

News

Volume 5 Issue 9



Letter

Winter 2009



'Let's Look at a Church' No. 56 – St Mary the Virgin, North Elmham

St Mary the Virgin, North Elmham dates back to Norman times although there was a place of worship close by, a cathedral no less, for hundreds of years before the first stones of the present church were laid and the Christian faith was brought to this place barely a century after the time of *Beowulf*. The land of the north folk was far from civilized in those days, the Romans were long since gone and the coming of Christianity had yet to bear fruit in the more settled Medieval period which was to see East Anglia become the most populous and prosperous area of England. The cathedral was made of wood and was burnt by the Danes in 870 so nothing of it remains although extensive archaeological excavations between 1967 and 1972, some carried out by Dr. P. Wade-Martins who with his wife has produced an excellent guide book to the modern church still on sale for the interested visitor, did find remains of the wooden houses which made up the settlement that later formed the straggling village of North Elmham. As far as we know, the earliest parish church in Elmham was built by Herbert de Losinga, a Norman, who became the first Bishop of Norwich and founded Norwich Cathedral in 1096. As penance for the sin of simony or cash for honours – he had paid £1,900 for his bishopric, Losinga established St Mary the Virgin not long afterwards, building here also a palace and a personal chapel probably on the site of the original Anglo Saxon cathedral. The next notable character to come upon the scene was Henry le Despencer the infamous 'Fighting Bishop' who bloodily put down the Peasant's Revolt of 1381 and has generally had a 'bad press' all round. As well as numerous lengthy and often murderous disputes with his neighbours throughout Norfolk, Suffolk and further afield he saw fit to embark on an expedition to

Flanders which was a complete shambles and resulted in the temporary confiscation of much of his property. Such military clerics were not unknown in the Middle Ages but the common notion that battling bishops armed themselves with ecclesiastical maces to avoid technically committing the sin of shedding blood is I am afraid probably an old wives' tale. Having inherited the chapel originally built by Losinga, now depicted on the village sign and whose ruins still lie adjacent to the parish church, Despencer conceived the plan of beating ploughshares into swords in a manner of speaking and converting it into a small but highly fortified castle as a base for his non religious activities. When Bishop Despencer died in 1406, things could only get better and apart from the odd spot of iconoclasm the subsequent history of the area was rather more peaceful although there were still some bad eggs about – the record of the visitation of 1627 tells us that in the next door parish of Brisley one 'Hillary Merriment, musitian' was censured for 'fidling to young people in service tyme'. Enough excitement, the present church of St Mary the Virgin is well worth a visit, its fabric having down the ages being subject to a range of influences from Norman through to Tudor and of particular interest is the screen, reconstructed in 1882 using sections of the original 13th century one which was much disfigured over the Reformation period and depicts among the many saints, all with scratched faces, a beautiful St. Cecilia holding a circlet of flowers and a rather grim St. Agnes with the sword of her martyrdom at her throat. There are also a number of entertaining bench end carvings to admire and on leaving, before examining the many interesting headstones in the rambling old burial ground now kept tidy with the help of the local sheep, look up at the fine tower which a Ladbroke drawing of the early 19th century shows once boasted a small spire taking its height up to a respectable 120ft. The large square clock face is made of what is described in the guide as 'gold aluminium' and was provided in the 1950s by an American company whose subsidiary had a depot here at the time. Truly, every age has left its mark on Elmham.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD 209) and comprise Baptisms 1538-1942, Marriages 1538-1982, Burials 1538-1934 and Banns 1787-1960. Microform copies cover the same period except that Marriages end in 1931 and Banns in 1939. There is a printed transcript of all the earlier registers 1538-1794 while Archdeacon's and Bishop's transcripts start in 1600 and record Baptisms up to 1935, Marriages to 1837 and Burials to 1935. The 47 page Parish Chest contains a wealth of supplementary material including Churchwarden Accounts and Vouchers 1539-1950, Overseers Accounts 1629-1836, Bastardy Bonds, Examinations and Orders 1587-1826, Settlement Certificates and Examinations 1686-1831, Removal Orders 1737-1828 and Apprenticeship Indentures 1618-1827. The above dates do have some gaps but there is a rich source of information here if your ancestor came from North Elmham.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

A few words from your Editor ...

