistol in his pocket, asked the men "What are you doing here?" John, described as a short man, came out of the wood and shouted "I'll shoot you". Peach replied "I have a pistol", whereupon John fired at him and injured him in the thigh and private parts. Peach fell to the ground. As the poachers ran off the other gamekeepers gave chase, and Robert fired at Morris hitting him on the side of the head. George also fired at the same man.

The trial was held at the Rutland Assizes, Oakham Castle, on 8th March 1833 before Chief Justice Denman. The jury consisted of the Foreman, The Hon. Henry Cecil Lowther, and 18 men. John Perkins was charged as the principal with shooting at Peach with the intent to murder him, and the other prisoners were charged as accessories. Lomas was immediately acquitted as no evidence was offered against him. Claypole gave evidence and escaped any punishment. It was stated by Thomas Newley of Easton, John Hill, Thomas Cotterill and George Dexter, in defence of the prisoners, that they were all hard working, honest, humane, quiet and inoffensive men.

The jury withdrew for nearly an hour, and at length returned to the court with a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners. The judge sentenced the prisoners to be hanged. The wretched men, with their associate Lomas who sat in the dock during the trial, “immediately burst into an agony of the loudest grief and terror, and continued their cries for mercy until the judge acquitted the court”. They were then imprisoned in Oakham Gaol.

The youngest brother, George, had his sentence commuted to transportation to Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania). In its edition dated 29th March 1833 the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury reported more about the brothers. On 21st March Mr Orridge, the Keeper of Oakham Gaol, was informed that Robert’s sentence had also been commuted to transportation. John Perkins was reported to have conducted himself well, and had acknowledged his guilt, and the justice of his sentence. He was pleased that Mr Peach was recovering from his dreadful wounds, and he gave up his time to religious study. John was hanged by Hangman Calcraft on Monday 25th March 1833 at 12 noon. It was a wet day so the attendance at the execution was small. The gallows had been erected over the prison main gates which were 30ft high, and this was the first and last hanging to take place at Oakham Castle. John left a widow and child in Ketton and his body was conveyed there. The funeral took place at All Saints church, Easton-on-the-Hill on 27th March, and he was buried in the churchyard.

Robert died in the appalling conditions on the prison hulks at Sheerness whilst awaiting a transportation ship. George left England on the ship “Isabella” on 28th July 1833, managed to survive the harsh times and perilous journey, and arrived in Van Diemen’s Land on 13/14 November 1833. He would then have been imprisoned, and after being released he married Frances Emily Doyle on 14th December 1835. He died on 21 May 1854 aged 41, and at the inquest it was stated that his body had scars from the whipping he received while he was a convict. George and Frances had a son George Henry Perkins who was born on 22nd May 1836.

Although Lord Chief Justice Thomas Denman (1779-1854) sentenced John Perkins

to death, he was often on the side of the poor and the working class. In 1817 he eloquently defended Luddites who had been charged with high treason, and in 1819 he became a Whig M.P. He was a keen critic of the Tory government's repressive legislation and a supporter of anti-slavery. In 1820 he ably defended Queen Caroline at her trial against her husband's (George IV's) charge of immorality.

There is a traditional folk song about the Oakham Poachers which mentions the three brothers by name, and there are several websites referring to this song.

In 2007, my wife and I visited Oakham Castle which includes the Great Hall, the oldest surviving aisled stone hall in the country. The Hall has been a court for more than 800 years and is still occasionally used as a Crown Court. As we entered, we could see the old court benches and docks (sadly painted grey in the 1950s), and in the far corner the entrance to the two small prison cells. There were notices attached to the walls, one with the Gaol Rules, and another the Gaol Calendar which amazingly had the names of the poachers and details of the trial and charges! Enquiries revealed that the Oakham Poachers story is used there for re-enactments by children during school visits. One of the organisers dresses up as Thomas Peach and the "prisoners" are re-tried and sentenced.

