

SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 48 : No. 4 : March 2023



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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VOLUME 48 : NUMBER 4 : MARCH 2023



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Theme of this Issue

My Ancestor was a ...

Trades and Occupations of our Ancestors

Cover Picture

Kentwell Hall Dairy (Tudor re-enactors).

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Suffolk Roots

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SUFFOLK ROOTS

Journal of Suffolk Family History Society

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TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

At our AGM in Ipswich last October, we made three awards to recognise those who have made a notable contribution to the Society and its members. We were able to make the presentation to **Arthur Bird** at the AGM, and since then have made a further presentation to **Derek Wright**. Derek was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his work supporting the Haverhill Group, and for his contribution to the Society as a whole, especially with indexing the data and creating the files necessary to produce the indexes, which are a significant asset and benefit to the



Society and family historians. The photo shows Derek, on the left, being presented with his certificate by **Alan Bumpstead** at a recent Haverhill Group event.

In respect of transcriptions, the introduction of the downloads has proven popular and now about 75% of the sales of the indexes are in this form. Of course, most new laptops now come without a CD drive, but the main factor is that no postage is payable for downloads, which can be significant especially if the purchaser is overseas. From a storage media point of view, a download is the safer option. CDs have a limited shelf-life, depending of course on storage conditions, but I believe the manufacturers quote 5-10 years. Don't forget that we also offer a search service for those unsure in which part of Suffolk their ancestors may have been baptised, married or buried. This can be a very cost-effective way of narrowing your research focus, especially if you discover they aren't where you thought they were! The searches include indexes that may not yet have been released.

As mentioned previously, we have opened up the electronic distribution of *Suffolk Roots* to our UK members. There has been a good response to this, and as it comes up to membership renewal time, please consider this option. The Membership Secretary has provided an update on subs and membership elsewhere in this edition. You can renew using our online shop, and you do not need to be in the Members' Area to use the shop or renew.

We are still looking for a Publicity Officer to take over from **Howard King**, who stepped down as a Trustee and as Publicity Officer at the AGM in October. In order to continue our Zoom programme and other publicity activities, we need to find a successor. Howard continues as Chair of our Ipswich Group, so there will be a handover opportunity. The role could be split and performed by several people, for example, one could handle social media, another could arrange the speakers for Zooms (the hosting is done by **Susan Schibli** and myself), and another could handle printed media. If anyone is interested in any (or all) aspects of the role, please let me know. The role could be an opportunity to be a Trustee, but this is not essential.

Carolyn Alderson has taken on the Assistant Treasurer role, so we need to find a replacement for her as Minutes Secretary for the Trustees. We meet 8-10 times a year, usually virtually, with a couple of physical meetings, so it's not a requirement to be in Suffolk. All the meetings are recorded, so there is an opportunity to refer to the recording. This again does not require the person to be a Trustee, although it is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what the Trustees do. We are always looking for more Trustees. The standard term is three years, and we can co-opt between AGMs, so if anyone is interested in joining us, again let me know. It would be very useful if you had previous committee experience.

We now have an up-to-date Society Handbook available to view/download on the website (at the bottom of the Home page, it is in the white-on-green text under 'Society' – Society Handbook 2022). If you don't have internet access and want a physical copy, please contact the Membership Secretary. In the Members' Area of the website, **Eileen Blythe** has provided an index for Apprenticeship Records of Suffolk 1448-1928 to help people order copies of the records from the Suffolk Archives online catalogue.

Thank you.

Andy Kerridge
Chair, Suffolk Family History Society



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A busy time lately, following December's journal and subscription reminders. Additionally, there has been an increase in new memberships, which is encouraging when other societies are seeing a falling off of numbers.

At the time of writing (mid-January) the statistics are as follows:

- Total members* = 1,672 (42 increase on December)
- UK inc. N.I. & Channel Is. = 1,534 (+ 33)
- Overseas:*
- Australia = 56 (+ 5)
- USA = 34 (+ 2)
- Canada = 22 (+ 1)
- New Zealand = 15 (+ 2)
- Republic of Ireland = 2 (- 5)
- Rest of World = 6 (+ 1)

You may notice on the renewal form, and under 'Subscription Rates' towards the rear of the journal, that we are amending the subscription rate for UK Full electronic membership for the year beginning 1 April 2023. At present 8% of members subscribe to the digital version of *Suffolk Roots*, although 82% are on email.

On reviewing membership subs following the rollout of availability of electronic *Suffolk Roots* to all members, we identified that UK Full members were going to be paying £2 more for electronic than our overseas members, which is not right. We have therefore standardised electronic membership at £10 a year, wherever the member is based. UK Full members wanting *Suffolk Roots* by post will continue to pay £12. Unfortunately, for members who are Senior Citizens we cannot offer a discount for electronic, as £10 is close to the cost of production of *Suffolk Roots*.

The fees still represent outstanding value by comparison with other societies, and by offering electronic membership we are able to maintain current rates.

Good luck with the research!

David Horton

Membership Secretary

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 25 October 2022 and 31 January 2023. If you see a name you are interested in, take a note of the member's number, go onto our website and use the **Members' Interests** section (on the **Resources** tab) to find out more, using the number to search with – you will see any other surnames they are interested in and also be able to contact them. If you cannot use the website, please write to the Membership Secretary (details at the rear of this journal) briefly outlining your interest, and your contact details, and he will forward to the relevant member.

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Ablitt	SFK	Ipswich	1800s	12698
Absolom/n	ANY	Any	All	12714
Absolum	ANY	Any	All	12714
Adams	SFK	Kessingland	1800s	12724
Arbon	SFK	Wordwell	1750-1900	12699
Barnard	SFK	Orford, Pettistree	1725-1828	12702
Barnard	ANY	Any	All	12732
Beason	SFK	Any	All	12716
Beeston	SFK	Any	All	12716
Bendfield	SFK	Little Bealings	1700-1900	12729
Bernard	NFK	Loddon, Stockton	19th C	12707
Bernard	SFK	Any	17th & 18th C	12707
Blowers	SFK	Yoxford	1800s	12724
Boreham	SFK	Haverhill, Clare, Lawshall	1800-1921	12734
Borley	SFK	Felsham, Rougham	1780-1900	12703
Brewster	ESS	Pentlow	All	12733
Bromley	ANY	Any	All	12726
Brooks	CAM	Any	Up to 1900s	12704
Bullard	SFK	Kersey	All	12723
Bunn	SFK	Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford, etc	All	12695
Byford	SFK	Sudbury	1700-1860	12716

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Carrett	SFK	Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford, etc	All	12695
Cavell	ANY	Any	All	12694
Churchman	SFK	Any	All	12696
Churchman	STS	Any	All	12696
Cobbald	NFK	Any	All	12730
Cobbald	SFK	Any	All	12730
Collings	SFK	Bury St Edmunds area	1700 on	12713
Cooper	SFK	Ufford, Pettistree	To 1860	12719
Cooper	SFK	Wickhambrook	Up to 1900s	12704
Cowan	ANY	Any	1730-1850	12731
Cowen	ANY	Any	1730-1850	12731
Cowin	ANY	Any	1730-1850	12731
Cream	ESS	Gt Horkesley	19th C	12697
Cream	SFK	Stoke by Nayland	19th C	12697
Cross	SFK	Wattisfield	Up to 1900s	12704
Cunningham	SFK	Kessingland	1700s	12724
Davie	SFK	Kessingland	1700s	12724
Devereux	SFK	Harleston	All	12721
Doe	SFK	Redgrave	All	12716
Durham	SFK	Woodbridge	1880-1955	12722
Eade	NFK	Hunstanton	All	12735
Edwards	SFK	Brockley	Up to 1900s	12704
Eldred	SFK	Ipswich	1560-1660	12727
Ellis	SFK	Kirton, Ipswich	18th C on	12701
Ellis	SFK	Polstead	19th C	12697
Felgate	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12695
Finch	SFK	Any	All	12709
Finch	SFK	Wenham Parva	All	12723
Foulcher	SFK	Any	All	12709
Fowler	SFK	Boxford	1910 on	12716
Frost	NFK	Any	All	12730
Frost	SFK	Pakenham, Any	All	12730
Ghant	SFK	Any	All	12696
Gilder	SFK	Kirton/Any	18th C on	12701
Golding	ANY	Any	All	12726
Gooch	SFK	Barrow, Tuddenham, Saxhams	All	12720
Gould	SFK	Cotton	1750-1900	12699
Hall	SFK	Felixstowe	Up to 1900s	12704
Harn	SFK	Euston	All	12733
Harn	NFK	Thetford	All	12733
Harrison	SFK	Woodbridge	1880-1955	12722
Harsom	SFK	Tannington, Denham, Eye	1760-1870	12700
Hart	SFK	Kessingland	1800s	12724
Hart	SFK	Any	All	12717
Hartridge	SFK	Kessingland	1800s	12724
Havers	SFK	Westhall	1600-1770	12725
Hopson	SFK	Halesworth, Wickham Market	All	12710
Hoy	ESS	Fingringhoe	1700 on	12713
Hoy	SFK	Ipswich	1700 on	12713
Hubbard	SFK	Any	All	12709
Kemp	SFK	Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford, etc	All	12695
Kent	SFK	Wetheringsett	To 1810	12719
Kerridge	SFK	Any	All	12709
King	SFK	Any	All	12694
Knappett	SFK	Little Bealings, Nacton workhouse	1700-1900	12729
Levett	SFK	Pettistree	To 1840	12719
Lewcock	ANY	Any	All	12708
Ling	SFK	Kedington	19th C	12707
Lissamore	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12733
Luckok	ANY	Any	All	12708
Lucock	SFK	Any	All	12709
Lumley	SFK	Bungay	18th C	12707
Mann	SFK	Any	1700-1900	12716
Manning	SFK	Woolverston	All	12723
Mapes	NFK	Sloley	18th C	12707

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Marfit	SFK	Woodbridge	1880-1955	12722
Markham	SFK	Ufford, Pettistree	To 1860	12719
Mason	NFK	Loddon	18th & 19th C	12707
Mason	SFK	Beccles	19th C	12707
Mason	NIR	Belfast	All	12735
Mayhew	SFK	Ipswich, Swilland, Grundisburgh	1700 on	12713
Minter	SFK	Any	All	12709
Moss	SFK	Wenham Parva	All	12723
Moutell	SFK	Samford District	All	12723
Mulley	SFK	Elmswell	1750-1850	12699
Napthen	SFK	Elvedon	All	12721
Newman	SFK	Clare	All	12733
Page	ANY	Any	All	12694
Peacock	SFK	Clare	19th C	12707
Peck	NFK	Any	All	12730
Peck	SFK	Henstead, South Cove, Any	All	12730
Peck	SFK	North Cove	To 1850	12719
Pleasants	SFK	Barrow, Tuddenham, Saxhams	All	12720
Ralph	NFK	Loddon	18th C	12707
Reeve	ANY	Any	All	12726
Revans	SFK	Cosford Hundred	All	12723
Richardson	SFK	Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford, etc	All	12695
Rofe	SFK	Any	18th & 19th C	12707
Rose	SFK	Walton, Felixstowe	All	12717
Rose	SFK	Carlton Colville, Redlingfield, Mendlesham, Wetheringsett	To 1850	12719
Sadd	SFK	Halesworth, Wrentham	All	12710
Saville	HRT	Any	1700 on	12713
Sayer	ANY	Any	All	12726
Scase	SFK	Elmswell	1800-1900	12699
Seagrave	ANY	Any	All	12735
Shiple	SFK	Kessingland	1800s	12724
Smith	SFK	Woodbridge	1700-1900	12729
Smith	SFK	Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford, etc	All	12695
Stamp	ANY	Any	All	12696
Starne	NFK	Thetford	All	12733
Sterne	NFK	Thetford	All	12733
Stevenson	STS	Any	All	12696
Stow	SFK	Nayland	All	12710
Strutt	ANY	Any	All	12694
Stubbings	SFK	Any	1600-1750	12727
Sutton	SFK	Felsham, Rougham	1780-1900	12703
Thouless	SFK	Lowestoft	1700 on	12728
Topple	SFK	Trimley St Martin	1800s	12698
Trevener	BKM	Any	1700 on	12713
Trevener	ESS	Purfleet	1700 on	12713
Tricker	ANY	Any	All	12732
Vaughan	SFK	Woodbridge	1700-1900	12729
Vincent	SFK	Cotton	1600-1700s	12711
Vincent	SFK	Badwell Ash	1700-1800s	12711
Waldegrave	SFK	Polstead	1583	12697
Ward	YKS	Hull	All	12735
Warren	SFK	Wickham Skeith	1600-1959	12718
Warren	SFK	Norton, Stow	1800-1900	12718
Whayman	SFK	Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford, etc	All	12695
Whiles	SFK	Boxford, Cosford, Polstead	All	12716
Whitmore	SFK	Any	All	12709
Whitting	SFK	Haverhill	1800-1921	12734
Wiles	SFK	Boxford, Cosford, Polstead	All	12716
Windout	ANY		All	12715
Windwood	ANY		All	12715
Winwood	ANY		All	12715
Witham	SFK	Mendham	All	12721
Wyndhut	ESS	Ashen	13th C	12715
Wyndhut	SFK	Calre, Stoke-by-Clare	13th C	12715
Wyndowte	ANY		All	12715

BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

The start of another year, and if you are resolved to get your family tree into shape, and looking for some new shoots bearing rewarding fruits, then perhaps we'll have just the ingredients you need in our growing collection of baptisms.

We've now over 1.4 million entries on our database, stretching back to Suffolk families of 370 years ago, and we're still adding to these and, of course, revealing more 'gleanings' as we go!

New release

The year got off to a good start with the release of our latest phase 3 (1650-1753) deanery area, Hoxne, covering 25 parishes centred on Stradbroke near the Norfolk border. That's with many thanks to the combined efforts of our Home and Ipswich teams.

At Suffolk Archives, Ipswich:

Diane Kirby
(leader)

**Silke Pinson-
Roxborough**

Carole Athroll

Adrian Howlett

Linda King

Jean Licence

Joan Munns

Sue Smith

John Barbrook

Michael Durrant

Jeff Ward and

Marion Withey

At home:

Jan Broderick

Les Button

Pauline Campos

Nicky Lewis

Mike Newstead

Enid Rispin and

Ros Theobald

Suffolk Baptism Index

Hoxne Deanery

1650* - 1753*

Athelington (1694-), Badingham, Bedfield, Bedingfield, Brundish, Denham (nr Eye) (1708-), Dennington (1669-), Fressingfield (1650-1687 1695-1706) Horham (1709-), Hoxne, Kenton, Laxfield, Mendham (1678-), Metfield, Monk Soham (1712-), Saxtead, Southolt (1689-), Stradbroke, Syleham, Tannington, Weybread (1687-), Wilby, Wingfield, Withersdale (1653-), Worlingworth.



SFK-BPI-12/P3

PDF



CDs and downloads are available from our online shop: <http://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk/shop/index.php> and CDs from our Publications Manager:

Jean Licence, 60 Oldfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3SE

Cheques payable to SFHS Publications Ltd.

CDs & downloads are £15.32 (£25 for the 1813-1900 index) + P&P

(UK 1st class – 1 CD £1.71 and 2 CDs £2.17;

2nd class – 1 CD £1.48 and 2 CDs £1.97)

All members can get a 20% discount (excluding any postage) on the Society's publications using the code available in the Members' Area of the website.

Entries from this, and all our other completed files, whether published or not, are also available from our Baptisms Search Service, details at the back of the journal.

Progress

The other phase 3 deanery areas currently being worked on by our teams are as follows:

Our **Ipswich team** are now busy transcribing Loes & Orford deanery area, which will extend our coverage north and eastwards up to Framlingham and out to Aldeburgh on the coast. As you'll gather from a gleaning below, our collection of Nonconformist baptisms continues to grow too!

Our **Bury team** now have just one parish left, albeit a large one, to complete Sudbury West deanery. We've fresh hopes too for the concerted efforts being made to get 'upstairs' at the Bury Record Office re-opened, and a resumption of the excellent pre-Covid service. This would enable team-working once again and enable more deanery areas to be completed.

Our **Home team** continue with Hartismere deanery, which for researchers will nicely fill the gap along the Norfolk border between the already published Blackburn and Hoxne deaneries.

Gleanings

Finally, thanks again to the keen eyes of Adrian, Nicky, **Christine Palmer** and **Yvonne Hesketh** (also her daughter **Anne** for kindly checking with the Dean), we've some more entries to share with you from the Suffolk registers, including some more Nonconformist registers we're working on!

First, at Aldham, something that will make anyone who has encountered those 'difficult to read entries' smile – a comment beneath an entry in a troublesome section of this register:

- '24 March 1681 twin children of **Francis and Mary Rush**

*Hitherto the negligent **Mr Philip Scarlett**, Rector, with his confounded writing'*

At Bramford, the minister obviously liked to record strange happenings! He writes of:

- *'A great and violent wind'* on 18 February 1661 which blew down the Parsonage Barns along with many others. It also caused *'the spire of the town steeple in Ipswich'* to fall down
- *'The great sadd and dreadful fire'* in London in 1666, entering details over all the days it burned
- *'Old Mother Hillbrie was killed, having by accident set her house on fire. She was slaine by it, yet she was not burned to ashes, though all her household stuffs even the brass and pewter were consumed, yet the greatest part of her body remained a sad spectacle to behold. This was on November 21st 1675, a Sunday about ten or eleventh of the clock, morning'*

At Coddendam, the opening page of the register records the ordering of Baptisms, Burials, Marriages to be made and puts down a marker:

- *'Henry 8th began the suppression of Monasteries'*

At Barking, in July 1655:

- *'John Elsdon and Catherine Garrad both of Bramford, published their banns. Her father John approved but on the third calling, Benjamin Watlin objected as John Elsdon was his apprentice.'*

No subsequent marriage date was given. The very historically-minded Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral has confirmed for us that apprentices could not marry without their master's consent.

At Eye, a couple of things were uppermost in the mind of the clerk at these times:

- *'Kett's rebellion began about the 13 of July in this year 1549'*
- *'Mr John Page Vicar did ring his bells – 15 July 1561'*

Perhaps a sort of commemoration, as Kett had lived at Wymondham just north of Eye, or just coincidence?

Last, but not least, at Beccles Independent Congregational Church the story of a *'foule scandalous sin'* ... with redemption ... and repetition too! ... unfolds in the register:

- *'28 Jul 1697 John Killinghall was admitted a member of the church of Christ at Beccles.'*
- *'13 Oct 1697 Mr John Killinghall was sett apart that day to the offer of Pastor to the church of Christ at Beccles.'*
- *'10 Nov 1698 Jonathan Killinghall son of John & Sarah his wife was baptised that day by Mr Stackhouse of Norwich pastor there.'*
- *'13 Sep 1699 A sollumn church metting of the Church of Christ at Beccles, the day after having the full profe before the scandullus sin of unclennes committed by Mr John Killinghall and Ester Davey, both formerly members of this church did. After sullum and discovering of all sercomstances, all the church being present but one Ayere, but one brother to shue over obedience to the level of Christ Jurydictuis excomenacat*

and put in execution Christ's juryisdiction to exclude the said offenders from among us. For this end the Holly Scriptures received and that it was soe we have for ourselves and the rest hereunto subskribed ower names.'

- '5 Jun 1700 Mr John Killinghall was received into the church upon his gevinge his relvetuin [revelation?] fresh in publick.'
- A similar fate befell **Richard Playter** who was ousted for his '*Foule scandulus sin*' on 20 February 1710/11, was received into the church again on 3 April 1712, only to leave for the Anabaptists of Norwich on 30 November 1715.

We'll soon be marking the 20th anniversary of our starting the Baptism Index, so we'd very much like to hear from you, perhaps with recollections on helping with the project or how it helped you discover more about a family, occupation, place, etc. Do please share them with us.

Alan Bumpstead

Baptism Index Co-ordinator

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

The year started productively for many of you, as we received a fantastic response to our request for articles on the theme 'Trades and Occupations of Our Ancestors'. The contributions are rich and varied, and show just how different the working lives of our forebears could be. They also demonstrate how often trades, occupations or vocations passed from father to son (or sometimes daughter), creating over time dynasties all working in the same field. Given our ancestors' tendency to re-use first names, this can make it very difficult to unpick the lines of descent, as a couple of our contributors have found. But the rewards of success are immense, and have inspired one of us to try (again) to unravel his chimney sweep ancestors!

In the following articles you will find, amongst others, clergymen and cowmen, shoemakers and tailors, gardeners, postmasters and postmistresses, a travelling lecturer, a renowned typographer, and an innovative transporter of race horses. We hope you enjoy reading about them all – do let us know if you find any connections to your own families, or can add to their stories.

Please also bear in mind the theme for June's edition of *Roots*, 'Railways in Suffolk and their Workers'. We already have our first contribution and look forward to receiving more. Details of what the theme covers are on p.363. If you're itching to write about your family tree but it has no railway roots (or branch lines?), don't worry – contributions on any topic of likely interest to Society members are always welcome. To be sure of meeting publishing deadlines, we will need them at the latest by mid-April.

Lesley Hall and Rob Ward

Co-Editors, Suffolk Roots

'T'LL DROP YOU A LINE' – POSTMASTERS AND POSTMISTRESSES OF SEMER

From 1854 to the end of the 19th century, the number of sub-post offices increased from 9,000 to 16,000, which gave the Post Office nationwide coverage. As part of the Rural Post Revision, which was carried out between 1851 and 1859, surveyors visited every village to review arrangements. As a consequence, many new routes were established to outlying letter boxes situated in hamlets that had not previously been served by the postal network and new sub-post offices were opened. One such office was at Semer.⁽¹⁾

Edward Beardsmore

On 20 March 1858, **Edward Beardsmore** was appointed master at the sub-post office in Semer. The office was accommodated within Beardsmore's house.⁽²⁾ Before that date, letters and other items sent by post had to be collected at the office in Hadleigh High Street.⁽³⁾ Now, the mail carrier dropped off a bag of mail early in the morning as he passed through on his way to Bildeston, and collected outgoing mail on his way back to Hadleigh in the evening at 8:10 pm.

Edward was 64 when he first arrived at Semer, accompanied by his wife **Elizabeth née Haynes**, whom he had married in 1829 at Duffield in Derbyshire,⁽⁴⁾ and two of their four adult children **Elizabeth** and **Mary**. Their home was the rather isolated brick-built cottage at the top of Cooke's Hill, where the land flattens out to become Semer Common and looks down to the hamlet of Ash Street, one of the most splendid panoramic views in Suffolk, let alone the Brett Valley. The small extension to the building that fronts the road possibly dates from this time and would have allowed the postmaster to deal with his customers without them having to enter his domestic quarters.



The first Post Office at Semer. (Photo: David Coleman)

The day started early as the post arrived at 6 am, which Edward had to sort ready for delivery. He would have had quickly to familiarise himself with the whole

parish, as the houses do not form a compact settlement but are scattered over 1,205½ acres (487.8 hectares) including a second hamlet at Drakestone Green. The census enumerator for 1861 listed Edward as sub-postmaster and gardener, which indicated that dealing with this official business was not a full-time occupation.

After seven years at Semer, at the age of 72, Edward retired and the Beardsmores moved to Birkenhead in Cheshire to be with their younger son **Edward**, who ran a public house there. In 1871, Edward Snr. became a widower and he died four years later aged 86.

Thomas Vince

In 1863, 24-year-old **Thomas Vince** was farming with his father at Aldham when he married **Mary Gosling** at the Great Meeting House (now United Reformed Church) in Hadleigh Market Place. The couple went on to have five children, four of whom were born in Semer after their father had taken on the role of postmaster and letter carrier in 1865. Postal delivery personnel had since 1861 been issued with uniforms consisting of dark-blue frock coats, waistcoats and trousers; a year later, peaked cloth hats with red piping were added. By the end of the decade, frock coats were replaced by military-style serge tunics.⁽⁵⁾ This blue uniform would have been a familiar sight around the unmade village roads as Thomas delivered the bundle of letters that he had sorted earlier that morning according to his round. Unhappily, Mary died in 1875 aged 34 and was buried in Semer churchyard next to their youngest child **Florence**.

Thomas and his children then moved to Surrey, where he married **Susannah Munnings** in 1877. They settled at Mortlake, where he worked as a jobbing gardener and the couple had two daughters. Thomas became a widower in 1904 and then moved to Southsea in Hampshire to live with his married daughter **Alice Hutton**. He died there in 1917 aged 77.

Thomas Chessman

Although **Thomas Chessman** was a Londoner, his mother was from Elmsett and he might already have been familiar with this area of Suffolk when, in 1875, he married local girl **Catherine Stribling**. The ceremony also took place in Hadleigh's Great Meeting House and coincided with his appointment as postmaster at Semer.⁽⁶⁾

The couple had seven children between 1876 and 1888. After the death of their youngest child **Violet** in 1889 the family moved to Westminster, where Thomas was employed as a stage driver's groom. However, they later returned to Suffolk as the 1911 census recorded Thomas and Catherine running a market garden at Felixstowe Road in Ipswich. They died in 1935, Catherine at Maldon and Thomas at Severalls Hospital in Colchester, both in Essex.

Maria Fredericks

Semer born and bred, **Maria Bradstreet** lived at Ash Street as a child. When her parents **Robert** and **Susan** moved to Colchester seeking work, Maria went with them. There she married **William Fredericks** in 1856 and soon had two sons, **George** and **William**. As her husband has been rather difficult to trace, he might have been a soldier serving overseas; a William Fredericks died in India in 1878. After that date, Maria Fredericks was calling herself a widow. When her mother moved into

an almshouse in Colchester, Maria continued to live with her and supported herself and her younger son William by tailoring.

By 1889, Maria, aged 50, was back in Semer where she was living at the schoolhouse overlooking Semer Mere from the west, as lodger of the schoolmistress **Elizabeth Gayner**. From here, Maria ran the village post office, which received its letters at 5:40 am. **Jeffery Green**, the 18-year-old postman, started his delivery round at 7 am. Outgoing mail was dispatched at 11:20 am and at 8 pm. Although Maria could issue postal orders, she did not hold sufficient funds for them to be cashed.⁽⁷⁾



For a few years from 1889, the Post Office was run from lodgings in the Schoolhouse (Photo: old postcard)



Cyril Green issued picture postcards of Semer including this view looking northwards down Cooke's Hill towards Semer Bridge. The sign 'Semer Post Office' is on the left. (Photo: Oswald Simpson collection)

Sometime during the late 1890s, Maria moved the post office to the house at the bottom of Cooke's Hill facing directly onto the road (now called Hill House). The census enumerator for 1901 recorded that she had been joined by her teenage granddaughter **Emily**. In 1909 Maria retired to Ash Street where she had been brought up, and died in 1915 aged 75.

Cyril and Adelaide Green

For over 30 years, Jeffery Green worked as rural postman in Semer, but it was his younger brother **Cyril Green** who became the successor at Semer Post Office.⁽⁸⁾ He had married **Adelaide Murfet** in 1905 at Soham, Cambridgeshire. As Cyril was also a carpenter and joiner with his builder's yard on site, Adelaide dealt with customers in the post office while looking after their growing family. Cyril issued picture postcards of the village, including one showing his post office.

