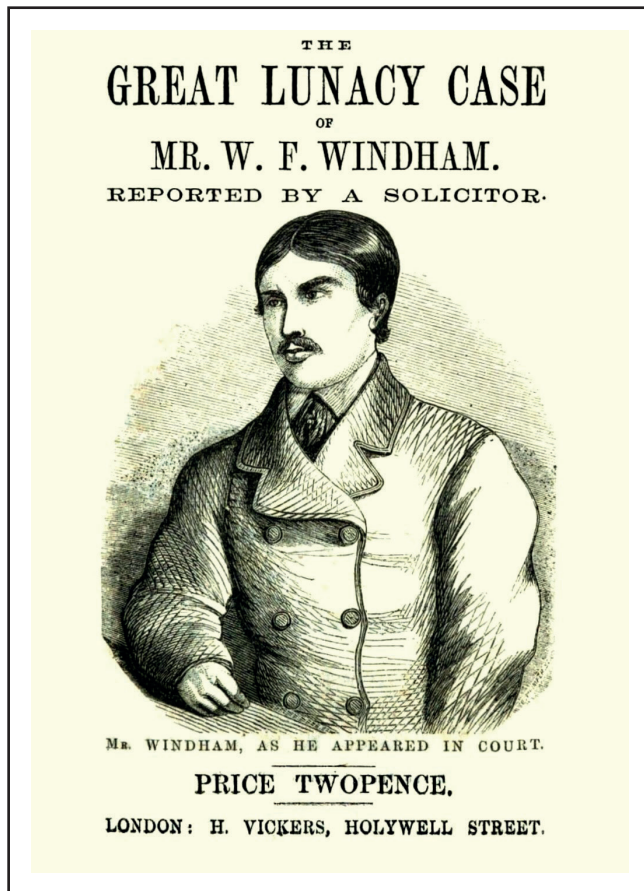


SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 51 : No. 1 : June 2025

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUFFOLK ROOTS

JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

VOLUME 51 : NUMBER 1 : JUNE 2025



Suffolk Roots is published by Suffolk Family History Society

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Theme of this Issue

Mental Health

Signs of and treatment for mental health issues in our ancestors

Cover Picture

Title page of 'The Great Lunacy Case of **Mr W F Windham**. Reported by a Solicitor', 1862.

By an unknown author - book scan -

<https://books.google.com/books?id=RwhXAAAACAAJ&pg=PA1>

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This was the case of William Frederick Windham (1840-1866), the heir to Fellbrigg Hall, Norfolk, who, after he married a lady of whom his family did not approve, became (unusually for a man) the subject of a lunacy case on the basis that he was 'incapable of managing his affairs'. He won the case, with the ruling that he was merely eccentric rather than a lunatic. More details are found in a Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Frederick_Windham

Suffolk Roots

Suffolk Roots is the quarterly journal of the Suffolk Family History Society, published in March, June, September and December. Views expressed in the journal are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors or the Society. The Editors reserve the right to edit or refuse submitted material. Neither the Editors nor the Society take any responsibility for the accuracy of facts in the articles published (although the Editors take such steps as are reasonable to ensure their accuracy) or for the loss or damage of any materials submitted for publication. Copyright in the journal and its contents is held jointly by the Society and the relevant contributor(s).

SUFFOLK ROOTS

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TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

I am writing this whilst enjoying a couple of days in Suffolk after our Fair. The weather has been superb and I have been able to get out on my bicycle and explore. This time I have been over to the east of Ipswich, the Sandlings and beyond. A very different Suffolk to the farmland we normally see, but one inhabited by our ancestors, nonetheless. I was, however, shocked to see the devastation caused by the works for Sizewell C. Whilst Sizewell A and B are not what anyone would call beauty spots, the scale of the work in preparation for C is staggering. There are aerial photographs available online which show the situation there far better than I can describe.

As mentioned above, we held our Fair at The Hold at the end of April. Apart from the fabulous weather, this had the advantage of no graduations, which meant reduced traffic and also the opportunity to use the adjacent University car park, which was very convenient for all. We had a bumper crop of fabulous stalls from fellow family history and associated societies and groups, and three excellent



Ian Waller 'The Times They Are a-Changing'



Volunteers past and present

talks. The theme in our 50th year was Looking Back, Looking Forward. **Ian Waller**'s talk provoked memories of St Catherine's House, Somerset House, Chancery Lane and so on. **Nick Barrett** looked forward to the future, with a strong message about the downsides of sharing data on the internet and subsequent loss of control of that data. **Judith Berry** finished off with an update on Suffolk Archives (see the article on Digitisation).

After the fair, we held a reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society, which was well attended. We were delighted to be joined by **Liz Harsent**, of Suffolk County Council, who had donated funds to help with the cost of the day.

I thanked all those who have volunteered for the Society and continue to do so, and covered some of the activities of the Society over the 50 years. Our Patron, **Doug Howlett**, followed by sharing some of his memories, before cutting the cake. There was then a light buffet and those present chatted and looked at a number of displays representing some of the Society's activities since January 1975. This included a quilt with many of the squares stitched with the signatures of early members and volunteers, including **Derek and Pamela Palgrave**, **Monica Barnett** and many others.

Doug has subsequently supplied a picture of **Katherine Bardwell**, who was the driving force behind the formation of what was the Suffolk Genealogy Society, from the 25th Anniversary, which I think is appropriate to include here. Katherine is still a member, so best wishes to her and thanks from us all.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk



The 50th Anniversary cake



Janis Kirby, Andy Kerridge, Kevin Pulford and Doug Howlett



Founder Katherine Bardwell cuts the Cake at the 25th Anniversary, 2005

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 1 February and 1 May 2025. 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 be able to contact them. If you cannot use the website, please write to the Membership Secretary (details at the back of this journal) briefly outlining your interest and giving your contact details, and he will forward to the relevant member.

