

SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 49 : No. 2 : September 2023



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Theme of this Issue

Where Did They Go?
Our Migrating Forebears

Cover Picture

Emigrants sailing from Liverpool to New York, 1890s.
William Wyllie, Public Domain

Suffolk Roots

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SUFFOLK ROOTS

Journal of Suffolk Family History Society

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Suffolk FHS Fair



**Fascinating talks, interesting
displays/stalls from Family History
and related organisations**

10:20 Suffolk Archives and Ancestry
10:40 Beginning your Family History
11:30 Researching Huguenot Ancestors
12:15 Break
13:30 Researching before parish registers
14:45 Break
15:10 How to make the most of DNA

**Saturday 14th October
2023
10am to 4.30pm
Free entry**

**The Hold
131 Fore St
Ipswich IP4 1LN
Car parks nearby**



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Benefits of being a member of SFHS

- Quarterly Suffolk Roots Journal
- Discount on CD's and downloads
- Members Help Page
- Extra resources

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TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

Since the last edition of *Suffolk Roots*, our group at Bury St Edmunds has had to close and our West London Group is in mothballs. The primary reason for both closing was lack of volunteers to help run them. This sadly is true for many organisations, but also the Society. Our membership is growing at a respectable rate, but despite this we are struggling to find people to join the Trustees and obviously at Group level. We have not yet found a replacement for **Howard King** as Publicity Officer, nor have we a Vice Chair, a position that has been vacant for quite some time. We also have had several attempts with people who have volunteered to take the minutes of the Trustee meetings, but who have then had to give up for a variety of reasons. We are now testing another solution using AI to transcribe, but a human Minutes Secretary would be great!

As an organisation we depend heavily on volunteers. If there are gaps, it falls to the existing folks to fill them, and the extra workload slows things down and means we cannot do or offer all that we want to. If you are able to help us, even for an hour or so a week, please get in touch, there is always something to do. If you have special skills, such as a background in running organisations or committees, insurance, web design, charity work, legislation, finance, and so on, these are all areas that the Society uses, and you may be able to help on an ad hoc basis.

On a more positive note, someone has come forward to help with the proofreading of *Suffolk Roots*, so thank you **David Gobbitt**. You may also have noticed a change in the design of the posters for our Zooms, so thank you **Susan Schibli** for taking on that area. These are good examples of how members can contribute in different ways.

I was delighted to be invited to attend the opening of the **John Blatchly** Local Studies Library at The Hold in Ipswich, and our Patron, **Doug Howlett**, was also present. It was a good opportunity to talk with representatives of Suffolk Archives and **Bobby Bennett**, the councillor responsible for Suffolk Archives.

Planning for the AGM and Fair is nearly complete, and you will find more details in the centre section. We look forward to seeing many of you at both events.

Finally, if you're stuck for Christmas presents and keen to avoid expensive postal costs, especially for overseas relatives and friends, why not buy them a voucher for Suffolk FHS? We are working on having these go live in our online shop in October, maybe early November. There will be a number of values from £5 up, and you will be able to order them with a card showing a Suffolk view. Recipients will be able to redeem their vouchers in the shop using the unique discount code(s). Keep a watch on the shop, although we will make further announcements in the monthly e-newsletter and on the website. If you do not already receive the e-newsletter and want to, please contact me.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 1 May and 31 July 2023. If you see a name you are interested in, take a note of the member's number, go onto our website and use the **Members' Interests** section (on the **Resources** tab) to find out more, using the number to search with – you will see any other surnames they are interested in and also be able to contact them. If you cannot use the website, please write to the Membership Secretary (details at the end of this journal) briefly outlining your interest, and your contact details, and he will forward to the relevant member.

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Aldrich	SFK	Saxmundham	All	12837
Aldridge	SFK	Saxmundham	All	12837
Archer	SFK	Elmsett, Ipswich	All	12812
Argent	ANY	Any	All	12822
Audley	ANY	Any	1500-1700	12816
Austen	ANY	Any	All	12828
Avis	SFK	Hitcham	Post-1616	12835
Awdeley	ANY	Any	1500-1700	12816
Baker	NFK	Old Buckenham	All	12802
Baker	SFK	Holbrook, Grundisburgh	All	12840
Balaam	SFK	Any	Pre-1900	12832
Barber	SFK	S Elmhams, Homersfield	All	12840
Bloomfield	SFK	Wetherden	All	12831
Blowers	SFK	Any	Pre-1850	12833
Bowyer	ESS	Any	All	12839
Bowyer	SFK	Any	All	12839
Braybrook	SFK	Glemsford	All	12815
Bridges	ANY	Any	All	12824
Brill	SFK	Dallinghoo	1600-1800	12830
Buckingham	SFK	Any	All	12832
Bugg	SFK	Grundisburgh	1750-1850	12820
Bullett	SFK	Hessett, Rougham	All	12814
Burch	SFK	Tattingstone	All	12810
Colson	ANY	Any	All	12828
Cooper	SFK	Oakley	All	12840
Cooper	SFK	Yoxford, South Cove	1814-1863	12819
Cutts	ANY	Mendham, The 'Saints', Chediston, Linstead, Wordwell, Rumburgh	All	12826
Dade	NFK	Old Buckenham	All	12802
Dade	SFK	Wortham	All	12802
Dawdy	SFK	Any	Pre-1850	12833
Deeks	ANY	Any	1800-1900	12804
Dodson	SFK	Haughley, Wetherden	All	12814
Dyer	ESS	Maldon	1780-1850	12839
Dyer	SFK	Bury St Edmunds	1780-1850	12839
Easter	NFK	Loddon	1838-1921	12838
Easter	SFK	Lowestoft	1838-1921	12838
Elliott	SFK	Horham	All	12814
Emerson	ANY	Any	1800-1900	12804
Emmerson	ANY	Any	1800-1900	12804
Etheridge	SFK	Fressingfield	Pre-1850	12833
Faircloth	NFK	Any	All	12821
Faircloth	SFK	Any	All	12821
Filby	CAM	Snailwell	1750-1860	12839
Filby	SFK	Tuddenham	1750-1860	12839

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Fisher	SFK	Yoxford	All	12805
Flynn	SFK	Ipswich	All	12841
Fuller	SFK	Framlingham, Farnham	Pre-1749	12837
Fuller	SFK	Framlingham, Woodbridge, Hoo	1724-1803	12837
Fuller	SFK	Woodbridge, Rushmere, Ipswich	1764-1843	12837
Game	SFK	Higham	1780s	12839
Gladwell	SFK	Any	Pre-1900	12832
Gooding	SFK	Baylham	18th & 19th C	12813
Greengrass	SFK	Onehouse, Buxhall, Great Finborough	All	12814
Guyton	NFK	Any	All	12821
Guyton	SFK	Any	All	12821
Hawes	SFK	Redlingfield, Horham, Wickham Skeith	All	12814
Hayward	ANY	Any	All	12829
Henry	SCT	Shetland	All	12811
Hobden	SSX	Any	All	12811
Howlett	NFK	Any	All	12821
Howlett	SFK	Any	All	12821
Hubbard	NFK	Any	Pre-1820	12819
Hubbard	SFK	Any	Pre-1820	12819
Irvine	SCT	Shetland	All	12811
Jackaman	ANY	Any	1800-1900	12804
Jackson	SFK	Wickham Skeith	All	12814
Jeffer	BRK	Any	Pre-1800	12806
Jeffer	SFK	Any	Pre-1800	12806
Keeble	SFK	Any	All	12832
Knights	NFK	Ditchingham, Seething	All	12817
Knights	SFK	Bungay	All	12817
Lingley	ANY	Any	All	12829
Locke	SFK	Any	All	12831
Madison	ANY	Any	1500-1700	12816
Martin	SFK	Any	All	12831
Martin	SFK	Wickham Skeith	All	12814
Milligan	SFK	Gisleham	All	12833
Mouser	ANY	Any	All	12812
Nunn	BRK	Any	Pre-1700	12806
Nunn	SFK	Any	Pre-1700	12806
Nunn	SFK	Needham Market	1800-1880	12820
Nutt	ANY	Any	1500-1700	12816
Otterwell	SFK	Beyton	All	12828
Packard	ANY	Any	All	12825
Page	SFK	Wetheringsett, Pettaugh	Pre-1900	12832
Palmer	ESS	Any	All	12815
Palmer	SFK	Any	Pre-1900	12832
Palmer	SFK	Bosmere area	All	12815
Paynter	SFK	Ipswich	1800-2000	12836
Payton	NFK	Any	All	12836
Pegg	SFK	Haughley	All	12831
Pendal	SFK	Tannington	Pre-1777	12833
Pendle	SFK	Tannington	Pre-1777	12833
Potter	SFK	Lowestoft, Yoxford	1883-1915	12838
Pryke	SFK	Somersham, Orford, Blaxhall	1600-1870	12834
Rickarby	WES	Any	Pre-1750	12806
Rickarby	YKS	Any	Pre-1750	12806
Rivers	SFK	Bawdsey	All	12837
Rivers	SFK	Woodbridge	1700-1820	12837
Robinson	SFK	Ipswich	Around 1829	12809
Rosher	SFK	Any	All	12811

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Rosier	SFK	Any	All	12811
Rush	NFK	Any	All	12821
Rush	SFK	Any	All	12821
Rushbrooke	SFK	Wetherden, Haughley	All	12831
Salisbury	ANY	Any	1500-1700	12816
Salmon	SFK	Onehouse, Elmswell, Wetherden, Stowmarket	All	12814
Sands	SSX	Any	All	12811
Sayer	SFK	Ipswich	All	12840
Scott	SFK	Holton St Mary	All	12840
Simpson	SFK	Barham	1800-1880	12820
Skipper	NFK	Any	All	12821
Skipper	SFK	Any	All	12821
Snazell	ANY	Any	All	12827
Songer	ANY	Any	All	12818
Sowman	ANY	Any	All	12818
Sparrow	ANY	Any	All	12829
Spearman	ANY	Any	All	12829
Steward	SFK	Baylham	18th & 19th C	12813
Strowger	NFK	Any	All	12833
Strowger	SFK	Any	All	12833
Summers	SFK	Any	1700-1800	12811
Sutherland	SCT	Shetland	All	12811
Taylor	SFK	Ipswich	1880-1890	12841
Thompson	NFK	Any	All	12821
Thompson	SFK	Any	All	12821
Thurston	ANY	Mendham, The 'Saints', Chediston, Linstead, Wordwell, Rumburgh	All	12826
Todd	SFK	Homersfield, Wordwell	All	12840
Ward	SFK	Aldeburgh, Theberton	All	12805
Wass	ANY	Any	All	12829
Wilton	SFK	Lowestoft	1806-1970	12838
Woods	SFK	Ipswich, Copdock, Kersey, Hintlesham	All	12810
Wright	NFK	Aldeby	1845-1926	12838
Wright	SFK	Lowestoft	1845-1926	12838

BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

We are pleased to bring you news that another phase 3 deanery area is due to be released by the time you read this, and also that our dedicated teams of helpers are now working on all the remaining deanery areas in that phase, with a further release expected shortly, perhaps around the time of our AGM – so keep an eye on the website.

New release

Sudbury West is our latest phase 3 (1650-1753) deanery area, covering 19 parishes, including around and to the west of Sudbury on the Essex border. Many thanks go to our team of helpers working mostly at Suffolk Archives' Bury St Edmunds branch:

Christine Palmer (leader)
Jane Marjoram
Barbara Linton-Clowes
Rob Crooks
Giles Youngs
Maggie Driver
Angela Cowling
Kevin Pulford
Kevin Prior
Ken Morgan
David Taylor
Sue Kentish
Sheila Piper
Jane Porter and
Janet Robinson

Suffolk Baptism Index

West of Sudbury Deanery
1650* - 1753*

Acton, Alpheton, Boxted,
Cavendish, Chilton, Cockfield,
Cornard Gt, Cornard Lt,
Glemsford, Hartest (-1754),
Lavenham, Lawshall,
Long Melford, Shimpling,
Somerton (-1754), Stanstead,
Sudbury [All Saints, St Gregory (1653-), St Peter]



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

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

Progress

Our **Bury team** have already completed 11 parishes in Sudbury East deanery area:

Aldham, Assington, Bildeston, Brent Eleigh, Brettenham, Chelsworth, Elmsett,
Great Waldingfield, Layham, Monks Eleigh.

All are now available on the Search Service. Another 16 parishes are well under way, with just six not yet started.

All this has been achieved despite the continuing restrictions imposed at the Bury branch, with members still having to work in a small downstairs research room on an individual basis and not as a team (currently of 10 members).

Our **Ipswich team** have six parishes left to complete Loes & Orford deanery area, albeit two of those are really large. They are also now well into Dunwich deanery, utilising several transcripts made by members years ago which only require checking. The number of places made available at Ipswich means that all 10 team members are able to meet up together.

Our **Home team** have just two parishes left to complete Hartismere deanery (Palgrave and Redgrave with Botesdale), with all the others now available on the Search Service. Work is also progressing on the South Elmham & Wangford deanery area and, finally, Lothingland deanery; these are also utilising early Society transcripts.

The Home team was until recently also a team of 10, but now has just five active members after two more retirements of long-serving helpers. We would very much welcome some new recruits to help us complete our work, so if you have experience in reading these early registers and may be able to help, do please contact us for further information.



Gleanings

With thanks to Christine's keen eyes, here are a couple of oddities which made us both smile – we hope you do too:

- 25 January 1723 – **Gaudy** and **Elizabeth James** of Bildeston have named their son **King James**
- May 1668 – also in Bildeston, **William** and **Joane Abbot** have named their daughter **Amiable Abbot**

Now how about this for a convoluted entry, and well done to **Nicky Lewis** for unravelling it from the margin of a Bacton register:

- *'14 Sep 1650 **Robert** son **John Roper** was their baptised as Appears by the oathes of **Anne Rush** of Wetherden widow & **Anne** the wife of **Gregory Augur** of Backton, voluntarily taken before **Thomas Tyrel Esq** of Gipping one of his Majesties Justices of the year for the County of Suffolk the 16 Day of September 1671 Whereupon I have accordingly inserted his name this September 17 1671. **John Stinnet'***

Finally, you'll agree, I know, that our helpers are doing fantastic work for the Society and its members. As well as having the completion of phase 3 in our sights I'm pleased to say that preparations are now being made for phase 4, the final phase of Anglican baptisms, from 1538 to 1649 – surviving registers permitting, of course. We look forward to bringing you more news of this in a future *Roots*.

Alan Bumpstead

Baptism Index Co-ordinator

baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk

NEW MARRIAGE INDEX RELEASE

We're pleased our release of phase 3 (1650-1753) marriages for Hoxne deanery proved so popular with members, and hope our latest will be equally so, helping to fill the gaps and grow your 'trees' back over 100 of these early years, where registers survive.

Our latest release is for the combined deaneries of Bosmere & Claydon and covers 35 parishes in the middle of the county, bordering Stowmarket and Ipswich to the west and south, respectively, and towards Framlingham in the north-east.

Suffolk Marriage Index Bosmere & Claydon Deaneries 1650* - 1753*



Akenham (-1750), Ashbocking (1661-1754),
Ashfield cum Thorpe (1704-1754), Badley, Barham, Barking,
Battisford (1713-), Baylham (1661-), Blakenham Gt (1666-),
Blakenham Lt (1728-1746), Bramford (-1754), Bricett Gt (1655-), Claydon,
Coddham, Creeting St Mary (1681-), Debenham (1655-1754),
Earl Stonham (1654-), Flowton, Framsdon (1656-1754), Gosbeck (1658-),
Helmington, Hemingstone (1654-), Henley (-1754), Mickfield,
Nettlestead (-1754), Offton, Pettaugh (1659-1754), Ringshall (-1716),
Somersham (1675-), Stonham Aspal, Stonham Lt (-1754),
Swiland (1678-1754), Westerfield (1676-), Whitton, Winston (1659-1754).



SFK-MI-19
PDF

This is the culmination of much dedicated work, and our thanks go again to all those members of the Society involved, including, most recently, **Yvonne Hesketh**, **Arthur Bird** and **Derek Wright** for final checking, formatting and presenting the data.

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 on our Search Service – see the back of this journal for details. We continue our progress on two other phase 3 deanery areas, Sudbury East and Hartismere, and hope to bring you news about these and our first phase 4 (1538-1649) deanery area soon.

Pamela Palgrave
Marriages Index Co-ordinator

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

The volume of submissions received for June's issue suggests that we were 'on the right track' with the railway theme. The theme appears also to have connected some distant relations, as **Julie Chandler** emailed to let us know that she had received a wonderful response from **Keith Roper** to her article *The Elmys, DNA and a Railway Tragedy*. Keith is descended from the Elmys through his paternal grandmother, and sent Julie a huge amount of Elmy information. As far as Julie can tell, she and Keith are connected through Keith's ancestor **George Elmy** (b. 1692 Benhall) and Julie's potential ancestor **Robert Elmy** (b. 1705 Benhall), who may have been brothers or at least close relatives. Julie is looking forward to the publication of the Loes & Orford Deaneries Baptism Index (1650-1753), which includes Benhall, as if a connection can be made the result will be a massive Elmy tree.

We were also contacted by **Dr David E Wilkinson** about the tongue-in-cheek article warning of the perils of reliance on online trees. David agreed with the sentiment, but added that the trick with such trees is to separate the wheat from the chaff, as many that contain errors can still provide useful hints that need to be checked out using official records. He notes that it would be wrong to discount such trees entirely, not least as *'The joy of sharing is making contacts and finding distant relatives and additional information via them.'* We wholeheartedly agree.

This issue's focus on migration generated a wide range of contributions – so many, in fact, that we have decided to extend the theme to December in order to include them all (see further below). In the following pages we bring you the first tranche of these fascinating pieces, recounting the experiences of forebears who left Suffolk for new lives elsewhere in the country or in farther-flung parts of the globe. Their motivations varied as greatly as their destinations – some were escaping hardship or seeking a better life, others went under a measure of compulsion after an entanglement with the criminal law or enlistment in the armed forces. It makes for a rich tapestry, and we hope what follows enables you to make new connections. If so, do be sure to let us know.

If you have an idea for a migration-related article that you are yet to commit to paper, please let us know, as we may still have space for it in December's issue. Looking further ahead, December's original theme of *'I'll Drop You a Line'* is now deferred until March, with *'Animals'* staying in June and *'All at Sea'* following next September. For more information, see the Future Themes section towards the back of the journal. We hope these varied themes include something that provokes your creativity, though please bear in mind that we welcome any articles of Suffolk interest or about the process of family history research, and you don't need to await the right theme to contribute a slice of your own family's story.

Lesley Hall and Rob Ward
Co-Editors, Suffolk Roots

BROTHERS THREE

Joseph Ward (b. 1782 in Layham, Suffolk) married **Jemima Harrington** (b. 1785 in Alphamstone, Essex) in Layham on 11 November 1805. They had nine children: **Joseph** (b. 1806), **Jemima** (b. 1809), **Thomas** (b. 1811), **Samuel** (b. 1813), **William** (b. 1815), **Charlotte** (b. 1817), **Daniel** (b. 1820), **Mary Ann** (b. 1823) and **Elijah** (b. 1825). The elder Jemima died in 1830.⁽¹⁾

Joseph was an agricultural labourer and the family seems to have fallen on hard times, to the extent that they were well acquainted with the Cosford Union workhouse at Semer. Records show that three of the children were born and the same number died on the premises. Daniel, who only survived a year or so, was born and died there and is buried in the workhouse graveyard.⁽²⁾ Most of the children have a story to tell. The lives of Joseph, Thomas and Elijah are probably the most interesting: all had brushes with the law followed by international travel. Their sister Jemima (my 2x great-grandmother) had a life of misfortune and great endurance, to be related another time.

Were the three brothers ruffians or simply victims of their times? I make no judgements.

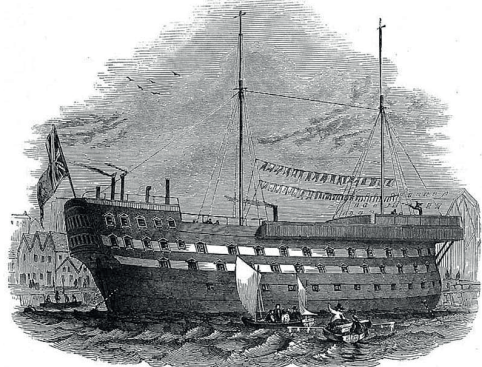
Joseph Ward (b. 1806)

Nothing is known of Joseph's life prior to his coming to the attention of the authorities. But in February 1823 he was committed by magistrates to Bury St Edmunds gaol, together with **David Bugg**, **Abraham Bacon** and **Joseph Ratcliffe**, charged with burglariously entering the dwelling house of **William Teverson** of Layham and stealing a quantity of pickled pork, some butter and a bill hook.⁽³⁾ The following month, at the Bury Quarter Sessions, Bugg, Bacon and Ratcliffe were sentenced to death for the burglary.⁽⁴⁾ Joseph, who gave evidence against them, was acquitted. Their death sentence was later commuted to transportation for life to New South Wales.

Fate was not long in catching up with Joseph. The *Bury and Norwich Post* of 7 May 1823 reported that Joseph Ward had been committed by magistrates to Bury gaol '*charged on suspicion of stealing from out of a common stage cart, in the parish of Layham, a box containing wearing apparel, the property of Mr John Grimwood, of Wattisham, bricklayer*'. The charge was highway robbery. At the July Quarter Sessions he was sentenced to seven years' transportation to New South Wales.⁽⁵⁾ He was then transferred to the hulks to await his departure, being received by the *Leviathan* at Portsmouth on 12 August 1823.⁽⁶⁾

Convicts could spend some time in the hulks, as convict ships only sailed at certain times of the year in order to take advantage of prevailing monsoon winds across the Indian Ocean. The hulks were located mainly in the Thames and at Portsmouth and Plymouth. They were old Navy ships, no longer seaworthy, moored close to the shore and used as prison ships for convicts destined for Australia. Life on them was

unpleasant: they were overcrowded, insanitary and prone to outbreaks of cholera and dysentery, as well as being cold and damp and infested with rats. During the day the convicts would work on shore, either in the dockyards or dredging the Thames. At night they were chained to their bunks.



The Warrior convict hulk, Woolwich, 1846.
Wikimedia Commons

Joseph is recorded in the *Leviathan's* register as being despatched to New South Wales on 25 March 1824. It is reported that he had behaved in an orderly manner whilst on board.⁽⁷⁾ Subsequently, Joseph is listed as being aboard the convict ship *Chapman*, which sailed for Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) on 6 April 1824.⁽⁸⁾

The *Chapman*, captained by **John Milbank**, arrived at Hobart on 27 July 1824, after a voyage of 112 days.⁽⁹⁾ All of the 180 male convicts on board survived the journey. It was the 35th convict ship to arrive at that

port. Tasmania was then at an early stage in its development. The first settlement had been established in 1803. The first convict ship direct from England did not arrive until 1817. Until then, convicts were sent from New South Wales – these were often repeat offenders and the so-called 'incurrigibles'.⁽¹⁰⁾

The authorities in Van Diemen's Land kept detailed records which show Joseph as being a labourer from Layham, Suffolk, 18 years old, 5ft 5½in tall, with grey eyes and brown hair. He is also described as having lost his left thumb, with scars over the left forefinger, a large scar on the back of his right arm, three moles on his neck and two on his right arm.⁽¹¹⁾ Moles on the neck are still a family trait.

