

SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 50 : No. 1 : June 2024



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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VOLUME 50 : NUMBER 1 : JUNE 2024



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Theme of this Issue

Animals

How did animals feature in our ancestors' lives?

Cover Picture

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Suffolk Roots

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SUFFOLK ROOTS

Journal of Suffolk Family History Society

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TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

A warm welcome to new members since the last edition of *Suffolk Roots* and a huge thank you to those members who have renewed.

We had a fabulous time attending and participating in the recent Family History Federation's Really Useful Show at St Ives. It was great to meet some of you there. We are now planning our own Fair which will be on 19 October, once again at The Hold in Ipswich. We are planning celebrations for next year too, which will be the 50th birthday of the Society.

In the March journal, **Pamela Palgrave** announced that she was standing down from her involvement with the Suffolk Marriage Index after over 30 years. **Yvonne Hesketh** has taken over the index. The photograph shows Pamela holding a copy of her first Marriage Index: Thingoe Deanery 1813-1837, published as a booklet and on fiche in 1992. Yvonne is holding a copy of her latest deanery area compilation: Hartismere Deanery 1538-1649, details of which will feature in the Marriage Index news elsewhere in this journal.



Talking about change brings me to yet more important news. We have decided to make significant changes to our website. Until now, it has been put together and managed by volunteers and this has served us very well. However, the demands on our volunteer webmaster, Joe, have increased due to much more activity on the website now; the software behind our shop has become difficult to manage as it is much more complex than our needs require; and the split nature of the website and shop seems to cause more and more problems. Thus, we have agreed to change to a company called Beachshore (who have experience of other family history websites, including that of the Family History Federation). They will design and build a new website and then manage it for us. The change will take some time, so the existing website will continue until the new website works and fulfils our needs.

One of the causes of the increased website activity is that we are 'on a roll' with transcriptions, with an index being released seemingly every month or so. We thank our transcribers of course, but there are others involved as well getting the data to you and we thank them as well – **Derek Wright**, **Arthur Bird**, **Joe Bridgewater Rower** (webmaster) and **Jean Licence** (Publications).

There are two roles we would really like to fill – one is an independent member to serve on the finance committee – not an onerous task as it meets infrequently, but

having an independent member is important. The other is for someone to take over running the social media – we have Facebook, Twitter (X), Groups.io, Mastodon, and possibly Threads, but keeping pace with these and keeping them active takes time. Also, we would like 2-3 more Trustees – non-specific roles to start with. If any of these positions are of interest, please contact me.

We are pleased to announce an initial meeting of a new Bury St Edmunds group on 26 June, 7:30pm, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Symonds Rd, Bury, IP32 7DZ. **Charmian Thompson** will be speaking on ‘Restful corners – a light hearted look at cemeteries and memorials’. Please come and support it.

Lastly long-standing member and honorary life member, **Harry Chesney**, has stood down. He joined the Society in 1992, firstly with the Bury St Edmunds group and then helped form the Sudbury Group. I am sure there is more, but we wish Harry well.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 1 February and 27 April 2024. If you see a name you are interested in, take a note of the member’s number and visit the **Members’ Interests** section of our website (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 end of this journal) briefly outlining your interest, and your contact details, and he will forward them to the relevant member.

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Alexander	SFK	Trimley, Falkenham	All	13008
Ambrose	SFK	Sudbury	1700s-1800s	12988
Ambrose	SFK	Cavendish	All	12976
Amev	SFK	Sudbury	1600-1900	12973
Antingham	SFK	Beccles	All	12983
Baker	SFK	Beccles, Saxmundham	1800-1870	12983
Banham	SFK	Rattlesden	All	13004
Barber	ESS	Borley	1700-1900	12973
Barber	SFK	Cavendish	1700-1900	12973
Bareham	SFK	Clare, Stoke by Clare	1600-1840	13005
Barrett	SFK	Great Thurlow	1780 on	12991
Baysey	SFK	Polstead	1650-1850	13011
Bedford	SFK	Any	All	12966
Beeton	SFK	Lavenham	All	13009
Bennett	SFK	Mellis	Pre-1840	12993
Bird	SFK	Ilketshall	1800-1900	12985
Bishop	SFK	Halesworth area	1500-1840	13005
Boon	NFK	Gillingham	1800-1870	12983
Boon	SFK	Beccles	1800-1870	12983

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Brock	SFK	Any	All	12966
Brown	SFK	Glemsford	1600-1900	12980
Brown	SFK	Haverhill	1800-1900	12998
Buckle	SFK	Any	Pre-1840	12993
Burrows	SFK	Trimley, Clopton, Ipswich	Pre-1840	12993
Cannell	SFK	Wortham, Gorleston	1800-1900	12960
Catchpole	SFK	Bungay, Beccles	All	13002
Cattermole	ANY	Any	1500-1900	12975
Chad	SFK	Stoke by Nayland	1563-1720	13011
Chambers	SFK	Any	Pre-1820	12989
Chase	SFK	Burgate	1800s	12964
Clark	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12970
Clayton	SFK	Glemsford	1800-1900	12998
Cole	SFK	Wangford/Southwold	1790-1870	12985
Collins	ANY	Any	All	12969
Collins	SFK	Kirton	All	13008
Cook	SFK	Saxmundham	Pre-1840	12993
Coote	SFK	Risbridge, Keddington	1600-1909	12981
Coppen	SFK	Wortham, Eye	All	13010
Crack	SFK	Gazeley	1780-1900	12995
Crane	SFK	Great Thurlow	1780 on	12991
Crick	SFK	Wickhambrook	1760-1880	12995
Croxson	SFK	Any	Pre-1840	12993
Cullington	SFK	Witnesham, Burgh, Washbrook	1600-1900	12973
Cundy	SFK	Lavenham	All	13009
Cunnell	SFK	Wortham, Gorleston	1800-1900	12960
Cutter	SFK	Edwardstoe, Lindsey, Kersey	1600-1900	12973
Dade	ANY	Any	1500-1800	12975
Dale	SFK	Wherstead, Hintlesham	All	13011
Davenport	SFK	Bungay, Beccles	All	13002
Davey	SFK	Lavenham	All	13009
Day	SFK	Lavenham	All	13009
Devereux	SFK	Fornham St Martin, Great Barton	1799-1880	12974
Drane	SFK	Hemley	1769-1850	12995
Durrant	SFK	Kenton	1750-1850	12959
Dye	SFK	Wortham, Eye	All	13010
Eighteen	SFK	Hadleigh, Nayland	1750 on	12996
Eldridge	ANY	Any	All	12964
Fitch	SFK	Thurlow, Great Wrattling	1700-1900	12961
Flatt	ANY	Any	All	12987
Fokes	SFK	Stoke by Nayland	1563-1720	13011
Frost	SFK	Barningham	1600-1900	12980
Frost	SFK	Kersey, Hadleigh	All	12971
Gardiner	SFK	Kersey, Hadleigh	All	12971
Garnham	ANY	Any	All	12969
Gladwell	SFK	Rattlesden	All	13004
Goldsmith	SFK	Monewden	1769 on	12995
Gotts	SFK	Timworth, Rattlesden	1600-1900	12980
Gridley	SFK	Glemsford	1600-1900	12980
Hall	SFK	Any	All	12966
Hammond	SFK	Lavenham	All	13009
Hampson	ANY	Any	All	12969
Hart	ANY	Any	1830-1880	12965
Harvey	SFK	Wilby, Brandestone, Horham	1800s	12964
Hayward	SFK	Timworth	1600-1900	12980
Heard	ANY	Any	All	12963
Hearsum	SFK	Brantham, Capel St Mary	All	12984
Hinde	SFK	Hengrave, Flempton, Gazeley	1700 on	12972
Hinds	SFK	Hengrave, Flempton, Gazeley	1700 on	12972
Hockley	SFK	Trimley, Great Bealings	All	13008
Hudson	KEN	Any	1700-1900	12982
Hudson	SFK	Ipswich	1700-1900	12982

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Hynes	SFK	Hengrave, Flempton, Gazeley	1700 on	12972
Ingledow	ANY	Any	All	12970
Inngle	ANY	Any	All	12976
Iron	SFK	Ipswich	1700-1900	12967
Jakeman	ANY	Any	All	12963
Jay	SFK	Melton	1765-1880	12995
Kimm	ANY	Any	All	12969
Larter	SFK	Mellis	Pre-1840	12993
Laws	SFK	Mutford	1800-1900	12985
Leeder	SFK	Wortham, Eye	All	13010
Leggett	ANY	Any	All	12987
Lewis	SFK	Hasketon	1700s	12988
Lewis	SFK	Capel St Mary	1813-1835	12957
Lilley	SFK	Ipswich, Polstead	1582-1900	13011
Lloyd	SFK	Hintlesham	1700-1900	12982
Lofts	SFK	Great Barton	1796-1850	12974
London	SFK	Hawkedon	1600-1851	12981
Lord	SFK	Great Bricett	1625-1725	13011
Love	SFK	Bungay, Beccles	All	13002
Mann	SFK	Any	All	12994
Manning	SFK	Any	All	12994
Margetts	LND	Isle of Dogs	1800-1945	12998
Marshall	SFK	Sudbury	All	12976
Martin	SFK	Hartismere	All	12978
Mayall	ANY	Any	All	12959
Mayes	SFK	Falkenham	All	13008
McMinnies	SFK	Bury St Edmunds	1833-1890	12965
Mee	SFK	Any	All	12994
Moore	ANY	Any	All	12969
Moyler	SFK	Pakefield	1939	12968
Mullinger	SFK	Wortham	1805 on	12977
Musk	SFK	Burgate	1837	12964
Musk	ANY	Any	All	12987
Naunton	SFK	Marlesford	1600-1800	12973
Nevil	SFK	Hadleigh	Pre-1900	12982
Newman	SFK	Sudbury	Pre-1950s	12958
Norman	SFK	Gazeley, Kentford	1700 on	12972
Nunn	SFK	Hitcham, Bildeston	1650-1850	12992
O'Neill	SFK	Bungay, Beccles	All	13002
Ongé	SFK	Sudbury	All	12988
Osbourne	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12970
Pallant	SFK	Hartismere	All	12978
Palmer	SFK	Hartismere	All	12978
Paxman	SFK	Withersfield	All	13003
Payne	SFK	Any	All	12966
Pearce	ANY	Any	All	12969
Pearce	SFK	Elmsett	All	12997
Percy	SFK	Elmsett	All	12997
Perry	ANY	Any	All	12963
Petley	SFK	Lavenham	All	13009
Pipe	SFK	Stradbroke	Pre-1650	12979
Pitcher	SFK	Carlton Colville	1830-1930	12985
Podd	SFK	Ipswich, Bramford	1750-1850	12967
Potter	SFK	Debenham	Before 1850	12984
Pype	SFK	Stradbroke	Pre-1650	12979
Radford	SFK	Any	1600-1920	12981
Raison	SFK	Stoke by Clare	1600-1840	13005
Raynham	SFK	Any	1500-1900	12973
Reeder	NFK	Any	Pre-1900	12982
Reeder	SFK	Ipswich	Pre-1900	12982
Reeve	SFK	Rickinghall, Bredfield, Ipswich	All	12984
Reeves	SFK	Walton	All	13008

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Revett	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1825	12967
Riamo	ANY	Any	All	12963
Richardson	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12970
Roberts	SFK	Hartismere	All	12978
Roe	SFK	Rattlesden	All	13004
Roffe	SFK	Stoke by Nayland	1563-1720	13011
Rolfe	SFK	Bury St Edmunds	1845-1890	12965
Rush	SFK	Gazeley	1700 on	12972
Sage	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1900	12967
Savage	SFK	Hundon	1600-1875	12981
Scarfe	SFK	Bury St Edmunds, Lavenham, Norton, Woolpit	1515-1850	12974
Skoyle	SFK	Hadleigh	1563	13011
Smith	NFK	Any	1700-1900	12982
Smith	SFK	Ipswich	1700-1900	12982
Smith	SFK	Any	All	12966
Smith	SFK	Stratford St Mary, Erwarton	All	12997
Smith	SFK	Sudbury	Pre-1950s	12958
Sparkes	SFK	Rattlesden	All	13004
Spurling	SFK	Any	All	12994
Spurrell	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12970
Squirrell	SFK	Any	Pre-1840	12993
Stearn	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1870	12967
Stearn	SFK	Glemsford	1800-1880	12965
Steggall	SFK	Hartismere	All	12978
Stiff	ANY	Any	All	13004
Stiff	SFK	Raydon	All	12996
Stollery	SFK	Any	All	12988
Stowe	SFK	Polstead	1650-1850	13011
Stringer	SFK	Grimstone End (Ixworth)	1733 on	12977
Stringer	SFK	Thorndon	1768-1791	12977
Suggate	SFK	Mutford	1830-1930	12985
Suggate	SFK	Saxmundham	Pre-1840	12993
Summersett	SFK	Hadleigh	1700-1900	12982
Sutton	SFK	Polstead	1650-1850	13011
Taylor	SFK	Stoke by Nayland	1563-1720	13011
Taylor	SFK	Hadleigh, Any	1810-1830	12996
Theobald	SFK	Sudbury	All	12988
Thompson	SFK	Kedington	1600-1920	12981
Thurston	SFK	Ipswich, Lowestoft	1700-1850	12984
Took	SFK	Beccles, Halesworth	All	12983
Torbel	SFK	Sudbury	1835-1860	12977
Torbold	SFK	Sudbury	1791	12977
Townes	SFK	Polstead	1650-1850	13011
Traylen	SFK	Great Thurlow	1750 on	12991
Turner	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1880	12967
Turner	SFK	Hartismere	All	12978
Wakeling	SFK	Great Thurlow	1700 on	12991
Waller	SFK	Lowestoft	1850-1950	12985
Ward	SFK	Hadleigh	1563	13011
Watt	ANY	Any	All	12969
Webb	SFK	Stradishall	1600-1877	12981
Webb	SFK	Hadleigh, Any	1810-1830	12996
Whiting	SFK	Haverhill	1800-1900	12998
Whynn	SFK	Stoke by Nayland	1563-1720	13011
Wingfield	ANY	Any	1400-1700	12975
Wink	SFK	Falkenham, Kirton	All	13008
Wiseman	SFK	Burgate, Barningham, Glemsford, Melford	1600-1900	12980
Woodard	SFK	Shottisham	1770-1850	12988
Woods	SFK	Coombs, Hadleigh, Lindsey (Ravens Hall)	1841-1910	12959
Woods	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	12970
Woodthorpe	SFK	Hadleigh	1800-1900	12959
Woolnough	SFK	Sutton, Woodbridge, Brundish	1770-1870	12995

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Wright	SFK	Risby, Westley, Gazeley	1790-1900	12995
Wright	SFK	Trumpington	1880-1910	12995
Wymark	SFK	Semer	1801-1850	12959

BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

We are happy to bring you good news of our progress with yet more baptisms, but not of the outcome of those 'unforeseen challenges' we reported on last time. We will, though, work around these 'obstructions' and continue with the project.

New release

Our latest phase 3 release (1650-1753) is for the combined deaneries of South Elmham and Wangford, centred on the market towns of Beccles and Bungay and stretching along the border with Norfolk, from Homersfield in the west to North Cove in the east.

Our thanks for this go to our dedicated team of volunteers working from home, several from outside the county:

Jenny Acott

Jan Broderick

Pauline Campos

Nicky Lewis

Mike Newstead

Enid Rispin (late)

Pat Smith and

Ros Theobald


Also, our thanks to those equally dedicated early pioneers of the Society, including members of the Lowestoft Group, whose transcripts have been most useful.

Suffolk Baptism Index


South Elmham & Wangford Deaneries

1650* - 1753*

Barsham, Beccles,
 Bungay, [Holy Trinity (1650-1690, 1709-1753),
 St Mary], Ellough, Flixton, Homersfield (-1743),
 Ilketshall St Andrew (1684-),
 Ilketshall St John (-1652), Ilketshall St Lawrence,
 Ilketshall St Margaret, Mettingham (1652-),
 North Cove (1696-), Redisham, Ringsfield (1751-),
 Shadingfield, Shipmeadow, Sotterley,
 South Elmham All Saints (1708-),
 South Elmham St Cross, South Elmham St James,
 South Elmham Margaret (1679-),
 South Elmham St Michael,
 South Elmham St Peter (1696-), Weston,
 Worlingham.



SFK-BPI-16/P3
PDF



CDs and downloads are available from our online shop at <https://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.

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 parish files, published or not, are also available from our Baptism Search Service, details at the back of the journal.

Progress

You may recall the future of our team working from the Bury Record Office was put under threat by the unexpected proposal from Suffolk County Council in January to close this branch, as well as the one at Lowestoft. Regrettably this was approved at a full Council meeting in February, too late for the March edition of *Suffolk Roots*.

However, our teams, with the full support of the Society, are determined to work around this and other 'obstructions' and are presently reformulating our plans to continue our work. Meanwhile, transcribing continues on the remaining phase 3 deanery areas, below, to complete our county-wide coverage from 1650 to 1900:

- Our Bury team have just completed their work on Sudbury East, the last phase 3 deanery area in the west, and its release is expected shortly, so do check our website, newsletter, etc.
- Our Ipswich team are continuing to make good progress on their last and largest phase 3 deanery of Dunwich.
- Our Home team are also progressing well on the final phase 3 deanery area – Lothingland – with over half of the parishes completed.

Work is also underway on the final phase 4 (1538-1649) tranche of surviving parish registers – so we're getting there!

Gleanings

And now a good collection of odd register entries recently found by Christine, Diane and members of their Bury and Ipswich teams, together with those from Yvonne Hesketh whilst doing the marriages. We hope this gives you pause for thought about the lives and times of our ancestors ... with some even raising a smile!

- Little Bradley - 18 July 1613 – after the baptism of '*William son of George LeHunt*' the vicar has added '*that's Sir George (knight) to you peasants*'.
- Linstead Magna – '*Samuel the son of Robert Waley for which was hanged at St Edmunds Bury the last Assize, was baptised 6th Sep 1724*'. Grammar was not their thing – it reads most strangely, but that's how it's written!
- Burgate - 11 August 1672: '*James Baxter died of ye smallpox and buried in his orchard.*' Surely an odd thing for an Anglican register unless because of the infection risk?
- Eye - 15 July 1561: '*Mr John Page Vicar did ring his bell*'. No reason given but it made us smile!
- Mellis - 15 May 1632: '*Susan Green a poore maide was Drowned in the ditch by the churchyard. She was buried that night Mr John Dobbs Coroner*'.

- Mellis - 14 April 1649: '*Nicholas Namelesse a popish recusant living at the hall was buried*'. Some indication of the religious/Royalist leanings of the hall's owners? And obviously not shared by the clergyman!
- Oakley - '*A stranger whose name not known was buried the 6th of January 1564 out of William Deale's house*'. A positive 'brick wall' for family historians!
- Oakley - '*Thomas the son of one Woman (calling her selfe) Judithe the wife of one Thomas Finche of Ocley [sic] in Essex was baptised the fourthe day of Jannuarie 1601. The same Thomas was buryed the fourteenth day of the same month*'. Did the clergyman believe her? Or was he just pedantic!
- Rishangles - '*Richard Cowpes, a vagrant youth having wandered as far as out of Cornwall by his own relation, when he could travel not further by reason of sickness, dyed here, and was buried the 12th of December 1638*'
- Wattisham – **John** son of **John Downing**: '*mother Jane Prentice his daughter in law*'.
- Nayland - '*Stephen son of Ann Carter - bb; mother a widow, father Stephen Cole, a married man*'.
- Nayland – '*William Cook son of Sarah Cook wife of Thomas Cook and William Thurston with whom she cohabits*'.
- Nayland – '*Margaret Bruce daughter of Elizabeth, father is Youngman whom she married not knowing him to have another wife living*'.
- Cransford – '*Joseph Farrow a vagrant about 16 years old with Light Brown Curled Hair of a fresh Complexion, was publicly whipt in this parish by ye Constable March 27 1712, and by a pass sent to Bruisyard, in order to be conveyed the nearest way from parish to parish, to ye town of Walberswick where the said Joseph Farrow confessed his last legal settlement was*'.
- Easton – 1637: '*Robert Crispe the Sexton was Slaine in Goodman Pallants Gravell pitts with the ground falling upon him June 3rd as he was digging there and buried the same day*' - gruesome death for the poor man.
- Easton, also 1637, '*Susanne Spalding Servant of William Hering died in the birth of a base childe Januarie 16 and was buried Januarie 17*'.
- (next entry) '*Dorcas daughter of the saide Susanne Spalding and James Sayre the reputed Father, Servant of William Herin, was baptised Januarie 21st*'. A detailed entry and most helpful for growing the family tree!

We hope you'll agree that's a hearty helping of Baptism entries, plus gleanings, we've brought you, and here's to news of more next time.

Alan Bumpstead

Baptism Index Co-ordinator

baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk

NEW MARRIAGE INDEX RELEASE

In great admiration of all Pamela's dedicated work for the Society and the help it's brought to countless members over many, many, years, we are delighted to be able to bring you a double helping of marriages this time.

The first, a special new release, is a compilation of over 95,000 marriages, held at 501 Suffolk churches, between 1754 and 1812.

These were compiled by Pamela and her team of dedicated helpers from the early noughties, and originally published in a series of eight deanery areas between 2007 and 2013.

This single volume will give you an opportunity to more easily search every corner of the county for those distant relatives and perhaps extend the spread and size of your family tree.

The second new release takes us back to the earliest surviving registers in the Hartismere deanery, some from 1538, and covers 25 parishes from Bacton in the southwest to Eye in the northeast.

For those of you with 'roots' in Hartismere this latest phase 4 (1538-1649) release means the scope for your research has been extended by over 200 years in just 3 months, following on from the release of phase 3 (1650-1753) marriages announced in the previous edition of this journal. Hopefully it will bring success for you.