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Abbott	SFK	Sproughton	1800-1850	13231
Aldred	SFK	Ipswich	All	13204
Alexander	SFK	Any	All	13302
Alexander	SFK	Bungay	All	13315
Allen	SFK	Stanningfield, Bury St. Edmunds	All	13186
Alliston	SFK	Gt. Waldingfield	1700-1850	13307
Ambrose	SFK	Kersey	16th C	13217
Andrews	ANY	Any	All	13182
Archer	SFK	Metfield	1700-1900	13229
Archer	SFK	Sudbury	All	13210
Aust	SFK	Somerton	1745-1848	13219
Bacey	SFK	Lound	All	13166
Bacon	SFK	Any	All	13201
Bacon	SFK	Gorleston	All	13262
Bailey	ALL	Sweffling	Pre-1836	13308
Baker	SFK	Any	1750-1790	13270
Baker	ANY	Any	All	13182
Baker	SFK	Wattisfield	All	13299
Baldeston	SFK	Tannington, Haughley, Laxfield, Wilby, Occold, Ipswich	17th-19th C	13223
Baldry	ANY	Any	All	13255
Balls	SFK	Westleton, Wenhaston, Middleton-cum-Fordley, Theberton	All	13168
Bannister	ANY	Any	All	13261
Barber	ANY	Any	All	13190
Barham	ALL	Sweffling	Pre-1836	13308
Barrett	ANY	Any	All	13251
Barrow	SFK	Flempton	1700-1850	13220
Barth	SFK	Rougham	1695-1800	13297
Basham	SFK	Haverhill	All	13239
Bates	NFK	Narford	Pre-1809	13206
Batho	ANY	Any	All	13283
Beaumont	SFK	Weybread, Hadleigh	1800s	13249
Bennett	SFK	Holbrook	1717-1741	13217

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Bennett	SFK	Framlingham, Ipswich	All	13198
Benstead	SFK	Ipswich	1800 on	13213
Benstead	SFK	Reydon	18th C	13281
Berry	ANY	Any	All	13265
Bigmore	SFK	Withersfield	All	13207
Binks	SFK	Wratting	All	13207
Bird	SFK	Thorpe Morieux, Beyton, Brettenham	Pre-1792	13194
Blinco	SFK	Barrow	All	13258
Blomfield	ANY	Any	All	13283
Bloomfield	ANY	Any	All	13283
Boliston	SFK	Tannington, Haughley, Laxfield, Wilby, Occold, Ipswich	17th-19th C	13223
Bootman	ANY	Any	All	13265
Boreham	SFK	Sudbury	All	13210
Borrett	SFK	Fressingfield	All	13255
Bowra	SSX	East Grinstead	All	13218
Bradbrook	SFK	Ipswich	1810-1930	13213
Bradbrook	SFK	Ipswich	1810-1930	13213
Bradbury	SFK	Moulton	Pre-1750	13272
Brame	ANY	Any	All	13214
Branch	SFK	Campsea Ashe	Pre-1820	13243
Bray	SFK	Bardwell	All	13278
Brewer	SFK	Felsham, Gedding	All	13200
Bridges	SFK	South Elmham	Pre-1800	13305
Bridges	SFK	Stonham Aspal	Pre-1852	13206
Briggs	SFK	Thelnetham, Botesdale, Honnington	1750-1890	13189
Britcher	NFK	Horsham	Pre-1842	13206
Brown	SFK	Freckenham	1500-1900	13205
Brown	ANY	Any	All	13212
Brown	SFK	Ipswich, Any	All	13198
Brunning	ANY	Any	All	13225
Bryant	SFK	Mendham	17th/early 18th C	13223
Buck	SFK	Wortham	1600-1940	13208
Bullock	SFK	Any	All	13273
Burch	SFK	Freston, Tattingstone, Clopton	1700-1975	13174
Burden	KEN	Any	All	13226
Burkitt	SFK	Sudbury	All	13210
Burroughs	SFK	Playford	1600-1800	13250
Burrows	NFK	Castle Acre	All	13206
Burrows	SFK	Ipswich	All	13206
Burt	SFK	Woolpit	All	13278
Butcher	SFK	Any	1690-1800	13229
Butcher	SFK	Cretingham	19th C	13223

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Button	SFK	Framlingham	1600-1820	13192
Button	SFK	Leiston	Pre-1930	13193
Calton	SFK	Exning	Pre-1650	13272
Carliel	SFK	Moulton	Pre-1750	13272
Catchpole	SFK	Any	1600-1800	13201
Catchpole	SFK	Leiston	Pre-1930	13193
Chapman	ANY	Any	All	13261
Chase	SFK	Leiston, Sizewell	1860 on	13211
Chenery	SFK	Occold	18th C	13223
Christenehite	SFK	Any	All	13266
Clark	SFK	Holbrook	All	13296
Clarke	SFK	Haughley	All	13275
Clarry	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13258
Clench	SFK	Coddenham, Holbrook	1533-1607	13173
Clerke	ANY	Any	All	13182
Clover	SFK	Kersey	1570-1619	13217
Clover	SFK	Any	All	13302
Clover	SFK	Mendlesham	All	13271
Cock	SFK	Wortham	All	13208
Coe	SFK	Bardwell	All	13278
Cole	SFK	Bentley	16th C	13217
Cole	ANY	Any	All	13255
Cone	SFK	Wattisfield, Walsham-le-Willows	Pre-1800	13168
Cook	SFK	Sternfield	1800-1850	13240
Cook	ANY	Any	All	13300
Cooper	SFK	Any	All	13172
Cornell	SFK	Ipswich, Denham, Gazeley	All	13206
Cornish	SFK	Stanningfield, Bradfield Combust	All	13186
Cousins	SFK	Felsham, Gedding	All	13200
Creasy	SFK	Framsden	Pre-1800	13305
Crisp	ANY	Any	All	13253
Crook	SFK	Little Thurlow	1830-1880	13240
Cullington	SFK	Easton	All	13232
Cully	NFK	Ormesby St. Margaret	All	13254
Cutten	SFK	Kersey, Hadleigh, Semer	18th-19th C	13249
Cutting	ANY	Any	All	13251
Dale	SFK	Chelmondiston	1840-1900	13268
Dale	SFK	Ipswich,	1880-1900	13268
Dale	ANY	Any	All	13300
Davis	SFK	Any	All	13284
Dean	SFK	Brandon	All	13247
Deeks	SFK	Wickhambrook	All	13292

