

News

Volume 5 Issue 8



Letter

Autumn 2009



'Let's Look at a Church' No. 55 – St Nicholas West Lexham

Although quite austere, as if to reflect its Puritan associations, St Nicholas, West Lexham, set on a small hill overlooking the village is still a little gem of a church. Situated on the very edge of the Brecklands, noted for their ancient flint mines, on the north bank of the River Nar, the tiny parish of Lexham consists of two villages, each served by a round towered church. Although not quite as old as St Andrews, East Lexham, parts of St Nicholas date back to Saxon times. Round tower churches are very much a feature of the eastern counties, particularly Norfolk which boasts 129 extant with the ruins of several more although to call St Nicholas round towered is perhaps not strictly accurate as it is most irregularly built with a plan of the tower revealing more of an oval than a circle. The building as a whole was very extensively restored in late Victorian times as a drawing of 1891 in the nave and a plaque near the altar testify. Both the exterior of the church which apart from the plaster covered tower is flint and the interior with its simple stone font are exceedingly plain with no memorials of any kind on the walls apart from the above mentioned plaque although this is perhaps no bad thing given the scale of the building which has about it an almost minimalist beauty only challenged by the somewhat incongruous brightly coloured 19th century French glass of the east window.

Near the door, there is a list of vicars and rectors which begins with Thomas de Reedham although his successor, Roger de Barsham, is the first for whom we have a date – 1339. One incumbent, John Tequis who took over the church in 1654 is interestingly described as 'a usurper' with no further explanation. It could be that a clue lies in the date, five year's into the English Republic when Puritan and Laudian factions contended for the nation's soul. Perhaps the hapless priest was a political appointee whose election to the post was looked upon with disfavour after the Restoration. Regarding the period of the Civil Wars, we are reminded that

West Lexham's most famous son was undoubtedly Philip Skippon, c.1600-60 who was born locally into the minor gentry and after living for a time at Foulsham Hall which he inherited in 1634 took up again the military career which he had begun in his youth and went on to become one of Cromwell's ablest and most prominent commanders serving with distinction at Newbury and later Naseby where despite serious wounds he refused to leave the field. He held many offices including being elected Member of Parliament for King's Lynn in 1654 and during the Rule of the Major-Generals commanded the London district. For more on this period, the reader should refer to R.W. Ketton-Cremer's excellent book *Norfolk in the Civil War*, now out of print but widely available in libraries. Thoughts of Philip Skippon reminded us of a nearby connection with Oliver Cromwell and on the same day that we looked at Saint Nicholas, West Lexham, we also paid a brief visit to Swaffham where Catherine Steward of Castle Acre, the Lord Protector's maternal grandmother is commemorated in the church of St Peter and St Paul.

A fine monument in the Lady Chapel (1590) represents a somewhat formidable woman kneeling in white robes firmly clasping her Bible and a *memento mori* in the form of a large skull. Given her commanding presence here it is perhaps ironic that the church's original painted glass windows are said to have been destroyed by Puritan iconoclasts who replaced these popish affectations with plain 'Protestant glass' only resting from their labours to amuse themselves by taking pot shots at the carved angels in the roof while Cromwell's granny looked on disapprovingly in effigy. Despite this forced simplification, Swaffham's large and impressive church with all its finery, serving as it does a large market town, is worlds away in spirit from the *bijou* rural haven of St Nicholas, West Lexham. As to which is the most pleasing, I leave it to the reader to decide.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD 635) and comprise Baptisms 1689-1758 and 1779-1972, Marriages 1689-1985, Burials 1689-1758 and 1779-1812 and Banns 1755-1811, 1829 and 1849-1945. Microform copies of the above are available for research but Baptisms end 1908, Marriages 1900 and Banns 1919. Archdeacon's and Bishop's Transcripts cover Baptisms 1600-1919, Marriages 1600-1837 and Burials 1600-1919. Items from the Parish Chest include notes and transcripts of documents concerning a grant by Henry VIII to Thomas Duke of Norfolk of the advowson to West Lexham 1537, East Lexham and Great Dunham boundaries, roads and public allotments made under an enclosure act 1797 and a certified copy made 1851 of the 1838 tithes apportionment.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

A few words from your Editor ...

Hello everyone, thank you so much for all your contributions to the Newsletter, without them we wouldn't have one, so please keep them coming. We have nearly reached another AGM, please come along to the meeting in September, if you are able, and have your say as to how your Society is run.

