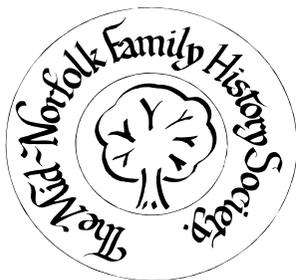


# News

Volume 5 Issue 11



# Letter

Summer 2010

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## **A few words from your Editor ...**

Thank you very much to everyone who wrote in after the Spring Newsletter, please keep writing, your comments are really welcome. Is there anything you would particularly like to see in the Newsletter? Please let me know.

**Format for Newsletter Contributions** .... Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, or handwritten, then please either:

- email the file to me at [Familyhis@aol.com](mailto:Familyhis@aol.com) or
- post handwritten copy/CD/floppy disk, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter.

**Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010**

*Kate (Editor)*

## **GRESSENHALL HISTORY FAIR**

*This year the Gressenhall History Fair will be on 31<sup>st</sup> May at the Rural Life Museum. The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society will have a stand and if any member would like to come and help for a couple of hours you will be very welcome. Please see Tom or Sue.*

## **INCREASE IN POSTAGE RATES FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> April 2010**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April the postage rates increased. This means that the postage we now charge to send out our publications is ...

**81p per book OR for 3 or more books 65p per book.**



## **LETS LOOK AT A CHURCH**

### **No.58 – All Saints Weston Longville**

Weston Longville owes its second name to the priory in Normandy with which it once had links but it is difficult to hear of this small Norfolk village without immediately thinking of Parson Woodforde whose diaries have given pleasure to so many over the years since selections from them were first published in the 1920s and although we have had many a chuckle at some of the more amusing entries we must confess to never actually having visited his church, an omission which we remedied recently. The Reverend James Woodford (1740-1803) although now forever associated with the county of Norfolk which he made his home was in fact born in Somerset. After completing his education at New College, Oxford and serving for a number of years as a curate in his native county he came to All Saints, Weston Longville, the college living, in 1776 remaining there unmarried (he proposed to a Miss Betsy White who jilted him for a richer catch) until his death 27 years later. Woodforde lived in many ways a quite unremarkable life and would certainly have been long forgotten were it not for his diary which provides social historians and the general reader alike with a vivid portrait of Georgian country life in Weston and the many other Norfolk villages to which he journeyed. The present parish church of All Saints is plain flint on the outside and mainly 14<sup>th</sup> century apart from the tower which is probably a hundred years older. After pausing to look up at the small square tower we enter through the porch at once noticing a large portrait of Woodforde who gazes contentedly in the direction of the altar and look for the list of rectors which goes back to 1290 and which H. Munro Cautley sourly noted when he visited in 1949 omitted the 'E' from Woodforde. As is suggested in the guide, on sale near the door, it is likely that if the good Parson were to come back today he would not recognise much of the interior of his church which was extensively 'improved' in Victorian times although as has been pointed out elsewhere, like many of his

contemporaries, he would probably have been unimpressed by medieval art with the church for him simply being the place he worked, cold and inhospitable in winter and a place to be escaped from whenever possible for the relatively greater comforts of the Parsonage. Consulting his diary, we find that Woodforde did not have a very happy start in his new job. The entry for June 4<sup>th</sup> 1776 recounts how the parson was up all night with terrible toothache and in the morning sent for the local tooth puller who botched the extraction breaking off part of the root and tearing the gum leaving him in even greater agony. The kindly cleric excused the old man however and gave him half a crown for his troubles – ‘he is too old, I think, to draw teeth, can’t see very well’. Proceeding further, we take an immediate liking to the font which although standing on a 13<sup>th</sup> century shaft is modern and completely plain with a simple board cover and matches perfectly the unadorned pillars of its base. Passing an interesting straw model of the church we head for the east end. The central pews have the usual ‘poppy heads’ and some of the side ones have small doors, a nice touch. Near the organ a stars and stripes flag draws us to a poignant memorial ‘in memory of our lost buddies’ - aircrew of the 466<sup>th</sup> Bomb group of the United States Army Air Force who in the last two years of WWII flew B-24 Liberators from what is now the Bernard Matthews turkey farm in nearby Attlebridge and during that period lost 47 of their aircraft in action. The beautifully painted 15<sup>th</sup> century rood screen with its twelve apostles each bearing his traditional emblem is a great glory of All Saints which unlike many East Anglian churches escaped the Puritan iconoclasts of the 1640s. We end our visit with the impressive Memorial Tablet to James Woodforde proudly topped by the family crest a nearby tile indicating his place of rest which he shares with a number of other incumbents. All Saints, Weston Longville is not the easiest of churches to find but well worth the effort.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD92) and comprise Baptisms 1660 – 1877, Marriages 1660 – 2005, Burials 1660 – 1928 and Banns 1756 – 2004. Microform copies cover the same dates with the exception of Marriages which end in 1990 and Banns in 1903. Archdeacon’s and Bishop’s Transcripts start earlier in 1600 but end in 1882, 1837 and 1882 for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials respectively. The Parish Chest items are mainly from the 20th century but do include Overseer’s accounts (including rate assessments) 1733 – 1778, a Population questionnaire 1700 – 1801, an Ordnance Survey of Weston Longville (Scale 6in to 1 mile) 1883, a Tithe map and apportionment 1841 and the Vestry minutes 1847 – 1914.