CDs and downloads are available from our online shop at <https://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. All entries are available from our Search Service – see page 97 for details.

Suffolk Marriage Index

1754 - 1812



SFK-MI-P2
PDF



Suffolk Marriage Index

Hartismere Deanery

1538* - 1649*



Aspall (1559-), Bacton (1539-), Brome (1563-1645),
Burgate (1560-), Cotton (1539-), Eye (1538-), Finningham (1560-),
Gislingham (1588-), Mellis (1560-1647), Mendlesham (1558-),
Oakley (1539-1647), Palgrave (1563-), Redgrave (1562-1647),
Rickinghall Superior (1558-1647), Rishangles (1593-),
Stoke Ash (1540-1646), Stuston (1631-1646), Thorndon (1538-),
Thornham Magna (1582-), Thrandeston (1559-),
Westhorpe (1539-1644), Wetheringsett cum Brockford (1556-),
Wickham Skeith (1558-1641), Wortham (1538-), Wyverstone (1561-).



SFK-MI-41
PDF

Special thanks to all those dedicated members of the Society who have been involved with the Suffolk Marriage Index over many years, and who produced transcripts of many of the parishes on this latest deanery collection. All these have now been checked against fiche copies of the registers (helped by members of the Baptisms Home team), and some, where necessary, against the original registers. The latter exercise was greatly assisted by the Baptisms team at The Hold.

Special thanks also to Arthur Bird and Derek Wright, who have been responsible for compiling and formatting every CD, and now downloads, since the project began. We hope to be bringing you more releases – and further successes in your research – very soon.

Yvonne Hesketh
Marriages Index Co-ordinator

Alan Bumpstead
Baptism Index Co-ordinator

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RESCUED WILLS

Some months ago, we were contacted by a solicitor's office in Ipswich, asking if we were interested in some old probate documents. They had been offered to Suffolk Archives, who didn't want them, so did we? Otherwise, they were going to be trashed. Well, the immediate answer was obviously 'Yes'. There were 43 documents, a mixture of probate and letters of administration. The oldest dates from 1898 (on, I guess, A1 or A2-sized parchment), which member **Rachel Lucas** has kindly transcribed. The rest were mostly typed, and dated mostly from the 1940s. They feature surnames beginning with A, and a few beginning with B. One wonders what happened to the remainder of the B's, and indeed the rest of the alphabet? Maybe (we hope) they are yet to come our way.

Not all relate to people living in Suffolk – a few were from Essex and Norfolk, and a couple from Sussex and Devon. The documents usually give the date and place of death, the normal address of the deceased, and the gross value of the estate, in addition to the will / administration information. They vary from the letters of administration typically of one page, to quite lengthy documents with codicils and, where property was involved, the details of sale and to whom. Most are typewritten, with maybe a few handwritten comments about property sales. A few are handwritten, including the (now transcribed) 1898 one. I have read through all of them and summarise the data in the table below. If you wish to receive a copy of any of the documents (I will photograph them), please email me at the address below.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

Client Surname	Client Forename(s)	Doc	Year	Of	Comment
Adams	George	Probate	1929	Tattingstone	To Rose May Day
Addison	Constance Louise	Probate	1941	Bognor Regis SSX	3 cousins named
Addison	Edith Annie	Probate	1936	Bognor Regis SSX	Sister
Aldous	Edward Henry	Admin	1941	Worlingworth	aka Harry Aldous, son named
Aldous	Caroline Elizabeth	Probate	1943	Debenham	3 children named
Aldrich	John Bennett	Probate	1914	Eye	Wife
Aldridge	Frederick	Admin	1946	Yaxley	Wife
Aldridge	Sarah Ann	Probate	1937	Aldeburgh	Widow, son named
Alexander	Harriett	Admin	1942	Ipswich	Husband
Algar	Dorothea	Probate	1946	Claydon	Nephew & 2 nieces named
Allen	Minnie	Admin	1940	Ipswich	Husband named
Allen	William	Probate	1939	Bramfield	Wife and daughter
Allsop	Robert	Admin	1943	Winfarthing NFK	Daughter & son, + wife's death cert!
Andrew	Flora	Admin	1942	Finningham	Wife of Thomas, son named
Andrew	Thomas	Admin	1936	Finningham	Wife and son
Andrew	William Henry	Probate	1939	Ipswich	Brother, son & daughter
Applin	Amy Winifred	Admin	1947	N Lopham NFK	Wife of A G Applin, son named
Applin	Arthur George	Admin	1946	N Lopham NFK	Wife and son
Arbon	Alfred	Probate	1942	Worham	Housekeeper named
Archer	Samuel David	Admin	1940	Braiseworth	Wife
Ashplant	Charlotte Elizab'th	Admin	1922	Ridgewell ESS	Husband, 4 children not named
Ashplant	Henry	Probate	1922	Ridgewell ESS	Husband of C E, 4 children named
Ashton	Ellen Elizabeth	Admin	1941	Ipswich	Husband
Askew	Annie Eliza	Admin	1947	Ipswich	Husband (Frederick)
Askew	Frederick	Admin	1947	Ipswich	Widower of A E Askew
Athroll	Harriett	Probate	1940	Ipswich	4 children, son-in-law, sister named
Austin	Elizabeth Jane	Probate	1933	Ipswich	11 children named
Ayles	Edward	Probate	1939	Yaxley	Son and daughter
Bailey	George	Admin	1931	Ipswich	Wife
Bailey	Ellen Mary	Probate	1945	Ipswich	6 children & 1 grand-daughter
Bailey	Henry	Probate	1932	Eye	Wife
Baker	Benjamin	Probate	1940	Wingfield	6 children and brother-in-law
Baker	Edward	Probate	1933	Ipswich	8 children named. Many properties
Baker	Louisa Kate	Probate	1949	Ipswich	3 nieces & husbands, & 2 nephews
Balderson	Ellen Louisa Jane	Admin	1941	Clacton	Husband
Baldry	Herbert Alan	Admin	1944	Ipswich	Wife and daughter
Baldwin	Grace Mabel	Probate	1947	Palgrave	Husband and son
Ball	Alice	Admin	1932	Thorndon	Husband
Ball	George Alfred	Admin	1935	Thorndon	2nd wife and only son
Banbury	Bessie	Admin	1936	Plymouth DEV	Brother
Barber	George	Admin	1948	Dickleburgh NFK	Sister
Bardwell	William James	Probate	1949	Ipswich	Wife and son
Bennett	William	Probate	1898	Ipswich and Felixstowe	Wife and 4 sons, wife's sister

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the first issue of our 50th volume! The first ever *Suffolk Roots* can be viewed in the Members' Area of the Society website – look for **Search past issues of the Suffolk Roots journal**. It was four pages of typewritten text, and included information on the first 32 members (some of whom are still members today) and their interests. No photos, and no colour.

We hope you enjoyed the Communications theme in the last edition, and some of the interesting images that were included on postcards. This issue's focus is Animals, and our ancestors' involvement with them. We hope you will agree that we have some interesting submissions, including drovers, gamekeepers, butchers, those who bred horses or dogs, an item about stagecoaches and their horses, and various folk who kept livestock in addition to their main employment. Indeed, one of the editors' own ancestors changed occupation from tailor to a farmer, although we don't know the reason for this (but perhaps with a surname of **Salmon** he should have been a fisherman!).

The theme for September's edition is 'All at Sea', as this year commemorates the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI, and there have been some interesting programmes on the television recently highlighting their valuable and courageous efforts. With the East Anglian coastline being on the main coastal trading routes, and with numerous notable storms, there would have been a lot of people either victims of shipwreck, or involved in rescue efforts. Or perhaps, with so many of our ancestors emigrating or visiting overseas relatives, they were involved in maritime dramas. There are more ideas in the Future Themes section later in this issue, but as always, we welcome articles on any aspect of family history, whether Suffolk-related or otherwise.

Lesley Hall and Rob Ward
Co-editors, Suffolk Roots

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FISHER ROWLETT, CATTLE DROVER

Fisher Rowlett was born in 1803. Little is known of his childhood, but census records confirm he spent his adult life in Upwell, a small village between Wisbech in Cambridgeshire and Downham Market in Norfolk.

County borders have changed in the past two centuries, and Upwell now lies officially in Cambridgeshire, while its sister village of Outwell, just along the road, is in Norfolk. The names stem from the local well from which it is said 13th-century Benedictine monks drew water to use for their non-alcoholic Norfolk Punch. Still available today from



Upwell village sign and the River Nene by Mat Fascione, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

specialist stores, the ingredients for this ancient recipe include natural spring water, honey, herbs, and berries.

Fisher married **Alice Humphrey** from West Walton on Tuesday 2 September 1823, and 20 years later they had produced 12 children. Their living accommodation would have been small, perhaps with a leaking roof and very little space. As an agricultural labourer, Fisher would have struggled to provide enough food for his large family.

By 1861 Fisher's occupation was recorded in the census as '*Dealer in Stock*', and he continued working in the cattle trade for another 26 years until his death in 1887. Subsequent census records referred to him as either dealer, or drover, or both. Was he one of a group of men on horseback riding across the fenlands in a similar fashion to the Wild West films of the mid-20th century? He was certainly responsible for taking cattle to market to sell, and for purchasing new beasts to replenish the herd.

It was common practice for Scottish drovers to bring their stock to the London markets, travelling across the Pennines and down the Great North Road, turning eastwards towards Norfolk. Some droves consisted of over 200 animals, with a team of four men driving them. The 'topsmen' was in charge, riding ahead to warn oncoming traffic and arrange overnight shelter for himself and his companions. They covered between 12 and 15 miles a day following the established route to where the A14 and M11 now link East Anglia with the metropolis. Any cattle not sold during their journey south were taken to Smithfield Market in London, held twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays. East Anglian herdsman, including Fisher Rowlett and his sons, also drove their employers' cattle there.

A drover's pay was around three to four shillings a day, twice the wage Fisher had previously earned as a farm labourer. It is unlikely his herd would have been as large as those from Scotland, but we can be sure he was spending the majority of his working day transporting cattle to and from various markets in East Anglia and London until he was over 80.

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THE STRANGE CASE OF THE EARL'S GAMEKEEPERS

Hunting has long been a feature of rural life in England, with a focus on riding to hounds in pursuit of deer, boar, and foxes. During the 18th and early 19th centuries, the improvement of shotguns and the impact of the enclosure movement led to a rise in popularity of the hunting of game, notably pheasants and partridge. In order to protect their birds, landowners employed gamekeepers to cull competitive species

such as foxes, magpies and birds of prey, and to improve their coverts and other habitats to encourage game to proliferate.

However, the growing abundance of game birds was a temptation to others. Poaching, i.e. the shooting or taking of birds or animals on someone else's land without their permission, has long been a crime. It was originally a capital offence, but agitation to reduce the severity of the law came to fruition in 1823 when it was made an imprisonable offence only. This change, coupled with the effects of rural poverty and the ready availability of game on landed estates, seems to have generated an increase in poaching activity. The effect was certainly felt in Suffolk - of the prisoners committed to the County Gaol in Ipswich and to Bury Gaol in 1842-1844, about 1 in 8 (12.5%) had been convicted under the game laws: 158 out of 1,177 in 1842, 186 of 1,365 in 1843 and 148 of 1,220 in 1844.⁽¹⁾ Landowners responded by employing more keepers to protect their birds, which in turn led to escalation by the poachers who would go out in armed gangs, with the inevitable risk of violent clashes in dark woods late at night.

Unsurprisingly, the issue became a political one. In 1844 it sprang onto the front pages as a result of strange events in Suffolk. These were the suicides, on consecutive days, of two of the **Earl of Stradbroke's** gamekeepers. The first to die was the Head Gamekeeper, **William Easey** (54), who on Saturday 30 August shot himself in the head in one of the coverts near his cottage on the Earl's Henham Hall estate. The following day, the senior Assistant Gamekeeper, **John Cucksey** (56), also died from a gunshot wound to the head at his cottage in Henham, shortly after returning from a walk with his family. The two deaths, occurring within 24 hours of each other, must have been traumatic for that small rural community. It was reported that after Cucksey's death, another of the assistant gamekeepers had to be placed under restraint owing to the '*alarming excitement*' which the tragic events had created in the man's mind.⁽²⁾

The inquests were held jointly at Henham Hall a few days later.⁽³⁾ Witnesses testified that William Easey had been despondent for some time and had exhibited '*evident symptoms of mental derangement*', though no reason was suggested for this and no detail was given. The jury brought in a verdict of insanity. As for John Cucksey, according to a surgeon from Wangford named **Dr Long**, he had been unwell due to a fall from his horse. Dr Long had attended Cucksey on the morning of his death and on the previous day, when Cucksey had complained of being very low. Cucksey had also been greatly distressed by William Easey's death. He had been found lying next to his gun, which was normally suspended from a ceiling beam on two hooks. One of the hooks was found on the floor, and someone of Cucksey's stature could probably have touched the beam with his hat. In those circumstances, the jury were unable to decide whether the wound was inflicted by Cucksey's own hand or by accident. This seems a sympathetic verdict, given the bullet's entry wound appears to have been under Cucksey's jaw.



Henham Hall, Suffolk, from a drawing by John Preston Neale (1828). Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Did the proximity of the deaths indicate they were linked in some way, or was it simply a coincidence? The *Times* of London certainly thought there was a link, reporting as follows on 2 September 1844:

'From the situation held by [Easey] he necessarily had the chief care and direction of the Earl of Stradbroke's game preserves; and as the noble Lord was expected to arrive on Saturday at Henham Park with his family, Easey was anxious to have all duly prepared for his reception and sporting amusement on Monday. However, for some time past the poachers have been active on the estate, and great quantities of the game have been destroyed and taken by them, including several of his Lordship's favourite breeding birds among numbers of pheasants that have fallen before these illegal sportsmen. The vexation and annoyance caused to the deceased by these predatory acts have been very great. Persons who had seen and conversed with him during the past week all remarked how unusually dull and depressed his manner was. It is imagined by his wife, and those most intimate with him, that this has been the cause of that state of mind which led to the commission of the fatal deed, combined with the expectation of meeting his master so soon, and the fear excited that the noble Earl would impute blame to him for negligence of his duties in permitting the continuance of such robberies of his preserves.'

The following day, citing a local report, the *Times* attributed the deaths of both men to the same cause, viz:

'their anxiety and dread of meeting their master..., fearing his anger that such extensive depredations should have been allowed amongst his preserves as have lately thinned the number of his pheasants, etc.'

Was the *Times* on to something? At that time poaching was certainly a major problem for landowners, who were fiercely determined to protect their game stocks. The stakes were high, and William Easey and John Cucksey no doubt felt a great weight of responsibility to protect the Earl's interests. They would also have felt very exposed if they thought he might judge their efforts inadequate: there was no union to represent them, no tribunal from which to seek compensation if they were dismissed, and only parish relief to fall back on.

There were, however, other views. The *Ipswich Journal* of 7 September stated its understanding that the *Times* report had no foundation, and **Captain Henry Rous MP** roundly dismissed the report in a Commons debate on the game laws.⁽⁴⁾ But the *Ipswich Journal* was the Earl's local paper and he might have expected its support, while Rous had a direct conflict of interest, as he was the Earl's younger brother! Perhaps of greater importance is that the *Times* itself was not exactly a disinterested party, since at the relevant time it was actively campaigning for the reform of the game laws. This was essentially on the basis that landowners were prioritising their sporting interests over the interests of farmers, including their own tenants, whose crops were being eaten by birds, rabbits etc. reared for hunting. There was also a belief, no doubt well-founded, that the laws were being harshly enforced against the rural poor, particularly those taking small amounts of game to feed hungry mouths. The *Times* may have seen an opportunity to weaponise the tragic events at Henham to support its cause.

The full truth behind the suicides is unlikely ever to be known. It is certainly plausible that the two men were in fear of the Earl's reaction to the poaching of his game. This might explain the timing of their actions, immediately before his anticipated return from Ireland. But it seems likely that other causes were operating upon the men in parallel, and Cucksey's low spirits were attributed by his own doctor to the state of his physical health. If the condition of the Earl's game was indeed widely thought to be the root of the matter, it is surprising that no mention appears to have been made of this at the inquests. All one can say with any certainty is that the deaths were tragic and must have been devastating for the families. If there is any sort of happy ending, it is that William Easey's son, **Henry**, seems from later censuses to have become in turn the Earl's Head Gamekeeper, and so the family's fortunes were to that extent restored.

Rob Ward Mb 6027

Co-editor, Suffolk Roots

References and Sources

1. Suffolk Archives, HD2448/4/2/49/11 (returns of inquests on gamekeepers, persons convicted of offences against the Game Laws in Suffolk and of murders in Suffolk and elsewhere).
2. *Evening Mail*, 9 September 1844.
3. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 11 September 1844.
4. *The Suffolk Chronicle; or Weekly General Advertiser & County Express*, 1 March 1845.

COINCIDENTAL ANCESTORS: A WOODBRIDGE ENCOUNTER

Although we have lived for 37 years in Devon - almost half our lives – my partner and I consider ourselves to be Londoners. I grew up in the North London suburb of Enfield: 1930s housing, tree-lined avenues, factories in the Lea Valley. He, by contrast, grew up 10 miles (almost a world) away in Finsbury, an inner London borough, whence, as a child, he could walk entirely on bomb sites to St Paul's Cathedral and the City, exploring with his father, **Ernest Edward Wigg Lancaster** ('Ted'). Our families knew nothing of each other in those days.

But some of our London roots are actually rather shallow. Ted Lancaster was born in Lowestoft, in 1918, descended from blacksmiths and engineers who made the journey from Grundisburgh via Woodbridge to Leiston (*Suffolk Roots*, June 2022, Vol.48 No.1, pp.61-64). My mother's mother, **Gertrude May Watling**, was born in Woodbridge in 1883, descended from sawyers and timber merchants (*Suffolk Roots* December 2015, Vol.41 No.3, pp.204-207). Our families may have known nothing of each other in London, but did they meet in Woodbridge?

It was Ted's grandfather, **David Mark Lankester** (1864-1924), a blacksmith, who lived in Woodbridge - he appeared on the electoral register in Castle Street from 1885 until 1890. His first child, **Mary**, had been baptised in Bromeswell on 3 April 1885, but his second and third children were baptised in Woodbridge, **Ellen** in 1886 and **Edward** in 1887, parents' address listed as Castle Street. Then his daughter **Lily** was baptised in Leiston in March 1890, where he worked for **Richard Garrett**. Given these dates, he does not appear in the censuses in Woodbridge.

Castle Street features largely in the history of my Watling ancestors. **Ishmael Watling** had a timber yard there of 125ft frontage, with a saw pit, clearly visible on the 1880 Town Plan. He advertised the availability of his timber from at least 1873 and received deliveries of barge-loads of wood. In 1881 he employed six men and a boy. He too was on the electoral register, as were two of his sons, **Thomas** (Gertrude's father) and **Robert**. The 1867 Reform Act had widened the franchise to occupiers paying at least £10 a year in rent – thus including a blacksmith and a sawyer.

In 1888, the Castle Street premises were offered for sale at auction by the mortgagee: Ishmael had died in 1884, and my great-grandfather, his son Thomas, was in charge. By 1891, Thomas had moved to Ipswich with his family (he had a dozen children), working as a timber merchant. But he was living in Castle Street between 1885 and 1889.

As far as I can see from the map, and from the censuses, there were then about 120 dwellings in Castle Street, including two pubs and at least two grocers. So, my guess is that the Lankesters and the Watlings passed each other in the street, at the very least.

However, they may have known, or known of, each other for another reason. Newspapers are a great resource, though searches for Watling tend to be confused by Roman roads, and for Lancaster by the city (Lankester gets far fewer 'hits'). Having a first name of Ishmael is definitely useful.

Nowadays the Woodbridge Horse Show takes place annually in Ipswich, supporting the Suffolk Punch heavy horse. But it started, as the name suggests, in Woodbridge, in 1871, on land close to the Seckford almshouses. Not only was there judging of horses, but Market Hill also filled up with pedlars.

In 1877, the fair took place on Friday 16 March. There was a bitter wind, and a slight flurry of snow later in the day, but nevertheless the town saw an influx of visitors. Sheep and cattle were exhibited, and sold. Agricultural implements and machinery were shown by Page & Girling of Woodbridge, **Mr Boon**, **Mr Catchpole**, and Richard Garrett of Leiston. The main event, the judging of the horses, took place in a spacious ring, 70ft by 30ft. Nine silver cups were offered for five classes: best Suffolk Cart Stallion above three years old, best Suffolk Cart Stallion three years and under, best Thoroughbred Stallion, best Hackney Stallion and best Coaching Stallion, all horses being required to travel in the county. The silver cups varied in value from £10 to £4. It was reported that any of the cart stallions could have lifted a dead weight of two tons. Forty-four horses had been entered in all, slightly down on the previous year but part of a general trend of increasing numbers since the show's foundation. The prizes were awarded later, at the Bull Hotel, where the cup awarded to **Mr Wolton** for the first class was filled with champagne and drunk.

Meanwhile, not far away, at about 6 o'clock, in the Sun Inn, Thoroughfare (now a private house), there was an altercation involving Ishmael Watling. This is more likely to be Thomas Watling's brother, **Ishmael James**, than their father Ishmael snr. Ishmael James was 36, lived in Castle Street with his wife **Sarah**, worked as a sawyer, and had, at that time, four young children. On the evening in question, he struck another customer, Robert Lambert, on the face three or four times with his fist. The landlord, **Mr Banyard**, saying he would have no rows in his house, put Lambert outside.