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 **October 10th 2009.**

Kate Easdown

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT - It was a bit of a squeeze

Although the returns for Wales, the Channel Isles, Isle of Wight and the military overseas are yet to be processed (April 2009), there cannot be many of us who are unaware that the 1911 Census for England & Wales has been released after only 98 years. This time it is the actual household schedules that have been preserved, usually written and signed, by a member of the household. What is more, it is available on-line in our homes and searchable with an ease that the original administrators of the census could never have imagined.

At the top of the form there is a statement: *The contents of this schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The forms are not to be used as proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.* Have the Office of National Statistics broken their word? Up until now the *information with regard to individual persons* on census returns has remained ‘secret’ for 100 years. No doubt thinking that after that time everyone recorded on the form will have passed on.

However, my wife is fortunate in that she has an aunt aged 98 who, although rather frail, is still very much still alive. She appears on the schedule aged 4 months along with her mother, who filled in the form and signed on behalf of the household, father (a farm worker - NOT Ag Lab as on previous census!), 3 brothers and 4 sisters.

We shall have to wait another two years to discover whether her family were recorded as deaf, dumb, blind, imbeciles, lunatics or feeble minded, but in today’s enlightened society does it matter if they were? What are the secrets that previously we had to wait a century for?

In my aunts case I think the ‘secret’ that ‘they’ want to keep and to which ‘they’ do not know the answer is how my aunt, along with her mother, father and seven brothers and sisters (without the 3 more brothers yet to be born) managed to live in a five roomed cottage. The sleeping arrangements must have been a bit of a squeeze.

TFG



Auntie Mollie aged 98 sees herself and family in the 1911 Census

THE LONDON GAZETTE - TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION

One family historian writes:

“...from my personal perspective in the London Gazette online archive I found:

- My French great great grandfather submitted three patents for inventions whilst he was living in London " improvements in apparatus or instruments for describing or drawing elliptical figures" " improvements in ornamenting transparent or partially transparent glass" ; "improvements in apparatus for aerial locomotion "
- Another great great grandfather was made bankrupt in 1867
- The record of an ancestor applying for British naturalisation
- A distant German relative who had his British assets sequestered under the WWII Trading with the Enemy legislation!"

But first:

Samuel Pepys, Lord Byron and Charles Dickens are amongst the famous names to have written of the London Gazette, Britain's oldest continuously-published newspaper. It has recorded significant political

events, the everyday working of government and to some extent the lives of ordinary everyday people since the plague of 1665 drove King Charles II from London. The issue of September 10th 1666 faithfully records the inexorable spread of the Great Fire of London despite “*His Majesties (sic) own...personal plans to apply all possible remedies to prevent it*” (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/85)

By the early eighteenth Century the Admiralty and War Office published despatches in the Gazette and submitted details of the appointments and promotions of their officers, a process continuing even today and known as “being gazetted” and in 1712 an “*Act to Relieve Insolvent Debtors*” required publication of insolvency announcements. Military despatches published included those of particular importance, Nelson’s death at the Battle of Trafalgar and the first news of Wellington’s victory at Waterloo. (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/15858; (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/17028))

The Gazette continued to grow, the railway building boom of 1845, legislation on Patents and Company Law in the 1850s and 1860s, and from 1870 notice of civil service recruitment and examinations contributed to the publication. Civil service notices continued through the first half of the twentieth century and included bodies such as the post office that we don’t today regard as civil service.

In 1899 a Naturalization Act (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27039/pages/13) resulted in the regular publication of lists of those granted British citizenship and in 1925 the Trustee Act (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/33120/pages/84) picked up pre-existing practice by specifying certain legal privileges for executors giving notice of deceased’s estates in the Gazette. Notices of this type are placed even today, providing family historians with a rich trail of information.

In 1843 British commanders mentioned rank and file soldiers (Other Ranks) by name in their despatches for the first time. With the introduction during the Crimean War of three medals to be awarded to Other Ranks for brave conduct, details of the actions for which they were awarded – known as citations – were published in the Gazette. The best-known of these is the Victoria Cross, the first examples being awarded for service in the Crimean War (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/21971).

At the turn of the century despatches from the Boer War were frequently accompanied by regular lists of those awarded medals or whose conduct was to be noted. Whilst the names of those whose conduct was noteworthy are sometimes recorded within the text of a despatch, it became common practice to provide a separate list of such names after the main despatch, an appearance in such lists becoming known as a “mention in despatches”. Awards of a new medal for naval officers, the Conspicuous Service Cross (later the Distinguished Service Cross) were gazetted from 1901 (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/27328/pages/4330).