Hello again, and thank you for all your contributions. This is the last Newsletter for 2009, another year gone! We have some interesting speakers arranged for next year, but if there is anything you are particularly interested in and would like to hear a talk on, please let Graham Rudd (or me, Kate) know,.

Format for Newsletter Contributions Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, then please email the file to me at Familyhis@aol.com or post it on a CD/floppy disk, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter. Handwritten articles can also be posted to me.

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter **17th January 2010**

Kate Easdown

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Nobody Goes to AGMs

'Nobody goes to Annual General Meetings' (AGMs) - a sad but all too familiar attitude. This is a pity for the AGM provides an opportunity for the organisation to 'take stock' of its achievements, or otherwise, over the past year; to review the financial position, to elect a committee for the coming year and to provide a forum whereby members may air grievances or put forward their ideas for improvement.

I suppose we are lucky, our AGM usually attracts around 25 people. However, aware of the reluctance of people to attend, over the years we have attempted to turn our AGM into a social evening with a quiz. The AGM itself has become a formality honed into a 30-minute affair but, I would like to believe, with all the essential ingredients still included.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter there should be a copy of this years quiz. Despite being multiple-choice questions, you might think the questions are hard. But it's not *Mastermind* or *Eggheads* - nobody is asked to answer questions individually - it's a game with the main object of getting to know other society members and if the correct answer is arrived at in the process, so much the better.

But here's a thought: It has been suggested that despite our best endeavours to turn the AGM into a social occasion, not everyone likes quizzes. Could it be that it the thought of having to take part in a quiz that stops a larger number of people attending?

TFG

AGM – 16th SEPTEMBER 2009

The AGM took place on the 16th September, unfortunately not many members attended. The Chairman's report follows, also a copy of Tom's quiz which followed the AGM, which Tom put a lot of work into and which everyone enjoyed. A copy of the audited Income and Expenditure Account is on page

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - AGM 2009

At the last AGM I was apprehensive about the future of the Society. Our editor had just retired and we were shuffling people and jobs amongst the committee. Fortunately, I am pleased to report that my concerns were unwarranted. Kate took to the editorship like the proverbial 'duck to water' and produced the Newsletter almost without any noticeable change of editorship. Denise, despite the inevitable computer problems produced the Members Interest Directory on time and to the usual format and Sue is keeping us on our toes in her new role as Society Secretary.

Thanks to them and the Committee's old hands - Graham, Iona, Joan, John, Pat and Susan plus the unsung heroes who help with the library and other tasks behind the scenes, and of course the support of the membership, we have had another good year.

Paid up membership is virtually unchanged and stands at 274 (246 Individual and 28 Joint members), while Graham's well-balanced monthly programme continued to attract good audiences which (excluding the AGM) have averaged a fraction below 40 people.

I fed an error into the Burial Index database which took Barry and the Federation six months to sort which meant that this year we have increased its content hardly at all. But it continued to be popular at our stands at The Norwich Family History Fair and Gressenhall History Day where as usual we also allowed free reference to our Memorial Inscription Booklets. This year our very small team of recorders have done another six churchyards and Kate has sold an incredible 250 publications. These sales along with the commission from the on-line burial index have helped offset our expenses and despite increased costs the Society has managed to show a surplus of Income over expenditure of £273.87 for the year. This may not be a great amount but sufficient to enable us to recommend that our annual Membership inscription remains unchanged for yet another year