Under the Derby Scheme for Married Men, in June 1916 Cyril went to the recruitment office at Sudbury where he enlisted, and he was called up for service in November that year. Despite many servicemen's records for the Great War being destroyed during bombing in WW2, Cyril's army record has survived, albeit a little damaged around the edges. His medical exam showed that he was five feet six inches tall (1.7 metres), of good physique but with bad teeth. This level of health made him fit for service abroad, but he remained here in England as a private. He spent time as a driver at the Royal Tank Corps' Hampshire depot at Wareham and at the Royal Engineers' School of Camouflage in Kensington. The officer in charge recommended that Cyril's application for transfer to the RAF as a mechanic should be strongly considered, as he had proved himself to be a thoroughly efficient carpenter but was currently employed as a cook.⁽⁹⁾



A snowy Cooke's Hill looking south with Semer's last Post Office (now Chapel Meadow House) on the right. (Photo: Oswald Simpson collection)

Cyril was demobilised in February 1919 and returned home, where the Greens' three sons were now aged between four and fourteen; **Pamela** had died in 1915 aged two. While Cyril was away, Adelaide had run Semer Post Office with a very early start at 5:15 am and a second delivery of mail at 3:30 pm, both of which needed to be sorted ready for her brother-in-law Jeffery to deliver. Collections were at 10:50 am and 8:15 pm.⁽¹⁰⁾ In 1922, the couple's last child **Vivian Joan**, known as Joan, was born. Cyril continued as a builder and is remembered in Semer for building the Village Hall, which was opened in 1923.⁽¹¹⁾

When Cyril died in 1930, with assets of £667, his widow Adelaide continued as postmistress and moved to the next building along on Cooke's Hill (now Chapel Meadow House). Towards the end of her life, her youngest child Joan assisted. Having run Semer Post Office for over fifty years, Adelaide died in 1963 at Sudbury, leaving an estate valued at £2,168.⁽¹²⁾

Joan Schiltz

In 1961, Joan Green married **Joseph Schiltz** at Ipswich and the following year, their only child **John** was born. Sadly, Joseph died in 1969 aged 58. At the post office stores, Joan expanded the goods on sale to include groceries, paraffin and the sweets that were particularly popular with village children who alighted from their school buses at this point.

Joan retired aged 60 in 1983 and the post office was closed, as the Post Office had changed its policy that formerly supported rural offices, and so a replacement postmaster or postmistress was not appointed. For 125 years, Semer had had its own post office at four different locations, and for nearly 100 years, two generations of the Green family had served their village from behind the counter.

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7. Kelly, *Directory of Suffolk* (1896), p.290. The nearest post office was two miles away in Bildeston Market Place, which could deal with money orders and telegrams.
8. M. Thorogood, *Semer: A snapshot of a Suffolk village* (1999), p.38.
9. *British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920*, The National Archives, WO 303, database online.
10. Kelly, *Directory of Suffolk* (1916), p.367.
11. Thorogood (n.8), p.15. The Village Hall was paid for by **George Letts**, nurseryman of Semer Lodge.
12. *England and Wales National Probate Calendar, 1858-1966*, database online.

SUFFOLK GARDENERS, MILLERS AND COWMEN

Father's Vice family

My father's family were recorded in Scole, Norfolk from 1640, with a marriage of **Nicholas Vice** (c. 1640-1706)⁽¹⁾ to **Mary Hellhouse/Hellows** in April 1665. Nicholas's birth remains elusive. They may well have been from the Hartismere area of north Suffolk where both surnames are listed in the parish registers. They had 11 children between 1665 and 1684, six boys and five girls, but at least six children died young. I don't know what Nicholas's work was, but his eldest son **Lawrence** (1666-1705)⁽²⁾ was a gardener. Lawrence married **Margaret Pawsey** in November 1687 at Scole, which was a very busy village on the Norwich to London coach road, and the large inn was a stop-over for changing horses. They had four children between 1689 and 1700, two boys and two girls. Lawrence most likely worked at the Frenze Estate, and was buried at Frenze in April 1707. His youngest daughter, **Jemma**, was also buried at Frenze in December 1713, age 13, close to her father.

Their eldest son, another **Lawrence** (1689-?), was also a gardener. He married **Elizabeth Jermy** (1690-1745) in Scole in December 1713, and they had nine children, six boys and three girls. Son **Charles** (1722-22) was the last child born in Scole, and **Mary** (1714-23) was the first child buried in Wenhaston, Suffolk. Three children were born in Wenhaston: **Thomas** (1724-73), although at his burial in Blything Workhouse his name was recorded as 'Voice', **Elizabeth** (1726-1743), who died possibly soon after childbirth, and **Virtue** (c. 1732-1787). In 1727 Lawrence Vice is recorded at West Stow in the Poll books with **Sir Sydenham Fowke**, so he may have been working at his estate.

In September 1750 there is a marriage licence in Halesworth for Lawrence Vice, gardener, and **Sarah Murrel** (c. 1716-70). At this point it's difficult to pinpoint which Lawrence gets married, as I have three marriages for Lawrence and only two burials. Lawrence and Elizabeth's eldest son, **Lawrence** (1716-1770), born in Scole, was married in February 1745 in Bramfield to **Jane Kerrick** (c. 1716-1749). Lawrence was buried in Wenhaston in 1770, but I have not found his father's burial.

Up to this point my research has focused on the youngest child of Lawrence and Elizabeth Vice, Virtue. I imagine that she was a servant girl at a nearby large estate, possibly where her father also worked. She had four illegitimate children: **William** (1758), **Thomas** (1760), **John** (1762), and **Elizabeth** (1765) who died in 1772, an infant recorded as 'Voice'. William married **Hannah Frances** in 1786 and had seven children. Thomas married **Sarah Sutton** in 1780 and had 11 children. John married **Mary Austin** in 1786 and had 10 children.

Most of this family had changed their name to **Howard/Haward** before they died. William, the eldest son, died in December 1830, age 72, and his will is for William Haward, yeoman. Another family spelling in north Suffolk is 'Vyse'.

Members of this family were still living in Wenhaston in the 1881 census.

Mother's Moulton family

Samuel Moulton of Sudbury was my mother's ancestor. Having found Samuel's 11 children, dating back to 1743 in St Peter's, Sudbury, I could not find his marriage or birth; but his burial entry in November 1799 gave his age as 84. His wife **Mary** had already died in February 1794, being recorded as aged 78.

It was a long time before I found their marriage, which was in December 1740 in the Fleet Nonconformist registers of London on Ancestry (their marriage is not on the CD for the Fleet Register, which I have). This information gave me Samuel's occupation as a '*Lath Rivener*', of Whitechapel. He is also recorded as a Freeman of Sudbury in February 1772, as a lathe rivener. I have his sister **Ruth** who married **Thomas Norden** in Sudbury in October 1746. The marriage licence gives her age as 25, so she was born c. 1721.

One brother of Samuel I found is **Thomas Moulton**, maltster of Great Waldingfield (c. 1720-1793). He was a witness to Ruth's wedding in 1746. His will in 1793 lists two inns in Sudbury, *The Christopher* and *The Royal Oak*. **Bartholomew Norden**, Ruth's son, was the executor of both Samuel and Thomas's wills. Bartholomew was employed by Thomas at *The Christopher*. Samuel's will in 1800 includes *The Royal Oak*, which is passed down to his son **Nathaniel** (1757-?), and *The Christopher* which is passed to his son **Thomas**.

Samuel, his brother Thomas and nephew **Thomas Norden** were registered as Freemen in the Sudbury borough records.

Other family members listed in Thomas's will are children of his brother **Daniel Moulton** (1719-1772) and wife **Susan Pettit** (1717-1746): **Pettit Moulton** (1740-1818), **Susanna Moulton**, wife of **Oliver Gooch**, and **Mary** wife of **Thomas Jennings**.

Mother's Smith family

The Inventory of **William Smith** (1653) of Elmsett includes '*a flower from Holland value £45 00*'. This was most likely a tulip, and may have been an investment purchase. The Smith family were millers and millwrights, in Semer (**John** in 1583 and **Thomas** in 1684), Bildeston (**Benjamin** in 1699), Ipswich (**Benjamin** Jr. in 1707), and Layham (**Robert** in 1712).⁽⁹⁾

Harriet Smith, daughter of **Edward** (1788-1866) and **Elizabeth Crisp** (1792-1835) of Layham, married **Thomas Moulton** in about 1840. Harriet was born in Layham in January 1814. Thomas was born February 1816 in Edwardstone, son of **Thomas** (1789-1820), and **Margaret Edey/Eady** (1792-1861). Son **Thomas** was about four in 1856 when his father died and was buried in South Weald, Essex.

His mother Margaret remarried, to **James Rouse** (1796-1870) of Layham. Their family of five children was raised in the Brentwood and Shenfield areas of Essex.

Their youngest child **Harriet** (1852-1928) married **George James Cox** (1852-1921) in about 1875. Their 10 children were raised in Mile End Old Town, Middlesex and from 1881 in Hackney, Middlesex. Harriet was four years old when her father died in 1856. The 1871 census gives her mother's name as Rouse. I have not found any marriage for her. (Note: It's not uncommon for a stepfather's name to be used by the family forever, and it can take a lot of research to solve the problems resulting from this).

George Cox was the son of **John** (1823-1867) and **Mary Ann Flowers** (1816-1898). In the 1871 census George was 18, living in Bethnal Green, with the occupation of 'Cowman', like his father.

I have the Cox family as cow keepers back to **Thomas Cox** of Stepney (1698-1768), who was a drover. It seems the route of the drovers came through Brentwood to the East Smithfield area of London Docks, to supply the ships of the East India Company and the Navy. Thomas Cox married **Ann Davis** (1699-1768) in August 1722, in their parish church, St Dunstan's, Stepney. Their 14 children, born from 1725 to 1747, were raised in Stepney. Thomas must have travelled the road from Brentwood many times. In October 1754 the annual Brentwood Fair was taking place, which he probably attended every year as part of his work. He had with him **Thomas Jnr.**, his 14-year-old son, who died and was buried in Little Warley 'the son of a wandering man'. The term 'a wandering man' has also been found in the census records for another family member, who was also known as a cowman. Other Cox men tried weaving, when married into a French family, or were beerhouse keepers, and butchers.

There was also the marriage by licence of **Edward Cox** to **Elizabeth Revel** in South Weald in October 1754, witnessed by **John** and **Ann Cox** of Bow, Middlesex, cattle merchants. I believe Edward was the son of **Edward**, a drover who lived in Harrow Ally, Houndsditch, Middlesex in 1703.⁽⁴⁾

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THE UMBRELLA MAKERS

Toodle – luma luma

Toodle – luma luma

Toodle – oh lay

Any umbrellas, any umbrellas to mend today?

Bring your parasol, it may be small. It may be big

He will fix them all on what you call a thing-a-ma-jig

Pitter patter patter! Pitter patter patter!

It looks like rain.

Let it pitter patter. Let it pitter patter.

Who cares for rain?

He'll mend your umbrellas, then go on his way

Singing toodle luma luma. Toodle luma luma.

Toodle luma luma

Toodle luma luma

Any umbrellas to mend today?

(Text used under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike Licence 3)

This song was heard on the radio in every home that possessed one during the 1930s and 1940s, and seemed appropriate as an opening for this story about the ancestors of my husband, **John Michael Hunter**. They are in the **Coleman** family, and the direct line is:

Samuel Coleman (1824-1906) and **Mary Ann née Soul** (1822-1866)

William Coleman (1847-1931) and **Sarah née Bloom** (1853-1915)

Florence Emma Coleman (1899-1980) and **William Edward Hunter** (1897-1963)

'*Her father made umbrellas*' was a statement John made whenever his paternal grandmother was mentioned, and there is plenty of evidence in census records to confirm that this was indeed the case. His grandmother was Florence Emma Hunter, formerly Coleman, born in 1899, and her father, uncle and grandfather all worked in the umbrella trade in the East End of London during the 19th century. She herself was listed on the 1939 eve of war register as an umbrella machinist. At that time she had been married 19 years and her son was about to go to war. Records from the 1921 census and the 1939 register show other descendants of the Coleman family worked in the same trade well into the 20th century.⁽¹⁾

The word 'umbrella' derives from the Latin 'umbra', meaning shade. An umbrella is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as '*a device consisting of a circular canopy of cloth on a folding metal frame supported by a central rod, used as protection against rain*'.

Some say the umbrella industry owes its development to the women who used sunshades for protection, rather than to men who generally did not carry their own umbrellas and instead relied on servants to cover them to and from their carriages. However, in 1790 a philanthropist and traveller named **Jonas Hanway**⁽²⁾ began carrying his own umbrella when moving around the streets of London. He was considered a little eccentric as well as being disliked by coachmen and sedan chair runners who felt he was taking their job away and depriving them of income.

The first company to embark on full-scale umbrella production in England was James Ince & Sons, who still produce weather-protective items today. **James Ince** began his business in 1805 in Spitalfields and the company still has a shop in Bethnal Green. The fact that this is the oldest umbrella manufacturer appears on the front page of their website, making an immediate impact on those who log in. Their logo includes the words '*constant shelter for over 200 years*'. It is likely that my husband's Coleman ancestors worked for James Ince, as in 1921 his great-grandfather William Coleman is noted to be working at home as an umbrella maker, employed by this Bethnal Green company.

The furthest back that the umbrella makers in the family can be traced is to Samuel Coleman, Florence's grandfather, born in the second decade of the 19th century. His father was a traveller, and although this may have been in the umbrella trade this is not confirmed. In December 1847 Samuel married Mary Ann Soul in a joint ceremony with his brother **William**. Samuel's occupation was umbrella maker. The couple already had two sons also named **Samuel** and William. William, born on 9 April that year, was just nine months old when his parents married. When they grew up, both boys became umbrella makers like their father. The 1851 and 1861 census records both show Samuel's occupation remains in the trade, in umbrella and parasol frame making.

By 1871 Samuel was living in Albion Place, Bethnal Green with his second wife **Emma**, Mary Ann having died five years earlier. Samuel was still working as an umbrella frame maker. Emma died before the next census was taken, and the records for 1881 and 1891 show Samuel living alone, still employed as an umbrella maker.

From 1897 until his death in 1906 he appeared to go in and out of the local workhouse. His occupation was continuously given as umbrella maker, and he was noted to be a widower. Occasionally he was discharged from the workhouse '*at his own request*' and it is possible that his employment was sporadic so that he was not always able to rent accommodation. The record from the workhouse for his admission on 13 March 1899 stated he was '*homeless*', widowed and an umbrella maker.

Although he died in the City Infirmary in 1906, his death certificate gives an address of 3 Fenton Buildings, so he had managed to work for a few more years before succumbing to senility in his final months.

What a sad end for a man who had led an active working life but could not always manage once he was alone. The small wages he received were not enough to sustain

him and, with many others, he was forced to admit himself to the workhouse in order to keep himself alive.

By the time the 1871 census was recorded, Samuel's son William was married to Sarah and working as an umbrella maker. He was now 23, and his wife just 18. On the marriage certificate both William and his father Samuel are noted to be umbrella frame makers.

Census records for the rest of the 19th century confirm that William continued in the umbrella trade for the rest of his working life. In 1911, when census recording became more detailed, it specified that he was working at home, as does the 1921 census. As each census is taken, more detailed information becomes available, and the latter record gives the company William works for as James Ince.

Samuel, William's older brother, was also an umbrella maker in 1871. Several of the next generation worked in the trade and there are records in both the 1921 census and the 1939 register that demonstrate this was a family with well-established involvement in this business well into the 20th century.

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1. Until very recently there was still a Coleman making umbrellas in the East End: <https://spitalfieldslife.com/2011/11/07/terry-coleman-umbrella-maker/>. I believe Terry is a distant cousin, though this is not yet confirmed. He retired a few years ago, aged 82, after 67 years in the trade: <https://heritagecrafts.org.uk/umbrella-making/>
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THE CORBYNS OF SUFFOLK

The surname Corbyn is one which has received some prominence in recent years, due to the career of the Labour politician, **Jeremy Corbyn**, and may form an interesting topic of research for readers of this journal. Incidentally, Jeremy Corbyn's uncle, **Peter T. Corbyn**, was a keen genealogist and member of the Suffolk Family History Society, with whom I was in contact in the 1980s, exchanging information on our researches into the family.

The Corbyn surname in Britain is probably of multiple origins, but the origin of one of the lines lies in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Research has shown that those bearing the surname who are recorded in the census records of Suffolk for 1841 and 1851 almost certainly fall into one of two groups. This article will attempt to show that these represent two lines of descent from what was

ultimately one family based predominantly in the south of Norfolk, very close to the Suffolk border. In the period before c. 1700, many of the family lived in and around the Norfolk parish of Alburgh, situated between Harleston and Bungay in Suffolk. However, the purpose of the current article is to present the evidence relating to the Corbyns in the period from around the mid-18th to the mid-19th century.

Both the 1841 and 1851 censuses list a number of Corbyns in Fressingfield, in particular the families of **William** and his wife **Elizabeth**, and **Jonas** and his wife **Emily**, living in adjacent households in 1851. William's family is also recorded in 1841 and includes Jonas, who was obviously his son. William was an agricultural labourer, born in Fressingfield. The age given for William in 1851 was 65, although the parish register entries for Fressingfield show that he was baptised in 1793. There are several other individual Corbyns residing within other households, namely, in 1851, **Emily** in St Helen, Ipswich (born c. 1837, Weybread), **George** in Rumburgh (born c. 1833, Spexhall), **William** in Lowestoft (born c. 1850, Bulkham [sic]); and in 1841, **Betsy** in Fressingfield (born c. 1826, Suffolk), **William** also in Fressingfield (born c. 1816, Suffolk), **Eleanor** in Nacton (born c. 1834, Suffolk) and **Noah** in Laxfield (born c. 1774, Suffolk). All except Eleanor are likely to be from the Fressingfield line.

Noah, who appears in the 1841 census with the precise age of 67 given, corresponds with the Noah, son of Noah and Anne Corbyn, baptised at Cratfield in 1774. Children of Noah and Anne are recorded as follows:

Cratfield: Noah, baptised 21 September 1774
Fressingfield: **John**, baptised 3 November 1776
 Jonas, baptised 7 March 1779
 Sarah, baptised 16 June 1782
 Robert, baptised 24 April 1785
 William, baptised 9 June 1793

A marriage of **Noah Corbyn**, a widower from Alburgh, and **Anne Browne**, single woman, is recorded at Framlingham on 23 April 1765.

There is, therefore, from this evidence, a very strong case that all of the Corbyns living at Fressingfield in 1841 and 1851 were the descendants of Noah and Anne, as well as Noah living at Laxfield, who died just before the 1851 census.

We now come to consider the other Corbyns listed in the two censuses, which include four households with a Corbyn as the head.

It is interesting to see that, when traced back another generation, those not from the Fressingfield branch all turn out to be descendants of either **Cook Corbyn** (died 1828, Nacton) or **Hartwell Corbyn**, who was actually still alive at the time of the 1841 census, recorded as aged 80. From this, we see that Hartwell was born in Suffolk. He actually lived on until 5 February 1851,⁽¹⁾ tantalisingly close to being recorded in

the 1851 census, which would have supplied his place of birth. It is unfortunate that this information is not available, since there seems to be no record of the baptisms of either Hartwell or Cook Corbyn. In fact, the baptisms of many of the Corbyns in Suffolk during the later 18th century are not recorded. However, it is possible to gather information on them from burial and marriage records.

The ages recorded in death records of four Corbyns in Suffolk from 1760-1851 reveal their approximate years of birth as follows:

Cook Corbyn, born c. 1748 (buried 5 June 1828, Nacton)

Hartwell Corbyn, born c. 1759 (died 5 February 1851, Halesworth)⁽²⁾

Jonathan Corbyn, born c. 1760, (buried 16 November 1760, Halesworth)

Jonathan Corbyn, born c. 1764 (buried 1 August 1788, Halesworth)

The last two both died relatively young, one as an infant and the other aged 24. The marriages of Cook to **Ann Garrad** (15 April 1777, Woodbridge)⁽³⁾ and Hartwell to **Mary Townsend** (3 October 1784, St Botolph without Bishopsgate, London) are recorded, and also the marriages of **Sarah Corbyn** to **George Stannard** (19 March 1785, Woodbridge)⁽⁴⁾ and **Samuel Corbyn** to **Frances Carr** (10 March 1785, Woodbridge).⁽⁵⁾ A burial of a Sarah Stannard, aged 72, is recorded at Woodbridge on 13 June 1821, but a burial for Samuel has not been found so far. Although not found in Suffolk, another Corbyn was living in Kent, with the distinctive Christian name of **Keer**. He married **Frances Lake** (28 June 1791, Ashford, Kent) and died on 2 December 1829 at Brabourne, Kent, aged 76.

These sources therefore record seven Corbyns, six of whom have an approximate year of birth, the list being as follows:

Cook Corbyn, born c. 1748, Sarah Corbyn, born c. 1749, Keer Corbyn, born c. 1753, Hartwell Corbyn, born c. 1758, Jonathan Corbyn, born c. 1760, Jonathan Corbyn, born c. 1764 and Samuel Corbyn, born ????

This sequence of births would seem to suggest that these might all be siblings, but can this be confirmed from other evidence?

There is certainly a likely set of parents in **Jonathan Corbyn** and **Sarah Keer**, who were married in Debenham in 1746. It is highly likely that this is the origin of the Christian name of Keer Corbyn, who was found in Kent, and that he was a son of this couple. Other important documents of relevance are a Removal order of 29 July 1747⁽⁶⁾ and a Settlement certificate of 1 October 1747,⁽⁷⁾ which state that Jonathan's parish of settlement was Halesworth, to which he had to be removed, and that he had both a wife and a daughter named Sarah. The daughter looks very much like the Sarah Corbyn who married George Stannard in 1785, since her age at death indicates a year of birth very close to the probable birth year of Jonathan's daughter Sarah, 1747. Based on this information, we can be fairly confident that Sarah Stannard (née Corbyn) and Keer Corbyn were children of Jonathan and Sarah.

The fact that Jonathan was removed to Halesworth in 1747 also links with the two Jonathan Corbys buried there, who were born c. 1760 and c. 1764. These were surely also sons of Jonathan and Sarah.

Strangely, there are still records of Jonathan Corbyn and Jona[than] Corbyn, tailor, Master to an apprentice in Devenham (which must mean Debenham, since it is recorded in the records for Suffolk) in 1753,⁽⁸⁾ and Debenham in 1757.⁽⁹⁾ However, he was probably well established as a tailor in Halesworth by the 1760s, with a record of Jona Corbin as Master of an apprentice there in 1780.⁽¹⁰⁾

A newspaper advertisement shows J. Corbyn with a tailor's business in Halesworth in 1790⁽¹¹⁾ and Jonathan Corbyn is listed as a tailor in Halesworth in the *Universal British Directory 1793-1798*.⁽¹²⁾ Then, in 1792, another newspaper report states that Hartwell Corbyn, 'taylor and habit-maker', with an address in London, was taking over his father's business in Halesworth.⁽¹³⁾ Jonathan Corbyn, tailor, was buried at Halesworth on 9 January 1793, aged 70 and Sarah Corbyn, also at Halesworth, on 23 June 1806, aged 89. This is fairly compelling evidence that Hartwell, my own ancestor, was also a son of Jonathan and Sarah.

Currently unresolved is the question of **Jonathan Corbyn**, tailor, aged above 90 years, who was buried in Halesworth in 1795. Coming from the generation before Jonathan, husband of Sarah Keer, was he the father or an uncle of the younger man?

Out of the list of seven Corbys given earlier, there is good evidence that five of these were children of Jonathan and Sarah, but what of the remaining two, Samuel and Cook? So far, the only record of Samuel is his marriage in 1785, so there is little evidence to go on, but it seems likely that he was a sibling of the other five. The case of Cook Corbyn, ancestor of Jeremy, is rather different. Like so many of the Corbys, his occupation was a tailor, and he lived for most of his life in Nacton. He had a large family, a number of whose Christian names give a strong clue to the likely connection to the other Corbys. One of his sons was named **Jonathan Keer Corbyn** (baptised 27 April 1783) and two, both of whom died young, were named Hartwell. In fact, the name **Hartwell** occurs in the Corbyn and other descendant families on numerous occasions from the mid-18th century up to the mid-20th. So, once again, there is very strong evidence that Cook Corbyn was a son of Jonathan and Sarah. One other additional piece of important evidence is an advertisement in the *Ipswich Journal* of 27 April 1805, seeking 'A Youth, who has serv'd 3 or 4 years to the trade of a Taylor' with applications to be made to C. Corbyn of Nacton or Mr H. Corbyn, Halesworth.⁽¹⁴⁾ This seems to confirm beyond all reasonable doubt that Cook and Hartwell were brothers.

It is frustrating that no baptisms of these likely children of Jonathan and Sarah have been found. Many of the Corbys at a slightly later period were adherents of Nonconformist denominations, so it may well be that this was also the case with Jonathan and that either his children's baptisms were not recorded or the records have not survived.

Another interesting question is, what were the origins of the Christian names Cook and Hartwell? There was an earlier **Cook Corbyn**, married in 1745 in Norwich, and a **Hartfull Corbyn**, who died in 1746 in Beccles, aged 13.⁽¹⁵⁾ The expectation would be that these names would have been taken from the maiden surname of an ancestress, but so far there is no evidence that this was the case.

Tailoring was very much the predominant occupation of the Corbyns descended from Jonathan Corbyn and Sarah Keer, and persisted in the family until 1976, as noted by Peter T. Corbyn in his article *'The tombstone and the tailors'* in *Suffolk Roots* of April 1988.⁽¹⁶⁾

So far, not quite all of the Corbyns recorded in Suffolk in the period from around 1760 to 1851 have been confidently placed within these two branches of the family, but there is little doubt that they were descendants of either Noah Corbyn and Anne Brown or Jonathan Corbyn and Sarah Keer. Some further research should help to confirm the connections.

There is clearly scope for further research into the family in an earlier period, when they were largely resident in Norfolk. In fact, there is a mention of a **William Corbyn** in the Court Roll of the manor of Sutton in Norfolk for 1338.⁽¹⁷⁾ Perhaps at some point the remaining uncertainties will be resolved and more light will be thrown on the Corbyns of earlier times.

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MEN OF THE CLOTH

In a previous article, published in *Suffolk Roots* in December 2020, I explored my Suffolk ancestry back to the **Rev Thomas Wynne**, who married **Sarah Pitches** on 26 November 1742 at Bury St Edmunds (Wordwell). But were there more vicars in my Suffolk family? Was it a family occupation? Were there more 'men of the cloth'?

The Cambridge University records show **Rev Thomas Wynne** (1713-1775) born Combs, Suffolk. He was rector of Creeting All Saints and St Olaves from 1742 to 1775.

His father, also named **Rev Thomas Wynne** (1677-1723), was rector of Combs, from 1711 to 1723.