Our visit to Oakham Castle was one of those exciting occasions which can really bring family history to life, treading in the footsteps of our ancestors.

Martin Livie



Oakham Castle

WEBSITES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

www.oldbaileyonline.org for criminal ancestors

www.vcp.e2bn.org crime and punishment in UK during 19th century

Website Launch:

A family history directory website has been launched online by the creators of the UKBMD website, entitled UK Genealogical Directories and Lists (www.UKGD.org.uk). The new site offers lists of useful resources that can help to flesh out the family tree beyond the basic births, marriages and deaths, including schools lists, trade directories, electoral rolls and passenger lists. It can be searched either by county or by category, and at present contains well over 600 links to useful websites, with more being added by the day.

www.portcities.co.uk – Most immigrants arrived in Britain at one of the country's many ports, and large immigrant communities established themselves around the port at which they docked, such as the Huguenot silk workers who settled near London's East End Docks during the 18th century. In the late 19th century the area became home to many Russian Jews, and by the mid-20th century they in turn, had given way to a large Asian community. You can explore the history of England's largest maritime cities and towns – Bristol, London, Hartlepool, Liverpool and Southampton – at the Port Cities website www.portcities.org.uk.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Member 695 – Ms F Bxxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

----- @-----

JERRY	NFK	15 th – 17 th C
JEARY	LND	17 th – 20 th C
LEADER	CAM	16 th – 19 th C
LODDY	NFK	16 th – 18 th C
GURNEY	NFK	15 th – 17 th C
GURNEY	LND	17 th – 19 th C

Member 696 – Mr W Cxxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

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WELLS	Dereham NFK	1770 – 1910
LARNER	Dereham NFK	1750
RIX	Dereham NFK	1800
MEACHEN	Yaxham NFK	1713 – 1800

BULLARD/BULWER	Yaxham NFK	1713 – 1770
BAXTER	Hingham NFK	1750 – 1850
BEAR	Beeston next Mileham NFK	1730 – 1830

Member 697 – Mr C D Bxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

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BUCK/BUCKE	Hingham NFK	17 th C
DOBS/DOBBS	Mattishall NFK	18 th C
KEAN/KEEN	Guist NFK	18 th C
BUCK	Fundenhall /Ashwellthorpe NFK	18 th C
SHEERING/SHEARING	Fundenhall/Ashwellthorpe NFK	18 th C
SQUIRES	Fundenhall/Ashwellthorpe NFK	18 th C
WITHAM	Fundenhall/Ashwellthorpe NFK	18 th C
BROWNE	Fundenhall/Ashwellthorpe NFK	18 th C
POTTLÉ	Fundenhall/Ashwellthorpe NFK	18 th C
HEWITT	SW NFK	All
SPRINGFIELD	SW NFK	All
RUDD	SW NFK	All
LINCOLN	SW NFK	All
NOBBS	SW NFK	All
STAFF	SW NFK	All

Member 698 – Ms H Exxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

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MAHER James	Argentina	1895 – 1940

Member 700 – Mrs M P Gxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

ELDERTON Edward	Caston/Griston NFK	c 1790
ALDERTON Arthur	Griston NFK	1900 – 1924
ALDERTON Mildred	Griston NFK	1912 – 1937
MINNS Edgar	Griston NFK	c 1876
MINNS Edgar	Swaffham NFK	1900 – 1929
MINNS Matilda (Tilly)	Swaffham NFK	c 1930
YOUNGS Tom	Swaffham NFK	c 1920
BANHAM Ellen	Horningtoft NFK	c 1867
BANHAM Ellen	North Acre/Caston NFK	1910
EAGLING George	North Acre/Caston NFK	1920

Member 701 – Mrs J Hxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

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MANN John Rolfe	Brisley NFK	1813 – 1830
MANN John Raven	Beetley NFK	1813 – 1830

