

# SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 49 : No. 3 : December 2023



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



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VOLUME 49 : NUMBER 3 : DECEMBER 2023



Suffolk Roots is published by Suffolk Family History Society

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### **Theme of this Issue**

***Where Did They Go?***

*Our Migrating Forebears*

### **Cover Picture**

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### **Suffolk Roots**

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# SUFFOLK ROOTS

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## TRUSTEES' MESSAGE



*Presentation of the Derek Palgrave Award to Jenny Rawlinson*

London Group. Patron **Doug Howlett** and I were able to present Jenny with her award at the Fair – see photo.

Unfortunately, since our last AGM, **Sue Flockton** has had to stand down as a Trustee. We thank her for her contribution. **Kevin Pulford** was co-opted during the year, and his position as a Trustee was formalised. **Ken Finch** stepped down as Treasurer but will stay on as Secretary and as a Trustee. **Carolyn Alderson** steps up from Assistant Treasurer to Treasurer.

The finances are in good shape, although challenges have been identified with the increasing postal and printing costs of *Suffolk Roots*. We are considering raising membership subscriptions, which we will propose at the next AGM for implementation the following membership year. Thank you to all who participated in this AGM either in person or by proxy.

We had good feedback from visitors, stallholders and presenters who attended our Fair at The Hold on 14 October. I spoke to several of you and know that some travelled quite some distance. Our thanks to those who completed the questionnaire – **Mick Farrow** won the £25 Amazon voucher. **Howard King** has produced a more detailed report on the Fair (see the following item), and thanks to Howard for organising this event again.

We have added three UK-based societies to the journal exchange scheme on our website: Waltham Forest, Berkshire and Shropshire. We have also added the Family History Federation's *Really Useful Bulletin* to the Resources page. The lead article for the October edition is '*Births, Marriages & Deaths in Scotland before 1855*'.

We depend heavily on volunteers. If there are gaps, it falls to the existing folks to fill them, which then means extra workload, thus slowing things down, and we then cannot do or offer all that we want to. If you can 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 or experience, 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.

I'll close by wishing you all the very best for the festive season, and a Happy New Year. Keep safe, keep warm (or for our Antipodean members, stay cool).

*Andy Kerridge, Chair*

*chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk*

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## REPORT ON THE SUFFOLK FHS FAIR

14 OCTOBER 2023

The Suffolk Family History Society Fair was held at The Hold (Suffolk Archives), on Ipswich waterfront. We invited other Societies and organisations in the region to participate and had responses from over 20, who set up stalls and displays – all aimed at helping Suffolk genealogists pursue their fascinating pastime.



*Stalls at the Suffolk Family History Society Fair*

As well as our own stall, we welcomed stalls from the

Family History Societies of areas that surround Suffolk – Essex, East of London, Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Alde Valley, and Felixstowe.

Organisations such as the Families in British India Society (FIBIS), the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA) and the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (IHGS) attended.

There were also more specific stalls run by The Martlesham Heath Aviation Society, the Bawdsey Radar Museum, the Ransome and Rapier Story, and **Brian Lott**, author of books on historical themes, the most recent of which is the story of an ancestor of his, **Willy Lott**, who owned the cottage depicted in **John Constable's** *The Hay Wain*.

Other stalls sold maps and vintage postcards – of particular interest to those researching their house’s history. We also had a representative of Ancestry, the genealogical search site.

In the Auditorium there were five talks from local organisations or well-known UK speakers:

- *Suffolk Archives and Ancestry*, including the latest information on the partnership with Ancestry for transcribing parish registers.
- *Beginning your Family History*, by Suffolk Archives’ **Judith Berry** – aimed at helping newcomers to the hobby.
- *Researching Huguenot and Walloon Ancestors* by **Sandra Robinson** – Walloons and Huguenots were Protestants who fled France and the Low Countries to avoid horrific persecution by the Catholic Church at various times from the 1560s to 1787. Many came to England and settled in East Anglia. A lot of people in this country think they have ancestors from this wave of refugees.
- *Researching Before Parish Registers* by **Ian Waller** – covering the period before about 1650.
- *How to Make the Most of DNA Testing* by **Peter Calver**, founder of LostCousins – Because of TV programmes on tracing ancestry through DNA test results, many have taken the leap only to find the results do not appear sensible or meaningful. This talk proved very popular.

Following the talks, short, informal workshops were held.

The event was very well attended, with the stalls being busy all day, some visitors coming long distances We have since received brilliant reviews, and look forward to staging our next Fair in 2024.

*Howard King*



### NEW MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 1 August and 31 October 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 #
Abbott	ANY	Any	All	12843
Adams	SFK	Baylham, Barham, Ipswich	1700-1960	12865
Aldous	SFK	Elvedon	1800-1840	12845
Allerton	SFK	Risby	1750-1850	12891
Anness	SFK	Hepworth	All	12873
Annis	SFK	Hepworth	All	12873
Archer	ANY	Any	All	12874
Arnold	SFK	Risby	1750-1850	12891
Arnold	SFK	Yoxford	1820/1900	12850
Avey	SFK	Stowlangtoft	Pre-1790	12887
Avey	SFK	Ixworth	Pre-1830	12887
Avey	SFK	Bury St Edmunds	Pre-1850	12887
Baalham	SFK	Cosford Hundred	19th C	12892
Balls	SFK	Beccles	All	12866
Banyard	SFK	Any	All	12852
Banyard	SFK	Any	All	12855
Barnard	SFK	Cotton, Creeting	1700 on	12876
Barnes	SFK	Redlingfield	Pre-1760s	12893
Barnes	SFK	Market Weston	Pre-1850	12873
Bass	SFK	Creeting	1800s	12898
Bates	SFK	Blaxhall	Pre-1880	12854
Beard	ANY	Any	1500-1850	12868
Bedford	ANY	Any	All	12843
Benstead	SFK	Southwold	All	12846
Berry	SFK	Wickham Skeith	All	12851
Bigsby	SFK	Creeting	1700 on	12876
Boar	ANY	Any	All	12861
Boon	SFK	Any	All	12852
Bore	ANY	Any	All	12861
Botwright	SFK	Lowestoft	All	12858
Bowers	SFK	Any	All	12855
Brackett	SFK	Sudbury	17th & 18th C	12897
Bridges	SFK	Redgrave	1700s	12897
Buckenham	SFK	Burgh	1750-1860s	12889
Buckman	SFK	Grundisburgh	1750-1860s	12889
Bunn	ANY	Any	All	12874
Burgess	SFK	Ipswich	1800s	12898
Cable	NFK	Any	All	12895
Clarke	SFK	Any	All	12852
Clover	SFK	Battisford, Willisham	1770-1860	12881
Clow	SFK	Burgh, Clopton	1750-1860s	12889
Clow	SFK	Framlingham	1800s	12894
Collins	SFK	Hollesley	All	12901
Cook	SFK	Kenton, Rickinghall	Pre-1700s	12893
Cooper	SFK	Cotton	1700 on	12876
Cooper	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1980	12842
Creasy	SFK	Southolt, Framsdon	Pre-1760s	12893
Daniels	SFK	Any	All	12895
Davy	ANY	Any	All	12874
Denny	ANY	Any	All	12874
Deston		Elsinore (Denmark)	All	12877
Deston	SFK	Lowestoft, Corton	All	12877
Deston	LND	Wapping	All	12877
Diston		Elsinore (Denmark)	All	12877
Diston	SFK	Lowestoft, Corton	All	12877
Diston	LND	Wapping	All	12877
Dorling	SFK	Haughley	All	12846
Draper	SFK	Norfolk borders	Pre-1800	12879
Easey	SFK	Uggeshall, Reydon, Hoxne	1763-1865	12896

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Cnty</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Member #</b>
Edwards	SFK	Darsham, Halesworth	1600-1950	12885
Feveryear	SFK	Stradbroke	1600s	12893
Filby	SFK	Cotton	1700 on	12876
Fincham	SFK	Mildenhall	All	12883
Fletcher	SFK	Middleton	Pre-1850	12879
Freeman	ANY	Any	1750-1850	12853
Friend	SFK	Any	19th C	12849
Gant	SFK	Groton	All	12867
Gardiner	SFK	Any	All	12852
Gardiner	SFK	Cosford Hundred	Pre-19th C	12892
Garneys	ANY	Any	1750-1850	12853
Garnham	ANY	Any	All	12874
Garrod	ANY	Any	All	12875
Garwood	ANY	Any	1850-1900	12864
Gibson	SFK	Laxfield, Hoxne	1792-1867	12896
Gill	SFK	Dallinghoo	1066 on	12899
Gissing	SFK	Wickham Skeith, Cotton, Bacton	1700-1830	12862
Goldsmith	SFK	Southwold	All	12846
Goodwind	ANY	Any	All	12900
Goody	SFK	Glemsford, Stanstead	All	12844
Green	SFK	Westleton, Middleton with Fordley, Blything Hundred	1600-1880	12847
Griggs	SFK	Assington	1850-1880	12864
Griggs	SFK	Hartest	1850-1900	12864
Harding	SFK	Risby	1750-1850	12891
Hart	SFK	Cotton	All	12871
Hart	SFK	Haughley	All	12846
Hart	SFK	Stanton	Pre-1900	12873
Harvey	ANY	Any	All	12843
Harvey	SFK	Lowestoft	All	12858
Hatch	SFK	Cosford Hundred	19th C	12892
Hawes	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1950	12842
Hazelton	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1960	12842
Horne	SFK	Southwold	All	12846
Hynard	SFK	Hadleigh	All	12856
Jarrard	SFK	Battisford	1770-1860	12881
Jarvis	SFK	Any	1800s	12898
Jeffries	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1930	12842
Jennings	ANY	Any	1500-1800	12868
Johnson	SFK	Leiston	All	12847
King	SFK	Sudbury	19th C	12892
Kitson	SFK	Debach, Charsfield	Pre-1870	12901
Knights	NFK	Any	All	12895
Knights	SFK	Any	All	12895
Lambert	SFK	Framlingham	All	12869
Lewis	SFK	Any	All	12875
Ling	SFK	Blaxhall	All	12901
Lock	SFK	Ipswich	1860-1960	12865
Lomax	ANY	Bury St Edmunds	All	12857
Lumkin	SFK	Theberton, Blything Hundred	All	12847
Lynn	SFK	Ipswich	1840-1860	12881
Manning	SFK	Hadleigh	All	12856
Martin	SFK	Sudbury	17th & 18th C	12897
Miller	SFK	Old Newton	1788-1860	12871
Mobbs	SFK	Wingfield	Pre-1700s	12893
Moulton	ANY	Any	1750-1850	12853
Mutimer	ANY	Any	All	12869
Naunton	SFK	Any	All	12854
Newman	SFK	Any	19th C	12849



<b>Surname</b>	<b>Cnty</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Member #</b>
Newson	SFK	Wrentham, Theberton	All	12847
Page	ANY	Any	All	12843
Palmer	SFK	Trimley St Martin, Ipswich	All	12865
Partridge	SFK	Cosford Hundred	19th C	12892
Partridge	BDF	Any	All	12863
Passivill	ANY	Any	All	12877
Peddar	SFK	Beyton	All	12859
Peddar	SFK	Harleston	All	12859
Peddar	SFK	Higham-Gazeley	All	12859
Peddar	SFK	Shelland	All	12859
Phiby	SFK	Cotton	1700 on	12876
Pipe	SFK	Any	All	12895
Potkins	SFK	Laxfield	1780-1840	12845
Potkins	SFK	Any	All	12852
Pyman	ANY	Any	1500-1750	12868
Quinton	ANY	Any	1500-1850	12868
Ranner	SFK	Risby	1750-1850	12891
Rannow	SFK	Risby	1750-1850	12891
Rayner	SFK	Risby	1750-1850	12891
Reed	SFK	Needham Market	1500-1800	12868
Reeve	ANY	Any	All	12874
Reeve	SFK	Ipswich	All	12849
Rice	SFK	Groton	All	12867
Rice	SFK	Stowlangtoft	Pre-1790	12887
Richer	SFK	Old Newton	All	12871
Riches	SFK	Fressingfield	All	12886
Riches	SFK	Ipswich	All	12849
Root	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1900	12842
Sawyer	SFK	Leiston, Theberton	All	12847
Sawyer	SFK	Martlesham, Melton, Earl Soham	All	12860
Scarfe	SFK	Stowmarket	All	12846
Scarff	SFK	Stowmarket	All	12846
Seager	SFK	Hadleigh	All	12856
Seeley	SFK	Hundon	All	12867
Seggar	SFK	Hadleigh	All	12856
Sewell	ANY	Any	1750-1850	12853
Sharman	SFK	Haughley	All	12878
Smith	SFK	Any	1800-1999	12872
Sporle	SFK	Ipswich	All	12865
Spurgeon	ANY	Any	19th & 20th C	12892
Squirrel	ANY	Any	All	12843
Stiles	SFK	Thrandeston	1700s	12897
Street	SFK	Claydon, Rickinghall	1800s	12894
Styles	SFK	Thrandeston	1700s	12897
Surry	ANY	Any	All	12843
Symonds	SFK	Lt Glemham	Pre-1800s	12893
Syrett	SFK	Stowmarket	1800 on	12899
Taylor	SFK	Ipswich	All	12865
Thurston	SFK	Ipswich	1800 on	12884
Todd	SFK	Theberton	All	12847
Tradescant	ANY	Any	All	12877
Tradeston	ANY	Any	All	12877
Treluscant	ANY	Any	All	12877
Turner	SFK	Hundon	All	12867
Turner	SFK	Old Newton	All	12871
Tyrell	SFK	Beccles	All	12866
Vincent	SFK	Higham	All	12878
Vinson	SFK	Higham	All	12878



Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Waller	SFK	Sutton	1700 on	12854
Warnes	SFK	Horham	All	12878
Watling	SFK	Hoxne Hundred	1440 on	12878
Watson	SFK	Any	All	12895
Webb	SFK	Any	All	12852
Webb	SFK	Beccles	All	12866
Webb	SFK	Stowmarket	All	12886
Webb	SFK	Bury St Edmunds	Pre-1850	12887
Wells	ANY	Any	1500-1800	12868
West	SFK	Suffolk/Norfolk border	1756-1800	12880
West	NFK	Suffolk/Norfolk border	1756-1800	12880
Whatling	SFK	Hoxne Hundred	1440 on	12878
Whatling	SFK	Ipswich	1750-1900	12842
White	ANY	Any	All	12866
Wightman	SFK	Saxtead, Framlingham	All	12860
Wilkinson	SFK	Ipswich	1900-1960	12865
Woods	SFK	Stratford St Mary	All	12886
Wright	SFK	Lowestoft	1800-1900	12898
Wright	SFK	Ipswich	1880s	12898

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## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since my previous article in June's *Roots*, I'm pleased to report that we have had over 100 new members joining the Society. Of those, over 60 have taken advantage of electronic membership (journal downloaded via the website), representing approximately 60% of new memberships. Indeed, many of you are now renewing as electronic subscribers. This is bound to save the Society a significant amount in postage and printing costs, so thank you.

The membership application and renewal forms have been revised this year to reflect the amended subscription categories (for which see p. 284 below). Payment of new or renewed subscriptions is preferred through the online shop, but cheques are still acceptable. Alternatively, subscriptions may be paid via Parish Chest (<https://tinyurl.com/y2tw3ecb>). For those members paying by standing order, please check that your bank is deducting the correct amount, particularly if you took out a subscription many years ago. We will be offering a direct debit facility very soon, where amounts to be debited will be amended automatically as necessary. This will take effect from the 2024 membership year.

Finally, we are working hard to offer more facilities and also to simplify procedures on the website. Regular Zoom meetings with Joe, our Californian webmaster, have produced some positive results in recent months. To that end, if members experience any problems or difficulties in using the website, please get in touch with me or the Chair as we can usually sort these out fairly quickly.

*David Horton, Membership Secretary*

## BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

We are pleased to bring you news of a much-anticipated phase 3 deanery area, which we hope will have been released by the time you read this. For good measure, we've also made progress transcribing another deanery area, now completed, so one or both may be that perfect Christmas present, perhaps? We've also more gleanings from the registers, all adding some 'colour' to our ancestors' lives and times.

### New release

Hartismere is our latest phase 3 (1650-1753) deanery area, covering 32 parishes to the west of Eye, along the Norfolk border to Redgrave and stretching down to Bacton and Wetheringsett in the south.

### Suffolk Baptism Index

#### Hartismere Deanery

1650\* - 1753\*

Aspall, Bacton, Braiseworth (1709-),  
Brome, Burgate, Cotton (-1754),  
Eye, Finningham, Gislingham, Mellis,  
Mendlesham, Oakley, Occold (1681-),  
Palgrave, Redgrave (1654-), Redlingfield (1739-)  
Rickinghall Superior, Rishangles,  
Stoke Ash, Stuston, Thorndon,  
Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva (1711-),  
Thrandeston, Thwaite (1710-), Westhorpe,  
Wetheringsett cum Brockford,  
Wickham Skeith, Wortham,  
Wyverstone, Yaxley (1684-).



SFK-BPI-10/P3

PDF



We are able to bring you this thanks to our team of dedicated transcribers working from home, and I would like to dedicate this CD to two particular members of that team, both stalwarts of the Society, who contributed so much over the years but sadly have now passed away.

**Les Button** helped with transcribing on a number of projects, stretching as far back as the 1851 census, and including the Burial Index and finally the Baptism Index. He was for many years a keen member of his local Bury Group and also supported other groups, visiting Haverhill, as I recall, for our events,

such as the Remembrance Festival in 2011. He was kind and considerate and willing to help others where he could, for instance using his strong ties to the Wesleyan Church to access their records.

**Enid Rispin** also worked on a number of Society projects, helping **Ann Youngs** prepare many of the Society's MI files, then helping index them all for members to access online, before starting with the Baptism Index. Enid helped with many, many parishes over the years, and latterly worked closely with Les on inputting, and then checking transcripts which he'd forwarded. Enid was a regular visitor to the Society stand at her local York Family History Fair, and others too, including the NEC Birmingham and of course our own Fair. She was well known to many of us and a very lovely lady, who was always keen to repay the help provided by others, through earlier transcripts, in tracing her own 'roots'.

The other helpers making up the team were:

**Jenny Acott**

**Jan Broderick**

**Pauline Campos**

**Nicky Lewis**

**Mike Newstead**

**Ros Theobald**

CDs and downloads are available from our online shop at <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/shop/index.php/> and CDs from our Publications Manager, **Jean Licence**, 60 Oldfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3SE. Cheques payable to SFHS Publications Ltd.

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

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

### Progress

Our **Bury team** have now transcribed all parishes in Sudbury East deanery, their final phase 3 deanery area, with checking well underway.

Preparations are now being made for their first phase 4 deanery area, and more will be revealed in a future News.

Our **Ipswich team** have just completed Loes & Orford phase 3 deanery area and work is about to start on compiling a CD/download, so keep an eye on the website or Newsletter for the latest news.

Transcribing is continuing on the large Dunwich deanery, their final phase 3 area, with three parishes – Benacre, Blyford and Bramfield – already completed and available from our Baptism Search Service.

Our **Home team** are progressing with South Elmham & Wangford phase 3 deanery area and also a phase 4 deanery area.

We've welcome news that a new member has joined the team, but we've still room for others too! Do please get in touch if you want to know more.

### Gleanings

And now those quirky entries, some of which may raise a smile but others may not.

Our thanks to **Diane Kirby**, team leader at Ipswich, for this most unusual bit of additional information in the Linstead Magna baptism register:

*'Samuel the son of Robert WALEY for which was hanged at St Edmunds Bury the last Assize, was baptised 6th Sep 1724'*

Grammar was clearly not their thing – it reads most strange, but that’s how it’s written. And some weird and wonderful spellings at Lindsey, thanks to Nicky Lewis, with by far the best version of ‘Rebecca’ to date, a good match for her husband’s name – just imagine it spoken with a good old Suffolk accent:

*‘Bridgett dau Samuill & Rebearkath WILLIS baptised 5 Jan 1718’*

Also at Lindsey, ‘*pb being in danger of death*’, or similar, was found alongside almost a third of the baptism entries in the years 1731-1735 and again in 1749-1753. Whatever do you imagine the poor village folk were subjected to back then?

Finally, our thanks to **Christine Palmer**, team leader at Bury, for this entry in the Bures register:

*‘Susanna base born dau of Mary FREEBORN baptised 15 Mar 1694’*

Here’s wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year!

**Alan Bumpstead**

*Baptism Index Co-ordinator*

*baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk*

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## NEW MARRIAGE INDEX RELEASE

### Suffolk Marriage Index Bosmere & Claydon Deaneries 1538\* - 1650\*



Akenham (1538-), Ashbocking (1555-), Badley (1598-), Barham (1563-), Barking (1562-), Blakenham Gt (1549-), Bramford (1553-), Bricett Gt (1592-), Claydon (1560-), Coddenham (1543-), Debenham (1559-1641), Flowton (1578-1641), Framsden (1560-1633), Gosbeck (1562-), Helmingham (1559-), Hemingstone (1556-1643), Henley (1559-), Mickfield (1558-), Nettlestead (1625-1640), Offton (1564-), Ringshall (1539-), Stonham Aspal (1558-), Stonham Lt (1542-1646), Westerfield (1538-1641), Whitton (1600-1644), Winston (1559-1642).



SFK-MI-40  
PDF

A first for us, and so we are especially pleased to be bringing you a phase 4 (1538-1650) deanery area release, going back to the start of the earliest surviving registers and offering those of you with deep Suffolk roots the chance to explore your family names potentially another 100 years into the past.

This latest release is for the combined deaneries of Bosmere & Claydon and covers 26 parishes, amazingly almost all of which have registers going back to the 1500s. Located in the middle of the county, it borders

Stowmarket to the west and Ipswich to the south-east and edges towards Framlingham in the north-east.

This is the culmination of much dedicated work, and our thanks again to all those members of the Society who have been 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 from our Search Service – see the back of the journal for details. We continue our progress on two other deanery areas, Sudbury East and Hartismere, and hope to bring you more news soon, so keep watching the website or subscribe to the Newsletter perhaps?

*Pamela Palgrave*  
*Marriages Index Co-ordinator*

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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

We were very pleased to receive so many interesting submissions for the ‘Where Did They Go’ theme, so much so that we have extended it to this current edition, where, we hope you’ll agree, we have another excellent set of contributions. We seem to have had a lot of ancestors who for one reason or another felt the need to move away, whether to other parts of this country or further afield. In the following pages you will find migrations for economic reasons, or due to the temptations of migration schemes, transportation, migration for love, and members seeking help to understand the reason for their forebear’s migration. Offering a slightly different take on the theme, there is also a piece on the migration of a surname through different forms over time.

In the March 2024 edition of *Roots*, our theme will be ‘I’ll Drop You a Line’, looking at how we communicated with each other in the past – current technologies would surely be deemed to be in the realm of fantasy by even recent ancestors. We already have a couple of contributions, and look forward to receiving more. Ideas for this theme may be found later in this journal; and of course, we welcome articles on any Suffolk-related or family history research topic – you don’t have to wait for a theme.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

*Lesley Hall and Rob Ward*  
*Co-Editors, Suffolk Roots*





was uneducated and a day labourer. I cannot find a baptism for him in the Society's Hoxne Baptisms Index or Suffolk Baptism Index.<sup>(1)</sup> The marriage certificate says they were married by banns, and both were single. Charles signed with a mark and Elizabeth signed her name. The marriage was witnessed by **Samuel Ward**, who also signed his name, and **Joseph Hawes** who signed with a mark. Although the Hoxne Baptisms Index hinted at possibilities for these two, so far I have been unable to connect them to Charles or Elizabeth.

However, the Hoxne Index did provide a possibility for Charles's parentage. A **Francis Read**, son of **John** and **Sarah Read** (late **Oby**), was born and baptised on 7 November 1810 at St Mary's, Horham. I tried to look for Sarah's surname in my DNA matches and do some research on her, and initially I was unsuccessful. One reason was the pronunciation and spelling of her surname – as a result, I put this 'AKA' in my family tree: *'Wo(r)by, Wob(e)y, Ob(e)y, E's instead of Y's and occasionally an H in front of the O; probably originally from Warboys/Warboyce'*. Thus, after figuring out that this surname had huge variations, I now believe I can place Charles with this family.

The 1841 census for Horham lists a John Read, aged 60 ('Ag Lab') and Sarah (55). Children listed with them were **John** (15), **Emma** (15), **David** (11) and **Maria** (6), all born in Suffolk. Also near them is **Thomas Read** and his wife **Sarah** (both 30), with daughters **Maryann** (8) and **Sarah** (4); and **James Read** (35), wife **Maria** (30) and daughter **Eliza** (9). All were agricultural labourers, and Thomas and James could be older sons of John and Sarah.