Tom Garland

TOM'S AGM QUIZ - To Mark The Release of the 1911 Census

- 01 Assuming the 100-year rule remains, how many more Censuses' will be released by 2045?
a. 3 b. 2 c. 1
- 02 What was the date of the 1911 Census
a. 2 Mar b. 2 Apr c. 2 May
- 03 The census showed a population for England & Wales of 36 million. What was this in relation to the 1901 census?
a. About the same b. Increase of approx 10%
c. Increase of approx 20%
- 04 What extra information was added to the GRO Indexes in 1911?
a. Mothers maiden name in Index of Births
b. Surname of Spouse in the Index of Marriages
c. Age at death in the Index of Deaths

- 05 If the rules were followed, in 1911 would a child born at 2.30 am on census night be included in the census?
a. Yes b. No
- 06 Who was on the throne in 1911?
a. Queen Victoria b. Edward VII c. George V
- 07 George V was crowned in 1911. Which country of the British Empire did he visit the same year?
a. India b. Canada c. South Africa
- 08 Who was George V's Queen Consort?
a. Mary b. Alice c. Alexander
- 09 Scott set out to reach the South Pole in 1911. He never made it in 1911 but Edmundsen did, beating him by 34 days. What was Edmundsen's nationality?
a. Swedish b. New Zealander c. Norwegian
- 10 How many members of Scott's expedition eventually made it to the pole but all perished on the return journey?
a. 3 b. 5 c. 7
- 11 The Titanic was launched in 1911. Where was she built?
a. Liverpool b. Glasgow c. Belfast
- 12 Titanic was the second of three 'Olympic' class ships built by the White Star Line to compete in size and luxury with the Cunard Line's Lusitania and Mauritania. The Olympic engines were designed to be more efficient. Approximately how much coal did they burn over a 24-hour period?
a. 350 tonnes b. 650 tonnes c. 950 tonnes
- 13 Cunard's Mauritania retained the Blue Riband for the fastest crossing between Britain and the US from 1909 - 1929, which was approximately:
a. 4½ days b. 5½ days c. 6½ days
- 14 Which of the White Star Olympic class liners was still afloat when Cunard and White Star amalgamated in 1934?
a. Britannic b. Olympic c. Titanic
- 15 Which newspaper was not on sale in 1911
a. The Daily Mirror b. The Sun c. The Daily Express
- 16 MPs voted for a pay rise in 1911. Their new annual salary was to be:
a. £400 b. £700 c. £1000
- 17 Which of the following Cadbury chocolate bars was first manufactured in 1911
a. Cadbury's Flake b. Dairy Milk c. Fruit & Nut

- 18 What is the connection between Wilbert Awdry and 1911?
a. It was the year he was born
b. His first Thomas the Tank Engine story was published
c. It was the year of his death
- 19 Which of the following was **not** available in 1911?
a. The bicycle with speed gears and pneumatic tyres
b. Mecanno construction kits c. Monopoly Board game
- 20 And finally - no relevance to 1911 whatsoever. When was unleaded petrol introduced into UK petrol pumps?
a. 1976 b. 1986 c. 1996

Answers on page 17

NBI SEARCHES – SPECIAL OFFER

During the month of January 2010 National Burial Index (NBI) searches carried out by Mid-Norfolk Family History Society will be free to Society Members under the following conditions:

- Applications will be accepted by post or email but the results **will be sent to you by email.**
- Applies only to applications **received during the month of January 2010.**
- You may request searches of any number of names.
- If you want the results by letter then the normal charges will apply (£1 per name for members).