MANN Mary Money	Dereham NFK	1830 – 1845
MANN Mary	Norwich NFK	1830 - 1845

Member 702 – Mrs E I C Nxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

	<u>-----@-----</u>	
KENNEY	Litcham NFK	18 th – 20 th C
KENNY	Gt Massingham NFK	18 th – 20 th C
ABBS	Nth Elmham/Litcham NFK	18 th – 20 th C

Member 704 - Mr P Hxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

	<u>-----@-----</u>	
HOWES	Worldwide	All
MOWER	Dereham NFK	1750 – 1875
NICHOLSON	Dereham NFK	1675 – 1850
LOVE	Dereham NFK	1750 – 1850
GITTEN/GITTON	Dereham NFK	1730 – 1800
GITTEN/GITTON	Yaxham NFK	1730 – 1770
PLATFORD	Mattishall NFK	1750 – 1800
BRYANT	Mattishall NFK	1770 – 1800

Member 705 - Mr B & Mrs A Gxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

	<u>-----@-----</u>	
LIDDELOWS	Barnham Broom/Mattishall NFK	All

Member 703 - Mrs C Cxxxxx, , -----, -----, -----,

	<u>-----@-----</u>	
ABEL	Hardingham/Southburgh/Runhall/Cranworth NFK	All
HUN	T Hardingham/Southburgh/Runhall/Cranworth NFK	All
MOY	Hardingham/Southburgh/Runhall/Cranworth NFK	All

HELP WANTED ... AND FEEDBACK

Please send any replies to me, Kate by email (familyhis@aol.com) or by post to my address on the back page of the Newsletter

VALENTINE VERSE ... A friend has told me of a local Valentines verse that used to be quoted in mid Norfolk during the 1940s/50/60s. It starts 'Old Mother Valentine' then the next few lines cannot be remembered but ends 'Combs her hair with the leg of a chair, Old Mother Valentine'. I would very much like to hear from anyone who can remember more or all of the verse. *Sue Harris*

HOWES ... I recently started a One-Name Study into my surname: Howes. My goal is to create a single resource on the name that can be used by anyone with an ancestor of that name, or something similar, like HOWSE, or HOWS. The reasons why are too deep to go into here, but can be found on my website, www.howesfamilies.com. I know it's a huge task. Some would say "monumental"!

I would be very interested to hear from any MNFHS members who might be able to help with my quest. Do you have some information on Howes forebears that you could share, or might you be able to help with data gathering, or might you even be called Howes and be interested in participating in our DNA study?

Although we already have 14,000 people in our database the study is still in its early stages. There is much to do! If you can help, please do get in touch via my website or directly at mardler@hotmail.com. Many thanks in advance.

Paul Howes

EAGLING ...Ellen Edith Eagling was the informant on my Great Grandmother's Death Certificate and named as 'niece' residing at Northacre, Caston. My research does not show any niece of that name for either Great Grandparents.

A Caston resident remembers an Ellen Eagling who 'laid people out' after death and therefore would have been a well-known character. Does anyone have any knowledge of Ellen and her family please? Her husband was William.

My Great Grandmother was Caroline Mildred Alderton who died aged 80 in 1937 at Cades Hill House, Attleborough RD. I am unsure if this was her residence or nursing care placement. Mildred was born at Griston and lived there during her lifetime along with her husband Arthur (also born Griston), they ran the Post Office and Grocers for many years in the early 1900's.

Margaret Guest

THE TUDOR PERIOD ... I have been extremely lucky to be able to trace one branch of my family tree back to Tudor times. The earliest record I have is a marriage in 1555 in the small parish of Cratfield in Suffolk. We all know that this was a turbulent period with Henry VIII renouncing the Catholic faith and creating the Church of England, followed by Queen Mary, queen from 1553, reintroducing the Catholic faith to the country.

What I would like to know is how did these changes affect the small parishes away from London? Would legislation filter through gradually or would the news and legislation changes announced in London one day spread throughout the country in

a matter of days? How was news passed to the 'ordinary man' living away from London?