Robert Lambert is probably **Robert Dunnett Lambert**, aged 32, who worked in the malting trade. He was back in Woodbridge, living in Bredfield Street, after working in Twickenham, where he had married. He made an official complaint against Ishmael, with two witnesses to support him. The witnesses, who declared the attack unprovoked, were **George Lankester** of Bromeswell and his wife **Mahala**. They may have been visiting Woodbridge Horse Show through George's job as driver of an agricultural engine, or simply having a day out. These witnesses were David Mark Lankester's parents.

The magistrates who heard Robert Lambert's complaint were **Lord Rendlesham M.P.**, **Mr W P T Phillips**, **C Walford**, **E C Moor**, **J P Fitzgerald** and **Major Rouse**. All had

been involved with the Horse Show, either as members of the organising committee or as subscribers to the cost of the prizes. They were the Woodbridge gentry.

Ishmael, though, produced a witness of his own, **Charles Kean**, lath render* of Rushmere, who was at the pub in company with Lambert and himself. Kean was slightly older than his companions, being aged about 51. He too was newly returned, having spent some years working at his trade in the East End of London. Kean said that Lambert had had words with '*some man*' and threatened to knock him down, so Ishmael had intervened on the other man's behalf. Some might think it a rather strong intervention!

The magistrates dismissed the case.

So, there was a little history between the Watlings and the Lankesters. But by the time David Mark moved to Castle Street, Ishmael James had died of TB in 1885, shortly after the death of Ishmael snr. His widow, Sarah, remarried, continuing to live in Castle Street. So perhaps no one associated the young blacksmith with the couple who had borne witness against Ishmael seven years earlier. It was an interesting find for me, however.

* Lath as in 'lath & plaster'; render as in 'split or tear'; a wood worker.

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References and Sources

- Town Plan via National Library of Scotland: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/231286617>
- *Woodbridge Reporter* and *East Anglian Daily Times* via Findmypast

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CHIMNEY SWEEP CATTLEMAN

Isaac Ward, my 3x great-uncle, was baptised in Stradbroke, Suffolk, on 12 September 1830. The register records him as '*Adams, Isaac Ward base born*' and his sole parent as **Honor Adams**. Although Isaac was illegitimate, his second forename suggests that his father was a Ward; and shortly afterwards Honor did marry **Isaac Ward** (1799-1849), who was presumably acknowledged to be the father.

The elder Isaac was a chimney sweep, and the younger one, who lived all his life in Stradbroke, followed the same occupation. He is recorded as a sweep in every census from 1851 to 1901, and his death notice in the *Suffolk Chronicle and Mercury* of 1 September 1905 also refers to him as a chimney sweep. So far, all is clear. However, a curtain is lifted on another aspect of Isaac's life by a report in the *East Anglian Daily Times* of 13 August 1875. It concerned a case heard by **Judge Worlledge** in the Diss and Eye County Court, in which **George Barnes** sued Isaac for £2 damages after

bullocks belonging to the latter had ‘*come into his peas on five different occasions, causing considerable damage*’. The report says the parties occupied adjoining farms. Barnes, who (according to the 1871 census) farmed 126 acres and employed six men and two boys, told the court that he had brought the action merely to let Isaac know that he must ‘*keep his cattle at home*’. Isaac did not deny the trespass but said the damages were excessive. He called as witnesses **John Rush** (another substantial farmer) and **John Aldous** (probably an ag lab) who testified that very little damage was done and would not exceed £1. The judge split the difference, awarding Barnes 30s.

If all that existed were the official records, then Isaac was a sweep and only a sweep. But the newspaper report shows that he was also, at least to some extent, a stockman, occupying property that could properly be described as a farm and keeping sufficient cattle to provoke his neighbour to legal action when they escaped. In rural Suffolk at that time, small-scale livestock farming ‘on the side’ may have been quite common if someone with enough money to buy or rent a little land wished to increase their income and put food on the table. One can only hope Isaac’s encounter with the law led him to mend his fences with his litigious neighbour!

Rob Ward Mb 6027
Co-editor, Suffolk Roots

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SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND SHEEPDOGS

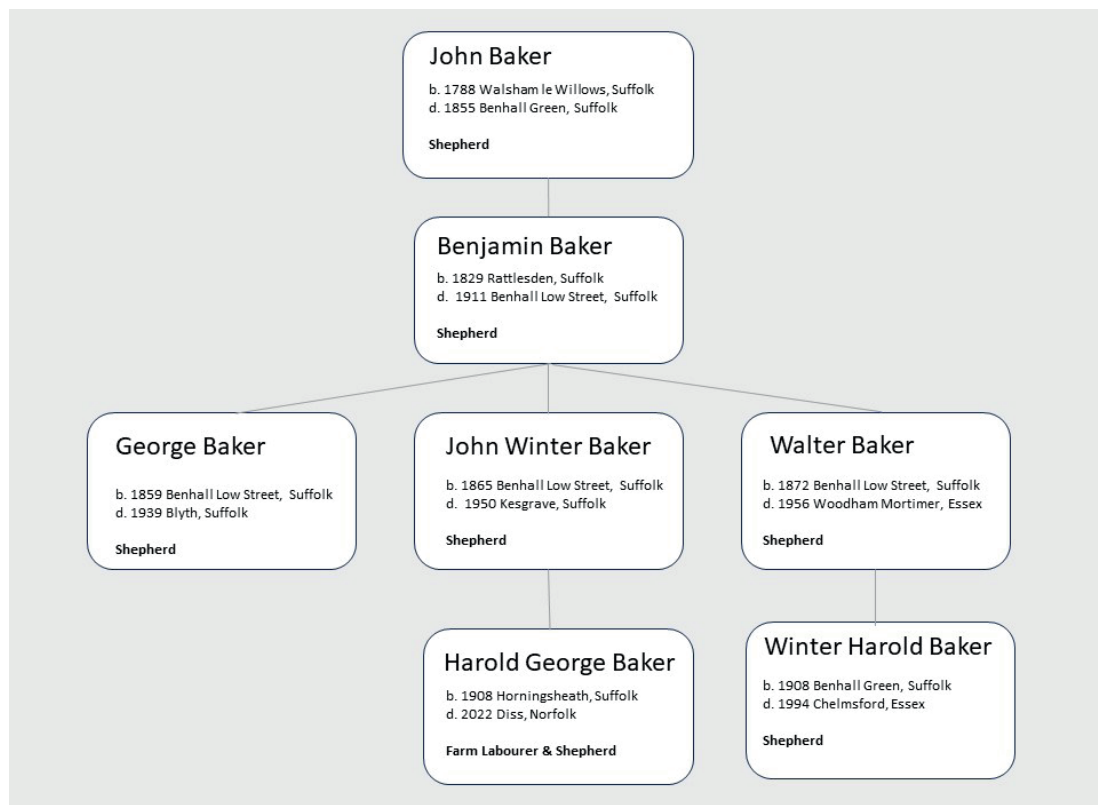
My great-grandfather **John Winter Baker** (1865–1950), born in Benhall Low Street, Suffolk, was a shepherd, as was his father before him and his grandfather. There have been four generations of shepherds in our family:

John Winter Baker, always known as Winter, was born 20 years before the Suffolk Sheep Society was formed in 1886 and the first book on the breed was opened in 1887. From family photos, Winter was shepherd to the Suffolk breed, which evolved from the cross-breeding of Norfolk Horn ewes with Southdown rams. They became known as ‘Black faces’, though they had black legs, faces and ears. Suffolks were known for putting on weight quickly, so making them ready for market earlier. They grazed on clover or grass in the summer and swedes or turnips in the winter, and gained popularity in both the UK and worldwide.

The earliest image we have of Winter is in shepherd’s smock in the field with his crook. Men working as shepherds traditionally wore a linen smock, a dress-like outer garment embroidered on the sleeves or neck. It was worn over shirt, waistcoat and breeches with the outfit completed by boots or gaiters.

Winter’s grandfather **John Baker** (1788-1855) moved to Benhall in 1832 from Rattlesden, Suffolk, courtesy of landowner **John Moseley**. John Baker’s occupation

in Rattlesden had been as a butcher, but he was employed by Moseley as a shepherd. Having a background as a butcher may have been of some use if called upon to butcher a sheep in the field.



John's middle son, **Benjamin Baker** (1829-1911), started his first experience with a flock of sheep at about the age of 12. By the time he was 19, Benjamin was a shepherd in his own right, still in Benhall Low Street; he replaced his father as shepherd when John moved to Benhall Green and took on labouring work. Benjamin remained a shepherd for over 55 years, living in the same house in Benhall Low Street.

As sheep were kept for their milk, meat and especially their wool, they were a very valuable commodity to their owner and so shepherds had to be trustworthy and capable. Advertisements in the *Ipswich Journal* in 1850s mention that a shepherd '*must bring an unexceptional character for his ability, honesty, sobriety and diligence*' and must be '*one that has been brought up to the business and thoroughly understands a breeding flock*'. It seems these were qualities that Benjamin Baker possessed, ensuring his long employment and residence at the same cottage in Benhall.

Three of Benjamin's sons also became shepherds: Winter Baker, my great-grandfather, his older brother **George** (1859-1939) and younger brother **Walter** (1872-1956). Unlike Benjamin, his sons received an education before becoming shepherds, which for Winter was at the age of 16 in 1881.



Benjamin Baker outside Ash Cottage, Benhall Low Street



Winter Baker in the early 1900s

When Winter married in 1887 he moved to Sweffling, just a mile from Benhall, and by 1890 he was a shepherd with his brother George at Ditchingham Hall in Norfolk. Just a couple of years later he moved his family to a farm in Havering-atte-Bower, Essex.

His granddaughter **Joyce** recalled:

'What can I say about Grandfather? He was a shepherd all his working life, and the story goes that he fell out with the farmers he worked for quite frequently, and so he moved on.'

As you can see from the different places his children were born. It is said he just got out the horse and cart, packed all his belongings, Grandmother and the children, and went on his way. He was very dour, rosy cheeked and used to send us rabbits through the post from Suffolk to London, wrapped up in brown paper and tied up with string. You couldn't do that now!

Tending a flock of sheep must have been a very lonely occupation, with long hours and very little time for family. Winter doesn't feature at all in family photographs, whether of weddings or other family groups; mostly, the images of him show him at work with his sheep and sheepdog.

Both Winter's crook and sheep shears are still with the family today. The crook is very simply fashioned and at just the right height (4ft 6 in) for Winter, who wasn't a tall man. He would have used the crook to hook a lamb, and the staff for support or to guide the sheep.



Winter with his flock and sheepdog



Winter's sheep shears with leather cover

To hand shear with his blades, Winter would have had to place the sheep on its back, with its head between his legs to keep it still, and then start clipping with the blades from the tail and back end. A few farms still use this traditional method today, with shears just like those in the image.

Winter's last employment was at Thelveton Hall, Norfolk, in the late 1920s, working for **Sir Edward Mann**.

Winter's son Harold recalled his father having to go and collect some rams:

'They bought them in the August sale and then could turn them in with the ewes in 3rd week of September, expecting the lambing then in February. Course one of these little old rams, well the old man (father) he kept darting for it and it kept getting away. I kept warning father but he wouldn't take the warning. I said to him that you are going to ache at night and father said "that whatsit ram won't get me". But the following morning father go over and the ram... well he just hit him right up the behind! Suffolk rams don't have horns, but they do have a boney head!'



In the field

Harold took on more of the shepherding work from his father as Winter became more infirm. This included looking after the sheep at night and helping with the lambing. Harold also handled the docking, which involved cutting off the lamb's tail to about 3 inches to prevent fly-strike. He also assisted with the castration of male lambs. Harold recounted how this was done:

'Someone would hold the sheep on a stool and I stood in front. I used to cut the top of the purse off, the bit your what's names are in, you cut them there and then pulled them out with your teeth, then spit them out. With the tails they used to burn the tail off to stop it bleeding. I used to take the lamb's tails home and grandmother would skin 'em and boil them up. She used to make a nice stew with them, we even ate the jelly.'

Both Winter and his brother Walter respected and looked after their sheep dogs, which were Welsh Collies. **Ruth Baker**, Walter's daughter, loved having the puppies on the farm:

'Walter got his Collie puppies from Wales, they were the best. He would go down to the station in Maldon (Essex) and wait for the puppies to arrive. Then he would put straw into a sack and pop the puppies in the sack and hang them up on a hook so they didn't feel so lonely. Those puppies were very well looked after and protected, you dare not touch them!'

Walter's son, **Winter Harold Baker**, was the 4th and last generation in the Baker family to be a shepherd. Born in Benhall in 1908, he was shepherd at Brook Farm, Maldon, for several years and then in 1939 moved to Bridges Farm, Cosford, Suffolk. He is pictured here with sons and lambs in c.1950s.



Winter Baker at Thelveton with granddaughter Phyllis



Winter Harold Baker with sons



Winter Baker (far left) and son Harold Baker (centre, with sheepdog)

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MY WHEELER FAMILY AND ITS CONNECTION WITH ANIMALS

This account is all about animals connected in some way with my direct Wheeler ancestors, and includes references to cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens, horses, ponies, fish, and herrings.

When I started my family history research many years ago, I knew that my grandfather had been a butcher in Sudbury and had therefore dealt with animals, by buying them, slaughtering them, and selling their meat. My mother ended up as a vegetarian, and I'm not surprised after living in that environment! To begin with, I thought my grandfather was the only person in the family to have a close connection with animals; but I was wrong - I found animals mentioned right back to the 1850s.

My 3x great-grandfather was **James Wheeler** (1808-1890). He started his working life as a silk weaver, as had his parents, but by the time of the 1861 census was a dealer in stock (i.e. animals). I have found many references to James being both a '*Sergeant at Arms*', and '*Ranger of the Commons and Conservator of the River*'. Both these positions would have been held by Sudbury Freemen and were appointments made by the Town Council. The former was a ceremonial position which involved carrying the town's mace in front of the Mayor on official occasions and this duty is still being carried out by a Freeman today. I do not know when James was first Sergeant at Arms,

but he was re-elected to that position at the Annual Meeting of Sudbury Town Council in November 1863, 1865, 1866 and 1867.⁽¹⁾ The Ranger was the person who had to manage the use of the Freeman's Commons or Meadows, including deciding who could keep their animals there and dealing with any disputes which arose. However, at the Annual Meeting in 1868 another man was appointed because there had been dissatisfaction with the way James had fulfilled his duties.⁽²⁾

I found several incidents referring to animals in the local press which mentioned James while he held the office of Ranger, or Warden as it was sometimes called:

- In September 1862 James, as Warden, was at a meeting of the Town Council when it was mentioned that some boys had left a gate open and in consequence horses escaped from the Meadows. James pointed out that it was not the fault of the boys as the horses had leant on the gate which had defective fittings and so had escaped. The gate was to be repaired.⁽³⁾
- At a meeting of the Town Council on 1 May 1863, there was discussion about what animals could be kept on the Commons and James clarified the situation. When the role of the Warden was mentioned, it was noted that he was paid £5 a year and that perhaps in future it needed to be a full-time job.⁽⁴⁾
- There was a letter in the paper in 1863 from the local veterinary surgeon saying that he charged every time the Warden called him to examine an animal on the Commons, in addition to his annual fee for inspecting every animal there.⁽⁵⁾ This shows that James needed to be aware of any sickness in an animal as part of his duties.
- On 16 July 1863, James was in court as a witness because on 28 June he had seen a man moving 20 to 30 cattle which had broken down a fence on the edge of the Meadows by the turnpike road from Sudbury to Melford. James had had to repair the damage and reported the incident to the Mayor. On that occasion the prosecution was dismissed on a technicality.⁽⁶⁾
- On 12 April 1864, James saw two men fishing in the River Stour and later appeared in court as Warden to prove from his copy of the byelaws that they were acting illegally. The men were each fined 1s with 12s costs.⁽⁷⁾ Fishing of course involved fish, yet another type of animal!
- On 2 March 1866 there was an emergency meeting of the Town Council to discuss the implications and application of the new Cattle Diseases Prevention Act which had come into force a few days earlier. James, as Warden, reported that the number of cattle on the Meadows had reduced to about 30 since the plague broke out.⁽⁸⁾
- At a meeting of the Council on 3 August 1866 it was decided that in future cattle on the Common could only be branded by the Ranger, James.⁽⁹⁾

The 1871 census showed James at 31 Melford Road where he was now a 'Toll Collector', aged 63. A son, **Frederick Wheeler** (1850-1937), then aged 20 and a butcher, was living

with his parents - the first reference to that trade. I originally thought that the toll collector would have collected a road toll, as there is a building that used to be a Toll House further along Melford Road towards Long Melford. I then found the report of a case that had come before the Police Court on 26 November 1868 with the heading '*Assault on the collector of market tolls*', in which a seller of herrings on Market Hill was accused of not paying his market toll to James. When James tried to take goods in lieu of the toll, which he was entitled to do, he was attacked and knocked on his back. When he managed to get up, he was staggering so some people thought he was drunk, although others did not think that was true. Was he perhaps concussed? However, the verdict was that the corporation's toll collectors should be protected, and the offender was fined 1s with 14s costs, and if he did not pay he would be committed to prison for 14 days.⁽¹⁰⁾

The 1881 census showed James (73), now a widower, at 35 Melford Road. His occupation was shown as '*income derived mainly from horses*'. Did he own them or look after them? Twenty years earlier his income was from stock, so he was probably an owner. James died before the next census.

In June 1898 there was discussion in the Town Council about drainage in a ditch after a letter had been received from James's son, also **James Wheeler** (1832-1899). The discussion mentioned that this James had been in Melford Road for over 40 years and was a grocer and pork butcher who had a slaughterhouse in the area which was not in a very sanitary state. Sewage from the slaughterhouse drained into the ditch in question.⁽¹¹⁾ Here was a record about more animals, and I am glad I didn't have to get my meat from this man!

Thomas Wheeler (1834-1920), my 2x great-grandfather, was another son of the first James and he started as a silk weaver, as his father and grandfather had done, but by the 1871 census he was a beerhouse keeper. The 1881 census for The Plough Inn, Melford Road, described him as '*Innkeeper & Farmer of 12 Acres*'. I'm sure he must have had animals on his farmland, as at a meeting of Sudbury Town Council on 21 June 1899, the Common Lands Committee accepted Thomas' tender of £31 for the standing grass on the lower part of North Meadow;⁽¹²⁾ no doubt the grass was to feed his animals.

My great-grandfather was **Edward Wheeler** (1860-1924), a son of Thomas. He married **Martha Ann Skingle**, his second cousin, on 4 July 1882 in The Old Meeting House, Sudbury. They had the same great-grandparents, because Edward's paternal grandmother **Hannah Wheeler (née Herbert)** and Martha's maternal grandmother **Elizabeth Strutt (née Herbert)** were sisters, their parents being **James** and **Ann (née Sherman) Herbert**. Martha had been born on 12 March 1862 in Braintree, Essex, and her parents were **John Thomas Skingle**, a tailor whose business was on Market Hill, Braintree, and **Emma Sarah (née Strutt) Skingle**, who had been born in Sudbury.

Some of the Strutt family were bakers in North Street, Sudbury, so Martha may have met Edward when visiting relatives.

Edward and Martha were living in Melford Road, Sudbury, when my grandfather **Edward Wheeler** (1883-1956) was born. My grandfather was later known as Ted because there was another butcher with the same name in Sudbury, so I will call him that from here on to avoid confusion. The 1881 census showed Edward as a furniture dealer and after Ted was born other children soon followed: a stillborn daughter (3 May 1885), **Fred** (31 March 1886), **Lily** (31 July 1887), **Ethel** (25 September 1888), **Maud** (2 May 1890), and **Frank Thomas** (7 August 1891). On 22 June 1888 Edward, still a furniture dealer, was appointed toll collector at the salary of £5, with 10 per cent commission on amounts collected.⁽¹³⁾ Had he taken over this job which had a connection with animals from his grandfather?

Sometime between 1891 and 1893 there were big changes for Edward and Martha and their family, because they moved from Sudbury to Lavenham, a few miles away, where Edward took over the butchery business at 1 High Street from **William Carter**, and the family lived on the premises. Initially I could not work out why Edward suddenly ceased to be a furniture dealer and became a butcher, although as already mentioned there were several other butchers in the Wheeler family. I later discovered that his father Thomas Wheeler owned the premises, although whether he had owned it when Mr Carter was there or bought it from him I have not established.



Edward (l.) and Ted Wheeler outside 1 High Street, Lavenham, c.1900.

After the move to Lavenham, Edward and Martha had three more children: **Percy Harold** (13 August 1893), **Alfred** (29 October 1894), and **Harry Victor** (2 July 1897).

My great-grandfather's shop in Lavenham is still a butcher's shop and has photos hanging on the walls, including this one of my great-grandfather and grandfather, the two Edwards.

Things did not go well for Edward, both financially and as regards his health, and on 6 September 1907 he was in the Colchester Bankruptcy Court. It was from the newspaper reports of the case that I learnt that Edward's landlord was his father, Thomas. The reports said that Edward had had no capital when he moved to Lavenham, about 14 years earlier, and that he was in debt to his father (rent and a loan), money lenders, his bank, and suppliers. He admitted that he had known for some time that he was insolvent and that most of his liabilities had been contracted with that knowledge. He had had several long periods of illness whilst in Lavenham, including an operation for appendicitis, and a daughter had had the same operation. This had caused him to get behind financially and he had also lost quite a lot of money on some of his horses. He admitted having written a receipt for rent purportedly from his father but signed by himself to show to a money lender, and not told his father about it. Another reason for his money troubles was given as an outbreak of anthrax among his stock. After the evidence was given, the case was adjourned until 11 October.⁽¹⁴⁾ Edward was subsequently declared bankrupt, and on 18 December 1907 the *Eastern Daily Press* quoted a statement in the *London Gazette* that the Notice of Dividends was that the first and final dividend would be 1s 10d in £1. So, Edward caused a lot of people to lose a lot of money. The reference in the case to Edward owning horses and cattle was a surprise to me, and showed he had another involvement with animals as well as his butchery business.