Search requests to me please ... familyhis@aol.com or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Kate Easdown

MID NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2009

	2008/09	2007/08		2008/09	2007/08
EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
Newspapers (printing, postage)	£ 1,369.01	£ 969.25	Subscriptions	£ 2,019.00	£ 2,005.00
Less advertising revenue	£ 60.00	£ -	Publication Sales	£ -	£ -
Meetings and Events	£ 926.95	£ 805.29	Less printing postage refunds	£ 724.60	£ -
Less door takings	£ 231.00	£ 171.41	Less commission (to churches)	£ 27.00	£ -
General Admin. (post, stationery etc)	£ 148.21	£ 128.11	Voucher Sales	£ 251.79	£ 426.51
FFHS Subscription and Insurance	£ 29.86	£ 30.18	Miscellaneous Sales	£ 53.94	£ 106.65
Publicity	£ 57.03	£ 29.16	FFHS On-Line Commission	£ 387.05	£ 275.94
Projects	£ 116.69	£ 15.55	Donations	£ 96.15	£ 95.37
Library Purchases	£ 100.00	£ -	Bank Interest	£ 45.59	£ 106.47
Equipment (laptop, printer, pointer, upgrade)	£ 30.00	£ -			
1911 Census vouchers	£ 43.49	£ 4.73			
Website	£ -	£ -			
Sundries	£ -	£ -			
Excess income over expenditure	<u>£ 273.87</u>	<u>£ 499.69</u>			
TOTAL	<u>£ 2,978.52</u>	<u>£ 3,017.94</u>			
BALANCE AS AT 31st JULY 2009			TOTAL	<u>£ 2,978.52</u>	<u>£ 3,017.94</u>
LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
Accumulated Fund			Cash at HSBC Bank		
Balance as at 31.7.08	£ 4,374.90		Treasurer Account	£ 607.82	
Plus excess inc. over exp.	<u>£ 273.87</u>		Business Money Manager Account	<u>£ 4,231.21</u>	
Balance as at 31.7.09	£ 4,648.77				
Uncleared cheques	£ 4,802.67				
Cash in hand	<u>£ 63.64</u>				
	<u>£ 4,839.03</u>				
					<u>£ 4,839.03</u>

I report that the above Income and Expenditure Account is in accordance with the books and records supplied to me.

Signed *C. L. P. S.*

Date *6-9-09*

THE NORFOLK WEAVERS

‘The Chief Seat of the Chief Manufacture of the Realm : textile production in an English provincial city

Synopsis of a talk by Cathy Terry, Curator of Social History, Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service on 15th July

This talk provides an overview of the Norwich textiles industry. It describes the complex and closely integrated group of trades which together produced desirable and distinctive cloths such as callimancos and taboretts, destined at its 18th century peak for places as far flung as China, Russia, New England, Italy, Holland and Scandinavia.

Norwich is a provincial English city in which textile production is now barely a memory, and yet for hundreds of years it was the major industry in a city second in size and importance only to London. Textile money underpinned its prosperity, and a textiles oligarchy held the reins of power in local government. Today, Norwich has fine museums, civic records and buildings. However, apart from a remarkable collection of pattern books, there are surprisingly few surviving examples of cloths or garments that reflect the era of peak production. During 18th century ‘Norwich Stuffs’ were exported to European, Asian and American markets in huge quantities, and Norwich was acknowledged as the major manufacturer of ‘stuffs’, (worsted and worsted mix cloths).

Traces of this activity remain in the Norwich townscape. We can see from the few surviving weavers’ garrets and modest workshops in which the crafts were practiced, that cloth production was pre-industrial in scale and nature. At the same time, the evidence from the impressive merchant houses, monuments, churches and civic building suggests that the profits it generated were substantial. To understand how Norwich succeeded at a time when other mighty textile cities failed we examine the versatility and ingenuity of the various trades involved in cloth making over the previous four or five hundred years.

The wealthy and powerful medieval city gradually developed a number of different textiles specialities, including dornix weaving, linen, knitted stockings and Turkey work, as well as woollens and worsteds. Lying at the centre of a rich agricultural area, it had a famous market as well as excellent

trading connections to London and across the North Sea. Add to this the combined expertise of many generations of immigrant settlers, collectively known as 'The Strangers'. Flemish, Dutch, Walloon and French Huguenots, who brought their various distinctive cloth-making traditions to add to the range already produced. During the 17th century, Norwich became known for the resulting 'New Draperies': light-weight, colourful cloths, using worsted or worsted mix yarns, typically featuring pre-dyed yarn, inventive patterning and hot-pressed finishing.