Sarah Pitches (c. 1715-1770) was the daughter of the **Rev Richard Pitches** (1687-1728), as evidenced by Richard's will held in the Norfolk Record Office. Richard was the rector of Hawstead in Suffolk from 1720 to 1728. He married **Henrietta Maria Capell** in 1714 at St John's, Stanton, in Suffolk.

Richard's father was the **Rev Anthony Pitches** (1656-1720) who was the rector of Hawstead from 1690 to 1720, having previously been vicar of Wissington, Suffolk.

Anthony's father was the **Rev George Pitches** (1607-1672), who was also the rector of Hawstead from 1670 to 1672, having previously been rector of St James', Icklingham, Suffolk.

Henrietta Maria Capell (1683-1726) was the daughter of **William Capell** (1645-1685), benefactor of the church at Stanton, and granddaughter of **Rev Gamaliel Capell** (1598-1667) who was rector at Stanton from 1643 to 1667.

That makes a total of six 'men of the cloth' in my direct line of ancestry. The Capell family also provided at least three further rectors at Stanton and several others elsewhere.

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WHO WAS DAVID DICKERSON OF BUCKLESHAM, SUFFOLK? HIS STORY, AND HIS SHOEMAKER RELATIONS

David Dickerson 1742

The first record of the Dickerson family in Bucklesham is the marriage by banns of **David Dickerson** to **Sarah Asbee** on 7 November 1769. They are my paternal 4x great-grandparents. Both were living in Bucklesham at the time of their marriage and Sarah had been born there in 1744. The question is, who was David Dickerson and where had he come from? There has been speculation that he could be related to a David in Ipswich in the early 1700s or even a David Dickerson baptised in St Mary's Stoke, Somerset, because when he was buried in Bucklesham on 31 October 1832 he was of Stoke St Mary, Ipswich. His age was given as 92, so it's very probable that he was living with and being cared for by a younger member of his family, as by this time he had moved to Ipswich. His wife Sarah had died much earlier and was buried at Bucklesham on 26 June 1806.

In the early 1700s there were a few Dickerson families in the area, but more can be found in north Suffolk, in Eye, Palgrave, Redgrave, Hoxne and Syleham; and in south Norfolk in Diss, Dickleborough and Thelveton, which borders Diss, some as early as the 1600s. Other groups of early Dickerson families can be found in villages between Diss and Norwich, with several in Norwich itself. Another group are recorded in King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth.



Thelveton Church. Photo: Christine Brooks

of **David** and Pleasants **Dickerson**, baptised 28 May 1742, and his brother **Daniel**, baptised 19 April 1746.

There was no marriage for the couple in Thelveton, but one is registered a few miles south in Occold, north Suffolk. David Dickerson, single man and **Pleasance Mayes**, single woman, were married by banns on 15 December 1741. Pleasance was pregnant when they married, so this may have been their reason for moving to Thelveton, or perhaps employment took them there. Whatever the reason, by 1747



Occold Church. Photo: Christine Brooks

A friend, who is a dedicated genealogist, has searched a large number of Suffolk parishes for his own ancestors, but also looked for any who could be mine. There was no trace of a baptism for David Dickerson, but while searching for his south Norfolk ancestors, my friend discovered a Dickerson family in Thelveton with two baptism entries: David, son

baptism entries: David, son of David and Pleasants Dickerson, baptised 28 May 1742, and his brother Daniel, baptised 19 April 1746. They had returned to Occold where a further four children were baptised: **Elizabeth** (14 February 1747), **Dinah** (17 November 1749), **Robert** (22 March 1752) and **John** (28 October 1753).

One could question if this was the family of David who arrived in Bucklesham to marry in 1769. Twenty-eight miles is the distance given between Bucklesham

and Occold, travelling today by the main A140 and A14 roads, but a more direct cross-country route would have been in the region of about 20 miles. With diligent searching, my friend has accounted for all members of the family in the Ipswich area, apart from John b. 1753. David senior and Pleasance as yet have not been traced. It therefore appears that at some time between 1753 and 1769, the entire family moved south, probably with the prospect of employment. Without my friend's help, for which I am very grateful, I doubt if I would ever have found them.

Following David and Sarah's marriage, the following children were baptised in the parish church of St Mary's at Bucklesham: **Sarah** (9 August 1770, who died and was buried on 27 July 1772), **John** (25 October 1772), **Sarah** (19 February 1775), **Maria** (6 April 1777), **David** (28 February 1779), **Daniel** (7 June 1781, who died and was buried on 23 June 1782), Daniel (18 April 1783 – my 3x great-grandfather), and **Joseph** (30 July 1786). There is a record of the burial on 3 July 1777 of **Pleasant Dickerson**, an infant, but no baptism. David's mother was Pleasant Mayes, so was she another daughter?

David's age at death was given as 92, only 18 months over for a birth in 1742. At such a great age, his family could have lost count of the years.

The Bucklesham Dickerson family will have a story of their own.

Daniel Dickerson 1746

The first definite documented record for Daniel Dickerson, who was baptised in Thelveton on 19 April 1746, is his first marriage to **Mary Roberts** on 16 November 1773 in Woolverstone, Suffolk. Mary died and was buried on 30 June 1783. His second marriage was to **Elizabeth Miller**, again in Woolverstone, on 13 January 1784. A third marriage is recorded in Freston, a neighbouring village: Daniel Dickerson, widower, of Woolverstone married **Hannah Pooley** on 5 June 1797. Finally, a fourth marriage is recorded at Chelmondiston, another neighbouring village: Daniel Dickerson, widower, of Woolverstone married **Martha Tovell** on 7 October 1708. Martha died and was buried in Woolverstone on 16 January 1825, age 56.

From 1773 to his death and burial in Woolverstone on 14 February 1830, aged 84 (correct for a birth in 1746), it appears that Daniel was a resident of that village, but there are no children from any of his four marriages recorded in the parish register. It is possible that he was a Nonconformist, as his nephew David Dickerson and wife **Thomasin** were baptising their children at Stoke Green Baptist Chapel, Ipswich, in the early 1800s.

In the *Baptist Gospel Herald* or *Poor Christian's Magazine* of 1857 (freely available online through Google Books), an article on page 65 titled '*The Excellent of the Earth*' makes mention of the Baptist Chapel at Woolverstone and the **Reverend Mr Samuel Sowden**, who had been the pastor there since its formation in 1758. He died in 1772 or 1773 and soon after the church moved to Stoke Green, Ipswich. The meeting house at Woolverstone had been given to the Baptists by a friend, but they had neglected to have it legally conveyed to trustees. It was then claimed by the '*heir-at-law*', and the Baptists were obliged to leave. Church meetings continued at Woolverstone at the house of **Thomas Ridley**, and occasionally at **Mr Last's** house. The Cat House on the Berners Estate, Woolverstone, near the shore of the River Orwell, was also used, and candidates were baptised in the River Orwell at Freston Brook until 1799 when a baptistry was made on the Stoke premises in an adjoining yard. It has been

suggested that many of the Woolverstone congregation were residents of Ipswich and surrounding villages.

The following extract from this article is of importance to the Dickerson story:

'The writer has a vivid recollection of a tale he has heard an aged relative of his relate, that he used to walk all the way from Newbourne to Woolverstone to worship; and that he did it all one winter, to attend the prayer meetings with his brethren after Mr Sowden's death. This journey, both ways, could not have been less than twenty-four miles. "The word of the Lord was precious in those days"; and a willing heart gave Daniel Dickerson nimble feet; the pleasure of anticipation, he said, cheered him in the morning, and the hallowed delights of remembrance softened the labour of his journey homewards.'

Daniel's siblings are all found in villages around Ipswich, north of the River Orwell, whilst Woolverstone is on its southern shores. There is no record of a Daniel Dickerson in Newbourne, so it seems plausible that the above-mentioned Daniel could have moved to Woolverstone to be near his Baptist church, and married there.

The next consideration is whether Daniel fathered any children from his four marriages. There are only two baptisms recorded, both being at Ipswich Stoke Green Baptist Church after the Woolverstone Chapel had ceased to exist. **David Dickerson**, son of Daniel and Hannah Dickerson of Woolverstone, born 8 June 1799, was registered by **George Hall**, Minister. This David must have died, as a second David Dickerson, son of Daniel and Hannah Dickerson, born 28 June 1805 in Woolverstone, was also registered by George Hall, Minister.

The seven Dickerson shoemakers – or was it eight?

A Dickerson resident of Ipswich contacted me in late 2022, wondering if we might be related and share common ancestors. He had details of his grandparents which were sufficient to trace his Dickerson line back to **Robert Dickerson**, a wheelwright, who was born in Combs, Suffolk in 1819, the son of **Daniel Dickerson** born c. 1775, a shoemaker in Combs and his wife **Elizabeth Makings**. I'd been aware for several years of Daniel Dickerson, a shoemaker in this area, but not having any direct connection, hadn't pursued the line. Initial disappointment that perhaps we didn't share common ancestors led to further investigations which became very complicated at times, with numerous Dickerson families in Combs, Barking, Battisford and Ringshall all using the same names for their sons. The main aids to distinguishing one from another were ages and villages of birth. I finally made a connection that we do share common ancestors in David Dickerson and Pleasance Mayes.

It transpired that there were no less than seven Dickerson shoemakers distributed throughout the villages mentioned above, spanning a period of about 100 years. It was truly a family trade passed down through three generations from Daniel b. 1775. There must have been a high demand in the area, as I found at least two other shoemakers working alongside them, near neighbours on census records.

Boot and shoemaking

Shoes have been made and worn since prehistoric times, the earliest being moccasin type shoes. The Romans wore sandals and the Anglo-Saxons, a turn shoe where the sole and upper were sewn together and turned inside out. By the 16th century welted shoes were being made, where the upper was attached to the welt, stitching through the welt to the sole.

Village shoemakers were members of the craft guilds from as early as 1272. Apprenticeships were usually seven years and in shoemaking, sons were generally apprenticed to their fathers or a close relative. Certainly, this was the case with Daniel, the first recorded Dickerson shoemaker in the Combs area of Suffolk. Three of his sons became shoemakers, and it was passed down from them to another generation. Was his father also a shoemaker? There is no written record, but as Daniel's half-brother was also a shoemaker, it is possible.

Before mass production, shoes were handcrafted and shoemaking was a local craft. People in rural areas would mainly wear clogs or hobnail boots. These had wooden soles which were more durable, the uppers being glued to the soles.

Shoemakers at the top end of the trade were referred to as cordwainers. They worked with fine leather from Cordoba in Spain, giving rise to their title. A shoemaker made shoes and boots, mostly of leather but also ladies' shoes in satin, silk or textiles, and usually specialised in men's boots and shoes or ladies' footwear. A cobbler was at the lower end of the trade, working mainly with old leather as a shoe mender. Shoemaking was referred to as the 'gentle craft', as it didn't require much physical exertion. Most of the work was done seated at a bench, which was combined with a tool box and so didn't take up too much space. Shoemakers might have had a separate workshop or used part of their living quarters for their work. A shoemaker's tools comprised awls, marking wheels, sole knives, pliers, pincers and small hammers.

Here is a brief description of traditional shoemaking. The first part of the process was to carve a 'last', which was a wooden mould made from numerous measurements taken from a customer's foot. Thin leather was fashioned and stretched over the last, which was supported by a lasting jack. This formed the upper which was made of two pieces. The sole leather was much thicker and cut slightly larger than the upper, and required soaking overnight in water to soften it. This was then placed on a smooth, flat 'lapstone', on the shoemaker's lap, to hammer the leather to further soften and contour it. Glue was used along the edges of the upper to hold it in contact with the sole while the two pieces were sewn together. A marking wheel was used to mark where the holes for sewing were to be made, using an awl. Waxed flax was the main thread used, two ends being passed through each hole in opposite directions. The heel of the shoe was made with several layers of thicker, shaped sole leather, held in position with small hammered nails. Family members may have assisted with stitching and hammering seams flat. In the 1600s and earlier 1700s,

a pair of shoes was made from one stay. It wasn't until about 1785 that shoemakers in England began to make left and right fitting shoes.

By the late 1800s, shoemaking factories were mass-producing shoes in centres such as Nottingham and Norwich, outcompeting the village shoemakers in production and price.

Most shoemakers were literate, freethinkers and dissenters from the established church, as was the case with most of the Dickerson shoemakers, who were Strict Baptists.

The seven Dickerson shoemakers can become rather confusing as there were four by the name of Daniel, two Davids and one Dennis. As Daniel of Combs and David 1805 of Woolverstone were both shoemakers, did they learn their trade from Daniel 1746 of Woolverstone? There are no apprenticeship records or other documentary evidence that he was also a shoemaker, but could he be number eight?

In Thelveton, around the time of David and Daniel's baptisms, a **Samuel Dickerson** is recorded as baptising three children. There are also entries in the Billingford parish register for Samuel and his wife **Elizabeth** baptising two children. In the Syleham register, **Samuel Diggerson** (Dickerson) is recorded as a cordwainer in 1699. Was this another Dickerson shoemaker family? Billingford is just in south Norfolk and Syleham in north Suffolk, almost adjoining villages with their parish boundaries on the River Waveney. They are both very close to Thelveton.

A few years later in Theberton, Suffolk, Samuel Dickerson is recorded as a cordwainer with no less than nine apprentices, spanning May 1754 to December 1783. None of the apprentices is a Dickerson, but could he be from Thelveton and his father from Syleham? If so, he would have known David and Pleasance.

Yet another Dickerson shoemaker was **Daniel**, who was born in Palgrave about 1719, moved to Diss, and worked in Framlingham from 1753 well into the 1760s. Could either of these Dickerson shoemakers have been the start of the trade in the family? We will never know, but it's worth considering with the lack of any apprenticeships for them.

Daniel Dickerson 1775

On the 1841 census for Combs, a shoemaker, Daniel Dickerson (65) is recorded with his family, wife Elizabeth (60) and sons **Daniel** (30) and Robert (20). There was also a child, **Anna** (5), who was probably the daughter of the younger Daniel. He had been married, but his wife had died. Daniel 1775 had married Elizabeth Makings (as spelt on the marriage certificate) on 28 October 1800 at Ringshall. Elizabeth was the daughter of **Robert** and **Mary Meakins** of Combs, but she was baptised at St Catherine's, Ringshall on 30 March 1781. Her siblings, all of whom except the last were baptised at St Mary's, Battisford, were **John** (5 May 1765), **Mary** (23 May 1768), **Abraham** (4 June 1770), **Hannah** (1 April 1776), **Sarah** (8 July 1778), and **Mary** (5 June 1786), aged 4, baptised at Ringshall. There was a second entry for Elizabeth on 5 June 1786, aged 5, where her mother Mary was listed as '*late Sherman*', and also for Mary, aged 4. Robert Meakins had married Mary Sherman on 12 January 1764 at St Mary's, Battisford.

Church was also important to this Daniel, who joined the Wattisham Baptist Church on 15 March 1799. Church records⁽¹⁾ state that *'Daniel Dickerson spoke his experience and it was accepted by the church'*. However, he was called to appear before the membership in January 1801: *'Having heard Bro Daniel Dickerson's wife was with child by him before he marry'd her we desire him to come before the church. He came and confessed his sin and appeared to have repentance for it. The church exhorted him to fill up his place in the worship of God'*. He was not separated from the church on this occasion. However, he was excluded in March 1802 for card playing, and not restored until 16 December 1808, when the church records show: *'Daniel Dickerson who years ago was excluded for bad conduct came before the church and confessed his sins and that he was broken down and sorry for his iniquities was by the church restored to the privilege connected with his fellowship'*. From then onwards he appears to have remained in good standing with the church until his death in 1847.



Wattisham Chapel – Plaque reads “BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE – ON THIS SITE STOOD THE OLD MEETINGHOUSE WHICH WAS OPENED FOR DIVINE WORSHIP 1763. REBUILT 1825”.

Photos: Christine Brooks

Daniel and Elizabeth Dickerson had six children registered at the Baptist Meeting House, Wattisham. Their village of residence is listed after their date of birth⁽²⁾:

David b. 28 March 1801 at Barking

Mary b. 17 January 1803 at Barking

Daniel b. 16 December 1805 at Barking

Daniel b. 3 November 1808 at Battisford

Diklah b. 27 July 1811 at Battisford

Dennis b. 28 November 1815 at Battisford

A seventh child, Robert, was baptised at Hadleigh on 4 February 1827, but from subsequent census records would have been born about 1819 at Combs.

The family had been moving between neighbouring parishes, finally settling in Combs by 1819. Daniel obviously wanted his name to continue to the next generation, as both of his sons Daniel survived and both continued with their father's trade as shoemakers.

Daniel of Combs died in 1847, four years too early for his place of birth to be recorded on the 1851 census. A baptism or birth record has never been found for this Daniel, but his year of birth is estimated to be c. 1775. There is sufficient evidence to suggest that he is the son of Daniel Dickerson and his first wife Mary née Roberts of Woolverstone. The Woolverstone Baptist Chapel records don't appear to have survived, and Daniel's birth would be before the Baptists finally vacated Woolverstone for Stoke St Mary in 1799. Daniel of Woolverstone would therefore have named his first son Daniel after himself, and his second son David 1805 after his father and brother. Daniel of Combs named his first and only daughter after his mother Mary, and had sons David and Robert named after his uncles and grandfather.

David Dickerson 1805 (Woolverstone)

David Dickerson b. 1805 in Woolverstone married **Anne Rush** on 22 August 1826 at Chelmondiston, a neighbouring village to Woolverstone. By 1841 they were living at London Road, St Matthews, Ipswich with a young family of six children, **Ellen** (14), **David** (13), **Hannah** (8), **Dathan** (7), **Sarah** (5) and **Emma** (1). David was recorded as a shoemaker, but in 1851 and subsequent census records was a cordwainer at Washbrook. By 1851, another two children, **Eliza** (8) and **Sarah** (3) had joined the family. From the villages of birth of the children, David had also lived at Tattlingstone and East Bergholt before settling in Washbrook, where he died in 1879, aged 74.

David Dickerson 1801 (Barking)

David Dickerson married **Alice Rampling** on 8 April 1824 at Combs, and by 1841 was recorded as a shoemaker at Hitcham with his family **Robert** (15), **Ann** (14), **Joseph** (6) and **Dennis** (4). By 1851 he was living at Brettenham Road, Hitcham, continuing his work as a shoemaker and with two more children, **Sarah** (8) and **William** (4). In 1861 he was living at the Beer House, Hitcham with no mention of shoemaking but as a beerhouse keeper. The censuses of 1871 and 1881 show a return to shoemaking, but I've found no record of any of his sons following in the trade. He was buried at Hitcham on 28 November 1882, and his wife Alice was buried there on 28 July 1884. She was born on 20 July 1805 and baptised on 20 April 1806 in Hitcham, the daughter of **John Ramplin** (1768-1805) and **Susan Scofield** (1770-1859), who had married at Hitcham on 4 September 1804.

Daniel Dickerson 1805 (Barking)

Daniel Dickerson married **Sophia Palmer** on 21 August 1829. By 1841 he was working as a shoemaker in Ringshall, living with Sophia and their children **Deborah** (11), **Ann** (9), **Emma** (6) and **Sophia** (2), all having been registered at the Baptist Meeting House, Wattisham. He continued working as a shoemaker in Ringshall until his death in 1890 but only having daughters, none of his children followed on in his trade. His wife Sophia had died and was buried at the Baptist Meeting House, Wattisham on 21 September 1862, after which Daniel married **Elizabeth Leathers** in 1866. He has entries in *Kelly's Directory* as a shoemaker.

Daniel Dickerson 1808 (Battisford)

Daniel Dickerson married **Ann Ramplin** in 1845, but in 1841 was living with his parents (see Daniel 1775). In 1851 he was living near the Punch Bowl at Combs, a pub which still exists today. He was 43, a shoemaker, and with wife Ann (28) and Anna (15), daughter of a previous marriage. Ann and Daniel had two children, **Daniel** (3) and **Dennis** (1). Daniel's mother Elizabeth (71), who was born in Combs, was living with them. By 1861 the family was living in Bildeston Road, Combs, Daniel as a shoemaker and with three more children, **Horace** (8), **Maryan** (6) and **Robert** (3). Daniel was still working as a shoemaker in 1871 but was living at Battisford Road, Combs and his son Dennis (21), was recorded as a journeyman shoemaker. Daniel died in 1876, aged 68.



*The Punch Bowl at Battisford, courtesy of the owner of the photo **Barbara Turnham**, née Dickerson. William Dickerson (4th from left) is her grandfather and is a great-grandson of Daniel Dickerson (1775) and Elizabeth Makings. The notice reads: 'William Dickerson Licensed retailer of Spirits and Beer. To be Consumed on the Premises. Dealer in Tobacco'*

Daniel Dickerson 1847 (Combs)

The fourth and last Daniel Dickerson who became a shoemaker was born in Combs in the fourth quarter of 1847 (GRO Reference: D Quarter, Stow Union, Vol 12 Pg 398). In 1851 he was living with his parents, as listed previously for Daniel 1808. By 1861, aged 14 and now a shoemaker, he was living at a cottage in Battisford with **William Rampling** (40), who was a labourer and must have been a relative, as Ann Ramplin was Daniel's mother. Next door on the 1861 census was **Thomas Cooper** (40), also a shoemaker, his wife **Susan** (35) and their daughter **Jemima** (5). In 1871, Daniel was living at a cottage with the Cooper family, he and Thomas both working as shoemakers. Daniel remained living with the Cooper family in 1881 and Jemima, now 25, was a school teacher. On this census, Daniel is recorded as a shoemaker and Baptist Minister.

In 1891, Daniel was still living in Battisford and working as a shoemaker. He was no longer living with the Cooper family but had been joined by his brother Robert (32), an agricultural labourer, both being unmarried. Daniel's sister-in-law, Jane (32), a widow, was his housekeeper and with her were her two children John (15), who was helping his uncle Daniel as a shoemaker's assistant, and Alice (8), a scholar. John did not continue in the trade, although his deceased father Dennis Dickerson was the seventh of the Dickerson shoemakers.

1901 saw Daniel, now 53, as a bootmaker and farmer, and employer working at home. Jane continued as his housekeeper and Alice and three lodgers completed the household. In 1911, Daniel remained unmarried and was a shoemaker, farmer and employer. Jane was a dressmaker on her own account, and her daughter Alice had taken on the role of housekeeper.

After a life as a single man, Daniel finally tied the knot in October 1912 at the age of about 65. He married Susan Jemima Cooper, the Jemima whose family he had lived with previously. They were married for about six years before Daniel died on 26 March 1918. He left a will, and probate was granted on 8 October 1918 to Susan Jemima Dickerson, widow, and John Dickerson, farm labourer, with effects £1129-14s. One can perhaps assume that John was his nephew, the son of his brother Dennis (below).

Daniel's wife Jemima outlived him by just over four years, dying on 7 September 1922. She also left a will, probate being granted on 31 October 1922 to **Arthur Edward Partridge**, farmer, and John Dickerson, labourer, with effects of £868-13s-4d. Daniel and Jemima are buried in the Wattisfield Baptist Chapel burial ground, with a memorial headstone with the following inscription.

Sacred to the Memory of
DANIEL DICKERSON
 Pastor of the Strict Baptist Churches of
 Stowmarket and Mendlesham for over
 Forty Years
 Fell asleep in Jesus
 May 26 1918 Aged 69
 There let me sleep till the awaking of the
 dead till the rending of the tombs and
 the great awakening
 Beloved we hope to meet again
 Also of **SUSAN JEMIMA**
 Beloved wife of the above who fell
 asleep in Jesus
 September 7 1922. Aged 66 years
 Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord



Photo: Christine Brooks

Dennis Dickerson 1850 (Combs)

Dennis Dickerson, born in 1850 in Combs, was the younger brother of Daniel 1847, and the son of Daniel 1808 and Ann Ramplin. He lived with his family in Combs until his marriage in Ringshall on 1 January 1873 to **Jane Bird**, who had been born in Ringshall in 1855. In 1871 he is recorded as a journeyman shoemaker. In 1881 Dennis (31), a shoemaker, was living in Combs with Jane (26) and their four young children, **Ada** (7), **John** (5), **Edith** (3), and **Frederick** (5 months).

Dennis died at the young age of 34 on 26 December 1884 in Battisford. His widow Jane then became housekeeper to her brother-in-law Daniel. I haven't checked on what became of Ada, Edith and Frederick, but John stayed with his mother, as did **Alice** who was born only a short while before her father died.

That's the end of the shoemakers!

The Occold children of David and Pleasance Dickerson

Elizabeth Dickerson 1747

Elizabeth was baptised in Occold on 14 February 1747, and at the age of 36 married **Philip Catchpole** on 19 August 1783 at Martlesham. Philip died and was buried at Stoke Green Baptist Church on 9 December 1803.

Dinah Dickerson 1749

Dinah was baptised in Occold on 17 November 1749. As a single woman she married **John Wab** (later becomes **Webb**), widower, at Rushmere on 20 April 1773. They had four children baptised at Playford under the name Wab: **John** (23 May 1773), **James** (15 January 1775, who died and was buried on 25 May 1775), **Dinah** (25 August 1776, who died and was buried on 10 October 1777) and **Elizabeth** (22 February 1778). The family then moved to Rushmere where four more children were baptised under the name of Webb: **Dinah** (27 February 1780), **Maria** (20 July 1783), **Daniel** (12 June 1785) and Joseph (22 July 1787).

Robert Dickerson 1752

Robert was baptised in Occold on 22 March 1752, and appears in Foxhall with his first marriage to **Elizabeth Catchpole** on 11 November 1776. They had three daughters, **Elizabeth** (baptised 25 July 1777, but who died at about a week old and was buried on 2 August 1777), **Elizabeth** (26 July 1778) and **Pleasance** (9 July 1780). Elizabeth died and was buried on 25 May 1783. As a widower with two young children, Robert wasted no time in marrying **Prudence Lord**, a widow, on 16 September 1783 at Brightwell. They had a daughter, **Miria**, baptised on 30 July 1786, but who died aged almost 5 and was buried as Minnia on 22 June 1791.

Pleasance Dickerson was married by licence to **William Blackwell**. The marriage licence bond described William as a single man, and a Private in the West Suffolk Militia of St Margaret. Pleasance was listed as a single woman of St Clement, Ipswich, and they were to be married at St Clement, Ipswich, on 23 November 1807.

By the time of their deaths, Robert and Prudence had moved to Ipswich and on both burial records their abode was given as Back Hamlet Road, Ipswich. Both were buried at St Clement, Ipswich, Robert on 6 March 1829, aged 77, which is correct for a birth year of 1752, and Prudence on 22 December 1833, aged 88.