Martha also worked in the shop, and there is a picture showing her there. She is called a butcheress in the 1911 census; how she had time with all those children, I do not know, although by 1911 only three children were still at home, including Alfred as assistant butcher.

WWI was a very worrying and sad time for Edward and Martha, as all six of their sons were called up for military service and spent time serving their country. Tragically, two of them were killed during the conflict. Horses played a very important role during the war, so it is probable that all six sons would have had something to do with them during their period in the military.

- My grandfather Ted spent time in the Royal Garrison Artillery and there is more about him during WWI later in this article.
- Fred enlisted in 1916 in the 2nd/1st Battalion of the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) as Private 202808 and was sent to France. He was killed in action on Friday 16 June 1917, leaving a widow and three very young children. He had

been throwing bombs from a shell hole close to the German lines when a shell came over and burst in the hole and he was blown to pieces. He has no known grave but is remembered on bay 9 of the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

- Frank had just gone out to Canada when the war started, and served as Private 805450 with the 75th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment), which he joined in February 1915. He went to France in November 1916 and died on Sunday 1 January 1917 during the capture of Vimy Ridge. He went out at 7pm that night in a single file with 12 other men to repair a trench which the Germans had blown up the night before. A shell fell and killed nine of them. An uninjured friend went to Frank and asked him if he was hurt and received the answer *'They've got me this time'*. The friend took off Frank's knapsack and put it under his head before doing the same for another man. He then returned to Frank who asked him how soon the ambulance would come, and died while speaking. He is buried in section IV, grave A19 of Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St. Eloi, France.
- Percy Harold joined the Queen's Regiment in 1916 and was serving in Salonica with his battalion in 1918.
- Alfred enlisted in the Essex Regiment in September 1914. He was posted missing in 1917 but turned up safe and well 19 days later. Edward and Martha were informed in May 1918 that Alfred was in hospital suffering from trench fever. He had been in France for three years, during which he was wounded twice and gassed and went through much heavy fighting.⁽¹⁵⁾ He was personally thanked by his commanding officer for his conspicuous bravery on the field of battle.⁽¹⁶⁾
- Harry Victor enlisted in 1917 and saw action in France. His mother sent him a postcard to tell him of the death of Frank, which Harry kept in his wallet throughout the war.

A newspaper article in 1918 with the heading *'A Patriotic Lavenham Family'* had pictures of all six sons in uniform with information about each. The article closed with the words *'We heartily congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler on the splendid military record of their family, at the same time sincerely sympathising with them on the loss of two gallant sons'*.⁽¹⁷⁾

On the 1921 census, Edward recorded himself as *'Master butcher and farmer'*. When he died in 1924 a local newspaper article said that Edward had for over 30 years carried on the business of butcher in Lavenham, and in recent years had taken up farming. He was well known around the cattle markets and highly respected by all who knew him.⁽¹⁸⁾ More (indirect) references to animals!

After the death of Edward, his son Harry, who was by then running the butcher's shop, swapped homes with Martha so that Harry and his family could live at 1 High Street whilst Martha moved to 14 Market Place.



*The sons of Edward and Martha in uniform
 Top row – Edward, Fred, Frank Thomas; Bottom row – Percy Harold, Alfred, Harry Victor*

Edward had died intestate, and the Letters of Administration showed effects of only £5. Although he had continued with his business right up until his death, Edward was obviously not good with his finances, and the effects of his bankruptcy must have affected him all his life.

My grandfather Ted began to learn the butchery trade from his father, but then in 1903 he left to further his career, possibly moving to Leicester. This photo, taken about 1899, shows his parents and their family outside the back of 1 High Street and was given to my grandfather when he left home. The very formal wording on the back says 'With Father's and Mother's fond love and best wishes for your future welfare. M.A. and E. Wheeler. April 2nd 1903'.

Ted was back in Suffolk by the time of the 1911 census, living as a boarder at 79 Great Whip Street, Ipswich, and described as a butcher in employment. A few months later, on 31 July 1911, Ted, a 27-year-old journeyman butcher of Suffolk Road, Sudbury, was married at the Independent Chapel, Lavenham, by the minister **W J Chappell**. His bride was **Kate Maud Bulley**, who was 26 years old and gave her address as 1 High Street, Lavenham, the home of Ted's parents. The story of how I found out her correct name and her background is told in an article which was published in *Suffolk Roots* in June 2010 (Vol. 36, No. 1), although I have found a lot more information about her family since then.



*Martha and Edward Wheeler with their children
Back row: Ethel, Fred, Lily, Edward; Front row: Harry, Maud, Frank, Percy, Alfred*

The couple probably met whilst Ted was living and working in Ipswich, as the 1911 census shows Kate, who came from Gorleston, Suffolk, living at the Eagle Tavern, 67 Wherstead Road, Ipswich as a general domestic servant. Great Whip Street ran into Wherstead Road, so Ted and Kate only lived a couple of hundred yards apart. Did they meet because he frequented the Eagle, or simply because they lived so near one another? We will never know!

An uncle of Ted, his father's brother **Thomas Wheeler** (1866-1911), owned and ran the butcher's shop at 16 North Street, Sudbury, and when Thomas was ill Ted moved back to Sudbury to run the shop for him. On 10 July 1911, Thomas died in Guy's Hospital, London, and after his death his family moved out of the living accommodation at the shop. This gave Ted and Kate the opportunity to marry, as they could rent the business from his aunt and live at the shop. So Kate moved in with her future in-laws in Lavenham until the wedding, which was three weeks after Thomas died.

Unfortunately, Ted and Kate only had a short marriage, because on 4 July 1914 she and their baby died at home during the birth and were buried in Sudbury Cemetery (grave W43) on 7 July. However, Ted did not remain a widower for long, as on 3 May 1915, only 10 months after the death of Kate, he married **Rachel Alice Bradnam** (1892-1977), my grandmother, at Trinity Chapel, Sudbury. For many years they lived at 16 North Street, where their three children were born: **Paul Edward** (1916-1987),

Peter James (1921-1984) and **Jean Margaret** (1923-2002), my mother. My grandmother Rachel (known as Ray) told my mother that when she was in labour with Paul, my grandfather was in a dreadful state because of the memory of the death of his first wife. Understandably, he was extremely fearful that Ray would also die.

During WWI Ted had to close the shop for a period and join the Royal Garrison Artillery. At the age of 32 he had gone before the Sudbury Tribunal (a committee of local men and military personnel) on 4 July 1916 to request to be excused from call-up. He explained that he had 150-200 customers, he only employed a boy and so had to do the slaughtering himself, and the business would have to close if he went to war. There was discussion about how many butchers were needed in the town and **Dr King**, a local member of the tribunal, commented that it was a very old-established business (nearly 70 years). **Brigadier General Coxhead** replied: *'I don't suppose that would soften the hearts of the Germans if they came over'*. However, Ted was granted a conditional exemption from call-up.⁽¹⁹⁾

On 1 May 1917 he was called before the Sudbury Tribunal again, together with four other butchers from the town. They each made their case, and Ted explained that as well as conducting his own business in North Street, Sudbury, he was slaughterman for his father in Lavenham, who had no-one to help him because his other five sons were already in the Army, one of whom had been killed on 1 January and another had returned home wounded the previous week. Ted said he also killed pigs for **Mrs Everett**. The Tribunal could not differentiate between the butchers and their conditional exemption was confirmed.⁽²⁰⁾

Three weeks later, on 23 May, the five butchers went before the West Suffolk Appeal Tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, and after a prolonged discussion about how many butchers and slaughterers were needed in Sudbury, the Tribunal again could not differentiate between them. The final decision was that three could continue their work and that Ted and the fifth man were to join up by 20 June.⁽²¹⁾

On his return to Sudbury after the war, Ted advertised that, having obtained his release from the Army and obtained permission from the local Food Control Committee, his business would re-open on 12 May 1919. He thanked his numerous customers for their past support and assured them that he would do his utmost to give satisfaction should they again favour him with their custom. For the purpose of registration, the shop would be open on and after Thursday 24 April until the end of the month for his former customers to re-register with him.⁽²²⁾

When my mother Jean recounted some of her childhood memories, she talked about 16 North Street as having a small garden behind the shop, a large yard, stables and a slaughterhouse. Most of that land is now part of the municipal car park. My mother remembered that when she was a young girl she sometimes went with her father in their pony and trap to visit farms, where he would choose the animals he wanted

to buy. Ted then prepared their meat for sale in his slaughterhouse. Unfortunately, in around 1930, as motor traffic increased, the family had to get rid of their pony, Kit, because it was traffic-shy. Mum recalled other incidents relating to her father's trade, including when a schoolfriend of her brother Peter visited their home and was horrified to see a sheep's eye on the table - but that was quite normal in the home of a butcher!

Before Christmas each year there was rivalry amongst the town's butchers to buy the 'prize beast' from the local cattle market so that the winning rosette could be displayed in their shop window on the resulting joints of beef. Ted bought a prize animal one year, but once slaughtered it was discovered to have liver fluke so the meat could not be sold, causing him a big financial loss. Apparently, Mum's brother Peter loved going to the cattle market each Thursday and was known as '*Peter the Pig Poker*'! He went on to follow the family trade by working for a butcher in Bures and then in Sainsbury's in London, before using his experience to join the Army Catering Corps during WWII.

Ted ceased to be a butcher around 1935, having started his career by helping his father in Lavenham over 40 years before. Ted had always rented 16 North Street from his uncle's family and eventually they needed to sell the shop, but he could not afford to buy it. Ted and his family moved to 100 Ballingdon Street, and then in 1938 to 12 Ballingdon Street where the 1939 Register shows him as a poultry plucker for Colne Valley, a poultry-packing firm. He was still working with animals!

During WWII, Ted was a full-time member of Royal Observer Corps (a civil defence organisation) and worked at their Observer Post F3 at the top of Constitution Hill, Sudbury. After the war he worked for a time at a grocer's shop on the corner of Market Hill and Station Road until he retired. Even in a grocer's shop he would be working with produce from animals, such as eggs, bacon, ham, butter and cheese.

Ted's final retirement brought the end of my family's connection with animals, which had lasted, in one form or another, from around the 1850s until the 1940s, involved four generations and a considerable range of creatures.

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PERCY AND ANNE HAMMOND'S HORSES

March 2023's edition of *Suffolk Roots* carried an article about my grandfather, **Percy Hammond**, who was surrounded by horses all his life (Vol. 48, No. 4, pp. 325-6). Percy rode from an early age, and met his future wife, **Janet Bowyer**, whilst riding with the Cambridgeshire Hunt. He joined the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at the outbreak of WWI. When hospitalised in 1917, he missed going with his regiment to France and was posted instead to the Remount Depot at Melton Mowbray, as a remount officer. Whilst there he met **Alfred Munnings**, **Lionel Edwards** and **Cecil Aldin**, all of whom later painted horses. It must have broken their hearts to select privately-owned horses to be schooled to go to France to take part in the war, knowing most of them would never return.

After the war, my grandparents moved to Newmarket where, as recounted in my earlier article, Percy started the company Newmarket Horse Transport Ltd, supplying many local trainers and gaining a reputation for very comfortable, reliable horseboxes. He continued in the business all his working life until 1965.

Percy's daughter, my aunt **Anne Hammond** (1929-2020), had her own deep connection with horses. Like her father, she rode from a very early age and she had a succession of her own ponies. She entered gymkhanas and won many rosettes for showjumping and dressage. Percy forged a link with **David Broome's** father, who supplied Welsh ponies for Anne to break in and train for her riding school or sell to parents who



The Hammonds on horseback: l-r Anne (as a child), Percy, Mollie (the author's mother) and Janet

wanted a quiet, reliable pony for their child. Often parents would pay for her to go to the Dublin Horse Show and buy a pony for them.

Anne also looked after other people's horses, including one belonging to **Prince Turki** of Saudi Arabia, who at that time was studying at Cambridge. Anne also taught actors **Honor Blackman** and **Tony Ray** how to ride for a film.

When the traffic became too much in Newmarket, Percy helped Anne buy a small stud farm at Millfields, Stetchworth in the nearby countryside. She had an indoor riding stable built so that regional heats could be held there, leading up to the International Horse Show each year at the White City. In addition, she was a prime mover in setting up the Riding for the Disabled charity, which used the indoor school. She taught others to be riding instructors too. The whole set-up at



Anne Hammond

Millfields was a very viable and worthwhile venture, which Anne continued until she moved to Hepworth on the Norfolk/Suffolk border in 1987. She then had a small Connemara stud, most of which she sold. She wrote a booklet about the history of the Connemara Society.

In her time, Anne had been a national and then international judge and had travelled extensively, either judging events or seeking horses to set up studs for the owners of several stately homes.

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PADDY

Paddy was a much-loved pet of my Ipswich grandparents **Lily** and **Harry Read**. He was a Cocker Spaniel and I remember that he had a lovely nature. The pencil sketches of him below may be of interest as they were drawn by Suffolk artist **Herbert Wynn Hellings** (1873-1948). Hellings was born in Ipswich and lived there all his life. He was known for his drawings of domestic animals and horses, as well as sailing pictures; I have these two sketches of Paddy.

My father encountered Hellings in the 1930s when he visited the offices of Cranfield Bros at Dock Roller Mills, Ipswich, with his drawings. I have two, of Wolsey's Gate and Freston Tower, that my father bought; he then presumably commissioned the drawings of Paddy. I have no idea if they were taken from photographs – I cannot imagine a 'sitting', though in the 1939 photograph Paddy seems happy enough to pose!

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The two sketches of Paddy, and a photo showing Lily with the author and Paddy, taken at Ashcroft Road, Ipswich in 1939

THREE GENERATIONS OF ANIMAL BREEDERS

My grandfather **Alfred Lomas** was born in Islington in November 1857. In 1881, he attended the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, and in 1891 he took the lease of a farm at Langford Hall, Maldon in Essex. There he started to breed Cleveland Bay horses, for which he won many prizes at county shows, in particular with his stallion King Frederick the Great and mare Nellie Farren. Alfred eventually became the owner of one of the largest studs of Cleveland Bays in England, having at one stage 50 horses. In October 1896 **Major-General Sir Henry Ewart KCB**, Equerry to **Queen Victoria**, inspected the stud with a view to the possible purchase of one of the horses.

In addition to breeding Cleveland Bays, Alfred also bred Suffolk sheep and again won many prizes at the various county shows.

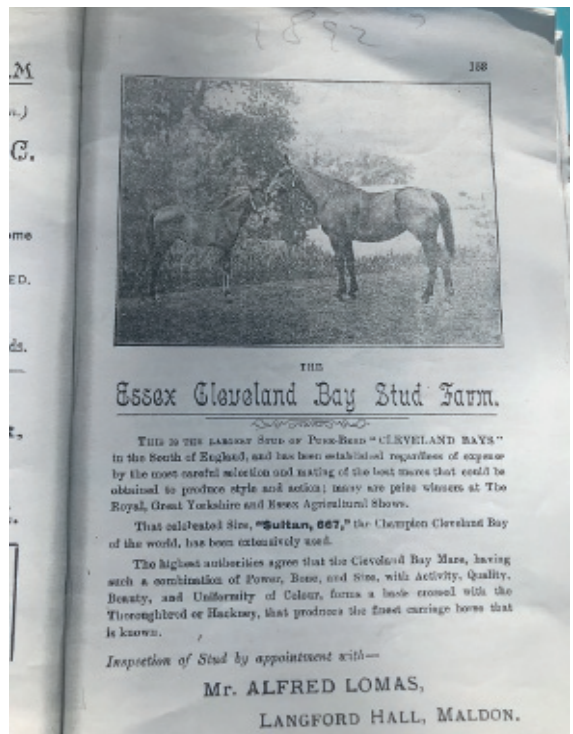
Alfred had a very wealthy cousin, **H E M Davies**, who had made his fortune with the Consolidated Gold Fields company in South Africa. In 1898, Davies purchased Cavenham Hall in Suffolk (now demolished) from the **Waddington** family and rebuilt it using **Andrew Prentice** as the architect. He also purchased the Herringswell estate. He invited Alfred to come to Suffolk as his Agent and to run the estates.

Unfortunately, Davies was unable to reap the benefits of his purchases as he died in July 1899. Later that year, **Adolf Goldschmidt** from Germany

purchased the Cavenham estate from Davies's widow, **Clotilde**. Goldschmidt was the father of **Frank Goldsmith**, later MP for Stowmarket, and grandfather of **James Goldsmith** (later Sir James) who founded Cavenham Foods.

Alfred was asked to continue to work for Goldschmidt and his son Frank (who changed his surname to Goldsmith at the start of the First World War). Alfred also continued to run the Herringswell estate for **Leopold Davies**, who had purchased it from his brother's widow.

Alfred lived for seven years at the Mill House, Tuddenham, but in 1907 he built Homeleigh, at Barton Mills, which included stables for some of his horses. He carried



on breeding Cleveland Bays and Suffolk sheep and became a member of the Suffolk Sheep Society.

On 13 February 1908 the *Evening Star* displayed the dramatic headline 'Three Horses Roasted':

'Big Stable Fire at Barton Mills. Late on Tuesday night a new and well appointed stable belonging to Holmeleigh, Mr A Lomas's new residence in Barton Mills, was the scene of a disastrous fire. The cause cannot be ascertained, but it is believed the outbreak started in the harness room. The stable, a commodious one, contained three valuable horses - two mares belonging to Mr Lomas, and a favourite grey horse, the property of Mr L F Davies, of Herringswell, which was temporarily stalled there. The coach-house adjoining housed a carriage, a dogcart, a Ralli cart, and light tumbril, also a perambulator and a new bicycle. The loft above held a quantity of hay and straw, and in the harness-room were four sets of harnesses, two of which were quite new. At one end of the coach-house was an acetylene gas plant for lighting the whole establishment.

The fire was discovered shortly before ten o'clock, when the whole of the buildings were densely filled with smoke, and the door being opened, the smouldering fire quickly burst into flames. Efforts were made by both Mr Lomas and the groom to save the horses, but it was found impossible to rescue them, and all three animals were literally roasted, nothing being left but a few charred remains.

*The Mildenhall Fire Brigade were summoned, and under **Captain Brown** and **Lieut. Clarke**, quickly proceeded to the scene of conflagration. The stable was then practically down, and the other buildings doomed, but the engine was promptly got to work, drawing water from the river, some 200 yards away. The element of danger was the acetylene gas apparatus, and to save this and stop further progress of the fire to the adjoining buildings the Brigade turned all their efforts, fortunately with success. Beyond the gas apparatus, the whole of the buildings and contents were completely destroyed.*

The Council School is near, and an entertainment was in progress there when the fire broke out, and the proceedings were abruptly concluded. For a long time the flames were very brilliant, and could be seen some miles away. Many went over from Mildenhall and from other villages near. The property is said to be insured.'

One of Alfred's young daughters, **Marjorie**, described the experience in her memoirs as follows:

'One evening, a fiasco indeed. Our house was some way from the stables, even so, suddenly a god almighty explosion came from that quarter of the stables. I had been fast asleep but woke when I was snatched out of bed and wrapped in a large blanket and carried down stairs where all the rest of the family had gathered. As we stood at the front door we could hear the horses screaming and stampeding as the flames leapt high. The windows in the nearby cottages were all broken. My father had gone down to try and save his horses but he



Wideskies Kennels, Ashley



May Lomas with Great Danes at dog show

had been overcome by fumes. The young groom found him lying unconscious and dragged him free. I was only half awake as I hung on tight round somebody's neck. When we were on the front drive I saw a yellow haze in the sky and a strong smell hung in the air. We were taken to the Vicarage for safety.'

From that date, Alfred stopped breeding Cleveland Bays. But this was not to be the end of the Lomas family's involvement with animals.

One of Alfred's other daughters, **May**, started breeding Great Danes in Barton Mills in 1939. In 1945 she purchased the Lodge at Ashley, near Newmarket, and set up the Wideskies Kennels. Over the years she showed her Great Danes with marked success.

The following article appeared in the *Newmarket Journal* of 25 January 1962 under the heading 'Every dog really does have its day at Wideskies':

'Along the Newmarket to Ashley Road, just beyond the name plate "Ashley", stands a large pink house. A painted black and white dog sign, the notice, "Wideskies Kennels" and the chorus of barking which greet you, are symbols of the life of its owner – Miss May Lomas.

Last week I walked up the gravel drive to the porch and then into Miss Lomas's life.

She came to the door wearing warm corduroy trousers, a heavy tweed jacket and brown shoes, and her greying hair was pinned back from her face. I was welcomed into her beautiful home where she has taken on many hundreds of dogs from local families.

Pictures

Miss Lomas moved to Wideskies – formerly a farm house – ten years ago and its walls are now decorated with pictures of her champion Harlequin Danes.

She has been showing dogs for 33 years all over the country "from Edinburgh to Bath" and in 1950 her dogs won 39 cups.

Today she finds that her "boarding" business is so great that she has neither the time nor the space for breeding Danes but she still has champion Sunstar and his daughter Stardust.

Sunstar stands a handsome 32 inches which, Miss Lomas said, was two inches taller than average and two years ago he became a television celebrity. He was screened on BBC television in the serial "Jane Eyre".

In 1947 Miss Lomas's Danes appeared in the film "Saraband for Dead Lovers".

In spite of the many breeds that have passed through her hands as "landlady" Miss Lomas has not changed her opinion about the Harlequin Dane.

Pleasure

Over the years she has obtained great pleasure from them and she declares "There's no breed like them". From the point of view of children she said "They are extremely good and have lots of fun with my nephews and nieces."