The scarring of Joseph's left hand and the loss of his thumb I initially put down to fights on the hulk or the convict ship, possibly because he had given evidence against other convicts, but I later discovered that his brother Thomas had similar injuries, so it seems likely they were caused by the machinery used in Semer workhouse to spin yarn.

When asked for a family address, Joseph replied that they were all in the workhouse at Semer. He was given the number 592, with a date of release of 21 July 1830, and assigned to **Mr R O'Connor Esq.** Roderick O'Connor played an important part in the development of Tasmania and had large landholdings in the north midlands of the island, used for cattle and sheep farming. He was also responsible for surveying parts of the island and for building many of the roads.⁽¹²⁾

Joseph was well-behaved and by 1830 had been given his 'ticket of leave',⁽¹³⁾ which was a kind of parole for good behaviour. He had a great deal of freedom, being able to marry and acquire property, but was not allowed to leave the colony, carry a firearm or board a ship.

The *Hobart Times* of 24 July 1830 records that Joseph had been granted his certificate of freedom. After that there are no positive sightings. Tasmania was a rough-and-ready place at that time and records are sketchy. A fairly common name does not help. He could have left for mainland Australia, or with his background even changed his name; and there's always New Zealand. I keep looking.

A report in the *Bury and Norwich Post* of 20 January 1836 regarding the Petty Sessions read: 'Joseph Ward for stealing a quantity of hay from a **Mr Rand** of Layham on the night of 4th Jan, six months hard labour.' Had Joseph somehow managed to get back to England? But this turned out to be his father, who was to die in Semer workhouse in April 1849.⁽¹⁴⁾

Thomas Ward (1811-1885)

Thomas was born in Layham on 27 July 1811 and baptised at the parish church, St Andrew's, on 8 September 1811.⁽¹⁵⁾

The *Chelmsford Chronicle* of 25 December 1835 records that on the previous Tuesday Thomas Ward, a brickmaker, had been examined at Halstead Petty Sessions on a charge of breaking and entering the dwelling house of **Mr William Brown** of Peyton Hall, Bures Hamlet, on 7 December, and taking two hams, two legs of pork, two chops, some bacon, a basket of linen, a hearth rug and other articles.

A deposition by Mr Brown was read. It stated that the prisoner had worked for him a few days before. He had awoken on the morning of 7 December and found the pantry had been broken open. There were footprints under the window, and having reason to suspect the prisoner, he went to his aunt's and asked for his shoes and found they fitted exactly with the marks on the ground.



St Andrew's, Layham. Author's own

Elizabeth Harrington of Bures Hamlet said the prisoner, her husband's nephew, lodged with her. He boarded himself but kept his victuals at her house. He had had his shoes on when he left the house.

The bench observed that though none of the stolen property had been found on the prisoner, it had been sworn that his shoes corresponded with the impression left under the window, therefore they could do no less than commit him for trial.

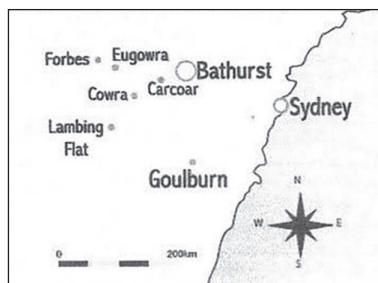
At the Assize Court at Chelmsford on 7 March 1836 Thomas was convicted and sentenced to death.⁽¹⁶⁾ This was later commuted to 14 years' transportation. He was received on the prison hulk *Fortitude* at Chatham on 13 May 1836.⁽¹⁷⁾ On 22 September

1836 he sailed for New South Wales on the convict ship *John*, arriving at Sydney on 7 February 1837. The ship had travelled for 130 days with 255 male convicts on board. The master was **Adam Dixon**, the surgeon **Charles Inches**.⁽¹⁸⁾

Records show that Thomas was aged 25, a Protestant, single and able to read (but not write).⁽¹⁹⁾ He was 5ft 7in tall with a dark, sallow complexion and black hair. Other features mentioned were: mole on right cheek, scar on left, three moles right arm, scar right thumb, two moles on upper, and one on back of lower left arm. He also had two scars on his left forefinger (similar to Joseph).

The next record we have on him is that a ticket of leave for the Campbell Town district (south of Sydney) was issued on 9 May 1843.⁽²⁰⁾ This was changed at Thomas's request on 9 August 1845 to refer to Bathurst, which is 130 miles west of Sydney. No reasons were given for the request, but it is suspected that it had something to do with a certain **Ellen McDowell**.

Bathurst is the oldest inland settlement in Australia, established in 1815 after a route had been found through the Blue Mountains. In the early years it was a base for the many explorers of inland New South Wales. It was very much a frontier town, and by the late 1820s had a lawless reputation. The 'Ribbon Gang' were active in the area and the Bathurst Rebellion occurred in 1830, when a large group of over 80 escaped convicts roamed the district. They were eventually captured and charged with murder, bushranging and horse thieving. On 2 November 1830, 10 members of the gang were publicly executed for their crimes. Things had quietened down by the 1840s, but the best was still to come. In 1851 gold was discovered, and Australia's first gold rush started. Bathurst became a boom town and Thomas quite unwittingly found himself in the middle of it.



Partial map of New South Wales showing location of goldfields west of Bathurst



Gold Washing. Fitzroy Bar, Ophir Diggings (near Bathurst), 1851, by George Angas (National Museum of Australia)

On 18 May 1846 Thomas applied to marry Ellen McDowell.⁽²¹⁾ The request was granted. Ellen was a 23-year-old kitchen maid from County Donegal, who had been transported from Dublin after being sentenced in an Antrim court on 4 April 1840 to seven years' transportation for picking pockets. She had four previous convictions. Ellen had arrived in Sydney on 17 August 1840 on the ship *Margaret*, along with 130 other female convicts.⁽²²⁾

It is a matter of conjecture how and where the couple met. The best theory is that they first met in the Sydney area and that somehow Ellen was assigned to the Bathurst Female Factory. These factories were sites of production where the women spun wool and flax and undertook such work as sewing, knitting and straw plaiting. They were sent there whilst awaiting assignment to a household, or pending childbirth, or as a punishment.

Ellen's description in the convict records makes startling reading. She was 4ft 10in tall, a Catholic, unable to read or write, with brown hair and small grey eyes. Her nose was flat with a broad scar. She had masculine features and pockmarks on her right temple, a scar on her right thumb, and a burn mark above her left elbow with a large scar below. Her complexion was said to be '*fair ruddy*'.⁽²³⁾ She might appear small by today's standards, but the details of the ladies on the good ship *Margaret* show that most were within the range of two inches either side of 5ft. A reflection, no doubt, of the living standards of those times.

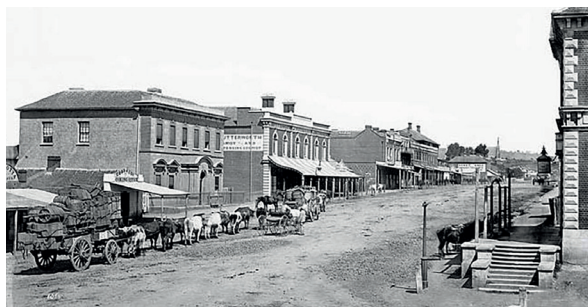
The marriage was not to last, but they seemed to enjoy themselves along the way. A report in the *Bathurst Advocate* of 17 April 1848 states that Ellen and Thomas Ward with others had been charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct but subsequently discharged. Then on 27 January 1849, Thomas placed a notice in the same newspaper to the effect that Ellen should not be given credit and he would not be answerable for her debts.

There was a court case in 1856 in which she was in dispute with a pawnbroker over some stays. She had pledged them for 2s, and when later redeeming them claimed they were the wrong ones. Thomas came to court and was required to identify them. They were the wrong ones, as it happened.⁽²⁴⁾ By 1858, Thomas had a court order in place forbidding Ellen from entering his premises, and the court noted the couple were separated by mutual consent.

Life for Ellen seems to have been a constant round of court appearances. Between 22 February 1849 and 23 February 1870 she was sent to prison 16 times, mainly for being drunk and disorderly and for vagrancy.⁽²⁵⁾ But on two occasions she received 12 months for threatening behaviour towards her husband.

Thomas did not attract as much attention. However, the *Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal* for 7 February 1857 reported that a few days previously an old resident of Bathurst by the name of Thomas Ward had suffered sunstroke whilst digging a

grave in the Catholic burial ground, by which he was instantly paralysed. He was immediately removed home where he lay in a very precarious state. On 21 February the same journal stated that it was happy to record that the sunstroke had not proved of so dangerous a character as was anticipated, and that after a few days confined to his bed Thomas gradually improved and was now quite convalescent.



William Street, Bathurst, 1871 (Wikimedia Commons)

On 18 July 1885 it was reported that Thomas had appeared before the magistrates at Bathurst and been found of unsound mind. He was committed to the asylum at Parramatter [sic].⁽²⁶⁾

Finally, a notice appeared in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* dated Friday 14 August 1885:

'In the lands and goods of Thomas Ward, late of Bathurst, in the Colony of New South Wales, labourer, deceased, intestate.

NOTICE is hereby given, that after the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof, application will be made to this Honorable Court, in its Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, that administration of all and singular the lands and goods of the above named deceased, who departed this life on the 29th day of July last, intestate, may be granted to Ellen Ward, of Bathurst aforesaid, widow of the said deceased. Dated this 12th day of August 1885.'

As for Ellen, the Bathurst press reported later that year on a police raid on a house of ill repute, in which an old woman by the name of Ellen was found living in one of the back rooms. No surname was given, but it was our Ellen's style.

Elijah Ward (1825-1881)

Elijah, the ninth and final child of Joseph and Jemima, was born in Semer workhouse on 5 May 1825. He was baptised in the workhouse the following day.⁽²⁷⁾ Nothing is known of his early days. The 1841 census shows that he was living with the **Banham** family in Stratford St Mary.

Then things turned very dark indeed. The **Very Rev. H B Knox**, Dean of Hadleigh, recorded in his diary that on 5 May 1842, in his capacity as a magistrate, he committed a man of the name of Warde [sic] of Layham for trial for attempting to commit a rape. The *Bury and Norwich Post* of 11 May reported that Elijah Ward had been charged with having violently assaulted **Mary Hynard** at Layham with intent to ravish and carnally know her against her will. However, on 9 July 1842 the *Ipswich Journal* reported that there was no true bill against Elijah Ward, aged 17, charged with having unlawfully assaulted Mary the wife of **John Hynard** of Layham, and he was acquitted.

It was not long before Elijah made another appearance before the Rev. Knox, who recorded in his diary that on 13 April 1843 he sentenced **William Whiting** and Elijah Warde to two months' imprisonment for assault upon the constable.

At Norwich on 4 April 1845, giving his age as 17 years and six months (he was in fact 20), Elijah enlisted in the 77th (East Middlesex) Regiment of Foot. His army number was 1813.⁽²⁸⁾ He was to serve for 21 years and 82 days.

For the next nine years Elijah was stationed at various locations in England, Wales and Ireland. He still managed the occasional brush with the law. On 10 February 1849, the *Hampshire Advertiser* reported that Elijah Ward of the 77th Foot had been convicted of obstructing police inspector **Dowsett** and fined 5s plus 7s costs, with seven days' imprisonment in default. He served the seven days.



Major (later Colonel) Thomas Graham Egerton and a sentry of the 77th Foot on the King's Bastion, Portsmouth, 1849 (National Army Museum)

In 1854 his regiment was one of the first to reach the Crimea, arriving at Scutari on 15 April. Elijah was present at the siege of Sebastopol and the battles of Inkerman and the Alma. The regiment was involved in heavy fighting and it was at the Alma that **Sgt John Park** of the 77th won the Victoria Cross.⁽²⁹⁾ Elijah survived the fighting unscathed. He was awarded the Crimea medal with three clasps (for the Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol), the Turkish medal and a good conduct medal.⁽³⁰⁾



Men of the 77th Foot in winter dress, Crimea, 1855 (National Army Museum)



A Crimea medal with three clasps, alongside a long service and Turkish medal

By July 1856 the 77th were back in England. Elijah was one of a steady trickle of men who preceded them, as the medal rolls show he left the Crimea bound for England on 27 September 1855. The reason he departed early is not known, but as he was

not wounded it could be that he was unfit as a result of illness. If so then he must have made a full recovery, as by June 1857 he was with the regiment in New South Wales, arriving on *HMS Sapphire*.⁽³¹⁾ After only 10 months in Australia they were sent to India (or the East Indies, as it was referred to at the time). This was during the Indian Mutiny, but the 77th were not involved in any fighting. They were stationed at Hazaribad.

On completion of 21 years' service, Elijah requested his discharge and returned to England. He was discharged at Chatham on 31 May 1866, signing his papers by making his mark.⁽³²⁾

The discharge papers stated that he was 5ft 7in tall, with a fresh complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair, and a scar on his left cheek. His given occupation was labourer, and he stated his intent to return to Layham. He was of good conduct despite being entered in the defaulters' book 13 times, had never been court-martialed and had been awarded three good conduct badges and three medals. He was granted a pension of 11d a week.⁽³³⁾

The next we hear of Elijah is that he is once more before the magistrates, possibly celebrating his return from the army. The *Bury and Norwich Post* of 2 October 1866 reports that at Hadleigh, William and Elijah Ward and **George Carter** were convicted of being drunk in Benton Street, Hadleigh, on Saturday 15 September and each fined 4s 6d with 5s 6d costs, or a week's imprisonment.

William, one of Elijah's older brothers, had remained in Layham all his life, married, had 10 children and kept up the family tradition by dying, in 1898, in Semer workhouse. His body was brought back to Layham and he was buried in the same grave as his wife.⁽³⁴⁾

At the time of the 1871 census, Elijah was living in West Street, Dedham, Essex and was described as the lodger of **Betsey Gould**, laundress, the only other occupant of the house. His occupation was given as Army pensioner and agricultural labourer. The situation remained the same in the census of 1881.

Elijah died on 24 October 1881 at Dedham, aged 55. The death certificate stated the cause of death as uraemia (4 days) and Bright's disease of the kidneys (4 years). Betsey was present at his death. He was buried by the curate of the parish on 31 October⁽³⁵⁾ and lies in an unmarked grave in Dedham churchyard.

It could be said that there is enough material here for a good novel. But these were real people trying to survive in difficult times. Most of the family remained within the law. But others were, perhaps, in desperation driven to do otherwise.

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FROM SUFFOLK TO KENT, FROM HARSOM TO HASSAM: A FAMILY TRANSPLANTED

The transplanting of the **Harsom**⁽¹⁾ family from Suffolk to Kent would never have happened had circumstances not uprooted **Robert Stollery** (1767-1849) from his parental home in Suffolk and driven him to join the British Army. Born to **John** and **Catherine Stollery** and baptised in 1767 in All Saints, Mendham, Robert Stollery officially enlisted in the 7th Regiment of Foot (Royal Fusiliers) in 1784, though he probably served earlier as a boy soldier following the death of both parents a week apart in 1781 when he was 13 years old. Although enlisting just too late to fight with the regiment during the American War of Independence (1775-1783), Robert fought for six years against the French in Portugal and Spain during the Peninsular War (1807-1814) until ill health forced him to retire from the army in June 1813. After 30 years' service, he was suffering from rheumatism and described officially as '*worn out*'.

However, Robert Stollery was evidently not too worn out to contemplate family life, and in February 1817 he married **Elizabeth Franks**, a woman 16 years younger than himself, in Maidstone, Kent. It is not evident why he chose to settle in Maidstone rather than return to Mendham, though with no close relatives still in the village, he had no home to which to return. There were no Stollerys in the Maidstone area, but the proximity of Chatham Royal Dockyards and its defending garrison meant the Medway region was accustomed to absorbing discharged soldiers and sailors. Whatever the reason, Robert remained in Maidstone at least until 1828, by which point he and Elizabeth had a young family of two daughters and four sons. Then, sometime between the baptism of his youngest child in 1828 and the birth of his first grandchild in 1839, Robert decided to uproot the family and return to his native Suffolk. As a *pater familias* he had the authority to impose such a decision on his family, while as an army pensioner he had the financial independence to make it possible.

Leaving only his eldest son in Kent, Robert settled with his wife and five younger children in Denham, near Eye, a distance by road of about nine miles from where he was born. We can only speculate on his reasons for returning, but it seems unlikely he had retained contact with home during an absence of possibly 50 or more years; apart from spending years overseas, Robert lacked the literacy to write home. Also, his two siblings, an older sister and brother, had been dead for some time. It seems more likely that his return was influenced by his children reaching marriageable age; four of them subsequently married a spouse born locally in Suffolk. Whether intended or not, by the time of his death in Denham in 1849, Robert's uprooting from Suffolk had seemingly been reversed by his children marrying into the community in which he himself had been reared.

One outcome of Robert's return to Suffolk that could not have been intended was the key role his family played in determining the fortunes of my own. In 1841, the

census shows the widow **Mary Harsom (née Tye, 1802-1872)** and four children living at Ludgate Causeway in Eye. Mary had lost two other children since her marriage in Hoxne in 1824, one of them drowned on the way home from school in 1837.⁽²⁾ In March 1841, Mary had also lost her husband **William Harsom (1799-1841)** to fever and, at the age of 39, she found herself sole provider for **Mary Ann (16)**, **William (13)**, **Charles (6)** and **John (1)**. She could expect little assistance from her husband's older brother, **John Harsom (1789-1868)**, a shoemaker who also lived in Eye, as he had his own wife, three children and a father-in-law to support. So, to survive, Mary took in washing, applied for parish relief, and sent her sons out to work on the land as soon as they were old enough to earn. As for her 16-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, she was in need of a husband to support her.

The husband came in the shape of Robert Stollery's son, **Charles**. Charles was born in the same year as Mary Ann and in 1841 was an agricultural labourer lodging with the schoolmistress and her family in Denham Green. With his parents and sister **Amy**, also in Denham Green, and brothers **John** in Heckfield Green and **Reuben** in Cross Street, the Stollerys all lived a stone's throw from each other along the road that ran the two and a half miles from Denham to Hoxne.



*Ordnance Survey Map of Eye, Hoxne and Denham area of Suffolk 1921
(reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)*

How and when Charles met Mary Ann is a matter of speculation, but Denham Green is only four miles from Eye and the marriage was almost certainly as much an alliance between their respective families as between the couple as individuals. If, as seems plausible, Robert uprooted his family from Maidstone to Denham to ensure his children were well married, then he would have chosen suitable families with which to forge alliances. With no welfare state to provide support in times of need, working families relied for their economic security on family networks connected through marriage. The marriages of Robert's sons Reuben and John formed an especially strong family alliance with the Musk family: in 1840, Reuben married **Eliza Musk**, daughter of the Cross Street blacksmith **Lionel Musk**, and in 1847 John married Eliza's sister, **Harriett Musk**.⁽³⁾ With Amy Stollery marrying **John Rush** from Fressingfield in 1849, four of Robert's Maidstone-born children were now married to a spouse native to Robert's own area of Suffolk.

But although 16-year-old Mary Ann Harsom was born in Suffolk, her marriage in July 1847 to Charles Stollery, Robert's youngest son, did not serve to integrate Charles into a Suffolk family network. Quite the opposite. The marriage took place not in Denham or Hoxne or Eye as might have been predicted, but in All Saints Church, Frindsbury, Kent. The witnesses to the marriage were Charles' eldest brother, **Robert**, and Robert's wife Caroline, and it is evident that, despite the rest of the Stollery family moving from Maidstone to Suffolk some years previously, Robert junior had somehow remained in contact with Charles. The marriage register shows Robert able to sign his own name and he may have been literate enough to stay in touch by letter, though neither his father nor his brother Charles could sign their own names. However it was managed, Robert and Charles had maintained a close bond and by 1851 the brothers were living with their families in adjacent homes in Frindsbury, both working in the chalk quarries, Robert as a lime burner and Charles as a labourer.

The return migration of Charles to Kent also points to brother Robert having much the same strength of character as his father and, whether or not with the latter's approval, Robert junior was evidently keen to build his own network of family alliances in the Medway Valley. In 1840, he had married **Caroline Knott**, a young widow with three small children and the daughter of **Henry Wraight**, a Burham farmer from a long-established Kent family.⁽⁴⁾ Early in 1852, Caroline's mother **Tamazin Wraight** died of cancer, leaving Caroline's father Henry a widower at the relatively early age of 60 and, as a working farmer, in need of another wife. Just as Mary Ann Harsom when in need of a husband had appeared in Kent to marry Charles Stollery, so her mother, the widow Mary Harsom, now appeared in Kent to marry Henry Wraight when he was in want of a wife. In February 1853, a year after becoming a widower, Henry Wraight married Mary Harsom in All Saints, Frindsbury, the same church in which her daughter Mary Ann had married Charles Stollery five and a half years earlier. Thus, strange as it may seem, the migration of Robert Stollery senior and his

family from Kent to Suffolk had brought about the migration of Mary Harsom and her family from Suffolk to Kent.

Arranging for Mary and her three sons to travel from Suffolk to Kent would have been challenge enough when only Robert Stollery junior and the 12-year-old John Harsom were able to sign their own names, but there remained the physical challenge of the journey from Eye to Frindsbury itself. While there is no evidence of how the Harsom family made that journey, by the 1850s the railways were offering working people a means of long-distance travel that was both cheaper and quicker than stagecoach or steamer. Travelling by rail was still a novelty in rural England and this would have been the first time Mary and her three sons had boarded a train. We can only hope that its novelty made the discomfort of sitting on bare wooden benches for over four hours in an unheated third-class carriage more endurable.

As yet there was no station in Eye itself, but Mellis station, opened as recently as 1849, was only three miles away. From there the family would have taken an Eastern Union Railway train south to Colchester via Ipswich, and changed onto an Eastern Counties service that ran through to Bishopsgate Station in London. The timetable for 1851 gives four trains daily for this journey: an 8:15 am departure from Mellis would have the family at Bishopsgate by 12:50 pm.⁽⁵⁾ Strood was the nearest station to Frindsbury, and could be reached in 90 minutes on the South Eastern Railway from London Bridge via Gravesend.⁽⁶⁾

Some idea of the cost of the journey can be gauged from the price of a third-class fare from Norwich to London in 1851. If we deduct the fare from Norwich to Mellis it gives a single third-class fare from Mellis to London of 10s 9d, or £2 3s 0d for the four of them. In addition, there was the horse omnibus fare between stations in London and the train fare to Strood. Mary's total income as a widow on parish relief taking in washing would have been only a few shillings a week, and even with the income from two adult sons, the total cost of the journey was maybe three or four times the weekly household income and far beyond their means. The farmer Henry Wraight might have contributed, but the person most likely to have financed the move was Robert Stollery junior, whose strength of character was again evident in his having risen to foreman of **Edward Cole's** lime works at Burham by 1846, and to landlord of the Homeward Bound public house in Frindsbury by 1855. By 1859 he was a freehold property owner qualified to vote. Without doubt, Robert was the force behind the intermarrying between the Harsoms, the Wraights and the Stollerys.