John Dickerson 1753

John, who was baptised on 28 October 1753 in Occold, is the only person who has not been traced. A John Dickerson was buried in Eye on 20 March 1760 but no age was given. Occold is a neighbouring village to Eye, so it is a remote possibility this could be him.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the evidence for the Dickerson family moving from Occold to the Ipswich area is overwhelming, but the search for David who married Pleasance continues. There is one possible candidate in Syleham, David, the son of **John** and **Mary Diggerson**, baptised 16 September 1719. He had eight siblings, all registered as Diggerson, **John** (19 October 1711), **Mary** (26 July 1713), Samuel (possibly the shoemaker) (28 February 1715), **James** (5 November 1717), **Elizabeth** (3 April 1721), **Lydia** (19 December 1722), and twins **Margaret** and **Martha** (19 November 1725). Two other baptisms on 6 April 1655 of twins **Rachel** and **Susan**, with a father of **Samuel Dickerson**, suggest that Diggerson was a corruption of Dickerson.

Although this is a candidate for David, my thoughts have always been that David was the son of a David or Daniel. There are a few Dickerson families in the Eye/Diss area in the 1600s with the family names of Daniel and Robert, so the search will continue.

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References and Sources

1. The quotes from the Wattisham Baptist Church records were supplied by a local researcher, **Janet Lovell**, who had access to all the records whilst writing a book to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Church in 2013. This book, *All of Grace*, is available at <https://www.wattishambaptist.org/>
2. Wattisham Baptist Church Births, FamilySearch catalogue: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9T-P9KQ-M?i=585&cat=104838>, images 567-609

JOHN WARLTIRE – PERIPATETIC LECTURER IN NATURAL PHILOSOPHY

My 4x great-grandfather, **John Warltire**, was what was known as a peripatetic lecturer in natural philosophy. He was buried in 1810 in Tamworth, Staffordshire, his age being given as 84. On his marriage licence in 1762 it was 23, which doesn't agree, but this was possibly incorrect as the previous marriage on the same page and same day also gave the age of the groom as 23. John was apparently one of the best known of the 18th century itinerant lecturers on science and philosophy who toured the country giving lectures. He also at times tutored the children of **Erasmus Darwin** and **Josiah Wedgwood**.

Natural philosophy covers all of what were then the modern sciences: experiments on the properties of air, astronomy (John had an orrery with him at times), optics and the doctrine of light, colour, vision, electricity, the application of mechanical powers, properties of substances used in agriculture, and all sorts. He also carried apparatus that was described as '*second to none in the possession of a private person*'.

My mother's maiden name was Warltier⁽¹⁾ and she told me she thought all Warltiers in the country were related to her. So when I first started tracing my family history in 1981, apart from writing to the relatives for whom we had addresses, I wrote to all the Warltiers in the various telephone books available at the time, explaining what I was trying to do and enclosing a questionnaire about their antecedents that I hoped they would fill in and return.

Most were very obliging. Some rang and told me a lot over the phone when I hadn't got paper and pencil to hand (I had deliberately not put my phone number on the letter), but never sent the questionnaire back. Several had been told by their forebears that they were related to John Warltire, and gave me very useful information. From these details I was able to chase back the various trees, and as I was on a reasonable salary with no dependants, I acquired a lot of certificates over the years to sort out and confirm the various lines.

Hugh Torrens, a lecturer at Keele University, had picked up my interest in the name from my member's interests published in the Bristol and Avon Family History Society journal when I first joined that society. He was able to tell me a lot more about John Warltire that he had managed to find out over the years, as John had been at the forefront of the history of geology, about which Hugh was lecturing. Apparently, John Warltire had lectured anywhere between Manchester and Plymouth and various other places, including Ipswich, so there is a connection to Suffolk. The *Ipswich Journal* for 18 November 1769 contains the following:

'Mr Warltire intends opening a Course of Lectures at IPSWICH, in about nine Days, including the general Properties of Bodies; as Saline, Inflammable, Aerial, Aqueous, Earthy and Metallic Substances; MECHANICS, OPTICS AND VISION, ELECTRICITY, ASTRONOMY, &c.

N.B. The Machines used in this Course are elegant and of the latest Construction, & it is intended to remove them to all the principal towns in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Every Subscriber pays Half Guinea for nine Lectures.'

John was also a friend of Erasmus Darwin, **Joseph Priestley** and many others of that generation who were interested in the beginnings of science, and although not a member of the Lunar Society of Birmingham, was invited to some of their meetings.

Before he married and later began travelling and lecturing, John is said to have taught at Ashover Hill School in Derbyshire at £9 for the year from 1760. His courses of lectures were mostly a series of 12 weekly lectures in one place, then moving on to another venue, sometimes locally but possibly a long distance away. This gave him a fair bit of spare time to visit his various friends, conducting experiments with them, particularly around the discovery of oxygen, electricity and light, finding Roman villas, and exploring Stonehenge, which he also lectured about on occasions using cork models to show past and present configurations. He had booklets printed to go with each set of his lectures; these, perhaps with new front pages to suit the venues, are at the British Library and give us dates of his whereabouts at times.

The British Newspaper Library has produced endless newspapers online containing John's advertisements for these courses of lectures. He started in 1766 and, apart from a few years later in life, I know more of his main whereabouts every three months than I do of any other ancestor. However, I know very little about his family life. I know that the eldest child, **John Lover**, was baptised in Lutterworth, Leicestershire in 1763 and buried aged 7 in Leicester in 1771. But I have no idea where at least two other children were born or baptised, or where John's wife **Mary** may have lived if she did not travel with him. Later generations tended to be centred around Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. One son, named **William**, was assisting him with lectures in Hampshire in the 1780s and 90s. I have a copy of a letter written by William from Corn Street, Bristol on 4 March 1786, presumably to the Wedgwoods, asking the price of various articles. William joined the 38th Regiment of Foot (which had begun as a privately raised Staffordshire regiment) in the 1790s, probably when his father stopped lecturing for a few years. He is mentioned in a document dated 1798 held at The National Archives. William married a **Mary Levers** by licence at Wymering, Hampshire in 1801 and eventually is reported as being a prisoner of war in the Peninsular War in 1809; so far, nothing more is known.

Another son, **Thomas**, started the line of the rest of the Warltires. We know Thomas was married to a **Mary Hosier** in Bushbury, Staffs in 1795 and have the baptisms etc of his children, but again have no record of his birth/baptism or burial, though we do have the remarriage of his wife. The main problem is that if Papa was not around for the baptism, the child's surname could have ended up as anything if Mama did not know how to spell it. However, every time material is added to the main research websites, something new pops up, so I live in hope that the required information will turn up sometime.

Some of John Warltire's lectures were specifically aimed at a female audience, and at general lectures ladies were charged half price. When he first started, he charged half a guinea (10s 6d) for a series of anything between 9 and 12 lectures and 1s 6d for single lectures; 20 years later he was asking a guinea per series and 2s 6d for a single one.

One of the stories handed down to members of the family that I contacted is that he was of Greek descent and fled religious persecution, but Hugh Torrens later came across some geology papers that described him as '*A Swiss, valet to the estate*'. Which estate we are not sure about, as the papers were not held at their place of origin.

John Warltire was believed to have travelled widely in the Middle East in his youth and visited many of the famous sites, including Palmyra, Syria, which apparently was a favourite topic, and he was alleged to have lived among the Arabs for some time. So, he was perhaps picked up as a valet to someone on the Grand Tour whose usual valet had gone home or become ill, and was therefore taken round these places that way, or perhaps it is an entirely different story, but in any event, it was a very interesting and well-travelled life.

Anyone who would like to find out more about John can read Hugh Torrens' entry about him in the latest edition of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (possibly available through your local library).

If anyone comes across anything more about John Warltire, unless it is newspaper adverts which I go through pretty thoroughly and regularly, I should be very pleased to hear from them.

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Author's Note

1. Spelling has varied quite widely at times, and the younger siblings of my great-grandfather **George** were told at school at Wordsley, Staffs that there should not be an 'r' before the 'l', hence there are some Waltiers around.

FROM FARMERS TO THATCHERS – MY HEFFER ANCESTORS FROM FRAMLINGHAM

The earliest Heffers

The earliest members of the Heffer family that I have found so far are **John Heffer** and his wife **Elizabeth**. They are my 7x great-grandparents. I have yet to find a marriage entry for them, so I don't know Elizabeth's maiden name. Assuming they married when John was 21 years old or shortly after, and that their children followed on quickly after their marriage, they would have been born c. 1680. Their first child was **William**, baptised in August 1702 in Marlesford. Five more were baptised there:

John 27 February 1703/04, m. **Sarah Chaplin** of Brandeston in 1732
Elizabeth 24 July 1705, d. 1708
Samuel 4 May 1707, d. 1710
Elizabeth 18 June 1708
Philip 3 May 1713

The family then moved to Parham where the next three children were born:

Samuel 1 April 1715
Robert 9 March 1717/18
James 17 December 1719

I am descended from William Heffer, b. 1702, who married **Ann** in about 1726. Again, I have yet to find their marriage entry so I don't know Ann's maiden name. The baptisms of all except one of their children can be found in the Hacheston Register:

William 23 October 1727, in Parham
Ann 7 November 1729, d. 1730
John 14 March 1730/31, m. **Ann Baggot** on 30 April 1760 in Great Glemham
Mary 19 September 1732
Ann 11 March 1736
Samuel 3 June 1739
James 20 October 1741
Robert 4 July 1746
Sarah 7 May 1749

John and Ann are my 5x great-grandparents. John was a farmer, as confirmed in the burial register for Bruisyard, where both he and Ann are buried. The entry reads '*John Heffer farmer aged 80 years buried November 16th 1819*'.

John and Ann's first child, also **John**, was baptised on 9 June 1761 in Great Glemham, and he married **Elizabeth Crisp** there on 24 May 1778. John became one of the parish Overseers, and appears on several documents from the 1780s in Suffolk Archives. In 1783 he bought clothes for the poor in the 2nd and 3rd quarters, and also ordered shoes to be made and repaired for the poor that year. There are further references to the same effect in January and February 1787.

The rest of John and Ann's family were from Bruisyard:

William	14 November 1762
Elizabeth	1764
Anne	1765, d. 1766
Samuel	1766 d. 1767
James	1768
Robert	2 April 1769, m. Susan Backhouse of Saxmundham on 6 November 1804 in Parham
George	1774
Henry	c. 1774
Phillip	c. 1774
Jemima	1779

Robert and Susan are my 4x great-grandparents, and Robert was the first of my Heffer line to become a thatcher.

A note on thatching

Thatch was one of the earliest forms of roof covering, along with turf. It has probably been used since the late Palaeolithic period to cover primitive dwellings and shelters, with wild vegetation such as water reed, bullrush, broom, heather and rushes being used. People began using straw in Neolithic times after they first grew cereals. Thatch was used for most roof covering in England until the end of the 19th century when Welsh slate became more easily available.

A good thatch can last more than 50 years when applied by a skilled thatcher. Usually only the top layer of thatch needs replacing, the under layers can be many centuries old and the thatch can be up to 7 feet thick on ancient buildings. In Suffolk and Norfolk, reed was often used near wetland areas such as the Broads. Nowadays, short-stemmed cereal varieties are grown which are unsuitable for thatching, also the use of fertilisers makes for weaker straw. Our local thatcher from Hoxne grows his own long straw wheat for use in his work.

A thatched roof is made up of horizontal spars which are fixed to the rafters. The bundles of thatch are pinned to these spars by hazel staples or 'broaches', as they are known in Suffolk.

Robert Heffer, thatcher

I do not know how Robert started as a thatcher. He may be the Robert Heffer from Parham Hall who was bankrupt in about 1801. I found a notice in the *Ipswich Journal* to this effect online, but at the time thought this was another Robert and have not been able to find it again. He may have failed as a farmer due to the recession caused by the Napoleonic Wars. I think it possible that he started out as a farmer, as his wife Susan Backhouse was from another farming family.

Robert and Susan married in Parham on 6 November 1804, neither of them signing the register. By 1806 they had moved to Framlingham when their first child **Robert** was baptised on 8 May 1806. Other children were **William** (13 February 1809), **Eliza August** (1811), **Ann** and **James** (both 25 May 1817 – they may have been twins, or an older and younger sibling baptised together).



The gravestone of Robert and Susan Heffer at Framlingham. Author's own

According to the 1836 tithe records for Framlingham, Robert was renting just over 36 acres of land, about 9 acres arable and the rest pasture. It is possible that he used some land to grow hazel for use in thatching. On the 1841 census his occupation is thatcher. He died in 1848 and is buried near the porch of St Michael's, Framlingham. A death notice appeared in the *Ipswich Journal* of 28 October 1848: '25th inst, at Framlingham, Mr Robert Heffer, thatcher, aged 71 years'. He must have made a good living, as Susan is recorded on the 1851 census as an annuitant, which shows that she was left a yearly allowance. As yet I have not been able to find a will for Robert to prove this.

As an interesting aside, the *Suffolk Chronicle* of 6 January 1853 carried the following article concerning a **James Heffer** of Bruisyard, who was probably a nephew of Robert:

'Augusta Johnson 20, was charged with having stolen a pair of window curtains and a vallance, the property of James Heffer, of Bruisyard.

*The prisoner, it appeared, was in the service of the prosecutor as housekeeper, from the month of July last down to the 25th of October. On the 3rd of November she went to the house to take away the remainder of her clothes. Five days afterwards the prosecutor went to a drawer and missed the curtains and vallance, which he saw in safety on the 2nd of the same month. He procured a search warrant and went with inspector **Creasy** and private **Lafflan** to the residence of the prisoner's father, at Debenham, where the missing articles were found.*

Prisoner: Did you not give the curtains to me to begin housekeeping with? – Prosecutor: I did not.

Prisoner: Did you not come to my bedside, and say it was your bed, and that you had a right to sleep in it along with me? – Prosecutor (contemptuously): Tish! I don't think you would have minded me if I had.

Prisoner: Did I not put a bar on my door to prevent your coming in? – Prosecutor: You had a bar there I admit.

Prisoner: Have you not said that you would not have troubled me about the curtains if I had not told people why I left? – Prosecutor: Nothing of the kind.

It was proved by inspector Creasy that when he went to execute the warrant the prisoner denied having anything belonging to the prosecutor, but that when he commenced searching the drawers she said there was a pair of curtains which the prosecutor had given her.

A witness was called to prove that the curtains did not rightfully belong to the prosecutor.

The jury acquitted the prisoner.'

James Heffer, thatcher

Robert's son **James** is my 3x great-grandfather, and is recorded as a thatcher on various census records. James married **Elizabeth Cullum** on 12 November 1844 in All Saints', Brandeston. Elizabeth's father **John Cullum** was head gardener at Brandeston Hall, and his son **Robert** was also a gardener there.

James and Elizabeth had 11 children, all but one baptised in St Michael's, Framlingham – their second child, **Ann**, was baptised in the Framlingham and Peasenhall Wesleyan Chapel. It is pure speculation, but did they dislike the Framlingham vicar and decide to try the Nonconformist church?

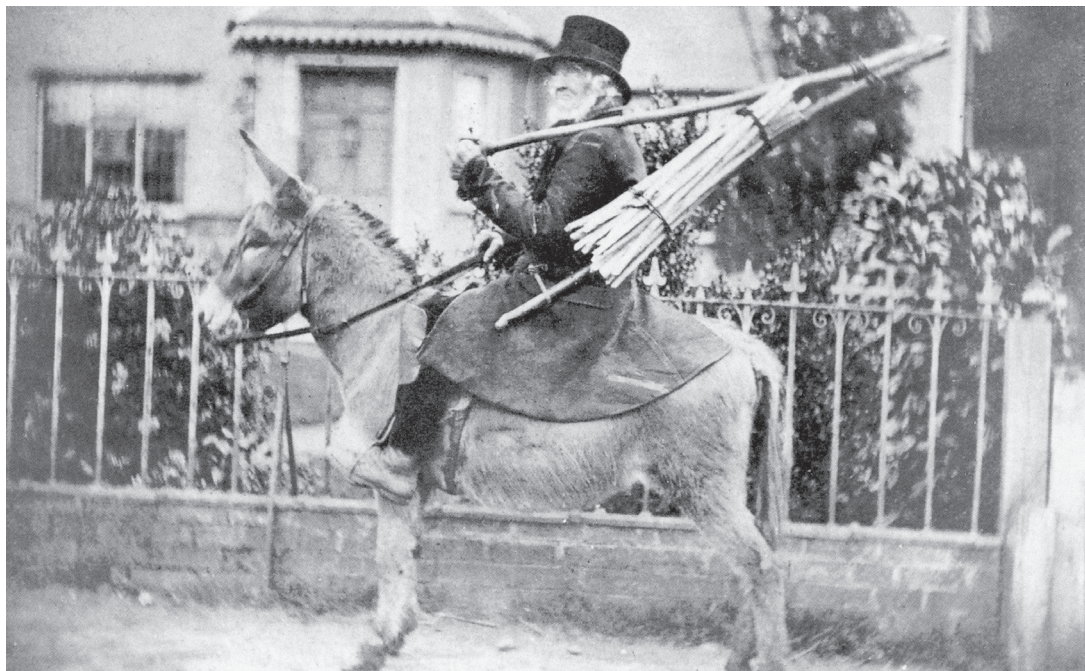
Their first child was my 2x great-grandfather **James**, who was baptised in St Michael's in 1845, followed by **Ann** in the Chapel in 1846. The following six children were all baptised together in St Michael's on 4 April 1858: **Elizabeth** (b. 8 November 1848), **Robert** (b. 12 September 1850), **William** (b. 17 January 1852), **Susan** (b. 23 July 1853), **Eliza** (b. 2 June 1855) and **John** (b. 17 March 1857). **Henry** (1855), **Ellen** (1861) and **Alice** (1863) followed.

Looking at census records to find the other children's occupations, I could only trace Robert Heffer who died young in 1874 – in 1871 he was a draper's parcel porter in Southwark, London. William who died aged 17 in 1869, was still a child on the 1861 census.

I discovered a piece in the *Suffolk Chronicle* of 1 July 1865 which shows that boys have not changed:

'LUCIFERS AGAIN! – On Thursday evening, the 22nd ult. a heap of straw was set on fire by one of Mr James Heffer's little boys; and a shed close by, was in great danger of being burned. Had it not been for the efforts of Mr Chaplin, gate keeper, it is thought both the shed and the house, which is thatched, would have been destroyed. The little fellow was amusing himself with matches!'

I wonder if it was father's heap of straw. 'Lucifer' was the common name for matches, they would strike on any rough surface, unlike the safety matches in use today.



James Heffer Sr. By permission of John Bridges from his book The Commercial Life of a Suffolk Town

James Snr. and Jnr. were both bell-ringers, as the following articles show.

The *Ipswich Journal* of 13 March 1858:

'CHANGE RINGING – The members of the Framlingham Ringing Society met on Framlingham Tower, on Tuesday evening the 9th instant, and rung a true and complete peal of "Bob Major", consisting of 5,040 changes, in 3 hours and 10 minutes. Such a peal has not been rung on the tower for the last 102 years. The bells were rung by B. Chenery, treble; C. Moore, 2nd; Emanuel Hall, 3rd; Henry Baldry, 4th; Chas. English, 5th; James Heffer, 6th; Geo. S. Tills, 7th; and W. Farthing, tenor. The tenor bell weighs 18cwt. This society, which is young, bids fair for future excellence and deserves support.'

Note: 18 hundredweight was nearly one ton, so a very substantial weight to control.

The *Ipswich Journal* of 6 May 1871:

'CHANGE RINGING – On Monday evening last, the Brandeston Society of Ringers, rang on the musical peal of bells, at the church, 1871 changes in one hour and six minutes, executed in masterly style by the following:- Treble and conductor, H Baldry, 2nd, E Hall, 3rd, R King, 4th, S Wightman, 5th, J Heffer jun, Tenor, J Heffer sen. The 1871 changes were as follows:- 720 changes of Double Court Bob, 720 ditto Oxford Treble Bob. 360 ditto Single Bob Minor, and 71 ditto Plain Doubles.'

The number of changes rung is equal to the year number, so must be significant and was presumably to celebrate something. However, on searching the internet, the only event that happened around this time was that **Queen Victoria** opened the Royal Albert Hall at the end of March.

The *Framlingham Weekly News* of 10 January 1880 had this notice:

'The Society of Ringers desire to return their best thanks to the Rev. G Attwood, Rev. W W Bird, J Tetly Esq, and the townspeople generally for their liberal subscriptions given on Boxing Day. A G Baker, Secretary, James Heffer, treasurer.'

Also in the *Framlingham Weekly News* of 2 March 1889:

'CAMPANOLOGY – The Framlingham Change Ringers, on hand bells retained in hand, met on Tuesday evening at the house of James Heffer, Woodbridge Road, and rang 720 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, with nine Bobs, and 720 changes of Single Bob Minor, with 42 singles. James Heffer, 1st and 2nd, James Heffer snr, 3rd and 4th, William Flory (conductor), 5th and 6th, Tenor bell 16lb. set in B Key.'

James Snr. was a person of some importance in the town, as illustrated by an article in the *Framlingham Weekly News* of 3 July 1880, which quotes a notice to the sanitary authority about a problem with sewage in Framlingham:

'Gentlemen, – We request your immediate and serious consideration of the nuisance in the stream between the outfall of the Framlingham Sewer and the Castle Bridge.

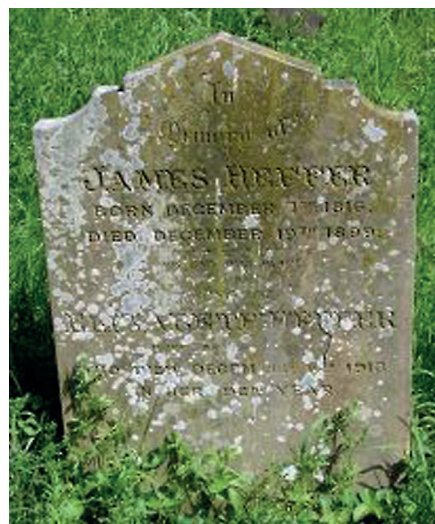
We regard the nuisance as dangerous to human life – especially with the prospect of a hot dry summer and therefore urgently solicit you to exercise actively and effectually your great powers, which in this case involve the grave responsibility.

(signed) – Geo. E Jeaffreson, MRCS, Geo Jones SRCPE etc, Robt E Donovan MD, H Clark Market Gardener, Joseph Tetly, Broadwater, James Heffer, Thatcher [amongst others].'

James Heffer Snr. died in December 1899 aged 83. His death certificate gives influenza and cardiac asthma as the cause of death. An obituary appeared in the *Framlingham Weekly News* on 23 December 1899:

'Mr James Heffer, thatcher, passed away on Tuesday aged 83 years. Deceased, who was well-known throughout the neighbourhood, had followed the occupation of thatcher the whole of his life, but had for some years retired from active participation in the business in favour of his sons. He was, however, occasionally seen engaged on work which only an advanced knowledge such as he possessed could accomplish. Deceased was always very fond of change-ringing and had been a member of many a band of ringers in the neighbourhood.'

As yet I have not found his will, but the record in the National Probate Calendar shows that he left effects worth £749 13s 8d. Probate was granted on 26 March 1900 in Ipswich.



The gravestone of James and Elizabeth Heffer at Framlingham. Author's own

James' wife Elizabeth died in December 1913 and was buried in Framlingham. After her death, his several properties in Framlingham were sold at auction in 1914, as advertisements in the *Framlingham Weekly News* of 31 January and 7, 14 and 21 February show:

‘SALE THIS DAY

FRAMLINGHAM SUFFOLK

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

*well situate, contiguous to the Town and only 5 minutes from Railway Station, comprising
A Brick and Slated Dwelling House with Garden and Outbuildings, lately occupied
by Mrs Heffer, deceased.*

*A range of Brick and tiled Cottages in three Tenements, with gardens, occupied by
Stannard, Heffer and one vacant.*

*A valuable Enclosure of Accommodation Pasture Land, containing 3 roods 2 perches,
as let to Mr **Thomas Buckmaster**.*

*Twelve valuable building plots having excellent frontages to Station Road, which is
sewered.*

ALFRED PRESTON

*Is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the Crown Hotel, Framlingham, on Saturday, February
21st, 1914 at 3 o'clock exact time, the above desirable Freehold Investments, by direction
of the surviving Executor under the Will of James Heffer (the Elder) deceased.*

*Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained of Messrs **F G Ling** and Son,
Solicitors, Framlingham: and of **Alfred Preston**, Auctioneer and Valuer, Worlingworth,
Framlingham and the Arcade, Ipswich.'*

As far as I can ascertain, the row of terraced house along Station Road starting at the Kettleburgh Road junction were built on the 12 valuable plots. A photograph of James Heffer taken outside his house indicates that it was next along Station Road. On earlier census records, when the road was known as Woodbridge Road, his house was the first one from the road junction at that time.

James Junior and John Heffer, thatchers

James Jnr. along with his brother John were both thatchers. It seems, however, that John was not such a worthy citizen. From the *Ipswich Journal* of 23 May 1896:

‘FRAMLINGHAM

*PETTY SESSIONS – Saturday, before **Rev. R G Gorton**, Messrs **J W Read**,
F T W Burch and **G Walker**. John Heffer, thatcher, Framlingham, summoned for
being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and trap, was fined 5s with 7s 6d costs.'*

From the *Evening Star and Herald* of 5 November 1906, under reports from the Framlingham Petty Sessions:

'At the same Court, John Heffer, thatcher, charged by Eizabeth Heffer, widow, Framlingham, with doing wilful damage to a window and wire blind, pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s, damage 5s, and costs 5s.; in default, seven days.'

John Heffer died in 1912, as reported in the *Framlingham Weekly News* of 2 March 1912

*'SUDDEN DEATH – A thatcher named John Heffer, 54 years of age, living at Heffer's Cottages, Station Road, was found dead in a chair at his house at 11.15 on Tuesday morning. The deceased, who had recently complained of his chest, got downstairs about 10.20 and sat down in his chair to put on his boots, when he complained of feeling unwell. His son James remained with him a few minutes, and at 11.15, **Laura Heffer**, deceased's wife, found him dead in the chair. The deceased had not been medically attended for some years, but had suffered from bad toes. **Dr Drew**, who was summoned, ascribed death to heart disease, and this having been communicated to the Coroner, an inquest was not deemed necessary.'*

James Jnr. married **Esther Fisk** from Dennington on 14 November 1868. Their daughter **Ellen** (b. 1878) married **Herbert William Rivers** in Ipswich, and they are my great-grandparents.

James and Esther's children were **Alice Fisk Heffer** (b. 1870), **William** (b. 1873), John (b. 1876), Ellen, **Robert** (b. 1881), **Annie Jane** (b. 1883), **Gertrude M** (b. 1886), **Herbert J** (b. 1888), **Ernest J** (b. 1890) and **Mabel** (b. 1892). Only Alice Fisk Heffer was baptised in the church, so presumably the others were baptised in a Nonconformist chapel.

James Jnr. died on 22 March 1910 in Framlingham aged 65 years. The cause of death was morbus cordis (heart disease), certified by Geo. Jeaffreson MRCS.

Esther is recorded on the 1921 census as a widow employed on home duties living in Fore Street, Framlingham. Her sons Robert and Ernest were living at home. Esther died at the end of 1924 in Framlingham. I am still searching for wills for James and Esther.