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Delano	MDX	Edmonton	All	13221
Dennington	SFK	Wrentham	All	13287
Diver	SFK	Freckenham	1500-1900	13205
Dove	SFK	Walton	All	13170
Dowsing	SFK	Woodbridge, Any	All	13251
Driver	SFK	Ipswich	1500-1900	13199
Dupray	ANY	Any	All	13190
Durham	ANY	Any	All	13298
Dykes	SFK	Buxhall	All	13239
Dynes	SFK	Nettlestead	1600-1800	13250
Eastaugh	SFK	Darsham	1500 on	13179
Easthaugh	ANY	Any	All	13255
Eccleston	ANY	Any	All	13265
Edwards	SFK	Stowmarket	1740-1840	13202
Elliston	SFK	Gt. Waldingfield	1700-1850	13307
Ellwood	SFK	Any	All	13242
Emeny	SFK	Helmingham	All	13268
Everett	SFK	Kersey, Hadleigh, Semer	1800s	13249
Everett	SFK	Cavendish, Clare, Glemsford	All	13264
Everett	SFK	Hadleigh	All	13178
Everett	SFK	Haverhill	All	13207
Everson	ANY	Any	All	13300
Fairbrother	SFK	Woolverstone, Freston	All	13276
Fairs	ANY	Any	1700 on	13265
Fairweather	ANY	Any	All	13261
Farrance	SFK	Cavendish, Clare, Glemsford	All	13264
Farrance	SFK	Clare	All	13292
Farrer	SFK	Framsden	1780-1875	13271
Felgate	SFK	Laxfield, Yoxford	18th/early 19th C	13223
Fenn	SFK	Ipswich	1810-1900	13213
Feveryear	ANY	Any	All	13253
Finbow	SFK	Any	All	13302
Fincham	SFK	Any	1500-1900	13205
Fish	SFK	Aldeburgh	All	13266
Fisher	SFK	Wattisfield	All	13228
Fisk	ANY	Any	All	13299
Flatt	ANY	Any	All	13190
Flatt	SFK	Any	All	13302
Flewer	SFK	Westleton	All	13204
Folkard	SFK	Yaxley	Pre-1800	13305
Foreman	SFK	South Elmham, Bungay, Ipswich	1750 on	13249
Forsdyke	SFK	Tuddenham	1700-1975	13174

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Francis	SFK	Hepworth, Thelnetham	All	13228
Francis	SFK	Mendlesham	All	13271
Freeman	SFK	Tuddenham	1742 on	13247
Frost	SFK	Any	1700-1850	13235
Frost	ANY	Any	All	13276
Frost	SFK	Any	All	13280
Frost	SFK	Rushbrooke	All	13292
Gage	SFK	Ipswich	1810-1900	13213
Game	SFK	Cockfield	1700-1850	13307
Garnham	SFK	Any	1600-1750	13235
Garnham	SFK	Needham Market, Ipswich	1750-1850	13256
Giles	ANY	Any	All	13236
Gillingham	SFK	Sutton	18th C	13217
Girling	SFK	Tuddenham	1650-1950	13174
Girt	SFK	Stowmarket	c.1812	13231
Goddard	SFK	Wortham	All	13208
Goldsmith	SFK	Sudbury	All	13210
Good	SFK	Market Weston	Pre-1900	13175
Goodchild	SFK	Bardwell, Stanton, Barningham	All	13278
Goodchild	SFK	Milden, Wherstead	All	13176
Gooderham	SFK	Stoneham Aspall	All	13306
Gooding	SFK	Witnesham, Tuddenham, Rattlesden	All	13251
Goodwin	SFK	Wrentham, Southwold	All	13186
Goold	SFK	Cockfield, Felsham	Pre-1864	13206
Gosnold	SFK	Otley	All	13200
Gostling	SFK	Any	All	13302
Gould	DOR	Wareham	1833-1902	13173
Gower	NFK	Kirby Cane	All	13226
Grayston	SFK	Ipswich, Framlingham	1800-1850	13231
Green	SFK	Ipswich,	1700 on	13314
Green	SFK	Kersey, Hadleigh, Semer	18th - 19thC	13249
Green	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13170
Greygoose	ANY	Any	All	13264
Gridley	SFK	Long Melford	All	13181
Grimsey	ANY	Any	All	13298
Grimwood	SFK	Kersey, Hadleigh, Semer	18th-19 th C	13249
Grimwood	SFK	Any	All	13178
Grimwood	SFK	Belstead, Washbrook	All	13176
Groom	SFK	Helmingham	1750-1895	13271
Gross	ANY	Any	All	13251
Gurney	SFK	Ipswich	All	13262
Guyfer	SFK	Ipswich, Bedfield	1676-1900	13231

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Gyford	SFK	Ipswich, Bedfield	1676-1900	13231
Haggar	SFK	Chelmondiston	All	13296
Halls	SFK	Any	1750-1810	13270
Halls	SFK	Denham, Gazeley, Cockfield	Pre-1890	13206
Hardwick	SFK	Any	All	13176
Harley	SFK	Any	1700-1900	13229
Harsant	ANY	Any	All	13225
Harsum	ANY	Any	All	13225
Harvey	SFK	Any	1700-1900	13229
Hawes	SFK	Any	1500-1900	13205
Hawkins	ANY	Any	All	13172
Hawkins	ANY	Any	All	13191
Haylock	SFK	Tuddenham	1739 on	13247
Hazelton	SFK	Belstead	All	13176
Herrington	SFK	Flempton, Hengrave, Horningsheath, Horringer, Culford, Thingoe	Pre-1800	13220
Hickford	SFK	Clare	All	13252
Hickford	SFK	Clare	All	13252
Hills	SFK	Any	All	13280
Holland	SFK	Ipswich, Any	1500-1900	13199
Holland	ANY	Any	1800-2000	13290
Holt	SFK	Any	All	13302
Holtaway	ANY	Any	All	13254
Hood	SFK	Ipswich, Any	All	13284
Hood	SFK	Westley	Pre-1700	13272
Hooper	ANY	Any	All	13253
How	SFK	Any	1700-1850	13235
Howard	SFK	Any	1850-1930	13290
Howell	NFK	Depwade	Pre-1950	13220
Howell	SFK	Thelnetham	Pre-1950	13220
Hubble	SFK	Any	All	13198
Hubert	SFK	Ipswich	All	13174
Hulyer	SFK	Clare	All	13252
Humm	SFK	Lavenham	Pre-1750	13230
Hunt	SFK	Stowmarket	All	13298
Hunting	SFK	Covehithe	1750-1880	13281
Hutchinson	SFK	Any	All	13273
James	SFK	Lawshall	1700-1790	13240
Jarmy	ANY	Any	All	13196
Jarvis	SFK	Clare	All	13252
Jasper	ANY	Any	All	13265
Jermy	ANY	Any	All	13196
Johnston	ANY	Any	All	13190