However it was accomplished, the expense and the ordeal of the journey from Eye to Frindsbury benefited all parties. Henry Wraight had a wife for the farmhouse and, in becoming a farmer's wife, Mary no longer needed to take in washing to support her sons. Mary Ann Stollery had her mother close at hand once again, and her brother-in-law, Robert junior, had added a further strand to the family network he had been

building in Kent since his father, Robert senior, had departed to Suffolk with the rest of his family. But in the longer term, it worked most to the advantage of Mary Harsom's three sons, William (25), Charles (18) and John (12), who found themselves transplanted as young, single men from a small rural settlement in Suffolk, with insecure, seasonal work as agricultural labourers, to the industrialising towns of the River Medway. The impact of industry was especially evident around Frindsbury, where chalk quarries and lime works produced cement for the public works that, by 1900, had remodelled London as an imperial capital.⁽⁷⁾ It was here that the real history of my own family began, when these three young Harsoms from rural Suffolk were transformed into the Hassams of industrial Kent.

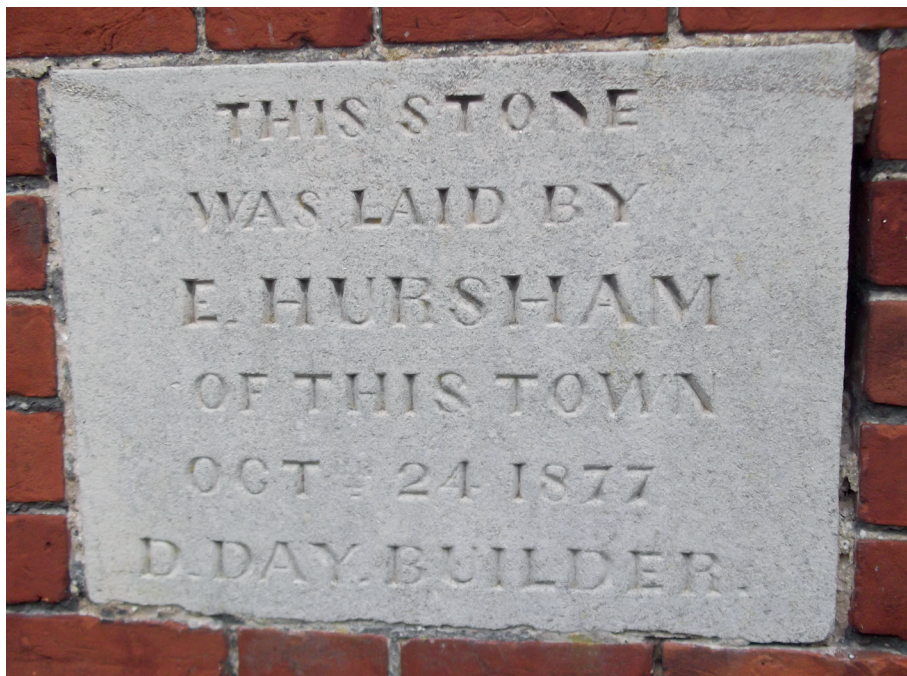


Ordnance Survey Map showing Strood, Frindsbury and cement works along the Medway, Kent 1921 (reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

Migration did odd things to family names, particularly before centralised records made those names immutable. With the development of family names in post-Conquest England, how your name was spelt was a matter for those doing the recording, be it in parish, estate or, on occasion, court records. Most of the population could neither read nor write, so consistency of spelling depended on families remaining in the same area; if a priest or a clerk wished to record your name, he had only to look up how your father's name was spelt. If you were privileged enough to have a headstone, the mason need only look around the graveyard to see how your name was spelt.

It also helped if your name had clear-cut syllables. There is little variation in the spelling of Stollery, for example, with the occasional Stolery being the most common alternative. Stollery was, of course, regional to Suffolk, but so was my own family name, being historically contained in three main clusters: Hearsom around East Bergholt; Hearsom around Mendlesham; and Harsant and Harsom around Dennington. Nonetheless, the Suffolk FHS *Suffolk Burial Index 1538-1900* contains 36 variant spellings of the name, the result of a name that has two indistinct vowels and only one voiced consonant, the terminal /m/. Shouted aloud it loses all definition and can best be described as a cross between a sneeze and a clearing of the throat. If you moved too far from your home parish, it could be spelt as anything from Harsome to Hearsham.

In the case of my own family, the name Harsom seems to originate in the 18th century when a branch recorded as Harsant in Dennington migrated north-eastwards via Tannington to reach Denham in the 1780s.⁽⁸⁾ Further migration in the 1820s carried the Harsom name from Denham to Eye, though with increasing inconsistency: my 4x great-grandfather was baptised in Tannington as **John Harsant**, married in Tannington as **John Harsam** and was buried in Eye as **John Hersham**. Another variant, the slightly different Hursham, in fact originated in Eye as late as 1840 and was the chosen spelling of Edward, the son of John Harsom and a cousin of Mary Ann and her brothers. **Edward Hursham** (1821-1900) became a successful shoe manufacturer in Eye in the 1870s, laying the foundation stone of the Wesleyan Chapel in Castle Street (which can be seen today) in 1877 and being elected as an Eye borough councillor in 1880.⁽⁹⁾



Foundation Stone of the Wesleyan Chapel, Castle Street, Eye, laid by Edward Hursham in 1877 (copyright author)

Edward was therefore literate enough and wealthy enough to specify the spelling of the family name on his father's headstone in 1868, though while the headstone in Eye Cemetery still commemorates John Hursham, in his lifetime John's family name was recorded variously as Harsom, Horsham, Hersam, Hearsham, Hursham and Hursam. Before the 20th century, for most people in England their family name was as they pronounced it, not as it was spelt.



Graves of John Hursham, his son Edward and Edward's first wife Eliza in Eye Cemetery (from right to left) (copyright author)

Which brings us to the creation of the Hassams of Strood. The first Harsom to arrive in Kent, Mary Ann, was married in 1847 under the name of Assum. The loss of the initial letter of Hassum, the family name in the 1841 Eye census, had no counterpart in either Suffolk or the Medway region, so was not copied from another family record. Possibly it arose from the way Mary Ann herself pronounced her name coupled with the differences between a Suffolk and a Kent accent. However it arose, this form of the family name was more commonly recorded as Assam, as in the marriage records of William in 1855 and Charles in 1857, and this was perhaps due to its familiarity in England as a type of Indian tea – witness the advertisement carried in the *Chatham News* of July 1859 for 'this season's Assam Teas' as sold by the Assam Tea Establishment, Chatham.⁽¹⁰⁾

Yet while Assam, Assom and Assum continued to be used, after its first appearance in the baptism record of Mary Ann's niece in 1856, the Hassam spelling quickly gained ascendancy.⁽¹¹⁾ The youngest brother, John, was the first of the family to be able to sign his own name, and when he married in 1861 he did so as Hassam. In this respect, John was representative of the new order which, from the later 19th century, facilitated working-class education and brought in a literacy that, as a consequence, enabled working class families for the first time to determine themselves how their family name should be spelt. In Strood, Assam continued to be recorded as the family name after 1861, but less often and mostly restricted to John's older brothers, William

and Charles, with the last recorded use of Assam being the entry for Charles in the 1881 Strood census. By the time of the 1901 census, there were 51 individuals in the Medway area sharing the family name of Hassam, 37 of whom (27 male, 10 female) were direct descendants of William and Mary Harsom of Eye. There were no longer any alternative spellings of the family name, and when they moved away from the Medway, as some did with the industrial decline of the area in the interwar years, they carried the name Hassam with them.

Sadly, this creation of a colony of Hassams in Kent from the migration of a single family from Suffolk was not matched by Robert Stollery's attempt to transplant his family from Kent to Suffolk. Although Robert's sons Reuben and John married the Musk sisters in Hoxne, neither brother remained in Suffolk; both joined the Royal Marine Artillery and set up home in Portsmouth. In fact, not one of Robert's six children settled in Suffolk. As we have seen, both his eldest son Robert and his youngest son Charles settled in Kent; and when their father Robert died in Denham in 1849 aged 81, his wife and their two daughters, **Catherine** and Amy, swiftly abandoned Suffolk to return south to live in London. Robert Stollery was buried in the land of his fathers, but he lay in the churchyard alone.

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References and Sources

1. In the absence of any consistent spelling of the family name, I have adopted Harsom for ease of reading; it is the name as it appears on the baptism record of the nominal head of the family, William (1799-1841).
2. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 18 January 1837, p.2.
3. Marriage between two brothers and two sisters was not unusual, witness William and Charles Harsom who, once settled in Kent, married the sisters **Maria** and **Henrietta Shuter**.
4. For a fuller history of Henry Wraight's family, see Andrew Hann, *The Medway Valley: A Kent Landscape Transformed* (Phillimore, Chichester: 2009), pp.74-75.
5. *Eastern Counties Railway Timetable, May 1851*, Great Eastern Railway Society (*www.gersociety.org.uk*).
6. *Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser*, 13 July 1852, p.7.
7. For the industrialisation of the Medway Valley, see Hann, *op. cit.*, pp.23-36.
8. **Rose Annie Harsent**, whose infamous murder in Peasenhall in 1902 was never solved, was related to the Harsoms of Eye through **Edmund Harsant** (1710-1798) of Tannington. While Edmund's son **John** (1760-1833) moved to Denham and then to Eye, another son, **William** (1767-1810), moved to Sibton, near Peasenhall.
9. Edward was both the first and last of the Hurshams; having coined the name, Edward had no offspring and the family name Hursham died with him.
10. My father recalled being jibed by his schoolteacher around 1930 for being named after '*the wettest state in India*'.
11. Hassam was a family name in England before 1856. In the 18th century, there were two main clusters, one around the village of Whichford in Warwickshire and the other in London. Neither cluster was related to the Hassam family of Frindsbury and Strood.

OUR MIGRATING FOREBEARS – GEORGE GOODCHILD AND HIS LEGACY

My father, **Edward Marshall**, was born into a coal mining community in Co. Durham, so I had always assumed my heritage was purely from the north-east of England. My mother, **Eva Stocks**, was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire.

When my mother was living with dementia, we enjoyed hours of reminiscing about the past. In 2008, when I started looking into our family history, I discovered that it was not all to do with the north-east, as an **Eliza Goodchild** from Suffolk and an **Elizabeth Alderton** from Norfolk had married into my father's family, the Marshalls.

During my research, I connected with a second cousin, **Alma**, and a first cousin once removed, **Dorothy**. Together, 'The Three Musketeers' travelled back through time tracing our Marshall heritage back to the 1700s.

We started tracing the Suffolk connection with our 3x great-grandfather, **George Goodchild**, born in Framlingham in 1820. He was one of eight children born to **William and Mary (née Watts) Goodchild**. We went back a further two generations to **William and Rose (née Avery) Goodchild**, who married in 1749 and so would probably have been born in the 1720s.

Of George Goodchild's seven siblings, he had two older brothers, **Henry** (b. 1809) and **David** (b. 1811), a younger brother, **James** (b. 1825 – more of him later), and four sisters, **Maria, Emily, Eleanor** and **Charlotte**.

On the 1851 census, our George and his wife **Mary** (another **Goodchild**, probably a first cousin) were living in Cold Hall Lane, Framlingham, George an 'Ag Lab', with five children all born in Badingham or Framlingham. Another daughter was born in 1852 in Framlingham.

It was sometime after this date that the whole family were on the move south to Kent.

Why did they go?

We do not know exactly why they left Suffolk, only that agriculture was going through huge changes with the increase in mechanisation. Through the postal service, coastal traffic and the trains, information must have filtered through about other areas of work. George's younger brother, James, joined the City of London police in 1851, and both George and James could read and write, so maybe James had alerted his brother to other work opportunities further south. James served for 24 years in the City of London force and then in 1875 returned with his wife to Suffolk, retiring with a police pension. Sadly, he died the following year.

Where did they go and what did they do when they got there?

We tracked the family through certificates and censuses, and below is the post-1852 timeline, interspersed with commentary, which we put together. The records show that their first destination was Swanscombe, Kent.

George initially was a farm labourer; but the main work attraction in Swanscombe was the huge pits of chalk and clay which had been excavated since the 1820s around the Galley Hill area. One well-known name was 'White's Cement Factory'. Building in Victorian London was going on at a tremendous pace and materials were in great demand, shipped up the Thames from the north Kent ports. Locals and outsiders flooded into the area. The railway came to Swanscombe in 1848. The towns that housed the cement workers were probably on a par with slums: terraces with few amenities, no fresh water, no gas or electricity, no modern sewage system. The church of St Peter and St Paul was at the heart of the community. Quite a shock for the Goodchilds, coming from the countryside of Suffolk. The work, carried out without modern machinery, would have been hard and dirty, extremely labour-intensive, but better paid than farm work. By 1857 George is recorded as a labourer at the cement works.

The timeline is as follows.

Warning! There are a few 'probables' and at least two Marys in this saga! One is George's first wife, Mary Goodchild, a first cousin, and the other is most likely his stepdaughter, a **Mary Capon** (b. 1835), probably the illegitimate child of his wife from a relationship with a **George Capon**, before her marriage to our George in 1841. Mary Capon travelled with the family to Kent.

1854 **George Allen Goodchild** born, Swanscombe, Kent, to Mary Capon (George's stepdaughter)

1855 **Robert Goodchild** born, Swanscombe, mother Mary Goodchild

1857 **Alice Goodchild** born and died Swanscombe

Mary Goodchild, first wife, died in childbirth

1859 George Goodchild, now a widower, marries **Emma Davis**, spinster, in Bermondsey, Surrey. He is recorded as a cement labourer. His brother, James Goodchild (then a constable in the City of London police) and his wife, **Mary Ann**, are witnesses at the wedding. Emma was a servant at the police station where James was based, so it is no stretch of the imagination to believe that James introduced her to George, then a widower with several young children under the age of 12 to look after.

1859 **Arthur Goodchild** born and died. His mother is recorded as Mary Goodchild, and no father is noted. Was this really Mary Capon? As Mary Capon's mother was a Mary Goodchild, Mary Capon used Capon or Goodchild in recording births.

1861 George's eldest son, **William**, is also working in the cement works. Another son, **David**, is venturing further afield as an 'apprentice' on board the ship

Britannia (involved in the coasting trade). Eldest daughter **Eliza** is a servant to a 'Retired Gentlewoman' at Huggens College in Northfleet, Kent, which were almshouses for genteel ladies who had fallen on hard times.

In the census, George, Emma, children **Sophia, Maria, Ellen** and Robert, and grandson **George Goodchild** (6), are living in Tottenham, with George employed at an India Rubber Works. ('Caoutchouc', the natural product of rubber trees, was imported into Victorian England from India, Ceylon and Brazil and was used to make all manner of products, from braces and garters to tubes, hoses and elastic bands.)

Unfortunately, George and Emma did not stay together long, as from 1863 George was fathering more children with the other 'Mary', known as either Mary Capon or Mary Goodchild. She was 15 years younger than George. We have never found a record of a marriage of George to a Mary Capon, and as second wife Emma was still alive at the time, any 'marriage' would have been bigamous. Emma is found later in Shoreditch, living as a dressmaker with George's daughter, Maria Goodchild, a machinist. She keeps the name of Goodchild and classes herself as married. Their positions in the household appear to be respectable.

George and Mary (Capon) are then to be found in East London, George working as a merchant seaman. I would think he signed on as crew to ships in the Thames Estuary that plied their trade up and down the east coast.

1863 **Alice Mary** born, Barkingside, Essex (mother, Mary Goodchild/Capon). George recorded as a 'Merchant Seaman'.

1864 **Anne** born, Portway, West Ham, London (mother Mary Goodchild/Capon). George is recorded as a labourer at an India Rubber Works.

George and Mary, and most of the children, then headed northwards, though not back to Suffolk. People of the lower orders in society used carts, drays, and wagons to travel. If they had money to spare, a stagecoach or the train. Even canal barges, riverboats or a packet boat up the coast.

1866 **Walter** born, Hartlepool (mother Mary Goodchild/Capon), father George recorded as a merchant seaman.

1868 **Minnie** born, Seamer Moor, Yorkshire.

1868 Eliza (at Seaton Carew) married **Ralph Booth Marshall** in Hartlepool.

This is the marriage that connected the Goodchilds to the Marshall family.

Ralph was a sailor and former convict. The story in the family is that Ralph 'went to sea and never came back'.

1869 **Edward Marshall** born, Wolsingham, Co. Durham; son of Eliza and Ralph Marshall.

- 1870 **Agnes Goodchild** born, Wolsingham, Co. Durham (mother Mary Capon/Goodchild), father George was recorded as an agricultural labourer. He became a grandfather and a father within a year!
- 1871 In the census, the Goodchild family are at Allan's Grange, Cliffe, near Richmond, Yorkshire. George is a shepherd and is with 'wife' Mary and children Alice Mary, Annie, Walter, Minnie and Agnes. Eliza Marshall (a seaman's wife) and Edward Marshall, grandson, are also present.
- Daughter Sophia is at Sheraton, Co. Durham, working as a servant.
- George Goodchild (16, b. Kent) is at Haswell, Co. Durham, an agricultural labourer. This George, noted as a 'grandson' in 1861, is probably the illegitimate child of Mary Capon, and travelled with the family.
- Son David is found at Swanscombe, Kent, a cement labourer.
- 1875 **Ernest Herbert** born at Cassop, Co. Durham (mother's maiden name, Capon).
- The second (bigamous) marriage takes place of Eliza Goodchild/Marshall to **Edward Smith**, a sawmill labourer, in West Hartlepool. Three children are later born, one of whom, **George Hawke Smith**, emigrated to America as a Methodist missionary, and had five children with wife **Martha**. One daughter, **Winifred**, lived to be almost 100! Tracing the Smiths in America is another story! But we did it! (The clues being 'H' for 'Hawke' in the middle name, George's occupation and place of birth.)
- 1877 **Arthur Victor Goodchild** born at Haswell, Co. Durham (mother's maiden name, Capon)
- 1881 In the census, George and Mary are at Hawthorn, Co. Durham, George working as an agricultural labourer on Colliery Farm, and eight children are listed with them. George A [Allen] Goodchild, a groom, is listed as their son (his age and birthplace are consistent with the George Goodchild in the 1861 and 1871 censuses).
- Eliza and Edward Smith are living in Stranton, Hartlepool.
- Ralph Booth Marshall (Eliza's first husband) dies in Hartlepool. We don't know whether Eliza knew the truth of his return, or chose to ignore it.
- David Goodchild and his family have moved north from Kent to Hart, Co. Durham. David is listed as a cement maker. His older brother William, also a cement maker, is with them.
- 1891 In the census, the Goodchild family are at Stranton, Hartlepool, George (71) a domestic gardener. Six children are still at home.

Grandson Edward Marshall marries **Elizabeth Alderton** in Hartlepool. *This marriage connected the Alderton family from Norfolk to the Marshalls.*

(The Aldertons originally came from the village of Wacton in Norfolk, and our cousin Dorothy has traced an Alderton ancestor back to 1560. Several branches of the Alderton family migrated north up through Scarborough, Yorkshire, to West Hartlepool. Two daughters of the migrants emigrated to New Zealand in the 1920s, and Dorothy is still in contact with them.)

1893 George Goodchild dies aged 73 in Hartlepool.

1901 Wife, Mary, is 'Head of household', living in the parish of St Aidan, Hartlepool. William, Walter and Agnes are still present. Mary dies later this same year.

Ernest is a watchmaker, living with his family in Bishop Auckland.

1909 Eliza and Edward Smith emigrate to America to join their son George and his family. Edward Smith died in America in 1916, but Eliza returned to England and died in Chester-le-Street in 1920.

By 1911 there are too many Goodchilds to note down here: they were mainly to be found in and around Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees and Bishop Auckland, some being rather more well-travelled! All a very long way from their humble roots in Framlingham, Suffolk.

What was the impact on the family left behind?

Our George Goodchild was one of eight children, and as far as our research shows, it was only he and his younger brother James who left Suffolk to find an alternative to farm work. There were enough siblings left behind to take care of the parents. In fact, their father, William Goodchild, then a widower, was living with eldest son Henry's family on the 1851 census. Henry died in 1857 and William then lived with his daughter-in-law, **Phoebe**, Henry's widow, until his death in 1869.

Our 3x great-grandfather, George Goodchild was a good father and provider, and always seemed to have his family's wellbeing at heart, moving around the country to find jobs and support the children that chose to follow him. Hopefully, the migration experience opened new opportunities for these. He fathered 17 children with the two Marys, including six sons who went on to have more Goodchild male offspring. His second son, David Goodchild, fathered eight children, including five sons, so the Goodchild name goes on and on in the Hartlepool area.

George Goodchild, what a father and what a legacy!

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EMIGRANTS FROM SUFFOLK: FOUR CASE STUDIES

Rural discontent and resulting depopulation were more marked in Suffolk in the 19th century than in any other part of England. The background causes were low wages, lack of work and lack of access to land. But a person's decision to leave would have depended on their individual circumstances; and unless they left behind some written explanation (which in my cases they failed to do), we can only guess at the reasons. The documented histories of two of my grandparental families show that four of my antecedents made significant and mostly (not all!) successful moves within England in the mid-late 19th century. These are their stories.

Goodchild to Rochester, Kent

At some time in the late 1850s two Goodchild brothers from Capel St Mary, '*agricultural labourers*' in 1851, decided that it was expedient to leave Suffolk. The story in the family has it that **Joseph** and **Henry Goodchild** went poaching, were found by the gamekeeper, but escaped after a fight. Henry (1835-1923), the younger of the two, was my maternal great-grandfather. In 1858 he had a child, **Sarah**, probably with **Isabella Scarlett** (b. 1841 Tuddenham St Martin), though no marriage or birth was registered (in 1911 Isabella thought they had married in 1859). Also in 1858, Henry suffered a broken leg while labouring on the railway cutting at Tuddenham Road bridge. This presumably healed quickly, as in the 1861 census he was living in Kent, at Thomas Alley, Strood, Rochester, with his wife '*Emily*', Sarah and '*Richard*' (probably **Rachel**, b. January 1861 in Strood), and was working as a dock labourer. '*Emily born Tudham*' can only have been Isabella born Tuddenham (Tudham being non-existent).

Henry did not stay long in Kent, perhaps just two years. If he had felt in 1859-60 that he needed to leave Suffolk, the move to Kent was not well planned. He had to secure accommodation for his growing family and also find work. He may have expected that part to be easy if he had heard rumours of the planned Chatham Royal Dockyard expansion programme, but that only got under way in 1862, by which time he had given up and returned home to Tuddenham with his family. There Rachel died in 1862 and Sarah in 1869, but in 1861 Isabella gave birth to the first of seven more children born in Tuddenham, including my grandfather **Joseph** (1865-1953), Henry's only son to reach maturity, followed by four more births in Grundisburgh.