John of 1876 is recorded on the 1891 census as a labourer; he was 15 and living at home so was probably working for his father. In 1901 he was lodging with Herbert Rivers and Ellen in Ipswich and was employed as a railway porter. Normally, railway employment was for life, but on the 1911 census he was working for Ipswich Borough Council as a stable help, which looks like a step down the ladder.

As for John Heffer of 1857, none of his children became thatchers. **John Robert Heffer** was a cattle drover in 1911. **William Heffer** was working for the Great Eastern Railway and living in Ramsey, Essex in 1891 and 1901. He started as an engine cleaner and by 1901 was a fireman. In 1911 he was back in Suffolk living in Ipswich and a driver for the GER. In 1901 **Robert** was a soldier in the Royal Artillery in Shoeburyness in Essex. By 1911 he was back in Framlingham as a carter. **Herbert** and Ernest were both labourers.

Ellen Rivers née Heffer



Herbert and Ellen Rivers with children Herbert and Gladys. Photo courtesy of Brenda Bixler

Ellen Heffer was 'in service' after school age. In 1891 she is recorded as a domestic servant working for **Stephen Starling**, who had a large drapery shop on the Market Hill in Framlingham. The building was then called London House, and was next to the pharmacy on the corner of Double Street. Starling also had shops in Halesworth and Wickham Market, according to adverts in the local newspapers.

Family memories of Ellen have her as a ladies' companion or assistant, who travelled with her employer before she married my great-grandfather. My father thinks she worked for one of the doctors in Ipswich. She and Herbert had four children: **Herbert** (b. 1901), my grandmother **Gladys Gertrude** (b. 1904), **Victor** (b. 1907) and **Ivy** (also known as Ruby, b. 1916). I am reasonably certain that the two children in the portrait are Herbert and Gladys.

My cousin **Brenda Bixler née Rivers**, Herbert and Ellen's granddaughter, sent me this reminiscence:

'My Grandma Ellen suffered from pernicious anemia. I remember her sitting in her chair and she kept her money purse next to her. She would take out a two-shilling piece and give it to me. I must have been little because she died when I was four. I remember my dad telling me.'

I also remember my father telling me that Ellen suffered from pernicious anaemia and that the only treatment for the condition at that time was a diet of raw liver.

Ellen died on 22 August 1949. I have many memories of her husband Herbert Rivers, as he lived to the great age of 105 years, dying in 1982. He was a member of the Salvation Army and played trombone in the band. He and his forebears will be the subject of a future article.



*Ellen in older age.
Photo courtesy of Brenda Bixler*

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A. P. HAMMOND'S BUSINESS

When motorised transport superseded horse-drawn transport, Rutland Hill Hotel in Newmarket no longer had any use for their adjacent stables. My grandfather **Percy Hammond** purchased the stables and the adjacent land. He had a great love of horses. He was a steeple-chase jockey and won the Newmarket Town Plate on a horse called Tishy II in 1922 and 1924 (see <http://www.greyhoundderby.com/Newmarket%20Town%20Plate%20winners.html>). He gained a cup commemorating this and later a cartoon appeared about cross-legged 'Tishy I' objecting in her grave.



A Hammond horsebox

Percy became a haulage contractor and garage proprietor, and had Newmarket's first ambulance and London-style taxi. He was well known as the designer of the first motorised horse transport and had garages to service them. Percy's business traded as Newmarket Horse Transport Limited. 'Pullman transport for bloodstock ... from stable to covertside and race course, with safety, comfort and speed' was how

the Hammond horsebox was described to potential customers. For some 40 years the highest in the land chose Hammond vehicles to move their prized racehorses. The horses 'riding Hammond' included Golden Miller, winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup in five successive years in the 1930s, and Brown Jack, who won the Queen Alexandra Stakes in six successive years from 1929-1934. Some noteworthy customers included **Lady Yule** and the Ceylon Turf Club.

Although his company used a wide variety of vehicles, Percy favoured AEC chassis from the earliest days in the late 1920s. In the 1939 register, Percy was recorded as a 'Garage & Stable Proprietor and Emergency Transport Organiser'. During WW2, Percy was in the Home Guard, using his stable yard as a meeting place. Percy's horseboxes were requisitioned for transporting radar equipment, a few being left to carry mares and foals, and horses still in training to the remaining few race courses.

When AEC took over Maudslay in 1948, the Coventry firm's chassis were also used by Hammond and became the star attraction on the AEC/Maudslay stand at the Tattersalls Newmarket horse sale. It is Maudslay which is used for the Dinky model of a Hammond horsebox produced by Meccano between 1953 and 1961.



Percy Hammond with wife Janet née Bowyer, taken during WW1 when Percy served with the Fife & Forfar Yeomanry

My aunt Anne remembered one of the AECs in particular:

'We had just finished a beautiful example for a nobleman who sadly died just before delivery. His son cancelled the order and it was a worrying time, especially as the horsebox was already painted in their racing colours. However, the trainer suggested father drove the "box" to the front of the owner's house and parked it with its ramps down where the new earl and his fiancée would pass it on their way back from church the next Sunday. That trainer proved a very good friend because the successor to the title could not resist showing off "his" new horsebox to the young lady and the payment for that big expensive AEC was honoured.'

When Percy was still working, **Richard Dimpleby** interviewed him on the wireless programme 'Down Your Way' in connection with the design of his horseboxes.

Percy certainly loved his horses and through being associated with them, he had an interesting life. He died in 1965, but the business continued until 1976 when the enterprise in the High Street, Newmarket, finally closed, with about 20 horseboxes in their own fleet.

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A PRINTER FOR THE QUEEN

Thinking about the coronation of **Charles III** in May 2023 made me think about an ancestor of mine, Leonard Gray, who played a minor, but nevertheless significant, part in the coronation of **Elizabeth II** in June 1953. He worked at the Cambridge University Press and was given responsibility for the setting and layout of the Queen's Coronation Order of Service.

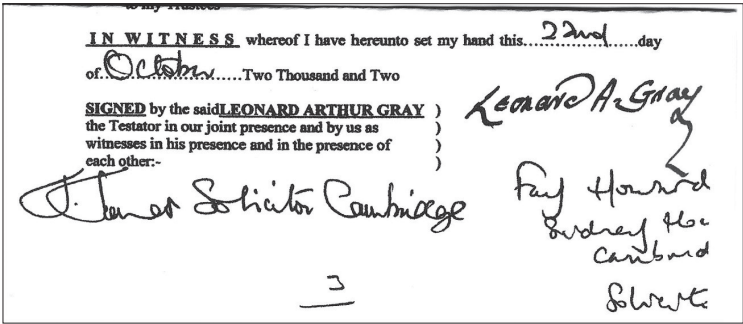
Leonard Arthur Gray was born on 27 April 1912⁽¹⁾ in Cambridge, the son of the head gardener at Christ's College. At the age of 14, in October 1926, he became an apprentice compositor at the Cambridge University Press. By all accounts his interview was a little unusual as he was requested to spell 'rhubarb' and answer a question on the first chapter of Genesis. This apprenticeship was considered a sound training that would offer him steady employment, which indeed it did.

As an apprentice compositor he attended the local technical college, where he diligently studied the basics of his craft including the importance of layout, the need for balance with the written word, and the vast array of different typefaces. The 1920s was a time of modernising and the introduction of many new typefaces, all of which he eagerly embraced. Len became proficient as a compositor and went on to gain national recognition in the world of letterpress printing. Among the many things he learnt was that '*spacing was as important as the size and weight of type in making authors' meanings as clear as possible to their readers*'.⁽²⁾

The 1921 census shows him living in Cambridge, still at home, with his parents **Leonard Septimus Gray** (1882-1937) and **Bessie May**. In the 3rd quarter of 1939 Len married **Gladys Wesbeach** (1913-2002),⁽³⁾ and they were living in Bournemouth at the time of the 1939 register. During WW2 he was in the RAF Observer Corps serving in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). After the war he took a bursary and studied Theology at Durham University. He was always proud to have attended a 'red brick' university and encouraged me to follow his example.

In 1953, whilst working at Cambridge University Press, he seems to have become 'the man for the job' and was given responsibility for producing the Order of Service for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The Press was one of three publishers that produced printed matter for the Coronation.⁽⁴⁾

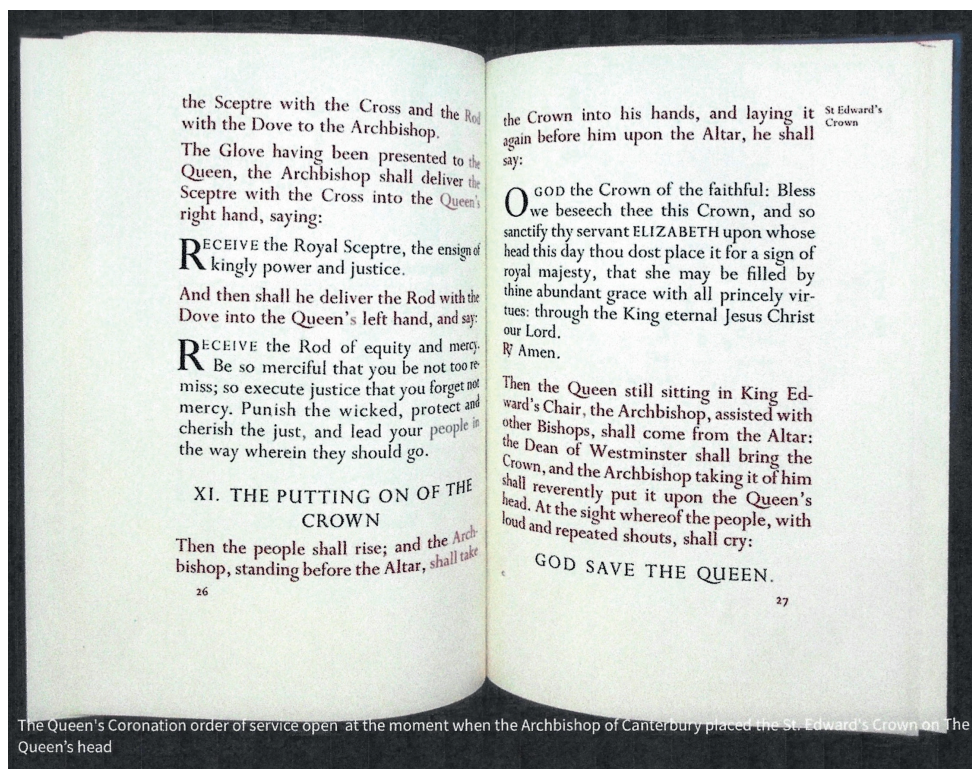
He worked at the Press for 55 years, rising to the position of Works Director. When he retired in 1977 he became an enthusiastic volunteer at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and an honorary fellow of Churchill College, where he used to lunch daily. During his retirement he was 'in his element meeting the needs of the Friends of the Museum and printing a little extra on the side'.⁽⁵⁾ This was a reference to the Christmas cards that he produced annually for friends and family. We all looked forward to receiving cards from him, and knew instantly when they arrived that they were from him because of his distinctive handwriting on the envelope. I can remember many of them containing beautifully illustrated religious texts produced and signed by him. Unfortunately, none of these were kept by the family. He had quite distinctive handwriting as can be seen by his signature on his will.



Extract from Leonard Arthur Gray's will, showing his signature

When I was growing up in Bury St Edmunds, Len and Gladys were frequent visitors. I remember him being tall and upright, always seeming more comfortable standing than sitting, possibly due to the nature of his working life. He was always impeccably turned out due in no small part to the skills of his wife Gladys, who was a professionally trained tailor. He had a very dry, waspish sense of humour and was not someone who suffered fools gladly.

An original Order of Service was displayed open at the moment when the Archbishop of Canterbury placed the St Edward's Crown on the Queen's head, and a copy is housed at the Cambridge University Press Museum in Cambridge.



Page from the Order of Service for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Photo courtesy of Cambridge University Press. It appears in the article <https://www.cambridge.org/news-and-insights/insights/Royal-connections> – taken from the document in the University Archives, Cambridge University Library, UA/PRESS 3/2/1/23

Len was described as ‘one of the most prestigious typographers of his generation’⁽⁵⁾ following his death in 2003. An article in *The Times* recognised his lifelong contribution to the world of printing as a person ‘who devoted his life to the balance and harmony of the printed page’.⁽²⁾ He was the ‘go-to man’ for layout, size, balance etc in the world of liturgical printing. The article went on to say that ‘Throughout his career, he had a special interest in the design and setting of Bibles and the Book of Common Prayer’. Len was also credited for his contribution to ‘the design and printing of the books and journals that gave the printing house a reputation second to none’.

I feel proud that as a son of a gardener he valued education and contributed to the design and printing of many books, and the overall success of such an important ceremonial occasion as the coronation of Elizabeth II.

Kathy Ricketts Mb 10934

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1. England & Wales Births: 1912 2nd quarter Vol 3b page 752
2. *The Times*, 18 July 2000
3. GRO UK Vol 3b page 2024
4. [www.cambridge.org.news-and-insights](https://www.cambridge.org/news-and-insights)
5. *Fitzwilliam Museum News*: Number 22: Winter 2003/2004

A TYPICAL COUNTRY MILLER

*Editors' note: Member Eileen Blythe has obtained the permission of the Mills Archive for us to print the following article. We are grateful to both Eileen and the Archive. The article features some of the writing of artist **John Munnings** (1916-1987), who grew up at Mendham Mill, Suffolk, where his father was the miller. It gives John's account of his grandfather, also **John Munnings** and miller at Mendham Mill. It makes several mentions of John's uncle, the artist **Sir Alfred Munnings** (1878-1959), one of the older John's sons. The sketches are by the younger John and are a sample of those held by the Mills Archive. The article is printed in his own wording.*

John Munnings (1839-1914)

Unfortunately, my grandfather died a couple of years before I was born, but from tales passed down to me from those who knew him well, he could be cast as a typical miller of his day. He was born at Little Horksley [Horkesley], just on the Essex side of the River Stour, on 25 May 1839. Soon after this his father moved back to Stoke-by-Nayland, where the family had lived for nearly 200 years.

My grandfather at the age of 14 started as a miller's apprentice at Shonk's Mill, Ongar, in south Essex. I never knew anything about that mill, the only story I ever heard of there being that one night after heavy rain grandfather got up to raise the sluice gate, a type which was raised by chains wound round on a wooden barrel. A short pole was inserted in holes around the barrel for operating. Being in a hurry he went out in his nightshirt, and was heaving on the pole which broke and he pitched headfirst into the raging torrent.

Two years later in 1855, he went to Nayland mill, which together with Wissington Mill was run by his cousin **Jeremiah Stannard**, where he remained until 1872. Nayland Mill, very little of which now remains, was then one of the largest water mills in Suffolk. It also had two large steam engines and until 1867 contained 16 pairs of millstones.



The Great Mill at Nayland from Fen Street, 1969 (Mills Archive Collection)

Stannard was a very ingenious miller in his day. He always had quite a number of apprentices, several of whom later became well known millers in the country, one of these being **Mr George Walker**, who was previously apprenticed with a flour miller by the name of **Bowman**, at Water Newton on the river Nene. After being with Stannard for a few years he entered into partnership with **William Cubitt** in 1869 at Ebridge Mills

on the North Walsham-Dilham canal. He was one of the best known figures at the Norwich corn exchange from 1869 until his death at the age of 93 in 1934.



Nayland Mill, from Mill Street, 1980 (Mills Archive Collection)

One story I often heard related about Nayland Mill concerned an occasion when the mill was running light (a term used when the mill was getting short of wheat). Three barges with about 400 sacks of wheat on board had been delayed coming up from Misty Quay, owing to floods, but they arrived on a Saturday morning. Normally no miller would ever take wheat in on a Saturday, but this being a special case the apprentices were given the job of unloading the barges. It was always a difficult job at this mill at Nayland as the mill lucam⁽¹⁾ was extended completely across the road for this purpose. Stannard being very methodical gave instructions as to where the wheat had to be stacked. However, the lads wanting to get away as it was a Saturday, and thinking Stannard has gone to Colchester market as usual on that day, unloaded in record time and literally 'hulled the wheat into the mill'. Anyhow, they had just about finished when Stannard came on the scene, and made them all re-stack it, but they learnt their lesson.

I often wish I knew more about Stannard and Nayland Mill, but in my younger days one was almost afraid to ask questions of our elders. Often when I have stood by the churchyard wall at Stoke-by-Nayland, and gazed at the magnificent view across Tendering Park, and to Horksley [Horkesley] and Nayland, one can almost hear the hooves of my grandfather's horse trotting past down the road, a journey he did for nearly 17 years. When he moved to Mendham he entered into partnership with **George Chase**, who had Mendham and Weybread watermills, a windmill known as Weybread Highmill, as well as brickworks and several farms. The partnership lasted until 1887 when Chase was killed, being thrown out of his cart on leaving Harleston Market. This being the middle of the depression of the 1880s, my grandfather was lucky to be able to salvage Mendham Mill out of the wreckage.

My grandfather was a jovial, outspoken man, and as a business man and miller he was deeply respected. He would denounce fiercely anything he disapproved of, but he had a genial and kindly disposition, and a hospitable temperament. His characteristic greeting of 'How are you old friend' was preceded by a vigorous grip on the shoulder. These characteristics passed down onto his two sons, **Alfred** and **Charles**. Alfred's outspokenness on questions of right and wrong is well known to the world; unfortunately, Charles died in South Africa in 1918 aged 34. The others, **William** and my father, seemed to take more after my mother.

It seems almost incredible to-day when I think of the miles grandfather drove in his high-wheeled sulky,⁽²⁾ but like most millers he always used fast horses, much to my grandmother's sorrow. She told me how on occasions at night his horse would come galloping down the lane with just the shafts, after which a search party had to go out to rescue the rest of the sulky and grandfather out of the ditch, and how some Saturday nights after attending Framlingham market he would call on old friends at Brundish Lodge and play cards for most of the night. He used to travel the dark roads at all hours of the night, coming home from distant markets with a great amount of money he used to carry in his leather bag, as most bakers and shopkeepers paid in sovereigns in those days. He always carried a large six-chambered revolver, like the guard on the stagecoach. Once I was told of a night in a lonely dark lane when two men tried to stop him, one seizing the bridle, and how he fired the revolver into the air, when the frightened horse leapt forward, knocking the men down. But one day, some years later, the revolver met its end. Apparently in later years it used to lay on the office mantelpiece, and Uncle Charles, a character that no ordinary girl could cope with, had apparently had some sort of row with his current girl. Coming home in the state of going to the devil, he swore he would shoot himself. Grandmother hearing this ran into the office and threw the weapon into the tail hole at the back of the mill, the water here being about 12 feet deep. It is probably still there.

Grandfather was a great churchman. He would read morning prayer to the family each morning. At times, in the middle of these, a wagon would arrive laden with wheat. Leaving the family kneeling, he would go to the office for a sample of this particular wheat bought at a local market, climb on to the wagon and check every sack. Everything in order, he would say to the carter, *'Alright cocky, you can drive on,'* before returning to the prayers.

He always kept two large bottles in his office, one labelled 'Gin,' the other 'Water'. One hears how when he was out, the boys used to change over the contents. Once a local farmer, coming into the office to give an order and pay his bill, was offered a drink, which he accepted. The boys, saying it might be strong, suggested they topped it up with water, or rather with the water bottle which contained gin. Lucky for them, grandmother had a friend, a nurse, staying with her, otherwise it could have been fatal. But what else could one expect of boys of that calibre who were never short of amusement at somebody's expense. When Alfred was beginning to get a name for himself in the early 1900s, grandfather came home



*Mendham Mill, Mendham. Photo by Peter Dolman, 1975
(Mills Archive Collection)*

from market one day only to find him at the back of the mill with a massive canvas, half a dozen ponies in the river and half the men out of the mill chasing them through the river, to get the right effect for his painting. If only one could do that to-day.

Unfortunately, any pranks I got up to usually ended in trouble. One which comes to mind happened when I was eight. Being a Wednesday afternoon, we thought Father had gone to Harleston Market, so cousin **Robert** and I fitted a sail to a rowing boat at the back of the mill, hoping not to be seen, the sail being one of father's nightshirts. We fitted a cross bar on the mast, on which we put the sleeves. We started off well, with a following wind, but lost control and charged the bank, only to be greeted by Father with a stick. Fortunately for me Robert was four years older and so got the biggest hiding.

Long before the war I was out for a walk with Uncle Alfred, on a favourite route along the disused towpath by the river Stour from Dedham through Stratford St Mary and onto Langham and Boxted, generally stopping to have a swim in the river on our way in our birthday suits. Often, he would burst out with tales of old; I wish I could remember them all. One that comes to mind was about how, at the turn of the century, some score of years before he came to live at Dedham, he took his father for a trip round some of his old haunts, staying at the Sun Hotel at Dedham, and meeting some of his old miller friends, including **Alfred Chisnall** at Brantham, **Ebenezer Clover** of Dedham, and **James Boreham** of Langham. And what great reunions they were, both there and at Sudbury and Colchester markets, and also at Mark Lane.

I have vivid memories of this particular day, as on reaching Stratford Mill, a massive white brick and slated building, standing like decaying sentinel slipping into the river, disused for some thirty years, Uncle (the great orator that he was) started off. Did I know that one hundred years ago **Constable** sat on this very spot, painting his famous 'Stratford Mill,' his finest painting, oh John why the H--- weren't we born a hundred years ago, (had that been so I no doubt would have been a miller, rather than a painter). Think of Constable sitting there painting to the sound of the mill, the steady lapping of the great wheel, and the humming of the machinery going on and on, the dusty miller looking out of the door, the horses and waggons going to and



Stratford, St Mary, 1910 (Mills Archive Collection)

coming from the mill. The steady flow of the river, with its water-lilies and arrowheads waving in the stream. Horses hauling barges past on their way to Nayland and Sudbury, and going back down to Mistley. The river that gave full life to the valley in every sense of the word. Boys fishing, the breeze catching the willow branches overhanging the river, and turning the leaves blue, silver, and mauve

in turn, the swans and ducks, and every living thing, the cattle and horses grazing on the banks, what a world it must have been. This great sermon I never forgot. Today the great 'Egyptian Temple' of a pumping station stands where the old mill was.

Eileen Blythe

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References and sources

1. A lucam is a projecting gable or dormer for external hoisting on a watermill or other building.
2. A sulky is a lightweight cart with two wheels and a seat for the driver, pulled by horses or sometimes dogs.

A MILLER'S DAUGHTER – UPDATE

Editors' Note: Eileen Blythe's article in the June 2021 edition of Suffolk Roots introduced a few of her miller ancestors. She is still finding millers in her family tree, and has provided the following details (all Suffolk unless otherwise stated).

<i>In my mother's family</i>
Robert Smith, purchase of Layham watermill 1701-1710
Hannah Smith m. James Stiff , miller, Boxford 1769
Mary Smith m. Nathaniel Collet , millwright, Kersey 1712
Benjamin Smith, millwright, settlement in Ipswich St Matthew 1698 1707 settlement Benjamin Smith Jun., millwright, and wife Diana from Bildeston to Ipswich St Matthew 1737 Benjamin Smith , millwright, wife Sarah and son Benjamin , permission to live in Mendham 1741 Benjamin Smith, miller of Ipswich, paid tax for his apprentice. 1749-1756 Benjamin Smith of Handford Mill, Ipswich, rent arrears and repairs not done (Ipswich Borough records)
Bartholomew Norden, grandson of Ruth Moulton and Thomas Norden, miller, Kedington c. 1881
<i>In my father's family</i>
Richard Pettit Pledger , apprentice miller, Kedington 1758
(Surrey) Henry Keene , miller of Eashing, Godalming, 1599 Will. Sold 1658 to papermaker by John and Elizabeth Keene
(Sussex) Thomas and Denise Russell of Framfield, purchase of watermill at Upton 1515, later used by daughter Isabell and son-in-law Robert Hodgson for making canon for Elizabeth I and the Tower of London

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GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS IN SUFFOLK, 1901

Editors' note: The term 'Gypsy/Traveller' has been used after consultation with the Romany & Traveller Family History Society.

Browsing back numbers of *Suffolk Roots* in the Members' Area of the website, it struck me that there are very few references to Gypsies/Travellers. So, I went through the 1901 census for Suffolk and found no fewer than 49 such families – over 200 individuals. They are listed below, with the occupation of the head of the family, as given in the census, and their location on the night of 31 March 1901.

On reading the names, one thing immediately stands out. The word 'Gypsy' occurs just four times as an occupation (because, strictly speaking, it was not one) and three times in describing a caravan. The question then arises, how do we know that all these people were in fact Gypsies/Travellers? And, by extension, how can you identify possible gypsy ancestors?

The first clue is of course the fact that they were all living in caravans (or occasionally in tents) – clear proof of their nomadic lifestyle. This is confirmed by two types of entry in the 'occupation' column. The words 'traveller' or 'travelling' occur in 24 of the examples, while 'hawker'⁽¹⁾ is used to describe 32 heads of families. Gypsies/Travellers went about their business supplying miscellaneous household goods from door to door; we see hawkers of wickerwork, pegs, tinware, earthenware and carpets. They also provided practical services such as scissors or razor grinding,

sieve mending or mat making. Hawkiers (and pedlars who carried out the same functions but on foot) had been licensed by the police since 1870 – hence the description 'Licensed hawker' – although only five of the 49 in this list were so described, which is something of a mystery.

The nomadic nature of a gypsy family's lifestyle can be further deduced by looking at the children's birthplaces. **William Beckett**, for example, had six children, all born in different Suffolk or north Essex parishes. This also provides evidence that



Gypsy/Traveller caravan. Image courtesy of Peter Whitcomb (cc-by-sa/2.0)

families generally did not move far from their home area. Beckett himself was born in Halesworth; 27 of the family heads were born in Suffolk, with a further eight born in the three adjacent counties. And many of the names in this list also figure elsewhere in Suffolk in the census returns for 1891 and 1911.

Finally, another means of identifying Gypsies/Travellers is to consider their forenames. A majority of gypsy children had names to be found in any family, but alongside them will be found children with highly exotic names such as Elvina, Gentle, Sinfy, Urania, Britannia and Rabbi. Biblical names were also popular, as witness Lazarus,

Job, Uriah, Elijah, Samson and Delilah. It pays however to be careful with forenames. Many Gypsies/Travellers used nicknames and might, if suspicious of a census enumerator's motives, give the 'wrong' name. As an example, **Spears** and **Brisanda Loveridge** in 1901 had been John and Saney in 1891, and would become Fairse and Sarah in 1911 (but what were their 'real' names?).