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Jordan	SFK	Trimley	All	13170
Josslyn	SFK	Any	All	13280
Keable	SFK	Any	All	13242
Keeble	SFK	Stowmarket	1600-1880	13250
Keeble	SFK	Any	1860-1940	13290
Keeble	SFK	Any	All	13280
Keeble	SFK	Nacton, Brightwell, Foxhall, Witnesham, Rushmere	All	13251
Kent	SFK	Ipswich	1700-1800	13250
Kerridge	ANY	Any	All	13201
Kerridge	SFK	Campsea Ashe	Pre-1850	13243
Kerrison	SFK	Bungay	1650-1750	13244
Killet	SFK	Yaxley	Pre-1800	13305
King	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	1700-1920	13235
Kitson	SFK	Easton	1757-1780	13173
Ladyman	SFK	Wickambrooke	Pre-1700	13272
Laffling	ANY	Any	All	13236
Lambert	SFK	Redisham	All	13255
Landymore	ANY	Any	All	13299
Leech	SFK	Charsfield	All	13187
Lemon	SFK	Cowlinge, Moulton	Pre-1700	13272
Lenny	SFK	Ipswich, Ufford, Campsea Ashe	Pre-1850	13243
Liddemore	SFK	Thelnetham, Botesdale, Honnington	1750-1890	13189
Ling	SFK	Occold	17th-19th C	13223
Ling	ANY	Any	All	13253
Ling	SFK	Barnardiston	All	13207
Livermore	SFK	Thelnetham, Botesdale, Honnington	1750-1890	13189
Lloyd	SFK	Ipswich	1790-1890	13271
London	SFK	Hawkedon, Hundon	All	13292
Lorking	SFK	Cavendish, Clare, Glemsford	All	13264
Lucas	SFK	Ipswich, Woolverstone	All	13204
Mabson	ANY	Any	All	13190
Mallet	SFK	Orford	1700-1850	13192
Mallett	SFK	Ipswich	19th-20thC	13234
Mallitt	ANY	Any	All	13214
Mallitt	ANY	Any	All	13236
Man	SFK	Felixstowe	1780-1810	13231
Marrison	NFK	Horsham	Pre-1842	13206
Marshall	SFK	Any	1750-1900	13235
Marsham	ANY	Any	1698 on	13254
Mayes	ANY	Any	All	13253
Mayhew	ANY	Any	All	13290
McCabe	LAN	Bolton	All	13239

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Meen	SFK	Occold	18th/early 19th C	13223
Milbourne	SFK	Woodbridge	1700-1900	13289
Mildren	CUL	Any	All	13226
Mills	SFK	Harkstead	All	13276
Minter	SFK	Wetheringsett	18th C	13223
Mollett	SFK	Any	All	13191
Moss	SFK	Sudbury	All	13296
Mower	ANY	Any	All	13255
Musk	SFK	Any	1500-1900	13205
Muttit	SFK	Any	All	13284
Napthine	ANY	Any	All	13241
Neeve	ANY	Any	All	13190
Nesling	ANY	Any	All	13290
Newsom	SFK	Worlingworth	All	13230
Newson	SFK	Middleton-cum-Fordley	All	13168
Newson	SFK	Leiston	Pre-1930	13193
Nunn	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13234
Offord	SFK	Hemingstone, Ipswich	All	13198
Ollie	SFK	Rougham	1700-1800	13297
Orford	SFK	Any	All	13273
Orst	SFK	Somerton	1745-1848	13219
Osborne	SFK	Mildenhall	All	13221
Palmer	SFK	Barrow	All	13258
Palmer	SFK	Ipswich	All	13284
Palmer	SFK	Southwold	All	13287
Pannell	SFK	Haverhill	All	13207
Parker	SFK	Ipswich	1700 on	13314
Parsonson	SFK	Sudbury	18th & 19th C	13293
Paternoster	SFK	Any	1700-1850	13192
Payne	SFK	Any	All	13301
Peacock	ESS	Stambourne	All	13239
Pearl	SFK	Haughley	All	13296
Pearle	SFK	Any	All	13230
Peck	SFK	North Cove	1780-1820	13281
Peck	SFK	Any	17th & 18th C	13303
Peck	SFK	Carlton Colville	19th C	13281
Peggs	SFK	Monks Eleigh	18th C	13217
Perry	SFK	Dennington	Pre-1825	13305
Philpott	SFK	Any	1800-1930	13290
Pile	WIL	Overton	All	13239
Pinner	ANY	Any	All	13300
Plowman	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13230

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Podd	SFK	Tuddenham	1600-1900	13174
Pooley	ANY	Any	All	13236
Poorham	SFK	Hessett	1715-1755	13297
Porter	SFK	Holbrook	1717-1741	13217
Provan	SCT	Falkirk	All	13268
Pryke	ANY	Any	All	13298
Punchard	SFK	Drinkstone	1727-1820	13173
Pyatt	SFK	Witnesham, Bedingfield	1739-1809	13277
Ramos	SFK	Bungay	1770 on	13288
Raven	SFK	Ellough, Oulton	All	13254
Rayner	SFK	Any	1750-1860	13270
Redwood	SFK	Haughley, Samford	All	13296
Reeve	ESS	Belchamp Walter	1700-1850	13307
Reeve	SFK	Woodbridge	1750-1850	13192
Revell	SFK	Any	All	13172
Revett	SFK	Any	1700-1850	13192
Richardson	SFK	Polstead	All	13298
Riches	SFK	Wrentham	All	13186
Ridley	ANY	Any	All	13253
Rimmerton	SFK	Trimley St Mary	1600-1800	13174
Rodwell	ANY	Any	All	13184
Rogers	SFK	Hundon	All	13292
Roper	ESS	Gt. Clacton	All	13176
Roper	SFK	Gt. Finborough, Swilland	All	13176
Rouse	SFK	Stradbroke, Wingfield, Wetheringsett, Wilby, Chediston	All	13248
Ruffell	SFK	Cockfield, Felsham	Pre-1864	13206
Ruffles	SFK	Bardwell, Barningham	All	13278
Rumsby	ANY	Any	1825-1899	13215
Ruse	SFK	Stradbroke, Wingfield, Wetheringsett, Wilby, Chediston	All	13248
Rush	ANY	Any	All	13276
Ruth	SFK	Stradbroke, Wingfield, Wetheringsett, Wilby, Chediston	All	13248
Sale	SFK	Barrow	All	13258
Saltmarsh	SFK	Any	All	13191
Saunders	SFK	Any	All	13280
Savage	SFK	Hundon	All	13292
Savidge	SFK	Any	All	13273
Sawyer	SFK	Theberton	1840 on	13211
Sawyer	SFK	Framlingham	All	13287
Schofield	SFK	Hadleigh	All	13178
Scrivener	ANY	Any	All	13214
Scrivener	ANY	Any	All	13236
Sewell	SFK	Freston	17th C	13217