The evidence for the escape from Suffolk to Kent was the 1861 census, for which Henry dutifully supplied information (including his Capel birthplace), albeit to struggling Kentish ears, which led to the names being recorded incorrectly. But, for whatever reason, he skipped the next two censuses and it is only in 1891 that we learn he was earning an income as a '*potato dealer and fish hawker*'. From my mother (aged 15 when he died), I understood he sold home-grown produce on the outward journey to Ipswich market and fish on the way back, but from her or my grandmother I never heard mention of Kent.

Goodchild to Aldershot, Hampshire

The experience of Henry's brother Joseph Goodchild (1832-1906) in his self-imposed exile from Suffolk turned out very differently. By the time of the 1861 census, he had changed his surname to **Harvey** (he had a brother-in-law **Robert Harvey**) and had arrived unencumbered by family in Ash Common, Surrey, on the edge of Aldershot. In 1861 he married **Sophia Baker** (1842-1896) and the Ash household included their one-year-old daughter and three lodgers, which supplemented his income from dealing and hawking fish and fruit. Five more children arrived at Ash and nearby Farnham. By 1871 the family had moved to Waterloo Road in the centre of Aldershot, which became their permanent address and where Joseph established his business – which became the family business – as a coal merchant.

Aldershot was transformed in the later 1850s by the establishment of Aldershot camp in 1854, a by-product of the Crimean War. The town's population grew from under 900 in 1851 to over 16,000 in 1861 (including 9,000 soldiers). Such rapid change must have presented huge economic opportunities for those with entrepreneurial ability, as well as cover if pursued by the law. It also posed challenging health and housing problems. Aspects of all of this emerged in the 1881 census, which had Joseph and Sophia's son **Henry Harvey** (1863-1894) at the dwelling and coalyard in Waterloo Road in charge of six of his siblings aged between 2 and 15. His parents, meanwhile, with their infant son **John** were at 13 Union Terrace, where their neighbours in no. 14 were seven young women aged 19 to 27 who had arrived from all corners of England and Wales. '*No occupation*' was the euphemism employed in the census for the activities of the inhabitants of this and other similar houses in the town.

Whatever the intention, moving to Aldershot allowed Joseph both to escape his Suffolk problem and to prosper financially. Joseph and Sophia had 14 children, five of whom died in infancy or childhood. Joseph was widowed in 1896, but in 1901 still lived in Waterloo Road and had two coalyard workers lodging with him. Six of his surviving sons lived locally with their families in Aldershot or nearby Farnham. He died in 1906 leaving a substantial estate of £4,546, very roughly equivalent to £450,000 at today's prices, and the family business subsequently diversified into motor vehicles and road transport.

Joseph made no secret of his affection for Suffolk and his Goodchild relations who remained there, though subsequent generations seemed unaware that the family origin of the friendship had been disguised by a simple name change. Goodchild volunteers in the Suffolk Regiment in 1914-15 did part of their training in Aldershot and were welcomed by their Harvey cousins, and were amazed to find houses named for Suffolk villages – Capel, Wenham and Grundisburgh. In 1955, Joseph's grandson **Arthur Harvey** wrote to Henry's grandson **Arthur Goodchild** (they were close friends) giving him information from a recently-discovered letter written by Joseph and Henry's eldest brother, **John Goodchild** (1825-1897), who had stayed in Capel, and commented '*so another link had now been established in the Harvey-Goodchild names*'. Family history was still in its infancy!

Finch (and others) to Rochdale, Lancashire

The starting point of the next migration account is 75 Yorkshire Street, in the Wardleworth district of Rochdale, Lancashire. This was an unnamed inn on the present-day A58, which before the M62 was a trunk road crossing the Pennines to the manufacturing centres of Halifax and Leeds. On the day of the 1861 census there were four visitors from Suffolk lodging there, all for convenience giving Eye as their birthplace. The eldest and easily presumed leader of the group was **Robert Tacon**, in fact born at Hinton, near Blythburgh, in 1807. In the census he is described as a *'woolstapler'*, a merchant who would buy unwashed and unsorted wool for selling on after processing to woollen textile manufacturers (potentially in the West Riding). But in 1851 Robert Tacon had been farming over 300 acres and employing 12 labourers at Great Glemham. Something had evidently gone amiss – poor harvest in 1860?⁽¹⁾ – and for whatever reason he had moved into wool. Meanwhile, in 1861 his wife **Anne (née Whiting)** (b. 1811 Thorington) had moved to Rodborough, Gloucestershire, clearly not by chance living in a community of woollen cloth weavers. Having given up arable farming in Suffolk, was Robert planning to sell wool in the Cotswolds? He and Anne were reunited in 1871 at 2 Maldon Street, in the Castleton part of Rochdale. This was not a grand address: Google Street View shows a one-way narrow street of two-storey continuous terrace houses, 40 dwellings with door and front window, much improved now but doubtless Victorian. Robert died in 1873, leaving an estate of less than £100 to his widow with which she financed her return to Rodborough.

Given Robert's parlous financial situation, the first impression created by the 1861 census, that he had business in Rochdale and recruited three Suffolk employees to travel north and work for a period for him, looks very misleading. Perhaps all four simply decided to make the move together, the better to cope with any problems arising in the new environment. **Frederick Fulcher** was the only unmarried member of the quartet, born in Eye in 1840, dignified in 1861 as a stonemason but in fact a bricklayer like his father. He quickly found a wife, marrying **Mary Crabtree** (b. 1838 Heptonstall, Yorkshire) in Wardleworth in 1862. By 1881 they were living with their five children in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he died, still a brickie, in 1894.

Harriet Dykes was described in the census as a laundress, but it now seems her role was not to keep Robert Tacon in clean linen. She was born **Harriet Davy** in Ipswich in 1842 and married **Robert Dykes** (b. 1833 Eye) in 1858. Dykes was a neighbour of Frederick Fulcher's father (which suggests there might have been a group discussion about the Rochdale venture beforehand), and he remained in Eye for the time being when Harriet went with the group in 1861. But he followed her north and in 1871 they were in South Crosland, near Huddersfield, in non-residential service to a cotton baron, Robert as groom and coachman, Harriet as cook and domestic servant. They are found again in 1881 with similar employment in Roundhay, Leeds. Dykes died in 1882. Harriet remarried the following year to an army pensioner, but died childless.

James Finch (1830-1894), the fourth member of the Rochdale expedition, appears in the 1861 census as an 'ostler', though that job description would normally have applied to someone concerned with stabling horses at an inn. Did the census enumerator mistake him for an employee at the establishment, or had James learned how to handle horses when they were shod in his father's shop? He and his two brothers had been born into a family of blacksmiths at Stone Street, a community in Spexhall parish, near Halesworth. But this James, nearly 10 years younger than his brothers and the third James after two others had died in infancy years earlier, was the Finch who chose *not* to be a blacksmith.

In 1855 he married **Maria Baker** from nearby Rumburgh and they moved to Eye, where their first two children were born in 1857-1858. Maria briefly moved back in with her parents when James left for Rochdale in 1861, but they were reunited in or before 1864 and living in Cheshire, at Chorley (renamed Alderley Edge in 1880), 25 miles from Rochdale on the other side of Manchester. James and Maria raised four children to maturity there, three of them born in Chorley. James made a living as a gardener, like many of his neighbours in Hayes Lane and later South Street, good Victorian terraced housing, some of which has defied developers. Alderley Edge now has a reputation for affluence, but even in the later 19th century a number of grand residences were built by Manchester businessmen in the surrounding country.

James sent word back to his brother **Joseph Finch** (1821-1884) in Suffolk that there was a good life to be had in Cheshire. Joseph remained wedded to his blacksmith's forge at Stone Street, but three of his sons did move north: **Frederick Finch** (1848-1928), who had married **Zillah Fiske** of Orford in 1875, **Joseph Finch** (1851-?), who married **Caroline Warr** of Oxfordshire at Chorley in 1878, and **Arthur Finch** (1850-1934). Arthur found it impossible to settle and returned to Suffolk to marry **Emma Chilvers** and live out his life in Rendlesham. But Frederick and Joseph between them had six children at Alderley Edge and Wilmslow, and two more after another move, at Moses Gate near Bolton, Lancashire.

These migrations from rural Suffolk to the industrial north of England only had an indirect connection with the supposed attraction of higher-paid jobs in the Lancashire cotton mills. It was only Robert Tacon who found himself living alongside cotton mill operatives, and this had certainly not been his intention. But cotton was generating wealth for Manchester's business community, and the other three members of the 'Rochdale quartet' found employment in the service sector using domestic, gardening and building skills that they brought with them. In the case of James Finch, he learned quickly of opportunities for gardeners in non-industrial north-east Cheshire, and found his way across Manchester to seek them out.

Finch/Norman to London

While James Finch and the sons of his brother Joseph explored the north of England, the family of his sister, **Ann Maria Norman** (1822-1877), was also restless. Like

Joseph, she was born in Martlesham before her parents **John Finch** (1792-1874) and **Lucy (née Nunn)** (1785-1852) moved to the forge at Stone Street, Spexhall. It was from there that John was called as a witness at Bury Assizes in 1834 when **James Norman** was accused of rick-burning,⁽²⁾ and it was James' son, also **James Norman** (b. 1819 Redisham), whom Ann Maria married in 1842. Their sons **Henry** (b. 1844 Spexhall) and **Walter** (b. 1846 Westhall) and daughter **Lucy** (b. 1849 Halesworth) were born while James had the familiar 'ag. lab.' status. But by 1871 James had secured a job as groom on a large farm at Chattisham, 30 miles distant, and the family moved to make their new home there.

This was the first stage in a pattern of classic step migration. James' new job obviously increased the family income and would also have encouraged the children to contemplate a move on for improvement. It also substantially reduced the distance to London, with the Hadleigh railway branch line nearby. As a result, the three children of James and Lucy all moved to places in north-east London. Henry Norman married **Caroline Cooper** (b. 1845 Hintlesham) in 1866, the proximity of her birthplace a clear indication that all of the Norman family had lived for a while in Chattisham. Henry's occupation was recorded variously as milkman, 'cow keeper' or dairyman, and four children were born in Tottenham (N17) or Stratford (E15). Walter Norman met his wife **Elizabeth Green** in London where she had no doubt been in domestic service. She was from Kings Cliffe near Peterborough, and they married in 1868 in Tower Hamlets. They had seven children while living in Maryland Street, very close to the Stratford shed and works of the Great Eastern Railway, where Walter was a fireman and then driver for over 30 years. Lucy Norman married **Charles Willson** of Great Baddow in Essex in 1874. They lived in Wanstead, just north of Stratford, where only one of their two children survived into adulthood. Lucy herself died in 1896, leaving Charles (a professional billiard marker for a time⁽³⁾) a widower. But in 1911 the surviving daughter, **Annie Susannah Willson**, was making her mark in life, ironically back in Suffolk, where she was jointly managing the King's Arms Hotel on the Cornhill, Ipswich, with her Norfolk-born husband **Ernest Claxton**.

Henry Finch Mb 11378

henryfinch44@gmail.com

References and Sources

1. The diary of **George Rope** of Grove Farm, Blaxhall, described the summer of 1860 as the 'wetttest and coldest' he ever remembered: see Andy Kerridge, *Nineteenth Century Weather, Suffolk Roots*, Vol. 48, No. 3, December 2022, p. 211.
2. See the author's article *The Halesworth Fires 1833-4*, *Suffolk Roots*, Vol. 42, No. 1, December 2016, p. 65.
3. Billiard markers worked at billiard halls, where they kept the scores for games, looked after the equipment and collected fees from the patrons. They may also have been responsible for overseeing bets when games were played for wagers. Their duties might also entail coaching learners and playing against patrons. See <https://teara.govt.nz/en/billiards-snooker-pool-and-darts/page-2>. Cf. **Anthony Trollope**, *The Duke's Children* (1879): 'He said a gentleman oughtn't to play billiards as well as a marker.'

MOVING MOUNTAINS – A FAMILY STORY

Tracing my maternal line in south-east Essex, the area now dominated by the new city of Southend-on-Sea, I got back to my 3x great-grandfather **John Mountain**. John died on 27 August 1864, his age given as 66. On the 1861 census he gave his place of birth as Bury St Edmunds.

It did not take long to find John's baptism in the St James' parish records, along with those of eight siblings. The efficient clergy gave not only baptismal dates but also dates of birth. They were: **John** (b. 29 Aug 1798, bp. 4 Oct 1798); **Amelia** (b. 16 July 1800, bp. 16 Aug 1800); **Thomas** (b. 4 Feb 1802, bp. 14 Jun 1803); **Edmund** (b. 11 May 1803, bp. 14 Jun 1803); **Caroline Cooper** (b. 15 Mar 1805, bp. 4 Jan 1810); **Henry** (b. 24 Apr 1808, bp. 4 Jan 1810); **Samuel** (b. 15 Sept 1809, bp. 4 Jan 1810); **Farmer William** (b. 19 May 1812, bp. 18 Dec 1812); and **Robert** (b. 19 Mar 1816, bp. 13 Apr 1816). All were the children of **Thomas Mountain**, a horse-trader, and his wife **Harriett (née Mortimer)**.⁽¹⁾

Like all obsessive genealogists, I wanted to know the origins of the parents and what happened to the children. Thomas the father died in Bury on 6 June 1858, his age given as 85-86. He, too, conveniently appeared on a census, the 1851, giving his place of birth as Matsall, Norfolk. I translated this as Mattishall, where I found his baptism on 29 April 1772, the son of **Francis** and **Frances (née Bishop) Mountain**, who had married in Mattishall on 25 October 1771. So, Thomas was an incomer. His wife Harriett died on 18 November 1842, her age on the death certificate given as 68. On the previous year's census she was recorded as 65, which is consistent if the enumerator did as instructed and rounded down adult ages to the nearest five. However, he was not consistent with all the entries on the page. She is also ticked as born in Suffolk. I have yet to find the baptism of a Harriett Mortimer, but the surname was common in Mattishall.

When I started to look for marriages of the children, I came across two Mountains not in the above list. **Francis** married **Sarah Johnson** in April 1814 and **Harriett** married **William Cooper** in 1813. Given their likely ages at marriage, were these earlier children of Thomas and Harriett, born before they came to Bury? Whilst in Norwich looking at the baptisms in Mattishall, I found the baptism of a Francis, son of Thomas and Harriett Mountain of Ashden, Essex, baptised 20 December 1791. This was a good fit for the Francis above and pointed to a marriage for his parents around 1791. Later, when London marriages became available online, I found the marriage of Thomas Mountain and Harriett Mortimer in St Botolph, Bishopgate on 8 March 1791. Both were of the parish. Were they perhaps both under age, and was she pregnant? Their daughter Harriett (later Harriett Cooper) is recorded on the 1841 census as born in Suffolk, in 1851 as born in Bury, and in 1861 as born somewhere in Lincolnshire. Given her elder brother was born in Essex, I think it likely that she is the Harriett, daughter of Thomas and Harriett Mountain, born 4 September 1793 and baptised on 4 October in Bishop's Stortford, on the Essex/Hertfordshire border. In 1871 she gives her place of birth as Hockerell, now a suburb of Bishop's Stortford.

So there were 11 children in all, two born elsewhere and nine in Bury. What happened to them and their own families? They all appear to have had a reasonable education. Those who remained in Bury either married or became tradesmen.

The eldest, Francis, died in 1823 aged just 31. Several newspapers reported his death and described him as *'a respectable horse-dealer'*. He and Sarah had five children: **Sarah, Robert, Harriet, Thomas and Francis**. I have no confirmed records for the younger Sarah except a possible death in 1840. Robert became a fishmonger at 60 Abbeygate and later at 29 Butter Market. He was in business from the late 1830s until his death in 1899. A flavour of the enterprise is given by the following advert in the *Bury and Norwich Post* of 24 November 1852:

‘REMOVAL.

ROBERT MOUNTAIN,

FISHMONGER, POULTERER. & DEALER IN GAME,
ABBEYGATE-STREET, BURY.

*RESPECTFULLY announces to his Friends and the Public, that he has Removed his Business to the SHOP NEXT DOOR, formerly occupied by Mr **George Portway**. In making this announcement he takes the opportunity of acknowledging the large share of patronage bestowed upon him during the last fourteen years.*

FISH DAILY FROM BILLINGSGATE.

YARMOUTH BLOATERS, Wholesale and Retail.

A plentiful supply of POULTRY constantly on hand.

GAME AND VENISON DURING THE SEASON.

THE BEST COLCHESTER OYSTERS.'

Harriet married **Edward Steggle**, a railway clerk. They moved around the country with his postings. Thomas started work in Bury as a silk mercer but moved to London where he married **Elizabeth Pye**. Francis Jnr. became a mariner, and in 1850 married **Eliza Woodling** in Southampton, where she remained while he was at sea. Their widowed mother, Sarah, married **John Clarke** in 1829 and had two further children.

Thomas and Harriett's second child, also Harriett, born 1793, moved to Bury with her parents. William Cooper, whom she married in 1813, was a butcher. I have identified 13 children born locally between 1814 and 1837. Harriett was a widow by 1871. I have yet to find out what happened to the children.

My 3x great-grandfather John was Thomas and Harriett's third child, and is discussed later.

Child number four was Amelia. She married **Simon Boldero Jnr.** on 26 August 1819. The Boldero family was long-established in Woolpit and Drinkstone, between Bury and Stowmarket, where they were publicans and farmers, and also coachmen. **Simon Snr.**, the *'proprietor of the stage wagon from this town [Bury] to Ipswich'* died *'much respected'* on 16 March 1824, aged 55.⁽²⁾ Simon Jnr., who ran the Old Bury London

coach, died on 29 March 1835 aged just 32.⁽³⁾ His obituary records that he was '*much respected on the road for his good conduct, and great civility*'. I have not fully traced the known six children of Simon and Amelia, four girls followed by two boys.

Thomas was child number five. He died age 4.

Edmund, number six, remained in Bury where he died in 1849 aged 45/46. I have found no marriage.

Number seven, Caroline Cooper, was only 16 when she married local man **John David Limmer**, a baker. I have so far found five children. John David died in 1857, the year before his father-in-law. Caroline was a beneficiary of Thomas Snr.'s will. Again, I have not fully traced the three male and two female Limmer children.

Henry was number eight – he is discussed later.

Samuel, number nine, died in infancy.

Number ten was Farmer William. His unusual forename comes from a Norfolk Mountain ancestor, but he has proved difficult to follow. I have found no further reference using the name Farmer. The *Norwich Mercury* of 21 July 1838 records the burial on 19 July of William, fourth son of Thomas Mountain, aged 28. Was this he?

Robert was number eleven – also discussed later.

Of most personal interest is my direct ancestor John, with a link to his youngest brother Robert. Of national interest is Henry.

John moved to south-east Essex some time in the 1820s. In 1800, South End was a hamlet at the south end of Prittlewell, one of the villages forming part of the Rochford Hundred. Rochford was a small town, the main administrative centre of the region; it still retains a recognisable market centre. It is about five miles north of the new city of Southend-on-Sea (from nothing to a city in 200 years!). John was a coachman and ran a coach from Prittlewell to London. It was presumably on one of these trips that he met **Ann Humphreys**, whom he married on 10 November 1828 at St Leonard's, Shoreditch (the parish record incorrectly says she was from Prittlewell and John from Shoreditch). For some reason John, who now called himself John Bishop Mountain, sold his coaching stock in 1832. The '*superior stock*', consisting of '*10 very fresh, short-legged, fast horses*', was advertised in the *Times* on 23 October 1832. John became a publican. His eldest daughter **Ann** was my 2x great-grandmother.

Though fishermen's cottages and small hotels appeared along the sea front at South End in the second half of the 18th century, it was the building on the cliff top in the 1790s of a 'grand terrace', which was graced by a visit by **Princesses Caroline and Charlotte** in 1803-04, that stimulated the development of the new town.

The railway reached Southend in 1855-56, with a line from Fenchurch Street via Tilbury along the north bank of the Thames. A rival company had yet to build the competing line that would later branch off the East Anglian main line at Shenfield, which was not completed until 1889.



This poster used to hang in the bar of the former King's Head pub in Rochford market square

As for Robert Mountain, the youngest child, he moved well away from Bury, as in 1838 he married **Ann Harris** at Totnes in Devon. On the 1841 census he is described as a coachman. By 1843 he had moved to the Rochford area where he ran various coaches including one to Chelmsford. Perhaps recognising the potential to utilise the alternative rail link, Robert advertised a coach service to join the line to Liverpool Street at Brentwood (see poster). Sadly, Ann died in 1855, followed by Robert in 1858, so whether this service continued I don't know. In 1861 their three younger children, **Thomas**, **Edward** and **Alice**, were in Rochford Union workhouse. Their eldest, **Harriett Ann**, was in service.

Of all Thomas and Harriett's children, it is perhaps Henry's descendants who moved farthest up the social scale. Henry married **Elizabeth (Betsy) Smith** on 4 September 1831 in St Mary's, Bury. They had three

children, **Elizabeth**, **Stanford Henry** and **Sarah**, all baptised in the Northgate Street Independent Congregational Chapel. Elizabeth died on 12 November 1844 and was buried in the Abbey grounds. Henry married for a second time in the last quarter of 1845 to **Sarah Wilson** from Gazeley.

Henry had a varied career. At the baptism of his first child, he is described as a straw hat maker. Later he is a draper, or linen draper. By 1851 he is a silk mercer in Chelsea, and is still trading as a silk merchant in 1861 when he is in Scotland. However, by 1871 Sarah is a widow acting as a housekeeper in a Sussex school. Where and when Henry died is still to be discovered.

Henry's three children had attended various educational establishments. By 1851, after their father's remarriage, Sarah was working as a seamstress in Bury, Elizabeth was a pupil at a school in Angel Hill, Bury, and Stanford Henry was a solicitor's clerk in Finsbury, London.

Sarah married **Richard Rogers** in Camberwell in December 1859, with sister Elizabeth a witness. Richard was a railway employee and the family mainly lived in South Wales. Sarah died from smallpox in 1871 aged only 33, leaving four children under 10 years.

Elizabeth married **Henry Fleetwood Keats Schrapnel** in August 1861 in Newport, South Wales. They had 13 children born in Lambeth, Surrey.

Stanford Henry married **Louisa Eve** in Camberwell on 28 December 1858. His two sisters were witnesses. He described himself as 'merchant' on his wedding certificate. Later information records that he was a successful hop dealer. The couple had eight children, the seventh being **Edward Mortimer Mountain**, born on 24 November 1872. A detailed account of the latter's life can be found on Wikipedia and in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Following his education at Dulwich College and a spell at Lloyd's insurance brokers, Edward, with his brother **Henry** and others, established his own broking firm. There followed several mergers and takeovers which led eventually to the formation of the Eagle Star Insurance Company.

Edward's business and other interests were wide-ranging. He was knighted in 1918 and created a baronet in 1922. He died on 22 June 1948 in Dunkeld House, Perthshire, one of his several properties.