Occasionally I have had to resort to '(?)' when the name is obviously unusual, but a combination of the enumerator's handwriting and possibly his phonetic spelling of a name as heard make it impossible to decipher. But spare a thought for the poor enumerator in Exning who wrote '*On the Bury Road Caravan 1 has 5 males, 4 females, Caravan 2 has 3 males 4 females*'. He also jotted down their ages (an estimate?), but they were not giving up their names. The incident confirms the Gypsies'/Travellers' traditional healthy mistrust of the authorities.⁽²⁾

George Amis, born 1836 in North Walsham, Norfolk
Wife Mary
Dealer and hawker
Caravan in The Street, Blundeston

Robert Bailey, born 1861 in Tunstall
Wife Anna; daughters Rosanna and Alice
Hawker
No. 1 Caravan, The Common, Tunstall

Frederick Beckett, born 1861 in Leiston
Wife Mary Ann
Licensed hawker of wickerwork
Caravan in Bluegate Lane, Chapel St Mary

William Beckett, born 1864 in Halesworth
Wife Mary; children Beatrice, Lovie, Isabella,
William, Alicia and Walter
Hawker and general dealer
Gypsy van on The Common, Blaxhall

Edward Brown, born 1879 in Bramfield
Travelling hawker
Caravan on the Common, Friston

David Thomas Bugg, born 1866 in Nayland
Wife Florence; children David Thomas, Fred, James,
Elvina and John David
Licensed hawker of wickerwork
Caravan in meadow, London Road, Chapel St Mary

Joseph Butler, born 1850 in Otley
Wife Jessie
Tinman hawker
Caravan, Coldfair Green, Knodishall

George Calver, born 1876 in Halesworth
Wife Deliph; daughter Ellen
Travelling hawker
Caravan in Spring Lane, Wickham Market

Alfred Cook, born 1850 in Ipswich
Wife Augusta
Travelling hawker
Travelling van, Trimley St Martin

David Cooper, born 1861 in Butley
Wife Phoebe; children Delilah, Lavinia, Agnes,
Prudence, Joby and Virginia
Travelling hawker
Two vans on The Common, Bramford

Eliza Cooper, born 1829 in Barking, Essex
Servant Henry Read
Hawker
Caravan, west side of Whapload Road, Lowestoft

Weaslow Cooper, born 1858 in Kent
Wife Mary; children Drusilla, William, Nathaniel,
Samson, Alice and Oliver
Travelling hawker
Two vans on The Common, Bramford

Charles Crighton, born 1874 in Norwich
Wife Charlotte
Stall keeper hawker
Caravan, Bell Inn Yard, Pakenham

Obadiah Draper, born 1865 in Finningham
Wife Louisa; son Shedine (?)
Travelling joiner and hawker
Caravan on The Common, Friston

Frederick Fowler, born 1869 in Walpole
Wife Clara
Hawker
Gypsy van on The Common, Blaxhall

Edward Frostick, born 1854 in Maldon Essex
Wife Sybaretta; children Edward, Alice, Thomas,
Joseph, Leonard, Henry and Jentle
Travelling hawker, pedlars
Caravan, Nedging Tye

Joseph Grant, born 1849 (place unknown)
Wife Delia; children Delia, Thomas, Hebrina,
Virginia, Charlotte, Laura and Elizabeth
Rag and bone dealer
Tents on Washmere Green, Lavenham

Frederick Gray, born 1855 (place unknown)

Wife Charlotte; son Fred

Travelling Gypsy

Caravans on Red Lion Meadow, Mendham

Lias Gray, born 1861 in Cambridgeshire

Wife Ada; children Amalia, Lias, Gentle, Uriah, Elijah and Pateman

Traveller

Travelling vans, Redgrave

Robert Gray, born 1832 in London

Wife Elizabeth; children Alice, Louisa and George

Travelling hawker

Van on the Common, Bramford

Uriah Smith Gray, born 1879 in Bury St Edmunds

Wife Matilda; daughters Phoebe and Alice

Travelling hawker

Van on The Common, Bramford

Stephen Hewett, born 1877 in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

Wife Pamealour

Horse dealer

Caravan in Brook Farm meadow, Chediston

Thomas Jackson (date and place of birth unknown)

Partner Britannia Smith; children Louisa, Flora Belle,

William and Bessie

Pegmaker hawker

Tents on Washmere Green, Lavenham

Henry Keeble, born 1837 in Blaxhall

Wife Carolina; grandson Henry

Licensed hawker

Caravan on The Quay, Halesworth

Richard Keeble, born 1862 in Blaxhall

Wife Edith; children Carolina, Victor, Dick and

Maggie; brother-in-law Edward Goffin

Licensed hawker

Caravan in Church Street, Stradbroke

Spears Loveridge, born 1861 in Cambridge

Wife Brisanda; children Moses, Levi, Arthur,

Cornelius, Charles and Brisanda

Traveller; grinder of cutlery

Van on the Thwaite Road in Wickham Skeith⁽³⁾

Charlotte Macksie, born 1853 in Bedfordshire

Children Elinear Thorph (?), Drewshealer (Drusilla?)

Macksie; grandsons Darife (?) and Nobuder (?)

Thorph; (no relation) FrederickSmith

Licensed hawker

Caravan near White Horse Inn, Laxfield

Fred Miskin, born 1880 in Leiston

Sister Emily

Hawker

Caravan, west side of Whapload Road, Lowestoft

Walter Nunn, senior, born 1842 in Woolpit

Wife Sarah; grandson Freddie Gowers

Horse dealer

Caravan in Thorp Street, Hinderclay

Walter Nunn, junior, born 1874 in Woolpit

Wife Sportie; children Alice, Agnes, John and Walter

Horse dealer

Caravan in Thorp Street, Hinderclay

David Parker, born 1878 in Ipswich

Wife Priscilla; son Joby

Travelling hawker

Van on The Common, Bramford

Rosanna Pickett, born 1837 in Weston

Children Thomas, Urania, Louie, Ellen and Sarah

Tinker and pedlars

Two tents on Blackheath, Wenhaston

Walter Pickett, born 1856 in Walsham-le-Willows

Wife Sophia

Traveller and roadman

No. 4 caravan, The Common, Tunstall

William Pickett, born 1878 in Stowmarket

Wife Betsy; daughter Naomi

Travelling Gypsy

No. 5 caravan, The Common, Tunstall

William Pope, born 1872 (place unknown)

Wife Ada; children Councey, Matilda, Eliza and Mark

Hawker, tinware and earthenware

Caravan in Spring Road, Bardwell

John Sargent, born 1827 in Halstead, Essex

Wife Louisa

Late horse dealer

Van in Moulton's Yard, Long Melford⁽³⁾

Alfred Shaw, born 1879 in Cambridge

Brother Frederick

Scissors grinder

Caravan, Barrow

Frederick Simmons, born 1853 (place unknown)

Wife Mary; children Crissie, Bertie and Edith

Travelling hawker

Caravan and tent, Knodishall

Alfred Smith, born 1865 in Thetford, Norfolk

Wife Sarah: daughter Dorah

Hawker

Caravan in Brook Farm meadow, Chediston

Walter Smith, born 1840 in Bury St Edmunds

Wife Matilda; children Rabbi, Francis, Leopold and

Stephen

Hawker travelling in carpets etc

Caravan in Brook Farm meadow, Chediston

William Smith, born 1845 in Ipswich

Wife Alice; children Jane, Belinda, Genty, Goliath,

Lovinia, Joseph, Levi and James

Hawker

Gypsy van on The Common, Blaxhall

John Taylor, born 1802 in Cambridge

Wife Charlotte

Travelling grinder and hawker

Caravan on the Common, Friston

Jonas Taylor, born 1881 in Offham, Kent
(Relations?) Lavana Harris and Moses Pickett
Travelling Gypsy
No. 3 caravan and tent, The Common, Tunstall

William Taylor, born 1853 in Saxtead
Wife Kate; children Ginney, David, Finne, Naomi
and Thomas
Traveller and roadman
No. 6 caravan, The Common, Tunstall

William Taylor, born 1861 (place unknown)
Wife Maria; children Roland, Fred and Sophie
Horse dealer
Van on North Common, Hepworth⁽³⁾

James Turner, born 1856 in Eye
Wife Lavina; children Elisa, Daisy, (illegible), David,
Sophia, Larence and Daniel
Travelling Gypsy
No. 6 Caravan, The Common, Tunstall

Job Webb, born 1870 in Offton, Kent
Wife Emma; children Louisa, Violet and Job
Travelling hawker
Travelling caravan, Higham (West Suffolk)

Parromas Webb, born 1876 in Woolpit
Wife Martha; son Parunas
Travelling hawker
Travelling caravan, Higham (West Suffolk)

Walter C Westwood, born 1872 in Brockley
Wife Alice; sons Arthur and William
Travelling tinman
Travelling van, Redgrave

Mark Wilson, born 1850 in Ipswich
Wife Eliza; children Countess, Friday, Iram,
Robert, Beatrice, Sinfy, Lazarus and Mackenzie;
grand-daughter Countess
Hawker
Caravan, Avenue Approach, Bury St Edmunds

Gwyn Thomas

References and Sources

For further information and advice on tracing Gypsy/Traveller ancestors there are two essential starting points:

- the website of the Romany & Traveller Family History Society: rtfhs.org.uk
- Floate, Sharon Sillers (2010) *My ancestor was a Gypsy*. Society of Genealogists, 3rd edition.
- 1. 'Hawker': 'a man who goes from place to place selling his wares' (Concise Oxford English Dictionary).
- 2. Which is also seen in their free and easy approach to civil registration. William and Mary Beckett, for example, had six children but only one of the births was registered.
- 3. They are not described as living in a caravan, but as they are not listed in an inhabited house and are travellers, I have assumed the presence of a van.

WAS IT COLD THEN?

As I sit in my warm centrally heated home and admire the patterns the hoar frost has made over all the trees and bushes, fences and gates, I reflect on how we had to cope with cold in the past. Homes were not heated and insulation was non-existent. Draughts made merry everywhere!

In 1947 Britain suffered the most severe winter it had had for many years. It snowed for days and then froze with sub-zero temperatures for months after. I had just turned six years old when all this happened, and I can remember vividly how we lived. It was in a big rambling semi-detached house with only minimal heating, no hot water, no bathroom and only an outside toilet. This last was a flushing toilet, and usually spent the winter draped in yards of sacking to stop it freezing. This was not a place you lingered!

Britain was nearly bankrupt following the Second World War and everything was in short supply. Basic commodities, such as butter, cheese, meat and clothing were rationed and coupons had to be given to obtain what there was. These coupons were issued to each person by the government and exchanged for the goods purchased. Our house had no real heating; although every room had a fireplace, including the bedrooms, these were very rarely lit. Our fuel allowance was kept for the big black leaded range in the kitchen-cum-living room, which served as a cooker as well as heating the room. I recall that on the top was a massive kettle which must have been really heavy when full. All my mother's saucepans were made of iron. I remember my feet were always cold and I think we all suffered from chilblains in those days. The bedrooms could have served as fridges, they were so cold. At night we had stone hot water bottles which were first wrapped in a towel as they were so hot. Invariably they fell out of bed in the middle of the night. Under the bed was a chamber pot (or 'gozunder') – nobody would venture out to the toilet at night! By morning the frost had made wonderful patterns on the inside of the bedroom windows, so getting downstairs to sit by the range was a priority!

Like all other products, clothing also had to be purchased using 'coupons'. Old clothes were recycled. My older sisters were very adept at this, refashioning their old clothes, and unravelling old woollen jumpers to reuse the wool for making hats, scarves and gloves. Like most children in those days, I wore what was called a Liberty bodice. This was a semi-padded cotton sleeveless jacket. I remember it had rubber buttons and attachments for stockings.

There was only a cold water tap in the scullery and all water had to be heated. There was a coal-fired copper in the corner which heated water for washing clothes, and once a week for our baths. Drying wet washing was a nightmare, as if hung out on the line it would come back in frozen stiff.

Like most Victorian houses, there was no insulation and all the rooms were draughty, especially as there were wooden floorboards which had gaps between them. There would be a draught curtain over every door, but these were not always effective when we had to move from room to room. All windows were single-glazed and the frames did not always fit well. I remember old pieces of newspaper being pushed into the cracks around the frames. As the floors were all draughty my father would make wooden covers to go over the air vents around the house.

I suppose we were luckier than some as my father cultivated fruit and vegetables in our large garden. As a railway employee he also had an allotment, so we were never short of fresh vegetables. My mother kept six hens, so eggs were never in short supply and we did not have to rely on the awful dried eggs. I believe she got a small allowance for chicken feed as well.

All vegetable peelings were boiled up to make a mash for these hens and the smell pervaded the house for hours. At some point we also had a pig, which was taken to the local butcher for slaughter and he kept the cuts in his cold store. I don't think we ever

had another pig after that winter. There were also two geese which lived under an old wheelbarrow at the bottom of the garden. Caution had to be observed when passing these noisy creatures! They were supposedly kept for our Christmas consumption, but I cannot remember if they were ever eaten. We always had a goose at Christmas, but there were always still two birds under the wheelbarrow! So, we survived despite all the hardships, and maybe that generation were more resilient for it.

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DAVID JAMES SMITH AND THE *LUSITANIA*

I recently joined the Society and was surprised to open June 2022's *Roots* at random at the article about the *Lusitania*, which mentions a member of my family, **David James Smith**. I noted that one of my second cousins, **Stuart Watson**, had added some information, but I have a little more which I hope will be of interest.

David James Smith was my grandfather's uncle. There was, inevitably, a family story that, if my grandfather was named **David James**, after his uncle, he would be his uncle's heir. However, in his will, David James Smith Snr. left the money to Orford, for the church window and for the poor of the parish.

When the memorial stained-glass window was dedicated in 1928, an article was printed in a local newspaper. My grandfather kept the cutting, which was passed on to me. The article named David James Smith's parents as **James Smith**, a shoemaker, and **Cleander Hannah née Whayman**. Her unusual first name was frequently misspelt (fortunately, only two descendants seem to have inherited it, one as a first name and the other as a middle name). James was the son of **Jonathan Smyth**, a carpenter. On his marriage certificate, James signed 'Smyth' but appears as 'Smith' after that date. Cleander was the daughter of **David Whayman**, a pilot.

The article also stated that David James Smith had previously been employed by the **Maharajah Duleep Singh**. I am still trying to find proof of this. He is not listed in the household at Elvedon Hall in the 1881 census.

Of historical interest, **Elliott Torrance Galt** (for whom David James Smith was a butler) was the son of **Alexander Tilloch Galt** and the grandson of **John Galt**, a Scottish writer. In 1824 John Galt became secretary to the Canada Company, which encouraged emigration to underdeveloped parts of the country. He founded the town of Guelph, Ontario.

Alexander Tilloch Galt was one of the fathers of Canadian Federation and became the first Canadian High Commissioner in London.

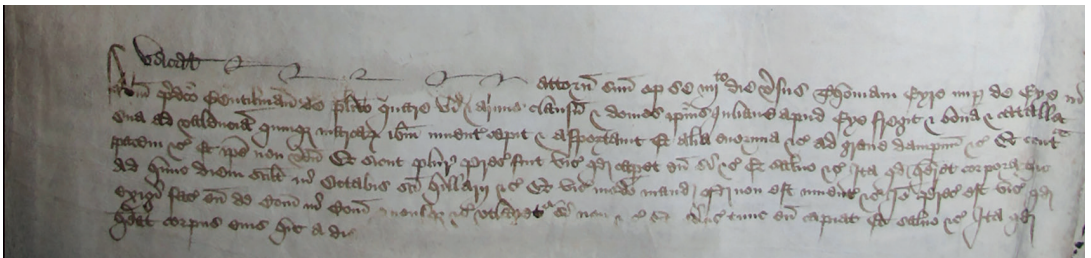
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JOHN DADE OF FRESSINGFIELD, AND WITTON: HIS ANCESTRY, IMMEDIATE FAMILY, AND LIFE – PART 2

Editors' note: This article has been split into sections, the previous part was in the December 2022 edition of Roots and the next part will be published in the June edition. The author, Kelly Leighton, has kindly given permission for the entire article, including appendices (of wills referred to in the article), to be included in the Reference section of the Members' Area of the Society's website. This is now available (apologies for the delay). The transcriptions in this article contain small apostrophe like marks (''). We are told that these marks indicate either a missing character of a possible doubling of the last letter shown. For example, in the text 'fadre in god' ...' the word 'god' could either be 'gode' or 'godde'.

Juliana was branded 'strong-willed' earlier and the reader may wonder how might such a determination be defended? Only scraps of information remain to us of this distant grandmother: a first husband concerned (and willing to pay well) to eliminate any potential contesting of his will; outliving a second husband and remaining unmarried subsequently for decades; and bringing suit in court for perceived wrongs done her, the records in the process implying some specific determination in how she'd like *her* properties administered. And, finally, the below items, possibly related, seeming to imply that someone as well-connected as Simon Wiseman found it expedient to write off the 2 shillings due him from Juliana rather than wrestle for them, for all three years the records survive. If she was not strong-willed, then the reader must at least concede that Juliana was anything but a helpless victim of competing male machinations!



Example of source material used in this article. This piece is from the Court of Common Pleas in 1495 and describes when Thomas Eyre of Eye stole some of Juliana's property.⁽²⁹⁾

Courtesy of The National Archives, Kew, in partnership with the AALT

These two subsequent records illustrate some of the challenges Juliana had in holding on to lands devised to her (or subsequently acquired by her). Dated to the broad period 1493-1500 from their address to the 'Cardinal Archbishop as Lord Chancellor'⁽⁶³⁾ (the combination narrowing down dating options to two windows, this first being most probable), the opening item is easily distinguishable:

'To the moost reu[er]end' fadre in god' my lord' Cardynall' Archebisshop' of Caunterbury Chaunceller of England'

Humbly besechith' your grace your humble Suppliaunt Julian Anyell' late the wyfe of Rob't Anyell' that where oon Edward' Dale and Herry Dagh' w[i]t[h] [other were]

seased of a mese called' Cookys and' of iiij xx [i.e. 80] acres of land' w[i]t[h] thappurtenaunce in Eye Yaxley and' Bryseworth' in the Countie of Suff' in their demeane as of [fee to the use and] behofe of the seid' Rob't Anyell' and' his heires and' to thentent to p[er]fourme the last wille of the same Rob't in the p[re]mysses by v[er]tue wherof the seid' feoffes were seized according whiche Rob't Anyell' aftir made and' declared' his last wille [interlined: and] amonge other thinges ordeyned' by the same that aftir his decesse Julyan his wyfe shuld' haue the seid' mese with' the other p[re]mysses for t[erme] of hir lyfe and' aftir hir decesse the seid' mese and' land' w[i]t[h] thappurtenaunces shuld' remayne to Alice and Margaret daughters and' heires to the seid' Rob't in ffee ta[yll] And' firthermore the seid' Rob't Anyell' by his last wille required' his seid' feoffees to delyu[er] and' astate according [And?] it is so nowe g[ra]acious lord' that Herry Dagh' ou[er]lived' his cofeoffes and' died sole seized' of the p[re]mysses aftir whos deth' the seid' mese w[i]t[h] oder p[re]mysses discended to oon **Rob't Dagh'** sone and heire to the seid' Herry whom your seid' Oratrice hath' oftymes required' to delyu[er] to hir astate according to the seid' last wille of [the seid' Rob't] Anyell' and' entent of the seid' feoffement whiche he utt[er]ly denyeth' to doo ayenst all right' and' gode conscience Wherfore Please it your grace the p[re]mysses tenderly considered' to graunt a writte sub pena to be directed' to the seid' Rob't Dagh' co'maundyng hym by the same to appere before the kinge in his Chaunc[er]y at a c[er]teyn day and' upon' c[er]teyn' payne by your grace to be lymyted' there to aunswere to the p[re]mysses and' firther to doo and' receyue as the Courte shall' award'.

Pledges to prosecute

John Dade of London' Gentilman' &

William West of London' yoman'

[Dorse:]

Before the lord King in his Chancery in the quindene of St Michael'⁽⁶⁴⁾

The second piece is in far worse condition, and it remains difficult to make out even under UV light (a trick of the knowing⁽⁶⁵⁾ when attempting to pry secrets from old parchment records), but is recognisable as from a series of related (or continuing) suits. The following summary is perhaps sufficient to prove the association:

The bill describes the chancellor as a cardinal, which is presumably the basis of the ranges of dates given in the catalogue.

On the dorse there is a reference to Easter term, viz. 2 May in the [...] year of Henry [VII or VIII].

The surname read as 'G...' in the catalogue may be 'Eye', but it is impossible to be sure. Similarly, the surname read as 'Allee (?)' may possibly be 'A lee'.

It appears to refer to 2 meses lying in the towns of Eye, Breseworth', Gret Thornh[... ..], one called Upmore and the other Cok[es].

A little further on comes 'of the man[or] of Bresworth' called [Newall'?' – perhaps some of the property was part of the manor?

Further on is a reference to '[property in] Eye, Breseworth, Great Thornham and Yaxlee called Anyell[es], [held] to the use of the said [R...?] and of his heirs'.

Then '[after] whose decease one Julyan wife of the said Robert, John Dade, John Wiryth, Jeffray D[...], executors of the [...]'. The final surname appears to end in an 'm', and there seem to be at least three minims after the initial letter, but there is a hole in the middle. It might perhaps be something like Dunham or Dinham.

A bit further on comes '[...ade?] entered into the premises and pretended feigned titles in the premises [?] granted to the use of said beseechers ... and the said Julyan and John Dade, John ...' and then there is a reference to certain debts of the said Robert.

Further on is 'of 19 years ... suffered the issues and profits of all the same [manor?]'.

Towards the end there is the usual complaint that the orators have no remedy in common law, and a request of the issue of a writ of sub pena.⁽⁶⁶⁾

Which now leads to the Star Chamber case (and associated Common Pleas cases) where we find the additional detail that:

*'...wher' oon' Julyan Anyell wedow late of Eye in your' Countie of Suff moder of the seid Joh'n was seased of dyu[er]z lond[es] and ten't[es] in Eye in her demeane as of fee and so seased Lette the same to oon Thom[a]s Eyre for t[er]me of x yerez yeldyng to the seid Julyan yerly x marke and beryng' alle maner of chargez of & for the said land[es] and ten't[es] duryng the seid t[er]me [...] force wherof the seid Thom[a]s was possessed of the said land[es] and ten't[es] be force of the seid lees p[ar]cell of which' land[es] bene holden' of the right' hono[ur]able lord' the Erle of Suff by the s[er]uyce to fynde [or? b...y?] yerly to gadre such fynez and [...] rent[es] as shuld' growe to the seid Erle in his baron' Court of Eye to be levied in the Townez of Eye Ocolt Yaxle & Franston' in the same Countie And wher' also the [seid] Julyan hadd appoynted and assigned oon **John Bete** to be her bailly in the Ballywyke aforseid whill' her seid land[es] wer' in her own' occupacon' And by her seid lees was discharged of his seid office yett the same Thom[a]s Eyr desired' & suffred' the seid Joh'n Bete to occupye still' the seid offy[ce] And by cause that the seid Joh'n Bete came not to his accompt and discharged the seid Thom[a]s Eyre in that behalve The seid Thom[a]s Eyre & oon **Thom[a]s Grymston'** of pure malice...'⁽⁶⁷⁾*

In his defence, Thomas Eyre contested that he only retained Juliana's bailiff because John Dade made him:

'Thomas E[y]r [says as follows?] [...] that [when? he ha...] the leas of Julyan aforseid' he wold' haue made a new [bailiff] ther' and' the said' Julyan wold' not suffr it for as much as the said John Dade [comawndyd?] Joh'n Bete [toccapie?] still' as bailif' wh[e]th[er] this deponent wold' or not [and: deleted?] and' [so?] he did as this deponent saith' agenst his will'⁽⁶⁷⁾

Juliana, in effect, had to fight to keep the lands willed to her by her late husband, and then had to contest whether or not she was owed the rents or whether the Earl of Suffolk was entitled to some or all. Perhaps she had hoped to be free of these types of entanglements when she leased the holdings out at a mere 10 marks annually (with the lessee to pay for any repairs or upkeep). If so, at least in this particular case, it does not seem to have worked.

Juliana Anyell and John Dade appear in Simon Wiseman's surviving bailiff's accounts for three separate years:

- From the account of **Richard Donne** [or **Doune**] bailiff of 'Boleshalle in Yakesle,' *'from the feast of St Michael the Archangel in the first year of the reign of king Henry VII after the conquest until the same feast of St Michael the Archangel in the second year of the reign of the same king namely for one whole year'* (September 1485-September 1486), the bailiff is *'remitted... 2 shillings 6 pence from the ameracements and issues of the lands of natives which lady Julian Anyell' unjustly occupied &c.'* John 'Date' appears several lines below and is not quite as fortunate: *'from his farm in arrears [he is] charged among arrears – 20 pence.'*⁽⁶⁹⁾

It has been estimated that *'four out of five English people in the fifteenth century depended on the land. Ploughing, sowing, sheep-shearing, and the hay and corn harvests, made up the shape of their year.'*⁽⁷⁰⁾ Among the many holidays, *'Michaelmas, on 29 September, marked the end of one farming year and the beginning of another.'*⁽⁷¹⁾ The law courts followed similar patterns, and courts were typically held during four regular terms, and *'these had long since become fixed at such intervals as to avoid planting, harvest, and other agricultural seasons, as well as the major church festivals from which they were named.'*⁽⁷²⁾

- From the Boleshalle account of Richard Donne [or Doune] bailiff *'from the fest[ival] of St Michael the Archangel in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry VII after the conquest until the same feast of St Michael in the sixth year of the reign of the same king namely for one whole year'* (September 1489-September 1490), *'are owed 115 shillings 5 pence. Of which are allowed to [the bailiff] from the rent of lady Julian Anyell' 2 shillings.'* Again, her son John is not so fortunate as to have his debt forgiven. Several lines later we read: *'John Dade with 6 shillings 8 pence charged among arrears and 20 pence charged among rents of assize – 8 shillings 4 pence.'*⁽⁷³⁾

Under the heading of *'Farm of lands in Gislyngh[a]m and Thornh[a]m Magna'* presumably under the date and bailiff listed on the prior page (*'Account of John More bailiff... for one whole year ending at the feast of St Michael the Archangel in the sixth year of the reign of Henry VII after the conquest'*), September 1489-September 1490, it looks as though from Mr More's total owed to Wiseman of 12 pounds 13 shillings 1 penny, *'are [illegible] to him by order of the lord in respect of the rent of John Dade 2 shillings.'*⁽⁷⁴⁾ So, John Dade

had two holdings in this year which owed rent or fees to Simon Wiseman. The first debt was owed. From record context, this second may have been remitted although the specific word is unreadable.

- And, finally, the account of Richard Don' bailiff of 'Bolishall' in Yaxle,' ... for one whole year ending at the feast of St Michael the Archangel in the tenth year of the reign of king Henry VII after the conquest' (September 1493-September 1494), 'there are owed 10 pounds 19 shillings 6 pence halfpenny. Of which are remitted to him 2 shillings in respect of the rent of Julian [Juliana] Anyell' by order of the lord.'⁽⁷⁵⁾ John Dade is not listed in this 1493-1494 period.