Capitalising on tried and tested methods, the merchant-manufacturers of the 18th century took advantage of consumers' spending power and demand for fashionable clothing among the gentry classes. They sent their goods not only to London for distribution, but all over the world, carefully cultivating foreign clients and using their own agents to market their wares. Details of this process are gleaned from looking at the museum's collection of pattern books which detail the various cloths 'sent' in despatch books. These record a huge trade in the most popular cloths: camlets, callimancos, satins and taboretts, much of it shipped via the port of Great Yarmouth to Rotterdam, the Baltic and Scandinavia.

A picture emerges of merchant-manufacturers who were true masters of the arts of weaving, but also astute businessmen and able administrators, coordinating the many different craftsmen's input into the finished piece of cloth, assembling complicated orders ready for shipping, and arranging credit and insurance. Around thirty such individuals can be traced at the end of the 18th century in Norwich and some of these made immense fortunes. Nonetheless, there were a few bankruptcies: direct export left manufacturers hostage to fortune as wars, alliances, trade treaties and rivals came and went.

Ultimately Norwich was not well placed to compete with more industrialised textile production of the north and north-west of England, steadily losing ground to competitors in the later 18th and early 19th centuries. Worsted cloth was less fashionable, and worsted weavers hit hard times. Enterprising manufacturers turning to new types of fashion markets, including the famed Norwich shawls and to mourning cloths in the struggle to survive, but many manufacturers went out of business and there was widespread distress among the remaining weavers. When shawls fell from fashion in the 1870s the remaining textiles production dropped dramatically, leaving only a small amount of power-woven silk weaving, crapes and lower cost horse-hair fabrics used for furniture and linings.

Today only a handful of Norwich citizens remember textiles production in the city at first hand. However, there is keen interest in this aspect of the city's heritage since a significant proportion of Norwich residents have share a folk memory of weaving family forbears. Furthermore, a vibrant new textile culture is seen in enthusiastic support for textiles exhibition, research and study initiatives, artist involvement and civic commemoration. One of the most exciting opportunities is the prospect of discovering Norwich-made fabrics still in use or in collections elsewhere in the world, and particular thanks are due to our Scandinavian collaborators for being the first to help us rediscover wonderful examples of surviving garments in Norway and Sweden.

WEBSITES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

Using Wikipedia (on the internet) it is possible to identify the following which may be of use to you in your family history research, adding more data to that that you already have:-

- a) Events that happened in a given year. Just search for the year in question and it will come up with some of the historical events of that year
- b) Ascertain the weekday of any event (baptisms, marriages etc) where you have a date. Search for the year, as above. At the top of the entry it will show the weekday the year started with and also whether it was a Julian or Gregorian year. If you click on 'year starting on a Monday' or whichever day is applicable, it will provide you with a calendar for that year, enabling you to put a weekday to any date you have in that particular year.

Sue Harris

We have been advised of this website by the FFHS

BRITISH CONVICTS TRANSPORTATION REGISTERS DATABASE

The State Library of Queensland has just re-released the British Convict Transportation Registers Database (over 123,000 convicts sent to Australia between 1787 and 1867).

The original underlying software has been changed as it did not cope adequately with the amount of traffic experienced - the new system is much better equipped to cope with demand.

A new feature of the database is the ability for researchers to post comments on a chosen convict's record. This comment field is a great way for researchers to share their notes on a convict's life.

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts>

To write a comment simply find your convict on the database, click on the link under "Don't have a login?" and then sign up for a "One Search Guest" account.

Example of a comment written:

"Thomas Dowse was born in Hackney, London in 1809. In 1824, at the age of 15 he was convicted at the Old Bailey for theft and sentenced to death, which was later commuted to transportation for life. He spent the next few years onboard English hulks (the Bellerophon and the Euryalus) awaiting transportation. In January 1828 he arrived in New South Wales onboard the convict transport Florentia. After receiving his pardon he made his way to Moreton Bay . Between 1862 and 1869 he became Town of Clerk of Brisbane . Thomas died on 9 November 1885 and is buried in Toowong Cemetery .