WW1 led to changes to the Honours and Awards system, reflecting the nature of the conflict. Existing medals for bravery were extended by the creation of the Military Cross (MC), the Military Medal (MM). By 1920 over 120,000 MMs and 40,000 MCs had been gazetted.

The Order of the British Empire was introduced by King George V in June 1917. These awards rewarded British and Empire civilians who were helping the war effort and for the first time recognised the contribution of women. The order recognised outstanding military service of a non-combatant nature or a distinguished contribution to the state in the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service and charitable work. With these regular awards came the institution of the Birthday and New Year Honours Lists, (www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/30111/supplements/5453). WW2 saw a similar expansion to the Gazette to that of 1914: extensive lists of promotions and regular supplements of Honours and Awards.

Although it has been available in public libraries for many years, the official nature of the material recorded in the Gazette has meant a limited circulation, making access difficult for many interested users. The Gazette recognised this and now 99%+ of London Gazettes are available online with most being key word searchable.

The best tip to get the most from the web archive is to use the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)/Help screens, the diversity of content makes it a complex publication and search is a skill unless you have an unusual surname!

Today's Gazette still thrives with daily publication of notices and military, honours and other supplements. Whether you are researching a person or a social trend, the Gazette is a treasure trove of family and other history and will probably have something of interest.

For more information about the London Gazette visit us at www.london-gazette.co.uk/about, a special search facility is available for beginners at www.london-gazette.co.uk/search/steps/1 or use advanced search www.london-gazette.co.uk/search.

With thanks to Jon Mills, author and publisher of the series "Within The Island Fortress: the uniforms insignia and ephemera of the home front in Britain 1939-1945"

References

Handover, PM "A History of the London Gazette: 1665-1965" HMSO; London 1965

Abbott, PE, Tamplin, JMA, "British Gallantry Awards" London 1971

WEBSITES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

www.metpolice.uk/history/records.htm - info about Metropolitan Police Service Records

www.policemuseum.org.uk – The Glasgow Police Museum

www.policehistorysociety.co.uk/index.htm - The Police History Society

www.policememorial.org.uk – The National Police Officers' Roll of Honour

www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk – Shows the spread of names from 1881-1998

www.1911census.co.uk – now available

www.roll-of-honour.com – Publishes databases of the fallen, from the Boar to the Korean Wars

www.archhistory.co.uk – contains the Army Children’s Archives

www.redcoat.info/memindex3.htm - Lists officers who died in action during the 18th and 19th centuries

www.1914-1918.net – A superb site devoted to the First World War with lots of advice on training soldiers

www.smallandspecial.org – A collection of resources relating to the early years of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children – the first of its kind in England. You can trace a patient, learn about childhood diseases, or investigate a member of the medical staff.

NEW MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Member 706 – Mr M Cxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

-----@-----

| | | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| LINCOLN | Yaxham NFK | 1700 to date |
| DACK | Dereham NFK | 1700 to date |

Member 708 – Mrs L Wxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

-----@-----

| | | |
|------------------|-----|----------|
| HART/HARTE/HARTT | All | Pre 1841 |
|------------------|-----|----------|

Member 709 – Mrs E Bxxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

-----@-----

| | | |
|---------|--------------|-----|
| SOFTLEY | Wendling NFK | All |
|---------|--------------|-----|

MEMBERS' UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pat Mxxxx (Member 622) has asked that her new email address be printed – it is -----@----- *Please amend your copy of the Members Interests booklet.*

Tom Garland also has a new email address ... -----@-----

He sends his apologies to anyone who has tried to contact him on his old email address since 7th May. Emails have not been delivered and Tom is unable to get them redirected. If you have emailed Tom recently and not had a reply, please email him at his new address above.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY AT MORMON CHURCH, Yaxham Road, Dereham

Opening Times: Tuesday and Wednesday 6-7.30 and 7.30-9
Thursday 6.30-9pm

Telephone No: Dereham (01362) 851500

The library does not hold any films or fiche but these can be ordered. You will need to book a session to use the computer so that the relevant reference number can be obtained. Always make sure you know the name of the Church if you want to look at Parish Registers. The cost to hire a film is £2.70 for a one-month loan or £3.80- for a longer loan, or if the records are on fiche it is 15p is not available at centre. Fiche once ordered and read then remains at the library.

Also on the computer is Ancestry.co.uk which has 1841-1901 census, Births/Marriage/Death records, UK & Ireland Parish Records, Pallot Marriage Index, Irish Immigrants: New York Port Arrival.