Interestingly, a Thomas Dade is listed twice in these same Wiseman records. The first time in the 'Swattishaughe account of John More bailiff... for one whole year ending at the feast of St Michael the Archangel in the sixth year of the reign of Henry VII after the conquest.' (September 1489-September 1490) as owing 2 shillings.⁽⁷⁶⁾ The next time, he appears to have been hired by Mr Wiseman! 'Sterston' Wysman[es] account of Thomas Dade bailiff... for one whole year ending at the feast of St Michael the Archangel in the tenth year of the reign of King Henry VII after the conquest' (September 1493-September 1494).⁽⁷⁷⁾

These records seem to refer to our John Dade and his mother. Their proximity to each other in the record set, and their proximity to the lands she was left in her second husband's will, leave no other conclusion. They fit perfectly with the legal cases explained elsewhere in this paper in both timeframe and location. They also seem to show that Simon, through respect, friendship, generosity, or fear of Juliana, let her small rents remain uncollected in each of these three years. Mr Wiseman, being no fool (despite what some contemporary **Paston** letters may state), did not allow John Dade the same leniency as that provided John's mother. But we see that John's rents – and arrears – were very small relative to John's income and legal suit amounts, and thus likely did not overly trouble either party. Certainly Wiseman's 1490 suit could not have been for back due rents!

Whatever the cause, it did not seem to impair business relations with the Wiseman family as Simon's son **John Wiseman** is quit-claiming to John Dade and others on 26 June 1503, acknowledged weeks later on 15 July 1503:

'John Wyseman, Esquire, to James Hobart, King's Attorney, Henry Heydon, knight, Richard Braunch, clerk, and John Dade, their heirs and assigns. Release and quitclaim with warrenty of Heigham Manor, 100a. of land, 100a. of pasture, 20a. meadow, 60a. wood and 40s. rent in Burgate, Melles and Gyslyngham and all the lands etc. in Burgate and Gyslyngham late of William Willet, Robert Bronnd and John Yaxley alias Blowgate.'⁽⁷⁸⁾

This may have been part of a series of feoffments and counter-feoffments that extended much of late spring and early summer of 1503.⁽⁷⁹⁾ It is possible that this represents land associated with some of his mother's land near Bulls Hall in Yaxley, though the land

descriptions and other men associated will not allow easy confirmation.⁽⁸⁰⁾ John Dade has good company in James Hobart, both for Hobart's considerable political influence, and for the fact that he was John Wiseman's father-in-law.⁽⁸¹⁾

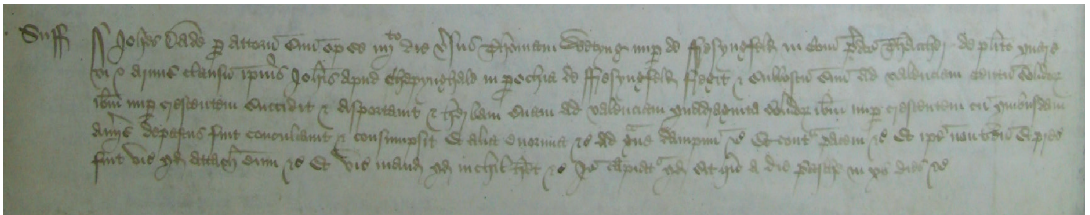
It remains unclear exactly who the Thomas Dade we find in the Wiseman bailiff records is, unfortunately. It is intriguing that he is listed near to, but not in, the same estates as Juliana and her son. One is sorely tempted to assign him as the son of **Thomas Dade of Weybred**, though without much factual basis. Aside from these two fleeting references to him, no other known documents have mentioned a Thomas Dade in this area of Suffolk at this time.⁽⁸²⁾ That neither John's father nor John mention him in their wills seems proof that he is not a brother of this 1505 John. Additional evidence would be that, as before mentioned, John Dade appears to have been the sole executor of the estate of his step-father's mother, Margaret Anyell.

Where was this area of Suffolk? From the above records, we are still frustratingly unable to narrow down the area beyond the polygon-ish area bounded by Yaxley to the northwest, Eye to the northeast, Braiseworth (or Occold, perhaps) to the southeast, and Thornham Magna to close the area to the southwest. Likely bounded on the east by the River Dove, we are unclear if the area extended west of the modern A140⁽⁸³⁾ or was east as the above boundaries would tend to emphasise. Regardless of the inexactitude, somewhere within this approximately 4.5 square mile area were likely the 80 acres Mr Eyre was so incensed about, the place(s) where Juliana actually lived, and perhaps the places where rents were due (or not) to Simon Wiseman.⁽⁸⁴⁾

In 1496, John Dade made some sort of £7 contribution to the church in Cratfield for lead, which the church subsequently carried on the books as a liability.⁽⁸⁵⁾ One notes that his 1505 will also mentioned money for leading of a (different) church roof, a common-enough bequest. This Cratfield item does seem doubly relevant in that it confirms this church's ties to the Dade-related **Cooke** family (daughter and son-in-law of Edmund Bohun and his Dade wife) and proves that **Robert Cooke** had purchased some land in which the church's guild later (in 1541) had an interest.⁽⁸⁶⁾ Again, an unexpected but welcome additional piece of evidence connecting the generations. One does wonder, however, how much we can read into the Cratfield donation in 1496. Surely, Dade wasn't living this far east at this time? Is that why he stopped appearing in the Wiseman records? Did he move back here prior to his and Margaret's relocation to Witton? Or was he, rather, cleaning up remaining connections with Cratfield? Might this provide context to a surrender of interest in a manor in Cratfield Roos dated in late April 1499?⁽⁸⁷⁾

And with this, we may have wrung from the sources the proof needed to connect 1505 John Dade to the earlier Fressingfield crowd. Unfortunately, what we cannot yet seem to do is tie this now-larger Fressingfield Dade crowd to those men and women surnamed Dade who lived in the 15th and 16th centuries in the areas of Starston, East Harling, or Great Thornham, even. However, those who live in Weybred are

particularly close with the Fressingfield branch. There are several extant wills between Fressingfield men and Weybred men which seesaw back and forth naming one another's sons as executor (or co-executor) over four generations starting in 1459 and culminating with a land conveyance from 1505 John Dade.



Another example of original source material from the Court of Common Pleas in 1480, relating to the dispute John Dade had with Thomas Wetyng.⁽⁴¹⁾ Courtesy of The National Archives, Kew in partnership with the AALT

The year before his death, John transferred the land he had fought for over a period of years (to be discussed shortly) – and which he finally won the agreement for in 1501 – to *Thomas Dade of Weybrede the elder and Rose his wife.*⁽⁸⁸⁾ This latter was nearly certainly the son of the previous elder Thomas Dade of Weybred who made his will in 1503 (naming this son Thomas as beneficiary and 1505 John as co-executor). We can verify that our 1505 John Dade had some role in Weybred Thomas's affairs – though he isn't listed as actually being granted probate of the 1503 will – by the fact that Thomas Dade senior's other son *Nicholas* (who *did* execute his father's 1503 will) subsequently brought suit against John Dade's widow Margaret and her second husband Gregory Caus for possession of deed papers to a 24 acre plot his father had willed him in Weybred. How John had acquired (or retained) the papers is not quite clear – perhaps John's leveraging of his better political connections to get legal handover completed were interrupted by his unexpected 1505 death?⁽⁸⁹⁾

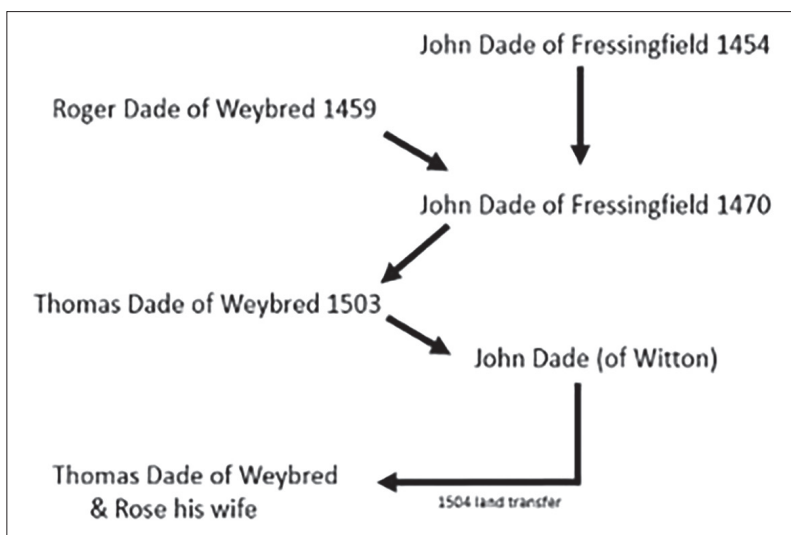


Figure 1. Fressingfield and Weybred Dade family relationships

The above chart demonstrates close interconnectedness, and one is tempted to assign the earliest Fressingfield and Weybred will writers the titles of brother – or cousin, perhaps – but evidence is too scanty to do so conclusively. The fact that the name Nicholas continually recurs in successive generations within both lines may be further evidence of a common descent from the earliest Nicholas in the attached pedigree (see Table 1). Alas, we can only wonder whether our aforementioned Nicholas Rush is the same man as – or even related to – the **Nicholas Dade of Eye**, Suffolk who appears in Common Pleas cases in 1408 and 1412.⁽⁹⁰⁾ Is Dr Wells-Furby correct when she speculates that perhaps this Nicholas Dade – or an immediate predecessor of the same name – married a daughter of the **Richard Rush** who flourished between 1367-1370 around Fressingfield?⁽⁹¹⁾

While we may have said all that we might on the relations of the disparate Dade families, we have also come close to exhausting our store of sources on Juliana, John's mother. We do not know when she died other than to say it was probably soon after her son, based on her age and the brass. On parting from her, we can wonder where her properties went upon her death. No will survives, and her known properties do not re-appear with her eldest grandson **Richard Dade** in his own September 1536 Inquisition Post Mortem (I.P.M.), the Crown-directed inquiry into the affairs of any propertied individual after their death.⁽⁹²⁾ Perhaps they were all disposed of prior to the family's relocation north to Witton. Certainly, she could have chosen to stay in Suffolk but did not. As a wife, a woman's power was significantly muted. As a widow,

'...she was in a much stronger position. Her private rights in law became the same as a man's and she had absolute rights in her own property. Her position in the marriage-market became extremely strong.... Only peaceful persuasion could prevent the match [if undesired by family members]...'⁽⁹³⁾

Many widows, perhaps after a second marriage, did not remarry again, preferring widowhood and independence. In this, Juliana was in good company.

By 1505, her son was providing her an annual annuity of 10 marks, and clearly expected that his wife Margaret would have Juliana – and a servant for his mother – living with her after his death (he having specified this in his will). With Margaret's subsequent remarriage to Gregory Caus (sometime prior to spring 1508⁽⁹⁴⁾) we can only speculate whether Juliana ended her days with her family, as expected. Certainly, a cursory examination of the lands reported for Gregory Caus during his legal troubles from 1518-1521⁽⁹⁵⁾ do not positively reveal any of Juliana's lands. One may be forgiven for feeling – without slightly more evidence – that Juliana mirrored her earlier contemporaries **Margaret Paston** and **Alice de la Pole**, Duchess of Suffolk, in that at least part of what drove her *'... were the two-fold notions of lineage and gentility.... Gentility mattered greatly and it mattered on both sides [husband and wife] of the family.'*⁽⁹⁶⁾

Understanding that John never knew the loss of his mother, we know that he did meet a new lady sometime in the early 1490s. What, then, about the latest woman in John Dade's life?

Margaret Pakenham's early childhood seems to have been fairly chaotic. She was born on or around 4 October 1475⁽⁹⁷⁾ to **Henry Pakenham**. It is possible that the woman Henry appears with in June 1478,⁽⁹⁸⁾ **Anne Leeds**, is Margaret's mother, but the fact that that her maiden name is used in the item with Henry, added to the four-year difference in age between Margaret and her younger sister **Elizabeth**, makes this author feel that Margaret may, perhaps, be the daughter of an unnamed first wife of Henry. Regardless, Anne was likely the only mother figure young Margaret knew or remembered. She grew up with two younger sisters (Elizabeth⁽⁹⁹⁾ and **Anne**⁽¹⁰⁰⁾), definitely Anne's daughters. Though the documentation is somewhat confused,⁽¹⁰¹⁾ it appears that Margaret's father died on 6 February 1481, when she was very young, placing her and her sisters under the care of a guardian, **Thomas Wodehouse**, on 28 Nov 1483.⁽¹⁰²⁾ Her mother (or, more likely, step-mother) Anne subsequently re-married at some point.⁽¹⁰³⁾

Margaret's father's line can be extrapolated back many generations, proving a long history in Norfolk.⁽¹⁰⁴⁾ **William Law Pakenham** spent a considerable amount of time and energy documenting the Pakenham lineage in the 1930s. His great-granddaughter has more recently graciously shared the results.⁽¹⁰⁵⁾ It remains unclear where Margaret and her family lived during her childhood. It is clear from Margaret's own proof-of-age record⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ that she was married to John Dade before the end of October 1495. By Hilary (Spring) term of 1498, John Dade was bringing suit against Nicholas Parker's likely son **John Parker** 'of Honyng' for £20 allegedly owed to Dade, a suit which seems to have continued into 1502.⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ These were obviously related to Margaret's inheritance.

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References and Sources

63. Dated in The National Archives, Kew, Chancery proceedings catalogue to either 1493-1500 based on **John Morton**'s term or 1515-1529 based on Thomas Wolsey's term. Juliana Anyell and John Dade were deceased before this latter period, however.
64. C1/184/14, The National Archives, Kew.
65. i.e. Mr. Chris Phillips.
66. C 1/235/32, The National Archives, Kew. Recall from endnote 19 that from the 1479 will, Robert Anyell's executors were named as '*his wife Juliana, and his friends John Eade, Geoffrey Dunston and John Withe*'. This fills in a couple of the tenuous spots in the otherwise mostly mouse-eaten and unintelligible document.
67. STAC 1/1/30, The National Archives, Kew. See endnote 32 for more on the Star Chamber.
68. *Ibid.* Note, the dating order here isn't concrete and might easily be reversed. It is also not inconceivable that the cases were related or sprung one from the other, although we cannot now know this.

69. Suffolk Archives, *Bailiff's accounts, Swatshall, and Braiseworth with other manors*, 1485-1494, HD1538/384/1/rotulus 1.
70. Virgoe, *Private Life*, 159.
71. *Ibid.*
72. Hastings, *The Court of Common Pleas*, 22.
73. Suffolk Archives, *Bailiff's accounts, Swatshall, and Braiseworth with other manors*, 1485-1494, HD1538/384/1/rotulus 5.
74. *Ibid.*
75. Suffolk Archives, *Bailiff's accounts, Swatshall, and Braiseworth with other manors*, 1485-1494, HD1538_384/1/rotulus 4 dorse.
76. Suffolk Archives, *Bailiff's accounts, Swatshall, and Braiseworth with other manors*, 1485-1494, HD1538_384/1/rotulus 5.
77. Suffolk Archives, *Bailiff's accounts, Swatshall, and Braiseworth with other manors*, 1485-1494, HD1538_384/1/rotulus 3 dorse.
78. Public Records Office, *Calendar of Close Rolls, Henry VII: Volume 2, 1500-1509* (London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1963), 90, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=msu.31293017956230>.
79. Sir Nicholas Bacon Collection of English Court and Manorial Documents [Bacon MS2360, MS2362, MS2363, and MS2364], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library, <http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/ead/ICU.SPCL.bacon>.
80. Fairclough and Hardy, *Thornham*, 115.
81. John B. Weller, 'The Wives of Sir James Hobart (1440-1517), Attorney General 1486-1507', *The Ricardian Journal of the Richard III Society*, XII, No. 152 (March 2001), 221.
82. FB 128/L1/24, Suffolk Archives, Ipswich, dated June 1590 mentions a Robert Dade of Wetheringsett, grandson of a 'Thomas' (perhaps this self-same Thomas), though more contemporary Yaxley records (and a 1484 Court of Common Pleas case) only name a Roger and/or a Robert. Note that '1505' John Dade obviously had some dealings also with this Yaxley family, being mentioned in the 20 May 1506 I.P.M. (John himself already deceased) of John Yaxlee, Sergeant-at-Law – possibly for the same land mentioned in the aforementioned feoffments of 1503. Public Records Office, *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem and other analogous documents, Henry VII, Vol. II* (London: His Majesty's Stationary Office, 1915), 308. The Yaxleys were, of course, neighbors of 1505 John Dade and his mother Juliana after her second widowhood.
83. Fairclough and Hardy, *Thornham*, 61, 135 suggest Swattishaugh (Swatshall) may be as much as two more miles further west in Gislingham.
84. The author is extremely grateful for the combination of Google Earth and Earthpoint Tools for Google Earth (<https://www.earthpoint.us/Shapes.aspx>) for what could have otherwise been a horrifying experience trying to identify the rough geographic area under discussion.
85. William Holland, *Cratfield: A Transcript of the accounts of the Parish, from A.D. 1490 to A.D. 1642, with Notes* (London: Jarrold & Sons, 1895), 26. <https://archive.org/details/cratfieldtranscr01crat>. 'Item to John Dade for lead vij li.' Note: Immediately above, is 'Memorad yt **Robt Cook** borwyd of lead on (one) slabbe weyid iiiii (fourscore) li and on ye tothyr weyid ii I li. S[um] vj ix li.' The numbers are topped with small x's which indicate fourscore. The total reading is six score + 9 li or £129. Although dwarfed by Cooke's transaction, Dade's, for the time, is a hefty amount and one wishes for more certainty as to whether this was cash or actual metal and whether it was loaned or donated to the church. Others noted in the records appear to be giving the church money to offset a tiny portion of these renovation expenses. One is tempted to relate this donation to the Cratfield church during its restoration work with the later 1510 legal suit brought by John Dade's executors - perhaps the expected reimbursement (if John's contribution was indeed a loan) was never adequately repaid by the church within John's lifetime? One wonders whether John himself never expected to be repaid, but his survivors subsequently felt differently about the matter. See endnote 139.

86. *Ibid*, 59-60. This additional detail specifies Robert Cooke, who left a widow Agnes, and a son John, and 'hys sisters.' It seems clear these are Edmund Bohun's descendants. Agnes, we are informed, remarried to **John Duke**. In 1528, Duke and **John Cooke** transferred the land, apparently without paying his sisters for their marriage as their father Robert had decreed in his will. The date range for this Cratfield item is 2 Feb 1510-2 Feb 1511. It is probable that Robert Cooke was dead before the latter date since there is a further reference (p. 37) to '*Angnete Coke Vidue*' paying some 20 shillings in what appears to be a solution of diverse reparations to the church guild. One wonders, then, if we have incidentally narrowed down Robert Cooke's own death date since on the same and the preceding page, his son John Cooke is listed as taking actions. This appears to be fully consistent with the Robert Cooke listed in 1505 John Dade's 9 November 1510 Suffolk I.P.M. as '*joint tenant in survivorship*' in land (in Wisset, Rumbergh, Spectishale, and Chedistan, all grouped a very short distance Northeast of Cratfield) along with **John Hill** after the deaths of John Dade, Henry Everard, and John '*Throkmerton*' still living. Unfortunately for Robert, if the same man, he was to die that very same winter of 1510-1511 – within 3 months of his mention in Dade's I.P.M. It may be his son John Cook who was 'admitted' with John Everard in the below 10 July 1510 reference.
87. HA12/B5/9/7, Suffolk Archives, Lowestoft Branch. SRO has dated this item to the last Tuesday before SS Peter and James Day (1 May) in 1499, which was 30 April. The man co-surrendering '*land formerly of the old park Cratfield*' with John to **William Mellis, John Tye/Tyne**, appears a few times in Holland's Cratfield parish transcripts (previously cited) but never with Dade and we know little more about him or how they came to have joint interests in the Cratfield Roos manor. He is possibly the same John 'Ty' who appears in a court roll for Cratfield Roos (FC62/N1/2, Suffolk Archives, Ipswich) on 9 December 1507 with Robert Cook, **John Smyth, John Wyott, Thomas Smyth, Henry Kelsyll**, all '*admitted to one acre of meadow belonging to the mill tenement.*' Whether this tenement and the old park area are the same is unclear from the records.
88. C146/5789, The National Archives, Kew. Dr. Wells-Furby brought this document to light, *Cartulary*, 87.
89. C1/130/1, The National Archives, Kew. The item is dated to 1486-1493 or 1504-1515 by staff. 1505-1515 is undoubtedly a better window.
90. CP40/589 AALT 0337 (1408), http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H4/CP40no589/aCP40no589fronts/IMG_0337.htm, CP40/589 AALT 0717 (1408), http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H4/CP40no589/aCP40no589fronts/IMG_0717.htm, CP40/605 AALT 0714 (1412), http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H4/CP40no605/aCP40no605fronts/IMG_0714.htm.
91. Wells-Furby, *Cartulary*, 86-87.
92. C142/58/19, The National Archives, Kew. Note that this I.P.M. refers to his 27 Jan 1533 will, NCC will register Godsalve 30, available from the Norfolk Record Office. He requested to be buried in the church in Witton (where his grandmother's brass lay) and bequeathed them five combs of malt as well as cash to the Norwich friars and a comb of malt to the lepers outside Norwich, as had his father earlier. The Witton church therefore held spiritual significance for at least three generations of Dades.
93. Virgoe, *Private Life*, 201.
94. CP40/983 AALT 0961 (1508), http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/CP40no983/aCP40no983fronts/IMG_0961.htm.
95. C131/104/34, and C131/104/40, The National Archives, Kew. These seem to have been inquisitions into Mr. Caus' possessions ordered in May 1518 and finally returned in Ipswich in January 1521.
96. Coss, *Lady in Medieval England*, 183.

97. Maskelyne and H. C. Maxwell Lyte. 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, Entries 1151-1200', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Series 2, Volume 1, Henry VII*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1898), 504-535. *British History Online*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol1/pp504-535> (accessed 18 November 2020). See item number 1158, dated the same day as her sister Elizabeth's, 28 Oct 1495.
98. NCR 25a/24/1209.
99. Maskelyne and H. C. Maxwell Lyte. 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, Entries 1101-1150', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Series 2, Volume 1, Henry VII*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1898), 469-504. *British History Online*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol1/pp469-504> (accessed 14 November 2020). See item number 1137, dated 28 Oct 1495.
100. Maskelyne and H. C. Maxwell Lyte. 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, Entries 1-50', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Series 2, Volume 2, Henry VII*, (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1915), 1-45. *British History Online*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol2/pp1-45> (accessed 14 November 2020). See item number 37, dated 4 Nov 1497.
101. Two I.P.M.s were produced, C140/81/61 delivered 27 Oct 1481 in the 21st year of the reign of King Edward IV, and another, C141/3/34, delivered into court 21 Oct 1483 a few months into the reign of **King Richard III**. One suspects the political instability at the end of Edward IV's time, the efforts of **Edward V** to maintain power and, finally, the ascension of Richard III to the throne as the reason for the confusing dating and final disposition of the young wards. Henry Pakenham's death must have been on 6 Feb 1481 for Margaret to have been 7 at his death (which the other sister's ages at his death seem to agree with) and for him to have had an I.P.M. in the reigns of both Edward IV and Richard III. Ages of sisters at time of Anne's inquisition are a couple of years off as well, and it seems the ages are verbatim from the 1483 I.P.M. written a couple years after the death of Henry. Wednesday, 6 Feb 1481 best fits the available facts.
102. Public Records Office, *Calendar of Fine Rolls, XXI, Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III 1471-1485*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1961) 270-271. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=msu.31293400201293>.
103. NCR 25a/24/1092. 12 June 1525 Grant by **Anna Bardewell** of Shropham widow to John Sturges of Craneworth, esq.
104. Kelly Leighton, *The Family de Pakenham of Norfolk and Suffolk from the reign of King Edward I to the 16th century*, http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kell/pakenham_family7.pdf. Several new Pakenham details were discovered during the present Dade research.
105. Katherine Pakenham, *Pakenham Family History*, <http://www.pakenham.org.uk/katherine/genes/pak/#ancestormap>. Ms. Pakenham was also gracious enough to provide the author with some provenance on the pedigree posted to her page (a version of which the author also saw in the Pakenham Church in 2009): personal correspondence with the author August-September 2013.
106. Maskelyne and H. C. Maxwell Lyte. 'Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, Entries 1151-1200', in *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem: Series 2, Volume 1, Henry VII*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1898), 504-535. *British History Online*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/series2-vol1/pp504-535> (accessed 18 November 2020). See item number 1158, dated the same day as her sister Elizabeth's, 28 Oct 1495.
107. CP40/943 AALT 0928 (1498), http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H7/CP40no943/bCP40no943dorses/IMG_0928.htm. CP40/959 AALT 0471 (1502), http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H7/CP40no959/aCP40no959fronts/IMG_0471.htm.

AT HER MAJESTY'S PLEASURE

This article provides a list of the inmates at the Bury St Edmunds County Gaol on census night, 1871.

The Gaol

The County Gaol on Sicklesmere Road in Bury St Edmunds was one of two in Suffolk, the other being in Ipswich. It was built in 1805 with extensions in 1819 and a new chapel in 1856. The Prison Act of 1877 nationalised the prison service, removing control from the county Justices of the Peace, and as a result the Gaol was closed in 1878. The site had largely been cleared by 1884 – all that remains today are the Governor's House (now known as The Fort), and the entrance range with its central gate flanked by the turnkey's room and the Governor's office.

The building is described in the census return as the Gaol and House of Correction, but this is an error – the distinction between Houses of Correction (originally intended for minor offences) and gaols had been formally abolished in 1865.



The central gate of the Gaol. The image is part of the Spanton-Jarman collection at Suffolk Archives, Bury St Edmunds and is reproduced by permission of the copyright owners, the Bury St Edmunds Past and Present Society

The Prisoners

The Gaol received between 400 and 500 prisoners a year. On census night (4 April 1871) there were 51 in residence, the longest serving inmate having entered in September 1869. Thirty-three were labourers; they ranged in age from 15 to 67; and two were women. They had been sentenced at the Borough courts at Bury or Sudbury, the county Quarter Sessions or, in the case of more serious crimes, at the twice-yearly Assizes.

The Sentences

All but three of the 51 were serving sentences of periods of hard labour, varying from seven days to eighteen months. The treadwheel was the most feared type of hard labour, but other forms included stone-breaking, mat-making, coir-plaiting and oakum picking. The first three months of a sentence would involve First Class hard labour, succeeded by the less severe Second Class.

After the abolition of transportation to Australia in 1867, serious (usually repeat) offenders were sentenced to terms of Penal Servitude, to be served in a large and harsher prison. The three men in this list so sentenced were all transferred to Pentonville Prison in Islington in the following July or August.

The Sources

The name, age, occupation and place of birth is the information about the prisoner taken from the census return. Information about the offence and punishment is taken from the Gaol Receiving books.⁽¹⁾ These give the prisoner's name, residence, occupation and age, height, state of health, distinguishing marks, father's name and residence, marital status and offspring, and information on their offence, trial, punishment and criminal record.