Dates of conviction are continuing to be added to each record - this will be an ongoing project.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Joan Allson, the Membership Secretary for the Society, keeps an up to date record of Members' contact details.

If you are unable to contact another member, either write to or email Joan, details on the back cover, and she will be able to help.

If any member changes his/her address or email please let Joan know. This will ensure you receive your magazine and e-bulletin. Thankyou.

Kate

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Member 711 – Mr P Cxxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

	-----@-----		
CUSHING	Hardingham NFK		16 th – 19 th C
OSBORN/OSBORNE	Hingham NFK		16 th – 19 th C
ALLWOOD	Shipdham NFK		16 th – 19 th C
EDGE	All		16 th – 19 th C
CLIVE	All		16 th – 19 th C

Member 712 – Mrs J Sxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

	-----@-----		
BROCK/BROOK	Ashwicken/Dunhams NFK		1700 – 1800
COCK/CORK	Necton/Tittleshall NFK		1650 – 1780
RICHES	Necton/Tittleshall NFK		1650 – 1800
WEAS(Z)ENHAM	NFK		1650 – 1800
WALPOLE	N & E NFK		1650 – 1800

HELP WANTED ... AND FEEDBACK

BEECH HOUSE GRESSENHALL ... In the Autumn Newsletter Heather Young asked for help 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.

Joy Lodey has written in reply to Heather's query. In 1913 it was decided that, to avoid stigma, the word 'workhouse' should no longer be used on the birth certificates of babies born in a workhouse, or the death certificates of those who died there. Instead the 'institution' could use an alternative name and address. Thus the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse, Gressenhall, became 'Beech Hill House' (no doubt because of its beeches at the front, but mis-spelled on an old photograph of the building as 'Beach Hill House'). Soon afterwards it was shortened to 'Beech Hill', but nowadays it is "Beech House". Heather might be amused to know that many years ago I interviewed a gentleman who told me "I always tell people I was born in the biggest house in Gressenhall!", and of course he was quite right!

Jennifer Purple suggests the Lynn News and Advertiser or perhaps a Norwich paper as Gressenhall is nearer to Norwich than King's Lynn.

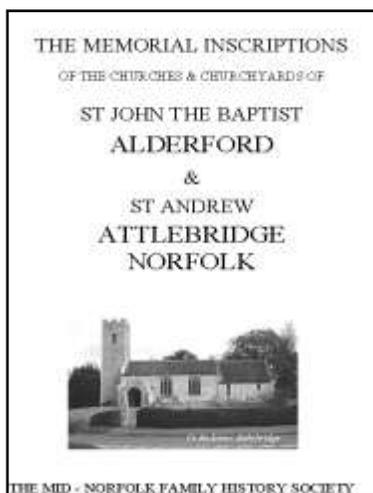
For more information on Gressenhall Workhouse/Museum of Norfolk Life you can google Gressenhall Norfolk Workhouse.

LONDON ANCESTORS – whilst searching for the cemeteries of her London ancestors, Debra Cozens came across an interesting site, www.deceasedonline.com, she believes they are trying to put burial and cremation records online for the capital, which beats trying to find them!

Do you have any questions other members may be able to help with? If so please contact Kate by email or letter (address on back page).

NEW PUBLICATIONS by the MNFHS

NOW AVAILABLE



TWO
NEW MI BOOKS
THIS MONTH
SALLE

**ALDERFORD &
ATTLEBRIDGE**
(combined)

£2.60 each
(plus 70p postage)

A LITERARY EVENING

At the end of July, we went to Jarrold's in Norwich for the launch of *Tracing Your East Anglian Ancestors* by Norfolk genealogist Gill Blanchard who is also one of our members. In an exclusive quote for the newsletter Gill said 'East Anglia has every thing for Family Historians including, in Norfolk, one of the best collections of records to be found in the country. Historically, we have had wealth, riots and produced people who have changed the world.' Ms Blanchard who is a professional family historian gave a stimulating and informative introduction to her book which although aimed primarily at those interested in East Anglian ancestors has much to offer the general reader with an interest in genealogy and is of use both to the beginner and the more experienced researcher.