A further search of Suffolk records produced a marriage for a John Rede and Sarah Woby in Burgh, Suffolk in 1805, witnessed by a **Francis Woby**. In addition, Suffolk Archives hold a settlement certificate for John Read in Horham in 1806, and a removal order from Hacheson, Suffolk, back to Horham in 1808. The removal order mentions both his wife, Sarah, and a son, James. James would be the right age to be the James in the 1841 census.

Baptismal records for that deanery did not provide further children's names for John and Sarah, but going back to the Hoxne Deanery, two more children were found for a John and Sarah (no maiden name mentioned) Read: **Susan** (b. 1813) and **Mary Ann** (b. 1814). In addition, although not in any baptismal transcriptions, Thomas, in the 1841 census, would fit in nicely, being born in 1811, and my Charles would fit perfectly as the next-born child, in about 1815.

There is, however, a large gap of about 10 years between the birth of Charles in 1815 and the 15-year-old John on the 1841 census. I propose one of four things occurred:

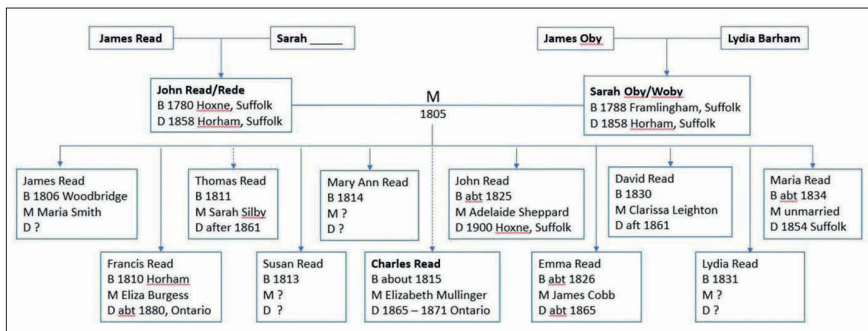
- Sarah didn't bear children during that 10-year period
- She had children and subsequently lost them
- She had children not recorded as being baptised who left the family unit before the 1841 census
- Sarah Oby/Woby Read passed away and John married another Sarah during that gap.



I've not yet found any proof of more children, children that died, or another marriage, but I did find the baptism of a Sarah Oby, in 1788, in Framlingham. This is significant because it is the village recorded as Sarah Read's place of birth on the 1851 census. This connects both Sarah Reads as being Sarah Oby/Woby from Framlingham. Because of this, I am presently considering all the known children to be children of John and Sarah Oby/Woby, and not John and another wife named Sarah. Are there missing children born during that 10-year period? That remains to be determined.

As for the parents of John and Sarah, John's parents could be **James** and **Sarah Read**, whose son John was baptised in Hoxne on 18 January 1780. On the 1851 census, John's place of birth is given as Horham, which is close to Hoxne. Sarah Oby/Woby is probably the daughter of **James** and **Lydia (née Barham) Oby/Obee** of Framlingham. It is their daughter, Sarah, who was baptised 9 November 1788. This line may possibly go back to Herefordshire, where the surname is also seen spelled **Worby**, **Warby** and possibly even **Warboys/Warboyce**, but more research is needed to confirm that.

Currently, John and Sarah's reconstructed family looks like this, and I have so far found DNA matches to descendants of Francis and of David:



## The Mullinger family

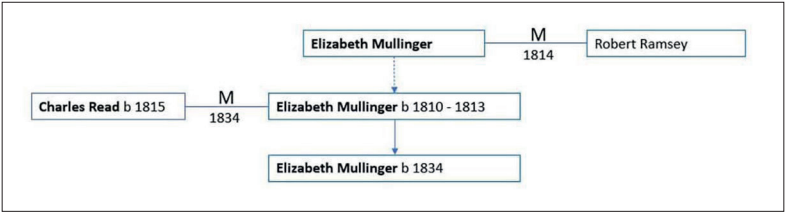
As for Charles's wife, Elizabeth Mullinger, her birth is estimated as being between 1810-1813, making her a few years older than Charles. I have a couple of DNA matches that descend from **Nathaniel Mullinger** and **Martha Catchpole**, so that lineage is a possible connection. Although I have been unable to place her as the daughter of any Mullinger couples in Suffolk or Norfolk at this time, there are two illegitimate Elizabeths born in the right time frame and area to be Charles's wife. One, Elizabeth Mullinger, was born in Finningham, Suffolk on 10 March 1813 and baptised 10 days later in St Bartholomew's, the parish church. Her mother was also **Elizabeth**. The other potential candidate is **Elizabeth Mulliner**, who was born on 22 February 1810 in Wingfield, Suffolk, and was baptised on 1 April 1810 at St Andrew's. Her mother was an **Elizabeth** too.

Finningham is 12½ miles east and Wingfield only 6½ miles north of Horham, so I feel there is a reasonable possibility that one of these Elizabeths is Charles Read's wife, Elizabeth.

Also, her mother could be the Elizabeth who married **Robert Ramsey** in Diss, Norfolk, on 2 October 1814. Diss is only 11 miles north-east of Horham. The reason for considering this marriage to Robert Ramsey is that for years I had Ramsey as Charles’s wife’s maiden name, and that led me through many fruitless searches. Then, a few years ago, I found a certificate for their daughter **Mary Ann**’s marriage, which happened very late in life. On that certificate Mary Ann identifies her mother’s maiden name as Mullinger, which was then unknown to the living family. That began to open doors – the first leading to Charles and Elizabeth’s marriage. I had been unable to find a Read/Ramsey marriage, but had no problem finding Charles’s marriage to Elizabeth Mullinger in Horham. The question then arose as to whether Elizabeth could have been born a Mullinger but raised as a Ramsey? When I found the marriage of Robert Ramsey to an Elizabeth Mullinger in Diss in 1814, the theory took hold. They had four known children, but I haven’t yet traced them down to living descendants. Charles’s wife could be an unknown older half-sister.

Twenty years later, an ‘Elizabeth Mullenger’ gave birth in Horham to a ‘spurious’ daughter, **Elizabeth**, who was baptised on 20 July 1834. Three months later my Charles Read married an Elizabeth Mullinger, also in Horham. She is possibly the Elizabeth Mullinger who had just given birth and who is also the daughter of the Elizabeth who possibly married Robert Ramsey in Diss. As these towns are in close proximity, all of this is possible. It is speculation, but the pieces are fitting together, and I haven’t been able to disprove the theory thus far.

There are so many Elizabeths in this line, and most illegitimate, that it’s hard to tell the story, so I created a sketch to help identify all of them thus far – as there are more to come:



**Emigration to Canada**

Jobs were few in East Anglia in the 1830s and many unskilled labourers ended up on the Poor Law rolls. In her book *Ignored but Not Forgotten, Canada’s English Immigrants*,<sup>(2)</sup> **Lucille H. Campey** describes how the introduction of the combine harvester in the 1830s proved disastrous for agricultural workers, thousands of whom became superfluous. To help alleviate this problem, many schemes were offered to move unemployed workers out of East Anglia. As a result of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, an opportunity emerged to emigrate from England and, hopefully, to better prospects in Canada. Charles and his family took advantage of this and left Suffolk to sail to Canada in July 1836.

**Peter Higginbottom's** article on pauper emigration<sup>(3)</sup> asserts that the Poor Law Commissioners could sanction emigration of any of the poor that a parish would agree to fund. In 1836, 5,241 were funded and about 75% of those were from Norfolk and Suffolk. Charles and his family must have been in that group and, if so, were part of the largest emigration ever from England to any of the colonies. From Suffolk there were 787 emigrants at a total cost of £4,198, so about £5.33 per person or £21.33 for a family of four, about £2,350 (US \$2,995) in today's money.<sup>(4)</sup>

A list of the passengers on board Charles's ship was transcribed by **Tony Benton** in the *Brant County Branch Newsletter* (Ontario Genealogical Society),<sup>(5)</sup> which I purchased, and found the following passengers: 'Rade, Charles 21, Elizabeth 25, Elizabeth 2, **Emma** (infant)'.

I believe this is my family because Emma is my 2x great-grandmother and Elizabeth, aged 2, could be the child born to Elizabeth Mullinger just prior to her marriage to Charles in 1834. Also, 'Rade' could very easily be a transposition of 'Read'.

The ship sailed on 20 July 1836, but it was unnamed on the transcript. Since it's about a six-week voyage from Suffolk, they should have arrived in Canada at the end of August or the beginning of September. Lucille Campey's book *Seeking a Better Future: The English Pioneers of Ontario and Quebec*<sup>(6)</sup> states that only two ships set sail from East Anglia bound for Canada during those months. One was a brig named the *Mary Stewart*, that arrived in August with 140 passengers, and the other was the *Indemnity*, a brig that sailed from Yarmouth and arrived in Canada in September with 178 passengers. It is probable that the Reads were on one of these two ships. There are several places in Canada where they could have disembarked, but Campey does not say where the *Mary Stewart* or the *Indemnity* landed.

These parish-funded schemes brought thousands of paupers to Canada, mostly from Norfolk and Suffolk, Sussex, Wiltshire, Somerset and Surrey. The majority went into Upper Canada, but a large number, mainly from Norfolk and Suffolk (about 1,400, according to the *Quebec Gazette* of 8 July 1836), settled in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada.<sup>(7)</sup>

On the same ship's list where Charles Rade and family were found, is a Francis Rade (26), Eliza (24), **Charles** (3) and **Phebe** (1). Francis Rade's wife was **Elizabeth Burgess** and they came from Stradbroke (less than two miles from Horham). This was the first time I had had any hints of family for Charles, so as I did my research for his family, I also looked for a brother, Francis. When I found the baptism record for Francis to John and Sarah (Oby) Read, it made sense that this was probably the same person. The age noted on the passenger list for Francis fits with that baptism record. My brother and I have a few DNA matches to Francis's family group and we have been in touch with one member so far.

The actual experiences on ship for these families are not recorded, but as they were Poor Law emigrants, they were probably in the worst areas of the ship, crammed together with other passengers, on rations for food and dealing with easily spread illnesses. However, both families made it across the ocean and arrived in Canada. I have been able to locate and research Charles Read and his family in Augusta Township ('Twp'), Grenville, Ontario, but at this point I lose connection with Francis's family until 1851, when he appears on a census for Uxbridge, Ontario, 120 miles from where Charles settled with his family. By this time Francis and family are using the spelling 'Reid' for their surname.

## Reads in Canada

It is not known where Charles and his family originally settled after disembarking in Canada. If they were part of the group in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, they could have become disheartened and moved on to Upper Canada, or they could have gone directly to Upper Canada, but either way, they had made their way to Augusta Twp in Grenville County, Upper Canada by 1839, as he shows up there on a census that year. The family member count on that census sheet was 1 male >16, 1 female >16, and 1 female <16. Only one female <16 implies that little Elizabeth, born to Elizabeth Mullinger in 1834, is now deceased, as Emma does grow to adulthood. How or why little Elizabeth died we'll probably never know.

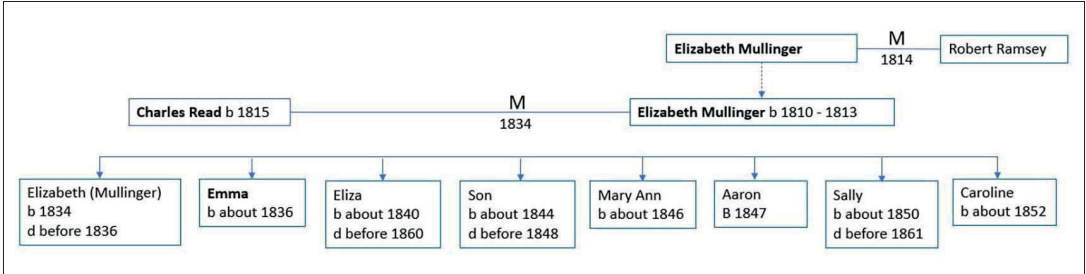
A couple more census and tax lists from the period 1839-61 help to define this family further. There was a son who appears on these records but disappears before the 1851 census, his name unknown. In the 1851 census, **Sally** (2) appears, listed with her parents Charles and Elizabeth (noted as Betsy), and siblings 11-year-old **Eliza** (probably named for her sister who passed away as a child), Emmeline (Emma) (17), **Mary Ann** (7) and **Aaron B.** (4). In 1861, Sally is gone but **Caroline** appears. The ages shown for 1851 and 1861 made me consider whether they were the same child, but an intense look at all the censuses for Caroline through to 1911 have convinced me that they are two separate children and that Sally passed away before 1861.

By 1861, Charles and family are settled near South Augusta, Augusta Twp, on his own land, Concession 8, lot 33. The family names on that census change slightly. With Charles and Elizabeth are listed Emma, Mary Ann, Aaron and Caroline. Eliza is absent. Some online trees have her as the **Eliza Read** who married **John Dowsley**, but investigations into this couple show that this Eliza's parents are **Robert Read** and **Agnes Currie**. No other marriage record has been found for her, so she was probably deceased, or perhaps her marriage was not recorded on available registers, though she is not mentioned in Charles's will and the other children are.

In addition, on that same 1861 census, two notations appear on Emma's line, namely tick marks by '*Lunatic*' and '*Unable to read or write*'. There was nothing on the 1851 census about these conditions. What happened to Emma? Could she have suffered

the after-effects of an illness, like scarlet fever? Did she have an accident and incur a closed head injury? Or did she have a disability from birth that up to now had not been recorded? Crossing the Atlantic as a suckling infant may have had an effect. Like so much else, the true story is probably lost in the mists of time.

As of 1861, the Charles and Elizabeth (Mullinger) Read family looks like this, with four children deceased:



The 1871 census is interesting. The only family members listed are Elizabeth, the mother, and Emma, but also appearing is another **Elizabeth** (3). Elizabeth, the mother, is recorded as a widow, so Charles must have passed away prior to 1871. By this time, Mary Ann is married to **Abraham Cummings** and living in Brockville, Leeds County, Ontario. Aaron is in Ogle County, Illinois in the United States, where he went around 1866 with the **Barden** family. In 1868 he married their daughter, **Susanna Barden**. Over the years this couple had several children and I have been in contact with their descendants. Caroline is not recorded on a census in 1871, but the next year, 1872, she married **Frederick Charles Murray**. Her marriage certificate states she was living in Gananoque, Ontario, at the time. Perhaps she was working in the area. However, there are two huge questions from this census that need clarifying. What happened to Charles, and who is the young Elizabeth?

Charles’s will is the most recent discovery I’ve made on this family in Ontario. It was at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where I was told that Ontario wills are often found in land records, as they often distribute land.

Charles wrote his will in 1865. He says he is of sound mind and memory, but does not identify whether he is ill. A death record has not been found for him, so although he was dead by 1871, he may have been leaving the area to travel, perhaps with son Aaron to scout out whether to bring the rest of the family to the United States; to go back to England for some family business; or perhaps to work somewhere other than his farm. Lumbering offered big opportunities in the north of Ontario, that could have attracted him. Alternatively, he could have been sick at the time of writing the will and died soon after. Without a death record, it is hard to tell. However, as the will was written about the same time as Aaron left for the United States, it is plausible Charles could have gone with the group and died somewhere on the way there or back.



As for the young Elizabeth, her mother was Emma who was recorded as a *'lunatic'* in 1861 and as *'of unsound mind'* in 1871, indicating that her condition continued. The father of the young Elizabeth could have been someone hired by Emma's mother, Elizabeth, to help her on the farm, or who lived nearby and somehow took advantage. Whatever the circumstances, without this event my family would not be here, and for that I am grateful. DNA has helped to identify a pool of surnames in the area that could be the father's, but his identity may always be a conundrum and another empty line on my pedigree chart.

By 1881, young Elizabeth is no longer in Augusta Twp with her mother and grandmother. Aged 13, she is living in Brockville, Leeds County, Ontario, with her aunt Mary Ann (née Read) and uncle Abraham Cummings. She was taken in by them sometime between 1871 and 1881, possibly to remove her from the situation of her mother's condition and her illegitimate birth. Everyone in South Augusta, where they lived, would have known of the situation. A fresh life in Brockville would afford young Elizabeth an education and the opportunity to find a husband.



*Elizabeth Read, with possibly  
Emma, Caroline and Elizabeth  
(Charles's wife) Read*

This picture is of young Elizabeth, surrounded by four women, three of whom look similar and I believe to be Emma, Caroline, and Elizabeth (Charles's wife). I'm not sure of the fourth person, but she seems to be offering a comforting hand to the shoulders of the lady who I think is Emma – it could be someone who helps with her at the house. As young Elizabeth looks to be about 12, the picture may have been taken as a remembrance of the family group prior to her moving to Brockville. The four women are all holding sewing implements – one appears to be sewing a button, young Elizabeth is holding a crochet hook, one has an embroidery hoop, and one has a tape measure around her neck. It tells me they either enjoyed using their hands in this way or they took in sewing to help with household expenses. It gives a personal insight into them.

In 1881, Emma is still living with her mother, Elizabeth, in South Augusta, next door to sister Caroline Murray and her two boys, **Charles** and **George**. Caroline's husband is living in Brockville with Abraham and Mary Ann Cummings and young Elizabeth. According to that census Abraham is working as a baker, as is Frederick Murray, Caroline's husband, so perhaps Frederick is there to learn the trade.

In 1887 Charles's wife, Elizabeth, dies of apoplexy. Although Charles's will leaves his property to his son, Aaron is required to provide a safe and loving home for Emma after his mother's death. By 1891 Emma is living with another family as a boarder. This was the **Pierce Baldwin** family, who had lived near to them over the census years and were probably very familiar with Emma and her condition. Perhaps she was placed there where all felt she could be comfortable for the rest of her life. Emma's death is not recorded, but she probably passed away between 1891 and 1901, as she does not show up anywhere on census records in 1901 and she is not with the Baldwins. No burial is recorded either.

Caroline's husband, Frederick Murray, passed away sometime between 1881 and 1897, when she married a much younger man (by 17 years), **FitzWilliam Edward Henry Comyn**. He was a recent immigrant from England, and how they met or why they married is unknown. Their marriage certificate states they were the same age, 34, but by this time Caroline was around 44 and he was 27. It's not until the 1911 census that their actual ages become apparent. They stayed married until her death, which happened between the 1911 census and his marriage to Esther Campbell in 1919. Neither Caroline's death certificate nor her burial place has been found. I've always wondered why these two ended up together with such an age difference – another mystery! However, her two sons with Frederick Murray married and have descendants with whom I've also had contact. It's interesting how Caroline and William played with their ages. It seems to be a tactic often used in my grandmother's family. No one knew how old my grandmother really was until after she passed away.

Mary Ann and Abraham Cummings never had children of their own. As well as 'adopting' young Elizabeth, they also adopted an infant who they named Delbert. **Delbert** grew to adulthood, married **Jane Ross** and had a child, but both he and the child died in the early 1900s, so that line has no descendants.



*Mary Ann and Abraham Cummings*

Young Elizabeth, Emma's daughter, married **John Truman Stoliker** in 1888 in

Brockville. The original marriage certificate, signed by the minister, identifies her mother's name as Emma Read and her father as unknown. This Elizabeth was my great-grandmother, and the circumstances of her birth and her mother's condition





*Young Elizabeth Read, aged c. 16*

were probably what my grandmother was trying to keep hidden. Living with the reputable Cummings family in Brockville was a good way for young Elizabeth to become respectable in the eyes of others.

Elizabeth and John Stoliker had three children who survived, **Myrtle, Blanche** (called Yvonne or Babe) and **Edward**. They all came to Michigan, USA, in 1917 so that Edward could attend the University of Michigan Dental School in Ann Arbor. While there, my great-aunt Myrtle met and married **Frank Horn** from Windsor, Ontario, and my grandmother, Yvonne, met and married my grandfather **John C. Porter**. Edward never married. Our family is still in Michigan.

So, back to my grandmother's tale. She told me that her mother (young Elizabeth) was born in Gananoque, her mother died in childbirth, her father died when a tree fell on him, she was raised by Aunt and Uncle Cummings, the family was from Kent, England, and her mother was heir to a will made in England, but was unable to afford to go back to claim it. However, her mother, young Elizabeth, was actually born in Augusta Twp, Ontario, and was illegitimate; her grandmother, Emma, didn't die in childbirth but had a mental disability; her grandfather is actually unknown (though he could have been a Charles who died when a tree fell on him, as the circumstances of his death are yet to be discovered); young Elizabeth didn't go to live with the Cummings until she was a young teen; the family was from Suffolk, not Kent; and since Charles and Elizabeth took advantage of the Poor Law opportunity to emigrate to Canada, and his parents are listed as paupers on the English censuses, my guess is there wasn't an inheritance in England. There were so many dead ends in this story. It led me on a merry chase for several decades. I've always heard that there could be a ring of truth in every family tale, but unless Charles died when a tree fell on him, there is little truth in this one. It's been a struggle to find what I have found, and my research has prompted many more questions regarding what I *haven't* found.

My grandmother was quite a character. Her stories were a challenge, as well as her age. No one knew how old she really was, or that her birth name was Blanche, until she passed away. Even her siblings kept her secrets from the grandchildren.

She was an independent woman, of the age she grew up in. She was quite proud of the fact that she was a model for hats and clothing, even though it was scandalous for that time. She was friends with the movie star, **Beatrice Lilley**, when they all lived in Toronto, and according to another of my grandmother's stories, they tried to run off together to be on the stage but my great-grandfather pulled her from the train and ended that adventure. I do have a personalised picture of Beatrice Lilley with a message to my grandmother, so I think this story was probably true.

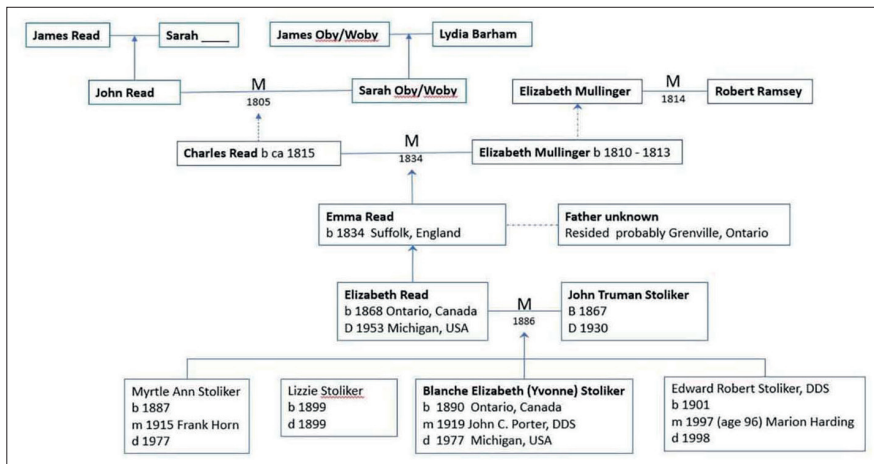
My grandmother's early life may have been scandalous at the time, but she was determined to break out from the bindings of the world she was born into and to hide the scandals of her ancestry. I'm lucky to have a couple of her modelling pictures (see the one of her aged 16, on p.207 above).

Yvonne Stoliker, in the following chart, is my grandmother, and this is her actual ancestry from Michigan back to England.

There is one more tidbit that may cast a light on the families in England. In a picture I have of an older 'young' Elizabeth and her aunt, Mary Ann Read Cummings, taken in the late 1920s, Mary Ann has a very distinctive nose! Elizabeth's son, Edward, also had that nose. If that's a hint for anyone, please let me know.



Elizabeth Stoliker and Mary Ann Cummings, mid 1920s



I'd love to hear from any reader who might be able to help clarify this story, provide corrections or help me to navigate further avenues. As the title says, it's always a story in progress.

**Debra Porter Demeester Mb 11884**

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7. Campey (n. 2), p. 78.

## HALLS FAMILY – MIGRATIONS FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES

My 2x great-grandfather **James Halls** was born in October 1822 in Risby, Suffolk. He was the fifth child of **Joseph** and **Susannah Maria Halls, née Sharp(e)**. James married **Sarah Ann(e) Harn (Hearne)** in the parish church of St Giles, Risby on 10 July 1847. They had seven children. Sarah Ann(e) was born in Messing, Essex.

By 1861 James and Sarah had moved to Feering, Essex, just over two miles from Messing, and were living on Langley Green. Their children were **Maria Susannah** (13), a '*Silk Throwster*', **Henry John** (11), an agricultural labourer, **George William** (10), also an agricultural labourer, **Hannah Rachel** (10), a scholar, **Arthur James** (6), **Walter Edward** (3) and **Alfred Ernest** (10 months).