*Roderic & Denise Woodhouse*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Norwich's Family History Fair

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March the Society had a table in St Andrews Hall, Norwich for the annual East Anglia Family History Fair.

Most of the usual trade stalls were represented and several family history societies were in attendance. By ten o'clock our display was ready but, unlike previous years, there was no queue at the door waiting to get to grips with the goodies inside. Unfortunately, that set the scene for the rest of the day - *talking amongst ourselves*, while waiting for the next customer, became the norm. To be fair, we did meet some of our members and regulars who always pay us a visit and we were able to give advice to a number of people. But at the end of the day, we had put in a lot of effort for what seemed very little reward

I had plenty of time to wander around and speak to other stallholders regarding the poor attendance. As it was a nice day, not too hot and not too cold or wet, the weather could not be blamed. Several thought that putting the clocks forward might have had a bearing on the lack of early starters. It was suggested that more might have attended had there been lectures to supplement the stalls. However, after talking to the organiser this was clearly not financially viable. I don't know what the cost of hiring St Andrews Hall is, but I would suspect considerable. To make it a good show, the organiser needs a lot of stalls, with a wide variety of goods and/or services. His problem is, how to keep the stall holders fee reasonable, making it worthwhile for them to exhibit, and keep the admission fee as low as possible, to encourage the public to attend. At the end of the day, he has to recoup his costs.

Was the event well advertised? Again the organiser said it was in the local paper and in the family history press. I hadn't seen it but later I searched *Family Tree* and there, under *Diary Dates*: 28 March (which I hadn't read) was 'East Anglia Family History Fair 10am- 4pm, £2, with full address of venue'. *The Eastern Daily Press* in their *What's on Guide* repeated the advert verbatim. Perhaps neither was sufficient to catch the public eye, but as £100 spent on a bolder advert needs 50 more paying customers through the door, it becomes a difficult balancing act.

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'Old hands' know what to expect at a family history fair but maybe those

newer to the hobby don't. Perhaps today's family historians are not interested in finding out what might be available. Personally, I think that there are many people interested in family history only when it can be produced on the PC monitor. Part of the joy of family history research, used to be getting out and about and meeting people, a sociable pastime. Maybe, the Family History Fair in this remote corner of England has had its day.

*Tom Garland*

## NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The following new members are welcomed to the Society. Their interests may be found in the 'Members' Interests Directory 2010.

713 – Mrs A Bxxxx, ----, ----, ----, ----  
-----@-----

714 – Mrs S Axxxx, ----, ----, ----, ----

715 – Mrs K Bxxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
-----@-----

716 – Mr D J Hxxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
-----@-----

720 – Ms G W Lxxxx-Axxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
-----@-----

721 – Ms H M Axxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
-----@-----

722 – Mr A Rxxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
-----@-----

723 – Mrs N Jxxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
-----@-----

**Brian Pxxxx's interests were published in the Spring Newsletter, apologies to Brian for the error in his email address ...**

No 719, Mr B. Pxxxx, , ----, ----, ----,  
-----

Email: correct address -----@-----

## HELP WANTED ... AND FEEDBACK

Please can anyone help Sue Harris with her queries ....