One interesting point that came up during the talk was how a greater knowledge of the history and geography of a given area could provide an insight into the life circumstances of an ancestor and perhaps explain why their life followed the course it did.

The book covers the four counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk and introduces us to topics as wide ranging as crime and conflict, migration, religion and the coming of the railways. Of particular value is the introductory chapter which deals with East Anglian archives and how we can use them in our research and the book ends with a substantial directory of resources to be found in our area.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

Tracing Your East Anglian Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians by Gill Blanchard is published by Pen & Sword Books at £12.99.

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

20 th January	A Gypsy in the Family (Geoff Lee)
17 th February	Friendly Societies in Norfolk (Dan Weinbren)
17 th March	Using Old Maps for Family History (Andrew McNair)
21 st April	Tracking that Elusive Ancestor – Migration (Colin Chapman)

WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

When travelling to other parts of the country, and here in Norfolk, Tina and I like to combine sitting down at a reader/computer with some open air exercise. If possible we like to have a 2 or 3 days in the area spending at least 1 whole day in the local record office and another day walking in the district where our ancestors lived and worked, photographing relevant sites to illustrate our records. We find that this gives us more of idea of the family background and to some extent their lives there.

In April this year we visited Buckinghamshire where some of my husband's family lived in the late 18th and early 19th century. We set off early on the Tuesday morning arriving in Aylesbury in good time and had the rest of the day in Aylesbury Record Office, where we found a few more pieces of the puzzle before heading off to our B&B just outside Buckingham.

The next day we spent most of the day on a very pretty walk in the area, then doing a bit more exploring in the car, photographing the local churches and scenery to put a bit of background to our research.

On our final day we explored more of the area on the way back to Aylesbury for some more research in the Archive Centre followed by a trip to High and West Wycombe where my husband's ancestors lived. West Wycombe has an interesting looking church, which was unfortunately locked, on the top of a very steep hill, but we found the grave of a possible family member so the climb was worth it! We then travelled home tired but pleased to have added a bit more to our knowledge of the family history.

A few tips if you are thinking of going to Aylesbury RO: **Do book** a reader (there are not a huge number and when we went it was very busy); try to go on a **Tuesday** as the local FHS have a member there who will help you to access their extensive computerised records and are very helpful. Finally, we can recommend a very good B&B.

Following on from our visit to Aylesbury, closer to home here in Norfolk, having accumulated a fair amount of data about our families, we try to have one weekend a month out-and-about photographing the churches/schools

etc where our ancestors lived and were baptised, married or buried and walking some of the local footpaths to try to see more closely the area in which they lived and worked (we have found the EDP walks useful).

Our most recent excursion was to Frettenham, Hainford and Stratton Strawless where my mother's family lived for a time and she and her brothers and sister were baptised.

We had a good walk, ate our sandwiches and then went on to photograph the churches and school. Unfortunately Frettenham and Hainford churches were locked so we could only view the outside, but we had a good look around the churchyard at Frettenham although Hainford graveyard is away from the present church, near to the site of an earlier one. Stratton Strawless however was open and was featuring an exhibition of the Marsham family who have lived at the Hall since the 18th century, two of whom were High Sheriffs of Norfolk, and to one of the family we have a slight connection (or maybe more!).

Back at home with photos uploaded to the computer I am now able to create a 'potted' biography of the relevant ancestor(s) featuring the churches with some notes about the parish taken from Kelly's Directory of Norfolk to illustrate my files of the families' past.