NB: Pallots Index. This index covers more that 98% of marriages in 101 or 103 ancient parishes of the square mile of the City of London between 1780 and 1837. It also includes many millions of other marriage entries, and also baptisms and burials from the Greater London area and even further afield such as Cornwall and Lancashire. Many of the entries are from records which have been destroyed since it was started in 1818.

A MERCHANT SEAMAN'S STORY

*"I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by ..."*

Those are the opening lines of John Masefield's famous poem "Sea Fever" in which he describes the call of the sea. Not tall ships but steam ships were busy in the port of Liverpool in the late 19th century when Kenneth Gough as a young boy watched them loading and unloading. It must have fascinated him, and perhaps led him towards a life at sea.

Kenneth Gough is one of the people in my family tree, and he was born in 1879 in Wem, Shropshire. That is interesting for a start, because a Richard Gough wrote his history of the Shropshire village of Myddle in 1701-2 and he had traced his own family back about 200 years. So far I have not investigated a connection with this particular family, but it would seem to be quite a possibility. On the 1881 census Kenneth age 2 is shown to be living with his parents, four brothers, two stepbrothers, and a stepsister in a hotel in Liverpool where his father was the proprietor. Ten years later the 1891 census shows the family living in Bootle, and Kenneth age 11 is a scholar. His father is described as a retired builder and borough auditor.

Kenneth joined Alfred Holt's Blue Funnel Line which was renowned for the quality of its ships, management, crews and shore staff. The company had been founded in 1865 to provide a regular steamship cargo service from England to China, at first via the Cape of Good Hope. Initially the cargos transported were cotton and woollen goods from Liverpool to China, and tea, tin and tobacco on the return journey. In 1869 the Suez Canal was opened, and this vastly shortened the route to China. In the 1890s 23 new ships were added to the fleet and new routes were opened up as the business grew. It may have been at this time that Kenneth Gough was recruited by the Company. In the early 1900s manufactured goods and machinery filled the outbound ships, and tin and rubber from the Malay States, tobacco from the East Indies, and refrigerated fruit and meat from Australia became the inward cargoes. In due course, Kenneth obtained his Certificate of Competence as a Master. He married my grandmother's sister, Elsie Goode, in 1910 and they had a daughter who was born in 1914.

During the First World War, Master Kenneth Gough volunteered or was called

up to serve in the Mercantile Marine. It was in 1917 that he was master of the S.S. “Elve”, a Dutch ship of 889 tons powered by triple expansion engines, that was operating under the British flag. It had been built by P.A. van Es & Co. in Fijenoord in 1916. The “Elve” departed Oporto, Portugal on 9th October with a crew of 31 including 2 Royal Navy personnel, Leading Seaman James Bliss and Seaman Peter Sinclair. The ship was carrying a cargo of sleepers, slates and hides bound for London. Disaster struck two days into the voyage, and the ship went missing with all hands lost. Although German submarines were known to operate in the area it was not known exactly what had happened. Information on the Great War Forum website has enabled me to give the following account of the most likely scenario.

German U-boat U22s logbook describes an encounter with a steamer (probably the “Elve” although it is not named) on 11th October in rough weather conditions. It fired at the steamer which returned the fire. The “Elve” must have been severely damaged because the surviving members of the crew abandoned ship and took to the lifeboats. The U-boat submerged and when nearer to the ship fired a torpedo which missed it. The doomed men in the lifeboats drifted off into the darkness never to be seen again. The submarine waited in the vicinity until the next morning when it sank the steamer with further gunfire. Sadly, the survivors in the lifeboats would have realised that they had very little chance of rescue, and would have died within hours or days from exposure in the cold conditions.

After the loss of her husband, Kenneth’s wife moved to Birmingham with her daughter to live with relatives. I still have research to do on Kenneth’s life. For instance the Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool have the service records of the Alfred Holt Line employees, presumably including those of Master Gough. It would also be interesting to discover when he was granted his Master’s Certificate of Competence, and a record of this should be held at the National Archive Centre in Kew. The 1911 census is also available now. He does not seem to be recorded on the 1901 census, so it will be interesting to try and find him on the 1911 one.

Master Kenneth Gough’s date of death is recorded as 11th October 1917 age 38, and he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London. The First World War section of this Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no known grave but the sea.

Martin Livie

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 ... In the Summer edition of the Newsletter Sue Harris asked about a Valentine Verse. Heather Young, who grew up in Snettisham, wrote in with the version she remembers:

Old Mother Valentine, God Bless the baker, You'll be the giver, I'll be the taker. The roads are very dirty, my shoes are very clean, I've got a pocket to put a penny in.