The title is currently held by **Sir Edward Mountain**, 4th Baronet, who is a Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Highlands and Islands.



Sir Edward Mortimer Mountain, 1st Bt, by Walter Stoneman. Bromide print, 13 August 1947. NPG x186751 © National Portrait Gallery, London

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References and Sources

1. The spelling of Harriett's first name varies greatly in the records and includes Harriot, Harriott, Harriet and Harriett. I have settled on Harriett, which is the spelling used in the baptism records of three of her children and in her death certificate.
2. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 17 March 1824.
3. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 1 April 1835.

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An Eagle Star advert dating from 1918

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 1087748: Company No. 4191740, limited by guarantee.

**Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Society
to be held at 19:30 UK time on Tuesday 10 October 2023**

This will be conducted as an online meeting on the Zoom platform

AGENDA

Welcome by Andy Kerridge, Chair of the Society
Invitation to Doug Howlett, Patron of the Society, to chair the AGM

1. APOLOGIES

for absence: Proxy Forms received.

2. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 October 2022,
with matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

3. TRUSTEES' REPORT – presented by the Chairman.

4. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS – presented by the Treasurer.

To receive and adopt the Financial Accounts for year ended 31 March 2022.

5. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

To approve the re-appointment, as the Independent Examiner,
of John Phillips & Co. of Great Blakenham, Ipswich.

6. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

There are no Trustees retiring by rotation.

To receive other proposals for, and to appoint, additional Trustees.

7. OFFICERS

To receive nominations and agree the appointment of officers as proposed
by the Trustees, namely:

Chair	<i>Andy Kerridge</i>
Treasurer	<i>Kenneth J. Finch</i>

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Such matters as have been properly notified to the Company Secretary two weeks
or more in advance of the Meeting.

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*To be announced on the Society's website by 1 March 2024. However, if circumstances
dictate, this may be later. In any case an announcement will be made at least 1 month
before the planned date of 2024 AGM.*

Kenneth J. Finch
Company Secretary

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Registered Charity No. 1087748)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 October 2022

The Meeting was held at The Hold, Ipswich and online using Zoom starting at 12:05.

The meeting was recorded with the permission of the participants.

Andy Kerridge, Chair of the Society, introduced himself and welcomed everyone present both those in the room and the remote participants. He introduced the Society's Patron, Doug Howlett, who chaired the Annual General Meeting. The Chair endorsed what Andy had said and welcomed everyone to the AGM.

1) Welcome and Apologies

Twenty-seven (27) members participated in the physical meeting, and twelve (12) members participated online. Four (4) proxy votes had been received by the Secretary. The meeting was quorate. Apologies had been received from Susan Flockton and Brian Thompson, Trustees.

2) Minutes of the previous AGM on 23 October 2021 by Zoom, as published in the September 2022 issue of *Suffolk Roots*

No questions or comments were raised, and the minutes were accepted and duly approved by vote by members in the room and online.

3) Trustees' Report for the 2022 AGM presented by the Society's Chair, Andy Kerridge

The Society Chair reported that the Trustees had continued to meet by Zoom on a monthly basis with a few physical meetings. He thanked a number of people:

- Arthur Bird for ensuring the Society's presence at various family history fairs;
- the editorial team for their excellent efforts for *Roots*;
- volunteers Joe Bridgwater-Rowe, for website management, and Carolyn Alderson for Trustees' meeting minutes and more recently offering to take on the Assistant Treasurer role;
- Susan Flockton who was co-opted as a Trustee;
- Howard King, our Publicity Officer, who had done such a great job with events but was stepping down and the Society has not yet got a volunteer replacement;
- Susan Schibli for hosting the Zoom events.

The Membership had grown, and the Trustees continue look to see how we can continue to make the Society relevant in the knowledge that COVID had resulted in low attendance at Group meetings.

The Society Chair drew attention to three significant pieces of work which had been completed this year. Firstly, Joan Horton had brought the Society handbook up to date. Secondly, in connection, Joan had led an overhaul of our Articles of Incorporation (Agenda Item 8). Thirdly, Jean Licence, our librarian, had produced an updated list of our library holdings following a stock-take and from this we had been able to estimate its value for insurance purposes.

The Society Chair thanked all present physically or virtually for attending. There were no questions.

4) Financial Accounts (as posted on the website prior to the meeting)

The Chair invited the Treasurer to present the accounts as of 31 March 2022. Due to a technical issue the people in the room could not see the accounts on the screen. The people participating online could see the figures.

The Treasurer reported an increase in unrestricted funds at £137K, up from £129K the previous year. The increase related to membership subscriptions, some of which related to March payments relating to the next financial year. The Society appears cash-rich but the major problem were costs relating to *Roots*, including the overseas postage costs. Initiatives to encourage new members and support current members have included discounts on CDs and downloads, and to encourage use of information produced by the Society's volunteers. The Society has also provided a life membership category. The Society's indexed transcriptions with Findmypast (FMP) generates revenues and records will continue to be contributed to FMP when appropriate. Due to the COVID pandemic, the Society now subscribes to a Zoom licence, with speakers paid. The Groups continued to be supported with an annual grant, although some were struggling as people were reluctant to go out in the evenings.

No questions concerning the accounts were forthcoming and the Accounts were formally approved by vote by those present. The Chair thanked the Treasurer for the presentation.

5) Independent Examiner

The Chair advised that a new Independent Examiner had been appointed recently: John Phillips & Co of Great Blakenham, Ipswich. The Trustees proposed that the new Independent Examiner was retained. This was seconded and a vote of acceptance followed.

6) Appointment of Trustees

Three Trustees were due to retire by rotation following three years' service: Brian Thompson, Joan Horton and Howard King. Joan and Brian agreed to stand for another 3-year term. Howard was not standing for re-election.

Joan and Brian were officially voted for and re-elected as Trustees. Two new Trustees were officially proposed, voted for, accepted and welcomed by the Chair:

- Susan Flockton had previously volunteered and been co-opted as a Trustee during the year. She is a member of the Society of Genealogists and of a number of Family and Local History Societies. She has experience as a trustee of an Educational Trust and as a volunteer archivist for an educational charity.
- Carolyn Alderson had previously volunteered as minute-taker and more recently offered help as Assistant Treasurer, supporting the current Treasurer and Trustees with succession planning. To be able to do this, she needs to be a Trustee and has agreed to stand. She is a professional genealogist and family history researcher, being an accredited member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) and an Associate of AGRA. She worked for many years supporting the UK academic and research sectors by negotiating online licence agreements at national level with publishers and providers of primary research and learning content, leading related projects and establishing associated business services. She was awarded an MBA in 1992.

7) Appointment of Officers

To receive nominations and agree the appointment of officers as proposed by the Trustees.

Andy Kerridge had been nominated as the Society's Chair and Kenneth J. Finch as Treasurer. No other nominations had been received for Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer. The Chair and Treasurer were proposed and seconded and voted in to continue in their respective roles.

The Chair thanked Andy and the Trustees for their work undertaken during the year and particularly the use of Zoom during COVID which had kept everyone involved, extending around the world. Andy mentioned that the new webmaster was based in California (with appropriate insurance), so truly indicating the international reach of the Society.

The Chair stressed the importance of the need for a Vice Chair of the Society to support the work of the Society and Trustees.

8) Adoption of Amendments to the Society's Articles of Incorporation, as presented on page 127 of the September 2022 issue of *Suffolk Roots* and on the website

This was presented by the Society's Chair, Andy Kerridge. He explained that the Society's governing documents (Memorandum and Articles of Association)

were based on the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989 which were in force at the time of the Society's incorporation in 2001. Some of the clauses contained in the existing Articles no longer conformed to the latest Companies Act of 2006. Also, there was no scope to use for official purposes (such as meetings and voting) current methods of online communication. Companies House has published an updated template Articles document adopted by many charities similar to the Society. It reflects current law, modern communication methods and the context of today's business environment. The proposal was to adopt the Companies House template, including the following variations from the template:

- a) Clause 22. The addition of item (4) allowing the Trustees, after applying the due disciplinary procedure, to terminate a member's membership in the interests of the Society, and the addition of item (5) terminating membership where a subscription has not been paid within a calendar month after expiry.
- b) Clause 30. Add item (5) to read 'poll votes may be taken at a General Meeting in person, and in advance by postal, electronic or proxy voting.'
- c) The substitution of 'Chair' for 'Chairman' throughout.
- d) The Memorandum document sets an individual member's liability at £10 in the unlikely event of the Society becoming insolvent. It enables the Society to be structured as a company but is a technicality. The updated Companies House template Articles set this at £1. To avoid conflicting documents, it was necessary to delete the £10 clause mentioned in the Memorandum and change to £1.

Two motions were proposed to the members:

- 1) **That the new Articles of Association contained in the document submitted to this meeting and for the purpose of identification initialled by the Chair be approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for and to the entire exclusion of the existing Articles of Association.** The motion was seconded, voted on and approved: 28 members were in favour in the room, plus 4 proxy votes and 10 online votes.
- 2) **That the deletion of clauses numbered 6 and 7 contained in the existing Memorandum of Association document submitted to this meeting and for the purpose of identification initialled by the Chairman be approved.** The motion was seconded, voted on and approved: 28 members were in favour in the room, plus 4 proxy votes and 8 online.

9) Any other business

The Society's Chair advised that due to the rising costs of distributing *Roots*, the Trustees had taken steps to widen access to the electronic version and had received a good uptake from UK-based members. The online version had the advantages of being searchable and can be magnified. It was proposed to remove the overseas postal option for lifetime membership due to the impact of postal costs. £15 p.a. overseas membership is no longer viable, and the proposal was to raise this to £25 to fall in line with other societies' charges, effective from now, to be implemented from 1 April 2023. This was seconded and approved by those present.

The Trustees were delighted to award Les Button 'The Derek Palgrave Award'. Over the years Les has helped Mary Rix with the 1851 census, Ron Greenwood with the Burial Index, and also worked on the 1881 census. Les, now in his 90s, was one of the first members of the Bury Group to volunteer, back in 2003, to help transcribe baptisms. Les was not present and will receive his award at a later date.

The Trustees next awarded Life Membership of the Society to Derek Wright. Derek works behind the scenes in the process of making transcripts ready for market over the years. The consolidated baptism all-county Baptism Index 1813-1900 released today, took 1000 hours to create. Derek is also a staunch supporter of the Haverhill group. Derek also was not present and a presentation will be made at a later date.

The Trustees also awarded Life Membership to Arthur Bird, in recognition of his huge contribution both as a previous Trustee for 18 years and as the face of the Society at fairs. The presentation to Arthur was made later in the day.

Andy thanked all present for attending physically or virtually and for being members. He reminded everyone that the presentations were being recorded and should be available in the Members' Area of the website. In addition, the Chair highlighted the great work of Howard King for the Society and the Ipswich group – his excellent contacts had elevated the profile of the Society. He offered a vote of thanks for a true loyal member of the Society.

10) Date, Time and Venue of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

To be announced in good time, and at least a month in advance of the meeting, on the Society's website.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and involvement, and the Trustees for their support. The meeting finished at 12:56 pm.

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY 2023 AGM

The 2023 AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 October at 19:30

The 2023 AGM will be held via the Zoom platform. To participate using Zoom you need to be online and have Zoom installed on your computer/tablet, smartphone etc. The AGM will be recorded.

If you wish to participate by Zoom:

1. Before 30 September 2023: Please notify our Membership Secretary, David Horton at membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk. Be sure to let him know if you have changed your email address recently.

A reminder will be sent out by email with the September Newsletter.

2. To ask questions or vote: Questions may be asked via the chat function in Zoom. To vote we will use the 'raise hand' function. Explanations of how to use these will be given at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Two days before the meeting: Those who have expressed an intention to attend by Zoom will receive by email with the meeting details and the Zoom 'key'.

4. The 2023 AGM Agenda, a Proxy Vote form and the Minutes of the 2022 AGM published in this issue of *Suffolk Roots* will also be emailed to those wanting to attend by Zoom. This information will be repeated (under AGM) on the Society's website at www.suffolkfhs.org.uk

5. Only Society members will be able to participate and/or vote. Where members hold joint membership, both members are allowed to vote.

6. On the day: Please log in at or soon after 19:15 to allow for any connection issues.

7. If you have technical issues (can't hear audio etc.), there will be no time to deal with these once the meeting starts, so we suggest those not already familiar with Zoom try a practice session with friends or family.

A quorum requires 25 members. Please use the proxy form if you cannot attend.

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 1087748: Company No. 4191740, limited by guarantee



PROXY VOTE FOR 2023 AGM

I/We

Of (address)

.....

Being Member Number

Hereby appoint *

Or failing him/her appoint *

As my/our proxy to vote in my/our name(s) on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 10 October 2023 and at any adjournment thereof.

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he/she thinks fit or abstain from voting.

Signed Date

Completed proxy forms should be sent to the Society Secretary

**Mr K. Finch
65 Churchill Avenue
Ipswich
IP4 5DT**

* Any Officer (eg. the Secretary) or a named person who will attend the AGM.

PROXY VOTES BY E-MAIL

These will be accepted provided members' full details are given, including membership number, and instructions are clear and unambiguous.
e-mail to treasurer@suffolkfhs.org.uk with 'proxy vote' in the subject box.

TRUSTEES

Nominations or applications to join the Trustees may be made to the Secretary or any current Trustee at any time of the year.

ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 will be posted on the Society's website by 1 October 2023. Copies by post may be had from the Secretary on receipt of a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

To remove the voting slip without damaging your journal, please cut along the dotted line

MIXED FORTUNES

For over 200 years my Everard ancestors were centred around Denston, Stansfield and Wickhambrook in Suffolk. In 1810, a kind act by one of them led to my line's dispersal across England and America. For some it created increased opportunities and wealth. Alas, for my specific forebears the opposite happened.

In 1759 **Richard Everard** (1733-1810), as eldest son, inherited his Yeoman father's estate in Stansfield and in 1771 he married a wealthy widow, **Elizabeth Martin**.

His youngest brother **Robert** (1746-1806), confusingly called 'Robert the Elder', was then a child. Presumably under the influence of his mother **Ellen (née Pawsey)** and brothers, Robert became a butcher. His other, older, brother **John** became a farmer and shopkeeper in Denston; sisters **Mary** and **Helen** married into the local **Clark** and **Sparrow** families. The pattern of previous generations rolled on.

When Robert died in 1806, his will recorded his estate as a house, meadow and garden in Denston, left to his wife **Susan Quantrell (née Moody)** until she died, then to be sold and the proceeds divided between their five surviving children – **Robert** junior, **George Frederick**, **Richard**, **Betsey** and **John**. Their individual inheritances would be small, and as it turned out were not realised until 1826. All the boys became butchers; Betsey married **George Hickford** from Essex in 1803 and moved there.

Then Richard Everard died in 1810. The *Bury and Norwich Post* of 5 December reported:

'On Monday se'nnight died, after a very short illness, aged 76, Mr. Richard Everard, a respectable farmer of Denston, in this county. He was kind to his relations; benevolent to the poor; an excellent master; and his loss is most deservedly lamented by all his acquaintance.'*

* Seven nights, i.e. a week, ago.

By then a widower with no children of his own, Richard died a very wealthy man. His will gave cash bequests totalling over £4,800 (about £360,000 in today's money), with £400 (about £30,000 today) left to each of Robert's five children. He also left to George Frederick his estate in Denston and to Richard the balance of his money and investments, and his estates in Stradishall and Wickhambrook.

The consequences of these bequests were wide-ranging and began the dispersal and changes in fortune of Robert's line of Everards.

After Robert junior's wife **Sarah** died, he sold everything and with his children moved to London, where he joined relatives who had migrated from Suffolk earlier to become licensed victuallers (a euphemism for pub owners). He invested with them, prospered and died there in 1856 but was buried in Denston. His children stayed in the London pub trade. As an indicator of their success, in 1866 one of his sons bought an estate in Ross-on-Wye for £10,500 (today about £1 million) and retired there to be a country gentleman.

George Frederick married **Elizabeth Piper** in 1808; she was the granddaughter of Elizabeth Martin, his grandfather Richard's wife. The Denston parish register refers

to him as a butcher on the baptism of their son **Richard** in 1814, but with the bequest of the Denston estate he merited a more fulsome description as a Yeoman, by then an old-fashioned term. He died in 1869 in West Ham, Essex.

Richard married **Martha Brinkley** in 1811 and stayed in Denston, another Yeoman, managing his Stradishall and Wickhambrook estates. Martha died in 1827, apparently childless. In 1828 Richard married **Miriam Chapman** but died in 1832 before their son, also **Richard**, was born. His will directed that his estates and possessions be sold, the proceeds to go to Miriam. She, her son and the proceeds disappeared from the Everard family scene.

In Essex, Betsy and husband George seem to have just quietly absorbed their cash windfall and carried on as they were.

These four and their descendants, so far as I have found them, whilst not famous pillars of Victorian society, lived comfortable, settled lives as 'respectable' people.

And John?

In 1810, like his brothers, John (1775-1834) was a butcher but living in Barton Mills. Sometime between then and 1814 he moved to Brandon; perhaps his windfall encouraged or enabled him to move to the bigger town.

By 1820 he was a failing butcher, in debt, and seemingly had lost the whole of his windfall. We don't know whether this was through bad judgement or profligacy or whether he was simply a victim of circumstances. The first of a series of agricultural depressions began in 1813 and continued intermittently into the 1830s. Unlike his brothers George and Richard, who had more resources, John without his £400 would have depended on his income as a butcher, which the depressions probably reduced.

Married to **Elizabeth Hunt** and with a family of three daughters and two sons, he apparently left nothing other than chattels when he died in 1834. There is no evidence of what, if anything, John's siblings did to help him or his family, beyond Richard and George settling his 1820 debt (which was for £25 – about £1,800 today, a trivial sum to them). His two sons became labourers.

I am descended from one of these sons, **George Everard** (1810-1839). He married **Sarah Ann Ramsey** at Brandon in 1831 and died aged 29 from scrofula, a form of tuberculosis, leaving one son and four daughters.

That son, **John William** (1837-1886), was my great-grandfather. He became a stonemason and married **Elizabeth Margaret Smith** in 1859. For the next 13 years they led a peripatetic existence, with a child born at each stopping place (two in Partick):

1860 – Brandon; 1862 – Clewer; 1864 – Steppingley; 1865 – Harlaxton; 1867 – Great Gonerby; 1869 – Partick; 1872 – Cark-in-Cartmel

They then settled at Ulverston, in Furness, where they had another five children.

Settling there may have been driven by John's declining health – the 1881 census remarks that he had been '*unable to work for 4 years*' – and also perhaps by the difficulties of moving a steadily growing young family around the country.

Although Ulverston had a system of 'outdoor relief' to support poor and sick people where they lived rather than put them into the local workhouse, the support was at poverty level. Despite having to live this way, three of the four surviving boys had craft apprenticeships and two of the girls had jobs better than the usual domestic service (the eldest girl apparently managed a shoe shop).

Only eight of their 13 children survived to adulthood; four emigrated to America and four stayed in England.



A fine set of Edwardian Everards taken just before Frederick Robert, front right, emigrated in 1907. Also on the front row are George William and Agnes. At the back are Tom Edward (right) and my grandfather, Harry Ernest (left)

The emigrants were **Elizabeth Sarah** (as **Mrs Robert Stables**) in 1887, **John Walter** in 1894, **Albert Henry** in 1904, and **Frederick Robert** in 1907. They all lived in Cleveland, Ohio, but John Walter and Frederick Robert moved on to Upland City, California. US censuses have the emigrant men variously employed as pattern maker (later building watchman), orange packer, insurance salesman and engineer's labourer.

The remainers were **Tom Edward**, moulder, who settled in Birmingham, **George William**, stonemason, who settled in Hull, and two who stayed in Furness – **Agnes** (as **Mrs Thomas Gillbanks**) and **Harry Ernest** (1877-1946), my grandfather, a plasterer's labourer.

In contrast to his four siblings, and perhaps even before his death in 1834 but certainly after it, John's own family and his descendants through John William lived close to poverty into the 20th century, those in England lucky to avoid the workhouse.

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FISKS ON THE MOVE

By strict definition, emigration means leaving one's own country to settle permanently in another. A good number of my ancestors and immediate family have emigrated to the USA and Australia, but much of this article more properly comes under the heading of migration within England, mainly as part of the 19th-century movement from rural agriculture to the cities, in my case from Suffolk to London and beyond.

I should also clarify that I don't differentiate between 'Fisk' and 'Fiske'. Some Fiskes dropped the 'e' and others, by far the minority, kept it. Ultimately, we are all the same family and originally were all Fiskes. I have even seen some records where the name is spelt both ways in the same document. A few tried to differentiate by adding a second 'f' at the start. This was only a Victorian affectation!

The origin of the name appears to be that East Anglia retained the hard 'k' from Middle English, in which 'fisker' means fisherman, whereas the rest of the UK seems to have softened it to make 'fish'. So Fisks are really part of the wider Fish/Fisher tribe!

Like many others of the period, my 2x great-grandfather **John Fisk** left Suffolk and established a new home in London, where on 23 March 1838 he married **Mary Anne Pridmore**, another migrant, in St Bride's Church, Fleet Street. Mary Anne had been born in Woodston in Huntingdonshire (just outside Peterborough).



*St John the Baptist, Badingham
(Adrian Cable, CC BY-SA 2.0)*

I know that John was baptised in Badingham on 22 November 1813, but can't be sure when he left; I know only that 25 years later he was married in St Bride's. At their marriage they were both educated enough to sign their own names. Unusually the two witnesses, **William Harvey** and **Elizabeth Fisk**, were both family members and also able to sign their own names. John's mother's maiden name was Harvey and Elizabeth was John's sister. I assume they both came to London around the same time as John and Mary Anne.

John's occupation was plumbing. In 1851 he described himself as '*Plumber & Painter, Master*', employing 12 men and one apprentice. He was living at 12 Hastings Street in the parish of St Pancras. John (37) and Mary Anne (36) had five children: **Elizabeth** (12), **John** (9), **Emma** (7), **Thomas Harvey** (3) and **Samuel Chasen** (1). Samuel was my great-grandfather. John's sister Elizabeth was living at 7 Hastings Street. She was an unmarried dressmaker, aged 46.

Of John and Mary Anne's children: Elizabeth married **Richard Casswell** and had nine children; John married **Ellen Newens** and had no children; Emma married **T Adam Henkel** (from Germany) and had five children; Thomas Harvey married **Charlotte Harriet Halland** and had two children; and Samuel Chasen married twice and had nine children including my grandfather **George Roy** (b. 1894).