Getting back to my family history, would my ancestors, who married in 1555, have had a Catholic or Protestant marriage and how did these marriages differ?

During this period many people were burned or beheaded for heresy. Does anyone know what records there are of these terrible deaths within local parishes? I'm particularly interested in Norfolk and Suffolk.

And one final question. I am able to look at paintings of kings and queens of this period but would my ancestors have known what they looked like?
Sue Harris

Mary Fox would like to know if anyone can help with her search for **FOX, HAYHOE (HEYHOE), BAILEY, GRANGE, GODFREY or ANDREWS** (please contact Kate if you can help).

TIMELINES

Two members, John Clarke and Sue Vickerage, have sent in timelines and a selection are listed below, these can be very useful as they give an idea of the events happening which may have influenced your ancestors' lives

For anyone who has reached the 1400's John Clarke sent the following ...

- 1483 Edward IV dead and succeeded by his son Edward V who only reigned two months and 13 days , having been murdered in the Tower of London. Richard the III succeeding.
- 1485 Aug 22nd battle of Bosworth Field , Richard III slain Henry VII King of England.
- 1486 Lambert Simnel rebellion.
- 1492 Henry VII invades France. Perkin Warbeck in Ireland.
- 1494 Columbus discovers Jamaica.
- 1495 Perkin Warbeck rebellion in England.
- 1499 Perkin Warbeck executed

and from Sue ... most of us have reached the 1800's

- 1803 First publication of Debrett's Peerage by John Debrett
- 1806 Earliest Primitive Methodist registers
- 1813 Rose's Act (1812) established a printed format for baptism and burial registers
- 1814 First Pigot's Commercial Directory printed
- 1829 Earliest Irvingite registers
- 1832 Representation of the People Act leads to the introduction of Electoral Registers
- 1836 Tithe Commutation Act – tithe maps created as a by-product over the next 15 years
- 1837 Compulsory registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales, required enforcement of Factory Acts, which sought to protect children who needed birth certificates to prove their age

A FAMILY BIBLE – is it your family?

One of the Society Members, Ken Read from Fakenham, recently purchased an old Old Testament Bible with illustrative engravings on steel plates. The Bible measures 14 x 11 inches and is 2 inches thick, and it is in fairly good condition but has some water staining on some parts.

The Bible contains 16 entries for the Warner family between 1811 and 1899, seemingly made by Robert William Warner of Scarning Norfolk. Ken has checked some of the names in the Bible against the Census Returns and the Warners are in the Scarning, Daffy Green, Saham Toney and Thurgaston areas. A few of the names, which stand out, may help identify the family more closely ... Albert Lacey Warner 1865 ... Marshall William Warner 1896 and Blytta Warner neé Holland 1831.

Ken would like to return the Bible to the family to whom it belongs, he paid £25 for it and will pass it on for the same amount. Ken has offered to deliver it in the Anglia Region but if it is out of the area then postage and packing would be required.

Please contact me, Kate (the Editor) if you are interested and I will pass the details on.

FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

Norfolk History Fair

Will be on Monday 26th May
At
Gressenhall Rural Life Museum

Bucks Family History Society

will be holding its Open Day on Saturday 25th July 2009, 10am to 4pm
at the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury (south east of town between A413 and A41). Many attractions for Bucks researchers including full Bucks FHS library and databases, guest societies and commercial suppliers. Free admission and free car parking at the school.

Doncaster & District Family History Society

2009 Family History day
will be held on the 24th October 2009
more details nearer the time

COMPETITION CORNER

There were disappointingly few entries for the Spring Newsletter Competition – the winner however was Clare Blake from Sutton who wins a book of her choice from the Society's publication list.

Tom Garland once again put the answer into verse ...