Maria Susannah Halls married **John Taylor**, from Birch, in 1855. Henry John married **Sarah Ann Thurgar**, from Great Coggeshall, Essex in 1869. George William married **Julia Turner** from Great Coggeshall in 1870. Rachel Hannah married **Abraham Phillips** from Rainham, Essex in 1873 at St Philip the Apostle, Stepney. Arthur James married **Elizabeth Mary Mays Root** from Witham, Essex in 1873. Walter Edward married **Lucy Sparham** from Norton St Andrews, Suffolk on 25 December 1875 at St John the Baptist, New Wortley, Leeds. Maria Susannah, Henry John, George William and Arthur James all married at All Saints' Church, Feering.

On the 1871 census returns, all the family were living in the Feering area, except that James Halls, their father, was not listed with them. The family must have been struggling financially, and about this time there were opportunities for agricultural labourers to move to other parts of the country or to emigrate abroad, with the prospect of better pay and conditions. The Suffolk Poor Law authorities had a history of relocating their poor to industrial areas in the north, and at the time discontent among agricultural labourers in the eastern counties was on the increase due to poor wages and conditions. Local unions became part of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, founded in 1872 by (among others) **Joseph Arch**, so possibly James encouraged his sons to use parish or union assistance to improve their prospects. I have approached All Saints' Church, Feering, and St Giles' Church, Risby, regarding any parish-assisted moves, but they have no records. It would appear that by 1875 Henry John, George William and Walter Edward Halls had moved to Yorkshire to work as platelayers on the railway, and the Yorkshire railway museums have led me to believe that in some cases a rented cottage came with the job. By 1881, son Arthur James had also left Feering, moving to Barking, Essex to work at the Beckton Gas Works, which opened in 1870.

**Charles Halls**, James's younger brother and my 2x great-uncle, born about 1827, also moved away from Risby to the north of England with his family for better prospects sometime after 1871. On the 1881 census Charles Halls (but recorded as Charles Hall) is living with his family in Hetton-le-Hole, Hetton Downs, Co. Durham. His occupation is labourer, but his sons are miners.

Of James's sons who moved to Yorkshire, in 1881 Henry John was living in the parish of Northowram, Halifax, with his wife and family. George William was living in Rickshaw Lane, Pudsey, with his wife and family. Walter Edward, like his two brothers, was a platelayer on the railway. I have not found where he was living at this time. Henry John and George William remained in Yorkshire. Henry John Halls died in 1925 and George William Halls in 1888.

The following information I obtained from a family history researcher in Australia. In 1876 Walter Edward Halls and his wife Lucy boarded a ship for Australia. I made enquiries whether their passage was assisted by the Australian government, but have been unable to ascertain this information. The *South Australian Register* (Adelaide, SA) printed a passenger list for the *Lady Jocelyn* on 20 September 1876. It stated: 'IMMIGRANTS PER LADY JOCELYN. *The following immigrants started per the Lady Jocelyn, which left Plymouth for Adelaide on the 28th July, and which may be expected to arrive about the 11th October*'. Walter Edward and his wife are on the list. The ages on their marriage certificate (25 December 1875) and the passenger list seem inaccurate. On the former, Walter Edward was 20 and Lucy was 19. In fact, Lucy was born in 1860, therefore she was only 15 years of age. Walter Edward was born in 1857, so his age at marriage was 18. It may have been a condition for them to be married before sailing to Australia. I was informed that on arriving in Australia, Walter Edward worked on the railways and Lucy was a cook.

On 7 April 1883 Walter Edward married **Mary Alice Dyster** at Terowie, South Australia. Mary's father was **Thomas Dyster** from Braintree, Essex. I believe her mother was **Jane Sarah Florence**, but this needs to be researched. Walter Edward and Mary Alice had about 10 children. Thomas Dyster, Mary Alice's father, had been convicted at Chelmsford of house breaking in December 1826 and transported to Tasmania, Australia.<sup>(1)</sup> He travelled from Tasmania to the mainland, and I believe he married three times. In 1834 in Tasmania, he married **Kezia Amelia Summers**, and in 1850 he married **Jane Swann**. In 1859 he married Jane Sarah Florence. These marriages I have to verify. He died in Adelaide on 27 January 1875, and was buried in the Adelaide West Terrace General Cemetery. His date of birth is given as 17 March 1812, Essex, England.

Walter Edward next married **Alison Jane Renkin** on 19 February 1908 in Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia.<sup>(2)</sup> Alison Jane's parents were **James Renkin** and **Jane Scott Robinson**. Walter Edward and Alison Jane had six children. The researcher in Australia sent me some articles from newspapers dated April 1910. The headline in *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, of 22 April 1910 says: '*Charge of Bigamy. Farmer Admits His Guilt. Evidence From Adelaide*'.<sup>(3)</sup> All the articles give a detailed account of the court proceedings. Walter Edward was accused of bigamy and pleaded guilty. It transpires that his second wife, Mary Alice Dyster, said Walter Edward had left her in March 1905, but after a chance meeting some years later, he wrote her a letter which mentioned a 'new' wife. After the court hearing he was remanded for sentencing.



Walter had also not mentioned to her his first marriage (to Lucy) – he had told her he was a widower. I believe that a spouse has to be missing or presumed dead for seven years before another lawful marriage can take place.

Walter Edward Halls therefore married three times. He died in Ararat, Victoria, aged 87.<sup>(4)</sup> The death register gives his father as James, but his mother's name is recorded as Martha, which is incorrect. Possibly the informant at death did not know Sarah's name, hence the incorrect name appears on some family trees on Ancestry and elsewhere on the internet.

Lucy Sparham, his first wife, later married **George Carpenter** on 15 October 1892 in Moor Street, Fitzroy, Victoria. The marriage record says that George was a bachelor and Lucy a spinster (although she was still married to Walter Edward Halls). George had been born in Tunbridge, England and Lucy in Norton, England; both were from Adelaide, and Lucy was an assistant. Rev. **Nathaniel Kinsmann**, Minister of Religion, married them, although there seem to be some reports that he was not an ordained minister. He was well known as the 'Marrying Parson', marrying people without any proof that they were single. He officiated at thousands of marriages. He was born in Yorkshire, England.

George Carpenter died on 11 December 1898 aged 49. He is buried in Adelaide. Lucy returned to England.

My great-grandfather named one of his children after his younger brother, Walter Edward. My father never mentioned anything about his father's life or family, so I was not aware of James Halls's brother Charles going to Durham, nor his sons moving to Yorkshire and one son subsequently moving to Australia. Families at that time suffered from poverty, loss of family etc., so many took the opportunity given to them to move to a better life. I wonder whether Walter Edward or any of his brothers kept in contact with the rest of the family.

In 2017 I visited Australia and went to Melbourne to see if I could find any descendants of Walter Edward. I was not successful. However, I did look into who Walter Edward's children married. I know that there are descendants in Melbourne and other parts of Australia, who I am hoping to discover.

**M Kidd Mb 6524**

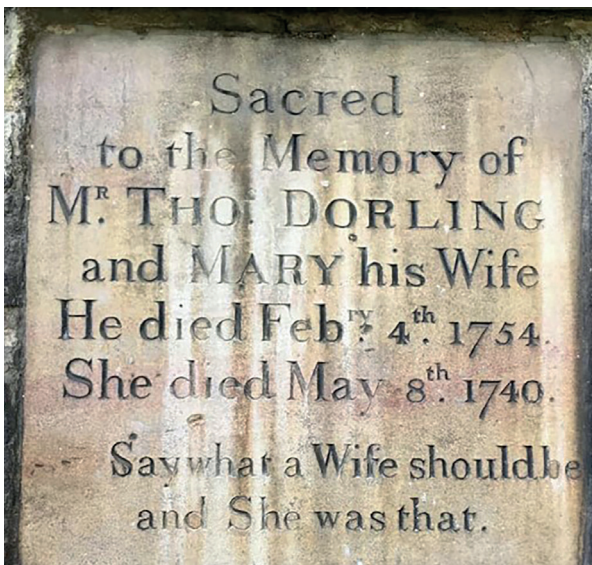
*member5900essex@gmail.com*

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MUNNS/MONES DORLING OF BURY ST EDMUNDS  
(1738-1794): FROM 'OLD CONVICT' TO 'USEFUL CITIZEN  
AND GOOD MAN'

**Mones** was the great-grandson of **James Dorling** (b. c. 1650), the founder of the Bury St Edmunds Dorling branch. In 1676 James was a dyer living in Ballingdon on the south-east of Sudbury, but by 1678 he was in Bury St Edmunds where he died in 1718. He appeared in the Suffolk Poll Book of 1710, owned property in Southgate Street, Risbygate Street and Westgate Street, and also had a property in Lavenham. His descendants number over 700 Dorlings and many more from female lines. Some descendants still live in Suffolk, others as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America.



1738: Munns was baptised on 20 October 1738 in Bury St Edmunds, the son of **Thomas Dorling** and **Amy (née Bilbee)**. His unusual forename comes from his paternal grandmother, **Frances Munns**, who married **Thomas Dorling** (1682-1754) in 1711 at Barton Mills. Munns's grandfather Thomas is commemorated on a plaque on the external wall of St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds, along with **Mary**, his first wife, who died in 1710/11. Her date of death on the plaque must be an error for 1710. Both Thomas and

Mary were of St James's parish, with their burials recorded in their registers there. Thomas's date of death is confirmed by his probate record.

1749: Mones Dorling was educated at grammar school, appearing in the Bury St Edmunds Grammar School List:<sup>(1)</sup>

*'Dorling Mones. Son of Thomas Dorling of Bury St Edmunds, baker. Adm. to Bury school Aug. 1749. Royalist.'*

Note: the term '*Royalist*' does not allude to any political or royalist persuasion but is what local grammar school boys from the town of Bury St Edmunds were known as.

1754: In 1754, aged about 14 or 15, Munns was apprenticed to **Edward Sutcliffe**, a cabinet maker in Norwich, Norfolk. His brother **Bilby**, named for his mother's maiden name Bilbee, who was also apprenticed, became a clockmaker in Cook Row, Bury St Edmunds.

In the same year, Munns's grandfather Thomas Dorling died, leaving his '*messuages and tenements wherein I now dwell together with tenements thereto adjoining in the occupation of **Thomas Clarke** constable and **Henry Thorpe**' to '*Bilbee, Munns, **Charles, Ann** and **Frances**, the five children of my son Thomas Dorling... as tenants in common and not as joint tenants to be equally divided between them... from and after the death of Frances me dear and beloved wife.*'*

1759: Munns, aged 21, and his siblings therefore inherited in 1759 when their grandmother Frances died. Her burial was registered at the Cathedral church of St James, Bury St Edmunds on 12 February 1759 and she was probably buried in 'The Great Churchyard', between St Mary's and the grounds of the old Bury St Edmunds Abbey (it was separated from the rest of the Abbey following the dissolution of the monasteries, and later bought by the town corporation in 1798).<sup>(2)</sup> Many thanks to **Sydney Dorling** for finding Frances's memorial stone there (in what he described as the 'Abbey Burying Ground').

1761: On 8 July, Mones, aged 23, married **Elizabeth Tuthill** by licence at her parish church, St George Colegate, Norwich. He was '*of Sudbury*'. His brother Bilby witnessed the marriage, and they and the bride signed their names.

In the same year, on 20 June, Mones placed a job advert in the *Ipswich Journal* for:

*'A JOURNEYMAN CABINET-MAKER who has been used to Chair-Making. Such a one may have Employ by applying to Mones Dorling, Cabinet and Chair-Maker of Sudbury who makes and sells every Article at the lowest price.'*

1762: In April 1762, Mones was arrested and accused of committing a serious crime. According to the *Ipswich Journal* of 17 April he had stolen bills from the Sudbury post office:

*'Sudbury April 16. Yesterday Mones Dorling was committed to Bury Gaol, by **Peter Delande**, Esq; on suspicion of robbing this Post-Office in this Town of sundry Bills to the amount of 120 l. & negotiating them, after having endorsed them with the Name of **John Scott**.'*

What led him to commit this crime? Was he in debt or in need of money? Was he helping a friend? Was he a young man going off the rails? Was the allegation in fact true? Did he plead guilty or not guilty? It is likely we will never know the answers, as the Bury St Edmunds assize records appear not to have survived for this period.

Within a month of his arrest, Mones auctioned the contents of his house, which was to be rented out. Notice was given in the *Ipswich Journal* on 1 May:

*'To be sold by Auction (By **Henry STEWARD** from Bury) On Friday 14th day of May, and the following day, All the entire HOUSEHOLD GOODS and STOCK In Trade, belonging to Mr Mones Dorling at Sudbury; consisting of two neat four-post Sacking-bottom bedsteads, and curtains; goose feather-beds, Blankets and Quilts;*



*Chairs, tables, Chests of Drawers; variety of Looking Glasses, Bureaus, &c. The Whole to be sold without reserve... The unmanufactured stock, consisting of a large Assortment Of dry Wainscot, Deals, Walnut-tree, Veneers, a small Quantity of Mahogany, &c. is to be disposed of, and the House to be lett, neatly Fitted up.'*

It seems likely that the income from this sale, and the rent from the house (assuming he owned it), would have helped him to pay lawyers to petition against the heavy sentence he expected, and to support him and his wife while he was in prison.

In the summer of 1762 Mones was tried for forgery at Bury St Edmunds Summer Assizes, was convicted and sentenced to death.

1763: By 21 February 1763, over six months later, a petition had clearly been made and succeeded, as Mones's death sentence was commuted to *'Transportation for Life'*. This was recorded in a Domestic Correspondence Calendar table in Home Office papers from the reign of George III.<sup>(3)</sup> The *Ipswich Journal* of 19 March 1763 reported *'Mones Dorling (an old convict) to be transported for life'*. I assume *'old convict'* means he was an adult rather than child, as I have found no evidence of other crimes.

Mones was transported later that year to Maryland, USA. He is listed in the book *Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775*<sup>(4)</sup> as *'Darling, Mones, S [Sentenced] for Forgery Summer 1762 R [Reprieved] for Life Lent 1763 Su [Suffolk]'* (transcriptions available online, e.g. at Ancestry). A supplement published in 1992<sup>(5)</sup> contains further information on some convicts, but I haven't been able to view a copy to see if there is anything further about Mones.

One can only imagine what Mones's imprisonment and journey across the Atlantic as a prisoner would have been like. Online sources suggest conditions on such ships were pretty bad for regular passengers, but for convicts the treatment and conditions were reported to have been dreadful.<sup>(6)</sup> However, Mones and his family were not poor, and I suspect he was provided with food, clothes, and better accommodation, both in prison and onboard ship.

Mones's wife Elizabeth joined him in Baltimore, though it is unknown when she sailed. So not only did Mones's parents, aunt, brother and two sisters lose him, but his wife's parents and at least four surviving siblings also lost Elizabeth. However, letters must have crossed the Atlantic, keeping them in touch, as Mones knew of his sisters' marriages in 1775 and 1777.

Had Mones and his family made plans to secure him a better life than the poorer convicts had in Maryland? Online information states that over 52,000 convicts were transported between 1718 and 1775, mainly to Maryland and Virginia, and that convicts were sold for 7 or 14 years, men for between £10 and £14. Was Mones hoping to be taken on by someone who could use his skills and treat him well? Or did he and his family raise enough money to buy his freedom, or find him employment in

a decent job? While the details remain unclear, evidence from Maryland shows he was certainly able to rise above the situation of most convicts. He seems to have done so in a very short time, as evidenced by newspapers, the online Archives of Maryland, and other online sources.

**1766-1768:** Mones appeared in Baltimore records within three to five years of his arrival, when the proceedings of the Council of Maryland record him signing a petition to support magistrate Mr **William Aisquith**, against whom a complaint had been made. The petition implied that all the signatories had used the services of this magistrate: *'And we humbly beg leave to make this Remonstrance to your Excellency at the Request of Mr William Aisquith Who has served us in the Station of a Magistrate these several years past and always behaved himself in such a Manner as gave General Satisfaction to Us all...'* It is pure speculation, but perhaps Mones had used this magistrate's services to gain his freedom.

**1770s:** By 1775 Mones was named in a newspaper as one of two churchwardens selling an organ in St Paul's Church, Baltimore. In 1777 he took in a stray black cow *'about 12 or 13 years old'* and published a description, asking for the owner to come and take her away. By 1778, Mones was advertising to sell in Baltimore Town *'Camphire, Aloes, Quicksilver, Senna, Ipeacacuanha, Camomile, Spanish Flies, Glauber and Epsom Salts, and Jesuit's Bark.'*

**1780s:** The Baltimore newspapers confirm that in 1784 Mones was working as a doctor, as plots of land for sale were described as *'in Old Town near Dr Dorling's on High Street'*, suggesting he was well known and therefore likely to have been a doctor for some time.

At some point, Mones *'adopted'* **Thomas Drysdale**, the orphaned son of his deceased friend **Thomas Drysdale**. A biography of Thomas Drysdale jnr., published in 1809,<sup>(7)</sup> stated that Thomas was born in 1772 into a family *'not wealthy or distinguished'*, and that, after the death of his father, he had *'the good fortune to attract the notice and conciliate the affections of Dr Dorling, of Baltimore, a gentleman of talents, worth, and affluence, who, having no children of his own, adopted him as his son'*. This adoption *'arose from a conviction in the penetrating and benevolent mind of Dr Dorling, that his ward had received the germ of eminence'*. Mones paid for Thomas's education, which included science, the classics, art, literature, fencing, horse riding and more.

In 1789, Mones was one of the 91 subscribing members of the newly created anti-slavery Maryland Society,<sup>(8)</sup> which had 26 officers: *'We, the subscribers, have formed ourselves into "The Maryland Society" for promoting the abolition of slavery, and for the relief of free negroes and others, unlawfully held in bondage.'* Perhaps Mones's time as a prisoner had made him very aware of the deprivations suffered by those *'held in bondage'*. Again, pure speculation, but perhaps he was innocent of his crime and knew what it was like to be *'unlawfully held'*.

**1790s:** By January 1791, 'Dr Mones Dorling' had become an officer of the Maryland Society and was one of 12 men on the electing committee at the Annual Meeting when the new president and other officers were elected. This was a small society, and by 1797 membership had only risen to 231. I felt very proud of Mones Dorling from Bury St Edmunds when I read that he had joined this anti-slavery society!

Mones made his will on 18 October 1789,<sup>(9)</sup> nearly six years before his death, appointing 'my worthy friends' **Rev. William West, William Gibson Esq., and Mr Robert Gorsuch** as his executors and trustees. His will shows Mones still had financial interests in England, which his brother Bilby was no doubt helping to manage, and was in touch with his siblings and knew their married names. His first bequest was:

*'to my beloved brother Bilby Dorling of Bury St Edmunds ... and to my sisters Frances **Hatton** of the city of London ... and Ann **Bride** [actually **Bird**] of Norwich ... all my estate which I now have or am in any manner intituled to ... in the kingdom of Great Britain only ... to be equally divided between them share and share alike to hold to them their heirs and assigns forever as Tenants in common''.*

Mones's property in America went to 'my beloved wife Elizabeth Dorling all and every part of my Real and Personal Estate in America for and during the term of her natural life'. Immediately after her death, his executors, who were also trustees, were to have £5 a year out of his real estate to sponsor a poor child or orphan, the money only to be taken in the event of a charity school being opened in Baltimore. Thomas Drysdale was to nominate one child, and after their discharge another child, and so on in 'Constant Succession'. The will gives very clear and quite lengthy instructions about this. Some charity schools opened in Baltimore from 1800 onwards, but this was probably too late for them to benefit from Mones's will.

After the death of his wife, Mones gave Thomas Drysdale, 'the son of my friend Thomas Drysdale deceased by **Margaret** his wife ... my lots of Ground and new brick house and buildings ... with the appurtenances on the High Street in Baltimore Town aforesaid whereon I now dwell ... also ... my lot of Ground number fifty nine on Green Street ..., also one framed house and lot of ground which was bought from **Philpott**, also one other house and lot on Union Street ... and [after his wife's death] all the rest residue and remainder of my said estate real and personal to the said Thomas Drysdale and his heirs and assigns ... but if he should die before he arrives to the age of twenty one years without lawful issue ...', then Mones's estate was to be sold and the proceeds given 'to my brothers and sisters children above mentioned ... then living to be equally divided between them share and share alike'.

Additionally, if his wife died before Thomas Drysdale was 21, 'no part of my Books or Household Furniture shall be sold but kept and preserved for the said Thomas Drysdale' until he was 21. Also, the profits from his estate 'are to be used to educate Thomas Drysdale

*as a physician ... in such manner and places as my much respected friend, the Reverend Mr William West shall think proper'.*

Mones survived to see Thomas Drysdale become a doctor, which must have pleased him greatly. Thomas had proved an excellent student and in 1790 began medical studies under **Dr Brown** of Baltimore, before studying at the University of Pennsylvania in 1792-1793, gaining his medical degree in 1793 or spring 1794. Mones would no doubt have been worried by Thomas's ill health after he developed '*hemopthsis*' (likely TB) in 1793, leaving him with '*a slight but dry and persistant cough*' and '*flushed cheeks*'. However, Thomas returned home and worked as a doctor in Baltimore, sharing Mones's shop. They had much in common, including their anti-slavery views, as on 4 July 1794 '*Dr. Thom. Drysdale delivered an oration on slavery*'.

The following may sound familiar: in 1792 and 1793 Baltimore was free of yellow fever but Philadelphia had an epidemic. Maryland's **Governor Lee**<sup>(11)</sup> appointed '*Quarantine Physicians*' and erected a temporary hospital in Baltimore for seamen of infected vessels. Passengers and baggage from Philadelphia had to be passed by doctors and '*one Philadelphian ... expresses indignation because he is stopped en route to Baltimore and offered toasted cheese on the end of a pitchfork by a quarantine guard*'.<sup>(10)</sup>

In 1794, yellow fever reached Baltimore and Thomas Drysdale was appointed to the Quarantine or Marine Hospital. On 8 July, '*Drs. Ross, Worthington and Drysdale*' were '*ordered by Governor Lee to stop all vessels at quarantine*' and the '*City authorities charged with negligence in allowing the admission of yellow fever*'. An anonymous letter to the newspapers in 1794, believed to be from Thomas Drysdale, stated '*that we have yellow fever among us is denied now only by ignorance*'.<sup>(12)</sup>

On 18 September 1794, Mones died of yellow fever in Baltimore, aged about 65. One newspaper account stated that he had put his own life at risk by visiting and treating the sick. Both his parents were still alive. His wife Elizabeth was aged about 54. She was in Baltimore in 1795, but whether she remained there is unknown.

Just four years later, in 1798, Thomas Drysdale died, his age according to the 1809 biography being 23, though it was given as 28 in medical journals, where Mones was named as Moses.

Mones had made a good life for himself in Baltimore and had remained in contact with his family in England. He had his adopted son Thomas Drysdale, his wife Elizabeth, his business, friends, and property, and he was actively involved in the anti-slavery Maryland Society. Mones's death was published in the *Medical Annals of Maryland, 1799-1899*<sup>(13)</sup> as '*Dorling, Moses age 60*'. Several newspapers published the following notice of his death:

*'Died, last Monday morning, after a short illness, in the 60th year of his age, doctor Mones Dorling, in whose death is deplored the loss of a useful citizen and a good man.*

*We hear that he has bequeathed an annual legacy, payable forever, to assist in the support of a Charity School, as soon as such an institution may be established in this town.'*

Not bad for an old convict!

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## FROM SAXTEAD GREEN TO A MANCHESTER TENEMENT

Most of us have ancestors who were agricultural labourers, and some have many more of them than others. I used to tease my husband, **Brian Potkin**, that there were so many in his family that he ought to be listed in the *Guinness Book of Records*! It took until the 1960s before his family no longer had soil underneath their fingernails and became skilled white-collar workers and university-educated.

It is easy to forget that many agricultural labourers were able and knowledgeable workers, growing crops, working with a variety of animals, and building structures. Many of these skills were not transferable, so instead of moving up the social ladder, some moved down. In my husband's family they moved sideways, by leaving the land to work in a slaughterhouse in a town.

In 1821, **James Potkin** married **Eliza Gilbert** in the parish church of All Saints, Saxtead, Suffolk. The couple went on to have 13 children, one of whom was my husband's grandfather, also a **James**. Coincidentally, this James was born on 10 August 1866, not knowing his grandson was to marry on that date 100 years later. Of the 13 children, only two lived and died close to where they were born.

On a visit to Suffolk some years ago, we thought the area was a wonderful place to live and work, but we were looking at it from a modern perspective. A case of '*Escape to the Country*' rather than the reverse, which was the situation a century before. James and most of his siblings behaved like migrants do today, moving to be with family members and/or for economic reasons.