Researchers with some experience will probably realise that I have reached a bit of a 'blockage' in my research, so am using my time to embellish my findings instead! But it is good fun and helps to put our family history in context.

Rosemary Fern (Mid-Norfolk Family History Society Member)

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***TOM'S QUIZ ANSWERS: 1c, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5b, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a, 10b, 11c, 12b, 13b, 14b, 15b, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19 c, 20b.***

## COMPETITION CORNER

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

As usual Tom Garland has put the answer to the Autumn question in verse, he is getting very good at this and perhaps he deserves a prize as well !!!

*My prose may not be good but my maths is sound.  
There used to be 240 pence to the pound.  
A Guinea was 21 shillings and added, makes 2.6.1  
But, deducting the 24 pence in a florin was not so easily done.  
I used to say 'Four from one - don't go, so its 4 from 11'  
Then the rest was easy and the **answer's 237***

The question for the Winter Competition is .....

***Who was Queen Victoria's father?***

Answers to Kate please by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010 ... either

***email*** ([familyhis@aol.com](mailto:familyhis@aol.com)) or  
***post*** (address on back cover of this Newsletter), or  
***bring*** your answers to the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January and hand them to Sue when you sign in.

Correct answers will be put into a bag and drawn at the January 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

- 1881 First Boer War – Transvaal independence recognised; flogging abolished in Army and Royal Navy
- 1882 Married Women’s Property Act gives married women the same rights over their property as unmarried women
- 1884 Fabian Society founded in London
- 1886 Shop Hours Regulation Act attempted to regulate the hours of work for children and young persons in shops to under 74 per week
- 1887 Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee
- 1891 First telephone link between London and Paris
- 1894 Local Government Act passed (start of civil parish councils, etc); picture postcards introduced in Britain
- 1895 Factory and Workshop Act amends previous acts regarding sanitary provisions, safety, employment of children, holidays and accidents  
NAD made some industrial diseases caused by lead, phosphorus, arsenic and anthrax made notifiable for the first time
- 1897 Workmen’s Compensation Act; employers liable for insurance of workforce; Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee
- 1899-1902 Second Boer War
- 1900 First transmission of human speech by radio waves
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies; Edward VII becomes king (1901-1910); denunciation of concentration camps by British in Boer War; Britain’s first submarine launched.

## *In the porch of Lambeth Parish Church*

To the memory of William Bacon of the Salt Office gent. who was killed by thunder and lightening at his window on July 12 1787 aged 34 years.

*By touch ethereal in a moment slain  
He felt the power of death but not the pain  
Swift as the lightening glanced his spirit flew  
And bade this rough tempestuous world adieu  
Short was his passage to that peaceful shore  
Where storms annoy and danger threatens no more*

## **THE 1911 CENSUS available for free (well almost)**

Tom has been investigating the availability of the 1911 census and has come up with the following:

As part of the National Archives commitment to broadening the availability of its records they are funding free access to the 1911 Census at seven Archive Services in England and Wales. One happens to be The Norfolk Record Office. Access is free but printouts cost 50p each. Two terminals are set aside for 1911 Census research. You don't have to book but you are limited to 30 minutes per session so to get the most out of your visit make sure you do as much research as possible at home before your visit.

Latest update ..... The Norfolk Record Office (NRO) FREE units are being used up fast and are unlikely to last until the end of the year. So if you want to use the free access get down there fast. However, an article in Family Tree suggests that of the seven places given the free access two have used up their credits and The National Archive (TNA) are going to give free access for three months to their Documentsonline website instead.

Findmypast will be allowing unlimited access to the 1911 Census to subscribers from October. The subscription is £39.95 for 6 months or £59.95 for a year, this is for the 1911 census only and it can be combined with the usual subscription for all other records, please see the website for more information.

### **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](mailto:mary@breckfield.freeserve.co.uk)

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*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.*

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## **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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# Mid-Norfolk Family History Society

[www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs/](http://www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs/)

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