... I have two great uncles who were in the Navy during WWI. I have obtained their naval records which show which ships they served on but to date have been unable to ascertain where these ships went during the war and what they were doing. Obviously if I knew where the ships were when my ancestors were on them then I would have a better idea of what these men did during the war. I've searched the internet and have found details of when the ships were built, their weight etc but not where they were and what they did during the war. Is there anyone who can recommend a website or book to assist.

... I have recently been looking at a couple of indentures dated in the 1660s and was rather surprised when they quoted the year of the king as being the twentieth year of King Charles II for 1669. This appears to mean that Charles I who was beheaded in 1649, was immediately followed by Charles II and that he reigned throughout the 1650s, disregarding the period of Cromwell when there was no monarchy. I had assumed that they would count the years of Charles II reign with effect from when monarchy was restored but this does not appear so in the two examples I have looked at. Is anyone able to advise whether this was the norm or was the scribe of these two documents a strong monarchist?

*(If you can help please contact Kate (Editor) details on back page of the Newsletter)*

*I apologise to Clare Blake, I made an error when typing her email address. Clare's query is reprinted below with the correct email address....  
Kate (Editor)*

Clare Blake from Sutton would be interested to hear from anyone who has any information about the **Barnham Broom/Brandon Parva** area, she has traced her family back to 1746 in and around the area and would enjoy reading about farming and other interests which went on there, so if you can help with any information on Barnham Broom/Brandon Parva please email Clare on [rwbcmb@btinternet.com](mailto:rwbcmb@btinternet.com) or contact Kate.

**In the last edition of the Newsletter Tom asked for help in identifying the ‘spear like’ object on a headstone in North Elmham churchyard, we had plenty of help on this one ... thank you Bob Andrews and Colin Stevenson**

### THE SPONTOON - A Question Answered & Another Asked



In our Spring Newsletter I requested help with identifying the spear-like weapon on a headstone in North Elmham churchyard.

Meantime I had taken a photograph of the stone to the Norfolk Regimental Museum in Norwich where the weapon was identified as a halberd, but their examples all had axe-like heads.

The response to my Newsletter request for help was not overwhelming, I had but one answer (thank you Bob Andrews), and that was all I needed, for it provided the vital clue. It would seem that the weapon on the headstone was a development of the halberd, known as a spontoon. This was carried by sergeants to align men on the parade ground, on the battlefield and, as a last resort a weapon. Bob also mentioned a well known picture (above), of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot's Colour Sergeant, protecting the colour with his spontoon (a picture is better than a thousand words). I went on to discover quite a lot more before loosing patience with the inevitable Google diversions into American usage. Would you believe even the native American Indians had spontoons?

Thanks to Bob, Norfolk Regimental Museum, and of course Google most of my questions were answered but why is it that solving one question invariably creates another? During the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) with widespread use of cannon and musket; I find it hard to believe that there was a place for, what is effectively, a pike. The spontoon was on an 1808 headstone so it was obviously in use then and the colour sergeant picture is dated 1812. Is there an expert out there who can tell me when the spontoon was introduced and when it ceased to be part of the British Army's standard issue armoury?

*Tom Garland*

PS. According to an article in a back issue of Family Tree Magazine, by Iain Swinnerton, the familiar sergeants three-chevron arm badge was introduced in 1803. However, the rank of Colour Sergeant was not introduced until 1813 and his badge of rank was originally cross swords over a single chevron as shown in the picture. However, the painting is dated 1812! Why can't anything be straightforward?

**Also in the Spring Newsletter a question was asked about Nonconformist or Roman Catholic places of worship ...**

Shirley Howell from Norwich recommended the book ...

"Halls of Zion - Chapels and Meeting-Houses in Norfolk"

by Janet Ede, Norman Virgoe and Tom Williamson pub. 1993 by the Centre of East Anglian Studies. ISBN 0906219 35 3

Shirley is not sure whether it is still in print, but suggests it may be available in inter-library loan and in the Heritage Centre in The Forum in Norwich.

**Christine Peach from West Sussex has asked for help ...**

I am trying to find the name and street address of a poultry farm in the small hamlet of Ivy Todd near the village of Necton which itself is near Swaffham.

The farm was run, during the 1920s and 30s by my Aunt and Uncle. He was Henry Richards POTTLE, known to family and friends as Dick but on all electoral rolls, trade directories etc as Henry POTTLE. My aunt was known as Dolly. Electoral rolls, trade directories etc just give the address as Ivy Todd.