It was tradition that after school on Valentine's Day the children would all troop up through the park to the big house and sing or chant the verse to Miss Woodham who lived there. She would then give each child a penny and an orange. Heather thinks the tradition stopped when WWII started.

BEECH HILL GRESSENHALL ... Heather is asking for help with a query – she is researching someone who died in 1934 in/at Beech Hill Gressenhall. Was this the workhouse? Also can anyone suggest which newspaper would have reported the BMD and obituaries for the Gressenhall/Shipdham areas in 1934.

THE TUDOR PERIOD ... Sue Harris also asked about Tudor times as she has been fortunate enough to trace a branch of her family back that far, and Sally Painter has replied as follows: thank you Sally

*I suggest that she reads a book called *The Voices of Morebath (reformation and rebellion in an English village)* by Eamon Duffy; about life in a small Devon village, it is a good starting point. I have read through the bibliography and cannot see a book specifically about Suffolk for this time.*

A lot appears to have depended on what people could get away with, how near the village was to a monastery/ cathedral etc – what the new bishops were like.

The only other part of the question I would be able reply to, it would have been highly unlikely that the general public (as in serfs, villiens, ag labs etc), unless they were servants (spencers) on an estate, where there might have been painting of the family for them to see (if they were allowed in that part of the house). The King was in his castle and so were his paintings!

If you type in Suffolk and reformation (and search UK okay) here are a few sites that I would bother looking at that have come up:

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/reformation.htm>

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/suffintro.htm>

<http://www.paintedchurch.org/stokebc.htm>

<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/timeline/06reformation.html>

1555 Mary burns bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley at the stake (Oct. 16). (that means the churches were Catholic at this date)

... and Coralie Paxton replies ...

In the latest newsletter, there was a request from Sue Harris requesting information about the effects of the Reformation on ordinary village life. I can't help about Norfolk specifically, but she may find Eamon Duffy's book 'The Voices of Morebath: Reformation and Rebellion in an English Village', published by Yale University Press, both useful and interesting. It's about a village near Exmoor, where the priest and villagers opposed the Reformation, and is based on extensive documents written by the priest. It is academic but extremely readable.

FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

Doncaster & District Family History Society

2009 Family History Day
will be held on the 24th October 2009
at Danum School, Doncaster

WAS YOUR ANCESTOR REWARDED?

As family historians we are keen to discover not only our ancestors' names, dates, places of residence and occupation but every scrap of information which will illustrate their lives and personalities.

After explaining to a friend how cottagers were encouraged to be industrious and thrifty, I picked up the new *MNFHS Members' Interests Directory* to see if anyone might be interested in some of the published surnames.

The second annual meeting of the Wayland Association 'for the encouragement of meritorious cottagers, labourers and servants and for the promoting of harmony and good feeling amongst all classes of society' was held at Watton on Tuesday 1st November 1836.

In the first category 'Agricultural Servants' rewarded for long service, spinster Fanny Adcock, servant to Mr William Farrer of Saham for sixteen years, was awarded £2 and John Whalebelly received £1 for eight years as a servant to Mr Edward Clark of Saham.

Under 'Labourers etc.,' Thomas Cock was rewarded with £2 for having been a 'farming labourer' with Mr. H. Oldfield of Ashill, for 24 years and Henry Cock, a farming labourer for 23 years with Mr T. Wrightup of Ashill, received £1. John Cock, also one of Mr Wrightup's labourers, was awarded 15s for his good character. Most of us have an 'ag. lab.' or two in our family tree, but it can be difficult to discover by whom they were employed, their length of service and reputation.

Also we often wonder how they coped with bringing up a large family in a small cottage. In the class 'Independent Labourers etc.,' Robert Buckle of Tottington was awarded £3 for bringing up seven children under twelve years of age without needing parish relief. For similarly maintaining six children, James Watling of Saham received £2.10.0, John Cooper of Merton, £2 and Robert Lister of Scoulton £1.10.0. Charles Crane of Griston received 7s 6d the third prize for those who had brought up five children under twelve years old.

In the 'Varieties' category, prizes were awarded for thrift by saving part of wages, and domestic economy in the most productive use of land. Thomas Brown of Ashill received £1 for growing the greatest weight of onions on the smallest quantity of land and John Cooper of Merton £1 for the greatest quantity of turnip-seed. Unfortunately the Christian name is omitted for the 'Drew of Saham' who received 15s second prize for the greatest quantity of honey.