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Sharman	ANY	Any	All	13214
Sheldrake	NFK	Any	All	13259
Sheldrake	SFK	Any	All	13259
Sherman	SFK	Ixworth	1485 on	13301
Shuldric	ANY	Any	All	13261
Silver	ANY	Any	All	13299
Simpson	ANY	Any	All	13214
Simpson	ANY	Any	All	13225
Sinclair	SCT	Edinburgh	1800-1870	13268
Smith	SFK	Ipswich	1700-1880	13250
Smith	SFK	Stowmarket	1740-1840	13202
Smith	ANY	Any	All	13236
Smith	SFK	Hadleigh	All	13178
Smythe	ANY	Any	All	13182
Snell	LND	Any	All	13172
Snell	NFK	Any	All	13172
Snell	SFK	Any	All	13172
Sowman	SFK	Assington	All	13285
Sparks	SFK	Bungay	1700-1800	13315
Sparrow	SFK	Dalham	1500-1800	13222
Spencer	SFK	Any	1700-1900	13229
Stead	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	1600-1850	13235
Stedman	SFK	Drinkstone	1718 on	13173
Steed	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	1600-1850	13235
Sterry	SFK	Ipswich	1800 on	13213
Stevens	SFK	Ipswich, Woodbridge	1800-1850	13231
Steward	SFK	Chelmondiston	All	13276
Stimpson	SFK	Old Newton	1600-1800	13250
Stone	ANY	Any	All	13241
Studd	SFK	Stonham Aspal	Pre-1852	13206
Sturgeon	SFK	Rushbrooke, Rougham, Hessett	1700-1860	13297
Sturgeon	ANY	Any	All	13282
Sturgeon	NFK	Any	All	13172
Sturgeon	SFK	Any	All	13172
Sturgeon	LND	Poplar	All	13172
Suckling	SFK	Ingham	1500-1900	13205
Tarver	SFK	Hundon	All	13292
Taylor	SFK	Laxfield	1840-1880	13281
Taylor	SFK	Ixworth	All	13186
Theobald	ANY	Any	All	13182
Thornalley	ANY	Any	All	13214
Thrower	SFK	Stanton	All	13238

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Thurlow	ANY	Any	All	13261
Thwaite	ANY	Any	All	13259
Tillett	ANY	Any	All	13182
Tippel	SFK	South Elmham	Pre-1900	13305
Todd	SFK	Wickambrook, Cowlinge	Pre-1700	13272
Torble	SFK	Ixworth	All	13170
Tricker	ANY	Any	All	13300
Vale	SFK	Any	1740-1810	13270
Vincent	SFK	Hepworth	All	13228
Wallace	ANY	Any	All	13261
Waller	SFK	Ipswich, Theberton, Grundisburgh	All	13204
Want	SFK	Any	1760-1860	13270
Ward	SFK	Theberton	All	13287
Warren	SFK	Ixworth	All	13170
Warren	SFK	Ashfield	Pre-1779	13238
Watts	SFK	Shadingfield	All	13254
Webb	SFK	Hadleigh	All	13178
Whiles	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13258
Whistlecraft	SFK	Woolpit	All	13296
White	SFK	Any, Semer	All	13176
Whiteman	SFK	Framlingham	1700-1800	13192
Whymark	SFK	Any	All	13280
Wicks	SFK	Ipswich	All	13232
Williams	SFK	Stowmarket	1813-1892	13173
Williams	SFK	Bosmere	1833-1902	13173
Wincup	SFK	Any	All	13242
Winter	ANY	Any	All	13265
Winter	SFK	Southwold	All	13287
Wolsey	SFK	Ipswich	1790-1870	13271
Woodred	SFK	North Cove	18th C	13281
Woodward	SFK	North Cove	18th C	13281
Woollard	SFK	Offton	1500-1800	13222
Woollard	SFK	Clare	All	13252
Wooltorton	ANY	Any	All	13259
Wright	ANY	Any	All	13300
Wright	SFK	Haverhill	All	13207
Wright	ESS	Helions Bumpstead	All	13207
Wright	SFK	Stanningfield, Shimpling	All	13186
Yallop	SFK	Darsham, Ringsfield	All	13204
Youngman	SFK	Stanton	1600-1825	13234

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S UPDATE

This year is seeing a sea change in membership activity, with a significant application of direct debits for the first time replacing bank standing orders. Standing orders appear in March and direct debits in April and, as both of these methods have to be processed manually by yours truly, this has kept me well occupied. At present approximately 55% of bank transfers are standing orders and 45% direct debits.

In future, with the imminent new management of our website, it is hoped (fingers crossed!) that the renewal process can be automated.

One of the main problems with standing orders is that when subscription rates change, as they did in 2024, many members on standing orders have not updated the instructions to their bank. This has led to a further flurry of activity with reminders being sent out to 'guilty' parties. With direct debits the changes are automatic, so thank you to those members who have agreed to change.

Please note that once a direct debit has been set up there is no need to take further action. All will be effective from 1 April each year and any changes notified to members via email or newsletters, etc.

On a lighter note, the recent Lost Cousins talk on Zoom, with the offer of a free download of marriage indexes, has resulted in a significant increase in membership: the present count at the beginning of May is at least 70 new memberships. Our fair, held in April at The Hold in Ipswich, when we celebrated the Society's 50th anniversary, resulted in a further six new members together with some renewals.

The alternative methods of subscription payments are still available on the website, namely via the online shop; or an online Google form, which is still processed by the Society; or payment via Parish Chest at <https://tinyurl.com/y2tw3ecb>, which is separate from our online shop. The latter does not have the facility to add or amend the member's interests, but these can be sent to the Membership Secretary on a separate form.

There are likely to be some significant changes to the website in the coming months, which Andy will inform you about in the newsletters. This will hopefully make membership processes simpler than at present, something I for one will look forward to!