My aunt and uncle's marriage was one of the casualties of WW2 and I believe that the farm was sold during the war.

45 Oak Hall Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0DH  
e-mail [chrismohr@btopenworld.com](mailto:chrismohr@btopenworld.com) (or contact Kate – Editor)

## Family Tree Magazines ...

Pat Skittrall has a large quantity of back issues of Family Tree Magazines (1985-90 and 1995-2005). If you would like some, or all, please contact Pat – address, phone No. and email on the back of the Newsletter, to make arrangements for collection.

## NBI SEARCHES – SPECIAL OFFER

*During the month of June 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 June 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](mailto:familyhis@aol.com) or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

*Kate Easdown*

## SPORLE - A HOME

*Ray Harrowing's story of his home is, I believe, what family history is all about (Kate) ...*

A sense of home (the German concept of *Heimat*) is often just as important as a sense of family or heritage. The following is as much about one as about the other.

I was born in August 1939, the first child of Jack and May Harrowing, who at that time lived in Narford, just across the way from grandparents Jabez and Martha, who later moved just down the road, where they lived until the 60's. My grandparents had been married in Weasenham St. Peter, Jack and May in Swaffham. We moved to Sporle in 1944, by which time there were three children: Doreen and John were respectively two and four years younger than me; later David, Paul and Anne were to follow.

The war had not really touched our family in Narford. We had played host to many soldiers who were encamped in the woods and fields nearby or who used the area for battle practice, and they were very grateful for Mum and Dad's generous hospitality. In Sporle, again, the war seemed to come mainly from the radio receiver, and our first experience of anyone from Germany was the POW, employed on one of the farms nearby, who would come and do a stint in Dad's garden.

I started school in 1944, joining the Infants' class which was based in a small room at the back; all the rest were in a larger room, which was divided by nothing more than a curtain. In this room everyone, from the age of about seven to 14 or 15, was taught in one of two classes, Mrs Newton, the Head Teacher, having charge of the older group and Miss Gibbons the younger. Mrs Newton left in about 1947, but my teacher, in the lower class, was still there in 1950; she coached two of us to good effect in that we both passed the 11-plus that year, and went to Grammar School in Swaffham.

Mr. Boast came as Headmaster to replace Mrs Newton. A highlight of his time, for me, was a trip to London to see the Houses of Parliament

and to meet our MP, Sidney Dye. This was 1948 or 1949, and was my first visit to London, to be followed later by ten years' residence there.

To return to Sporle: From my first day I walked to school with my guide and protector, Margaret Ayton, who lived close by with her parents and sister. We would pass the Post Office, which also sold newspapers (where I bought my copy of the very first issue of the "Eagle" comic), and Applegate's shop next to the Chapel, often straying across the road to the "dyke", where we would sail rudimentary ships over its fast-flowing waters or catch the sticklebacks that lived there. In those very early days at school we actually wrote on slates in class – well, after all, there was a war on!

For almost all the time that we lived in Sporle, Dad worked on Sidney Dye's farm on the A47, driving horses and tractors, caring for bullocks, and doing all the jobs necessary on a mixed arable and cattle farm. They were good friends, and Dad's work for Sidney at election time was given freely and enthusiastically. Dad was a staunch member of the NUAW, and was active in the local branch.

My parents' main interest was the Chapel; both Dad and Grandad were Methodist local preachers, and Dad was very much involved in the running of Sporle's chapel and the Swaffham Circuit. Ours was part of the network of Sunday Schools in all the local chapels, and we regularly had sports days, as well as the annual round of Anniversaries, when, after putting on the event at one's own chapel, the best "acts" would travel around the Circuit for special combined weekday "performances". Harvest Festival was another highlight of the year; after the Sunday services, at which there would be the usual sumptuous display of fruit and veg., came the Monday evening auction of produce for Chapel funds.

One of the things that my parents enjoyed was to entertain visiting preachers to meals on a Sunday. Our modest Council house was quite often the destination for the Chairman of the East Anglia District or some other notable personage. Chapel provided us with an extended, close-knit circle of friends. Aunt Rose, my mother's sister, was one of these; she and her husband, Frank Goward, had built up a chicken farm further up The Street and had built their bungalow, "Crimond", overlooking the road. It was at Rose's home that we watched the TV broadcast of the Coronation in 1953.