Similarly harder to identify – Howes, ploughman to Mr Robert Brasnett of Griston who received £2 and – Boughen ploughman to Mr Chapman of Thompson who had £1, first and second prizes for 'a gathering of broad work on a clover lay, executed in the best manner.' Thomas Brown, ploughman to Mr H. Oldfield of Ashill who earned 10s as second prize for 'drawing the straightest furrow' might also be the onion prize-winner above.

Prizes were also awarded for home-brewing the most malt, rearing the greatest number of lambs from the smallest number of ewes, and knitting the most stockings!

Such details from posters and newspaper reports may be 'trivia' but it all helps to clothe our skeletons and enliven our family history, so I would be interested to hear if anyone shouts 'Eureka!'.

Joy Lodey.

NEW PUBLICATIONS by the MNFHS

NOW AVAILABLE

Memorial Inscriptions of:
The Church and Churchyard of
Swannington (St Margaret)
£2.30 (plus 76p postage charge for UK)

COMPETITION CORNER

Thank you to all who entered the Summer Newsletter Competition – the winner this time was Sue Vickerage from Dereham. Sue wins a book of her choice from the Society's publication list.

From Tom ... Chairman and poet!

By June we were beaten in France, without a doubt
And the Dunkirk withdrawal completed the rout.
Now Hitler just needed the channel to cross,
And he could be crowned the 'European Boss'.

In preparation, Goering said he'd get rid of the 'few',
But fortunately for us, he 'bit off more than he could chew'.
The 'few' fought back and after many a sortie,
Britain declared the 'air battle' won, in late September 1940.

The question for the Autumn Competition is

Nowadays we are used to the metric system, currency, weights and measures, but things weren't always like that so, in pre-decimal UK currency Add the number of pence in a pound to the number of shillings in a guinea and subtract the number of pence in a florin? What is the number you end up with?

Answers to Kate please by 14th October 2009 email (familyhis@aol.com) or post (address on back cover of this Newsletter), or bring your answers to the meeting on 21st October and hand them to Sue when you sign in. Correct answers will be put into a bag and drawn at the October 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.

TIMELINES

- 1800 Parliamentary union of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1801 Present design of Union Jack as official British flag; the Grand Union Canal Warwick-Napton opens
- 1803-1815 Napoleonic Wars ending with Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo; poaching made a capital offence in England; first public railway (horse-drawn) opens Wandsworth-Croydon
- 1805 Nelson's victory at Trafalgar; London docks open
- 1807 Gas lighting in London Streets
- 1812 Prime Minister Spencer Perceval assassinated

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS AT MNFHS MEETINGS

- 16th September – AGM ... followed by Tom's Quiz
- 21st October – Interpreting Family Military History by Neil Storey
- 18th November – Appreciating Parish Records by Peter Lawrence
- There is no meeting in December

USING THE VICTORIAN CENSUS

"Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education is delighted to offer members of the Federation of Family History Societies a 10% discount when they enrol on our online course Using the Victorian Census before 28th August 2009"

Full course details can be found at www.conted.ox.ac.uk/census

To claim the 10% discount simply complete the online enrolment form, entering the following promotional voucher code when prompted
FFHS9Aug

The offer is available until 28 August 2009, while places are available.

Using the Victorian Census: A Practical Course for Family and Local History

The census returns for England & Wales dating from 1841 to 1901 are one of our most valuable sources for studying society, families and local communities in the 19th century and their availability online now brings them within reach of anyone with access to the Internet. This practical course will introduce the census and show how it can be used to explore the world of our Victorian ancestors.

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

ONE THOUSAND MORE MEMORIALS

Another 1,000 Kent churchyard memorial inscriptions have been added to the Kent Archaeological Society's website www.kentarchaeology.org.uk. Most of them have been transcribed from original notes made by antiquarians more than 100 years ago, and therefore provide genealogical information from gravestones which since then have become illegible or have been removed.

More than 900 of the inscriptions are from St Botolph's, Northfleet and St George's, Gravesend, and were originally recorded by Sir Thomas Colyer-Fergusson of Ightham Mote, a life member and officer of the KAS, whose notebooks were donated to the Centre for Kentish Studies.

The MIs feature photographs taken in St George's Churchyard at 6am one morning in 1923 during an unsuccessful attempt to find the remains of the legendary 'Princess Pocahontas,' who died on board a ship off Gravesend in 1617 and was buried at St George's.

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