Returning to Badingham, **Mary Harvey** (1774-1847) was the second wife of **John Fisk** (1772-1840); they married in Badingham on 13 November 1800. John's first wife was **Susan Lee** (1770-1797) whom he married in Badingham on 22 January 1796. John and Susan had one child, **William** (1796-1840), before she died the following year. John and Mary had 10 children: **Henry** (1802), Elizabeth (1805-1862), **Rachel** (1807-1830), **Mary Ann** (1807), **Sarah** (1810), **John** (1812-1812), John (1813-1873, my ancestor), **Emma** (1815-1815), **Sophia** (1817-1820), and **Thomas** (1819-1843). They farmed at Fisk's farm near Framlingham – it still had that name when I visited in the 1980s. John's parents were **Henry Fisk** (1748-1785) and **Mary Sanders** (1748-1839). Henry was the son of **Benjamin Fisk** (1726-1779) and his wife **Sarah** (1717-1798). Benjamin was in turn the son of **Thomas Fisk** (baptised 19 May 1696 in Dennington) and **Rebecca Plumb** (1700-1798). Thomas was the son of **Thomas Fisk** and **Mary Elizabeth**. I am unable to be sure of the origins of Thomas Fisk the elder. I can find no record of him in the Dennington parish registers before he appears as the father in his son's baptismal record. The likely candidate is **Thomas Fiske** b. 1670 in Cratfield, who disappears after his baptism. I have had my Y-DNA tested and share DNA with descendants of Thomas's ancestors; this adds weight to my theory!

Mary Harvey was the daughter of **James Harvey** and **Elizabeth**. I have yet to discover more about her family.

William Fisk, the son of John Fisk and Susan Lee, married **Fanny Bridges** (1796-1852) of Framlingham. Their son, **John Lee Fisk**, moved to Greenwich where he died. They had another son, **William** (1822-1898), who married **Rebecca Thurlow** in 1845 and they emigrated to Adelaide, Australia on the ship *Historia* in 1854. I am in contact with (and have visited) their descendants who still live in the Adelaide area. The son William was also a plumber. I suspect that my 2x great-grandfather John gained his trade with William in Framlingham.

Moving forward to my 2x great-grandfather, as already noted, his son Thomas Harvey Fisk (1847-1926) married Charlotte Harriette Halland (1856-1944). Their son **Ernest Thomas Fisk** trained with Marconi as a ship's wireless operator. His travels and employment took him to Sydney where he worked with Marconi to get the first radio signals from the UK to Australia. He was subsequently knighted and became head of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd in Australia. Later, he had a period as managing director of EMI while his son was studying at Oxford University.

John's other son, Samuel Chasen, my great-grandfather, married first **Sarah Ellen Eyre** (1851-1881) from Firsby in Lincolnshire and secondly **Charlotte Hannah Perry** (1855-1931), my great-grandmother, from Kineton, Warwickshire. Charlotte's father **Henry Perry** was landlord of The Three Fishes pub in Sunbury-on-Thames and lived next door to my great-grandfather, so when Samuel's first wife, Sarah Ellen, died he married his neighbour's daughter. Curiously, three different members of my extended family have been landlords of that pub. The pub still exists today in Sunbury with the same name.



The Three Fishes, Sunbury-on-Thames

It took me quite a while to find Sarah Ellen's surname as it was misunderstood by the vicar. The GRO had it indexed under both Kyme and Kyre, and the writing on the marriage certificate was unclear. Fortunately, her father's occupation was 'Parish Clerk' so I was able to consult the parish records in Lincoln to find who was parish clerk at the time! There was a family tradition that she might have been called 'Hair' – not that different in pronunciation from 'Eyre', especially if you have a broad Lincolnshire accent.

Back to emigration. My family had made its home in Sunbury-on-Thames where it stayed for over 100 years. I still have relatives there, but no Fisks since my aunt moved to Hampshire. My grandfather, George Roy Fisk, and his father Samuel Chasen Fisk were both in the building trade, as was Samuel's father John. They had a building business in Sunbury for many years. George and Samuel were both senior members of the local fire brigade, to the extent that Samuel used the fire engine for one of his weddings! They were also prominent members of the local Masonic lodges, as was my father. He had an engineering business in Sunbury for many years but moved to Bognor Regis in the late 1950s for his health. I was brought up in Bognor but moved to Southampton to go to university; I stayed in Hampshire working for IBM for 35 years and subsequently moved to Salisbury in Wiltshire, where I now live. I have two brothers, one who lives in north Wales and the other near Detroit in the USA.

Samuel Chasen Fisk had a son **Samuel John Fisk** (known as Jack). He too emigrated to Australia, I think as one of the £10 poms, and his family still live there. My parents told me that around the time I was born they had seriously considered emigrating to New Zealand, but they didn't. Who knows where that might have led?

I won't go into great detail here, but if my theory about my earlier ancestor is correct, Fisks were some of the early settlers in America and were prominent citizens in Massachusetts.



*Samuel Chasen Fisk
(1849-1921)*



*The Fisk family home in Green Street, Sunbury.
The builder's business was at the rear*



St Mary's, Sunbury-on-Thames

So, to summarise, my Suffolk family migrated first to the USA, subsequently to London and beyond to Australia.

If anyone can shed any further light on my family, please get in touch – I am always interested to hear from other family members. I also hold a large database of Fisk records from the UK collected by **Hugh Fiske**, and am very happy to look up information from that database.

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CROSSING THE POND – THE ANDREWS AND MANNINGS OF HENSTEAD AND BENACRE

One day in 1831, **John Andrews** was walking home from his studies. In accordance with his parents' wishes he was studying for the ministry, but he was not content – he had always wanted to own his own land and become a successful farmer like his father. However, he was already married with four children and was beginning to accept his fate. His musings were interrupted when he noticed a stranger talking to a group of people on the street and he wandered over to investigate. It turns out that the stranger was discussing the availability of land in the island colony of Prince Edward Island. The stranger spoke of '*an island flowing with milk and honey*' and called it '*The Million Acre Farm*'. John envisioned his dream once again and immediately made plans to buy into the stranger's story.

John had been born on 22 June 1799 in Henstead, north-east Suffolk. He was the first child of **Benjamin Andrews** and **Mary, née Wright**, who had been married in Henstead on 30 April 1799. Shortly after his birth, his parents relocated to nearby Covehithe where they lived until around 1812. They then moved to North Cove, a village just south of the border with Norfolk. They lived in a house (which still stands today) on the outskirts of the village and John's father maintained a garden and cherry orchard of several acres. As a young boy, John was paid a few pennies a day to keep the birds away from the fruit growing on the trees. There seems no doubt that the family was relatively well-off for that period.

As a young man, John married **Mary Catchpole** in North Cove on 19 December 1822 and they lived in Wrentham. John's father owned an ancient Bible in which he recorded significant family events and one of the entries stated: '*John Andrews embarked for the American shores April 12th 1831 in the 31st year of his age, with his wife and four children*'.

John eventually achieved his ambition when he acquired a farm near Charlottetown, the capital of Prince Edward Island. Over the years, another six children were born and the family prospered. These years are murky in the Andrews history, but when the 1881 census was taken, John, apparently a widower, was living with his youngest son **Robert** on the farm in Ebenezer that had fulfilled his dreams from many years before. John and Mary are buried in New Glasgow Cemetery, but there is no record of when they died.

John and Mary had 11 known children and at least 79 grandchildren. Many of their descendants left Prince Edward Island to establish homes in other parts of Canada and throughout the United States, but many others still live on the Island.

John was the first member of his extended family to make the decision to leave England for what is now Canada. John's younger sister **Ann** was next. Ann was born on 29 September 1810 and baptized on 2 October in Covehithe. On 15 November 1832,

in Henstead, she married her first cousin (once removed) **George Andrews**, and they lived briefly in adjoining Hulver Street. Early on a Monday morning in 1835, they left England for the New World. A surviving letter to George from his brother **Alfred**, dated 27 August 1863, states that *'my wife and self have often talked of you since you left us that dark Monday morning so early and wondered how you got on crossing the sea and pore Ann also'*. George and Ann settled in the newly incorporated city of Toronto, where George kept a shoe store on Yonge Street. They lived in Todmorden Mills on the Don River where six children were born. George was, however, unhappy raising his family in such a big city (at that time, the population of Toronto was around 3,000) so he decided to buy a farm in Aurora, a village about 50 km further north. He purchased a 218-acre property on 20 April 1847. As Aurora grew and became a bustling suburb of Toronto the farm was eaten up by urban sprawl, but its precise location can still be identified.



George and Ann Andrews

George did very well financially and was a prominent figure in the area. He is known to have travelled to Prince Edward Island to visit his brother-in-law, and he returned to Suffolk at least once to visit family there. George was the Canadian executor of his father's estate in Suffolk and surviving copies of his meticulous records provide details about the lives of the extended family in Canada. George and Ann continued to live on their farm until 1885 when they moved a few kilometres south to Richmond Hill. George died on 19 January 1887 and Ann on 22 May 1892. Their grave in Aurora Cemetery is marked with a very impressive tombstone.

The success of George and Ann Andrews in Canada was the impetus for the migration of several other close relatives from Henstead and the nearby villages of Benacre and

Mutford. I believe that a group left England together in 1837 to settle in the Toronto area. This group included George's brothers **James**, **William** and **Robert**, his uncle **William Lincoln Andrews**, and the **Joshua Long** family. In subsequent years, another of George's brothers and two more uncles made the trip, all settling in Aurora.

Twenty years later, the children of Ann's sister **Sophia** began to follow their lead and emigrated to Canada. Sophia married **Robert Manning**, originally of Reydon, on 13 October 1828 in North Cove, and they settled in the tiny village of Benacre where they lived in a row house on Benacre Street, opposite St Michael's Church. Robert was a rat-catcher and may also have been the gamekeeper and collector of rents for the **Gooch** family of Benacre Hall, whose estate encompassed the area. Their sons said that they would hunt and kill rats for meagre pay to supplement the family income. Robert and Sophia raised 10 children, all of whom survived to adulthood. Seven of them emigrated to Canada, all headed to the farm of their relatives in Aurora.

The story of Robert and Sophia's daughter **Matilda Anne** is particularly interesting. She was the third child, and in her teens entered into the service of a wealthy widow. In 1857 she emigrated to Canada with two of her brothers, but after a short stay in Ontario, she returned to England alone to care for her ailing mother. After her mother's death, she crossed the ocean once again, this time destined for Indiana where she married her childhood sweetheart, **John Bird**. They became Quakers and lived a simple life in Raysville, Indiana where their descendants still live.

The departure of so many of her children took a toll on Sophia. She was the chief letter-writer for the area surrounding her, wrote in a fine script and clearly had a far better education than most women of her era. She also had a strong faith which is evidenced in a surviving letter to her children in Canada expressing her desire that they would all be reunited in the afterlife. She died on 7 August 1866, only a few months after writing that letter. Her husband Robert died on 25 July 1877. Their grave markers are in a corner of the churchyard in Benacre.

The members of the Andrews and Manning families remained in close contact with each other. A reunion of the surviving Manning siblings took place near Aurora in the early 1900s. My 2x great-grandfather, **Robert Manning**, married **Mary Andrews**, who was his second cousin (once removed). Their son, my great-grandfather, **Joshua Andrews Manning** was born on the Andrews farm in Aurora in 1869. He was the great-nephew of Ann Andrews and the second cousin (once removed) of George.

This strong family connection continued through the generations and even today many of the Andrews and Manning third, fourth and fifth cousins continue to correspond.

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KNOWN UNKNOWNNS – READING AN OLD SUFFOLK PHOTOGRAPH

‘What has been lost can never be retrieved, but can serve instead as a prompt for reflection on the unknown and unknowable’ **Saidiya Hartman**

Lately I have been drawn into a thought experiment that started from long contemplation of an old family photograph. What teased me out of thought – rather in the way the Grecian urn did for Keats – was the awareness of the mysterious ambiguity of an image which held so much that was rich in meaning, and at the same time so much that was unknowable. Many photographic unknowns are identifiable, but potentially searchable; we may be able to ask ourselves, say, what this young person in a picture might have experienced at school, or what colour this dress in a black and white print might have been. But the very existence of other unknowns is lost in depths of oblivion. Old portrait photographs are particularly apt to evoke such responses, with their combination of deceptive visual realism, technical modernity, and historical remoteness. I shall try to bring something of this analysis to bear on my own family photograph, once I have digressed briefly to sketch a wider context for it.

My photograph belongs to a category which can conveniently be labelled ‘Victorian family group portrait’. There are certain common features, and others less common, which distinguish these types of images. It can be assumed that many family portrait photographs were commissioned to mark a particular occasion or anniversary; they are not casual snapshots. The posing of sitters was carefully curated, with a view to indicating something of their relationships and hierarchy; and dress was an important signifier. To the informed viewer, some identifiable presences – or absences – in a group can evoke an enhanced sense of pathos. Any knowledge of what wider history has, or had, in store for these people will inevitably colour our response, whether or not they were personally known to us.

It has been remarked that in portrait photographs of the Victorian period, sitters are rarely shown smiling.⁽¹⁾ Various theories have been put forward to explain a convention in such marked contrast to what is usual today. The commonest explanation points to the length of exposure needed at that time to achieve a perfectly focussed result; it was obviously easier for a sitter to maintain the necessary stillness without the additional burden of a fixed smile. By the 1890s, though, which as we shall see is when my family portrait was taken, this technical limitation had become less of a constraint. It has been suggested, too, with what evidence I don’t know, that the strait-laced Victorian bourgeoisie felt that to be seen smiling in a formal portrait, destined to be a permanent record, showed inappropriate levity, or might even signal undue familiarity with the photographer – who was after all a mere outsider artisan. I suspect that a more abstract reason relates to the fact that any major technical

innovation tends to build initially upon its predecessor in terms of its form: thus, early printed books imitated manuscript calligraphy, and early motor cars horse drawn carriages. In the case of the new medium of portrait photography, the dominant conventions of painted portraiture offered the obvious model.

Alongside conventional portraits, there existed in the 19th century what may seem to us the morbid practice of post-mortem photography. This involved a mourner being photographed posing with the body of their deceased relative, who is fully dressed in day clothes, seated and apparently sleeping. Perhaps, an awareness of these earlier conventions of the photographic medium may remain at the back of our minds when looking at a historic print. The use of black and white film in itself adds a further distancing effect to the work of interpretation.

Turning now to the main focus of this article, I shall begin to look at the group portrait in detail. Although I know quite a lot about the people portrayed in it, my thought experiment prompts me to examine it initially as if they were completely unfamiliar. This scrutiny can obviously give rise to many questions about known unknowns. Here I would like to summon up the researcher's best toolkit, as summarised by **Rudyard Kipling**:

*'I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who'*



The Packard Family. Photo⁽²⁾

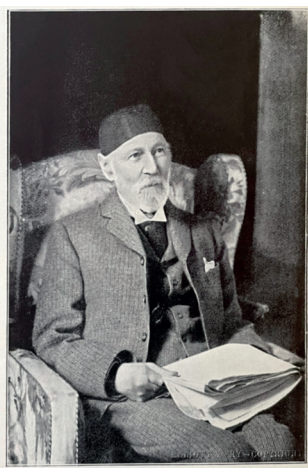
What can our eyes tell us here, to address at least some of these questions? We see a parental couple, perhaps in late middle age, surrounded by their 11 children, who range in age from young adults to pre-teen boys. This is a large family, though not exceptionally so by Victorian standards. They are assembled in the wooded grounds of what appears to be a country house. The centrally seated paterfamilias is clearly a clergyman, and so identifiable as respectable, though probably not affluent, middle-class. Everyone is soberly dressed, in what might possibly be read as mourning; the form of dress perhaps offers a clue to the occasion. Three adult daughters, and a young man on his father's right whom I take to be the eldest son, are seated. One can imagine the bustling teamwork, perhaps with help from a domestic servant, involved in moving chairs and a rug outdoors to prepare for the event; then the business of stage-managing who goes where. The mother of the family stands centrally close to her husband, a solid supporting presence; younger sons and daughters, not senior enough to warrant the dignity of chairs, make up the periphery of the group. The simple symbolism of the group's carefully curated positioning is clear: there is a solid, mature core, with branching junior outer reaches. It composes an image of settled stability, an arrangement which speaks of authority, kindness, and a long-standing spousal partnership.



*Depden Rectory, Photo: By Permission of Suffolk Archives, Bury St Edmunds (SAB/K505/2619)
Collection held on behalf of Bury St Edmunds Past & Present Society*

The people in the picture are the family of the **Rev. Osborne Burgess Packard**, an Anglican clergyman, and his wife **Louisa, née Yarrington**, a Norfolk solicitor's daughter. To answer the question 'Where?' is easy: the photograph⁽²⁾ was taken in the grounds of the rectory at Depden in Suffolk, some miles south of Bury St Edmunds, a rural parish whose church is remote from any road.

You could hardly imagine any place more thoroughly East Anglian, and the family surnames bear this out. These are deeply rooted people. Packards were widespread in Suffolk from early times, and according to the 1891 census, there were 145 Packard families living in Suffolk – about 45% of all Packards living in Britain. In addition, the name Yarrington itself is emblematic of an ancient *heimat* – as my mother (née Packard) has explained in an unpublished writing,⁽³⁾ the name means settlers (*ingas*) who made their home (ton) near the River Yare. It is fair to say they all flourished in their native environment.



The late Mr. Edward Packard.
From a photograph by Elliott & Fry.

Edward Packard Snr.

On the face of it, we may wonder how a family of 11 could be raised on a clergyman's stipend; but there was significant family money in the background. The enterprising Packards had made a good living in Suffolk's arable farming country, originally from coprolite mining, leading on in time to the large-scale industrial production of chemical fertiliser. **Edward Packard** senior, Osborne's father, developed the family business from modest origins in the 1840s. The firm was incorporated as a limited company in 1895, with Edward's eldest son **Edward** (later Sir Edward) as Chairman, and second son **Henry** as Managing Director. At the time of the family photograph, the firm of Edward Packard and Co. had passed the peak of its prosperity.⁽⁴⁾ It is noteworthy, though, that in his will Edward Packard senior left his clergyman son £10,000

and a share in the residue of his estate. This bequest, from an estate with a total valuation of £61,654, was in those days a handsome sum. Edward Packard senior's death was a significant event in East Anglia, with notices in the *Eastern Daily Press* and an article of 2,500 words in the *Ipswich Journal*; a memorial tribute booklet was also produced. The origins and further fortunes of the Packard fertiliser company, and the energetic lives of its directors, have been vividly told by my mother in her book, and in published sources. The story is recommended reading for anyone with an interest in local or industrial history.⁽⁵⁾

To find some more detailed answers to the question 'Who?', let us establish the names and birthdates of the 11 Packard offspring and their parents. Standing L-R in the photograph are: **Louise** (1883), **Mildred** (1879), wife and mother **Louisa** (1848), second son **Roland** (1878), **John** (1884), and the youngest child, **Walter** (1889). Seated L-R are:



Louisa Packard with her first six children

Margaret (1880), the eldest son **Harold** (1876), the Rev. Osborne Burgess (1848), his eldest child and first daughter **Ethel** (1875), and next to her **Mary** (1882). Sitting L-R on the rug in front are **Wilfrid** (1886) and **Cheston** (1887). The daughters' plain dark dresses, worn with ties and stiff white collars, suggest a rather severe sort of uniform; but maybe they are chosen for 'best', or simply for warmth. I find the dress choices interesting as social markers; the adult sons wear formal dark jackets, and in Roland's case, a waistcoat with watch chain, denoting his majority, which gives him a slightly raffish look, while a Norfolk jacket, and a sailor suit for the youngest son, are equivalent choices for the boys.⁽⁶⁾ Such conventions must

have made decisions about what to wear very

straightforward. Age markers for the girls apply, most obviously to the hairstyles: adults wear it 'up', while the youngest daughter Louise, still a teenager, wears hers long and loose, *backfisch* style. The two eldest sons sport incipient moustaches, their father his patriarchal beard.

We see that Louisa's childbearing years extended from 1875 to 1889 – 11 children in 14 years. A robust and fiercely competent woman, she seems to have given birth easily; family tradition has it that with each new arrival Osborne Packard would drop in to the birth room to say mildly, 'Ah Louisa, I see you've had your baby', as if it was entirely her own doing. The children all survived into adulthood, but some, as we shall see, not for long. Widowed in 1908, Louisa appears to have been left comfortably off, and lived in various pleasant Norfolk locations – Letheringsett, Holt, High Kelling – until her death aged 88 in 1936. I have in my possession two Y-monogrammed 'Yarington' spoons, my tangible link to her.



Yarington spoons

An important consideration for such a large, respectable middle-class family was to secure solid professional careers for their sons. The daughters I shall turn to later. In vocational terms, the male Packards were typical products of the Victorian age, intelligent and energetic, drawn to skilled technical occupations derived from, or mastering, the material world: mining, farming, engineering. The Rev. Osborne was himself a keen motorist, an early adopter of the new technology which was to lead to his fatal accident (a diary entry for July 1908 by Osborne's niece **Phyllis** mentions

that on a visit to Depden she was met at Bury station by Uncle Osborne 'with the motor', and returned there rather late, due to a puncture sustained on the way⁽⁷⁾. The two exceptions to the vocational pattern were John, who followed his father into the church,⁽⁸⁾ and Wilfrid, who after being wounded in war service became a civil servant with the Inland Revenue, specialising in the translation of foreign correspondence. It appears that none of Osborne's sons sought to enter the family fertiliser business; I imagine there were sufficient sons in the collateral stream, with a stronger claim. A theme emerging here is the relation between the Packards' deep East Anglian roots and the pull of the British Empire, then at the peak of its power. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1887, the highpoint of imperial enthusiasm, predated the family photograph by 11 years, as I expect to show. There is a remarkable consistency in the behaviour of young adventurous men seeking, if not their fortune, then certainly their freedom of action, in the frontier world that the empire had laid open to them. John and Cheston Packard both travelled to the dominions, John to Australia and South Africa, where he served as a priest in Pietermaritzburg for many years, before returning ultimately to England and seeking refuge with my parents at the end of his life. Cheston spent a long period in Canada homesteading; summoned home by his formidable mother, he eventually established a fruit farm in Norfolk, which I remember from a childhood holiday. He was later to die prematurely from Weil's disease. John and Cheston each fathered one daughter. The youngest son, Walter, was not to marry or to develop far in his career as a motor mechanic: serving as a Second Lieutenant, like thousands of others his life was cut short on the Somme in 1916. My mother relates, in a memoir fragment, witnessing as a child the return of her uncle's kitbag by the Red Cross, his bereaved mother and sisters unable for hours to face handling it.⁽⁹⁾



Roland Packard's exam certificate 1898

The most interesting career story, to my mind, is that of my grandfather, Roland Osborne Packard, who became a mining engineer. To qualify for this profession, he underwent a thorough training at a leading foreign institution, the School of Mines (Königlich Preussischen Bergakademie) at Clausthal in Saxony. This prestigious school had its origins in the 18th century and continues to this day. Why Clausthal was chosen, in preference to the more recently established Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall, is an unknown about which I can only speculate, but it was an adventurous choice. The student body was international, the language of instruction presumably German.