Although she allowed the Danes in the house during my visit she said they knew they were not allowed on the furniture. She had given them stern training and they understood her.

Miss Lomas has a Jersey cow of which the Danes are very fond. They often romp around the cow.

Sunstar is in his eighth year and the lifespan for a Dane is usually ten years. This means that after him Miss Lomas will be without a champion in the house. Something she has not experienced for 15 years.

Cares for them

Although Miss Lomas has to contend with the playfulness and tricks of her own two dogs, she opens her arms to other people's pets.

When people go on holiday or fall ill, she is given another dog to care for.

During the year many breeds of dogs are housed in loose box kennels in the extensive grounds of Wideskies. At present she has a blue Doberman, a breed which is very rare in this country. But she accepts anything from a mongrel puppy to a champion pedigree.

The house is surrounded by paddocks which are ideal for exercising dogs and every day she takes them out. "Generally a dog with a bitch or two bitches" she told me.

Miss Lomas - who looks after the dogs completely on her own - has built up her "boarding" kennels through reputation. In the summer she may care for as many as 25 dogs.

Temperament

Like humans, every dog has a different temperament and consequently Miss Lomas has to acquaint herself with them as a "friend."

Her day is a busy one. She feeds the dogs, cleans them out and exercises them in the paddocks. And she has to care for her own two dogs as well.

But she is not too busy to find time to “strip” dogs for her customers. This is a skilled and trying job and requires great patience, but Miss Lomas has a way with dogs and she enjoys it.

Although almost every minute of Miss Lomas’s time is governed by the dogs, she still finds time for her hobby of gardening. “I love gardening”, she said.

As I left her, Miss Lomas wistfully stoked Stardust’s head and murmured, “Breeding dogs is wonderful but you have to stop sometime.”

But as a “landlady” she is taking a weight of worry from many people’s shoulders, whether ill or away on holiday, and is creating a lot of happiness for herself.

Then she waved goodbye and went back to Wideskies and her “family”.

May died at the Lodge in July 1981.

Alfred’s granddaughter, **Felicity**, started to breed Cleveland Bays in the early 1990s in Ceredigion, Wales. She managed to find a stallion who traced his bloodline back to her grandfather’s bloodline, which she was able to continue for some years. As she grew older, she found she could no longer manage large horses and started instead to breed Section A Welsh Mountain Ponies in 2012. She has now started to exhibit her ponies at the Royal Welsh Show and the Royal Welsh Winter Fair, two of her long-term life ambitions.

Little did Alfred realise that his interest in Cleveland Bays and Suffolk sheep would lead to three generations of the family breeding animals.

Peter Lomas Mb 12799



May Lomas with Great Dane Cloud of the White Skies



May Lomas, nephews and Great Dane puppies at Ashley. Author on left

FIFTY FOUR MILES TO YARMOUTH

In 1785 the Ipswich to South Town and Bungay Turnpike opened. Since the restoration of Charles II in 1660, turnpikes had been gradually introduced along the 13 main roads out of London. The government liked turnpikes because the money raised from tolls was used for road maintenance and improvements. Turnpikes were run by boards of trustees who were not allowed to profit directly from the trusts but hoped that the improvement in communications would aid their businesses.

Toll houses and gates were placed along the road to Yarmouth, with fixed charges according to the type of vehicle or number and kind of animals being driven along the road. Stagecoaches travelled up and down the country, pulled by teams of horses. 'Heavy coaches' could carry four or six inside passengers, with up to 12 sitting on the roof. Luggage was charged by weight. A team of horses could pull a coach for 10 miles in an hour (hence mph), then the horses would be changed. There were coaching inns at roughly 10-mile intervals: for example, from the Great White Horse in Ipswich, towards Yarmouth, the first stop would be the Coach and Horses, Melton. London to Yarmouth took 15 hours, so the number of horses used in just one journey would have been at least 60. The life of a coach horse was seven years, and then they were sent to the knackers.



The mail coach in a thunder storm on Newmarket Heath, Suffolk, by R G Reeve (1827)

The Royal Mail was quick to take advantage of the new turnpikes. Before 1660, the mail had been carried by post boys on horseback, but they were often robbed. The Royal Mail coach carried a guard with a blunderbuss, and robberies were considerably reduced. The Royal Mail coach was painted red, the colour of the post boys' uniform, with the coat of arms on the door. It could carry four inside passengers, but this was the most expensive and fastest way to travel. The mail coach ran overnight, and apart from regularly changing horses, only stopped at the main post offices on the route. The *Ipswich Journal* reported on 14 August 1819 that the '*PATENT MAIL COACH, lately established by order of the Postmasters General, between YARMOUTH and IPSWICH*' would depart from the Star Tavern and Duke's Head Inns on the Quay at Yarmouth at 3pm, arrive at the Mail Coach Office in Ipswich at 9:50pm, leave for London half-an-hour later, and reach the capital at 7:30am.

By 1836 this journey time had been considerably reduced, taking about three hours less than the heavy stagecoach. This mail coach was leased from W Chapman & Co. Here is their timetable in 1836:

Outward		Return	
7:30pm	London White Horse, Fetter Lane	5:30pm	Yarmouth
8:00	London General Post Office	8:23	Yoxford
10:30	Ingatestone	9:41	Wickham Market
11:57	Witham	11:21	Ipswich
1:23am	Colchester	1:20am	Colchester
3:12	Ipswich	2:46	Witham
4:47	Wickham Market	4:13	Ingatestone
6:15	Yoxford	6:43	London General Post Office
9:30	Yarmouth	6:58	White Horse, Fetter Lane

These were the stops at the main post offices, where the mail would be continued onwards by carriers' carts. This meant that not just the ostlers but everyone working in the system needed accurate clocks for the first time in our history. So how did they know that their clocks were right? For instance, the Great White Horse in Ipswich kept its stables in Neale Street, a few minutes' walk from the inn. The ostlers had to bring the horses into the inn yard ready for the arrival of the coach, with only a few minutes to disembark any passengers and luggage, take on new ones and have the coach ready to go. The answer lay with the Royal Mail coach, which carried a clock set to London time, and locked so that the driver could not tamper with it. Every time the coach stopped to change horses the driver 'passed the time of day'. All parts of the country which had a mail route on its main road would have been running on London time. This system continued until 'railway time' was introduced later in the 19th century, and the clocks were taken over by the railway companies, the mail now being carried by train.

The Royal Mail coaches were leased from the commercial stagecoach companies in London, but provided their own drivers and guards. Horses were leased from the



*A three-quarter rear view of a Royal Mail Coach on exhibition at the Science Museum, London (Martinol, CCA-Share Alike 4.0). A note alongside the exhibit states that the coach is believed to have been built c.1820. However, it shows the monogram of **Queen Victoria**, who came to the throne in 1837, and so was probably refurbished at least once during its working life*

coaching inns. All coaches carried a horn which was blown as the coach approached a turnpike gate, the keeper being expected to have the gate open so that the coach did not need to stop. The coach companies paid an annual toll to the turnpike trusts. This was a 24-hour operation: at the sound of the horn at the approach to an inn, the expectation was that the ostlers would have the horses ready and the inn staff would be poised to deal with any passengers and luggage. Within 10 minutes of arriving at the Great White Horse in Ipswich, the mail coach would be off to the post office on the Cornhill and on its way. Stagecoaches and their associated industries were among the largest employers in the country, with 3,000 coaches, 30,000 men and at least 150,000 horses at any one time. The ancillary occupations were also huge employers, from staff at the coaching inns, horse breeders and stable staff, to coach builders, harness makers and blacksmiths, to name but a few. There was a growing demand for clocks and pocket watches: in Yoxford alone, 10 clock and watchmakers were listed in trade directories of the period. Until the 20th century, the fuel that ran the country was oats. It is not surprising that during the Napoleonic wars the French blockaded the channel to prevent the import of grain, which resulted in the enclosure and ploughing up of

much common land, as we were unable to feed ourselves and all the thousands of horses on which we were so dependent.

Many of us will have found ancestors working in one of these occupations. My husband's family included a postmistress and some harness makers. **David Sexton** (1801-1851) was a Berkshire baker and grocer, his shop also accommodating a sub-post office. The mail was delivered by cart from the main post office in Maidenhead. According to an 1848 trade directory, he owned the premises in Holyport, Bray. He married **Ann Palmer** (1800-1864) in Bray in 1831. The couple had three sons and a daughter. His eldest son **Jack** (1834-1894), my husband's 2x great-grandfather, did not follow his father's occupation, probably because David suffered from lung disease, a common illness of bakers due to the flour dust in which they worked. David died aged 50 and Jack and his younger brother **Walter** (b. 1837) became saddlers. This would have been a good career in the area, as Ascot racecourse was nearby. Following her husband's death, Ann Palmer ran the post office for the rest of her life. The old bakery and adjoining post office, now a house, can still be seen in Holyport, facing the village green. I have been unable to trace Jack on the 1851 census, but it seems he may have spent some time in Newmarket, another horse racing town, as in 1856 he married **Elizabeth Isaacson** (b. 1834), the daughter of **James Isaacson** (1803-1884) the parish clerk at nearby Exning. The marriage took place in Shoreditch, London, and by 1861 they were living in east London with their three children plus Elizabeth's sister **Sofia** (1826-1911), who was described as a 'monthly nurse'. Elizabeth's third son was just 10 days old. Jack's brother Walter was also living with them and the two men were working as harness makers. The family moved around London, and two of Jack's sons followed their father into the harness-making trade, but Walter returned to Bray within 10 years to run a beer house, and later to work as a gardener. Times were changing, and in the years leading up to the First World War there was more motorised transport in the city. Jack's son **George** (1864-1940), my husband's great-grandfather, became a demonstrator for Underwood Typewriters, and none of the following generation continued the trade. However, into the 1950s there were still plenty of horses working in towns and cities. In my early childhood in east London the oilman delivered paraffin by cart. His horse was called Nobby, and if my mother did not produce his usual carrot, Nobby would drag the cart over the pavement and up to the front door! That was one horse never to be forgotten.

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THE FRENCH CONNECTION

When I first started my family history research, my mother told me ‘*Your dad always said his family came over from France*’. Sadly, this was many years after my father had died and so I couldn’t ask him about it. My first assumption was that this was where the surname **Loines** derived from, but I was soon to discover that wasn’t the case. It’s just a variation of **Lines**, and within a few months of joining the Society I was in touch with this journal’s veteran reporter, **John M Lines** (he is my third cousin once removed). Still no French connection to be found.

However, my great-grandmother was named **Plaisé Cardy** (b. 1864, Monks Eleigh) and that seemed to be a possible French connection, as Plaisé is such an unusual name and the ‘e acute’ at the end hints at being French. I could find only two other Plaisés – one being her daughter **Sybil Plaisé Loines** (b. 1898, New Eltham, London) and another **Plaisé Cardy** who was buried in 1841 in Bures St Mary. Could this latter Plaisé hold the answer?

The mystery was put to one side for a few years, but recently I decided to bite the bullet and purchase the 1841 death certificate for Plaisé Cardy. And lo and behold, it contained some useful information! She was the wife of **Zachariah Cardy**. Further research identified the likely Zachariah, my 3x great-uncle, born in 1790 in Bures St Mary. He was described in the 1851 and 1861 censuses as a ‘*tailor and Chelsea pensioner*’, opening up the possibility that he may have travelled during his military career. At this point I was hoping he had served in the Suffolk Regiment, having enjoyed the Society’s Zoom lecture on that subject by **Mark Forsdike**. But he hadn’t – he joined the 95th Regiment of Foot as a private, and online records give details of his presence at various places associated with the Napoleonic wars.

And then I found it – the marriage of Zachariah Cardy to **Plucie Guillan** in 1819, in Alverstoke, near Gosport in Hampshire.⁽¹⁾ Plucie/Plaisé sound very similar and Guillan looks like a French name. Not conclusive proof, I know, but another step to finding that elusive French connection!

The moral of this story? Every so often it pays to revisit those old brick walls as new records become available that may help you break the wall down. And if anyone else is researching the Cardy family, in Bures St Mary or elsewhere, please feel free to get in touch.

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ON THE ACCURACY OF A LATE 16TH-CENTURY PARISH REGISTER

Parish registers are much used by family historians, but are the 16th-century registers as accurate as is sometimes assumed? Some years ago now, I looked in detail at one parish with seemingly complete registers; at some periods at the end of the 16th century, one in four marriages are missing from the parish register and about one in eight burials. I published a summary, and this is a slightly amended version of that article.⁽¹⁾ I don't know if there is evidence of this level of inaccuracy elsewhere, but my exercise pointed to the importance of looking carefully at your sources!

I looked at the register of Long Melford when I was in the early stages of putting together a population reconstruction for the parish, so was looking carefully at all the records I could find.⁽²⁾

The problems with the Melford register in this period fall into three quite separate groups:

- (1) Occasions where there is no record in the surviving register of events which other sources suggest were originally recorded;
- (2) Occasions where there is inaccurate transcription or recording of events (such as the name of a man being substituted for that of his son); or
- (3) Occasions where there is no record in the register of events which definitely happened within the parish.

Of course, we only find out about inaccuracies in any records by comparing them to other information sources. I found the first and second types of error by comparing the parish register (PR) with the Bishop's/Archdeacon's Transcripts (BTs) and the third type by comparing the parish register with the accounts of the churchwardens and poor collectors.

1. The parish register and the transcripts

As well as completing the PR, the clerk had to send an annual list of baptisms, burials and marriages to the diocesan officers. These Register Bills, Bishop's Transcripts or Archdeacon's Transcripts (here all abbreviated as BTs) are a useful check of the PR where they survive, and even more important where the register is missing.

The Register Bills of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury, which included Long Melford, survive from the last 40 years of the 16th century and are probably amongst the earliest still existing.

BTs have been widely used to fill in gaps in PRs, but with warnings that, as copies, they are not always accurate. The early Register Bills of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury are interesting because they were completed nearer the date of the event they record

than many surviving PRs for the 16th century. Registers were required from 1538, but were probably kept in many different ways until legislation in 1598 required records from the beginning of **Elizabeth's** reign onwards to be copied into vellum volumes.

The existing PR for Melford records baptisms and burials from late 1559, and marriages from 1570. It is, however, for about the first 60 years, a copy. It is written in the same hand until 1627, and was presumably copied sometime before this date. It is likely that this is at least the second transcription of the records; the preface to the register mentions that the 'old register' did not include any events prior to 1559. It is likely that the register was first copied in 1598 or thereabouts and later copied again; many other early PRs are probably the product of a similar series of events.

Thus, the parish clerk kept his records, perhaps in a book, perhaps on separate bits of paper, and copied them once a year onto a sheet of paper to send to the Archdeaonry. These are the BTs. The clerk's originals were kept in the parish chest. In 1598, in Melford and probably many other parishes, the parish clerk collected together all the records that he could find and copied them into the new vellum register. In Melford, that register was probably copied again some 20 years later. With so many chances of bits of paper getting lost, clerks misreading the handwriting of their predecessors and/or getting bored with a long copying job, it is perhaps surprising that the register is as accurate as it is.

So what differences are there between the parish register and the BTs? BTs exist for 17½ or 18½ of the years between 1559 and 1599, so just under half the period.⁽³⁾ In that period there are 93 events (baptisms, burials or marriages) which are listed in the BTs and not in the PR, and 140 which occur in the PR but are not in the BTs. These latter 140 are interesting in terms of how it happened that the clerk missed them off his returns to the Archdeaonry, and would be particularly important in a parish without a surviving register.

Of the events missing from the parish register, 14 are baptisms, 41 are burials and 38 are marriages. They are concentrated in the years 1585 to 1599, which account for seven of the baptisms, 27 of the burials and 35 of the marriages. In this 15-year period, 102 marriages were recorded in the PR, so around one in four of the total marriages are missing. There were 902 baptisms recorded during the period, so only one in 65 of them are missing. Why should the figure for baptisms be low when so many marriages are missing? Could this relate to the way the records were kept, in that perhaps the clerks kept all the baptisms listed together but had marriages on separate bits of paper which were easier to lose? Or is there some other explanation?

When we look at the burials which are not in the parish register, we have to look as well at problem (3), which is in many ways more important than errors of transcription; this is considered below. However, the BTs also point to other errors of transcription, either in the BTs or more commonly in the PR.

One example of this has already been mentioned, where the clerk copying out the parish register later has misread an entry and put in the wrong member of the family. The BT says John, son of Robert was buried in 1581, and the PR says Robert was buried. Events are left out when the BT had two events together for the same family and one is left out of the PR. The BT could be at fault, but it is more likely to be the clerk copying out the PR. First names are sometimes muddled (Robert for Richard, for example) or handwriting simply misread (which seems the most likely reason for William becoming 'Widdow'). The copied-up PR sometimes excludes people from other places recorded as having died in Melford, and the BTs sometimes exclude from their lists of baptisms children who were already dead when the BT was written up.

There are other simple transcription errors, such as one surname being written in the PR twice running when it should have occurred only once and the second event belongs to another family. More puzzling are occasions when people's sex gets confused; the BT says John, son of Henry Smith and Frances his wife, and the PR says John, son of Francis Smith. There are as well some total changes, where for the same date and family the BT says John, son of Henry and the PR says Mary, daughter of Henry (with no suggestion of twins in either case).

2. The parish register and the other parish records

Although the inaccuracies mentioned above are important, they are not perhaps really surprising when you think of what has actually gone into the production of the records. What may be of more importance is the non-recording of events which we know about from other sources. In relation to the Melford evidence I am referring mainly to the burial of people who had been receiving poor relief, but other examples might be found elsewhere.

The parish of Melford had its own income for poor relief from at the latest 1495 when **John Hills** left land, the income of which was to go to the poor. There are references to provision for the poor in the churchwardens' accounts from the 1550s, including the provision of clothes to the poor in 1563, and a will mentions the poor collectors in 1566. There are scattered references to individuals in these earlier accounts, but the first surviving long list of those who received relief is from 1585, and there are several for the rest of the century, with some week-by-week accounts of relief paid.

In the 1580s and 1590s there are some 52 references to the churchwardens or the poor collectors either buying winding sheets for poor folk who had died and/or contributing to their funeral expenses. Most references are to winding sheets, but some are more detailed, as for example:

<i>'Laide out to Elisabeth Lane for loking to John Reynolds</i>	12d'
<i>'For a windinge sheete for the said John Reynolds</i>	2s 4d'
<i>'Laid out to Elisabeth Lane at his buryall</i>	16d'
<i>'To those that bore him to church</i>	2d'

John Reynolds was a stranger, which was probably why the parish had to pay people to bear him to church, but almost all the other people mentioned are local, and many of them either had been receiving poor relief or were the dependants of people getting regular or occasional relief. Of these 52 references, 18 of the individuals are in the burial records of the PR, and another four are recorded in the BTs as having been buried but are not in the PR. This leaves 30 people who were buried and whose burial was not recorded. Of these instances, 27 occurred between 1585 and 1599.

There are a variety of possible explanations. The fact that their deaths were already mentioned in the poor accounts might mean that there was thought to be no point in recording in the register, but this seems unlikely, and in that case why do some of them appear? Where well-to-do and well-regarded people were buried in the church rather than in the churchyard, the 6s 8d it cost is recorded in the churchwardens' accounts, but their burial was still recorded in the PR. Embezzlement also seems unlikely, given that 16th-century churchwardens did not throw money around, and these accounts were all examined at the end of the year by the vestry committee, who would have known who had died and who had not. Could the 'missing' bodies have been taken to other places to be buried? There is some evidence in the late 18th century of many people not being buried where they died but of the body being moved to another parish. But in some of these Melford cases, the accounts mention the digging of the grave or the bearing to it. Also, these were paupers, or at least people who sometimes received relief. Moving bodies around the countryside cost money for carters and horses; who would pay for this?

A more likely explanation comes from the parish accounts of Melford a century later, when the incumbent is doing the accounts and adds a comment that whereas the overseers paid for the burial of a pauper, they would not pay the 2d for writing the name in the register. Do we know when charges were first levied for parish register entries? Is there any evidence from anywhere else of charges being made as early as the 1580s? Are there any other explanations for the non-appearance in the PR of these burials, apart from the inefficiency of the clerk or his thinking them not worth recording, being of but poor folk?

This latter explanation would not account for another, smaller group of 'missing' burials. In the same 40 years, there are 19 Melford people who either left a will or whose relatives applied for administration, but whose burial is not recorded in the PR. Of these, two are in the BTs. Of the remainder, 12 died in the 15 years 1585-1599. Now some of these people could well have died outside Melford; the wording of the wills shows that three of them very probably did die elsewhere, and more may have done. However, two of the wills are nuncupative, records of what the individual said on their deathbed when they could not sign a will, and the witnesses are Melford people, making it almost definite that they died in Melford. Those who left wills all say that they want their body buried in Melford, although of course if they died a long

way away that might not have been possible. Nevertheless, some of these people, at least two and probably more, died in Melford and are not mentioned in the PR.

In the years 1585-1599, 391 burials are recorded in the surviving Melford PR. There are 27 additional burials recorded in the BTs, 30 poor people who were almost certainly buried in Melford whose burials are not recorded in either BT or PR, and somewhere between two and 19 people for whom probate evidence exists whose burials are not so recorded. Thus, somewhere between one in seven and one in eight burials are not in the parish register.

These 'missing' burials, and the marriages mentioned earlier, can only be 'found' because they appear in, or can be inferred from, other records. One can speculate about whether these are the only events missing from the PR, or whether there were others.