*All Saints Church, Saxtead by Geographer, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons*

In 1871 the family were living in Saxtead Green. By then James and Eliza had seven children living at home. Life cannot have been easy for the family, as only one son, **Harry**, and father James were employed. The census showed that James's eldest son, although aged 24, was unable to work.

Over the following ten years, things must have improved as more children reached working age. In 1881, James and Eliza were still living in the same place, and probably the same dwelling, but the household was greatly reduced with just four sons living at home – **Harry** (25), **George** (23), **David** (19) and the youngest, James (15). If they were all employed, then this period must have been the best of times financially. This was to be James jnr.'s last appearance on the census in Suffolk. By 1891, five of the 13 children had died, seven were married or were about to be, and George was the only one in the family home with James, his father.

This was a period of dramatic change for the family, with children leaving home and Eliza with mental health issues. She developed dementia in her 50s, but lived at home until the family couldn't cope any longer and had her admitted to the county asylum at Melton, Woodbridge, where she died in November 1891, aged 64. James was to live another 17 years, dying in the almshouses in Framlingham in May 1908, aged 92.

**Betsy**, **Lydia** and **Mary** married. Lydia and Mary were close in age, and were in contact with each other most of their lives. They married in Saxtead on the same day, 7 June 1881, Lydia to **Frederick Balaam**, a miller who later became a foundry labourer, and Mary to **Nathan Barber**, a gardener. Following their weddings, Lydia and Frederick went to live in Ipswich whilst Mary and Nathan Barber moved to London. Their sister, **Betsy**, also lived in London, at Kensal Green, with her husband **Herbert White**, who was a saddler. Eventually the Barbers moved to Bristol, where Nathan continued his trade. David and Harry, like their brother George, married and stayed in Suffolk.

James was the only one to move to Manchester. It is not known why he chose there rather than some other large city. His mother was still alive (in the asylum) when he travelled north, but none of the family know if he kept in contact with his father or siblings, or whether he knew when his mother died. There are no family letters, photographs, or medals that would help to fill in the gaps.

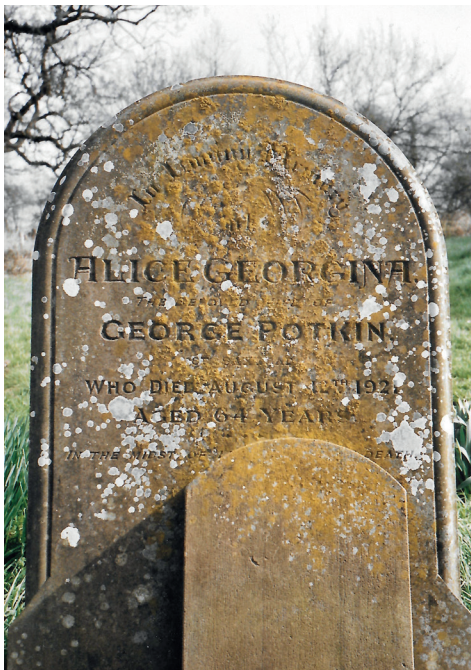
James Potkin arrived in Manchester some time before 1891. In August of that year he married **Mary Jane Milner** at the registry office in Chorlton, Manchester, giving his age as 27 years. The couple lived on Hancock Street but later moved to Richardson's Buildings, off Chester Road.

There were frequent moves to rented houses in the area, depending on their financial circumstances at the time (James was usually recorded as a navvy or labourer). Over the following years, eight children were born, five boys and three girls. Sadly, two of the girls died as infants. The remaining girl later married.

Their eldest son, **William Milner Potkin**, worked as an engineer in Trafford Park, living close to his workplace. Another son, **James**, joined the army and was killed in World War I at Arras, aged 19. There is no grave, but his name appears on bay 7 of the memorial in the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras.

The three remaining boys, **George, Harry** and **Sid**, worked at the abattoir on Water Street, Manchester, with James their father. The building is no longer there. James's health declined as he got older, so his sons worked after school and in school holidays to support the family. Harry, my husband Brian's father, was a skilled butcher. He joined the Navy in 1941, where he continued his trade on board ship. He worked on numerous ships and was at a Mulberry Harbour (the two Mulberries were portable harbours used for offloading troops into Normandy in 1944). Harry's service didn't end when peace came – he worked on minesweepers clearing the Channel until he was discharged in March 1946. His son was a little over 3 years old when his father came home for good, which must have been disconcerting for a small child, having had so little contact with his father before this date.

It is interesting to reflect on the winners and losers – that is, those who stayed and those who left. Generally, the move from Saxtead was good for most of the family. Despite everything, life for James was better in Manchester. What he and his sons didn't know at the time was that working in a cold environment was the worst thing for angina, a complaint suffered by family members today, but now dealt with successfully by medication.



*Georgina Potkin's grave, Saxtead churchyard.  
Photo by author*

What happened to those who stayed? **Charles Potkin** (b. 1847), the eldest son, is a sad story. He was possibly never able to work, and life must have been difficult as he had TB from birth. This would have sapped his energy, and it eventually killed him. The infection would have travelled through his whole body, affecting all the major organs. He died in 1873, aged 26.

George Potkin also stayed in Saxtead, gradually improving his skills before starting a business dealing in fowl. At the age of 43 he married **Alice Georgina Pope**. They moved to Boyles farm where George continued this business, the 1921 census describing him as a farmer and employer. Unfortunately, Georgina died later that year. She is buried in All Saints churchyard, Saxtead. George was to live a further 20 years, dying in 1941 aged 84.



Success seemed to depend on a combination of ability, luck and good health. There were those who were fortunate in their inheritance and those who had few choices. James Potkin was one of the lucky ones. Leaving Suffolk meant his children had better lives and his grandchildren prospered. Our good fortune is because of James's move to Manchester, and the present generation are thankful that he made that choice.

*Mary Josephine Potkin Mb 7721*

*josie@copernicus.org.uk*

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## SUFFOLK TO SWANSOMBE (REVISITED)

In September's *Roots*, **Linda Clifton** tells the story of the migration of **George Goodchild** and his family from Suffolk to Swanscombe, Kent. My great-grandparents made the same journey. **John David Pallant** was born in Bramford in 1848 and with his wife **Maria (née Potter)** and nine of their children moved to Swanscombe in 1885. Why the move? Why to Swanscombe? A recording of one of their children, my great-uncle **Bill**, says of the reason for the move '*no one must ever know*'. The recording says that John had started a coal carrying business but this failed. Despite hints from members of this Society, I could find no trace of this business.

Then, trawling the internet one day, I came across a US website which had an 1876 issue of the *Commercial Gazette* in which John's name appeared on a page dealing with '*Bills of Sale, Judges' Orders, Warrants of Attorney, and Cognovits*'. The page said at the top: '*Subscribers are reminded that the following lists are intended to induce caution or inquiry before credit is given...*'. It seemed there was an issue of a sister reclaiming money. Did John borrow money from his schoolteacher sister to fund the business? Did she take action to get the money back? Was this the family secret too terrible to be told, and caused the move to Swanscombe? I was able to take a screenshot of the page but was wary of paying money to an unknown site to understand more. Despite looking in newspaper records at Suffolk Archives in Ipswich, and searches in the British Newspaper Archive and on *newspapers.com*, I can find no other trace of this issue of the *Gazette*.

Members of my family stayed in the Swanscombe area. Several of John and Maria's children rented Swanscombe Manor House from the council, until the building was demolished to make way for new council offices and the family members moved out to Bean. Some members of the family are buried in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul, mentioned in Linda's article. My own parents lived in Swanscombe until their house had a direct hit from a V2 rocket in the last months of the war.

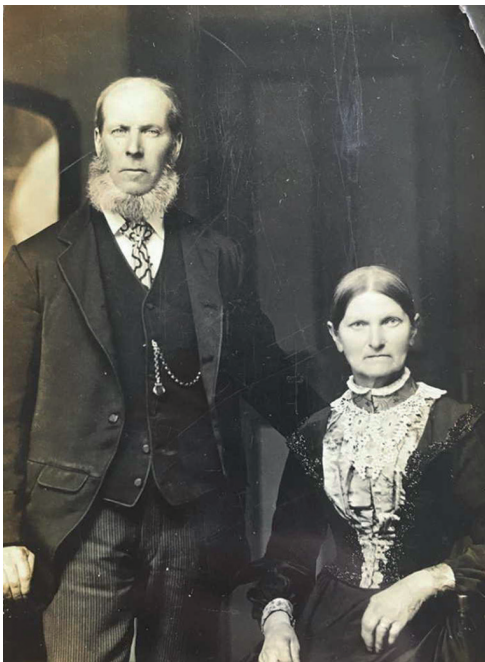
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## MIGRATING DORLINGS

**John Dorling** (b. 1788) was the eldest child of **John Dorling** and wife **Elizabeth (née Sergeant)** of Bacton. John and his family left the village in 1836 under a migrant pauper scheme. In 1834 the Poor Law Commissioners were approached by Lancashire manufacturers suggesting that their evolving industries could provide work for unemployed rural labourers. The scheme began in Buckinghamshire and then expanded to Suffolk with the additional destinations of Cheshire and Yorkshire. A total of 184 Suffolk families migrated north, 1,464 people in all. Despite the success of the scheme, by the late 1830s this migration had significantly decreased owing to a decline in the textile industry.

John, his wife **Anne** and daughters **Elizabeth, Mary, Jane, Sophia** and **Maria** travelled by barge to Kearsley in Lancashire for arranged employment with **Joshua** and **Robert Lord**, though only six years later John died in Kearsley. In 1835 John and Anne's eldest child **Charles Dorling** (b. 1814) and his wife **Martha** were in Farnworth when their first child was born, so they had already migrated to Lancashire. Perhaps the move by John and family was encouraged by the migration of son Charles. Charles was a railway labourer and he and his family followed the work. He was in Great Warford in the registration district of Alderley, Cheshire in 1841 with Martha and their son and daughter. The next children were born in Littleborough and Liverpool as the family moved around. They had moved to Farnworth by 1851. Over the years Charles was a railway labourer, a fishmonger and a carter. He died in 1873.



*Charles Dorling (1841-1909) with wife Sarah  
(photo courtesy of Karen Hemmingham)*

John Dorling's nephew, my grandmother's uncle, **Charles Dorling**, was born in Bacton in 1841 and married **Sarah Tyte** in 1863. They had two daughters in Bacton. The family had moved to Walthamstow, Essex by 1870, where their son **Charles** was born, but by 1871 they were back in Bacton where the older Charles is recorded in the census as an agricultural labourer with three children. By 1875 the family was in Ardsley, Barnsley, Yorkshire. In subsequent census returns, Charles's occupation is given as 'Glass House lab[ourer]', 'Glasshouse Founder' and 'General Surface Labourer'. The family remained in Yorkshire and Charles died in 1909. Charles is the 2x great-grandfather of **Karen Hemmingham**, who runs the Dorling One-Name Study (<https://dorling.one-name.net>).



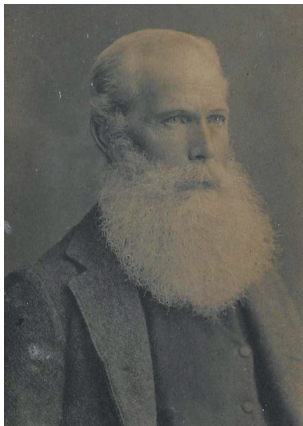
Charles's brother **George** was also born in Bacton, in 1854, and married **Rachel Cobbold** in 1873. By 1881 they too were in Barnsley, so presumably George had followed his older brother. In the 1881 census he was recorded as a labourer with three children, in 1891 as a carter, and in 1901 and 1911 as 'Foreman Maltster', so he would seem to have improved on his original lot. George died in Barnsley in 1918.

Four of Charles and George's five brothers and their one surviving sister also left Suffolk, one moving to London and the others to Essex.

**James** (b. 1833) was a labourer in Bromley, **John** (b. 1835) was a labourer in Little Laver, **Mary Ann** (b. 1837) married a gardener and florist and settled in Leyton, **Robert** (b. 1839) was a gardener in Walthamstow, and **Edward** (b. 1845) was a carpenter in Walthamstow. The only sibling to stay in Suffolk was their brother **William** (b. 1843).



*George Dorling (1854-1918) with wife Rachel and family (photo courtesy of Karen Hemmingham)*



*William Dorling (1843-1915), photographed in August 1907 (author's own) and Betsy Dorling (née Lemon) (1850-1918), photographed as a young woman (author's own)*

William Dorling and his wife **Betsy (née Lemon)** stayed in Bacton where they had eight children between them.

The two eldest boys, from William's first marriage (he had been widowed), were **Frederick William** (b. 1865) and **Edward** (b. 1867). By the 1890s Frederick had left for South Africa where he married and had a family. He visited the Bacton family in 1933 and died, back in South Africa, in 1935. Edward

emigrated to New Zealand in 1895 where he married and raised a family, visiting England in 1913. He died in Auckland in 1945, by which time all contact with the rest of the family seems to have been lost. My grandmother, his half-sister, never knew anything of his whereabouts, but her niece, **Joy Buckingham (née Dorling)** researched these two brothers for 10 years – in pre-internet days and relying on public transport – and eventually made contact with Edward's family. The following photograph is of his granddaughter **Helen Cameron** visiting her cousin Joy and Joy's sister **Phyllis** in the 1980s.



*Helen Cameron visiting Joy Buckingham and Joy's sister Phyllis, 1980s  
(author's own)*

The third child, **Reuben** (b. 1879 in Bacton), had migrated to Otley, Yorkshire by 1901, where he was boarding at the home of **Robert and Florence (née Woods) Rice** – themselves from Bacton and Finningham, respectively. Reuben is recorded as a 'Papermill labourer'. Robert Rice died in 1901 and in 1902 Reuben married Florence. In 1911 he was recorded as a carter, and he and Florence had a five-year-old son born in Bacton, so they would seem to have briefly returned to Suffolk, though by 1911 the family was back in Otley. Reuben died in Otley in 1931.

Reuben's brother **William Wright Dorling**, always known as Wright, was born in Bacton in 1882. In 1901 he was living with his parents in Bacton, an agricultural labourer. In 1902 he too was in Otley where he married **Maria Woods**, sister of his brother's wife Florence – the marriages took place on the same day. In 1911 he was also a carter, for a coal merchant. Wright served in France in WWI as a gunner, being described as a 'Horseman' on enlisting. He too died in Otley in 1931.

The 'Great Depression' of British agriculture in the late 19th century will have affected rural families all over Suffolk, and it would seem likely that William's sons' awareness of the migration to Yorkshire of their uncles Charles and George encouraged their move, which they will have made hoping for a better life.



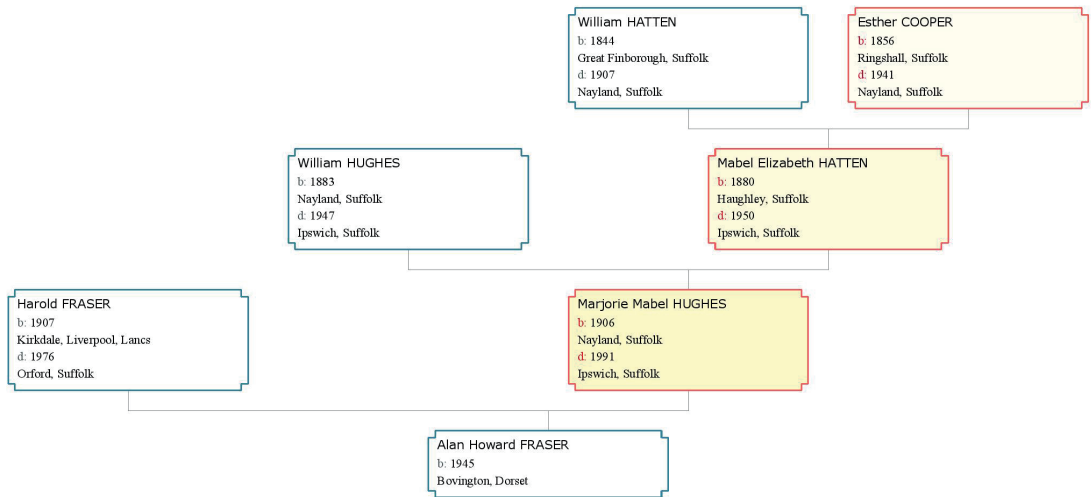
*Prettymans, the house in Bacton where William and Betsy Dorling lived with their children, in a painting by John Bonny (author's own photo). The family inhabited only the left-hand side, though when things got crowded some of the children slept next door. Happily, the house is still standing and is now one home*

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# PASTURES NEW – MY HUGHES, HATTEN AND COOPER FAMILIES

## My Suffolk family tree

This partial family tree shows my mother **Marjorie Mabel Hughes**, her mother **Mabel Elizabeth Hatten** and her grandmother **Esther Cooper**. This article is about the members of my Suffolk Hughes, Hatten and Cooper families who headed out for pastures new: the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, China and Singapore.



*Ancestors of Alan Fraser*

My father **Harold Fraser** came from a Liverpool family of Scottish heritage. Several members of his family, including his aunt, brother and sister, moved to the USA where their descendants still live, but that is another story.

## The Hughes family

My mother Marjorie Mabel Hughes was born in Nayland, Suffolk, in 1906. Hughes family legend said their ancestors were Welsh drovers who brought their sheep to the Suffolk wool markets. More recently, research by other family members has verified this. My earliest known Hughes ancestor is **Thomas Hughes**, born in 1750 in Aberystwyth, mid-Wales, who married **Elizabeth Green** in Layham, Suffolk, in 1772, and remained in Suffolk. Going further back is difficult because of the popularity in Wales of the name Thomas Hughes! Thomas and Elizabeth had 11 children, the eldest being my ancestor **Thomas Hughes jnr.** (b. 1773) who married **Anne Oackley Taylor**. His brother **William Hughes** (b. 1775) married **Anne Blackwell**, and they were the parents of another **Thomas Hughes** (b. 1801).

In 1841, this Thomas married **Anne Last** in Southwark, Surrey. Anne had been christened at St Nicholas' Church, Brighton, Sussex, on 25 August 1822, daughter of



carpenter **John Edward Cato Last** and his wife **Sarah Jane (née Stapleton)**. Thomas Hughes was also a carpenter and was living in Southwark with his parents in 1841. Anne was Thomas's second wife, although I have not yet discovered details of his first wife and any children from that marriage. According to her descendants, Anne already had a daughter (b. c. 1838-1840), whose surname was Last, a half-sister to her Hughes children – **Thomas Edmund** (1844-1873), **William Edward** (b. 1846), **Alfred Henry** (1848-1849), **Walter Frederick** (1850-1895) and **Clara Anna** (1852-1918). I don't know the Last daughter's name because she isn't listed as such with Anne on the 1841 census for Southwark or the 1851 census for Bermondsey, Surrey.

I haven't yet found a death record for Thomas Hughes, but he must have died before 1856 since in that year Anne Hughes, a widow aged 38, sailed from Liverpool to Melbourne, Australia with her two eldest Hughes children, Thomas and William. Anne reportedly married **Thomas Hall**, a platelayer born in Westmorland, aged 32, in Liverpool on 28 September 1856, but I haven't found a marriage record, and she sailed to Australia as Anne Hughes, not Hall. Thomas was not on that ship, but he did join her in Australia because Anne had a daughter **Lizzie Jessie Hall** who was born and died in 1857 at Emerald Hill, Victoria, and later a son **James Thomas Hall**, born on 5 December 1858. Anne's two younger Hughes children, Walter and Clara, sailed to Melbourne from Plymouth in 1858, accompanied by a Bermondsey neighbour, **Sarah Paine**, aged 22. Anne must have left these children in Bermondsey with Sarah in 1856.

Tragically, Thomas Hall was killed in a fight in the Golden Gate public house in Emerald Hill on 21 March 1859. **Joseph Saunders** was charged with his manslaughter.

Anne subsequently sailed on her own to Dunedin, New Zealand, around 1861. All her surviving children (four sons and daughter Clara) eventually followed her to New Zealand, although Clara remained in Melbourne for around two years afterwards. Clara married **William Campbell King** in Hokitika, South Island, New Zealand,



Clara Anna Hughes  
(from the memoirs of her daughter  
Annie Hughes King)

on 21 June 1869. William had been born in Paisley, Renfrewshire, in 1847, and came to New Zealand with his family around 1856. Clara's daughter **Annie Hughes King**, later **Salter**, wrote her memoirs in 1975 at the age of 90, and says: *'About the same time my maternal grandmother Anne Hughes and family sailed from London to Melbourne, where she left Clara (my mother) in a boarding school while she came on to New Zealand to establish a home in Dunedin. Eventually my mother was placed in the care of a school master and his wife, who had seven children and a maid. While in her early teens my mother came over to New Zealand and landed at Port Chalmers by the first lighter. She was met by her mother at Dunedin on a bitterly cold day...'*

Annie goes on to say that on the day Clara landed at Port Chalmers (the port of Dunedin) there was a collision between two steamers that caused a great loss of life. As this was reported widely in the New Zealand press, it exactly dates Clara's arrival in New Zealand as 4 July 1863. Clara and William went on to have 10 children.

I have little information about Clara's Hughes brothers, although I know that Thomas Edmund Hughes (b. 1844) died suddenly while chopping wood in Woodstock, New Zealand, in 1873 at the age of 28, and Walter Frederick Hughes died in 1895 aged 44, leaving his effects to his son **Walter Hughes**. There is an 1877 New Zealand birth record for a Walter Hughes, father's name Walter, mother's name **Phoebe**; and a Walter Hughes, 13, is mentioned as a witness in a court report of 1890. William Edward Hughes is only mentioned as applying for a land allotment in the township of Kensington in Dunedin, which at the time was allocated to his mother Anne Eastwood, in 1883 (Anne had married her third husband **Jesse Eastwood**, born in England around 1820, in Dunedin in 1864). A William Edward Hughes is also mentioned in local court reports for drunkenness and theft, and that is probably him, but I can't find anything else except the deaths of **William Edwin Hughes** in 1948 aged 70, and **Jane Hughes** in 1967 aged 85. As they were born in 1878 and 1882, they may have been William Edward's son and daughter-in-law.

Annie Hughes King's memoirs give a vivid account of those pioneering days in New Zealand! Annie also mentions her uncle **Charles Peterson**, who lived in Picton, South Island, who was the husband of her mother's half-sister **Charlotte Martha Eastwood**, b. 1864. Annie says nothing about her Hughes or Hall uncles.

These memoirs refer to Anne as Grandma Eastwood, and as being alive when Annie was about nine or ten (1890s). Jesse Eastwood had been working as a miner in New South Wales since 1880 and died in Sydney of '*self-inflicted wounds*' on 24 February 1890. The report of his death says he was aged between 70 and 75 and born in England. In his will, dated 1884, Jesse left all his property to his daughter Charlotte Martha Eastwood – Anne was not mentioned.

In 1893 Anne was listed on the Dunedin Electoral Roll as a nurse living in Park Street. Both Anne and her daughter Charlotte Eastwood signed the New Zealand Women's Suffrage Petition in Cumberland Street, Dunedin, in 1893. **Katherine Blakely** is one of the compilers of the New Zealand Government Women's Suffrage website, which has biographies of each 1893 signatory, and provided more information about their lives. New Zealand was the first self-governing nation in the world to give women voting rights, later in 1893.

Anne Eastwood died at her home in Percy Avenue, Kensington, Dunedin, on 5 April 1903, and was found by a milkman carrying out his deliveries. Anne did not leave a will, but was reported as being in possession of a large amount of house property. Anne had an incredible life, and despite the loss of all three husbands and some serious problems she ended up making a success of herself independently. I have details of around 120 of her descendants, many of whom are descended from my ancestor Thomas Hughes, who never got to go to Australia or New Zealand himself.



## The Hatten family

*Editors' note: The family story of Charles William Hatten appeared at much greater length in Suffolk Roots in December 2016, but is included here for continuity as there are additional details about some family members.*

Charles William Hatten (1838-1918)

My maternal grandmother, Mabel Elizabeth Hatten (1880-1950), was born in Haughley, Suffolk into what was then a wealthy farming family. Her father was **William Hatten** of Great Finborough (1844-1907), and his first cousin, **Charles William Hatten** (1838-1918), also born in Great Finborough, was a Church of England minister who spent time in India in the 1860s and married there.

The Rev. Charles William Hatten, MA (Cantab), was the son of **Charles Hatten** (1805-1864) and **Caroline Matilda Baker** (1811-1869). The elder Charles was the younger brother of William Hatten's father **George Hatten** (1802-1878). The younger Charles went to Bengal, India, after graduating from Cambridge University, and in December 1862 became Principal of the prestigious La Martinière College, in what was then called Calcutta. The school, which has also educated girls since 1840, is still thriving today.