Quite early on I was persuaded to take up music, and I was taught to play the piano by one of those Chapel friends, the then organist, Mrs Brighty. I'm afraid that this didn't get me to any great proficiency at the time, but later I took it up again and in due course became organist at Westacre chapel. Mrs Brighty's son, Ray, then taught me to play the violin. I made many visits to Ray and Ruby's cottage over two or three years before transferring to a teacher in Swaffham. These two friends, with my mother, engendered in me the love of music that remains to this day.

For my brothers and sisters and me in those days, Sporle was a pretty safe place, with many opportunities for play and exploration. We wandered the hedgerows and, according to the season, carried home armfuls of primroses, cowslips, bluebells and violets, or returned with baskets of blackberries for jam-making. The hedges were dotted with trees tailor-made for climbing (although Dad was sometimes called to the rescue!). Our house backed on to meadows, the venue for the many games that we played. The garden, too, besides housing several generations of pet rabbits, was a place of adventure; every autumn, after vegetables had been harvested, it was our aim to dig down to Australia!

We left Sporle to return to Narford in 1953, but this was not to be the end of the family connection with the village; my parents retired to a bungalow there in 1970, and this became a frequent rendezvous for the family. My sisters were both married at the Chapel, and later still both parents were buried in the Churchyard, so Sporle continues to be a place of pilgrimage.

*Ray Harrowing*

## **PARISH RECORDS ON LINE**

THE Family Search website has put some parish records on line as images of the original.

Go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Hover over Search Records and then click on Record Search Pilot

Click on Browse our Record Collection

Select Europe

Choose Norfolk Church of England Parish Registers

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to MNFHS member Sue Harris who told me that if you have a Norfolk County Library ticket you can search the *Times* from 1785-1985 and numerous 19<sup>th</sup> C. newspapers on-line at home, I have found lots of useful local information. I am sure other members have done so too, even though the Norfolk newspapers have not yet been included.

Recently, looking for mention of Arthur Ruston, of Rookery Farm, Etling Green, whom I knew from the census came from Chatteris, Cambridge, I found the announcement of his marriage was published in three newspapers (in addition no doubt to the Norfolk ones on microfilm at the Norfolk Heritage Library). It was evident that one should never assume such announcements will be identical:-

The *Pall Mall Gazette* 8 October 1878 said Arthur son of Mr Arthur Ruston of Chatteris had married Hannah B.I. daughter of the late Mr Edward Wilson of Doddington, Cambs on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The *Bury & Norwich Post* of the same date explained that Arthur was the elder son and Hannah the younger daughter and gave her full name as Hannah Bedford Ingle. The London *Standard* 9 October gave all the previous details with the additional information that the marriage took place at Doddington parish church by the Rev. G.E. Walker.

If you haven't used this web-site yet, I do hope you try it and find it as interesting and useful as I do. [Norfolk County Library Home Page, click left on Norfolk On-line Reference Library, click on Arts, Entertainment and the Media, click on Norfolk On-line Reference Library Newspapers, click on 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Newspapers or Times Digital Archive, enter your library card bar-code and hey presto!]. Perhaps the MNFHS and other Norfolk family history societies can persuade Archant Newspapers to allow their microfilms of Norfolk newspapers to be computerised for use on-line at home via Norfolk County Library Service – what a boon that would be.

*Joy Lodey.*

## HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN FAMILY HISTORY?

Thank you to Gerald Warnes ...

My interest in "Family History" started because my father never ever spoke of his father to us, and we therefore knew nothing of "Granddad Warnes". My first line of attack was a visit to the Records Office at County Hall in Norwich, I had heard from another family member that at some stage my grandparents had been in the Workhouse. Knowing that grandma was born and lived at Norton Subcourse as a child, my interest was drawn to the Admission & Discharge records of the Lodden & Clavering Union.

I discovered that my grandfather, Henry Warnes b.1867, his wife (my grandma) Alice Warnes, b.1876 and three of their six children had been admitted to the Heckingham Workhouse on 7th November 1913. In the February following my grandfather was admitted to the hospital, and in the April my grandma gave birth to another son (my father), my grandfather remained a very sick man and died of Consumption in the workhouse on his birthday April 29th 1918. On December 7th 1918 they were discharged at the request of my grandma, but there starts another story.

So it became clear to me why I heard nothing about father's father, he could have known little or nothing about him, and I often wonder if he would have believed what I now know had I had the chance to discuss it with him, I doubt it.