The most likely explanation is often the simplest, and it may be that the parish clerks of the period were particularly forgetful or unorganised. **John Gawger** was clerk from at least 1571 to 1588, when he died, and was probably followed by **George Frend**, who was certainly doing the job by 1592 and continued until he died in 1597. Both were members of well-established local families, part of the 'middle and the good' of Elizabethan Melford. Both appear as witnesses and scribes of wills, and the Gawgers were part of that group that regularly became feoffees of town lands and held similar positions. George Frend had been Constable in 1564 and as a husbandman rented some of the town lands for some years. His father **John**, a yeoman, was one of a group of good, solid, middling people in Melford who made positively 'puritan' wills mentioning the 'elect' during the reign of **Queen Mary**.

Of course, both men could have been inefficient, however respectable their families. But the vestry committees over these years in Melford included men used to dealing with records and finances, large scale clothiers and the elite of the local farmers, as well as some of the gentry. It seems unlikely that they would have accepted really inefficient clerks.

More about those marriages

It was suggested the missing marriages could be marriages where the banns were read in Melford but the individuals were either not married or married elsewhere, so I looked at the 35 marriages which are listed in the BTs but not the PR between 1585 and 1600:

- There are further records of 25 of these 35 marriages in Melford records, just over 70% (for comparison, there are further records of 81 of the 111 marriages listed in either the BTs or PR in the period 1580-1599, again just over 70%).
- Definitely seven and possibly up to nine of these families receive poor relief at some time in the period.

- In one case both husband and wife were baptised in Melford, and in 19 cases both were either baptised in Melford or probably come from an established Melford family.
- Nine of the men and 11 of the women were definitely baptised in Melford.
- Seventeen of the men and the same number of the women were probably from an established Melford family.
- There are at least two and possibly up to six cases where the man is from Melford and the wife is not, and at least five cases and possibly up to nine where the wife is from Melford but the husband is not.

To look at whether any of these couples married elsewhere, I looked (at the time) in *Boyd's Marriage Index* for Suffolk. I did not have time to check them all, but in the first half of the alphabet none of the marriages appeared anywhere else. Melford being on the borders of Essex, the Essex *Boyd's* should be checked as well, but the evidence seems fairly clear that they are not all marriages actually celebrated elsewhere.

There does not seem to be anything that the marriages have in common which would explain their exclusion from the PR. What, then, of the actual register? I have looked in more detail at where the marriages occur, or rather do not, in the actual PR. There are a few occasions in the Melford register where the pages have been cut so that the last item is lost from a column, and the very occasional illegible item; did this type of problem account for the missing marriages?

The answer is no, but this closer examination of the register did reinforce the idea that transcription or clerical errors could well be the main cause of some marriages not being recorded. There are, however, two separate types of occurrence:

- There are eight occasions when the PR has more than two months with no marriages recorded, the longest period being of nine months. Thirteen of the 35 marriages in the BTs occur in one of these gaps, which would seem most probably to be the result of pieces of paper or parchment getting lost, which could be the copies of what was sent to the Archdeaconry.
- The other 22 marriages cannot be accounted for this way. In 1588, for example, the PR has one marriage in July, and the BT two; the PR has three in November while the BT has four; and it has one in February where the BT has two. There are three in the BT in October and none in the PR. None of these gaps occurs at the top or bottom of a page.

The second group are very difficult to explain. The clerk originally recorded them at the end of the year when he sent the records to the Archdeaconry, and presumably kept a copy of the list he had sent, or wrote them all into the earlier register at this point. Pure transcription error still seems the likeliest explanation, but why do so few discrepancies occur with the baptisms? Other ideas welcome!

Is this scale of inaccuracy of parish registers common for the 16th century? Are the registers generally more accurate after 1598 when they are in book form? Is there any evidence from other parishes of possible explanations for the exclusion of certain poor folk from the register? Is there any evidence from church courts and visitation records about the standard of keeping of registers?

I would like to think that once the vellum registers were established, fewer errors would be found ...

Lyn Boothman

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Appendix – Some *Local Population Studies* articles with East Anglian places in their titles

Tom Arkell and Anne Whiteman, *Mean Household Size in mid-Tudor England: Clackclose Hundred, Norfolk*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 60 (Spring 1998).

R. Barker, *Comparing Demographic Experience: Harwich and Whitby, 1750–1800*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 46 (Spring 1991).

John Bedells, *The Gentry of Huntingdonshire*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 44 (Spring 1990).

Lyn Boothman, *Mobility and Stability in Long Melford, Suffolk in the Late Seventeenth Century*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 62 (Spring 1999).

Lyn Boothman, *Studying the Stayers: the Stable Population of Long Melford, Suffolk, over Two Hundred Years*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 95 (Autumn 2015).

Lyn Boothman, *Studying the Stayers: Kinship and Social Status in Long Melford, Suffolk, 1661–1861*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 101 (Autumn, 2018).

David Dymond, *The Famine of 1527 in Essex*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 26 (Spring 1981).

Heather Falvey, *Assessing an Early Modern Fenland Population: Whittlesey (Cambridgeshire)*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 92 (Spring 2014).

J. S. Lee, *Tracing Regional and Local Changes in Population and Wealth during the Later Middle Ages using Taxation Records: Cambridgeshire, 1334–1563*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 69 (Autumn 2002).

Dennis R. Mills, *The Christening Custom at Melbourne, Cambs*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 11 (Autumn 1973).

Bernard Nurse, *Occupations in Parish Registers: the Evidence from Newport, Essex*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 52 (Spring 1994).

Glynis Reynolds, *Infant Mortality and Sex Ratios at Baptism as Shown by the Reconstruction of Willingham, a Parish at the Edge of the Fens in Cambridgeshire*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 22 (Spring 1979).

M. J. Saxby, *Ages at Baptism in the Parish of All Saints, Sudbury, 1809–1828: a New Approach to their Interpretation*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 70 (Spring 2003).

Phillipp Schofield, *Frankpledge Lists as Indices of Migration and Mortality: some Evidence from Essex Lists*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 52 (Spring 1994).

Tiffany Haller Shumaker, *Estimating Population Sizes and Demographic Trends in Ipswich c. 1570–1620: Re-Evaluations and New Approaches*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 103 (Autumn 2019).

Rex Watson, *A Study of Surname Distribution in a Group of Cambridgeshire Parishes, 1538–1840*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 15 (Autumn 1975).

Penelope Wilcox, *Marriage, Mobility, and Domestic Service in Victorian Cambridge*. *Local Population Studies*, Number 29 (Autumn 1982).

References and Sources

1. The original article was published in *Local Population Studies* (LPS) 49, in 1992. It can be found online by either searching for the article title or going to <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk> and looking for 'past issues' in the section 'The Journal'. LPS has been published since 1968, and all except the most recent articles can be freely downloaded; it is published by the LPSS, which also runs conferences and supports researchers. I have included in an Annex a list of some other East Anglian-related contributions, to give a flavour of the range of topics covered by LPS. This article is reproduced in *Suffolk Roots* with the kind permission of the LPSS.
2. I am a family historian, but my efforts to find Suffolk ancestors resulted in just one possible couple in 16th-century Mildenhall, whose children moved to Norfolk! However, I have been working on the population history of Long Melford for many years and have a population reconstruction, i.e. a database of all the information I have been able to find about anyone living in Melford at any period. I am always happy to share information with anyone with Melford ancestors.
3. One year's BTs must have existed, because *Boyd's Marriage Index* lists events recorded in it, but it can no longer be found in the bundles of Register Bills; or at least, I couldn't find it in the early 1990s.

LEISTON OATH OF PROTESTATION 27 FEB 1641

While transcribing parish registers for the Society I came across the following list in the Leiston parish register. According to Wikipedia:

'The Protestation of 1641 was an attempt to avert the English Civil War. Parliament passed a bill on 3 May 1641 requiring those over the age of 18 to sign the Protestation, an oath of allegiance to King Charles I and the Church of England, as a way to reduce the tensions across the realm. Signing them was a necessity in order to hold public office. Those that were not willing to sign it were also listed under it as refusing to pledge its oath'.

Raph Girling curate	John Randall	William Blomefield	John Briggs
William Smythe	William Garrard	Raphe Randall	Abraham Ruffells
Richard Morrice	John Gonesbery jnr.	Thomas Hayle	Henry Orryce
John Grome snr.	Thomas Burcham	Henry King	William Bellward
Edmund Bungey	Thomas Wythe	William Howell	Thomas Martyn
Richard Lopham	John Eade	John Fiske	John Hazard
Samuel Howe	Clem Greeneleaf	Henry Pettitt	John Buxtone
Thomas Smythe	Edmond Holding	Thomas Canham	Gabriel Bateman snr.
John Grome jnr.	John Brown	Robert Tovell	Gabriel Bateman jnr.
Arnold Danford	Robert Man	George Browne	William Wilken
Robert Faken	Anthony Parker	John Marling	Henry Haken
Richard Rednal	George Hazard	Thomas May jnr.	John Wiggen
Ambrose Prew	Edmund Greling	Edward Reve	Robert May
John Huckney	Zachary Bird	Thomas May snr.	Edward Page
Edward Hockney	Robert Crosse	William Myre	Thomas Figgas
John Pype	William Pype	Richard Pacey	Robert Bence
Chrestopher Reve	Robert Meerees	Thomas Palmer	Robert Rowe
Robert Onge	John Wyite	Francis Fleete	John Welles
Robert Sewell	Francis Miller	Richard Wyte	John Shank
Abraham Dowe	William Flatman	Daniel Higate	Thomas Curtis
Edward Smythe	Nathaniel Byshopp	Henry Fella	
Thomas Eade	Thomas Marling	John Gonesbery	
Richard Spalding	Thomas Whinory	Thomas Munford	

Adrian Howlett

References and Sources

Parish Register, Leiston, 1538-1661 FC130/D/1/1

LEISTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL HISTORY & ARCHIVE

Part One: The Early Years - 1909 to 1939

In the 1800s, education for children was administered by local school boards and usually only continued up to the age of twelve. As the 19th century closed, it was recognised that there was a need for education to continue beyond twelve and that the school boards should be reformed.

The government stepped in, and the Education Act 1902 replaced the school boards with Local Education Authorities (LEAs) which had the power to run secondary and technical schools. In 1903, Suffolk County Council LEA formed an Education Committee with directly elected members.

One of the new committee members was **Frank Garrett**, the sole proprietor of Richard Garrett & Sons, the well-known Leiston engineering works. Locally it was proposed to build a new Higher Elementary School either at Leiston or Saxmundham. Frank Garrett was determined that it should be Leiston, and his view prevailed.

Lord Huntingfield provided a two-acre site on Waterloo Avenue. An Ipswich architect, **E T Johns**, won the design competition and a building contract in the sum of £5,253 was awarded to T Parkington & Sons of Ipswich. Known as the Leiston Pupil Teacher Centre and Higher Elementary School, it was completed in 1908 and opened in 1909.

In August 1909, at the opening of the new school, the LEA Secretary said that the purpose of the school was for pupils of good character with sufficient ability to benefit from the higher education available there. They did not want any weaklings or backward children, but to make smart boys and girls smarter! Rather an elitist view that would not be acceptable today? It's worthy of note that in 1973 when the school was finally shut down, the LEA went to great lengths to remove all traces of the 'elitist' Grammar School before it became a comprehensive.

Pupils were selected by academic ability - a number of scholarships being made available subject to examination. Otherwise, better-off parents could pay a fee, which in 1914 was set at £7 per annum. Initially, 160 pupils were enrolled and they were divided into three houses, Gainsborough, Wolsey and Suffolk.

The Secretary went on to say that they had appointed '*an excellent Head Master (Mr Harvard Arundel, B.A.) who had left a splendid record behind him in the Midlands*'.

Harvard Arundel was a family man from Yorkshire with four young children. He had been born in Wakefield in 1870 and trained at Borough Road Teacher Training College in Islington, London, where he was awarded a BA degree from London University in 1896. He then gained experience working as a teacher in various parts of the country. In 1905 he was appointed headmaster of Dudley Pupil Teacher Centre.

At that time, the going rate for a headteacher was around £300 per annum, including a capitation grant. The LEA also provided the family with a house in Waterloo Avenue, just opposite the school. Successive headteachers also occupied that property. In the 1960s, when the house was no longer required, it was sold. (At that time, I had the opportunity to look round and was appalled by the state of the property. It was a large dwelling but it was like a throw-back to the Victorian era. No 'mod cons' and unchanged since the day it was built!)



In 1914 the LEA decided to convert the Leiston Higher Elementary School into a Secondary School. By the autumn of that year, Harvard Arundel had moved on to work as a teacher in Fulham, and a new head was in place, **Mr Arthur W Mason**. However, in 1916 another headmaster arrived, **Mr A W Watson**, and then in 1918 it was reported that **Mr A L Finch** had been appointed to the position. Four headmasters within five years!



Hockey team 1922-1923



Football team 1939-1940



Sixth Form 1939 (James Broadhead seated centre)



Football Team at Sudbury 1944

Whether these were short-term, stop-gap appointments is unclear, but WW1 was in progress at this time so some turbulence might have been expected. The school, by the way, played a part in the war effort by providing machine and benchwork training for munition workers in the school's Manual Training Centre.

After a decade of changes, a period of stability was needed. In 1919 Leiston County Secondary School welcomed headmaster number five! He was **James Arthur Broadhead** MA, BSc, LLB, another family man from Yorkshire with just one son. By all accounts he was a well-liked and popular leader. Sporting activities were encouraged and there was even a boys' school hockey team. Mr Broadhead retired in 1945 after serving as headmaster for 26 years, longer than any other headmaster before or after.

He passed away in May 1952 at the home of his son **Denis** in Kent and a tribute was published in the 1953 *Leistonian* magazine. It described Mr Broadhead as '*a man of high character and kindly disposition*' who had left a strong, wholesome and lasting impression on the school. The Old Leistonian Association raised funds to provide the 'J A Broadhead Prize', an annual award for academic ability and perseverance established in honour of this '*truly great man*'.

Part Two: The War and More - 1939 to 1945

Originally there was a bit of a mystery regarding Leiston County Secondary School (LCSS) during WW2. We knew that the school was evacuated to Sudbury, but not much else. After a letter with a plea for help was published in the *East Anglian Daily Times*, three alumni who were pupils during WW2 kindly got in touch. We now know that the school left Leiston in the summer of 1940 and remained in Sudbury until the summer of 1944. Around 140 pupils in seven forms were accommodated in lodgings in the town.

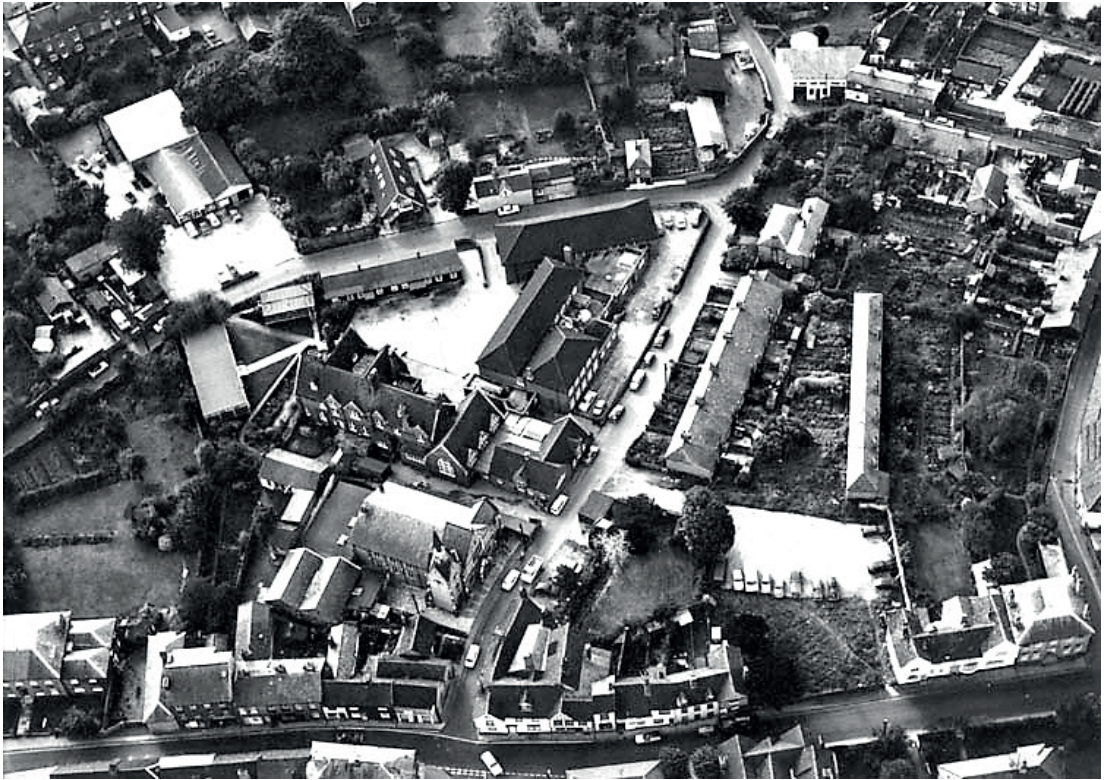
The pupils were welcomed by the people of Sudbury who were said to have found real pleasure in doing all they could for the boys and girls, who in return responded magnificently in the fine way they behaved. Lifelong friendships were made, some of which were later cemented in marriage. The evacuation was described as one of the most successful in the country.

Many of the teaching staff also went to Sudbury, including James Broadhead, **Herbert Bartholomew**, **Raymond Clark** and **Miss Edna Donnelly**, and it seems the school carried on regardless with normal lessons and sporting activities. Raymond Clark recalled that they had the use of a heated swimming pool, and with the help of Miss Donnelly every pupil was awarded a swimming certificate. The pupils also grew vegetables in the hospital garden and the park flower gardens.

He went on to say that it was quite an experience for some pupils. One little girl was given a lovely bedroom with her own washbasin. Later her hostess found her crying and said '*Don't cry - I will be a mother to you*'. The girl replied '*It's not that, I just can't get over seeing water come out of a tap*'!

Why was the school evacuated? Although the East Coast was a front-line area during the War, there was no mass evacuation of young people - in fact, children were sent down from London to the relative safety of Leiston & District. We understand that the school with its well-equipped workshop was commandeered for training engineering operatives to work at the Richard Garrett Engineering Works (RGEW) (commonly known as the Leiston Works) and elsewhere. This actually continued until 1965, when RGEW established their own Training School.

Where in Sudbury was the school located? A post on the Sudbury Town History Facebook page resulted in this 1960s aerial photo from the wonderful Sudbury Photo Archive. The photo is reproduced by kind permission of **David Burnett**, who advised that LCSS was housed in premises attached to the Sudbury Grammar School, which is at the bottom of the triangular open space in the centre of the picture. The site has now been cleared and is occupied by Orwell Housing, and the listed Grammar School building is now part of the William Wood House sheltered housing complex.



The School at Sudbury (photo courtesy of David Burnett of the Sudbury Photo Archive)

Meanwhile, WW2 was in full flow and many old pupils were involved. Most survived the conflict, but a few perished. A memorial plaque that used to hang in the school hall honoured 17 alumni who lost their lives during the conflict. They included:

Bromley John William Brown (1914-1943)



Bromley was born in Hackney on 11 May 1914. Sometime during the mid-1920s the family moved to Leiston, and Bromley attended LCSS (later Leiston Grammar School). He was a keen and capable sportsman and appears in many school football and cricket team photos. After leaving school he was a schoolteacher at Middleton School where he met **Lola**, his future wife, who was also a teacher there. Bromley and Lola married in the spring of 1941. They had one daughter, **Sally Eleanor**, born on Boxing Day 1941.

As WW2 got under way, Bromley volunteered to join the RAF. He wanted to become a pilot, but because he was colour blind that was not possible and so he served as a rear gunner in Lancaster Bombers instead. He did his training in Canada and served as a Sergeant with the RAF Volunteer Reserve, 61 Squadron, Bomber Command.

Bromley died, aged 29, on 18 August 1943, when his aircraft (Lancaster W4934) was one of 600 bombers taking part in Operation Hydra - the first part of the Crossbow campaign against the Peenemünde research centre. Taking off at 21:36 hours from Syerston in Lincolnshire, the plane reached the target area but was attacked by a German night-fighter, exploded and crashed into the Baltic.

That night the British lost 215 aircrew and 40 bombers. Although only part of the installation was destroyed, the raid resulted in the dispersal of V2 rocket production, and the consequent delays saved the lives of many UK civilians.

Bromley John William Brown was buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, CWGC grave reference 5.J.27. The inscription includes:

'Always remembered by his wife Lola, Daughter Sally, Mother and Sisters'.

Dick W Burwood (1914–1942)



Dick was born on 23 July 1914, in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, the son of **Russell** and **Edith Ellen Burwood**. Russell served in WW1 as a sapper in the Royal Engineers. Unfortunately, on 26 August 1918 he died from wounds sustained in France during the second Battle of the Somme.



Dick attended Leiston County Secondary School and appears in several football and cricket sports team photos dating from 1929 to 1932, together with his teammate Bromley Brown. In 1932 he would have been 18 years old and about to leave school. Comparing the 1932 photo with the 1929 photo he had certainly become a tall, strapping young man.

Dick appears in the 1939 Register living at 49 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, together with his widowed mother and four siblings. His occupation is given as schoolteacher, possibly at the Aldeburgh Elementary School which is just down the road from his home.

Also listed, living in lodgings just round the corner at 4 Fawcett Road, is a young lady named **Ivy E Kerry**, occupation *'Jewellery Shop Manager'*. The Register was taken on 29 September that year, shortly before Dick and Ivy were married. Later they moved to Norfolk, when Dick became a teacher at Ditchingham.

In 1941 Dick joined the Army and in 1942 was serving as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Corps of Signals. Sadly, in May 1942 he was killed whilst on active service in the Middle East.

Bernard Hewett Packman (1921–1941)



Bernard was born in Ipswich on 28 December 1921. The family subsequently moved to Leiston and appear on the 1939 Register living close to the Grammar School at 84 Waterloo Avenue.