A student of La Martinière between 1858-67, **Dominic Sampson**, quoted in an article in *The Times of India* in 1936 about the school's centenary, recalled the rough atmosphere there in 1858: *'The school at that time, and for long after until Mr. Hatten's principalship, was more like a training school for prize fighters than an ordinary academy!'* So, it appears Charles had a very positive effect on the school. According to the *La Martinière Chronicle* in 1934: *'Mr. C. W. Hatten, B.A., Caius College, Cambridge, succeeded Mr. Ewbank in December, 1862. In this year, on the recommendation of Mr. Ewbank, the Governors consented with considerable reluctance to the discontinuance of Greek as part of the ordinary curriculum of the School. It was hoped that the result would be a rise of standard in other subjects. La Martinière thus became what is called a modern school... In 1866 Mr. Hatten returned to England.'*

On 24 May 1866 Charles married **Rozalie Jane Palmer de Verinne** (also spelled 'DeVerinne' or 'Deverinne'), the daughter of a French indigo planter from Jungypore, West Bengal, at Christ Church Cathedral, Bhaugulpore.

Rozalie Jane Palmer de Verinne was born on 22 March 1845 at Jungypore. She was christened at St John's Church, Calcutta, on 14 December 1845. Her father **Joseph Maximin de Verinne** was born around 1800 and married **Ann Frances Wallis** on 13 August 1824. Ann had been born on 23 July 1806 at Cawnpore, India, the daughter of **Captain William Henry Wallis** of His Majesty's 24th Light Dragoons and his wife **Frances**. Joseph and Ann had 16 children including Rozalie between 1825 and 1851. Joseph was a trustee of La Martinière College, which must mean that Charles met Rozalie through her father.

Rozalie and Charles returned almost immediately to England, where Charles was ordained deacon at Ely in 1867, and then priest in 1868. Charles also served in Withersfield in Suffolk, before ending up in 1878 as the Rector of St John's, Bodle

Street Green, Herstmonceux, East Sussex, where he remained for the rest of his clerical life. Rozalie and Charles had nine children, six daughters and three sons.

Most of these stayed in Sussex or East Anglia, but one of their sons went a-roving. In 1905 **Wilfrid Hayley Spark Hatten** (b. 1886) sailed aboard the *SS Champlain* to Quebec, Canada from Liverpool. By 1914 he had moved to Victoria, British Columbia, where he married **Olive Meadows** (b. 1885 in Leicester) on 10 June 1914. Olive and her sister **Elsie** had moved to British Columbia with their parents in 1911. Wilfrid and Olive's daughter **Josephine Hatten** was born in Victoria on 7 November 1916.

At some stage the Hatten family returned to England, but eventually headed out to the Far East. In April 1936 Wilfrid and his daughter Josephine, now aged 19 and a secretary, sailed from London to Shanghai aboard the *SS Kashima Maru*. Olive was not with them, and it subsequently turned out she was in Singapore in 1936.

On 23 August 1937, during the Battle of Shanghai between the Chinese Army and invading Japanese forces, tragedy struck this branch of the Hatten family. Josephine, who was working as a secretary in the International Settlement in Shanghai, was near the Sincere Co. department store on Nanking Road when it was hit by a shell, tearing away the entire front of the store and causing 250 deaths plus over 400 wounded. Who was to blame for this atrocity remains unclear, although it may have been 'friendly fire' by the Chinese rather than the Japanese. Olive was living apart from Wilfrid in Singapore in 1937, and three Singapore newspapers including the *Singapore Free Press & Mercantile Adviser* of 26 August 1937, reported the death of Josephine during this attack. A different report in *The Straits Times* for the same day says that Josephine was injured by falling debris in the street outside the Palace Hotel (on the corner of Nanking Road and The Bund, but very close to the Sincere Co. department store) and was taken to the Country Hospital, where she later died. This report was given by **Mrs. A. E. Hill** of Shanghai, who had arrived in Singapore on the morning of 26 August 1937, and had been living in the same house as Josephine's father Wilfrid in Hart Road, Shanghai. The *Malay Tribune* of the same day reported that Josephine had refused to be evacuated from Shanghai because she could not bear to be parted from her pet dog, which she was not able to take with her to Singapore!



Miss J. Hatten—a picture taken in Singapore last year.

*Josephine Hatten – photo from the Singapore Free Press & Mercantile Adviser, 26 August 1937*

Wilfrid, who was a teacher at the Cathedral School, Shanghai, was interned by the Japanese from February 1943 until 5 September 1945. The most famous pupil at the Cathedral School at that time was the author **J G Ballard** (1930-2009), whose semi-autobiographical 1984 novel *Empire of the Sun*, about his experiences as a boy in an internment camp in Shanghai, was filmed in 1987 by **Steven Spielberg**. Ballard would certainly have been taught by Wilfrid.

Wilfrid returned to England alone after World War II and died in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, aged 66 on 25 September 1952, at the home of his sister **Gertrude Mary Hatten**. Wilfrid left a poignant handwritten will dated 1949 which bequeathed all his effects to his sister Gertrude Mary, requesting that all his letters and papers should be burned, so that no-one would have the opportunity to read them. There is no mention of Olive in his will.

Olive Hatten returned safely to England from Singapore at some stage. She isn't listed as a civilian internee of the Japanese, so she must have escaped before the occupation in 1941, maybe back to England, or perhaps to Australia. Olive died in Farnham, Surrey, in June 1958, and is described on her death certificate as the widow of Wilfrid Hayley Spark Hatten, schoolteacher. This means that Olive and Wilfrid never divorced, although they must have been estranged for her not to be mentioned in his will. Olive may have blamed Wilfrid for the death of their daughter, for convincing her to travel into danger in China.

There are unfortunately no descendants today of this fascinating branch of my family. I have managed to obtain pictures of some family papers and memorabilia after being contacted by an Irish collector who bought them on eBay!

The family of George Nelson Hatten (1839-1895)

**George Nelson Hatten** was born in Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk, son of **Robert Hayward Hatten** (elder brother of my 2x great-grandfather George Hatten mentioned above) and his second wife, **Mary Ann (née Barker)**. George had been a wealthy farmer, living at Berghersh House in Witnesham near Ipswich, which he had inherited from his father. He married **Harriet Griffin Blomfield** (1847-1907), daughter of **Samuel Blomfield** and **Jane Griffin** (1822-1907), at Lion Walk Congregational Chapel in Colchester, Essex, in 1867 and they had 10 children, listed below.

The respected Colchester department store Williams & Griffin, now owned by Fenwicks, was originally founded by Harriet's Griffin family. Harriet's mother Jane Griffin was the daughter of **William Griffin** and **Charlotte Lainson**. William owned a drapery and haberdashery shop in Colchester, which was expanded by his sons (Jane's brothers) to become Griffin's Department Store, later H. L. Griffin & Co. under **Henry Lainson Griffin** (1855-1916), William's grandson and Harriet's first cousin. This merged with the H. E. Williams & Co. department store in 1963 to become Williams & Griffin.

The children of George Nelson Hatten and Harriet Griffin Blomfield were:

**George Arthur** (1871-1956) – moved to the USA in 1888, married **Ida Nancy Delilah Vanhoozer**

**Janet Mary** (1872-1932) – married **Jesse Clarke**, remained in England

**Hayward** (1874-1952) – married **Annie Ansel** and later **Maud Mary Barnfield**, remained in England

**Nelson Joseph** (1876-1951) – married **Grace Annette Ford**, remained in England

**Emily Kate** (1878-1958) – married **Edward Alfred Conder**, moved to Australia

**Harold Blomfield** (1880-1973) – moved to Australia, married **Violet Hilda Thomsen**

**Ella Harriet** (1883-1965) – moved to the USA, married **Earl Bruce Sutherland**, subsequently moved to Canada

**Spencer Wilfred** (1883-1884, twin of Ella) – died in infancy

**Ethel Victoria** (1886-1967) – married **Harold Crofts** and later **Roland Walter Cryer**, remained in England

**Frederick Stanley** (1888-1971) – moved to the USA, married **Florence Gabrielle Wilton**, subsequently moved to Canada where he married **Lily Maude Drury**

George Nelson Hatten was unsuccessful in his farming career, perhaps due to cheap imports of cereals from North America, and lost the farm and the grand house in 1886. He died in rented accommodation in Ipswich in 1895, at the early age of 55. Five of his nine surviving children emigrated from Suffolk. From a family member in the USA, I have acquired a huge archive of photographs and letters that prove the siblings kept in contact with one another from their adopted countries all their lives.

George Arthur Hatten (1871-1956)

George and Harriet's eldest son, George Arthur Hatten (1871-1956) emigrated to the USA in 1888 to become a farmer in Martinsville, Harrison County, Missouri. He married Ida Nancy Delilah Vanhoozer (1873-1961) on 15 July 1897 in Martinsville. Ida was born in Martinsville, although her parents came from Tennessee. They had three children, including daughter, **Ida**, born in 1902; and their descendants still live in the Martinsville area today. George served in the military, first in the US Artillery and then in the US Cavalry between 1891 and 1898. He took part in the Spanish-American War and was at the Battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba.



*George Arthur Hatten and Ida Nancy Delilah Vanhoozer, Missouri, USA*



Emily Kate Hatten (1878-1958)

The second sister, Emily Kate Hatten (b. 1878), married **Edward Alfred 'Ted' Conder** (b. 1865, Ipswich, Suffolk) in St Pancras, London, in early 1904. The couple left from Liverpool for Melbourne, Victoria, on the *SS Afic* on 2 November 1904, and became initially very successful farmers. Ted Conder, aged 65, died at St Kilda station, Melbourne, in 1931, after being hit by an electric train. At that time the couple were separated, after their three farms had burned down in bush fires and left them in much reduced circumstances. Emily Kate Conder died in a nursing home in Elwood, Melbourne, in 1958, aged 80. I have no record of them having any children, but Ancestry has records of an **Alice Emily Conder** in Victoria, Australia, in the 1930s, who was possibly their daughter.



*Harold Blomfield Hatten and Violet Thomsen,  
Queensland. Australia, October 1913.  
Postcard sent to Frederick Stanley Hatten*

Harold Blomfield Hatten (1880-1973)

George Nelson Hatten's fourth son, **Lt. Cdr. Harold Blomfield Hatten MBE** (1880-1973), is the longest serving commissioned officer in the Royal Navy (just under 54 years), and his record cannot now be beaten. He served in the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) continuously from 1896 until 1950, joining the *HMS Ganges* training school in Cornwall (before it moved to Shotley, Suffolk) at the age of 16, and later serving aboard *HMS Lion*. Harold transferred to the RAN as a gunnery instructor in 1913 and served on the light cruiser *HMAS Melbourne*.

At the start of World War I, *HMAS Melbourne* was involved in attempts to locate the German East Asia Squadron, and participated in the capture of German colonies in the Pacific, before being assigned to the North America and West Indies Stations. In 1916, the cruiser joined the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, where she remained for the remainder of the war.



*Probably Emily Kate Hatten and  
Edward Alfred Conder, 1904*



Harold was in charge of naval reserve training in Western Australia from 1926-1935. During World War II he was a staff officer at the Australian Admiralty in Sydney in charge of defensively-equipped merchant ships. He ended his career as Commander of the Western Australian training establishment *HMAS Leeuwin*. Harold was the first cousin, once removed, of **Rear Admiral Sir William Evelyn Hatten Jolly** (1887-1961), who also served in the Navy throughout both World Wars, and whose career was much more elevated, but not as long. He married **Violet Hilda Thomsen**, born 1891, daughter of Danish immigrant **Hans Hubertus Thomsen** and **Jane Green**, in Queensland, Australia on 21 April 1913, and they had a daughter **Edna May** (1922-2018), who married **Colin J Hawkins** in Perth, Western Australia, in 1953.

Ella Harriet Hatten (1883-1965)

Ella Harriet Hatten (b. 1883) was the twin of Spencer Wilfred Hatten, who died aged one. In 1901 she was a photographer's assistant living in Worthing with her mother and elder sister Janet. In 1907 Ella travelled out to Missouri to join her brother George, where she also worked as a photographic assistant. Ella subsequently married Earl Bruce Sutherland (1872-1953) in Burt County, Nebraska, in 1912. They moved to Alberta, Canada, where they had three children, and their descendants live today in the Calgary area.



*Ella Harriet Hatten, Worthing,  
Sussex, 1903*



*The Sutherland homestead, Alberta, Canada*

Some of the information in this article comes from their son **George Hatten Sutherland** (1914-2002), who was a keen Hatten genealogist. He used a company called Kintracers in the 1980s (long before the Internet) to research the Hatten family back through Suffolk and Norfolk to the 17th century.

Frederick Stanley Hatten (1888-1971)

The story of **Frederick Stanley Hatten** and his descendants (particularly Eva) was told at greater length in *Family Tree Magazine*, March 2011.



Frederick Stanley Hatten in the uniform of the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada with his wife Florence Gabrielle Wilton (1893-1956) and daughter Thora Mary (1914-1991), Vancouver



Harold Blomfield Hatten and Frederick Stanley Hatten, 1904

George and Harriet's youngest son, Frederick Stanley Hatten (known as 'Stan') was born in Ipswich in 1888. Stan emigrated to Canada in 1910, first working for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Stan also spent time in the USA, including in Martinsville, Missouri (home of his elder brother George and family), where he met **Florence Gabrielle Wilton**, daughter of Englishman **John Wilton** and American **Mary Emeline Stewart**. Florence had been born in Augusta, Arkansas, in 1893, and subsequently lived in Nebraska with her mother and sisters after her father's death. Stan and Florence married in Seattle, Washington, in 1913, and set up home in Vancouver, British Columbia (BC). They had two daughters, **Thora Mary** (1914) and **Fredericka Christina** (1916), both born in Vancouver, and were the grandparents of celebrated *Prima Ballerina Assoluta* **Eva Maria Evdokimova**, Thora's daughter (see below). Stan served in the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada (72nd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force), the Vancouver-based kilted regiment, from 1915-1919. He is listed in one of the Appendices to the book *History of the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada* by **Bernard McEvoy** (Cowan & Brookhouse, Vancouver, 1920).

Unfortunately, the marriage did not survive Stan's absence in Europe. Florence moved back to the USA with her daughters, settling in Oakland, California. She subsequently married Canadian **George (De) Beaubien** and had two sons, **Stewart James** and **George Antoine DeBeaubien**. Florence died in California in 1956.

Stan remained in the Canadian Army for some years after the end of World War I. He had been gassed during the war, and suffered breathing problems for the rest of his life. Stan moved to Calgary, Alberta in the 1920s and worked as an advertising copywriter for the *Calgary Herald* for 30 years, retiring in 1957. He married English widow **Lily Maude Richards née Drury** (1896-1974) in 1930 and died in Vancouver in 1971.

Lily had been born in Surrey in 1896 and married her first husband **John Griffith Herbert Gordon Richards** in Greenwich, London, in 1918. They moved to Alberta where John Richards was a colliery manager. He was killed in the infamous Midland Coal Mine Disaster, at Drumheller, Alberta, on 2 August 1924, at the age of only 26. Lily had four sons, the youngest of whom was **Gordon Daryl** ('Daryl'). Daryl (1928-2013) was adopted by Stan upon his marriage to Lily in 1930 and given Hatten as his family name (Stan did not adopt the older boys). Lily died in New Westminster, BC, in 1974. What happened to Stan's daughters after Florence took them to the USA? They moved initially to Portland, Oregon, in 1918, and then settled in Oakland, California, in the 1920s.



*Thora and Fredericka Hatten,  
Oakland, California, 1931*



*Fredericka Borges Hatten with her first husband,  
Brazilian Milton Veloso Borges, 1940s*

Thora and Fredericka became American citizens and adopted the name Beaubien (and by 1940, Fredericka was using 'de Beaubien'). They both attended the Holy Names College in Oakland, California.

Fredericka was a model and a professional dancer before marrying Brazilian **Milton Veloso Borges** (son of the second richest man in Brazil) in 1941. She had a son in 1944. Milton died during heart surgery in February 1984. Fredericka later married **Lynn Jerome Hewitt**, who died in 1996. I have a collection of studio publicity shots of Fredericka from the late 1930s/early 1940s, which can be viewed on my Flickr pages: [www.flickr.com/photos/alanhfraser/albums/72157670636847270](http://www.flickr.com/photos/alanhfraser/albums/72157670636847270).

Her photographers included 'Bruno, Hollywood'. **Bruno Bernhard** (1912-1987), also known as 'Bernard of Hollywood', was the most famous American celebrity photographer of his day and photographed actors and actresses such as **Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, Gregory Peck, Ginger Rogers, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Rita Hayworth, Elvis Presley** and **Lucille Ball**! One of Bernhard's photos



of Fredericka had the name and address of **Sol Tepper** on the back – he was a New York theatrical agent and presumably the intended recipient of that copy. In 1999, Bruno’s 1955 photo ‘Marilyn in White’, of Marilyn Monroe in her wind-blown dress from the movie *The Seven Year Itch*, was selected as the ‘Symbol of the Century’ by the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Another photo was from the Romaine Studio, San Francisco, taken by **Karl** and **Emilie Romaine**, acclaimed photographers who produced hundreds of portrait and publicity photographs for ballet dancers, actors, and other performers from the mid-1930s onwards.

While working as a dancer aboard the cruise ship *SS America* in South America in December 1939, Fredericka witnessed the Battle of the River Plate off Montevideo, Uruguay, when several British ships defeated the German pocket battleship *Admiral Graf Spee*. She later became a professor at the College of the Desert, Palm Desert, California. Fredericka was an enthusiastic genealogist who kept in touch with her father all his life and also made regular visits to her cousins in Alberta, Canada, and in England. Fredericka dropped the Beaubien name and was later known as Fredericka Hatten Borges. I have some letters of hers sent to my second cousin **Sheila Waterfield** in Bromley, Kent, whose home was visited by both Fredericka and Thora. Fredericka died in the USA in 2007 at the age of 91.



*Thora Beaubien, probably  
Switzerland, 1940s*

Thora had a very eventful life too. After graduating she went to Germany to study in the 1930s, and was introduced to **Adolf Hitler**, although that is not something to be proud of. She returned to California at the end of the 1930s and had a son in 1941. He now lives in Puerto Rico and I am in touch with two of his daughters in mainland USA.

After World War II Thora moved with her son to Geneva in Switzerland, where she worked for the United Nations. There she met **Evdokim Ivanov Evdokimov** (1919-2008), a refugee Bulgarian journalist from the Danube town of Vidin on the Bulgarian-Romanian border, and a member of the non-Communist Bulgarian government in exile. They married in Geneva around 1947, and had a daughter **Eva Maria Evdokimova** (1948-2009) in 1948.

The family later moved to Munich, Germany, where Evdokim worked for Radio Free Europe, broadcasting to the Eastern Block.

Evdokim and Thora divorced in 1959 and Thora moved to London with her children. Eva studied dance at the Royal Ballet School in London before joining the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen. She later joined the Ballet of the Deutsche Oper, Berlin, where she was quickly promoted to *Prima Ballerina Assoluta*, after which she joined



*Eva, Munich, 1955*



*Evdokim Evdokimov with Eva and Thora, Munich, 1951*

the Kirov Ballet in Russia as a soloist. She became the first 'American' (because of her mother's US citizenship) dancer to win the Gold Medal at the International Varna Competition in Bulgaria. In the 1980s Eva was the world's highest earning female ballet dancer and danced with Rudolf Nureyev for 16 years. Pictures of her appear on many websites and she is the subject of *Portrait of an Artist: Eva Evdokimova* by **Dr. Annemarie Kleinert** (Dance Books, 1982).

Eva married musician **Michael Grigori** in 1982 and eventually moved to the USA to manage the Boston ballet company, but sadly died of cancer in New York City in 2009, aged 60. Thora had moved to Oxford in 1975 and died there in 1991, aged 77. There are a number of videos of Eva dancing on YouTube.

### The Cooper family

My 2x great-grandfather **Jonathan Cooper** (1809-1893) lived at Charles Hall, Ringshall, Suffolk, for most of the Victorian era. I always thought he owned the house, but the book *Chronicles of Ringshall* by **Maureen Wills** says that from 1811 to 1918 it was owned by the **Rowley** family of Hadleigh, after which it was bought by **Herbert Gooding**. Jonathan (and his father **James Cooper** before him) must therefore have been tenants. James Cooper was head of the household at Charles Hall in 1841 and 1851 and died in 1856.

Jonathan married **Elizabeth Rouse** in 1851 and they had six children:

- **Sarah** (1852-1924) – married **John Carr**
- **James** (1854-1945) – married **Frances Gooderham**, emigrated to Australia and later married **Alice Maud Moyse née Otto**
- **Esther** (1856-1941) – married William Hatten (my great-grandparents)



- **Jonathan Charles** (1858-1887) – married **Louisa Friston** (Jonathan's first cousin). Their son, **Will Cooper**, emigrated to Canada and then the USA
- **Priscilla** (1859-1952) – married **Isaac Carr**, brother of her sister's husband John Carr
- **John** (1862-1930) – married **Eleanor Agnes Brook**



*Jonathan Cooper, provided  
by an Australian descendent of  
James Cooper*



*James Cooper and his second wife, Alice Maud Otto (1870-1971),  
Warra, Queensland, Australia, 1930s*

This photo of Jonathan comes from a descendent of James Cooper living in Queensland, Australia – I have had a copy of the same photo for many years, but it was misidentified as my other great-grandfather George Hatten, father of William. It can only be Jonathan Cooper because the Australian descendants have no connection to the Hattens.

I am in touch with descendants of Jonathan Cooper, both here and in Australia, who weren't in touch with each other before I started my research. What is interesting is that both families had unidentified photos that, by bringing them together, we have been able to identify.

James Cooper (1854-1945)

James Cooper (1854-1945), elder brother of my great-grandmother Esther Cooper, married Frances Mary Gooderham in Monewden, Suffolk, in 1874. Frances had been born in Monewden in 1854, daughter of **William Gooderham** and **Charlotte Fulcher**. The Gooderham family to which Frances belonged were the owners of Snape Maltings, now the site of the world-famous Aldeburgh Music Festival originated by **Benjamin Britten**. James and Frances emigrated to Queensland, Australia in 1876, where James became a sheep farmer. James had five children with Frances: **Harriet Elizabeth Esther** (1878-1878), **Edwin Jonathan** (1880-1911), **Francis James** (1882-1959), **Dora Eleanor** (1895-1896) and **Eleanor Grace** (1897-1957).

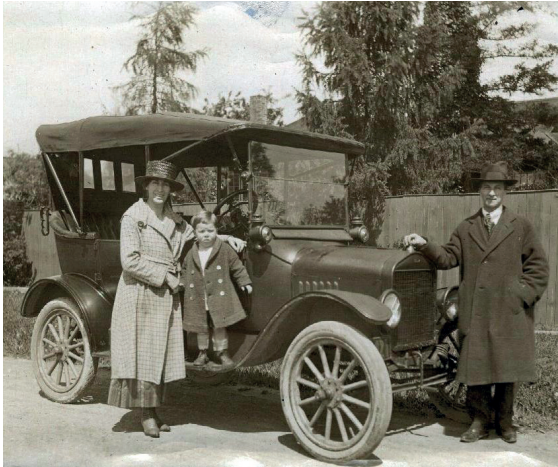
Frances died in Queensland in 1908 and James then married Alice Maud Moyse née Otto, widow of **Josiah Sloman Moyse**, in 1910. He had three further children with Alice: **Dorothy Lucy** (1911-1998), **Edna Anne** (1912-1912) and **Noel William** (1914-1982), and there was a step-son, **Josiah Frederick Moyse**, born 1902.

Francis 'Frank' James was born in Brisbane in 1882. He moved to New South Wales and married **Margaret Elizabeth A Jones** (b. 1891) in Goulburn, New South Wales, in 1914. They had two children, **Edwin** and **Margaret**. Frank died in New South Wales in 1959.



*Francis James Cooper with wife Margaret Elizabeth, and children Edwin and Margaret, New South Wales, Australia, c. 1932*

William Jonathan Cooper (1883-1979)



*William Cooper in Vancouver c. 1915, with his first wife Mabel, and son Cyril*

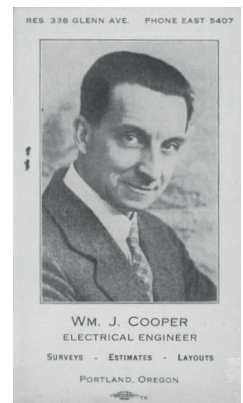
William Jonathan Cooper (1883-1979), son of Jonathan Charles Cooper and Louisa Friston, moved to Canada in 1907, and married **Mabel Mildred Wetmon** in Vancouver in 1908. Their first son, **Cyril**, was born in 1911, but sadly Mabel, who was born in Ipswich in 1884, died in 1917 after the birth of their second son **Eric**.