The Prisoners on Census Night, 1871

Name and Age	Occupation	Place of Birth	Offence	Punishment
William Amos 15	Labourer	Belchamp Walter	Stealing a fowl at Ballingdon and a cake at Sudbury	3 months' hard labour
Frederick Austin 20	Labourer	Bradfield St George	Stealing a pair of boots at Bradfield St George	2 months' hard labour
Alfred Bareham 15	Labourer	Higham	Stealing 2s 8½d at Higham	12 months' hard labour, 7 years' Police supervision
Henry Bradley 38	Groom	Mildenhall	Assault in Mildenhall	21 days' hard labour
Stephen Bridge 18	Domestic Servant	Chevington	Embezzling 7s 8d at Bury St Edmunds	3 months' hard labour
Walter Callow 50	Shoemaker	Haverhill	Threatening to kill his sister at Haverhill	3 months' hard labour
James Challis 28	Labourer	Haverhill	Assaulting PC Greengrass ⁽²⁾ at Haverhill	6 months' hard labour
William Clover 24	Mat maker	Long Melford	Malicious damage at Long Melford	6 weeks' hard labour
Charles Cobbold 56	Dealer	Rougham	Receiving malt	9 months' hard labour
Edward Cobbold 18	Labourer	Bury St Edmunds	Stealing a silver watch at Bury St Edmunds	3 months' hard labour
Honorus Coppin 30	Straw plaiter	Chelmsford	Stealing two coats, a shirt and a muslin dress at Sudbury	6 months' hard labour
Walter Cransfield 60	Labourer	Belchamp Otten	Stealing a loaf of bread at Sudbury Union	1 month's hard labour

Name and Age	Occupation	Place of Birth	Offence	Punishment
Thomas Deeks 30	Farmer	Hundon	Leaving his family chargeable to Sudbury Union	21 days' imprisonment
Albert Flowerdew 18	Sailor	Bacton	Stealing a watch, a waistcoat, a dress, and other articles at Felsham	5 years' penal servitude
David Forge 25	Labourer	Stradishall	Stealing a silver watch at Bury St Edmunds	6 months' hard labour
George Garrod 24	Labourer	Chedburgh	Two assaults at Chedburgh	14 days' hard labour
Alfred Goody 23	Labourer	Sudbury	Obtaining a silver watch guard under false pretences at Sudbury	18 months' hard labour
William Graham 22	Labourer	Mildenhall	Stealing 1½ pints of whisky at Mildenhall	21 days' hard labour
Alfred Grimmer 15	Labourer	Bury St Edmunds	Stealing cheese at Bury St Edmunds	7 days' hard labour
Frederick Hammond 36	Labourer	Bury St Edmunds	Stealing a basket containing tea, sugar and other articles at Bury St Edmunds	6 weeks' hard labour
John Harrison 52	Ostler	Dublin	Stealing four £5 bank notes and other monies at Bury St Edmunds	5 years' penal servitude
George Hubbard 25	Commercial Traveller	Mickfield	Embezzlement at Bury St Edmunds	12 months' hard labour
Joseph Jolly 20	Innkeeper	Hundon	Stealing 10 sheep at Stoke by Clare	15 months' hard labour
Thomas Jolly 26	Carrier	Hundon	Stealing 10 sheep at Stoke by Clare	15 months' hard labour
David Jones 47	Labourer	Stoke by Nayland	Breaking into a warehouse and stealing therefrom a quantity of apples and pears	4 months' hard labour
Samuel Jones 34	Labourer	Stoke by Nayland	Breaking into a warehouse and stealing therefrom a quantity of apples and pears	4 months' hard labour
Thomas Keeble 24	Fowl dealer	Rattlesden	Stealing a fowl at Rattlesden	5 years' penal servitude, 5 years' Police supervision
John Kemp 24	Labourer	Dalham	Assault at Dalham	14 days' hard labour
George King 19	Labourer	Wickhambrook	Malicious damage at Chevington	14 days' hard labour
Morris Koopman 40	Travelling hawker	Amsterdam	Assault with attempt to commit rape at Bury St Edmunds	12 months' hard labour
William Mitchell 44	Labourer	Long Melford	Stealing 7 combs and 2 pecks of malt and 3 sacks at Long Melford	9 months' hard labour
James Murphy 48	Engine driver	Limerick	Stealing a quantity of wood at Long Melford	3 months' hard labour
James Newman 22	Shepherd	Knettishall	Stealing a sheep at Ixworth Thorpe	3 months' hard labour
William Nicholls 17	Groom	Sheriffhales, Lancs	Stealing a pair of boots, a coat and a waistcoat at Exning	2 months' hard labour

Name and Age	Occupation	Place of Birth	Offence	Punishment
Joseph Nobbs 38	Hair weaver	Glemsford	Stealing 2 and a half pounds of hair at Glemsford	4 months' hard labour
Joseph Parminter 30	Weaver	Long Melford	Leaving his family chargeable to Sudbury Union	6 weeks' hard labour
George E Pearson 37	Builder	Bury St Edmunds	Publishing a false libel with intent to injure J W Ion Esq⁽³⁾ at Bury St Edmunds	1 month's 1st Class hard labour
James Plum 60	Labourer	Sudbury	Stealing a loaf of bread at Sudbury Union	1 month's hard labour
John Rayner 40	Labourer	Wordwell	Stealing oats at Ingham	2 months' hard labour
Robert Reed 50	Labourer	Icklingham	Violent assault at Moulton	3 months' hard labour
Robert Reeve 19	Labourer	Ixworth	Assault at Ixworth	2 months' hard labour
John Richardson 28	Labourer	Bury St Edmunds	Stealing 3 lbs of pork at Bury St Edmunds	3 months' hard labour
Abraham Savage 40	Labourer	Cavendish	Stealing 52 lbs of cast iron at Cavendish	6 months' hard labour
Thomas Scrivener 49	Labourer	Belchamp Walter	Attempt to commit bestiality at Great Cornard	18 months' hard labour
Joseph Starling 20	Labourer	Stradishall	Stealing 10 sheep at Stoke by Clare	15 months' hard labour
William Sturgeon 48	Labourer	Stanton	Malicious damage at Stanton; drunk and disorderly at Stanton	14 days' hard labour
Daniel Upson 66	Thatcher	Acton	Stealing some oats, peas and barley meal or receiving the same	12 months' hard labour
Mary Ann Vince 40	Farmer's wife	Kersey	Stealing a gold watch at Sudbury	3 months' hard labour
William Warren 32	Labourer	Icklingham	Stealing wheat and rye at Icklingham	4 months' hard labour
Henry Wells 55	Labourer	Whepstead	Stealing two hurdles at Whepstead	2 months' hard labour
John Wilson 67	Clerk	London	Entering the dwelling house of George Myhill⁽⁴⁾ at Mildenhall with intent to commit a felony therein	3 months' hard labour

Gwyn Thomas

References and Sources

1. Suffolk Archives, Bury St Edmunds, BA 500/D/Q/ AGr 10 (for Alfred Goody) and 11 (for the rest). An illustration of a typical page (albeit from an Ipswich Gaol volume) is in *Suffolk Roots*, March 2016, p.309.
2. Joseph Greengrass, described in the 1871 census as a '*Superannuated Policeman*', age 55, living in Gents Lane, Shimpling.
3. John Watling Ion, age 55, solicitor and Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, living at 32 Risbygate Street.
4. George Myhill, age 59, registrar and relieving officer, living at 3 North Street, Mildenhall.

BOOK OF DATES

Further to the comment on p.236 of December's *Roots* concerning medieval dating being notoriously difficult to determine, may I recommend: C.R. Cheney (ed.), *A Handbook of Dates: For Students of British History* (2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, 2000), which is known as '*Cheney's Book of Dates*'. I have never failed yet to identify a date, having relied heavily on this book for guidance for many years.

Sue Andrews Mb 11113

sandrews518@live.co.uk

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HELP WANTED – ABRAHAM SUTTON (c. 1779-1863)

Abraham Sutton was my 4x great-grandfather. He married **Sarah Borley** (1779-1834) in Felsham on 22 October 1804. Both were over 21 and of the parish. Sarah's sister **Mary Borley** was a witness, but there were no Sutton witnesses. The couple lived in Felsham for the rest of their lives, baptising five children there, and when falling on hard times received outdoor relief from Felsham parish. However, Abraham stated on the 1851 and 1861 censuses that he had been born in Rougham. As for Sarah, as a five-year-old she had been removed from Thurston to Felsham with her parents and brother and sister, by an order dated 10 February 1784.

I would love to find Abraham Sutton's parent or parents and place of birth. I have searched the BMD indexes for Suttons baptising an Abraham c. 1779 in Rougham and surrounding parishes without success. There are a couple of 'maybe' families. Is anyone able to throw light on his origins? I would also like to search the 'old' Poor Law records (c. 1779-1804) that may survive for the first 25 years of Abraham's life in the Bury branch of Suffolk Archives. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has used these records and can advise what documents to order prior to a visit and how to get the most out of them.

William Sutton Mb 12703

w.sutton711@btinternet.com

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HELP WANTED – CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS WW2

I am researching for a PhD, my thesis subject being '*Conscientious Objection in the Second World War*', and I am looking for anything related to men and women who were pacifists between the World Wars or conscientious objectors in the latter war. This could be letters, memoirs, correspondence with the authorities etc. If anyone has information about any of their relatives or ancestors who followed this path, please contact me at the email address below.

Philip Lines

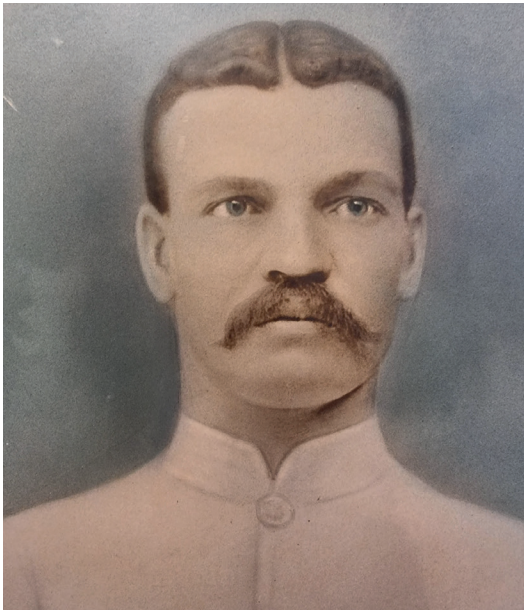
phillines53@gmail.com

HELP WANTED – BARNARD/TRICKER

My grandfather Charles Barnard was born in Stowmarket on 7 March 1868. His birth certificate names him as **Charles William Tricker Barnard**, but no father's name is given. His mother was **Sarah Ann Barnard**. In 1871 Sarah married widower **Charles Tricker**, who I assume was Charles' natural father. Charles had two brothers, **Harry** (who was older) and **Herbert** (younger). Harry may have been from Charles Tricker's previous marriage.

Herbert joined the Suffolk Regiment and was discharged in 1908. Charles joined the Royal Artillery aged 18 and served for over 12 years, travelling as far from home as Hong Kong. His last posting was in Bermuda, where he was discharged in 1900 as a sergeant. He stayed in Bermuda, where I am a resident, and became a police constable in 1902. I believe he also volunteered in the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, as he took part in numerous shooting competitions. Charles retired in 1924 as Chief Constable, the Chief Sergeant in St George's. The local newspaper, the *Royal Gazette*, contains reports of quite a number of his '*investigations and captures*'. He passed away in 1928.

Through Ancestry and other such websites, I have been able to track many relatives. DNA has made it possible to confirm links to certain family members. Something I have found interesting is the connections that go round the world from this part of the UK! I recently came across the Suffolk FHS website and downloaded the Suffolk Burial Index, and also joined as an overseas member. I would be delighted to hear from any members with Barnard/Tricker interests.



Charles when in the Royal Artillery



Charles as a member of one the local lodges in Bermuda

Charles Barnard Mb 12732

lostinthetriangle1962@gmail.com

HELP OFFERED

I own an old Suffolk-related indenture, given to me by a good friend, and will be pleased to offer information about it to any member with an interest.

The indenture was made on 26 October 1695 between **Susan Richardson** of Ipswich, widow and sole executrix of the late **John Richardson** of that town, **Jane Playne** of Borley, Essex (another widow), and **Thomas Carter** of Sudbury, saymaker (i.e. a maker of say, a fine-textured cloth). It records that by an indenture dated 26 October 1691, Jane Playne had leased to John Richardson for a term of 1,000 years the premises 'sometimes called the Swan' in Long Melford, and all associated buildings and land, previously in the occupation of **Roger** and **Richard Nunns**. My indenture is an assignment by Susan Richardson, with Jane Playne's agreement, of the remainder of the term of the lease to Thomas Carter. It's a fascinating document and its contents may be of interest to anyone connected to the parties or with Long Melford. My research indicates that Jane Playne was the widow of **William Playne**. There is a pub called The Swan in Long Melford to this day, but I have been unable to determine whether it is the same premises.



The original Indenture

If any member would like a transcript of the indenture, please contact me at the address below.

As a footnote, I write historical fiction, i.e. fiction inspired by but not adhering to historical facts, and am currently working on a series of novellas that will, with some creative effort, make its way back to the Tom Carter in this agreement.

D G Crum

dgc@dgcrum.com

Editors' note: If you have a connection to the people named, or to The Swan, please let us know.

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A GRANDMOTHER'S LEGACY BY JENNY MALLIN

SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION – 11 JANUARY 2023

Jenny set the scene by pointing out that in the 18th century there were more than 10 times as many British soldiers in India as in North America, so there is a good chance that you may have had an ancestor who was stationed and fought there. There were two armies in India – the British Army, and army of the Honourable East India Company. There were also other European nations present in India at the time, notably the French, Portuguese, Danish, and Dutch.

Jenny then selected three of her ancestors, from whom future generations descended, who were in India. **Benjamin Hardy**, **Samuel Sausman**, and **James Shandley**. Benjamin came from Mirfield, Yorkshire, Samuel was actually a German but living in Britain, and James was from Ireland.

Benjamin came from a family of weavers, although he himself was a clothier, someone who was involved in the making, and subsequent selling of cloth. Benjamin, when aged 20, married a local girl, **Frances**, in 1795. His life was about to change even more, as in 1797 he enlisted in the 84th (York and Lancaster) Regiment of Foot. The regiment sailed for India in April 1798 from Portsmouth. The journey typically took 5-7 months and had its own dangers with disease on board, as well as the perils of going round the Cape of Good Hope.

Jenny related some of the battles and sieges Benjamin was involved in, starting with the siege of Bangalore. Benjamin was discharged from the army due to chronic arthritis in 1819, aged 43. He then decided to ask his wife, Frances, to come and settle down in India with him. She agreed and came out, and they had a son, **Joseph**, who became a teacher and subsequently a headmaster. In 1844 he married **Wilhelmina Sausman** and they settled in Bangalore.

Samuel Sausman found himself in England, and in 1787 saw a newspaper advert recruiting men for the 77th (Hindoostan) Regiment of Foot. He decided to join up and went to India with the regiment. Samuel married **Caroline Azevedo** (of Portuguese ancestry) in India, and they had a son, **John Sausman**, born 1801. In 1805, Caroline was heavily pregnant with their second son, but unfortunately was a widow. It is not known whether Samuel had been killed in fighting or died from disease, but Caroline married again on the same day that baby **James** was christened.

When John Sausman was six years and three months old, he signed up as a regimental drummer boy, and would spend his childhood on battlefields in India. John married several times and had children. One of his daughters was Wilhelmina Sausman who married Joseph Hardy.

James Shandley was born in 1773 in Limerick and was a private in the East India Company army from 1793. His son, **John Shandley**, served in the 41st Regiment of Foot at the same time as John Sausman. John eventually married, aged 45, to 16-year-old **Caroline Osborne** from Worcester. Jenny explained the likely circumstances (mainly financial) around such a marriage and described what became known as the ‘fishing fleet’ of potential brides who had to find a husband within a year of arrival in India or be put on the ship back to England.

John and Caroline had four children, and one of their daughters, **Lydia Shandley**, married **Thomas Jeffreys** in 1880. They were great-grandparents to **Jenny Mallin**.

Andy Kerridge
chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk



SFHS FAIRS AND EVENTS 2023

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (March 2023) there are both physical and online events being organised. These are often advertised on the Family History Federation’s website at <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/events>

We also aim to bring Suffolk a little closer to those members living outside the county by attending a variety of events across the country, but as yet, unfortunately, not overseas! Below are details of out-of-county Family History Fairs at which Suffolk FHS will be present, with all available publications and up-to-date, searchable information on our database. Do come and make yourself known to us when we visit your area.

Diss FHG History Fair **11 March 2023 10:00-16:00**
Roydon Village Hall, Details: www.tharston-past.info/DFHG/HistoryFair.html
High Rd, Diss

In addition, there are the following Family History Shows:

RootsTech 2023 **2-4 March 2023**
Online Free Details: www.familysearch.org/rootstech/

Dorset Family History Day 2023 **22 April 2023 10:00-15:00**
St George’s Church Hall, Details: www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/event/family-history-day-2023/
Darby’s Lane, Oakdale, Poole Dorset

Chesterfield & District FHS Family History Showcase **20 May 2023 10:00-16:00**
St Thomas’s Centre, Details: www.cadfhs.org/our-2023-show-case-event-our-very-own-who-do-you-think-you-are/
Brampton, Chesterfield

GROUP PROGRAMMES

All Society members are entitled to attend any or all Group meetings.

**GROUP MEETINGS START TIMES VARY – PLEASE CHECK
THE GROUP CONTACTS PAGE. ALSO CHECK THE SOCIETY WEBSITE
FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION**

TBA = To be arranged : TBC = To be confirmed

AS WE GO TO PRESS, GROUPS HAVE CREATED PROGRAMMES OF
INDOOR PHYSICAL MEETINGS, AS LISTED BELOW. IN ADDITION,
A NUMBER OF ZOOM PRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED

MARCH

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	15	Harvest Time and the Horsemen's Memories, Rural Life in 1900	<i>Ashley Cooper</i>
Haverhill	09	'A Handsome Little Town': a virtual view of Bury St Edmunds	<i>Adrian Tindall</i>
Ipswich	01	Boom and Bust in Medieval Lavenham	<i>Jane Gosling</i>
Lowestoft	07	The Murder of PC McFadden	<i>Trudie Jackson</i>
Sudbury	28	Harvest Time and the Horsemen's Memories, Rural Life in 1900	<i>Ashley Cooper</i>
W. London		No Meeting	

APRIL

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	19	Tea for the British – with a little twist of Suffolk	<i>Miriam Stead</i>
Haverhill	13	Getting a Gong – An Undeserving BEM tells all	<i>Roy Tricker</i>
Ipswich	05	Suffolk Calendar Customs – some strange things in Suffolk of yore	<i>Robert Halliday</i>
Lowestoft	04	Welcome to the Workhouse	<i>Richard Mann</i>
Sudbury	25	We'll Meet Again – An Evacuee's Memories	<i>Bryan Thurlow</i>
W. London		No Meeting	

MAY

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	17	Suffolk's Lost Heritage – Historic Buildings which have Disappeared	<i>Stephen Poulter</i>
Haverhill	11	AGM + Prime Ministers – Who would you vote for?	<i>Group</i>
Ipswich	03	Suffolk Pirate Radio	<i>Charles Wright & Brian Nichols</i>
Lowestoft	02	AGM followed by Research Evening	<i>Group</i>
Sudbury	30	AGM + To Fetch a Pail of Water	<i>Patrick Denney</i>
W. London		TBA	

JUNE

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	15	TBA	
Haverhill	08	Fig-leaves to Feather Boas	<i>Frances Saltmarsh</i>
Ipswich	07	An Outside Visit – TBC	
Lowestoft	06	Photos of Old Lowestoft	<i>Bert Collyer</i>
Sudbury	27	For the Rest of Your Natural Life – Suffolk Convicts to Australia	<i>Pip Wright</i>
W. London		No Meeting	

Please check latest arrangements and details of the meeting topic on the Suffolk FHS Website

Organisers: Please inform *Suffolk Roots* of your upcoming Group Programmes

ZOOM TALKS

Zoom talks for members in March-May 2023 are listed below.

Please put these in your diaries and/or your computer-based calendars.

Further talks, prior to the next edition of *Suffolk Roots*, will be publicised via Facebook and in the News area of the website. Please check regularly for updates regarding upcoming talks, and any future talks.

We intend continuing our very popular Zoom talks even now our Groups are meeting again, as a bonus to members both at home and abroad.

Members will receive an email **shortly before each talk**, notifying them of the event and giving a link to register. If you do not receive such an email, please contact Andy Kerridge, at chairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk.

Please ensure that prior to watching your first Zoom presentation you have downloaded and installed the Zoom software, which may be found at <https://zoom.us/download>, onto your PC, phone or other device.

Monday 13 March 2023 at 7:30pm

The Tale of the Identification of a Signet Ring

Rachel King

Rachel King of the British Museum contacted us a few months ago to ask for help identifying the family linked to a signet ring found by a metal detectorist. Our members provided a great response. Rachel will present on the British Museum and early modern objects found, **including the signet ring mentioned.**

Monday 24 April 2023 at 7:30pm

The Use of Facebook for Family Historians

Valmay Young

Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 7:30pm

The Story of Munitions Workers in World War 2 and how to research them for your Family Tree

Richard Marks

THEMES FOR SUFFOLK ROOTS

The theme of June's edition will be *'All Aboard – It's faster by Rail'*. Please tell us about your ancestors' involvement with railways. Did they work for the railways, or use them for their trade? How did the coming of the railways affect their lives and the community they lived in? Were any of them killed or injured on the railways? Or were they involved in aspects of the railway infrastructure, e.g. civil engineering, artwork, station architecture? Were they affected financially by railway company failures?

Also below are the provisional themes for upcoming editions, to seed ideas for future contributions.

STATUS	ISSUE	THEME TITLE	DATE TO THE EDITOR
Final	Jun 2023	All Aboard – It's faster by Rail	Deadline 20 Apr

Railways in Suffolk and their Workers

With 2023 being the 75th anniversary of rail nationalisation, and the 100th anniversary of Britain's railways being grouped into the 'Big Four' (LNER, GWR, SR, and LMS), we ask:

Did your ancestors work on the railways, or use the railways for their trade?

Were they killed or injured in their work, or involved in rail accidents?

Were they involved with other aspects of railway infrastructure (e.g. buildings) or publicity (e.g. posters, artwork).

How did the coming of rail affect the places your ancestors lived, and their daily lives?

What was the impact of the old lines that went bust or were closed?

Provis'nl	Sep 2023	Where Did They Go?	Deadline 20 Jul
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Our Migrating Forebears

Many of us have found our ancestors moved away from Suffolk, either to other parts of the UK, or further afield:

Where and when did your ancestors go?

Why did they leave?

What did they do when they got there?

How did they travel to their destination?

What was the impact on the family left behind?

Provis'nl	Dec 2023	I'll Drop You A Line	Deadline 20 Oct
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In an age where everyone has a mobile phone, or uses email or social media to communicate, many of us will remember trying to find a working phone box, or making reverse charge calls. But how did our ancestors manage?

Were any of your ancestors a Town Crier? A post runner? Did they use the mail coach? Work on the telegraph?

Did any of them work in the Post Office, or on early telephone systems?

How did your ancestors stay in touch, especially after migration or emigration?

Have you inherited any interesting letters between family members?

Do you have examples of problems due to miscommunication?

Provis'nl Mar 2024

All at Sea

Deadline 20 Jan

Shipwrecks and Lifeboats, Mariners and Shipbuilders

2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI. The treacherous seas off the East Coast of Britain have meant that many of our ancestors may have volunteered with the RNLI or been involved in shipwrecks.

Was your ancestor a lifeboatman or rescuer of shipwreck victims?

Did they campaign for safety at sea? Raise money for lifeboats?

Were your ancestors mariners or passengers? Were they shipwrecked?

How did losses at sea affect the families and communities involved?

Were your ancestors shipbuilders, or work in shipyards?

Did your ancestors serve at sea in the armed forces?

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions for the Membership year beginning 1 April 2023:

A – UK Full postal membership/joint ⁽¹⁾	£12.00
B – UK Full electronic membership/joint ⁽¹⁾	£10.00
C – UK Senior citizen or young person/joint ⁽¹⁾ : Postal or electronic (>60 on 1 April, or under 16)	£10.00
D – Overseas membership (air-mail)	£25.00
E – Overseas electronic membership	£10.00
F – Life membership ⁽²⁾	£120.00

¹ If joint membership is applied for, all members must reside at the same address

² Life membership is not available for overseas postal

Anyone joining during the membership year will receive or be granted access to copies of *Suffolk Roots* for that membership year. To enquire about membership, please contact the Membership Secretary whose details are in the list of Officers, below.

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies : Reg. Charity No. 1087748 : Company Reg. No. 4191740

PATRON

Douglas A. Howlett

TRUSTEES

Kenneth J. Finch, David Horton, Joan Horton, Andy Kerridge, Jean Licence,
Brian Thompson, Susan Flockton, Carolyn Alderson, Kevin Pulford

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If you are interested in taking up a vacant post or becoming
a member of the team, please contact any Trustee.

Please address your queries, letters and e-mails
to the appropriate officer at the above e-mail address.

GROUP CONTACTS FOR 2023

Bury St Edmunds:

Meet 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:

The Hyndman Centre, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3JT

Contact – Chair: Kevin Pulford, 23 Bristol Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2DH

Tel: 01284 701252

e-mail: burystedmunds@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Haverhill:

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:

Old Independent Church Hall, Hamlet Road, Haverhill, CB9 9EF

Contact – Secretary: Charmian Thompson, 5 Hadrian Close, Haverhill, CB9 0NH

Tel: 01440 712652

e-mail: haverhill@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Ipswich:

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month, at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:

The Salvation Army Citadel, 558 Woodbridge Rd, Ipswich, IP4 4PH

**Contact – Secretary: Jenny Rawlinson, 10 Carlford Court, 112, Parliament Road,
Ipswich, IP4 5EL**

Tel: 01473 902367

e-mail: ipswich@suffolkfhs.org.uk

or **Chair: Howard King, 11 Bodiam Road, Ipswich, IP3 8QP**

Tel: 01473 274300

e-mail: howard.king1@outlook.com

Lowestoft:

Meet 1st Tuesday of the month, at 7:30pm (doors open 7:00pm), unless otherwise stated, at:

St Margarets Church Hall, Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4BW

Contact – Chair: Janis Kirby

e-mail: lowestoft@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Sudbury & District:

Meet last Tuesday of the month, at 2:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:

Long Melford Village Hall, Long Melford, CO1 9LQ (Opposite Bull Hotel)

Contact – Chair: Sheila Piper – Preferred contact is by e-mail

Tel: N/A

e-mail: sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk

West of London:

Meet occasional Saturdays from 2-5 pm at:

Bishopshalt School, Royal Lane, Hillingdon, Uxbridge.

Contact – Mrs Joan Horton, 26 The Crescent, Slough, SL1 2LQ (SSAE please).

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We are well on the way to our objective of publishing all remaining records from the 1538 start of parish registration up to 1900 (to 1837 for marriages).

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