And also to Margaret Marshall ...

John Emms – famous Norfolk artist – well, I was always being told I was artistic so we must be closely related .....

Ten years on I still can't find any connection but I discovered my Norfolk roots (Dereham area) going back to 1765 and I am now trying to make sense of several John Emms' 1700-1800 in the Mid Norfolk area!

*Thank you both – can anyone else add their experience? Please write to me if you have a story. Kate (Editor)*

## **DAY VISIT CAR PARKING CHANGES AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE (TNA) KEW**

A new car parking scheme at the TNA Kew will be introduced from Tuesday 27 April 2010.

From that date **BEFORE YOUR VISIT YOU MUST** book your car park space & Pay on line or by phone (£5 per day/ part of the day), giving your Car Registration Number.

When you arrive the system will recognise your car number and raise the barrier. You will be guaranteed a parking space all that day no matter what time you arrive, leave or return.

There is an annual scheme (£75 - £350 depending on your cars emission) but you will still be required to book per day.

### **IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PAY ON ARRIVAL**

The TNA has contracted-out Car parking and booking is via a special phone number/website [Not available at time of writing]. Motorcycles and Registered Blue Badge holders will NOT have to pay.

## **BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH CERTIFICATES COST UP 30%**

Under the guise of simplifying the fees charged for certificates ordered from the General Register Office (GRO) the cost of birth, marriage and death certificates where the reference number is quoted has effectively been raised by over thirty percent.

From 6 April 2010 the old standard charges ie online: £7 with reference, £10 without (offline: £8.50 & £11.50) will be replaced by a single charge of **£9.25 with or without reference, whether ordered online, by telephone or by post.**

The fee for ordering certificates from Local Registration Offices is also increased from £7 to £9.

PS. Browsing at [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk) I found this: *GRO have reviewed the range of services on offer. We have been advised that there is no clear remit in statute for our charging for a service to check index references, or to retain partial fees. In order to ensure full legal compliance, we are regrettably withdrawing our reference checking service from 6 April.* I read that to mean if you've got it wrong hard luck, no refund - but I hope I am wrong

*Tom Garland*

***Roger Lewry the FFHS Archives Liaison Officer offers the answer:***

### **General Register Office certificates**

Following the withdrawal of the reference checking facility I have received confirmation from GRO that if a customer applies for a certificate from GRO and does not have a GRO reference, they are able to supply information to help identify the record. GRO will search in the year they quote together, if necessary, with a year either side. If GRO cannot find the record on this basis, they will refund the fee in full.

Using the "non-quoted reference" route does entail the likelihood of a longer response time for those using the "standard" service. GRO aims to despatch on or by the 4th working day for those quoting a reference, but on or by the 15th working day for those without such a reference.

### **ADMINISTRATION CHARGE FOR CERTIFICATES**

*The following has been received from the FFHS, have you had any problems with administration charges?*

We have recently been asked if it is in order for a local register office to impose an administration charge in addition to the standard cost of £7 for a birth, marriage or death certificate. This is something which has been asked previously but we have again put the question to the General Register Office at Southport.

The answer received yesterday was "Our view remains as expressed in the guidance – that the fees for certificates issued by superintendent registrars are set by statute and a superintendent

registrar has no power to charge an additional fee, such as an administrative charge. Only where the local authority provides an additional, discretionary service, is it able to charge a supplementary fee (to recover the cost) under the powers available to it under the Local Government Act 2003.”

In view of this reply it may be pertinent to ask local register offices which do levy such additional charges, under what authority they feel able to do so.

*Roger Lewry*  
*FFHS Archives Liaison*

### **FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> May    | For the Rest of your Natural Life (Pip Wright)<br>Vaccination and Death Stats (Roy Scott) |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June   | A Group Photograph – More Research Stories<br>(Andrew Tatham)                             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> July   | The Village Craftsman (Steve Pope)  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> August | The Times of Coke of Norfolk 1754-1842<br>(Susanna Wade-Martins)                          |

## COMPETITION CORNER

Thank you to all who entered the competition – the winner this time was Mike Dack from Norwich. Mike wins a book of his choice from the Society's publication list.

Tom has given us the answer in verse ....