Finally, a reminder of the new subscription rates:

- Electronic membership (all categories), journal on website = £10.00
- UK membership / Joint* (Postal journal) = £14.00
- Overseas membership (Airmail) = £25.00
- Life membership (Not available for overseas postal) = £120.00

**Joint membership: All members must reside at the same address. Only one name is required. One journal per joint membership.*

Payment may be made through the online shop, but cheques are still acceptable.

David Horton
Membership Secretary

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BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

I am pleased to report that our helpers have at last gained access to the original parish registers, with Suffolk Archives reopening The Hold in Ipswich in February. The helpers now include some members of the Bury team, who have received a warm welcome. Although the arrangements for the Ipswich team are not quite as before, we are now back in business on all fronts, to bring you more collections of baptisms.

Although the Bury RO has sadly now closed, we have been kindly gifted a very useful ‘keepsake’ by Suffolk Archives – the entire collection of parish register fiche that were once held there – and revisiting the near empty research room to collect them was quite a moving experience, in more ways than one!

Progress

Thanks to all the good work of our dedicated helpers we are now even closer to bringing you more deanery areas, including the four we mentioned in our last News:

- Clare – phase 4 (1538-1649) (Bury team)
- Dunwich – phases 3 (1650-1743) & 4 (1538-1649) (Ipswich team)
- Hartismere – phase 4 (1538-1649) (Home team)

However, we still haven’t crossed the finishing line with one yet. This isn’t just down to access but also ‘slow going’ with some of these difficult-to-read early registers.

Helping hands

Our efforts have received a very welcome boost with news of two members offering to be volunteers, and this has coincided with the Society also being gifted two fiche readers that were once used at Lowestoft RO.

Another boost to our resources has come from the personal research of a long-standing member. Researchers will know that where early registers haven’t survived, copies of the entries, sent to the Bishop, may do. However, these require even more time to piece together than register entries and so as a rule we don’t include them, especially for large gaps such as at Haverhill where the great fire of 1667 destroyed not only the church, along with the registers, but much of the town as well. The transcript kindly donated spans 100 years before the fire, and those baptisms up to 1649 will be

included in the upcoming Clare deanery collection, with the later ones following on the website 'Corrections' page.

For the very latest news, keep an eye on the website or subscribe to our newsletter.

Alan Bumpstead
Baptism Index Co-ordinator
baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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MARRIAGE INDEX NEWS

We bring you the good news of two new CD releases for one deanery and another deanery nearing completion.

Carlford & Wilford marriages, covering the earliest register entries in the 1500s to 1750, have been finalised, with phase 3 (1650-1753) available now and phase 4 (1538-1649) hopefully ready shortly. These cover 30 parishes in the south-east of the county, listed on the CD cases pictured below.

Colneis & Samford deanery, covering 26 parishes for the oldest records, is approaching the end of the initial checking procedure. This represents the final stage for this deanery and covers a quantity of entries for the 1500s through to 1650.

Suffolk Marriage Index
Carlford & Wilford Deaneries
1650* - 1753*



Alderton (1674-1754), Bawdsey (1744-), Bealings Gt, Bealings Lt, Boyton (1657-), Bredfield (1711-), Bromeswell, Burgh (-1749), Clopton (1735-), Culpho (1722-), Dallinghoo (-1754), Grundisburgh (-1754), Hasketon (1653-), Hollesley, Kesgrave (1658-), Martlesham (1654-), Melton, Newbourne (1650-1656 1731-1745), Otley (1734-), Pettistree (1662-), Playford (1661-), Ramsholt (1709-), Rushmere St Andrew (1690-), Shottisham (1655-1754), Sutton (1653-1743), Tuddenham St Martin (1696-), Ufford (-1754), Wickham Market, Witnesham, Woodbridge.



SFK-MI-22
PDF

Suffolk Marriage Index
Carlford & Wilford Deaneries
1538* - 1649*



Bealings Gt (1539-), Bealings Lt (1558-), Boyton (1539-), Bromeswell (1634-), Burgh (1559-), Dallinghoo (1560-), Grundisburgh (1539-), Hasketon (1541-), Hollesley (1623-), Melton (1559-), Newbourne (1561-), Pettistree (1539-1644), Rushmere St Andrew (1585-1597), Shottisham (1618-1645), Sutton (1555-1644), Ufford (1558-1642), Wickham Market (1557-), Witnesham (1539-), Woodbridge (1545-).



SFK-MI-43
PDF

Yvonne Hesketh
Marriage Index Coordinator
marriages@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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DIGITISATION OF SUFFOLK RECORDS

Readers may recall that in 2023, Suffolk Archives announced a joint project with family history website Ancestry to make digital images of Suffolk records available by early 2025. The details can be found at <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/latest-news-from-suffolk-archives/ancestry-appointed/> and <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/ancestry-appointed-to-digitise-suffolks-popular-family-and-local-history-sources>. The project includes millions of birth, marriage and burial records from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, some dating back to 1538, with other collections to follow later. The records will be free to view at The Hold and at public libraries, and by subscribers to Ancestry.

Since the initial announcement there has been no further news of the project, but Suffolk Archives and Ancestry staff have been beaver away on it behind the scenes. At the Society's Fair on 26 April, Judith Berry of Suffolk Archives gave a talk on the Archives' future plans, in which she updated us on the progress made in the digitisation project. She said that the Ancestry indexing work has been slightly delayed, but it is hoped to launch the parish register collection this summer. A date has been pencilled in and as soon as it is confirmed, it will be announced on Suffolk Archives' website and social media. So well worth keeping an eye out, as the collection is now expected to include 3.8 million records and 649,000 images.

Judith also updated us on progress in digitising other collections, as follows:

- **Gaol books for Beccles, Woodbridge, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds** – These are complete
- **Bishops' transcripts** – Also complete
- **Marriage licences** – In progress
- **Probate records** – Yet to be tackled. Suffolk Archives hold thousands of original wills that are likely to be of huge value to family history researchers

Coincidentally (or perhaps not!), Ancestry's rival, Findmypast, has just announced the addition of over 554,000 Suffolk parish records to its website. The records, which were indexed by our Society, are:

- **Suffolk Baptisms (1722–1855) – 364,307 records.** These have been added to the Society's Baptism Index, which includes 351 parishes and 747,204 records across the county. Records can be searched by name, baptism date, parish, place, father's name, mother's name, relationship, and father's occupation.
- **Suffolk Marriages (1753–1816) – 190,030 records.** These have been added to the Society's Marriage Index, which includes 576 parishes with records that date back to 1536 and stretch through to the 20th century. Records can be searched by name, marital status, parish, marriage date and place, spouse's name, spouse's marital status and spouse's parish.