Bernard became a pupil at LCSS and is pictured standing second left in the June 1939 Sixth Form photo. He is also in the 1939-1940 football team photo, which suggests that he would have been at the school until the summer of 1940. He looks a fine young man, standing proud, looking forward to life after school, sadly not knowing what the future had in store for him!

By the summer of 1940, hostilities were well under way and Bernard enlisted in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, serving with 767 Squadron as an Acting Leading Air Mechanic (Service No. FX85252). He was posted to *HMS Condor*, a Royal Navy Air Base at Arbroath in Scotland. The base operated torpedo bombers to attack enemy submarines and shipping in the North Sea.

Unfortunately, on 10 December 1941, when just short of his 20th birthday, Bernard was killed in a flying accident. The Allied Airmen Roll of Honour states: *'crashed at Lochaber due to engine failure soon after taking off from RNAS Arbroath on a Night Wind Finding Exercise.'*

Bernard Hewett Packman was laid to rest in Leiston Cemetery.

David Andrew Titlow (1923–1944)



Photo courtesy of David Titlow, great-nephew of David.

David was a scion of the Leiston ironmongery family at that time living in Waterloo Avenue, not far from the LCSS. He also appears in the 1939-1940 football team photo.

After leaving school, he joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and served as a Sub-Lieutenant and pilot in the Fleet Air Arm.

On 28 May 1944, in atrocious weather conditions, his plane crashed into a hilltop near Perth during a transit flight from RNAS Machrihanish to RNAS Hatston. David, aged 20, and his three fellow crew members were killed instantly. He was shortly due to join his colleagues in 831 Squadron aboard the aircraft carrier *HMS Victorious*; it would have been his first operational deployment.

David was buried in St Margaret's Churchyard, Leiston and is commemorated on an impressive family memorial.

Nancy Whitcher (1926–1942)

In 1940, Nancy was a pupil at LCSS living with her parents at Dawn Villa, 57 The Terrace, Aldeburgh. On 3 November 1940 the town endured German bombing for the second time in a month, when bombs completely destroyed Dawn Villa and the adjacent Methodist chapel. Luckily the family was out at the time, but they lost all their possessions. A mere 13 months later there was a much, much worse tragedy when, on 14 December 1942, a German Dornier bomber dropped a 500kg bomb on the Post Office. Four members of staff were killed, one blinded and other staff and customers badly injured. One of those killed was 16-year-old Nancy Whitcher, who worked there as a switchboard operator. The telephonists' room was on the upper floor. The bomb came through the roof and then exploded in the Sorting Office, at the rear of the ground floor. The switchboard operators stood no chance.

Heroically, **Nancy Ellen Whitcher**, who was a senior St John's nurse, treated the casualties while fully aware of her own daughter's fate.

Many thanks to **Peter Harris** for allowing us to use the above photo, and extracts from his book *Bombed Out*.



Postscript - Leiston Grammar School Archive

Much of the above article is drawn from the LGS Archive, which was compiled by the author in conjunction with the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group. The archive includes over 300 panoramic, sports team and form photos. We also have *Leistonian* magazines, Speech and Sports Day programmes and much other ephemera.

The archive is available to view by appointment at the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group Help Centre (<https://avsfhg.org.uk/hc/help-centre>) and the contents are listed on the Index of Resources on the group website at <https://avsfhg.org.uk/idx/>.

A search service is available for anyone interested, and copies of most items are available free of charge by email. Just contact us via LGS@avsfhg.org.uk or directly on jhm.foxf@btinternet.com.

John Martin Mb 3026

GOLDING CONSTABLE CONNECTION

This piece was prompted by the call in March's *Suffolk Roots* to write in about connections to **John Constable**, the painter.

Probably around 2008, I settled down to watch an episode of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' featuring the late **Dame Barbara Windsor**. She was well known as being a 'cockney sparrow', so it was a surprise when she opened an envelope to find a certificate declaring one of her ancestors was a **Golding** from Suffolk. Ooh, I thought, I've a Golding branch in my family tree. Then it was revealed the Goldings in question were from Glemsford, and so were mine! By this time, I was getting quite excited - could I be related to Barbara Windsor?

The programme then showed Barbara Windsor visiting the Record Office in Bury St. Edmunds, where the archivist produced a very basic tree as follows:

Mark Golding (m. **Margaret Crysall**)

Mark Golding (m. **Elizabeth Frost**)

Mark Golding (m. **Bethsheba Gibbon**)

and continuing down to Barbara Windsor

This was also my Golding branch, the only difference being that her ancestor Mark Golding (the third) was a brother to my ancestor **Luke Golding**, meaning that Barbara and I were very distant cousins! Luke Golding (bp. 27 December 1745, Glemsford) married **Elizabeth Brockwell** on 14 August 1768 in Glemsford, and they were my 5x great-grandparents. (Note: I have put brackets round the wives' names above, as their names are on my tree but did not appear in the television programme.)

This was not all. As those of you who may remember the programme will know, the archivist then surprised Barbara with the fact that Mark Golding (the first) was a brother to **Judith Golding** (bp. 21 December 1667, Cavendish), who married into the Constable family and was an ancestor of the great John Constable. Hence, Barbara Windsor and John Constable were distant cousins.

Please note I have only been able to deduce my own findings from entries found on the IGI (Family Search) pre-2008 and from the television programme, and have not been able to verify them from original documents. I live in Stockport and it has not been possible to get to Suffolk for some time to undertake research.

Margaret Gorham Mb 763

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SARAH SUMMERSETT (1779-1869)

A STUDY OF PERSON & PLACE

An enigmatic biography

Sarah Summerset was the fourth of five children born to **Henry Summerset** and his wife **Hannah** (née **Nevill**). Her siblings, in birth order, were **Hannah**, **Henry Neville**, **Elizabeth** and **Harriot**. Sarah's baptism was recorded on 7 July 1779 at Hadleigh St Mary, Suffolk.⁽¹⁾ Sarah came to my notice because she was later distinguished by being the recipient of a significant personal annuity bequeathed to her by **Richard Savage Lloyd jnr.** (c.1768-1818) of Hintlesham Hall. Richard had inherited the Hintlesham estate in 1810 on the death of his father, **Richard Savage Lloyd** (c.1730-1810). He died, unmarried, at the relatively young age of 50 on 6 August 1818. A contemporary obituary noted that he was *'a great admirer of the sports of the field; and although for some years past unable, through indisposition, to enjoy them in the full extent himself, yet he generously contributed to the amusement and gratification of his sporting neighbours, by maintaining an excellent pack of fox-hounds. He has left two maiden sisters to lament his loss'*.⁽²⁾ His will, dated 24 November 1812, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 28 September 1818 by his sisters **Elizabeth Savage Lloyd** and **Harriot Lloyd**, his joint executors.⁽³⁾

Richard left the bulk of his substantial estate to the two sisters, who remained unmarried for life. A bequest involving farm property in Yorkshire was made to his 'natural' (that is, illegitimate) son, also Richard, who, at the time the will was drafted,



Hintlesham Hall, Suffolk by Anthony O'Neil, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

was described as *'at school in Ipswich'*. The 1851, 1861 and 1871 census records for the year and place of birth of a **Richard Samuel Hudson**, whose family lived at various addresses in central Ipswich, are compatible with the 1799 baptismal record at St. Cosmus & St. Damian, at Blean, in Kent, in which no father was named. It was noted that *'Richard Samuel, son of Mary Hudson, was admitted to the congregation, January 6th'* in Blean.⁽⁴⁾ But that's another aspect of the broader story that requires further, separate research.

The other specific bequest, itemised first in the will, was *'to my esteemed friend Sarah Summersett who has for several years past been under my protection'*. When the will was drafted, Richard was 44 and Sarah 33 years of age. Initial exploratory research carried out with the assistance of Suffolk Record Office staff was unable to identify any further documentation that clarified the nature of their relationship. Richard wrote that he bequeathed Sarah:

'an Annuity of one hundred pounds for her life to be paid by quarterly payments and I charge my Estates with the satisfaction thereof and I direct my Executors to pay out of my Estate the duty and property tax on such Annuity it being my intention that she shall have and enjoy the same free from all deductions and also a proportionable part up to the day of her decease that Annuity to commence on the day of my death(.) I also give to the said Sarah Summersett the sum of one hundred pounds ... to be paid to her within six months after my decease'.

In addition, Richard's sisters signed an indenture, dated 30 April 1819, to increase the annuity paid to Sarah by a further £50 pounds per annum.⁽⁵⁾ That document stated that, shortly before his death, their brother *'expressed his desire'* to make this change, but died without writing it down. The Lloyd sisters, being *'desirous of carrying into effect the wish and desire of their deceased brother[,] ... of their own free will and consent ... determined to grant an additional annuity of fifty pounds to the said Sarah Summersett'*, also to be paid in four equal quarterly payments for life. Clearly, they respected their brother's unrecorded wishes and were not reserved about acknowledging Sarah. To put the total value of the annuity into some approximate modern perspective, £150 in 1820 would be equivalent to an annual income of approximately £18,168 today.⁽⁶⁾ In comparison, from April 2024, the full UK state pension is £11,502 per annum.⁽⁷⁾ So, the total bequest was quite a significant one, especially for a single woman in the early 19th century, whose father had apparently moved from Hadleigh and become *'Innkeeper, Dealer and Chapman'* at the King's Head, Ipswich, and who faced bankruptcy in March 1792 when Sarah was 12 years old.⁽⁸⁾ The King's Head, one of the oldest inns in Ipswich, opened in 1531 and *'was a notorious venue for cock-fighting'* in the 18th century, but was demolished in 1880.⁽⁹⁾

In 1823, late in life at almost 43 years of age, Sarah Summersett married **James Smith**, a tailor and draper, according to the marriage licence dated 9 June.⁽¹⁰⁾ Their marriage,

at St Mary le Tower in Ipswich on 10 June, was witnessed by **Thomas Read** and Elizabeth Summersett.⁽¹¹⁾ The event does not seem to have been reported in the Ipswich press, but was elsewhere, possibly for the benefit of Thomas' Norfolk family.⁽¹²⁾ In the 1851 census, Thomas' birthplace was given as Old Buckenham, Norfolk.⁽¹³⁾ In the brief newspaper report, Sarah was described as being '*late of Hintlesham*', but where she lived in Hintlesham is a key mystery of her life that remains to be clarified.

In the 1841 census, Sarah and James Smith were recorded as living in a two-person household at Berners Street, Ipswich. In the 1851 census, there was a third household member, a 19-year-old '*general servant*', **Mary Ann Smith**. At that time, the street number (no. 3) was also recorded. That dwelling was demolished during 20th-century redevelopment of the area. In the 1861 census, Sarah seems to have been the lodger, widow and annuitant of 79 years who was living at 11 Neale Street, St Margaret's, Ipswich. **Susan Brook**, a commercial traveller's wife, aged 45, is recorded as the head of the household for that census, living with her 24-year-old unmarried daughter, **Mary A E Brook**. Also listed in the household was **Mary A Rudland**, an unmarried '*general servant*' aged 28, born in 1833. In each of these documents Sarah's birth year was recorded differently. Given the risk of errors in the reporting and recording processes, her original baptism entry is probably the most reliable source.

On the reverse of the original 1819 indenture, a handwritten note records that '*The said Sarah Summersett afterwards Sarah Smith died on 12th May 1869.*' At 89 years, she long outlived her benefactor and benefitted from his annuity for approximately 50 years. In her will, dated 21 February 1863 and proved on 1 June 1869, Sarah appointed as sole executor **William Freeman** '*of Ipswich in Berners Street Gentleman*' and bequeathed to him '*the sum of Nineteen Guineas for his trouble in the execution of this my will*'.⁽¹⁴⁾ The will, witnessed by **Sarah Root** and **Elizabeth Root**, was designated as including total effects of '*under £300*'. Bequests were made to **Mary Coleman**, '*the wife of Samuel Coleman and Sarah Bowles nieces of my late husband the sum of Ten pounds to each*'. In addition, small bequests were made to two tradesmen's wives, **Susanna Brook** and **Martha Cross**, and the executor's wife, **Margaret Freeman**. As for the bulk of her modest estate, '*the residue and remainder of my monies securities for monies household furniture and goods and all my personal estate and effects of every character and description whatsoever I give and bequeath the same unto Fanny Smith Daughter of the late Robert Smith of Old Buckingham in the County of Norfolk*', another relative of her deceased husband. None of the bequests identify recipients as members of her birth family. There is no record of Sarah having any children.

When assembled from presently known and available documents, Sarah's life may appear uneventful, but much remains intriguing, especially when viewed in the context of the period in which she lived. Further detail will, hopefully, be restored to these bare bones of her life in due course. It is my wish that this summary will assist in that process.

A hypothesis of place

John W Gazeley, a friend I met at the Ipswich Civic College in the 1960s, told me that in the school summer holidays he had worked 'pigeon poking', that is, using a long pole to poke nests out of trees to reduce the pigeon population feeding on farm crops. He remembered that in the Hintlesham Woods there was an abandoned, though not derelict house. To shorten a long story, I fell in love with this strangely designed house, known as Wood Lodge, and its setting in a woodland clearing. I lived there for about two years with the permission of the owner, **Mr Gray**, then of Place Farm, Hadleigh, until he died. During that time, I had the weird experience that I described for local historian **Audrey Lorford**.⁽¹⁵⁾

To summarise, one windy evening when I went to secure an upstairs door that I heard bang, I unexpectedly encountered a young woman descending one of the two staircases in the house. She was dressed in what looked like 19th-century period clothing. Her presence was not at all threatening, indeed she seemed as shocked as I was; nevertheless, instinctively I fled back to the kitchen where I had been eating my evening meal. I never encountered her again. I hasten to say that I am highly sceptical of so-called psychic phenomena, but I cannot deny that something very odd took place that day for which I have no explanation. However, that event reminded me of the story that a neighbouring farmer had told me when I first moved in, that the house had once been occupied by the local squire's mistress who had a servant (or servants) and access to a carriage and horses. I speculated that it was either that person or her lady's maid whom I had encountered.

Like most young men, I had many things distracting my attention, so, although the experience remained indelibly with me, I did not enquire into it further until recently – something I now regret 60 years later and geographically far distant. However, last year I initiated research to try and find out when Wood Lodge was built and who had lived there. Although the house is represented on the 1837 tithe map, I was unable to find the date when it was built. I did, however, find that nearby College Farm and some adjacent land was owned by Eton College until purchased by Richard Savage Lloyd on 2 December 1800, when it was added to the Hintlesham Hall estate.⁽¹⁶⁾ Wood Lodge would likely have been built or modified around that time and subsequently used by the young heir to the estate, at least from 1810 when his father died.

Next, when I sought out and read Richard Savage Lloyd jnr.'s will, I was stunned to find that the first item was the significant bequest made to Sarah Summersett. I hired research assistance to try and find out something about Sarah. This was the point at which my more person-focused search began. Probably the most potentially revealing thing I discovered was in the brief newspaper report of Sarah's marriage, namely, that she was '*late of Hintlesham*'. That information was at least consistent with my hypothesis that she had lived at Wood Lodge. This is as far as I have been able to proceed to date, but

I am hoping that there is somewhere a letter, a service account or some other document that will provide convincing evidence.

In the meantime, although earlier censuses do not specifically describe the occupants of Wood Lodge and are not straightforward to interpret regarding the number of rooms in the building, the 1901 census clearly reports that two separate households were in occupation. This provides evidence compatible with at least part of the rear section having been the original servants' quarters, alongside the kitchen, scullery, bread oven, small cellar, coach 'house' etc., linked by a lobby to the two-storey front section with its



The veranda and front entrance of Wood Lodge



The north side of Wood Lodge, facing towards the present main Ipswich to Hadleigh road (A 1071)

two separate staircases, one to each of the two bedrooms. It seems most likely that the bedroom accessed via the bannister-lined spiral staircase that rose directly from one of the two ground floor front rooms was occupied by the mistress of the house, and the adjacent one, reached via steep cottage-style stairs accessed through a cupboard-like door next to the larder, by her personal maid. Separate access to the general lobby could be gained either via the rear, service area of the building or through an external side entrance, clearly marked as an indentation on the 1886 Ordnance Survey 25-inch/mile map.⁽¹⁷⁾ The footprint of the house also includes a central courtyard. On the 1837 title map, the house is listed in the associated apportionment as 'Lodge and Homestall', whereas on later maps it is specifically named Wood Lodge. Other details,

that would only be visible from architectural plans and section elevations, include the cobbled veranda (which provided foot access to the main front door) lined by neo-classical-style wooden columns, and the Palladian symmetry whereby non-structural columns were ‘echoed’ on each side of the house to balance the profile of each end of the veranda.

Sadly, the house no longer exists, but it is some compensation that the whole area of Ramsey Wood (part of Hintlesham Woods) is now designated part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its status as ‘ancient woodland’ and habitat for rare species, such as the Purple Emperor butterfly (*Apatura iris*).⁽¹⁸⁾ A fitting setting for a Romantic-era early 19th-century friendship – if my conclusions about Sarah are correct.

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WRITING IT UP

Editors' note: This article first appeared in Metropolitan, the journal of the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society, in June 2019 and is reproduced by kind permission of the editors.

For many of us, tracing our family history is of enormous importance. We know that we are doing it not merely for ourselves but for posterity, and frequently tell each other that we should write it up, deposit it where it will be found, make sure it doesn't get lost. Our work matters. We find it hard to accept that genealogy is just a hobby. Our relatives are a bit interested and they don't mind being told a few things we have found - but not at length. In the words of one of my daughters whenever she asked any of the older generation a question: *'Tell me, in two short sentences ...'*

One day we shall go to our reward and leave it all behind us. At that point our fascinating files just become a disposal problem. We had that problem with our own relatives. We didn't want our uncle's golfing score cards, stamp collection or stuffed fish, or our auntie's watercolours, pots or collection of sheet music. They don't want our genealogy files and card indexes. They'll keep it if it's small and easily understood. If it's too big they may just throw it away, and even if they keep it, they won't know how to enjoy it. Having it on the computer just makes it easier to ignore, like a DVD of too many wedding photographs.

Our relatives are mostly not interested in how we achieved our results. Some of them are not even interested in the results, but if we give them something which is not too big they will at least keep it in a drawer and not throw it away. Fortunately, with easy copying we can spread our results around.

Draw it up in good time, not only before you die but before you go gaga. There are five elements:

1. The chart of the direct ancestors arranged clearly

There are big printed forms which hold up to 256 ancestors and that is good enough for most people. Or you can do one for your mother's side and one for your father's. These show ordinary people everything they need to know. By reading down the right-hand column they see all the ancestral surnames and occupations and get a good idea of what areas of the world the ancestry comes from. Then they roll it up and put it back in a tube. They'll keep it for ever and get it out once (maybe) whenever a new daughter-in-law or son-in-law comes into the family.

The only disadvantages of these are (1) you have to write the first one at great length and they can be expensive to reproduce (but don't compromise by having lots of small sheets), and (2) they highlight areas where the ancestry is defective, e.g. illegitimacies or lines that only go back to 1850. Preferably, don't buy a printed chart but design the chart yourself so that the right-hand side is full and the illegitimacies etc. are

camouflaged in the middle. It's a piece of artwork to highlight what you've got - or want to show off - and hide what you haven't. They won't notice or care that you only have 73 lines out of a possible 256.

2. Family trees

Any family tree can be got back 10 generations on two pieces of A4 paper. No tree must be too big to be looked at sitting in an armchair. Again, it's a design question - you need all the brothers and sisters but you don't need all the cousins (let alone 2nd and 3rd cousins etc.) unless you are trying to show your relationship to somebody famous, in which case you draw a special tree. The little A4 display books with 20 or 40 plastic pockets are enough to get in all the ancestral trees landscape anybody could want (at two A4 sheets to a pocket). Put a master chart in the front pocket and then slip the trees into the pockets in logical order. Take a second sheet (but no more) to tell their life story. All trees look a bit the same to us, so you need to highlight whether the parents saw their children grow and knew any of their grandchildren. Women often live 10 or 20 years longer than men.

The great secret is that for ordinary people family trees look exactly as they did 50 years ago. Cut the detail and put the important ancestors in bold. Don't be controlled by any computer program that won't do what you want. Handwritten trees are fine if you can write neatly and small enough.

Don't put in trees of families you don't know much about. A collection of dozens of little trees isn't impressive - it's just boring. Likewise, don't try and impress with medieval ancestors or famous connections unless the links are rock solid. Many of our trees are built on circumstantial evidence, then one day along comes solid evidence to disprove links which looked OK. Your relatives won't mind if you have only traced the family to 1830. They *will* mind if they show the tree to a neighbour who is interested in genealogy and she notices that your arithmetic is wrong or you've skipped a generation or tacked onto a Mayflower line which was disproved the year after you died. One mistake and they will put it back in the drawer with embarrassment and never get it out again, like your old auntie sending you a pullover with one arm longer than the other.

3. The evidence

None of your relatives care. They'll take it on trust. The only explanations you might need are the bits that are doubtful in case a genealogist comes along and questions a link. If you are going to give the genealogy to a library then you will want to attach some evidence, but much of what we get these days comes out of books and computers. We get it easily and anyone else can get it every bit as easily. We don't need everyone to deposit a copy of a website printout or lists from FamilySearch. Maybe you wanted photocopies of all the census and parish register entries, but weed them out before you pass the results on.

4. Heirlooms

You will need to decide who you are going to leave important physical items to, but you would have had that problem anyway. A few photocopies of interesting documents can go in, but nothing run-of-the-mill. They don't care. They don't mind eating the cake, but they don't want a picture of the ingredients on the worktop and the oven you cooked them in.