To start: Henry VIII was Elizabeth's dad
And history tells us, six wives he had.
There were three Catherines, 2 Annes and a Jane too,
But who was her mum? Another clue:

One of the Annes was Liz's mother
But was it Anne of Cleves or the other?
To have been in the draw for a book to win,
The answer you need was **ANNE BOLEYN**

The question for the Summer competition is

We all know about World War II – in fact 1 in 5 people in the UK today lived through it – so in what year did the Battle of Britain take place?

Answers to Kate please by 14th July 2009 email (familyhis@aol.com) or post (address on back cover of this Newsletter), or bring your answers to the meeting on 15th July and hand them to Sue when you sign in. Correct answers will be put into a bag and drawn at the July meeting.

There is one prize, which is the winner's choice of any one of the Society publications, including postage, which will be sent to the winner's address.

Open to members only. One entry per member. Please include your membership number with your entry.

NEW PUBLICATIONS by the MNFHS

To be released shortly

Memorial Inscriptions of:

Sparham (St Mary) ... £2.60
(plus 76p postage charge for UK)

Visiting Norfolk to do some research?

Why not stay at Albert's Cottage in the village of Ashill? Over 200 years old, the character cottage overlooks the village pond. Fully furnished, the cottage has two bedrooms, one with a four poster bed and the choice of storage heaters or a log burning stove.



The inside of the cottage is complimented with a delightful garden and private parking.

Contact Mary or Dennis for details
tel: 01760 723884 or 078796 22458

Email mary@breckfield.freeserve.co.uk

NORFOLK RESEARCH

Parish Records and Census Searches
£5 per hour

Send S A E for details to:

W Hepburn, 11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9JE



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SPECIAL OFFER – EAST BILNEY and WORTHING PUBLICATIONS

The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society has a number of surplus copies of the following books for sale:

- East Bilney Memorial Inscriptions
- Worthing (Norfolk) Memorial Inscriptions

These were printed when we were the Swanton Morley Family History Society., however the information remains accurate.

We have a limited number for sale, first come first served, at £2.00 per book, which includes postage to an address in the UK.

For overseas addresses, surface mail, printed papers rate, the cost is £3.50 per book.

Please write to me, Kate Easdown, for a copy and make cheques payable to “Mid-Norfolk Family History Society”.

Please be aware that any contract or agreement made between members and members or researchers/ advertisers is on their own terms, and is therefore not the responsibility of the Society. However, we would like to know of any problems encountered and may cease accepting advertising.



SCARNING A PORTRAIT OF A VILLAGE

Scarning A Portrait of a Village is the first published history of Scarning. The book charts the village's rich and varied history from its early days to more modern times. It features sections on Scarning's four hundred year old Grammar School, which has been the scene of riot and revolt, feud and entanglement, for much of its history. The school can count amongst its pupils Horatio Nelson's father and King George III's Lord Chancellor. The school was also the scene of a 'strike,' which precedes the better known events at Burston by more than thirty years and brought the school to national attention. The events of the strike are covered in full in the book.

The book also includes lighter moments, such as the tale of the eighteenth century rector who was drummed out of the parish for marrying his cook and a house in the village that could be rotated on its own axis. There is a section on the Nelson family's connection with Scarning and the well to do families who have lived in the village throughout its long history. There are sections on the lives of the poor, on those who went to the workhouse and on the village's charities. There are also sections on the coming of the railway, the turnpike road, which ran through the village and the public houses which stood alongside it.

'The book has taken almost three years to research,' says the book's author, Nick Hartley, 'but it has turned up some surprising facts. For instance, in the eighteenth century there were bare-knuckle boxing bouts at the Black Horse Inn, near the church. There were also stocks and a pillory in the churchyard.'

Scarning A Portrait of a Village is a wide ranging book which reflects the village's varied history. The book can be purchased at Chambers of Dereham, or by contacting Nick Hartley on 01362 687492. The book is fully illustrated and costs £7.50 (plus post and package, where applicable).



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