Finally, Findmypast have also released the following Suffolk-related data:

- **Suffolk Graves and Memorial Inscriptions** – This new collection includes over 20,000 records relating to burials in the county, searchable by name, birth date, death date, location and cemetery.
- **New Suffolk newspaper pages** – The *East Suffolk Gazette* (launched in Beccles in 1857) is made available for the first time, with an initial run of 1,256 pages covering the years 1870, 1896 and 1897. In addition, over 4,000 new pages from the late 1800s have been added to the *Suffolk Mercury*, and new years to the *East Anglian Daily Times*, *Haverhill Echo*, and *Newmarket Journal*.

Mary McKee, UK Archives Manager at Findmypast, said:

‘We’re delighted to bring these records online with the help of the Suffolk Family History Society. These kinds of parish records are absolute gold dust for anyone tracing their family back before civil registration began. They offer new leads, fresh insights, and the chance to delve deeper into your ancestors’ lives.’

Andy Kerridge, the Society’s Chair, said:

‘We have been sharing our indexes with FindMyPast for some time, normally when sales of the CDs/downloads dip. However, people research in different ways. Having an index for a whole deanery, for example, can be useful for all branches of your family if they didn’t move around much. However, if they did move around or are on the border of a deanery, or if you are interested in one surname, then coverage of the whole county can be very useful. Those using Ancestry when the parish registers become available may also be grateful for the quality of our indexes, based on Ancestry’s past performance on indexing.’

Rob Ward
Co-editor

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

In the late 1970s, between school and university, I (Lesley) took a summer job as a nursing assistant (no qualifications required!) in the mental hospital in my town. This was a hospital housing long-term residents with what are now called learning difficulties (although I’m sure that some also had mental health issues, particularly those residing in locked wards). The facility was opened in 1870 as the Metropolitan District Asylum for Chronic Imbeciles, and was designed to house ‘*insane paupers living in workhouses, but unlikely to be harmful or dangerous*’.⁽¹⁾ At its peak it had over 2,200 beds, but this reduced over time, and a couple of years after I worked there it was recorded as having only 1,302 beds. The building was a large Victorian edifice, having a central administrative block off which were two parallel smaller corridors

with three-storey wards branching at right angles on either side, females on one, males on the other. The ward I helped in had patients with a variety of conditions, but I do remember one old lady of whom it was said that she had been put in the hospital when she was young for the simple reason that she was blind, and over time had become institutionalised.

There were likely to have been similarly unfortunate inmates in the comparable institutions in Suffolk. In this issue, you will find some interesting tales of ancestors who were farmed out to the care of others because they were ‘simple’, or whose illness caused long term consequences for their family, and also information on the provision of mental health care in Suffolk, and on asylum records and the restrictions on access to them.

In addition, we are pleased that last month’s issue sparked a follow-up item from member **Bev Bowry**, who has traced a connection to **Margaret Catchpole**; and also to feature a most interesting first-hand account of life in rural Suffolk in the late 19th century.

Next quarter our theme will be education. Our ancestors lived in a time when education was not always available, or was a luxury that could not be afforded. For many children, their first brush with learning may have been Sunday school, learning reading and scripture on the day of the week they did not work. We eagerly await your accounts of ancestors who worked in, administered, benefitted from or suffered under the education system. Did they just learn the 3Rs (and needlework for girls!) or progress to university? Was it on-the-job training, such as an apprenticeship, or learning at the knees of their father / mother? How did education or the lack of it affect their life prospects? Did compulsory education, or restrictions in child working affect the community?

Further ideas both on this theme and for future issues can be found later in this journal, in the Future Themes section.

As ever, we are pleased to welcome any articles arising from your family history research, or suggestions for new themes. Also, as this year we are commemorating 80 years since the end of WW2, we wondered if any members could share memories of celebrations they attended in 1945. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Editors

References and Sources

1. Lost Hospitals of London, St Lawrence’s Hospital, <https://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/stlawrence.html>
The Imbeciles Asylum, Caterham, The Workhouse: <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/MAB-Caterham/>



SUICIDE, DEPRESSION AND ASYLUMS: A FOCUS ON SUFFOLK

Mental illness has, of course, always been with us, and the hard lives led by many of our ancestors are likely to have exacerbated mental suffering. There can be relatively few family historians whose research has not identified known or probable cases of self-harm. In my own family, my 3x first cousin **Edward Ward** (1859-1895), who was born in Stradbroke in Suffolk but moved as an adult to Essex, committed suicide by drowning himself in Hatfield Mill. The circumstances are obscure. Evidence at the inquest was that Edward had been in good health but during the previous week had been '*upset by drink*'. He had never threatened suicide but was very depressed and much distressed the night before his death because he thought he had '*done injury to a political candidate*'. Exactly what this injury was and why it mattered so much to Edward is unrecorded.

Mental illness and its treatment

I had always assumed, for no very good reason, that the highest rates of suicide would have been amongst the deprived urban poor in the repressive Victorian era. However, a study of suicides in England and Wales from 1861 to 2007 found that the highest male rates (30.3 per 100,000) were recorded in 1905 and 1934 and have since declined. Female rates peaked in the 1960s (11.8 per 100,000), also declining afterwards.⁽¹⁾ That said, the lowest recorded rates for both sexes were in the 21st century, and so suicide was certainly more prevalent amongst our Victorian ancestors than it is today. It also seems to have been predominantly a male problem: suicide rates were consistently higher for males than for females throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, although the ratio fluctuated from 4 : 1 in the 1880s to 1.5 : 1 in the 1960s.

As for urban poverty being a significant cause, my own limited research suggests that in fact people of means living in the countryside were as prone to suffer as anyone else. Edward Ward was an apparently successful saddler and harness-maker in rural Essex, and the motive for his death seems entirely unconnected with his financial circumstances. The same is true of the Earl of Stradbroke's gamekeepers, whose fate was considered in an article in this journal in June 2024; though, as there explained, the fear of future poverty could have played a role in their deaths.

What is certainly the case is that in Victorian times depression was only beginning to be recognized as a mental illness requiring medical treatment. Before the 19th century, no differentiation was made between the various forms of mental ill health, with sufferers of all sorts, including those with depression, or '*melancholia*', liable to be labelled simply as '*lunatics*'. Treatment for mental illness was rudimentary. For centuries there was only one public lunatic asylum in England, the Bethlem Hospital (Bedlam) in London, where the occupants were generally held in atrocious conditions. Lunatics with money, or whose parish was prepared to pay the fee, might

be accommodated in one of the private asylums or 'madhouses' that were scattered throughout England from the 17th century onwards.