5. The family history

There are two aspects to this:

- a) The history of the family from the beginning. If you want them to read it, keep it to four pages, maybe eight. The longer it is, the less likely anyone is to read it. What's your goal? A magnificent tome which not even you will read, or having your nephews actually know where the family came from, and roughly what sort of things they did?

Obviously, each ancestral family could get a little explanation of its own, but in the end lots of our ancestral families didn't do anything that would interest anyone else. Write them short accounts of the families they have heard of and another showing famous links they can be proud of, but you don't need 256 short accounts of families with common names who were small farmers in the country and then small tradesmen or craftsmen in a town.

- b) This is the most important. Write your personal reminiscences. Your parents, your childhood, holidays, the war, career, that sort of thing. It doesn't have to be a biography. Any stream of consciousness of a couple of pages will be interesting. Here too, less is more. The more you produce the less interested they will be.

Michael Gandy

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MOULTON FAMILY OF SUFFOLK

I noticed in recent New Members' Interests lists in *Suffolk Roots* some names that I have also been researching, and thought a short article would be a better way for me to share what I have found. As I live in the south of Kent, all my research is done from home now and I rely on the Society's Parish Register CDs and online records from Ancestry and county archives.

My mother's **Moulton** family from Edwardstone had long been one of my brick walls. I traced them back through the censuses from Hackney, north London in the 1900s to

the villages of South Weald and Great Warley in Essex, in spite of the family having taken on the surname **Rouse** (who was a stepfather, I later found out).

My maternal great-grandparents were **Harriet** and **George James Cox** (a cowman) who were living in Hackney in 1881 and 1911. Harriet was born in Shenfield, Essex in May 1852 and was buried in Hackney in 1928. She was the daughter of **Thomas** and **Harriet Moulton (née Smith)** (1814-1899) of Layham, Suffolk. The elder Harriet's Layham family are related to the **Boar** family of Polstead, and the **Hynard** family (names I had noticed in the Members' Interests), whilst I traced Thomas' family back to a **Samuel Moulton** (b. c. 1715).

In addition to censuses, I have gathered information from parish registers, wills and associated inventories (which provided useful details of occupations and relationships, and new family members in the witnesses and executors), and also the Sudbury Freemen records.

These Freemen records have given me a new part of Suffolk in which to look for my family, and try to fit other Moulton members from my list into Samuel's family.

Family relationships

To provide some context, and detail not previously included (in an article entitled '*Suffolk Gardeners, Millers and Cowmen*' in March 2023's *Suffolk Roots*, Vol. 48 No. 4) this is a summary of my research into the families. As I don't have all birth dates, I assume that the family marriages took place when the person was 20+.

Thomas, the father of Harriet (b. 1852), was born in Edwardstone, Suffolk in February 1816, the son of **Thomas Moulton** (1789-1820), a wheelwright, and **Margaret (née Edey)**, 1792-1861). He was a railway worker and was buried in South Weald in July 1856. Margaret, his mother, remarried to a **James Rouse** (1796-1870) of Layham, Suffolk. James was the son of **James Rouse** and **Susan Smith** of Layham. In the 1871 census, an 18-year-old Harriet was living at the High Street, South Weald, a butcher's assistant to her aunt, **Susan Rouse**.

Thomas snr. was born in September 1789 to **Samuel** and **Ruth Moulton (née Raison)**, Samuel's second wife, in Newton, Suffolk.

Samuel Moulton, one of 11 children, was born in Sudbury in November 1751 to **Samuel** (bp. February 1717), a lath rivener, and **Mary Moulton (née Sparrow)**. I found this marriage (eventually) in December 1740 in the London Fleet Nonconformist marriages, with an unexpected listed residence of Whitechapel - but his listed occupation of '*Lath Rivener*' matched that in his will. All Samuel snr.'s children were raised in Sudbury (so I had also expected his marriage to be there), and he died there in November 1799, aged 84.

I only recently discovered Samuel snr.'s birth record, by means of a search performed by the Suffolk FHS research team. This showed that Samuel (bp. 1717) and his sisters **Hannah** (bp. 1707), **Mary** (bp. 1714) and **Ruth** (bp. 1719) were all baptised at Sudbury St Peter's to **John** and **Hannah Moulton**. A potential marriage entry for John and Hannah is that of John Mowlton and **Ann Hayward** at St Peters, Sudbury on 5 March 1709, but I have yet to verify this.

The family wills gave me a lot more insight. **Bartholomew Norden** was an executor to Samuel's will in 1800. Samuel left two Sudbury pubs – The Royal Oak of Boreham Gate to son **Nathaniel**, and The Christopher to son **Thomas**. These came from his brother **Thomas Moulton** (c. 1720-1793) who married **Lydia Griggs** in May 1764 at Great Waldingfield. Thomas' will of 1794 identified him as a maltster and the owner of the two Sudbury pubs, where he employed Bartholomew Norden as manager. His will was an important find as it listed so many family members, including siblings Samuel, Hannah, **Daniel**, and Ruth; his brother-in-law **Isaac Griggs'** family; Daniel's daughter **Susan** (who married **Oliver Gooch**); two of Samuel's surviving children, Thomas and Nathaniel Moulton; and **Jeremiah Spurling**, a friend, husband of **Mary Pettit** and landlord of The Bear.

Hannah Moulton (bp. October 1707) married **John Abott** in October 1730 at Stansted.

Mary Moulton (bp. July 1714) married **Thomas Jennings** in Sudbury.

Daniel Moulton (c. 1719-1772) married **Susan Pettit** (sister of Mary Pettit) in November 1738 by licence at Sudbury. He was a carpenter or boatbuilder who was found dead by the road. Daniel paid an apprentice tax in November 1759 for **Michael Jones**.

Daniel and Susan were beneficiaries of Susan's father, **Stephen Pettit's**, will in 1740. Stephen was a clothier of Sudbury.

Daniel's 1772 will listed beneficiaries as **Mary** (his second wife) and children **Pettit, Ann** and Susan (wife of Oliver Gooch).

Ruth Moulton (bp. April 1719) married **Thomas Norden** in October 1746 by licence at Sudbury. Samuel Moulton was a witness. Bartholomew Norden was their son, and executor of his uncle Thomas Moulton's will.

There was another **Samuel Moulton**, a brickmaker, in Ballingdon near Sudbury, married to **Elizabeth** during the same period, and he was a Nonconformist, so I have needed to be careful not to get the wrong family.

Freemen records of admittance for Sudbury, Suffolk

Samuel Moulton, February 1772, lath rivener, plus sons Nathaniel, October 1778, **Edward** and Samuel jnr., July 1778.

Pettit Moulton, son of Daniel and Susan Moulton, February 1772, carpenter.

Thomas Moulton, February 1772, farmer and maltster.

John Moulton, March 1772, carpenter and **Nathaniel**, February 1772, carpenter, sons of **William**.

Thomas Moulton, October 1778, carpenter and sons Isaac, June 1826, and **William**, June 1826, both of London.

Joseph Moulton, April 1828, son of Thomas, servant of Brighton.

James Moulton, July 1830, lath rivener of Ballingdon, son of Nathaniel.

Frederick Moulton, August 1884, son of Isaac, a shoemaker.

Bartholomew Norden, September 1778, victualler (The Christopher, Sudbury), son of Thomas and Ruth Norden (née Moulton).

George Norden, 1841, farmer, son of Bartholomew.

Thomas Norden, July 1802 (buried July 1839, age 61), of St Bartholomew's Farm.

William Pettit, February 1822, victualler.

William Sparrow, June 1824, carpenter of Ballingdon.

Joseph James Sparrow, July 1833, son of William, a miller of Great Waldingfield.

Free Burgess 1703 of Sudbury

William Moulton, son of **John** of Bures St Mary.

Charles, son of William Moulton of Bures St Mary.

John, son of **John Moulton** of Bulmer, Essex.

Edward, son of John Moulton of Acton.

Samuel, Thomas and William, sons of John Moulton.

Freemen's rights for grazing 1703 Sudbury

Samuel and William Moulton, **Abraham, Ambrose**, and **John Griggs**, Steven Pettit, **Robert Sparrow**, and **Francis Gooch**.

Apprenticeship records of Sudbury

William Moulton, sons Edward, January 1722, and John, January 1721, to their father.

Robert Moulton, September 1722, to **Richard Harber**.

Suffolk 1790 Poll for Sudbury

Bartholomew Norden, farmer.

Eileen Blythe Mb 8140

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- Ancestry, FreeREG, Suffolk FHS CDs, and Sudbury Freemen records online (www.sudburyfreemen.org).
- Sudbury history books by **Allan W Berry** (details on Literature Tab of Sudbury Freemen site)

Note: some of the details included in this article used to be on the Sudbury Freemen site, but are no longer there (e.g. the Freemen's rights of grazing).

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SMITH FAMILY INFORMATION

In March's issue, **Geoff Smith** wrote about his Suffolk Smith family, and mentioned the couple **Samuel** and **Elizabeth Smith**, who departed for America as part of the Puritan Migration of the 1620s and 1630s. Geoff has kindly supplied a couple of links to sites which give more detail about this couple and their heritage, which may be of interest to Smith researchers:

- Moving West: Thirteen Generations of a Smith Family:
www.heathsmith.com/genealogy/smith/ancestors_gen1.htm
- The Descendants of Lt. Samuel & Elizabeth Smith (Salmon Creek Genealogy & Publishing): <https://www.laurahatch.com/databases/smith.html>

The Editors

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HELP WANTED – LEWIS FAMILY OF CAPEL ST MARY

I have been a member of Dyfed FHS for a few years as I have been researching my father's side of the family who come from Pembrokeshire. I have now started on my mother's family and have discovered that my 2x great-grandfather, **Joseph Lewis**, was born in Capel St Mary, Suffolk. He was one of 16 children born to **Joseph** and **Lydia Lewis** who were all baptised in Capel St Mary between 1813 and 1835. I have been unable to trace any of the family apart from the younger Joseph's sister, **Esther/Hesther**, who worked as a housekeeper at Nazeing Bury, Essex, and adopted Joseph's eldest daughter **Emily Louisa**, my great-grandmother. I look forward to searching the Society's records for further information and meanwhile would be delighted to hear from any member with relevant information.

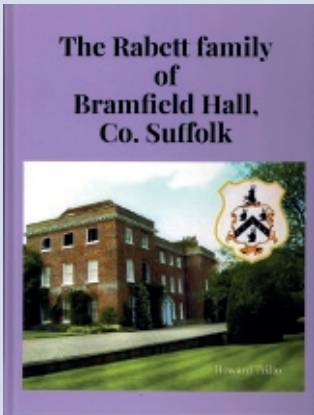
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BOOK REVIEW

The Rabett Family of Bramfield Hall, Co. Suffolk by Howard Trillo

As family historians, we are frequently encouraged to write up our research in an approachable manner. This substantial book, which is also a fine example of what can be achieved through self-publishing, traces the history of a Suffolk family back beyond the 15th century. The urge to find out more was prompted by the story of how a friend's relative had arrived at their family's modest Rugby house in a Bugatti in the 1920s!



This is not just a book tracing one name after another back into distant history. Instead, the author has taken pains to describe the environment in which those ancestors moved, which, given the clue that they were involved with Bramfield Hall, largely involves the landed gentry (so all the '1st world' problems of those times). As such it may be of interest to others with Suffolk ancestors, seeking to know more about the society in which they lived.

The book starts with an interesting chapter on the history of the coastal village of Dunwich, where one of the earliest Rabett families with a Bramfield link lived in the 14th century. It goes on to trace the establishment of the family in Bramfield, in chapters organised by century, and continues through until the present day, despite the sale of the Hall in the late 19th century. An 'Afterword' also describes the history of the Hall from this sale until the present.

The early chapters mainly use the information provided by law court documents and wills of the time, which illustrate the lifestyles enjoyed then, as well as the offices held (with explanation of what these involved), and mentions names of other of their contemporaries (e.g. partners at law, creditors, debtors, adversaries in legal disputes, staff, lessees, etc). It shows the expected 'career paths' of sons depending on their birth order, the impact on future generations of good marriages (particularly daughters to the nobility), the careful provisions made in wills to secure the inheritance despite possible untimely deaths of legatees, and the disputes over such bequests. As time progresses, evidence is obtained from parish registers, tithe maps, newspapers and family diaries too. The text is interspersed with numerous illustrations, and although the book is about 400 pages, about half of this is transcriptions of all the sources used, including documents from The National Archives, as well as useful family trees, which also include family members not included in the text.

The author has made copies available in the Suffolk Archives, the Halesworth library, and also provided this Society with one for its Reference Library. The book is also available for sale, either as a paper (£35) or e-book (£12), on the Lulu self-publishing site: <https://www.lulu.com/search?page=1&q=The+Rabett+family+of+Bramfield+Hall%2C+Co.+Suffolk>

Lesley Hall

Co-editor, Suffolk Roots

FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (May 2024) 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.

Suffolk Family History Show **19 October 2024**
Suffolk Archives, The Hold, Ipswich

Details: <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/society-fair>

In addition, there are the following Family History events:

Families in British India Society (FIBIS) Open Day/AGM **22 June 2024**
Union Jack Club, London, Free

Details: <https://www.fibis.org/event/agm-and-open-meeting-2024>

Wiltshire FHS Family History Fair **15 June 2024 10am – 4pm**
Swindon, Free

Details: https://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/images/News_Images/WFHFamily_History_Day_2024.pdf

FHF Really Useful Family History Show **15 June 2024**
University of Nottingham campus, Lenton Lane, NG7 2NR

Details: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-federation-fhf-really-useful-show-live-university-of-nottingham-2024-06-15>

Hampshire Genealogical Society Golden Jubilee Event **6-7 July 2024**
Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney

Details: <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/2024/04/golden-jubilee-event-saturday-6th-july-sunday-7th-july/>

Essex FHS 50th Anniversary Roadshows **June, July August 2024**
Various locations, Visitors welcome

Details: <https://www.esfh.org.uk/events/>

Families in British India Society (FIBIS) 25 Years **27-29 September 2024**
Oxford Belfry Hotel, Thame

Details: <https://www.fibis.org/25-years-conference/>

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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

JUNE

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	26	Restful Corners <i>More details in Trustees Message</i>	<i>Charmian Thompson</i>
Haverhill	13	Tea for the British – with a Suffolk Twist <i>The story of the tea trade in Britain</i>	<i>Miriam Stead</i>
Ipswich	20	Helmingham Hall – Guided Tour of Grounds and Gardens, and Church visit. <i>Car Share – arrive Helmingham Hall by 12:30</i>	
Lowestoft	04	My Army Ancestors, Sources and Resources	<i>Damon Rodgers</i>
Sudbury	25	Quiz – General, Teams of 6	<i>Group</i>

JULY

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill		No Meeting	
Ipswich	03	A Research Evening <i>Air your research issues, reveal your successes!</i>	<i>Group</i>
Lowestoft	02	'Smudge': The story of an East End lad serving in the Royal Navy in WW1	<i>Wendy Reader</i>
Sudbury	30	Voices from the Workhouse	<i>Jannette Robinson</i>

AUGUST

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill		No Meeting	
Ipswich	07	A LIVE ZOOM talk into the Salvation Army Hall	TBA
Lowestoft		No Meeting	
Sudbury		No Meeting	

SEPTEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	12	It's on the cards	<i>Vannessa Mann</i>
Ipswich	04	TBA – check Group page on website	
Lowestoft	03	Behind the Scenes: The story of the Duplex Drive Amphibious Tanks of D-Day	<i>Stuart Burgess</i>
Sudbury	24	Witchcraft in Suffolk	<i>Alison Rowlands</i>

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 from June 2024 onwards 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 are 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 e-mail **shortly before each talk**, notifying them of the event and giving a link to register. If you do not receive such an e-mail, please contact Andy Kerridge at chair@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.

Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 7:30pm

200 Years of Suffolk Farming History 1750-1950, focussing on Ag Labs *Ashley Cooper*

Monday 15 July 2024 at 7:30pm

I've got my DNA results What now?

Donna Rutherford

August

No Talk

Monday 2 September 2024 at 7:30pm

Ideas for researching Nonconformists

Jackie Depelle

We will make recordings available (when permitted) in the Members' Area of the website as soon as possible after the talk. Typically, they are then available for two weeks.

FUTURE THEMES FOR *SUFFOLK ROOTS*

The theme of September's edition will be '*All at Sea*'. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI. As a maritime nation, many of our ancestors would have spent much of their lives at sea, maybe as fishermen, sailors, or on trade vessels. They would have hoped for a nearby lifeboat, or passing vessel, if they had problems. Perhaps they worked in a lighthouse? Maybe they were brave RNLI volunteers or raised money for the RNLI? Were they affected by disasters at sea, through loss of family, or witnessing or being involved in a shipwreck, or even being among those on shore pulling out shipwreck survivors?

Below are the provisional themes for other upcoming editions, to seed ideas for future contributions (although we do welcome articles of Suffolk interest on any subject).

STATUS	ISSUE	THEME TITLE	DATE TO THE EDITOR
Final	Sep 2024	All at Sea <i>Shipwrecks and Lifeboats, Mariners and Shipbuilders</i> 2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI. The treacherous seas off the East Coast 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 did they work in shipyards? Did your ancestors serve at sea in the armed forces?	Deadline 20 Jul
Provis'nl	Dec 2024	Poverty and the Workhouse <i>How did poverty affect our ancestors' lives?</i> Just as today, in the past many people found it difficult to make ends meet. Has your research led you to believe that your ancestors were poor or less well off? How did this affect them, their health and prospects? Have you found ancestors in the workhouse? What were conditions like there? What were the circumstances that forced your forebears to need out-relief or enter the workhouse? Did any of your ancestors have a benefactor? Was your forebear employed by the Poor Law Union, or on a Board of Guardians?	Deadline 20 Oct

Provis'nl Mar 2025 Suffolk Women Deadline 20 Jan

Notable women ancestors?

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher becoming the first female Conservative Party leader. We can't all have such well-known ancestors, but they do say 'Behind every great man...'
 In your research have you found remarkable women?
 Were they known for charitable work? A pillar of the community?
 Did they manage and raise large families?
 Did they suffer unimaginable heartbreak?
 Were they involved in war work?
 Did they lead protests, or were they Suffragettes?
 Or maybe they had a more chequered life?

Provis'nl Jun 2025 Mental Health Deadline 20 Apr

Signs of and Treatment for Mental Health Issues in our Ancestors

In our ancestors' times, mental health issues and disabilities were less well understood, and were labelled very insensitively; and care and treatment varied greatly.
 In your research have you found ancestors in asylums, either as patients or workers?
 Was your ancestor a doctor or campaigner for improvements?
 Was your ancestor affected by a mental health condition?
 Was your ancestor unjustly put in an institution?
 What were the conditions and treatments like?
 How were the institutions regarded within their communities?

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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 (over 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 members

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

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OFFICERS 2024

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Vice Chair:	Post currently vacant	
Membership Secretary:	David Horton 26 The Crescent, Slough, SL1 2LQ Tel: 01753 537673	e-mail: membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk
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Editor <i>Suffolk Roots:</i>	Co-editors: Lesley Hall and Rob Ward can be contacted by e-mail Tel: 01276 679747	e-mail: editor@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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 corresponding address.

GROUP CONTACTS FOR 2024

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 Road, 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: IpswichChairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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

e-mail: sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Bury St Edmunds:

This group is having an initial meeting on 26 June at 7:30pm, at:
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Symonds Road, Bury, IP32 7DZ.

If you would like to help please e-mail: chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk

West of London:

This group no longer meets. If you would like to help with restarting this group please
e-mail: westlondon@suffolkfhs.org.uk.

SFHS DATA CO-ORDINATORS AND SEARCH SERVICES

BAPTISMS

Index Co-ordinator Alan Bumpstead **Phone: 01440 704157**
baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk 71 Downs Crescent, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 9LJ

Search Service Arthur Bird **Phone: 01904 793884**
baptismsearch@suffolkfhs.org.uk Search = 1 surname up to 30 entries
Please send your request by e-mail

BURIALS

Index Co-ordinator Arthur Bird **Phone: 01904 793884**
burials@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Search Service Arthur Bird **Phone: 01904 793884**
burialsearch@suffolkfhs.co.uk Search = 1 surname up to 12 pages
Please send your request by e-mail

MARRIAGES

Index Co-ordinator Yvonne Hesketh
marriages@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Search Service Arthur Bird **Phone: 01904 793884**
marriages@suffolkfhs.org.uk Search = 1 surname up to 30 entries
Please state surname, forename, geographical area and dates
Please send your request by e-mail

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Search Service Arthur Bird **Phone: 01904 793884**
burialsearch@suffolkfhs.co.uk Search = 1 surname for each parish
Please state approximate date.
Please send your request by e-mail

SFHS LIBRARY

Librarian Jean Licence **Contact by e-mail**
librarian@suffolkfhs.org.uk 60 Oldfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3SE

SFHS WEBSITE

Webmaster Joe Bridgwater-Rowe **Contact by e-mail**
webmaster@suffolkfhs.org.uk Website: *www.suffolkfhs.co.uk*

All the above-named are volunteers. Please allow adequate time for research and delivery. To avoid any delay if you are paying by PayPal via the Shop, please be sure to state clearly for which service you are making payment.

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Mr Derek Wright : Mr Arthur Bird : Mr Ken Pearce

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

You can search for Members' Interests on our website
at <http://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/interests>

SFHS PUBLICATIONS

We carefully transcribe, check and index parish register entries from across the county of Suffolk and publish these on a series of data CDs and downloadable files often including information recorded in the registers which is not available in data provided by commercial genealogy sites.

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).

A full list is available from the Shop on the Society's website
www.suffolkfhs.org.uk
or please request a list (post free) from Jean Licence (see below)

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