Will moved to Portland, Oregon, USA, with his two sons in the 1920s and married a woman called **Agnes**. As far as I know he had no further children.

Will married a third time, to **Isabelle**, around 1950. I don't have details of his second and third wives. He died in Walnut Creek, California, in 1979.

All the family members in this article left Suffolk for the most part to live fruitful and very successful lives in countries around the world. Researching their lives has brought me into contact with many far-flung relatives, and also allowed me to introduce members of my family to previously unknown relatives of theirs living here and overseas.

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*William Cooper's business card, 1930s*



## WHERE DID MY HAMMETT ANCESTORS GO? A STORY OF LOSS AND LOVE

My maternal great-aunt, **Susie Hammett**, was born at Frostenden, Suffolk on 6 November 1884, the fourth child of **George Hammett** and wife **Jessie (née Cowles-Buggs)**, who had been married on 20 May 1879 in the parish church at Carlton Colville. My searches of the UK census and BMD records revealed that George and Jessie had a total of seven children, two dying young. Their first-born, **Lewis William Hammett**, died in September 1879 aged only three months. Their second child, a daughter, **Jessie Eliza Hammett**, born in 1881 in Wrentham, died aged 13 in Hampstead, London in March 1895, whilst visiting or residing with her aunt **Alice Barnes (née Hammett)**, George's younger sister. Susie had an older sibling, **Lizzie Hammett**, born in 1883 in Wrentham, and three younger ones all born in Frostenden, **Laura Ellen Hammett** (b. 1886), **Frederick William Hammett** (b. 12 May 1889), and **Ida May Hammett** (b. 1892).



*All Saints' church, Frostenden. David from Colorado Springs, USA, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons*

Life would have been hard for the family, as George was alternately employed as a farm labourer and as a fisherman on several of the small fishing smacks out of Lowestoft port. At the time of the 1911 census, George and Jessie were living at 43 High Street, Southwold, above the Post Office, and only their youngest child, Ida May, then aged 19, was still at home. So began my search for George and Jessie's migrating children.

Lizzie Hammett decided to leave the family home in Frostenden for better prospects of employment in London. The 1901 census reveals that, aged 18, she was employed as a housemaid in the home of **Walter Fitton**, a Professor of Music, at 108 Clifton Hill, St Marylebone. At the time of the 1911 census, Lizzie had returned to her roots and, aged 27, was employed as a parlour maid for a Harbour Master and his wife in Dovercourt, Essex. In 1912, Lizzie married **Joseph F. Miller** in Blything, Suffolk. As far as my research has shown, she stayed in the Suffolk/North Essex area for the rest of her life, until her death in March 1960.

Laura Ellen Hammett followed her sibling to London, and at the time of the 1911 census was employed as cook in the home of **George Redfern**, a widower, and his family in Hampstead. In 1919 she married **William Balderstone** in Blything, Suffolk, and remained in the Suffolk borders area until her death in 1963.

Frederick William Hammett, George and Jessie's only surviving son, also migrated to the London area and at the time of the 1911 census was employed as a 'Butterman' in a wholesale grocery provisioners in Walthamstow High Street. Frederick was lodging in Woodville Road, Walthamstow, at the family home of **Dorothy Wittamore**, my maternal grandmother. They married at Walthamstow parish church the following year, on 22 December 1912, and had two children, **Stanley Frederick Hammett** (b. 1913) and my mother, **Eileen Dorothy Hammett** (b. November 1914). Frederick was tragically killed in action in August 1917, aged 28, at Inverness Copse, France, during the 3rd Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Lizzie's younger sister, Susie Hammett, proved more elusive. The 1901 census showed her, aged 16, employed as cook in the same household as her older sister Lizzie. The 1911 census revealed that Susie, then aged 28, had moved from her previous employer, perhaps after Lizzie had left London for Dovercourt, and was employed as parlour maid in the home of a family in Gloucester Terrace, Bayswater. The family appears to have been affluent, as a total of five servants were listed on the census form. My search for Susie then came to an abrupt end, as I could find no marriage or death record for her. Where was she? My breakthrough came in 2020, during the Covid pandemic lockdown, when the posting of another member's family tree on Findmypast revealed a connection with a **Maddock** family from Penybryn, in Margam parish, South Wales, and a wonderfully romantic story unfolded...

Whilst Susie was employed in domestic service in London (c. 1900-1912), she would often shop at Messrs. W & J Roberts and insist on being served by a young shop assistant, **Rees Maddock**. Rees and his twin brother **Richard**, born 15 December 1878, were two of the youngest of 12 children born to **Thomas Maddock** and his wife **Jennet (née Jones)**, who farmed at 'Troedyrhiw', on the Margam estate. Sadly, Thomas died on 13 April 1884, leaving Jennet the onerous task of feeding, clothing and educating this large family single-handed. Rees and Richard were only a little over five years old. To augment the income from the farm, Jennet had some time

previously opened a country store at Kenfig Hill, some 3 or 4 miles away. The children would live at the store during the school week but spend the weekends at Troedyrhiw, where it became the lot of the eldest daughter, **Elizabeth Ellen Maddock**, to cope with running the farm and bringing up the younger members of the family.

At the age of 16, Rees was apprenticed to a drapery firm in Port Talbot where he 'lived-in' during the week above the store and worked for three years without wages. Following his apprenticeship, he secured work at a tailoring store in the mining town of Merthyr Tydfil, working as a door-to-door salesman. In 1901, when he was 22, he moved to London seeking fame and fortune, and found employment in the dress and tailoring departments of Messrs. W & J Roberts. He lodged at the YMCA and took a great interest in all its Christian activities. After seven years working in London



SS Paparoa in Wellington Harbour. Dickie, John (1869-1942):  
Collection of postcards, prints and negatives. Ref: 1/1-002350-G.  
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.  
/records/23182259

and seeing no prospects of real advancement, Rees accepted the offer of a job in Heatherington's drapery store in Thames, Auckland, New Zealand! After hasty goodbyes to family and friends, he embarked on the NZ Shipping Company steamer *RMS Paparoa*, leaving London on 31 October 1907 and finally disembarking in Wellington in late December.

Rees then travelled to Auckland and thence to his new employment at Heatherington's. He found the pace of life there much slower than that of the busy London stores. He became a regular worshipper at St James' Presbyterian church, but found life in Thames quiet and dull, and so after only eight months at Heatherington's he went to Auckland to look for a better job, determined that if he didn't find one within a fortnight he would return to London. Fortunately, he found employment in the dress material department of Smith & Caughey. He boarded in a private hotel and immediately linked himself with the local church, throwing himself into youth work, leading a young men's Bible class and attending numerous camps and conferences.

After working at Smith & Caughey's for three years, Rees met a Mr. **William Pettie**, who offered him a position in Pettie's drapery store in Gisborne, which Rees decided to accept. As there was no road access to Gisborne from Auckland at that time, he sailed there on the *Arahura*. But he was to remain at Pettie's for only three months, as in a leap of daring, he decided to launch out with a fellow employee, **Robert Guthrie**, and establish the firm Guthrie & Maddock, the 'Home of Good Values',



in 1911. The firm was destined to become prominent in the business life of Gisborne for the next 39 years, but Robert Guthrie was not to remain a partner for long. Within three years, Rees had bought out Guthrie's interest in the business, though the name of Guthrie & Maddock was to remain.

In those days, the rail link with Otoko and Matawai was being pushed through and Rees would, from time to time, pack a bag of samples, take the train as far as possible and then walk to Otoko and Matawai, displaying his goods and taking orders. In this way he helped to build up strong country ties and, under his guidance, the firm quickly prospered and a strong, steady business established.

Now that Rees was settled in his own business and his prospects were rapidly improving, he began to think of marriage; after all, he was by then 33, and at last in a position to support a wife. So, his mind turned back to Susie Hammett. In the years since he had left England in 1907, he had spasmodically corresponded with Susie, but mail by boat was slow and erratic. It is apparent from the surviving correspondence that the letters were very plain, brief and matter-of-fact, strictly formal, with never a suggestion of the romantic, always addressed 'Dear Miss Hammett', never 'Dear Susie'. It was no doubt in this formal, stilted way that he wrote to Susie asking for her hand in marriage. He also wrote to Susie's father, George, in good old-fashioned style, to ask for consent. He never received a reply from George, but Susie said 'Yes!' Thus, Rees despatched the princely sum of £40 to pay for Susie's passage to New Zealand.

She sailed on 2 January 1913 from the Port of London on *SS Arawa* to Auckland, then on to Gisborne by the *Arahura*, and was met by Rees, whom she had not seen for 5½ years! In a matter of days, they were married in old St Andrew's church on 5 March 1913. The only other people present were Rees's business partner, Robert Guthrie, and **Annie Hood**, Rees's landlady. The ceremony was conducted at 8 o'clock in the morning and two hours later they caught the tug *Tuatia*, boarded the *Arahura* lying in port, and sailed to Auckland for their honeymoon.

No doubt Rees found great pride and pleasure in introducing his brand-new English bride to his Auckland friends, because few, if any of them, had any previous knowledge of his romance. Rees firmly believed in keeping his affairs of the heart to himself.



TSS Arahura. Photograph taken by David James Aldersley (1862-1928).  
Dickie, John (1869-1942): Collection of postcards, prints and negatives.  
Ref: 1/1-001053-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington,  
New Zealand. /records/23032392

When the couple returned to Gisborne, they set up home in Lyndhurst Street, where their only child, **Rhys Arthur George Maddock**, was born on 16 January 1914 and baptised in the newly-built St Andrew's church. Soon after that, their home at Lyndhurst Street was completely destroyed by fire and they lost everything they possessed. Within a year, the business premises of Guthrie & Maddock were also gutted by fire – a very severe set-back for the young couple. But their determination saw the business set up again within three days, in temporary premises. It was the day before Christmas. The local newspaper carried the caption '*Fire cannot burn and water cannot quench the reputation of Guthrie & Maddock*'. Despite these set-backs, the business began to prosper and in 1921, Rees and Susie decided to have a prolonged holiday in the UK, with the opportunity for reunions with their respective families in Wales and Suffolk. They sailed on 8 April 1921 on the *SS Athenic*, with young son Arthur, leaving a competent staff to manage the business in their absence.



*Rees and Susie Maddock with son Arthur © the Maddock family*

Tragedies in the Maddock and Hammett families in the intervening years saddened Rees and Susie's visit. Rees's younger brother **Arthur Maddock** had been killed in France on 18 March 1915, and as recorded above, Susie's younger brother Frederick had been killed at Passchendaele in 1917. Rees had been looking forward, too, to meeting up again with his twin

brother Richard, but sadly Richard had been killed in an accident involving a motor car on 5 October 1920, as he was returning to the family farm after a Farmers' Union meeting. This was a source of great grief and disappointment to Rees.

The Hammett family, too, had suffered further loss, with the tragic death of Susie's father George, aged 60, in an accident at sea on the Lowestoft smack *JGC* during the night of 6 January 1920. An inquest was held two days later at the Court House, Lowestoft. Evidence given by the skipper, **Charles Buggs**, George's brother-in-law, suggested that George had been heaving on the winch handle whilst the vessel was trawling 40 miles south-east of Lowestoft, when, letting the handle out of his grasp, it flew back and struck him with great force on the head, killing him instantly. The death certificate issued on 10 January 1920 confirms this.

Despite this sadness, the couple no doubt enjoyed their visits to family and friends in Wales and Suffolk and it must have been a great adventure for young Arthur. They finally returned home, leaving Southampton bound for Wellington on 8 September 1921 on *SS Tainui*. On their return to Gisborne they built a comfortable home on

a prime site and named it 'Troedyrhiw', after Rees's family's farm. Since his first arrival in Gisborne, Rees had involved himself with the life and work of St Andrew's church, and Susie was to become a dedicated helpmate, both in the business and in the church. She supported him in the shop, doing most of the sewing, mending and alterations and also serving behind the counter when help was needed. She was an excellent housekeeper, spotlessly clean, an expert needlewoman, a competent cook and a gracious hostess. As the years went by and the family became more affluent, Susie loved to entertain, hosting afternoon tea parties, bridge evenings etc.



*Gladstone Road, Gisborne c. 1930. Tourist and Publicity. Ref: 1/1-006797-F.  
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, NZ. /records/22828687*

She was right behind Rees in all his church activities, too. Although Susie had been baptised in the Primitive Methodist chapel at Halesworth, and later confirmed into the Anglican church at St Mary's Kilburn, London, she became a loyal Presbyterian, always accompanying Rees to worship and actively involved in fundraising for many good causes. They both loved the Church and all its work, and their lives were rooted and grounded in the Christian faith. It must have been a proud moment when their son Arthur was licensed as a Probationer for the Holy Ministry by a Commission of the Hawkes Bay Presbytery in St Andrew's church on 18 August 1938. He sailed to Britain on the *SS Rangitata* on 25 August to take up a postgraduate course at the School of Theology, New College, Edinburgh. Rees and Susie had hoped to visit him there, but WWII intervened.



*St Andrew's Presbyterian church, Gisborne © St Andrew's, Gisborne*

Rees and Susie lived a very simple, straightforward Christian life, scrupulously honest in all their business dealings and personal relationships.

Rees continued actively in the business until he was 72, cycling to work each morning, coming home for lunch and cycling home again in the evening. But the years were telling and he was having difficulty in finding trained staff, so on 30 August 1950 he sold out to Messrs. Arthur Toye Ltd. In his retirement, Rees had more time for pursuing his favourite pastime of lawn bowls, having been a founding member of the Poverty Bay Bowling Club, whilst Susie devoted much of her time to the garden. They thoroughly enjoyed their retirement, surrounded by a group of long-standing friends.

In 1964, age and ill health saw them having to sell up house and home and move to be nearer their son Arthur and family in Howick, Auckland, where they went to live in a nearby flat, close to the Manse. Here they coped, with help, for a further three years. It was an especially happy time for them, as they were able to see more of the grandchildren.

Eventually, Susie broke her leg, and after a short spell in hospital was transferred to a nursing home, where Rees joined her. But the end was near. Rees died a fortnight later, on Saturday 16 December 1967, a day after his 89th birthday, and Susie exactly a week later, on 23 December 1967, aged 83, after a full and happy marriage of some 54 years.

I am so proud of my great-aunt Susie, who took a leap of faith against all the odds and enjoyed such a wonderfully happy married life in New Zealand. I am also very grateful to members of the Maddock family, for allowing me to use extracts from Rees and Susie's son Arthur Maddock's account of the family, *The Maddock Family 1807-1967 – A Brief Retrospect*, written in 1981. Arthur died, aged 87, in 2001.

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## GOING TO AMERICA

I had always known that my paternal grandparents married in Washington DC, USA, but the exact story of how this came about took many years to uncover.

My grandfather **Thomas Edmund Chandler** (known as Tom) was born on 23 February 1895 at Aldringham, Suffolk. Tom was one of 16 children born to **Thomas Edward Chandler** (1864-1936) and **Sarah Ann née Smith** (1866-1950), who married in 1886 at Westleton and lived at Ivy Cottage, Mill Hill, Aldringham for most of their lives.

Tom's father was a bricklayer, as was his grandfather **Edmund Chandler** (1836-1920), and his great-grandfather, **Edmund Chandler** (1812-1904), was the famous bellringer of Fressingfield who received a portrait with royal signature from Queen Victoria in 1896 for ringing the bells every year on her birthday (see article in June 2022's *Suffolk Roots*).



*Tom Chandler, 1922,  
Washington DC*

In the 1911 census Tom was aged 16 and in service as a hall boy working for retired physician **William Smith Paget-Tomlinson** at The Biggins, Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmorland, now on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

By the time Tom enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps on 15 December 1914 he was aged 19 and a footman. In 1920 and aged 25 he left the Army and his discharge certificate states:

*'He is discharged in consequence of having elected to reside permanently outside the United Kingdom after serving 4 years 194 days with the colours and 1 year 180 days in the Army Reserve'.*



*Agnes Smith on her  
wedding day, 1923,  
Washington DC*

Tom had been employed to work as a butler for **Major Charles Edward Dunscomb Bridge**, who was Assistant Military Attaché at the British Embassy at Washington DC.

My grandmother **Agatha Evelyn Smith** (known as Agnes, and 'Topsey' to close family) was born on 15 November 1898 along with her twin brother **John David Smith** (1898-1977), when the family were living at Lower Assendon near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Agnes was one of seven children, but not all survived past childhood.

Agnes's parents were **Annie Eliza Denton** (1872-1957) and **David Smith** (1862-1922), who married on 6 December 1894 at Hanover Square, London. David had been part of the Royal Court in Berlin when Queen Victoria's daughter Vicky married Frederick III of Prussia, but that's another story!

I have Agnes's National Registration Card from 1915 (this was a register of all civilians between the ages of 15 and 65) which states that she was a schoolteacher, and in December 1920 aged 22 she was employed by Major Bridge to work as a nursemaid. I have her contract of employment which includes the following:

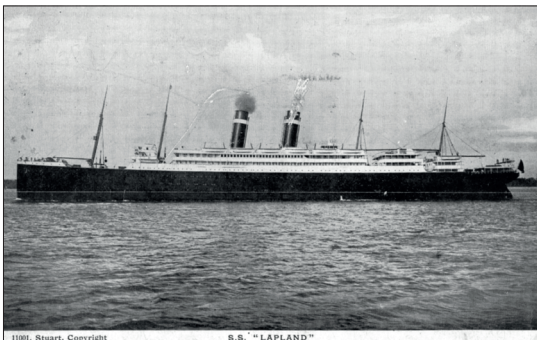
*'The Servant agrees to remain in the service of the Master as Nursemaid for a period of not less than 2 years from Christmas 1920 and to serve the Master in that capacity at or near the town of Washington U.S.A. and to properly carry out and perform all the duties which it is usual and customary for a servant in England to carry out and perform.'*

The connection between Agnes and Major Bridge was Turville Park (which is a mile from Northend, Buckinghamshire where the Smith family lived at that time) and where the Major's cousin **John Sargeant Cyprian Bridge** lived (from *Kelly's Directory* 1915 and 1924). I have Agnes's photo albums from the time which include many photos of herself at Turville Park, so she probably worked there.

Agnes and Tom would have met on ship, as the passenger list shows they travelled together along with two of Tom's sisters, **Lucy Rosalie Chandler** (1891-1968) and **Annie May Chandler** (1900-1980, known as Anne) who were employed by Major Bridge as maids. Also part of the group were **Mary May Sculthorpe** (known as May), who was the cook, and another nursemaid, **Emma Eliza Waters**.

They sailed aboard the *SS Lapland*, which left Southampton on 24 December 1920 and arrived in New York on 4 January 1921. The passenger list records that the group had diplomatic status, their destination was Washington, with an intended length of stay of two years, and they had no intention of seeking citizenship. The information is very detailed and includes a physical description which really brings the individuals to life:

- *'Thomas E Chandler, single, butler, aged 25 years 10 months, height: 5 ft 10 ins, brown hair, grey eyes, fair complexion and born in Aldringham'*
- *'Lucy R Chandler, single, maid, aged 29 years 8 months, height: 5 ft 2½ ins, brown hair, brown eyes, fair complexion and born in Aldringham'*
- *'Anne M Chandler, single, maid, aged 20 years 10 months, height: 5 ft 3 ins, brown hair, grey eyes, fair complexion and born in Aldringham'*
- *'Agatha E Smith, single, nurse, aged 22 years, height: 5 ft 6 ins, brown hair, hazel eyes, fair complexion, scar on neck and born in Henley-on-Thames'*



*'To Mrs D Smith, Northend Henley on Thames. This is a P.C. of our boat. Southampton is a much larger place than I thought. Quite a lot of huge vessels in dock. Children are very good & we are all well. Sun shining here today.  
Topsey'*

I have Agnes's 1922 diary, address book and photo albums from Washington, which have provided an invaluable resource when researching her time in America. Some of her diary entries are particularly poignant.

Entry for 21 January 1922:

*'Letter from Mum, John has the flu, Dad heart attack and bronchitis.'*

Entry for 28 January 1922:

*'Terrible snow storm. Worst here for 24 years. Roof of Knickerbocker theatre falls in. 900 people inside. Mrs Tizard has a son at the Garfield Hospital.'*



Agnes, Emma and May (back). Ann and Lucy (middle). Tom in front. August 1921

Agnes was supposed to be at the theatre that evening, but told us that as she had received news of her father's heart attack and was herself feeling unwell with a bad cold, she didn't feel well enough to go out that evening. I have a booklet she kept from the time with photos and the story of the disaster which was also reported in the British press, including the *Sheffield Independent* of 30 January 1922:

*'PANIC IN THE DARKNESS – The police estimate 125 persons were killed and at least 260 injured by the collapse of the roof of the Knickerbocker Cinema, in Washington, on Saturday, says an Exchange message. Washington, Sunday. The city was blanketed yesterday by one of the heaviest snowstorms in its history, the snow reaching a height of over two feet. All rail and road communication was cut off with the outside world, and the streets became almost impassable. Towards evening the alarm was given that the roof of the Knickerbocker Motion Picture Theatre, one of the finest in the city, with seating capacity of 2,200, had fallen in under the tremendous weight of snow. The entire police and fire brigade forces were sent to the spot, and found that when 500 people were in the theatre, the whole roof, with heavy cement balcony and part of the brick wall, came crashing down upon them ... So far 94 dead bodies have been recovered from the ruins of the cinema. The accident occurred just before nine o'clock, when the film "Get-rich-quick, Wallingford," was being shown – Exchange.'*

As the diary entry was written on the day of the disaster, the number of people that Agnes stated were inside the theatre may have been just a 'word-of-mouth' estimate.

Back then most communication would be by letter, and I am lucky enough to have this lovely letter to Agnes from her father dated 8 March 1922:

*'Northend, Henley on Thames, March 8th. My dear Tops, In answer to your letter I received the day after my birthday I was very pleased to hear from you also to hear you were well. I am glad to say I am feeling a bit better today, one of my bad days yesterday.'*

*I thought the time had arrived for me to pack up. Your mother is a bit better, we have all had this rotten cold. I shall be glad when the warmer weather comes. It is raining & trying to snow & frightful cold. **Clarks** house is nearly finished, their furniture arrived yesterday. Can't get it half in the house the ceilings are so low so they are going to try & have a deal with Heelas for smaller stuff. They have some very nice things. **Earles** are gone to Christmas Common behind Stacey's round the new quarter. **Alf Stacey** cut three of his fingers nearly off. I think he is getting better. Well I hope you & nurse Emma get on alright together. It is nice when you hit it off alright. I often wish I had went to America when I was young. There is one thing, I shan't get there now. I might get as far as Turville but I hope I shall be spared to see you again. **Eddie** was up last night for a few minutes. She is alright except a cold. Mr & Mrs Bridge was in bed with colds & **Joan** is not quite well. I was lucky last week in the football got 10/- and a few weeks ago got booby. All of us have had very bad luck till now. **Flo** & me shared the pound, she is very lucky. She has won quite a lot of money. I haven't heard anything about my money from Germany. I hope they will have to pay. I shall get nearly four hundred pounds, just set me up in my old age, 60 last birthday. Now my dear girl I must close. Love from your mother & boys take care of yourself there's a dear girl. I must close with love from your ever loving father.*

*Kind regards to nurse Emma & love to yourself'*

It is very sad to think that Agnes probably didn't receive this letter until after she had the most devastating news from home. Diary entry 14 March 1922:

*'Receive cablegram from John about 6.56 saying poor Dad has gone.'*

David died, aged 60, on 12 March 1922 at Northend, and was buried on 17 March in the graveyard at Turville. For Agnes to travel home at that time would have been impossible and it would be nearly two years before she saw her family again.

The year 1922 was during the Prohibition era that lasted from 1920 to 1933, when the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages was prohibited by law throughout America. This meant that any alcohol consumed was 'hooch', which was illegally made and could be dangerous with its very high alcohol content.