### **Which Year Did The National Health Service Begin?**

In 1946 we had the National Health Service Act.  
But it took another two years to become a fact.  
Free health care was the vision of Aneurin Bevan  
To the people it must have been 'Manna from Heaven'  
Free medicine, dentistry and specs - all worth the wait.  
When did the NHS come into operation? **5<sup>th</sup> July 1948**

The question for the Summer Competition is .....

***The Titanic struck an iceberg and sank in 1912 – who was the British reigning monarch at the time?***

Answers to Kate please by 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 ... either

*email* ([familyhis@aol.com](mailto:familyhis@aol.com)) or  
*post* (address on back cover of this Newsletter), or  
*bring* your answer to the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> 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, UK or overseas. One entry per member. Please include your membership number with your entry.

## **RELEASE OF THE NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX V3**

The latest version of the National Burial Index (NBI3) is finally released. It contains over 18 million burial records on a single disk. This includes all the records from versions one and two. It will run on windows 98/XP/Vista/7 and needs at least 2.8GB of free disk space for it is installed on the PC hard drive. It is not suitable for Apple Mac users.

To recap, the NBI was originally conceived to compliment to the Baptisms & Marriage Indexes in the International Genealogical Index (IGI). It is a database of burial entries recorded in parish, Nonconformist, Roman Catholic, Quaker and cemetery English and Welsh registers. The majority of these have been extracted and submitted by Family History Societies. There are no set areas or dates, some parishes are covered from 1538 to 2008; others have just a few years. Some counties are well represented others are not. Norfolk's 176,000 entries were mostly inputted by us (MNFHS) hence the vast majority, but not all, refer to burials within a ten-mile radius of Dereham. However, if your Norfolk ancestors strayed over the border and were buried in Suffolk there are a staggering 1,256,000 burial entries for that county

NBI3 costs £30 and can be purchased from [GENfair.co.uk](http://GENfair.co.uk). However, if you purchased version two, you may do a trade-in and purchase the new version for £15 by returning the first disk of NBI2 to FFHS Services. For more details and order forms visit [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk) and go to the NBI pages.

## **MAPS FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS**

Maps only start to be of interest to family historians when drawn at a sufficiently high scale to allow us to see our forebears in their surroundings, either rural or urban. This means that they must be at a scale of at least one inch to a mile and preferably greater than this. In England and most parts of Wales, Scotland and Ireland the first maps produced at this scale were the county maps published from 1699 to 1830. The most prolific period for these maps was from 1750 and

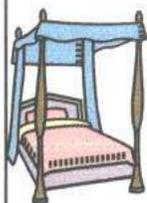
every English county, apart from Cambridgeshire, has at least one map at this scale. They were produced by private enterprise, by individual surveyors and cartographers, unlike the situation in France where the maps were created under State supervision. The quality and accuracy of these maps does vary from county to county but we are fortunate that the maps produced for our area (Joseph Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk and William Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk) are of a particularly high standard. They allow us to see the landscape towards the end of the eighteenth century when both counties had extensive commons, heaths and greens which were to disappear over the subsequent thirty years with Parliamentary Enclosure. The Norfolk map has over seven hundred names attached to properties and while most are wealthy landowners, gentry and clergy they do allow us to picture the countryside in which more ordinary folk worked and travelled. Faden's Norfolk map can be seen, in its original state and in a digitally redrawn form at [www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk) and Hodkinson's Suffolk map will be available at the end of this year. William Faden also published in 1788 a map of London and its environs and this can be seen at [www.fadensmapoflondon.co.uk](http://www.fadensmapoflondon.co.uk)

Enclosure maps, produced in Norfolk between 1790 and 1830, are drawn at a much greater scale than the county maps and if used with the enclosure documents we can see where up to a quarter of a parish's population lived and worked. About 35% Norfolk parishes have an enclosure map but the coverage for Tithe maps (drawn in the late 1830's) is much greater; four out of every five parishes have a tithe map. To see if your parish is covered by enclosure or tithe maps look at E-Map Explorer at [www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk) If the enclosure and tithe maps are used in conjunction with the 1841 census it is possible to 'repopulate' a village to see where many individuals and families lived. If the parish is fortunate to have other records, like Poor House accounts, parish charity records and poor rate valuations it is possible to tease out fascinating details of up to half of the parish inhabitants.

*Andrew Macnair*

### **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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## **NORFOLK RESEARCH**

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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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*Printed by: Eastern Office Equipment, 2 Wellington Road, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 2BP*