I have in my care Roland's 1899 final diploma, now in a very fragile state, and the 1898 transcript (*Zeugniss*) listing his examination results. These range from *genugend*

(satisfactory) to *gut* (good) and *recht gut* (very good). This outcome must have given much satisfaction to his parents, as paying for his studies and upkeep in Germany – if indeed it was at their expense – would have been no small financial commitment. Roland would have learned to speak German at Clausthal; it seems he was well-liked by his fellow students, who presented him as a parting gift with a black-letter student songbook signed by them all. On the flyleaf someone has scribbled, '*Packard, besäüfe Dich nicht*' (Packard, don't get drunk) – good advice, since the book was clearly designed for use in pubs, with metal knobs on its front and back covers to ensure it stood proud of a beer-sodden table. These relics of his student days were clearly preserved by Roland with care, partly no doubt for their use in proving his credentials when applying for work. Somehow, they have come down the generations and landed on my desk. Graduated, and back in England, it was not long before Roland sought work abroad, first for some years in Queensland, where in 1903 he married **Ruby Bedwell**. Their first two daughters, **Margaret Astrid** and **Ruth Olive** (known by me in later life as Aunts Peg and Loddie), were born in Australia, and their third child, my mother **Irene Eva**, back in England in 1908. Clearly, though, the powerful pioneering opportunities in the South overwhelmed Roland's domestic commitments. Not even waiting for my mother's birth, he left his wife behind to take up a post in Bolivia with the Poderosa mining company. For the rest of his life, including eventually a second marriage in Chile, he lived and worked in South America. Roland had two sons with his Chilean wife **Elsa**, one of whom is my esteemed uncle **Harold**. Survivors of the **Pinochet** regime, Harold and his wife **Virginia** escaped to make their careers in England as industrial chemists, a profession very much in the Packard tradition, and were often welcome guests at my parents' table. In this strange way, history worked to close an old divergence, one might say a wound, in the family tree.

Now I shall return to the family photograph, to try to address the questions 'When?' and 'Why?'. It is a reasonable assumption that Roland's presence in the family group places the date after his return from Germany, aged 21, in late 1898 or early 1899; presumably his graduation ceremony at Clausthal would have taken place at some point in 1899. The background trees in the picture do not appear to be in summer leaf, so an early spring or late autumn date seems most probable. The 'Why?' question, however, is more difficult to answer. It is hard to believe that there was not a special reason for organising the group photograph; what might it have been? I had initially wondered whether the sober dress of the sitters, producing such a strikingly uniform appearance, was deliberately chosen to reflect the event of Edward Packard senior's death in October 1899. However, this is ruled out by one indisputable fact that gives us a *terminus ad quem*: Roland's elder sister Ethel, firstborn of the Packard children, died on 6 August 1899, aged 24. Almost certainly, then, we can date the photograph at the latest to the spring of 1899. This new clarity urges me to address the history of the Packard daughters.



Margaret Packard



Mary Packard



Ethel Packard

In extreme contrast to the wide-ranging careers of the Packard boys, the daughters' history is one of restricted lives and premature death. I will focus first on Ethel as she appears in the photograph. Close study shows a woman who looks severely unwell. Unlike her sisters, she seems thin and drawn, with sparse, cropped hair. She was only the first of three daughters to die, followed by Mary, aged 18, in 1900, and Margaret, aged 23, a little later in 1903. The cause of these young women's deaths was bovine tuberculosis. We know little more about them; though references to their school reports show intelligence and promise, they fade from the record. I try to think, with some anguish, what it must have been like to be Margaret, watching her sisters die and awaiting her own turn. Such a deep unknown can only be imagined, not retrieved.

Bovine TB, while still prevalent among livestock, today rarely infects human beings. This was not always so. In the days before pasteurisation was practised, and when milking methods were often unhygienic, the infection could easily be transmitted. Pasteurisation of milk was not required by law in England until 1922. Raw milk would have been supplied daily from local farms to families in rural areas (and I remember very well the pleasure of fetching the day's fresh milk from a farm, one of my jobs while staying as an *au pair* in the Jura). For consumers in cities, with longer transport distances involved, the risk of micro-organisms multiplying and causing disease was still greater. Unlike the human form of TB, which typically affects the lungs, bovine TB more often damages the digestive organs. It is sad to think about the misery and waste of these young women's lives from a disease so readily preventable. This circumstance raises more questions that the photograph cannot answer. Did the Packard parents know that their eldest daughter was fatally ill? Had they any idea how this might have been prevented? Were they the sort of people who might have commissioned a post-mortem photograph of her, or of their other girls? This seems unlikely; the family went down the more traditional route after each death of placing a memorial plaque in the church. In October 2021 my son John and I went to Depden

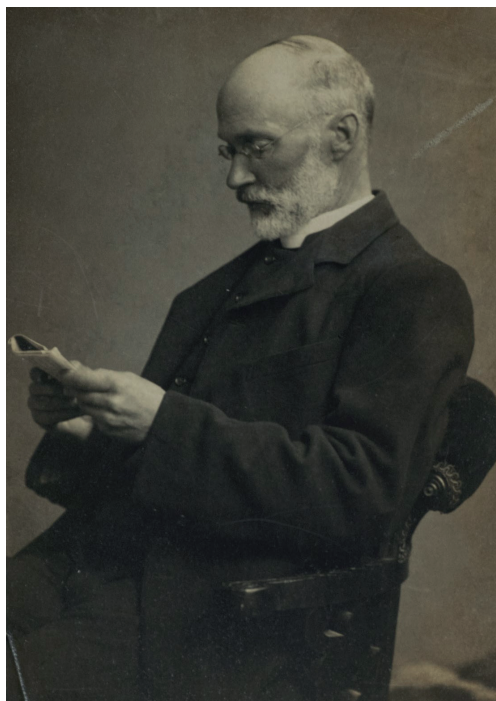
to look for them. The plaques survived a later fire, but the ledger gravestones of two of the daughters that we found next to their father's tomb were almost invisible beneath thick churchyard undergrowth. These memorials, and some early portrait photographs, are all that survives of Ethel, Mary and Margaret Packard.

Another obvious but unanswerable question is why it was only the female Packard children who contracted TB. Presumably, the men and boys also consumed milk, yet they escaped it. On this question I consulted **Professor (Emeritus) Peter Atkins** of Durham University, an expert on the social aspects of TB, who could offer no answer.⁽¹⁰⁾ Two of the five daughters, though, Mildred and Louise, did survive. Louise was permanently affected, and lived as an invalid, cared for throughout by her elder sister – who herself was uniquely spared the disease. Great-Aunt Mildred, whom I remember dismissing in my thoughtless youth as an eccentric old lady who poured water on her cornflakes, may have habitually taken this lifelong precaution against infected milk. And the survival of these two women is the only clue we have to how the adult lives of the other daughters might have developed. According to my father, Mildred once had a suitor, a local farmer, who was deemed an unsuitable match for a clergyman's daughter, and shown the door.⁽¹¹⁾ True or not, Mildred and Louise never married, or worked for a living, but supported each other and lived with their widowed mother until her death in 1936. One heartening detail in the record, though, is that Louise was active as Treasurer of the Holt Women's Suffrage Society in 1914-15. If this was her chosen war work,

it shows some independent spirit – though presumably we are talking about the law-abiding Suffragist movement, rather than the militant Suffragettes. The contrast between these quiet domestic female single lives, the prolific childbearing of their dominant mother, and the far-flung adventures of their brothers, scarcely needs emphasis.

A postscript to this tale: in 1908, nine or 10 years after the scene in the photograph, two significant Packard family events took place. On 5 May, my mother Irene Eva was born at Clacton-on-Sea, and was christened on 19 July by her grandfather at St Mary's Church, Depden.

Only weeks later, on 6 August, the anniversary of his daughter Ethel's death, the Rev. Osborne Burgess Packard was killed in a road accident at Towyn in Wales.



Rev. Osborne Burgess Packard 1848-1908

He had driven there in his 9hp Argyll motor, the one in which he had given a lift to his niece Phyllis only weeks earlier. Osborne loved Welsh choral singing, and had stepped absentmindedly into the road after the church service in a state of rapture, into the path of an oncoming car. Sons Harold and Wilfrid fetched his body home to Depden. The family was sundered. Louisa commissioned a gravestone in the form of a Celtic cross and a stained-glass window depicting the Virgin Mary, the church's patron saint, in Osborne's memory.



*Packard Memorial Window
at St Mary's, Depden.
Photo: John Howard*



*Author by gravestone of
Rev. O B Packard, St Mary's, Depden.
Photo: John Howard*

The spacious Depden rectory, home to the family for so long, had to be vacated. The 1899 photograph we have been looking at was almost certainly the last one ever taken to unite the whole group. Maybe, if we still want to ask the question 'Why?', a plausible answer could simply be that Osborne and Louisa instinctively knew in their hearts that this might have been their final opportunity to celebrate the family's original wholeness, before death, empire, and all the forces of time and history, pulled it apart.

Jane Howard

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4. Later to merge with James Fison Ltd. (1919).
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I also owe thanks to **Nicky Moncrieff** and **Anne Nicolson**, for kindly giving access to the site of the old rectory and to St Mary's Church, Depden, respectively; **Ann Gladwin** in York, and **Anne Slade** in Sydney, for sharing family archive material; **Robin Kinross** and **Nadia Savvopoulou**, for encouragement.

THE DICKERSON FAMILY OF BUCKLESHAM, SUFFOLK

This article is a continuation of the article *Who was David Dickerson of Bucklesham? His Story and his Shoemaker Relations*, published in the March 2023 issue of *Suffolk Roots*. To recap, following the marriage of **David Dickerson** and **Sarah Asbee** in Bucklesham on 7 November 1769, the following children were baptised in the parish church of St Mary's, Bucklesham: **Sarah** (9 August 1770, who died and was buried on 27 July 1772), **John** (25 October 1772), **Sarah** (19 February 1775), **Maria** (6 April 1777), **David** (28 February 1779), **Daniel** (7 June 1781, who died and was buried on 23 June 1782), **Daniel** (18 April 1783 – my 3x great-grandfather), and **Joseph** (30 July 1786). There is also a record of the burial on 3 July 1777 of **Pleasant Dickerson**, an infant, but no baptism. David's mother was **Pleasant Mayes**, so was this another daughter?

David had four surviving sons and his nephew **Daniel**, born c. 1775, the son of his brother **Daniel**, had five. Between them, they were responsible for numerous Dickerson descendants in the Bucklesham, Ipswich and Combs area and surrounding villages.

Sarah Asbee

Sarah was baptised in Bucklesham on 24 June 1744, the daughter of **John Asbee** and his wife **Elizabeth (née Cadney)** who had married by licence at Rushmere St Andrew on 4 November 1729. John was a farmer and he and the Cadney family had moved to the Ipswich area from villages near Bury St Edmunds in the early 1700s.

Sarah's siblings, all baptised at Bucklesham, were **Elizabeth** (15 August 1731), **John** (2 September 1733), **Mary** (11 March 1738), **Hannah** (10 January 1741), then Sarah, and finally **Jane** (11 January 1746).



Bucklesham church, photo by Christine Brooks

Tracing John Asbee wasn't easy, but his baptism was found in Denham St Mary near Bury St Edmunds, the son of **Joseph Asbee** and his wife **Elizabeth**. John named two of his daughters after his sisters and a son after his father, Joseph. The baptisms in Denham were as follows: **Joseph** (19 January 1695), **Mary** (12 June 1698), **Hannah** (19 January 1701) and finally John (12 December 1703). John died and was buried in Bucklesham on 29 June 1764.

Elizabeth Cadney was baptised on 26 April 1707 at Brightwell and Foxhall, the daughter of **George Cadney** and his wife **Elizabeth**. A possible candidate for George Cadney is at Horringer, Suffolk, where three children of George Cadney and his wife Elizabeth were baptised: **Mary** (12 February 1672), **George** (3 November 1674) and **Grace** (28 December 1679).

Sarah's mother Elizabeth Asbee died and was buried in Bucklesham on 8 July 1782. She left an interesting and detailed will⁽¹⁾ which has been transcribed by **Christine Brooks**. It mentions David Dickerson, plus other family members, and where he was living at the time.

In short, Elizabeth appointed **Peter Maber** and **Robert Johnson** of Foxhall as her executors. She left to her daughter Elizabeth Day the part of her house where Elizabeth's husband **Daniel Day** and David Dickerson lived (presumably daughter

Elizabeth lived there too), plus some land presently occupied by one **John Mason**. She left to her daughter **Ann Blomfield** (b. c. 1735, but no baptism record found) another part of the house where Ann and her husband **John Blomfield** lived, reserving a right of passage for the part of the house where she (Elizabeth Asbee) lived. That part of the house (the greater part?) she left to her daughter Sarah Dickerson, the wife of David Dickerson, along with a garden and other land occupied by David. Other land in Bucklesham she left to John Blomfield on condition that he paid £20 to her executors within three months of her death, failing which the land was to be sold as part of Elizabeth's estate. She also left 20s per year to her granddaughter **Mary Ruffhead** until she reached 21, when she was to receive £10. Finally, she authorised her executors to spend £5 of her estate to buy clothes and other necessities for the children of her son-in-law **John Ruffhead** (who had married Hannah Asbee at Sutton, Suffolk, on 14 December 1762).

Elizabeth also left £10 for repairs to the premises bequeathed to Elizabeth Day. The residue of her estate was to be divided equally between her three daughters, Elizabeth Day, Ann Blomfield and Sarah Dickerson.

David Dickerson is recorded in the UK Land Tax Redemption for 1798 as the proprietor and occupier of land in Bucklesham, the sum assessed being £1-4s-0d. This must have been on the property originally owned by his mother-in-law Elizabeth Asbee and left by her to his wife, Sarah.

Little else is known of David. It is probable that he was either a farmer or agricultural worker, but whatever his occupation, when he was buried in Bucklesham on 31 October 1832 he had attained the great age of 92. His wife Sarah was buried in Bucklesham on 26 June 1806.

David and Sarah Dickerson's children and grandchildren

John Dickerson 1772

John married **Thomasin Frost** (bap. 6 June 1773 at Nacton) at Nacton on 13 April 1797. Thomasin gave birth to seven children, who are registered as follows at Stoke Green Baptist Chapel:

Mariah, 22 February 1798, Nacton. She married **William Graystone** on 10 January 1819 at Nacton, and they had eight children.

David, 25 February 1800, Nacton. He married **Mary Robinson** on 30 November 1818 at Westerfield.

Kazia, 28 February 1802, Nacton. She married **Shadrach Boston** (b. 18 July 1802 at Martlesham) on 25 May 1824, and they had seven children.

Daniel, 19 January 1804, Nacton.

Sarah, 9 October 1805, Nacton. She married **Thomas Hart** at Bucklesham on 1 January 1827, and they had seven children.

Ruth, 31 July 1812, Foxhall. She married **John Brown** (b. 23 May 1811 at Melton) and they had eight children.

Naomi, 30 September 1815, Foxhall. She married **John Rivett** on 18 January 1835 at Bucklesham, and they had nine children.

Sarah Dickerson 1775

Sarah married **Robert Pinkney** at Bucklesham on 12 October 1796 and they had nine children. Sarah had previously given birth to an illegitimate son, **Philip Dickerson**, on 25 February 1795 but no father's name is registered. It is possible that the father was Robert Pinkney.

Several of Philip's male cousins were employed as agricultural labourers in the Bucklesham area, but he followed a totally different path. He must have been influenced by the Baptist movement at Stoke St Mary, Ipswich, as by 1816, at the young age of 21, he was Pastor of the Rattlesden Baptist Chapel. The chapel had been built in 1808, was enlarged in 1815, and was rebuilt in 1892. He married **Isabella Crowe** on 11 January 1820 in Thrandeston, Suffolk. Isabella was the daughter of **Samuel Crowe**, postmaster of Beccles, the information being recorded on the baptism record of Isabella and Philip's son, **Abner**, on 6 July 1823. Isabella died, although I haven't found a burial record for her, and Philip married **Mary Ann Cooper** by licence at Rattlesden on 19 July 1827. Mary Ann was the daughter of **John Cooper**, a farmer of Drinkstone, Suffolk, and his wife **Mary Ann**.

By 1841, Philip and his family had moved to London and were living at Mile End Old Town in the upper part of Stepney. His occupation was recorded as a Dissenting Minister. In 1851 they remained in Mile End Old Town but their address was now 13 Princes Street and he was a Baptist Minister. In 1871 his address was 95 Dempsey Street, still in Mile End Old Town. From 1831 to 1870 he was the Baptist Minister at Little Alie Street, Whitechapel, and was described as a High Calvinist leader, preaching at many Baptist venues. Calvinism is a major branch of Protestantism that follows the theological tradition and forms of Christian practice set down by **John Calvin** and other Reformation era theologians. It emphasises the sovereignty of God and the authority of the Bible. Philip died on 22 October 1882 and was buried on 26 October at the Mile End Old Town and Tower Hamlets Cemetery in the City of London. His wife Mary died on 19 July 1889 and was buried in the same cemetery.

Philip's will was proved on 18 January 1883 by his son **Augustus Gill Dickerson** of 13 Lichfield Road, Bow Road, cigar manufacturer, and **George Henry Haines** of 145a Graham Road, Dalston, wholesale trimming warehouseman. His estate was valued at £410-19s-8d.

As for the known children of Sarah and Robert Pinkney, they were:

Lionel, bap. 16 March 1797 at Kirton. He married **Mary Whiting** on 3 June 1817 and they had seven children.

Robert, 1799.

Maria, bap. 10 March 1802 at Kirton. She married **William Fulcher** on 6 April 1826 at Bucklesham and they had eight children.

William, bap. 6 March 1806 at Bucklesham.

William, bap. 17 January 1808 at Bucklesham. He married **Eliza Gillingham** on 22 August 1830 and they had two children.

Emily, bap. 15 July 1810 at Bucklesham. She married **Samuel Doylend** of Capel St Mary on 22 July 1832 at Bucklesham. They had 10 children.

Nathan, bap. 30 August 1812 at Bucklesham.

Jemima, bap. 11 August 1814 at Bucklesham. She married **William Bear** on 11 June 1842 at Kirton, and they had two children.

Mary, b. 4 January 1817, bap. 9 March 1823 at Bucklesham.

Maria Dickerson 1777

Maria married **John Rudland** at Bucklesham on 5 March 1797 and they had nine children. Their baptisms are registered at Copdock as follows: **Sarah** (13 October 1798), **Mary Maria** (10 January 1802), **Elizabeth** (born 9 January 1804, baptised 5 February 1804), **Maria** (6 April 1806), **John** (born 14 July 1808, baptised 19 July 1808), twins **Martha** and **Jonathan** (born 18 June 1811, baptised 19 June 1811), **Benjamin** (born 11 May 1814, baptised 12 June 1814), and **William** (born 21 March 1820, baptised 23 March 1820).

David Dickerson 1779

David married **Sarah Keeble** at Brightwell on 7 March 1803 and they had seven children whose baptisms are as follows: **Maria** (19 February 1804 at Brightwell), **Sarah** (20 July 1806 at Brightwell), John (born at Foxhall, baptised on 3 July 1808 at Brightwell), **David** (11 March 1810 at Brightwell. He married **Maria Hall** on 15 December 1833 at St Peter's, Ipswich. They had a son **William** born 2 April 1834 and baptised on 1 June 1834 at St Peter's), **Mary** (born at Foxhall, baptised on 6 March 1812. She married **William Keeble** in 1849 in Woodbridge), **Daniel** (18 September 1814 at Brightwell. He married **Lucy Keeble** in 1841), **Joseph** (17 August 1817 at Brightwell).

Joseph Dickerson 1786

There is no record of a marriage for Joseph.

Daniel Dickerson 1783

Daniel married **Patience Clarke** at Bucklesham on 12 October 1804, and they are my 3x great-grandparents. Patience was baptised at Bucklesham on 28 September 1783 and is recorded in the parish register only a few names down from her future husband.

However, on the 1851 census her place of birth is recorded at Foxhall. Patience was the daughter of **William Clarke** and **Mary Ann Southgate**, who had married in the neighbouring village of Kirton on 23 October 1780. Three of their children were baptised in Bucklesham and the other six at St John the Baptist, Brightwell. At Bucklesham: Patience in 1783, followed by **Job** (22 May 1785) and **Charity** (18 October 1789). At Brightwell: **Pleasance** (2 September 1781), **John** (1 July 1787), **Mary Ann** (5 February 1792), **Charity** (18 May 1794), **Job** (9 September 1798) and finally **James** (19 November 1799). Mary Ann's maiden name is given on all the Brightwell entries, apart from Pleasance's, as Southgate. In the 1851 and 1861 census records, James and John Clarke are recorded as agricultural labourers.



*Bucklesham church font, which has seen many Dickerson baptisms.
Photo by Christine Brooks*

Daniel and Patience had 10 children, all baptised at Bucklesham, as follows:

Joseph, 13 January 1805, three months after Daniel and Patience had married. Joseph married **Mary Ann Miller** on 20 May 1832 and they had seven children. In 1851 he was a sailor.

Daniel, 1807.

Mary Ann, 23 April 1809. She married **George Flory** of Levington on 5 December 1826 and they had two children.

William, born 4 April 1811, who is my 2x great-grandfather. He married **Susan Fisk (née Read)**, a widow, on 26 June 1849 and they had two children.

John Southgate, 20 March 1814. He married **Eliza Stannard** on 18 December 1837 at Bucklesham and they had seven children.

James, 18 August 1816.

Nathan, 18 July 1819.

Sarah Ann, 20 October 1822. She married **William Franks**.

David, 15 January 1826. He married **Amy Cherrington**.

Philip, 1828.

In 1841, Daniel (56) remained living in Bucklesham with Patience (also 56), their son Nathan (21) and daughter Sarah (18). The other children had left home and Daniel was working as an agricultural labourer.

In 1851, the family were still resident in Bucklesham. Daniel was employed as a farm labourer. Living with him were Patience, their sons Daniel (46) who was a discharged soldier, now a farm labourer, and Nathan (30), a farm labourer, their daughter Sarah Ann Dickerson (28) and her son **George Dickerson** (1).

In the *Suffolk Chronicle* of 22 January 1848 there is a report that **Mark Major** of Foxhall, farmer, appeared before the magistrates at Woodbridge to answer the complaint of Daniel Dickerson, a labourer, for non-payment of 9s, a week's wages. The case being 'fully proved', Mr Major was ordered to pay the debt and costs forthwith, which he did. With more than one Daniel Dickerson recorded as a labourer in Bucklesham in the 1850s, it's not clear which one the report in relates to, but it could well be my 3x great-grandfather.

Daniel was buried in Bucklesham on 1 May 1852 following an inquest into his death which was reported in the *Ipswich Journal* on 1 May 1852:

Woodbridge. Inquisition. Before Mr Wood Coroner

*On 28th May 1852, at Bucklesham, on the body of Daniel Dickerson, of that parish, labourer, aged 67 years. From the examination of the witnesses it was proved that, on Tuesday afternoon, Dickerson (who was previously in perfect health) had his daughter in law and her sister to drink tea with him; that he walked home with them about 8 o'clock, carrying his grandson, about two years old; and as soon as he got into the cottage he complained that the child had muddled him, and did not speak afterwards. He reeled across the room to a chair, and in less than two minutes became insensible. His daughter in law ran immediately for Mr **Joseph Mayhew Dawson** who arrived just in time to see him expire, not living altogether five minutes after he entered the cottage.*

Verdict, "Death by the Visitation of God"

Daniel's wife Patience died within about a year and was buried in Bucklesham on 19 May 1853.