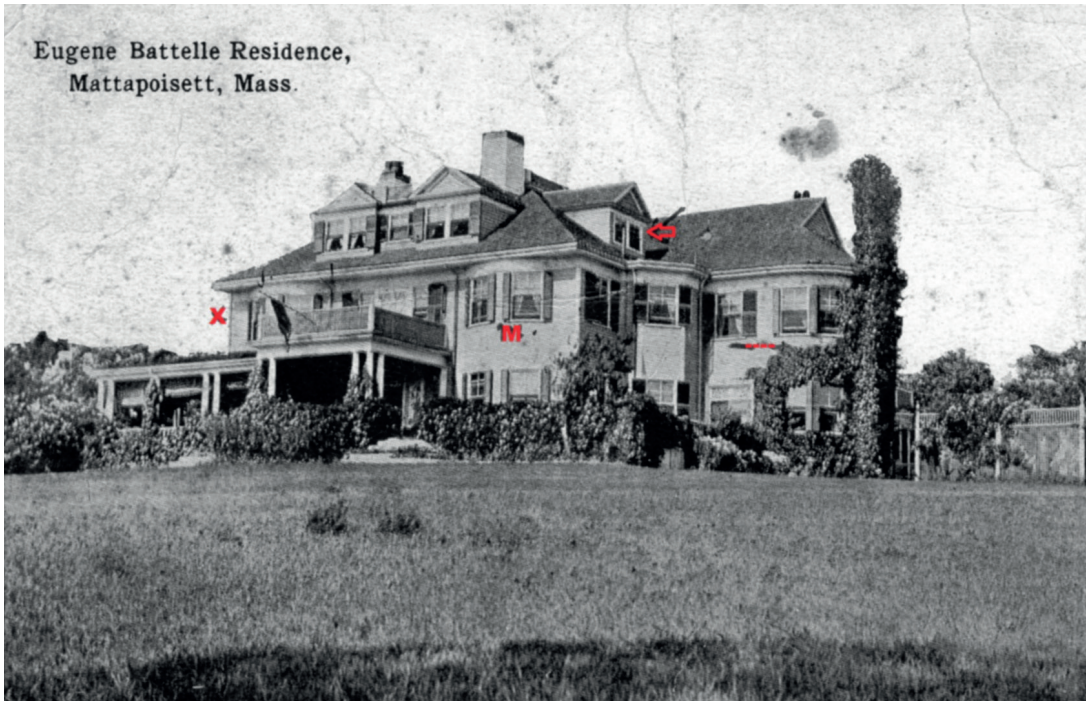
Agnes used to tell us stories about Tom and his friends drinking too much, and one time she had to get medication for Tom to save his life. She was understandably not happy about the drinking, as her diary entries show for 9 and 10 December 1922:

*'T and I go shopping. Fall out. Drink again.'* and *'I go to church. Still bad friends with Tom.'*

The Bridge family also spent time at the **Eugene Battelle** country residence, at Mattapoisett near Boston. Agnes's diary entry for 15 May 1922 reads:

*'Leave Washington for Mattapoisett.'*





Postmark 19 May 1922. 'To Mr T Chandler, 2208 Mass Ave, Washington DC. This is a PC of our house. X is my bedroom & the arrow is Lucy's, M is the Major's room and - - - is Mrs B. The other's rooms are at other side of house. Has been pooring with rain all day. Received letter this morning. So glad you enjoyed the circus. (keep this card) Love Agnes'

Tom stayed behind in Washington and arrived at Mattapoisett on 7 June. During their three weeks apart, Agnes recorded in her diary that she received 14 letters from Tom, so he was obviously smitten!

I have a photo of Tom which he sent to Agnes at the time, with this beautiful poem written on the reverse:

*'My heart is thine and soul and body render,  
Faith to thy faith; I give nor hold in thrall,  
Take all, dear love, thou art my life's holder,  
Speak to my soul, take life and love, take all.  
To Agnes, the only girl I ever trusted without a question.  
Tom.'*

Agnes and Tom married on 1 June 1923 at St Thomas's church, Washington DC, and they eventually returned to England in February 1924. Agnes had suffered from 'scrofula' (TB of the neck affecting the lymph nodes, which she called a 'TB gland') and her doctor advised them to move to the south coast of England as the medical advice at the time was to have sea air.



*Tom and Agnes on their wedding day, 1 June 1923, Washington DC*

I'm not sure exactly when this illness started, but it was probably before her trip to America, as the description of Agnes on the ship passenger list includes 'scar on neck', and her 1922 diary includes multiple entries about her neck problems and feeling unwell after having the flu and many bad colds. Her immune system would have been severely compromised by infected lymph nodes.

At first Agnes and Tom tried Bournemouth, where they worked for Mrs Bainbridge during 1924. I have the wonderful letter of reference from Mrs Bainbridge when they left her employ:

*'29th October 1924, Killeen, Lakeside Road, Bournemouth. It is with mixed feelings of regret and pleasure that I write the following testimonial for Chandler and his wife Agnes. Pleasure that I cannot speak too highly of all their qualities and regret that they have got to leave my service after 6 months contentment. In a very large and varied experience of married couples I can truthfully say that I have found one "perfect" couple for running a house in the comfort and happiness of anybody requiring same: & if at any time the Chandlers want another situation they know that I shall always be only too pleased to have them back. They only leave me as Mrs Chandler has been advised to give up work for a time: and Chandler resumes service with a former employer who is only too pleased to get him back.*

*My husband **Captain Bainbridge** is also giving Chandler a separate appreciation of his qualities with great satisfaction in all he has done. Signed **Alice Bainbridge.**'*

I also have a letter to Agnes from Mrs Bainbridge's mother, **Mary Garden Nicol**:

*'28th October 1924 Newtown House, Dalkeith Road, West Bournemouth.*

*Dear Mrs Chandler, I am afraid I shall not see you before you leave my daughter's, so I send these few lines to thank you and your husband for all your care, kindness and attention to my daughter Mrs Bainbridge while you have been with her.*

*I do hope your health will improve and that you will get quite strong again & be happy in your new home.*

*I also hope earnestly that your sister and brother-in-law will be contented with my daughter as it eases my mind, so much, when I know there are people with her, who can appreciate her kindness and gratitude for good service – many thanks also for showing my cook how to make my favourite cake: she is so pleased about it. Accept the small present I send you with all good wishes for both of you. I remain yours sincerely, Mary Garden Nicol.'*

After Bournemouth, Agnes and Tom went back to work for the Bridges as caretakers for their holiday cottage Yellowthatch, at Ferring, Sussex. But they soon moved to their own home at nearby Goring-by-Sea, where my father and his brother were born and Agnes and Tom lived out their lives. Tom died on 29 December 1969, aged 74 and Agnes on 9 March 1991, aged 92.

But that isn't the end of my Chandler connection with America. Of Tom's two sisters who worked with him in Washington, Lucy returned to England in 1923 when she married **Henry Walter Hickman**, a chauffeur, and they are the sister and brother-in-law mentioned in Mary Garden Nicol's letter to Agnes. Henry is recorded in the electoral roll for 1925 at Killeen, Lakeside Road, Bournemouth (from Findmypast). They had one son, **George Henry Hickman** (1925-1998). Henry died on 4 March 1947 at Bristol, aged 56, and Lucy on 15 June 1968 also at Bristol, aged 77.

Tom's other sister, Anne, also returned to England but eventually went back to America. She travelled home on 19 August 1923 aboard the ship *President Adams*, along with Harry Woodward, a chauffeur, who I later discovered was **Henry William Bennet Woodward**, born on 17 November 1893 in London. He was the 'Woody' mentioned many times in Agnes's 1922 diary, driving them out and about and socialising with them and Anne.

Diary entry for 18 April 1922:

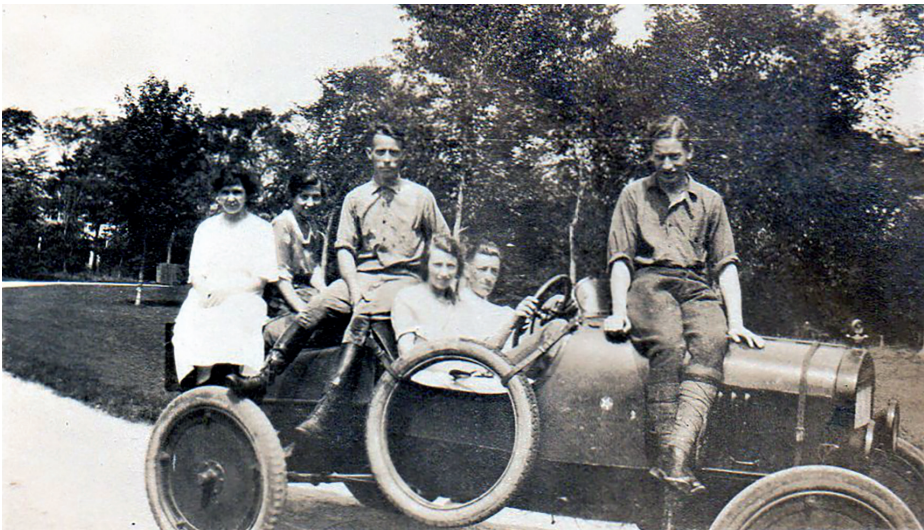
*'Tom learns to drive Woody's car.'*

And these further diary entries connect Anne and Woody. From 11 May 1922:

*'Woody, Anne, Tom and self go to Mt Vernon by steamer and return by trolley.'*

And on 30 December 1922:

*'Tom & A get drunk. Woody down for the day.'*



*May, Lucy, Woody, Anne, Tom & George at Mattapoisett, 1922*

Woody became Anne's husband, and it seems they returned to England together in 1923 to meet her parents before marrying. After the visit to England, Woody returned to America aboard the *Berengaria*, which arrived in New York on 2 November 1923. According to the ship passenger records, he had become a US citizen, being naturalised in July 1919 at the Brooklyn Supreme Court.



Anne arrived in New York on 10 December 1924 aboard the *Aquitania*, and the passenger records state she was joining her fiancé Harry Woodward of 131 Lockwood Ave, Rochelle, New York (this address is also in Agnes's address book for Woody). They obviously couldn't wait and married in Manhattan on the date of her arrival, 10 December 1924!

Anne and Woody had a daughter, **Shirley Eleanor Anne Woodward** (1926-2004). Anne returned home to England for a visit in 1932 on the *Berengaria*. The ship passenger records state that she was visiting her mother Mrs Sarah Chandler, Ivy Cottage, Aldringham, and travelling with her daughter Shirley Woodward, aged 6 years 8 months.

Woody died on 29 September 1953, aged 59, at Bergen, New Jersey and Anne on 17 October 1980, aged 80, at Broward, Florida.

Then I discovered another of Tom's sisters, **Flossie Chandler** (1897-1992), also went to America, after marrying **Arthur Thomas Baker** (1897-1946) on 22 December 1921 in Paddington and having a daughter **Pearl Paulette Baker** (1923-2006).

Arthur was also a chauffeur, and travelled to America on 19 January 1926 on the *Leviathan* to join his brother **Jack Grigsby** (who had adopted his stepfather's surname) at Randolph, NY. Flossie and her daughter Pearl departed from Southampton on 9 June 1926 on the *Olympic* of the White Star Line (sister ship of the *Titanic*), arriving at New York on 16 June 1926. The ship records include descriptions of Flossie and Pearl with details of their destination:

- 'Flossie Baker – height: 5 ft 5 ins, dark brown hair, grey eyes, fair complexion, married, aged 29, born Aldringham, husband: Mr A.T. Baker, 630 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY.'
- 'Pearl Baker – height: 2 ft 6 ins, brown hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, aged 3, born London.'

Arthur died in 1946, aged 48, at North Brunswick and Flossie in 1992, aged 95, at New Brunswick, Middlesex, New Jersey.

That is the story so far, an amazing insight into the interesting lives of my intrepid Chandler ancestors and their connection with America. I have spent many hours trawling through documents online during my research, but having my grandmother's photo albums has been a real bonus as I have been able to put faces to many of the names I have uncovered. I have also been able to identify some of the people in unnamed photos, but sadly so many more are still anonymous and will probably remain so. Perhaps finding some of their names will be my next project.

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#### References and Sources

All records from Ancestry unless stated otherwise.

All photos and letters from family archive.

Newspaper story from the British Newspaper Archive.



# FROM WYNDHUT TO WINDETT

## THE EVOLUTION OF A SURNAME

When I started researching the name **Windett**, it never occurred to me that it might be of Scandinavian origin. I worked through a series of catastrophic events in two world wars and family bankruptcies in Norfolk during the 19th century agricultural depressions, but as I progressed further back, I was surprised to find generations of wealthy farmers and landowners, interspersed with vicars, priests and chaplains. I also discovered a large collection of wills dating back to 1500, which put flesh on the bones of the parish register entries and drew connections between disparate family groups.

It was when I got back to the 17th century that the name began to be misspelled, or so I thought: **Wyndout/Wyndutt/Wyndowte** etc. Then I found a family of Wyndowtes in Bardwell in Suffolk. Were they ours? The answer came in the will of **John Windout** of Bardwell (1591) in which he left a bullock to each of his two grandsons: '*John and Stephen Windout, sonnes of Robart Windout my sonne, to be delivered to them within 2 years next after my discease*'.<sup>(1)</sup>

The John named in the will was baptised in Bardwell on 3 July 1588. The family then moved to Attleborough in Norfolk, where Stephen was baptised on 11 September 1590. I am descended from their younger brother **James**, who took up land in Walsoken in the Norfolk/Cambridgeshire fens. This information is from the Bardwell and Attleborough parish registers, 1588-1600:<sup>(2)</sup>

John	Son of Robart Windout/Wyndut	bp. 3 July 1588	Bardwell
Stephen	Sonne of Robt Wyndoot	bp. 11 September 1590	Attleborough
James	Sonne of Robt Windoot	bp. 9 September 1593	Attleborough
<b>Andrew</b>	Sonne of Robt Windwood	bp. 1 September 1595	Attleborough
		bur. 12 July 1597	
<b>Andrew</b>	Sonne of Robt	bp. 4 May 1600	Attleborough

The struggles with the spelling of the surname are evident here. There are many other versions, including Wyndutt, Wyendowte, Wyndought, and Wenndott.

The family are first documented in Bardwell in 1485, when a **John Wendowthe**, chaplain, and his brother **Thomas** were witnesses to the '*Feoffment of the Town Estate*'. Between 1544 and 1546 another **Thomas Wyndowt** signed as the priest. He was buried in 1547. In the neighbouring village of Stanton, Wyndowtes are recorded 36 times between 1407 and 1560, mainly as chaplains, who were always called either Thomas or John. They appeared mostly as witnesses to documents and occasionally moved between the villages. (Note: I have so far failed to obtain a copy of **David Dymond's** *The Charters of Stanton, Suffolk*,<sup>(3)</sup> which may contain more details.)

My researches then led me back to the Augustinian Priory of Clare, the village of Ashen in Essex, the Benedictine Priory of Stoke-by-Clare and, eventually, to the Abbey of Le Bec-Hellouin in Normandy.

### Clare Priory 1248-1538

Until 1388, the vills<sup>(4)</sup> of Stanton and Bardwell (Berdewelle) collected and paid alms to the Augustinian Priory at Clare, which is situated in the upper Stour valley in west Suffolk. Recruited mainly from local towns and villages, the Augustinians were mendicant friars, who, despite their vow of poverty, from about 1279 received money, precious artefacts, and parcels of land for their foundation from wealthy individuals, bishops and even royalty, in return for indulgences.



*Clare Priory. Photo courtesy Cathy Reddick of Clare Priory*

The priory was also a centre of learning and of prayer, but as the radical doctrines of Martin Luther, himself an Augustinian friar, gradually took hold in England, long held beliefs began to crumble and some of the friars were accused of heresy. By the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of **Henry VIII**, the priory was said to be in a state of decay. On 29 November 1538, the King's agent, **Richard Ingworth**, Bishop of Dover, knocked on the door to receive the priory's surrender. After that it passed into private hands.<sup>(5)</sup> In 1953 the Augustinian Friars purchased the building and it now acts as a parish and as a retreat centre which is open to the public. I spoke to one of the friars who vanished and returned with a cartulary<sup>(6)</sup> – a collection of local charters – which contains four references to Wyndhouts:

- In 1316 a **John Wyndhout** owns a meadow in Belchamp St Paul, London, next to the meadow of the Augustinian friars of Clare.
- In 1349, power of attorney is granted by **John Punt** of Clare to a John Wyndout of Stoke by Clare to deliver seisin (the freehold) of a messuage (a house with land) lying in the vill of Clare to **Roger Curthays** of Clare and **Alice** his sister. He will ratify whatever is done by John Wyndhout in his name in this matter. (As the latter John clearly has some standing in the village, he is possibly the Iohanne Clerico who witnesses a document two months later).
- In 1368, **Stephen Winhout**/Stephano Wyndhout owns a tenement in Nethergatestrete.
- In 1375, Stephen Wyndhout and **William Paycock** issue a quitclaim to a parcel of meadow in the 'vill of Ashen'.

There is no evidence that any of these Wyndhouts were friars.

### The Ashen charters

The ancient village of Ashen is in Essex, on the river Stour, near the Suffolk border and two and a half miles southwest of Stoke by Clare. The charters are a series of deeds in Latin granting transfers of land in the local area between 1285 and 1335.<sup>(7)</sup> There are references to Wyndouts in 12 charters, that mention three individuals: **Robert Wyndhut** and his sons **William** and **Gilbert Wyndout**.

William appears in eight charters (1311–1317). An example is charter no. 15:

*'To all the faithful in Christ &c, I William son of Robert Wyndout of Stoke send greetings in the Lord. I have given & granted to **Dionisia de Gosseford**, for term of her life, seventeen acres of land, with all crops & with hedges, ditches & with pastures nearby & with rents, homages, wards, reliefs & escheats & with ways, lands belonging to the said tenement lying in Ashen of which 4 acres & 3 roods lie in the field of Stondon. Item in the field of Lambesele 4 acres & a half. Item in the field called Broseleye 2 acres & 3 roods. Item in the field called Marschalishamstal 5 acres. To have & to hold &c Clause of Warranty. Witnesses: **William Packelis, Richard de Stura, William le Vinour, Reginald le Vinour, Gilbert Crowe, Thomas Carpentar** &c. Dated at Ashen, Wednesday after St Peter in Cathedral 5 King Edward son of King Edward [1312] [seal of ... white wax defaced]'*

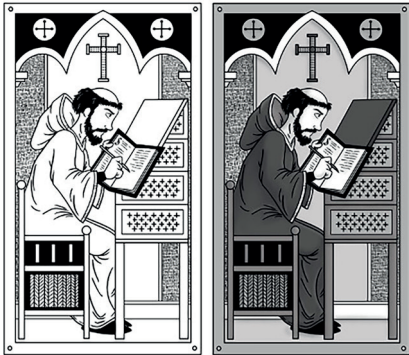
In charters 21 and 22, William's seal is described as 'a seal of green wax representing the kneeling figure of a priest praying before the Virgin and Child, with the legend S. WILLI. FIL.ROBERTI [1316]'

### Stoke-by-Clare Priory and the Abbey of Le Bec-Hellouin

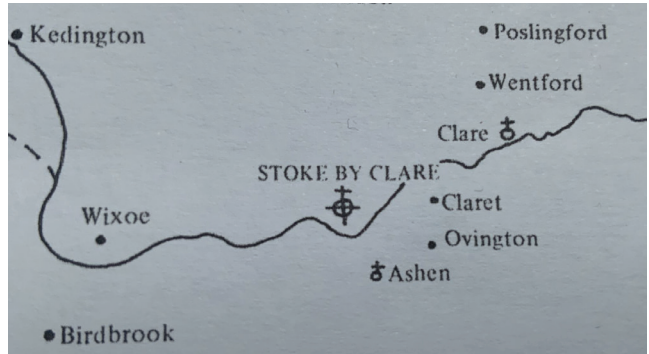
The references to Stoke in the Ashen charters took me to the cartulary of Stoke-by-Clare Priory.<sup>(8)</sup> It contains several 13th and 14th century references: 'William, priest of Ashen'; 'Gilbert the marshal, son of Robert the marshal'; 'Wilhelm vicar of Stoke'; 'William son of Robert, butler of the earl of Clare'; 'Gilberto et Roberto fratribus [brothers]', but these were



common names, the dates are vague and the lack of surnames makes it impossible to pinpoint which ones were Wyndhuts. What I did learn was that, in contrast to those in Clare Priory, these monks were aliens.



*Drawing of Monks by David Windett*



*Map showing location of Clare and Stoke-by-Clare priories*

In the 60 years following the Norman Conquest the powerful Benedictine Abbey of Le Bec-Hellouin in Normandy, not far from Rouen, received many gifts of lands, churches and tithes in England.<sup>(9)</sup> In 1090 **Gilbert Fitz Richard de Clare** gave the church of St John the Baptist in Clare Castle and all its endowments to the Abbey of Bec, and a conventual priory was later established which was moved to Stoke by Clare in 1124. The monks were given lands, mills, fishing and pasture rights, but **Edward I** (1272-1307) and his successors were suspicious of potentially treasonable activities by the alien religious settled in England, especially if they were near the coast or navigable rivers. In 1295, 'guardians' were appointed for all the alien priories to ensure that the monks did not pose a threat to national security. Repeatedly during the Hundred Years' War, which began in 1337, the revenues of Stoke-by-Clare Priory were wholly or in part diverted to the Crown. In 1395 the Priory was 'naturalised', payments to foreign abbeys were excluded and all monks had to be of English birth. But the new status was short-lived: in 1414 the Priory was suppressed and a year later became a college for priests, which was eventually abandoned after the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1540s. It is possible that, as vicars or priests, some of the Wyndhuts may have been involved with the college, but I have not yet found any evidence.

What emerges is a fragmented picture of one or more Wyndhuts who arrived in England from the Abbey of Bec into an uneasy political situation and gradually integrated into the wider community, acquiring property and farming while maintaining a strong relationship with the church, which lasted well into the 17th century.

### The meaning of the name

It was when I saw the spelling of the first reference to **Robert Wyndhut** in Ashen charter no. 4 (1285) that a light dawned. The name is Germanic, pronounced 'Vinthoot'. It can be broken into component parts:



- *Wind/Wynd* = wind
- *Hut* in German has two genders:  
*der Hut* (masculine) = hat – a protective garment  
*die Hut* (feminine) = keeping, care, protection  
*die Hütte* = hut, shelter  
*hüten* (v) = to guard, to protect

And in:	Danish	Dutch	Norwegian	Swedish
Wind	<i>vind</i>	<i>wind</i>	<i>vind</i>	<i>vind</i>
Hut	<i>hytte</i>	<i>hut</i>	<i>hytte</i>	<i>hytt</i>

All spellings maintained a central ‘d’, preceded by soft vowels i/y/e and followed by hard vowels a/o or u.

The name therefore appears to refer to a place which is protected from the wind or, perhaps, to a shelter built by an ancestor. It could also be a translation of ‘*Ventosi pillei*’, a nickname from an old Norse legend applied to a man who used to hold up his hat in order to determine the wind direction. The name contrasts with the Devonshire name **Windeatt**, which has a different origin: Wind + Geat = Windgate, a place where the wind blows through a gate or between two hills. The Wyndhuts were trying to keep the wind out, while the Windeatts were watching it blow through.

Internet searches on ‘Wyndhut’ have found a **Walter Wyndhut**,<sup>(10)</sup> who appears in a court case in Glastonbury in 1278. It also appears as a family name and a place name, and connected to a windsurfing school in Denmark and to a cycling organisation in Sweden. In modern German, a ‘Windhut’ is a cowl which stops the wind blowing down the chimney.

Family DNA evidence identifies Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Germanic European ancestry. The Wyndhuts may have originally come to France with the Viking raiders who devastated Normandy in the 13th century, but those who eventually came to England chose to come to three important religious houses: Clare Priory, Stoke Priory and Glastonbury Abbey.

### Evolution of the name

In the 17th century, the name appears to have split three ways: Wyndowte, Windwood and Windett.

Wyndowte (+ variants) appeared in parish registers in Suffolk and Norfolk until at least the first half of the 18th century.

The name Windwood began to encroach on Wyndowte territory in parish registers in Norfolk and Suffolk in the 16th century, as shown in the Attleborough register above. There are other examples in the Bardwell parish registers:

- 1665     **Robert Windout** and **Rose Craske** m. July 23  
 1666     **Rose** d. Robert and Rose Windout bap. Jan 5  
 1668     **Robert** s. Robert and Rose Windout bap. May 10  
 1674     **Mary** d. Robert Wyndout and Rose bap. Dec 18  
 1679     Robert Windout bur. April 14  
 1684     Rose Windwood bur. May 24  
 1737     Robert Windwood bur. Feb 9

An unverified statement on Genes Reunited suggests that the English Win(d)woods stem from two separate DNA streams.

**James Windoot** of Attleborough (bp. 1593) took up lands in Walsoken, Norfolk, and it was the Walsoken branch of the family that changed the name to Windett. By the time it reached that village it had slimmed down to Windut/Windot, but the parish registers show Windet/t for the first time in a burial index on 10 May 1653, after which the spelling stabilised. One can imagine a lively family discussion in the house called Redwalls (mentioned as the family home in the will of James Windet the elder, 1659) in which they decided not to go the way of Windwood.

James's two sons (by wife **Mary Bouch**) went to Wisbech School and then to Cambridge University, **James** to Queens' College and **Thomas** to Peterhouse, then a theological college. The spelling change is documented in the Cambridge Alumni database:<sup>(11)</sup>

*'James WINDET*

*Matric. sizar from QUEENS', Easter 1640; "Windutt." fasti*

*Of Cambridgeshire.*

*B.A. 1642/3;*

*M.A. 1646;*

*M.D. (Leyden [Holland]) 1655.*

*Incorp. at Oxford [Oxfordshire], 1656.*

*Candidate R.C.P. [Royal College of Physicians], 1656'*

(Note: Although the entry refers to Cambridgeshire, the border between that county and Norfolk runs through Walsoken parish churchyard).<sup>(12)</sup>

There is also a reference in *Fasti Oxon*,<sup>(13)</sup> the annals of bishops and poets who studied at Oxford, which contains mainly the information listed above together with a list of his works, and also a footnote: 'One, James Wyndut commenced A.B. of Qu. Coll. In Cambr. 1642-3'.

James' younger brother Thomas Windett (1630-70) became vicar of Southmere and Docking in 1662,<sup>(14)</sup> the last Thomas in a tradition which went back hundreds of years.

### **Janet Windett Mb 12715**

[j.windett@outlook.com](mailto:j.windett@outlook.com)

*Editors' note: Janet's work is featured on her relative, Malcolm Windett's website, along with Malcolm's own research which includes London Merchant, Thomas Wyndowte: <http://www.windett.com/origins-windett-wyndoute.html>.*

#### **References and Sources**

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3. D.P. Dymond (editor), *The Charters of Stanton, Suffolk, 1215-1678*, Vol. 18C (Boydell & Brewer, Ltd., 2009), ISBN: 978-1843834915.
4. A vill was the smallest administrative unit in mediaeval England, roughly equivalent to a parish.
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I used a version in Latin translation, for which I do not have a reference. The version copied into *The East Anglian* spells the name 'Wyndout' as 'Wyndont'. This is probably a mistranscription by the author, as the name 'Wyndont' does not appear anywhere else. Prior to the 16th century there were only 24 letters in the alphabet, and minims such as the letters 'n', 'm' 'u' and 'i', formed by the single downstroke of the pen, are a tease because they can be hard to distinguish if the joins are not clear.
8. C. Harper-Bill & R. Mortimer (eds), *Stoke-by-Clare Cartulary* (Boydell & Brewer, Ltd., 1984), ISBN: 9780851151984. (*Editors' note: This cartulary is also available on Ancestry.*)
9. Marjorie McCallum Morgan, *The English Lands of the Abbey of Bec* (Oxford University Press, 1946).
10. Public Record Office, *Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward I, 1272-1307*. <https://archive.org/details/calendarpatentr07offigoog/page/263/> (Membrane 17).
11. ACAD – A Cambridge University Database, <https://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/>
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13. Referred to in the entry for James Windet, *Munk's Roll* Vol. I, p. 273, <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/inspiring-physicians/james-windet>
14. Francis Blomefield, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 10*, (London, 1809), Smethdon Hundred: Southmere and Docking, p. 366 (Vicars), [www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol10/pp362-370](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol10/pp362-370)

## WHOSE BABY?

Current news stories sometimes resonate with family history.

On Sunday 8 September 1907, a baby was baptised at St Margaret Pattens Church in Rood Lane in the City of London. Unremarkable? The previous baptism had been on 6 January; the next was not until 13 March 1908. In this tiny City parish, covering only a few streets, virtually the only residents were the caretakers.

The baby was **Doris Annie Ward Tinley**; according to the register, her parents were **Bertha Annie** and **George Tinley**, Draper's Assistant, of 43 Eastcheap. Conducting the baptism was the rector, **Rev. St B S Sladen**, very recently installed, and residing outside the parish in Bloomsbury. St Margaret Pattens is almost on the corner of Rood Lane and Eastcheap, separated only by a shop, whose address is 43 Eastcheap (occupied in 1910 by a maker of barometers). It is my understanding that a Church of England priest could not refuse baptism when asked.



*St Margaret Pattens Church  
(photo by Will Fox courtesy of  
Wikimedia Commons)*

The birth of Doris Annie Ward Tinley was registered in Ipswich in the third quarter of 1907, with no mother's maiden name. Although I do not have the birth certificate, I am sure of the law stating that births must be registered in the district of birth, within six weeks of the event.

Moving forward to the 1911 census, at 13 Rood Lane lived **Edwin Petts Ward** (36), housekeeper of offices, birthplace '*unknown*', his wife Annie (35), born in Kingston, Surrey, and their daughter, Doris Annie Ward (3), born in Ipswich. They had been married, they said, for 4 years and had one child, who was still alive. Except that they had been married for over 11 years. **Annie Tinley** married Edwin Petts Ward in the Edmonton District in the third quarter of 1899. In 1901 Edwin had been working as a warehouseman for a paper company and was recorded with his wife Annie, as visitors, in Gothic Villas, Chase Side, Enfield. His birthplace was then given, correctly, as Enfield. So, the 1911 census conveys a rather misleading picture of a couple who had a child very close to the date of their marriage, and omits the link to Enfield.



The *Evening Star* published in Ipswich on 26 February 1907 has an item referring to Bertha Tinley, aged 20, of 31 Beck St, reported missing by her family, having last been seen heading for the railway station, respectably dressed as if on her way to her work. The next evening's edition updates the story: Bertha has written to her parents from London, where she is staying with an aunt.

Bertha's father was **Frederick Tinley**, born in Woodbridge, Suffolk in 1859, a domestic gardener, the son of **John Tinley**, a tailor, and **Charlotte**, formerly **Watling** (my 2x great-aunt). Annie Tinley, Edwin Petts Ward's wife, was Frederick's youngest sister, born at the beginning of 1870 in Kingston, Surrey. I have no information on why she was born so far from Suffolk – her family were all together in Ipswich for the 1871 census. Annie's birth came barely a year before the death of her father in the summer of 1871 (followed swiftly by her mother's remarriage, to **Isaac Harrison**, a gardener in domestic service). So, Annie was Bertha's aunt in London.

The 1921 census shows baby Doris's birth month as July 1907. Is it too fanciful to join some dots? My guess is that, early in 1907, Bertha found she was 'in trouble'. She ran to her aunt. Her aunt acted as go-between with Bertha's parents: being childless herself, she would take the baby. Thus, Doris's full name when registered included Annie's surname, **Ward**. In September, Bertha brought Doris to London; she was baptised in Annie's local church, thereafter to be Annie's child. Bertha returned to Ipswich, and married late in 1909; Doris stayed with Annie and Edwin until her own marriage.

This story demonstrates to me that, even when we look at original parish registers and censuses, what we see may not reflect what was going on – assuming my interpretation is correct. And surprises may pop up when we search the newspapers for a relatively unusual surname in a defined location.

*Dawn Adams Mb 11223*

*fhlincs@adamslancaster.net*

*Editors' note: A version of this article was first published in 2022 in Metropolitan, the journal of the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society. This version is published with the consent of the Metropolitan editorial team.*

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## ERRATUM – MIXED FORTUNES

The Editors regret that two errors crept into the article 'Mixed Fortunes' by **Brian Everard**, published in September's *Suffolk Roots*. Paragraph 4 refers to '**Susan Quantrell (née Moody)**' but should read simply '**Susan Quantrell**', and in paragraph 8 '**Robert junior's wife Sarah**' should read '**Robert junior's wife Sarah Moody**'.

*The Editors*

## GREAT-GRANDPARENTS IN COMMON

We are still receiving submissions for this series, which has proved popular as a potential means for Suffolk FHS members to make contact with other members with whom they share a great-grandparent. A subsequent direct exchange of information about those ancestors-in-common will hopefully enable one side – or possibly both – to expand their knowledge of the shared great-grandparents and even, perhaps, to add new branches to their family tree.

If your published data lead to such contact, please be sure to let *Suffolk Roots* know. Whether or not there is a story to publish, we shall be glad to hear of your success: knowing that families find connections through this or any other section of the journal helps to ensure that best use is made of the available space.

Great-grandparents of: **Ros Burman**

contact: [rosburman@aol.com](mailto:rosburman@aol.com)

**Walter Burman**

*b. 1857 Hitcham, Suffolk*

*d. 1938 Hitcham (reg. Ipswich, Suffolk)*

&

**Charlotte Sarah Ruffell**

*b. 1863 Hitcham, Suffolk*

*d. 1947 Sudbury, Suffolk*

**John Holden**

*b. 1854 Creeting All Saints, Suffolk*

*d. 1925 Stowmarket, Suffolk*

&

**Dorcas Tydeman**

*b. 1855 Earl Stonham, Suffolk*

*d. 1918 Creeting St Peter, Suffolk*

**James Bailey**

*b. 1860 Suffolk, or Plaistow or*

*Chingford, Essex (dep. on source)*

&

**Louisa White**

*b. 1866 Wandsworth, London*

*d. 1926 Camberwell, London*

**Edward George William Parks**

*b. 1873 City of London*

*d. 1949 Carshalton, Surrey*

&

**Louisa Harris**

*b. 1876 Camberwell, Surrey*

*d. 1958 Carshalton, Surrey*

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## HELP WANTED – JOSEPH JOHN BALLS

I would love to know why my 2x great-grandfather **John Joseph Balls** (1823-1905) and his wife **Deborah** left Westleton and went to New Zealand in about 1882. Some mysteries and theories. They went with three daughters, **Josephine**, **Alice** and **Rosa**, a son, **William**, and a grandson, **Harry Balls**. Another daughter, **Olivia**, followed later. All four sisters married in New Zealand. John was previously a miller in Westleton and a preacher at the local Primitive Methodist chapel (now a bookshop). Times were hard for millers in Suffolk in the 1880s, so did the family leave for economic reasons? Harry, daughter Rosa's child, was illegitimate. Who was the father? Was there a scandal, and did this encourage the family's decision to leave? I would welcome any information throwing light on the family's emigration.

I should add that there were three older children who did not emigrate: **John Joseph Balls** (jnr.), who married and went to Essex as a jobbing gardener; **Ellen Balls**, who

married into the **Fisk** family and stayed in Westleton; and **James Newson Balls**, who moved north to Yorkshire as a policeman. Some descendants came back from New Zealand to fight in WWI. The best sources for examining the family story have been various wills. A story for another day!



*John Joseph Balls (1823-1905)  
(family photo)*



*The four emigrant daughters: Rosa, Olivia and Alice standing,  
with Josephine seated in front (family photo)*

**Graham Ball Mb 10172**  
[grahamwjbball@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamwjbball@hotmail.com)

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## HELP WANTED – EDWARD POTKINS

I am helping my friend with her family history research. Her 3x great-grandfather was **Edward Potkins**, born c. 1807 in Laxfield, Suffolk. From about 1820-1826 he served as an apprentice to **Benjamin Garrod**, a tailor at Wickham Market. Edward moved away from Suffolk, marrying **Mary Ann Andrews** at West Hackney, Middlesex in 1833. He continued to work as a tailor all his life and that tradition was passed down the family via his only son **Edward**, his grandson **Edward William** and his great-grandson **Stanley Douglas**. Unfortunately, despite extensive research, we have been unable to find out anything about Edward's family in Suffolk – a few possibles, but nothing definite. My question is, how would Edward have acquired such an apprenticeship, and would there be any details recorded anywhere about his time with Benjamin Garrod that might throw some light on this? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Jill Sumbler Mb 12845**  
[jill.sumbler@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.sumbler@btinternet.com)

## HELP WANTED – REED/REDE/READE/REID FAMILY

I live in Steeple Bumpstead, and was curious about the origin of the name of the village of Rede, near Bury St Edmunds. I found that it was named after one of my earlier family members, who I think was Mayor of Norwich, and who lived in Beccles. I am searching for information about the Reed family (and all spelling variations) which had branches in Troughend, Northumberland, and in Weston Hall, Suffolk.

It all started several years ago when I had an Ancestry autosomal test done. My maiden name was **Adams**, and the Adams matches I found in my DNA results were very often part of the extended family of the US President, John Adams. As a result, I asked my male paternal cousin, **Peter Adams**, to do a Y-DNA test with FamilyTreeDNA, and the results were surprising! Most of the matches have the surname **Reed** or **Reid**. A couple of the matches I contacted suggested that, from the Y-DNA results, it looked like our ancestor was a Reed/Reid but may have been adopted by an Adams. Calculations from the results of a further test (Big Y) suggested the adoption occurred in the mid-14th century. My cousin has joined the Reed Project at FamilyTreeDNA ([www.familytreedna.com/groups/reed/](http://www.familytreedna.com/groups/reed/)), and the associated Facebook page.

Meanwhile, I am trying to find how/where these two families connected at that point in history. I need to know which Reed family it was and where they came from. Using our Ancestry autosomal DNA match trees, I have been looking at what is repeated in both our sets of results. I find that Reed/Reade/Rede in Troughend, Northumberland, and Reed/Reade/Rede in Suffolk are repeated the most. There are also many noble Reids in Scotland. But I have to find where Adams and Reed/Reade meet up, and this seems to be mostly in Suffolk.

I would be keen to make contact and share insights with any people who think they are connected to the Reed/Read/Rede/Reid family (however spelt), and am particularly interested if they have done any DNA research.

*Liz Ridlington*

*lizr18199@gmail.com*

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## HELP WANTED – JONATHAN PERCY SMITH

I am a new member of the Society and live in California. I have been doing my own genealogy research for 25 years or so, and have a family tree on Ancestry. But I have run up against a major brick wall, as follows.

One of my direct ancestors is **Jonathan Percy Smith**, b. May 1777 in Elmsett, Suffolk. His mother was **Elizabeth Smith**, but the father is unknown since the union was out



of wedlock, as far as I can tell. Hence my proper male line surname is probably not Smith but another surname, so far unknown.

Since Jonathan's middle name was Percy, I thought that might be it. I do know there was a Percy male born in Elmsett around about the right time, who could be the father. But there are a number of other researchers with the same dilemma as me who have found other candidate fathers for Jonathan with similar sounding surnames to Percy, such as Pawsey, Pearcey, Piercy, etc. All their findings can be seen when you look up Jonathan online.

My problem is, who is the real father? Can anyone in the Society help identify him?

*Geoff Smith*

*geoffreysmith41@gmail.com*

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## ARE YOU DOING A ONE-NAME STUDY?

### REPORT ON GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES (GOONS) SEMINAR, WAKEFIELD, 21 OCTOBER 2023

I had dithered for a long time over whether to join GOONS. I had been doing a study of the **Kerridge** surname for nigh on 40 years before I took the plunge and joined GOONS earlier this year. I had looked previously at joining probably 30 years ago, but thought I would not meet the requirements for a registered study and so held back. Then marriage and children came along, and my job had lots of international travel, so in retrospect it was probably the right decision because of time commitments. But from a knowledge and resource point of view, I now know that I would have been okay to join when I took that first look.

I realised I could incorporate the recent GOONS seminar in Wakefield in my travel plans. I also decided, based on travel a couple of weeks earlier, that it would be wise to travel up the previous evening to avoid getting stuck in the roadworks around Sheffield. As it happened, this was not a great choice, as the combination of Storm Babet and the start of half-term weekend caused a 90-minute nip up the M1 to become a 3½-hour grind from Leicester, with the M1 at a standstill several times and diversions which ended up on flooded roads. Without going into detail, further adventures with a flooded hotel room and a call to GOONS to explain my predicament, which would mean I might be late joining them for an evening meal, led fortuitously to an available room at the Premier Inn and meant I was able to join the pre-event evening meal with about a dozen others (organisers and attendees).

The seminar was held in a venue on the north side of Wakefield. Faces familiar from the previous evening welcomed me, and new members were also called out at the start of the seminar, which was nice. The theme of the seminar was of interest

for all my family history research as it covered areas I know of and had found relatives involved with, but where I knew little about the records available and the organisations involved,

We started with a talk by **Helen Walker** about the **John Goodchild** Collection in West Yorkshire History Centre in Wakefield. Whilst not of interest to my Kerridge line, I do have ancestors who lived just down the road in Thornhill, Knottingley and Doncaster, so learning of the Collection, and also more about West Yorkshire Archives, will be helpful in researching that part of my family. Helen described the range of items in John Goodchild's diverse and apparently randomly arranged collection, and the unexpected find of a preserved donkey's head caused amusement in the room.

Apprenticeships are relevant to many parts of my family, so the talk on this subject by **Christine Wibberley**, ranging from Poor Law to private apprenticeships, was of great interest, and I learnt much.

We returned from lunch to a great display of flexibility by the organising team, as **Laura Yeoman** of the Borthwick Institute for Archives was unable to travel because of the floods, so she Zoomed in and was able to present remotely. As someone born and brought up in York, I well remember visiting the old Borthwick on Peasholme Green, as well as the Black Swan pub opposite. I have not been able to visit them in their now purpose-built home on the York University campus. I am also familiar with the Merchant Taylors and Merchant Adventurers Guilds and their fantastic 15th century buildings, but not with the records they hold, which are becoming more available thanks to a recent partnership with the Adventurers. I was not aware at all of The Right Worshipful Company of the Merchants of the Staple of England, which is one of the oldest mercantile corporations in England and used to control the export of wool and other goods to the continent – it is based in Yorkshire. Guild records will contain the names not just of Guild members, but also of those carrying out work on or renting Guild buildings.

We moved on to two pre-recorded presentations, but with the speakers available via Zoom afterwards for live Q&A. The first, by **Dr Joan Unwin** on the Company of Cutlers, was a good demonstration of name-rich sources that may be available – 30,000 names in the records, covering nearly three centuries. I had not thought about the derivation of the word 'cutler', or about cutlery being something that cuts: so knives, yes, though not just those on the table, but also swords – and cutlery had to have an edge of steel.

The final presentation covered friendly societies, an area I knew nothing about, and was well explained by **Sean Creighton**. I had no idea of the numbers involved. In 1945, 14 million people subscribed to friendly societies, and there were 18,000 branches. So again, a name-rich source. Some of these societies still exist, such as The Oddfellows and The Foresters; some were small and very localised and are now defunct or were absorbed into others.

A couple of thoughts from the day. One is that whilst some records, such as apprenticeships and lists of Freemen and some of the Guild records have been digitised, many of the sources discussed have not, and require a visit to the relevant archive – assuming you know which archive has them – and ploughing through the documents. So, you need to have a starting point, the clue that leads you to know or suspect that your ancestor had, for example, been apprenticed, or was a member of a friendly society, and if so, which one. However, we also learnt about some searchable sources we probably didn't know about. The second thought was that I had enjoyed myself, so I have booked my hotel for the next seminar on 24 February near Stratford-upon-Avon, just down the road from where I live.

I recommend looking at GOONS membership if you are doing a one-name study; but their seminars are open to all. The next one is themed '*Working the Land*', a subject that will be of interest to many family history researchers and will cover various aspects including drovers, Swing Riots, allotments, hiring fairs and those ubiquitous 'ag labs'.

The GOONS website is at <https://one-name.org>.

*Andy Kerridge* (with permission of GOONS)



## FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (November 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.

**East Surrey Virtual Family History Fair** **27 January 2024**  
**Online, Free** Details: <https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/>

**RootsTech 2024 (virtual – Free)** **29 February 2024 – 2 March 2024**  
Details: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>

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



We're going **LIVE** on ...  
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In addition, there is the following Family History Show:

### Family History Show Online

10 February 2024

Details: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

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## GROUP PROGRAMMES

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

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

TBA = To be arranged : TBC = To be confirmed

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

### DECEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	14	Christmas Quiz <i>A light hearted social evening with refreshments</i>	Group
Ipswich	13	The Baron, the Police and the Mayor – An 1863 Ipswich Riot <i>Note: Date Changed, Venue the same</i>	Linda Sexton
Lowestoft	05	The 1960s Music Scene of Lowestoft, Pt. 2, followed by a social evening	Richard Mundy
Sudbury	26	No meeting	

### JANUARY

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	11	Short talks by members on any subject	Group
Ipswich	03	John Constable – The Painter who Couldn't get Arrested	Kim Smith
Lowestoft	02	No meeting	
Sudbury	30	Life and Death in a Victorian Gaol	Mike Wabe

### FEBRUARY

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	08	11 February: International Day of Women & Girls in Science. 10-minute talks	Group
Ipswich	07	The Ingenuity of Ransomes & Rapier <i>Ipswich-based World Leaders in Heavy Engineering</i>	Derek Clarke
Lowestoft	06	The Fallen	Jo Thompson
Sudbury	27	Girls Who Could Swing an Axe – The Women's Timber Corps	Nicky Reynolds

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MARCH

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LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	14	Growing Old Disgracefully	Rex Freeman
Ipswich	06	Hidden Stories of Ipswich's 12 Mediaeval Churches	John Field
Lowestoft	05	Charlotte High, a Victorian Prostitute – Mad, Bad or Sad?	Trudie Jackson
Sudbury	26	Harvest Time & Horsemen's Memories – Rural Life in 1900	Ashley Cooper

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APRIL

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LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	11	Winifred Challis, Morals, Marriage & Mass Observation in WWII	Terry O'Donoghue
Ipswich	03	TBA	
Lowestoft	02	Lowestoft Beach Village	Colin Dixon
Sudbury	30	Through the Green Baize Door – A Butler's Story	Bryan Thurlow

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 December 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 e-mail **shortly before each talk**, notifying them of the event and giving a link to register. If you do not receive such an e-mail, please contact Andy Kerridge, at [chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk).

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

**Monday 4 December 2023 at 7:30pm**  
*Suffolk and Pirate Radio*

*Charles Wright*

**Monday 8 January 2024 at 7:30pm**  
*Facebook for Family History, Part 2*

*Valmay Young*

**Monday 22 January 2024 at 7:30pm**  
*Choosing a Family History Package*

*John Hanson*

Monday 5 February 2024 at 7:30pm

*Getting Your Data Ready for Using a Family History Package*

*Hilary Waller*

Monday 19 February 2024 at 7:30pm

*Forebears*

*Martin Brookes*

Monday 11 March 2024 at 7:30pm

*The History and Story of Dunwich Heath*

*Richard Syme*

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

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FUTURE THEMES FOR *SUFFOLK ROOTS*

The theme of March's edition will be 'I'll Drop You A Line'. In an age when communication is nearly instantaneous, how did our forebears manage? How did they stay in touch, especially after migration or emigration? Have you inherited interesting correspondence? Did any of your ancestors work in communications – such as in the Post Office, in telecommunications, on stagecoaches, or as a post-runner or Town Crier? Have there been amusing or unfortunate incidents of miscommunication?

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).

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>THEME TITLE</b>	<b>DATE TO THE EDITOR</b>
Final	Mar 2024	<b>I'll Drop You A Line</b>	<b>Deadline 20 Jan</b>

*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?*

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?

<b>Provis'nl</b>	<b>Jun 2024</b>	<b>Animals</b>	<b>Deadline 20 Apr</b>
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*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 did they work in shipyards?

Did your ancestors serve at sea in the armed forces?

**Provis'nl Dec 2024 Poverty and the Workhouse Deadline 20 Oct**

*How did poverty affect our ancestors' lives?*

Just as today, in the past many people found it difficult to make ends meet.

Has your research led you to believe that your ancestors were poor or less well off? How did this affect them, their health and prospects?

Have you found ancestors in the workhouse? What were conditions like there?

What were the circumstances that forced your forebears to need out-relief or enter the workhouse?

Did any of your ancestors have a benefactor?

Was your forebear employed by the Poor Law Union, or on a Board of Guardians?



## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

### Subscriptions for the Membership year beginning 1 April 2023:

A – UK Full postal membership/joint <sup>(1)</sup>	£12.00
B – UK Full electronic membership/joint <sup>(1)</sup>	£10.00
C – UK Senior citizen or young person/joint <sup>(1)</sup> : 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 <sup>(2)</sup>	£120.00

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

<sup>2</sup> 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

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

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

## GROUP CONTACTS FOR 2023

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:ipswich@suffolkfhs.org.uk)**

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

**Tel: 01473 274300**

**e-mail: [IpswichChairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk)**

### ***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](mailto:chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk).

### ***West of London:***

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

# SFHS DATA CO-ORDINATORS AND SEARCH SERVICES

## BAPTISMS

**Index Co-ordinator** Alan Bumpstead **Phone: 01440 704157**  
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**Search Service** Arthur Bird **Phone: 01904 793884**  
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## MARRIAGES

**Index Co-ordinator** Pamela Palgrave F.S.G. **Phone: 01359 251050**  
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## SFHS LIBRARY

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## SFHS WEBSITE

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*webmaster@suffolkfhs.org.uk* Website: *www.suffolkfhs.co.uk*

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

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

A full list is available from the Shop on the Society's website

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**SUFFOLK ROOTS : Vol. 49 : No. 3 : December 2023**



**ISSN 0306-8612**