My Dickerson story will continue, commencing with William Dickerson 1811.

Liz Brooks Mb 9984

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Sources and References

1. The Will of Elizabeth Asbee. Norfolk Record Office, NCC Will Register Watson 99, Asbee Elizabeth widow of Bucklesham, Suffolk, 1782, Norfolk Record Society Vol. 38.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE HUSBAND WHO NEVER WAS

There were many couples in the Victorian era who lived together without marrying, and so were likely to cause scandal and suffer condemnation if found out. They were living in sin, or as it was sometimes called, 'living over the brush'. Such couples would often hide their marital status by the woman adopting the man's surname. Recently when researching the life of an artist, I was surprised at how far one couple went to keep their relationship secret by making false statements. There is no Suffolk connection to the story, apart from the author, but it is offered as a caution against taking old records at face value.

Elizabeth Titchener (1821-1893) arrived in Brighton in 1843 as a domestic servant. She had been born in Ewell, Surrey but her mother died when she was three years old. Her aunt **Abigale** came to help her father raise the four Titchener children. Elizabeth had an illegitimate daughter, **Mary Hannah**, in 1842 and the baby was also looked after by Aunt Abigale and her father when Elizabeth came to Brighton. There she met **William Drummond** (1811-1855) and they began a relationship. Drummond was a portrait artist of some renown, and well known for drawing leading figures of the day – royalty, clergy and actors – the drawings then being engraved and prints made that were sold cheaply in large numbers to the general public. Drummond also painted watercolour portraits of the wealthy upper classes, and his reputation was key to being accepted by his clients. He had been born in Huntingdon, Huntingdonshire, but moved to London to train as an artist and lithographer. He worked there in the 1830s before moving to Brighton where he formed a strong working relationship with **W H Mason**, a print seller who ran a business called ‘The Repository of Art’. In the 1841 census William Drummond was living with the Mason family, but Mason’s business ran into financial trouble about 1844, with the threat of bankruptcy and all that that entailed in Victorian times. At great financial risk to himself, Drummond took over the lease of the premises where Mason ran the business and became, in effect, Mason’s landlord for a few years, before assigning the lease back to Mason.

At this time of Drummond’s great financial risk, Elizabeth became pregnant. Their joint solution to this crisis was for William Drummond to fully support his new family but to keep them separate from his business dealings in case of bankruptcy. Elizabeth Titchener set up home in rented accommodation in Worthing as Mrs Titchener, whilst William continued working in Brighton and London, commuting between the two thanks to the recently opened railway. When daughter **Emily** was born, it was Elizabeth who registered the birth on 20 September 1844 at Worthing, giving the father’s name as William Titchener, carpenter, and her maiden name as Taylor. Another daughter, **Elizabeth**, was registered by Mrs Titchener on 18 August 1848 with the father’s name again as William Titchener, but now with the occupation of commercial agent (much easier to answer awkward questions as to why her ‘husband’ was away so much?). Her maiden name was also changed to Turner. A son **William** was born and registered by Elizabeth on 23 September 1850, again as Mrs Titchener with the father named as William Titchener, his occupation refined to commercial traveller, and Elizabeth’s maiden name still Turner. It is interesting to note that none of the children were baptised, perhaps because Elizabeth was not comfortable in continuing the deceit before God. Finally, on 30 March 1851 Elizabeth informed the census enumerator that she was married with three children, living as a lodger in Heene, Worthing, on income from being a traveller’s wife.

With William Drummond’s financial circumstances much improved and a growing family to care for, they decided that William would concentrate his business in Brighton and take a house big enough for the family and with room for a studio.

They also decided to regularise their relationship and so, on 1 November 1853, William Drummond married Elizabeth Titchener at St Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street, in the City of London. He was described in the register as an 'Artist' and bachelor of Fleet Street and she as a spinster of Brighton of no rank or profession. Both signed the register. Why marry in London when both were living in Brighton? Perhaps they had something to hide about their past there! The children now became known as Drummond.

Just six months after the wedding, William Drummond made his will leaving his whole estate to his wife Elizabeth and naming his brother **James** as executor. Did he have a foreboding? Less than a year later, on 27 March 1855, he died aged 43.

In 1849 William Drummond painted this studio watercolour portrait of a well-dressed lady. She looks down and to her left and into the distance, deep in thought, in a three-quarter length pose.



*Portrait of unknown lady by William Drummond.
The story of how the author came to own the portrait is in the Addendum below*

William clearly signs and dates the portrait, but cleverly hides the signature in the folds of the tablecloth below the closed book. So, who is this anonymous lady? The painting has hidden clues that I believe reveal the relationship between the sitter

and the artist. The closed book on the table, for instance, is placed between the two, suggesting a story that they both know but that is closed to the viewer. The sitter's left hand has been placed out of sight so that the viewer cannot determine the lady's marital status. She also has an open sketch book and it can be seen that the head of a portrait has been drawn, suggesting a common connection with portraiture. I believe the sitter's name is Elizabeth Titchener, who was aged 28 at the time of the portrait. A girl from a humble family who met and eventually married the artist and was left a widow with their three children at the age of 33, surviving and living quietly off her own means for the rest of her life.

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Addendum

Although not relevant to the subject of my article, I am happy to share with you how I came to own the portrait. I was looking on eBay to buy a stick barometer when I came across one being sold by two brothers who were selling their dealer father's antique holding. The portrait was one of the 600 items they were selling at this date and they had sold a further 600+ items just weeks earlier! The eyes of the sitter really appealed to me. My wife was dead against the idea of the stick barometer but she agreed to the portrait as the lesser of two evils. I paid £36.55 for it and when it arrived it was so well packed that even the glass was unbroken. A Google search for 'William Drummond Artist' found the artist and his work on several websites. The MutualArt website even featured my portrait: it had been sold by Hanson's Auctioneers (of **Charles Hanson**, BBC Bargain Hunt fame) for £10 plus commission (a bargain indeed!). As the portrait was out of the frame, I carefully searched for any note of who the sitter was, but there was none. After touching up some damage to the gilt frame, the portrait looked good enough to hang on the wall, although my wife has banned it from the lounge.

THE SUFFOLK HISTORY HUB

The idea for the Suffolk History Hub website – <https://suffolkhistoryhub.net/> – originated with the late **Victor Gray** MBE, when he was chairman of the Suffolk Records Society, shortly before his death in 2021. The concept was to collect in a single place information about all the relevant organisations such as societies and archives. It was felt that having a single entry-point would help people find the most appropriate outlet for their interests, something especially needed by people new to the subject.

The development was assigned to a committee consisting of **Mark Bailey**, **Tanya Christian**, and **Keith Briggs**. The website has sections on finding organisations, on the nature of source documents, on archives, and on how to share results of research. Funding for creating the website was provided initially by the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, with the understanding that continuing costs will be shared with other societies. The committee would be grateful if any organisations having a website would add a prominent link back to the Hub. This will help promote it, and give it a higher rank in web searches.

*Welcome to the Suffolk History Hub.
This website is for anyone with an interest in Suffolk's history.*

Here you can find information about the main organisations involved in promoting and researching Suffolk's history, who provide opportunities to hear talks, join field trips, and meet like-minded people. It also shows you how to discover what research and archives exist in your area of interest, and offers guidance on how to make your own research available to other people.

Do you want to?...Click the areas that interest you below:

Find organisations involved in specific aspects of Suffolk's history

Understand the primary and secondary sources available for the study of Suffolk's history

Discover historical archives in your area of interest

Contribute your own research to the pool of knowledge



The resulting Suffolk History Hub is meant for anyone with an interest in Suffolk's history. It introduces the main organisations involved in promoting and researching that history, and provides opportunities to hear talks, join field trips, and meet like-minded people. It also shows how to discover what research and archives exist in various areas of interest, and offers guidance on how to make new research available to other people.

The main organisations which have an entry on the hub are the following. Other societies will be willingly hosted if they provide a short description of their activities. There is also a section on Suffolk place-names.

Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History

Suffolk Records Society

Suffolk Local History Council

Suffolk Family History Society

Suffolk Historic Building Group

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Suffolk Gardens Trust

Suffolk Archives

Friends of Suffolk Archives

Keith Briggs

ERRATUM

Member **Paul Reeve** has asked us to publish a correction to his article *Why did my Great-Great-Grandfather become a Railwayman* published in the June 2023 issue of *Suffolk Roots*. Paul is grateful to the member who contacted him to clarify that **Mary Ann Gladden** was born in 1787, not 1783.

The Editors

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HELP WANTED – CHARLOTTE COOPER OF YOXFORD

Charlotte Cooper was my 2x great-grandmother. She married **John Thomas Gough** (baptised at St Marylebone, 19 February 1809, and usually called Thomas) at St George's Hanover Square on 4 December 1835. She was always a bit vague about her age/birthdate, but Yoxford was given as her birthplace in the 1851 and 1861 censuses.

So far, I have found these possible baptismal records for her:

28 June 1813 in Wissett, parents **Thomas** and **Hannah Cooper**

17 April 1814 in Halesworth, parents **John** and **Elizabeth Cooper**

21 November 1819 in South Cove, parents **Joseph** and **Charlotte Cooper**

I favour the last of these, due to a later detail in her life.

By 1841 Thomas and Charlotte were living in Buckinghamshire, where their first two children, **Ann** and **Henry**, were born and baptised in the Taplow area. Henry died young and was buried in Eton. Thomas was a coachman on the **Earl of Orkney's** Taplow estate in those days. He seemed to return to this occupation from time to time and family knowledge revealed a distinct love of working with horses in subsequent generations.

By 1851 the couple were living in Fazeley, Staffordshire where Thomas was a police constable. The Staffordshire Constabulary had been set up in 1842. They had three more children during that time: **Thomas Jr.**, who died aged 10 in 1853, **Charlotte Marie** (b. 1846) and **William George** (b. 1848), my great-grandfather.

It was Thomas's police work record that revealed more Suffolk connections. It showed that he had been employed for about three months in the Suffolk Constabulary, but was with the Staffordshire Constabulary by 1 February 1843. He had been given a reference by **Lord Stradbroke** of Henham Hall. This was near South Cove, hence my suspicion that Charlotte was baptised there. Did Thomas work as a coachman for this estate before applying to join the police? Was Charlotte's family known to Lord Stradbroke? Or was Lord Stradbroke a friend of the Earl of Orkney?

The Taplow estate had suffered financial problems in the early 1840s, so it is likely that the family headed to Suffolk soon after the death of baby Henry in January 1842. Maybe Charlotte thought it would be good to catch up with her family.

Thomas retired due to rheumatic gout on 15 October 1855 with a gratuity of £40. When their son Thomas had died two years earlier, his father was described as a coachman on the death record. Was he already planning to leave the police?

By 1861 the family were back in London, living in Marylebone, and Thomas was working as a coachman once more. Charlotte died in January 1863 (age given as 49) – one wonders if the smoggy London air was detrimental to her health. Thomas worked on until he died in July 1870. He was living then in Dockhead Place, beside Jacob's Island, which was central to **Charles Dickens'** novel *Oliver Twist*. It seems that life was very hard when they returned to London. The family subsequently settled in the Bermondsey area for the remainder of the 1800s. There were some difficult times ahead for many of my maternal grandmother's family.

If anyone has Cooper connections in the Yoxford district, I would love to hear from them. **Hubbard** is one surname that has turned up, but it is only a suggestion. DNA links have really not helped so far.

Meriel Johansen Mb 12819

merieljohansen@outlook.com

HELP WANTED – JOHN CODLIN, POTION-MAKER

I am looking for help regarding one **John Codlin**, believed to have lived in Poslingford, Suffolk. He invented 'East India Oils for Animals', as well as a product called 'Codlin's Oils for Chest Infections, Colds, etc., and a General Panacea'!

Mr Codlin was a very eccentric man, and I believe may have had links to families involved with the long-forgotten 'Hale's Travelling Circus'. My mother, **Sylvia Kate Chambers (née Mayes)**, remembered as a child helping him gather the ingredients for his potions from the Suffolk hedgerows. Mr Codlin was then an elderly man, and as my mother was born in 1918 (in Sturmer), I am guessing his birthdate was c. 1860. My mother, whose grandmother was **Clara Hale**, b. 1864 in Clare, had his 'history' all written down, but since her death in 2018 I have been unable to find her invaluable information. Her account having been lost, I do hope that someone can shed some light on this fascinating man.

The 'recipe' for Codlin's Oils was a closely guarded family secret; the last person to know it was my grandfather's sister, **Harriet Butcher** of Station Road, Glemsford. The recipe appears to have died with her.

John Chambers

jc1943@hotmail.co.uk

THE ILL, THE IMPOVERISHED, THE ILLEGITIMATE, AND THE INSANE

SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION BY JANET FEW – 3 JULY 2023

The ill

Janet outlined the hospital records that can be used find about those who were ill or infirm. She explained that often there is a 100-year access rule, so although your relative may have been in the hospital more than 100 years ago, if other stays within the record are still covered, the record may remain closed. Some hospitals have their own archives and The National Archives' Discovery catalogue is useful for identifying their locations. It is also worth looking on the Wellcome Library website and Ancestry's *Card Catalogue* and/or Findmypast's *All Records Set* for 'hospital'. Records are being added all the time, so it's worth checking periodically.

Other types of hospital and institution records that may be of assistance in identifying the sick include:

- Lying-in hospitals – which may have the added benefit of baptisms of those born there.
- Workhouse hospitals (e.g. the St Marylebone Workhouse Infirmary records are on Ancestry).
- An index of Long-term Workhouse Inmates (5 or more years) in 1861 is available on Ancestry, with names, length of stay, and reason.
- School log books might record absences because of illness or disability, and outbreaks of illnesses, e.g. scarlet fever.
- Service records will record illnesses and wounds.

Janet also mentioned two sources to help discover the general conditions in the area at the time:

- Bills of Mortality were introduced at the end of the 16th century. They do not contain names but have parish totals. Records for 1657-1814 are available at the Royal Society of Medicine's Library website.
- Medical Officers of Health records – from 1848 the MOH had to record conditions in their area, and these are available in the Wellcome Library (for London) or the Internet Archive. They will mention epidemics, and may mention severe weather and other public health issues.

Janet noted that people from other areas are often found in London hospitals.

The impoverished

It was estimated that in 1700, around 25-40% of the population were 'poor'. Between **Henry VIII's** closure of the monasteries c. 1538 and the Poor Law Amendment Act

1834, responsibility for the poor was at parish level. The parish Overseers' accounts list the support that might be given – not money, but food, blankets etc. They list not just the poor, but also tradesmen who supplied the materials, such as a pair of shoes, or a coffin.

A parish was responsible for the persons who were 'settled' there. The 1662 Act of Settlement set out seven ways of acquiring settlement in a parish, with being born there the main one. An interesting reason for settlement for many family historians would be that it was gained by working for a year under a settled master. Many 'ag labs' were hired from hiring fair to hiring fair, so falling 1 day short of the year and thus not gaining settlement.

Settlement examinations can give a lot of information – where born, where married and how many children – but survival of these records is not great and indexing even less common. If a person was found to be settled elsewhere, then they would be sent back to that parish. This meant that moving around to find work was not easy, and so led to the introduction of settlement certificates, which were an acknowledgement by the 'home' parish of its responsibilities and are another useful resource. Tied to this were removal orders, which were drawn up as an instruction to the parish constable to take the person being removed back to their parish of settlement, the person then being passed from constable to constable along the route.

For workhouses, the best place to start is www.workhouses.org.uk, which gives a lot of background, details of the survival of records, maps, etc. Records are likely to be in the county archives. There will be registers of inmates, lists of those receiving out-relief and account books, plus birth, death, and apprenticeship records, and more. Of relevance to the theme of this edition of *Suffolk Roots* are the records of assisted emigration (1834-1890) for both government and private schemes, often available on the subscription websites.

The illegitimate

Mothers of illegitimate children were another group likely to need help. As these children were likely to cost the parish money, measures were taken to avoid that by trying to find out who the father was – bastardy examinations – and then making that person pay for the child – bastardy bonds. The examination meant the mother had to name the father, and say when the act took place, etc. Getting the alleged father to confirm it was he and then to pay might be very difficult, as the amounts involved were not trivial – a weekly amount for the child up to the age of 14, and an amount to cover the mother's lying-in.

The insane

How do we find out about the insane in our family? Family stories may indicate issues, and from 1871 the census form had a column indicating '*lunatic, idiot or imbecile*'.

Death certificates may give a clue, as may service records (shell shock, for example) and newspapers. Asylum records are now becoming more available online. County asylums were established in the early 19th century, but before that care (such as it was) was via private madhouses, or at home, or the Bethlehem Royal Hospital in London (various records for which are on Findmypast). There were also other asylums – the Army and the Navy had their own, as did the East India Company.

Janet used one of her relatives, **Fanny Ellington**, as an example of using records to find people in asylums. Janet has written a couple of novels based on true stories, both available on Kindle: *Barefoot on Cobbles* and *Sins as Red as Scarlet*. Also, coming soon (possibly early 2024) from Pen & Sword is *Tracing your Marginalised Ancestors*, which will cover all that Janet talked about plus some other areas, such as witches.

A handout for this talk is on Janet's website: <https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/talks-and-presentations/handouts/>.

Andy Kerridge

chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk

SFHS FAIRS AND EVENTS 2023

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

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

The Family History Show, Kempton Park **2 September 2023**
Kempton Park Racecourse Details: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

West Surrey Family History Fair **4 November 2023**
Woking Leisure Centre, Surrey Details: <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

FHF Really Useful Family History Show **20 April 2024**
The Society is involved with organising this event, and will also be exhibiting there.

In addition, there are the following Family History Shows:

Essex Society for Family History Military Day
Galleywood Heritage Centre, Chelmsford, Essex

16 September 2023
Details: <https://esfh.org.uk>

FHF Really Useful Family History Show
Online

17-18 November 2023
Details: <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

We are holding our 2022-23 AGM and Fair on two separate dates. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 October at 7:30pm via Zoom, to allow more distant members to attend; and the Fair is to be on Saturday 14 October 2023 at The Hold, with a series of talks, and stalls from other societies and related organisations. See the poster on p.100 of this issue.

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

SEPTEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	14	Blue plaque for Haverhill person – Who would you choose?	Group
Haverhill	16	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am-3pm (TBC)	Group
Ipswich	06	Ipswich plaques and other examples of historic Ipswich lettering	Borin van Loon
Lowestoft	05	Hi-De-Hi – A talk on local holiday camps	Steve Ames
Sudbury	26	Quiz – General questions. All welcome. <i>Up to 6 per team. Refreshments, raffle.</i>	Group

OCTOBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	12	History of Spoken History	Charlie Haycock
Ipswich	04	We'll Meet Again <i>Memories of evacuation to Suffolk during WW2</i>	Bryan Thurlow
Lowestoft	03	The Elizabethan House, Great Yarmouth	Stuart Burgess
Sudbury	31	Talk of the Town – <i>An armchair 'stroll' of Bury St Edmunds</i>	John Saunders

NOVEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	09	Bravery, Courage and Casualties	Group
Ipswich	01	GHQ Auxiliary Units and the British Resistance Organisation <i>What may have happened if the Germans had invaded</i>	Chris Pratt
Lowestoft	07	Late Medieval Lowestoft: A small planned township	David Butcher & Ivan Bunn
Sudbury	28	Cobbold & Kin Life stories from an East Anglian family	Kevin Towner

DECEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	14	Christmas Quiz <i>A light-hearted social evening with refreshments</i>	Group
Ipswich	06	John Constable – The painter who couldn't get arrested <i>His family and the personal story behind the name</i>	Kim Smith
Lowestoft	05	The 1960s Music Scene of Lowestoft Pt. 2, followed by a social evening	Richard Mundy
Sudbury	26	No meeting	

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

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

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ZOOM TALKS

Zoom talks for members from September 2023 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 email **shortly before each talk**, notifying them of the event and giving a link to register. If you do not receive such an email, please contact Andy Kerridge, at chairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk.

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

Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7:30pm
The History of the Suffolk Fire Brigade

Chris Turland

Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7:30pm

Suffolk FHS AGM

Society Members

See centre pages of this issue for details.

In addition, the Suffolk FHS Fair is on Saturday 14 October 2023 at The Hold in Ipswich, and we hope to be able to record some of the presentations. We will make these recordings available in the Members' Area of the website as soon as possible after the event. Typically, they are then available for two weeks.

FUTURE THEMES FOR *SUFFOLK ROOTS*

As mentioned in the Editors' Welcome, we are extending the migration theme of 'Where Did They Go' to the December issue. Please tell us about your migrating forebears. Where did they go, and when? Why did they leave – was it economic reasons, persecution, wanderlust? Did they return and if so, why? What did they do when they got there, and did they write letters home? How did they travel – what were the conditions like? Did they leave as part of an emigration scheme?

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	Dec 2023	Where Did They Go? <i>Our Migrating Forebears</i> Many of us have found our ancestors moved away from Suffolk, either to other parts of the UK, or further afield: Where and when did your ancestors go? Why did they leave? What did they do when they got there? How did they travel to their destination? What was the impact on the family left behind?	Deadline 20 Oct
Provis'nl	Mar 2024	I'll Drop You A Line <i>In an age where everyone has a mobile phone, or uses e-mail or social media to communicate, many of us will remember trying to find a working phone box, or making reverse-charge calls. But how did our ancestors manage?</i> Was any of your ancestors a Town Crier? A post runner? Did they use the mail coach? Work on the telegraph? Did any of them work in the Post Office, or on early telephone systems? How did your ancestors stay in touch, especially after migration or emigration? Have you inherited any interesting letters between family members? Do you have examples of problems due to miscommunication?	Deadline 20 Jan

Provis'nl Jun 2024 Animals Deadline 20 Apr

How did animals feature in our ancestors' lives?

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the RSPCA. Our ancestors' lives may have been intimately entwined with animals. Did your ancestors work with animals, e.g. on a farm, in transport or in a circus, or did they breed them?

Perhaps they had a favourite pet, or worked with animals in a war? Was your ancestor a butcher or purveyor of fine meats, or a leather-worker?

Did outbreaks of animal disease affect your ancestors' livelihood?

Perhaps your ancestor had an animal/bird/fish-related surname?!

Provis'nl Sep 2024 All at Sea Deadline 20 Jul

Shipwrecks and Lifeboats, Mariners and Shipbuilders

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 work in shipyards?

Did your ancestors serve at sea in the armed forces?

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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

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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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
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GROUP CONTACTS FOR 2023

Bury St Edmunds:

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

Haverhill:

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:
Old Independent Church Hall, Hamlet Road, Haverhill, CB9 9EF

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

Tel: 01440 712652

e-mail: haverhill@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Ipswich:

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month, at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:
The Salvation Army Citadel, 558 Woodbridge 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 – Preferred contact is by e-mail

Tel: N/A

e-mail: sudbury@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.

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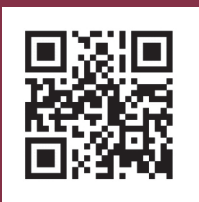
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