An early pioneer in this regard was Suffolk's own **Rev. John Ashbourne** (1607-1661) of Norton by Woolpit, a Puritan divine and 'clerical mad-doctor', who opened Norton Rectory as a private madhouse for paying guests during the Civil War period. Tragically, he was stabbed to death with a pitchfork by one of his own patients, his brother-in-law **Samuel Ward** (hopefully not another of my ancestors).⁽²⁾ It is not known what methods Rev. Ashbourne used with his patients, but he appears to have been motivated by a genuine desire to help them. Other private asylums were run on less principled lines – many were no better than prisons, with inmates being locked away from society and left to languish in squalid and inhumane conditions.

Private asylums tended to cater for the rich. Most pauper lunatics were kept at home, or confined in a workhouse, house of correction or bridewell, or, if harmless to themselves and others, allowed to wander at large.

Progress – and the historic record

The first major step towards securing the welfare of pauper lunatics was taken in the County Asylums Act 1808, which permitted counties to levy a rate to build public mental asylums. There was nothing in the Act to suggest this was done to facilitate the treatment of mental illness; it was rather a practical response to the increasing numbers of lunatics being admitted to gaols and workhouses, who it was thought would be easier to manage in purpose-built premises.⁽³⁾

Following the Act, in 1814 Norfolk County Council opened the Thorpe Asylum, which took patients from Suffolk as well as Norfolk. Suffolk followed suit in 1829 when the Council opened St Audry's Hospital (formally, the Suffolk County Lunatic Asylum) at Melton, near Woodbridge. St Audrey's remained open until 1993.

Another advance came when the Asylums Act 1845 required every local authority to build a lunatic asylum for the pauper insane, if one did not already exist, and stipulated that proper case books should be kept. The details of every patient brought into the asylum were to be recorded, including in an admission and discharge register, and requirements were imposed as to the frequency with which patient notes had to be made, i.e. weekly, monthly or yearly, depending on the patient's length of stay.

In 1870 Ipswich opened its own asylum, St Clement's (the Ipswich Borough Lunatic Asylum), which received patients from other boroughs and counties and also private patients. This was a self-financing institution, as the resulting revenue paid off the capital outlay on the original buildings. St Clement's continued to operate until 2002.

The Hold has an excellent series of patient records for both St Audry's and St Clement's, but as these contain sensitive personal information they are closed for 100 years after the last date in the file. The access arrangements are explained in

Suffolk Archives' leaflet No.53, *Access to the Patient Records of St Audry's Hospital and St Clement's Hospital*.⁽⁴⁾

Despite these developments, throughout the 19th century some 20-25% of pauper lunatics in England and Wales remained accommodated in workhouses.⁽⁵⁾ Suffolk workhouse records may therefore throw light on the fate of ancestors with mental health issues, particularly if their condition put the authorities to unusual expense.

Rob Ward Mb 6027

Co-editor

Sources and References

1. Kyla Thomas and David Gunnell, 'Suicide in England and Wales 1861-2007: a time-trends analysis', *Int J Epidemiol*. 2010 Dec; 39(6):1464-75. doi: 10.1093/ije/dyq094. Epub 2010 Jun 2.
2. Richard Hunter and Ida MacAlpine, 'The Reverend John Ashbourne (c.1611-1661) and the Origins of the Private Madhouse System', *British Medical Journal* (27 May 1972), pp.513-515, available at <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/2/5812/513.full.pdf>. According to Find a Grave, Rev. Ashbourne was baptized on 19 July 1607 at Crowle, Lincolnshire and was a graduate of Emmanuel College, Cambridge (a Puritan institution, and the author's *alma mater*). He married **Abigail Ward**, daughter of **Samuel Ward** (1577-1640), a famous Puritan divine and Town Preacher of Ipswich. Rev. Ashbourne was buried in the churchyard at Norton. Despite the tragic circumstances of his death, his wife and his son, **Samuel**, continued to run a 'mad business' from a property in Norton for many years afterwards.
3. E. D. Myers, 'Workhouse or asylum: the nineteenth century battle for the care of the pauper insane', *Psychiatric Bulletin* (1998). 22. 575-577, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/287AA9C438B07C164F70805173E266F4/S0955603600098949a.pdf/workhouse_or_asylum_the_nineteenth_century_battle_for_the_care_of_the_pauper_insane.pdf
4. The leaflet is available at <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/53-Medical-records-2022-03-28-1.pdf>. The Suffolk Archives website provides helpful information about the content of the hospital records.
5. Myers, n.3.



St Audry's Hospital, Melton (courtesy of the County Asylums website)

ARTHUR COOKE: A LOOKED-AFTER CHILD

In 1857, having endured five years of domestic abuse by her husband, **Frances Cooke** left home never to return. She had married **Rev. James Cooke** in 1834 when he was curate at Chelsworth, and moved with him to Semer four years later on his inheritance of the rectory there. Between 1836 and 1851 she bore him 11 children, with a gap in the regularity of production in the 1840s that might be accounted for by miscarriages or still births. The last two live births were of **Arthur** in 1850, who was classed as an '*idiot from birth*', and **Robert** in 1851, who died four days after his baptism.

Frances had made regular trips to visit her mother and sisters, but on her return from attending her younger sister's Somerset wedding in 1852 there was a distinct change in the atmosphere of the house and the marital relationship began to break down. Perhaps Arthur's mental condition and the death of Robert might have caused the couple to argue concerning further additions to their family. Had Frances expressed a desire not to undergo further pregnancies with the prospects of such outcomes? In the end, she could bear the torment of insult and physical abuse no longer and left her 10 children behind when she went to live with a sister on the Isle of Wight.

Soon after the departure of Frances in 1857, monthly entries for '*Betsy Lemon £2*' began to appear in the Cooke family account book, as she was now Arthur's carer, but not at Semer Rectory. He was boarding at the home of washerwoman widow **Mary Lemon** and her daughter **Elizabeth 'Betsy'**, aged 48. Ten years earlier, Elizabeth had been working as a live-in servant at the Rectory and would have been fully aware of her master's conduct towards his wife and of Arthur's mental condition. With the Cooke family home in the village and Arthur in a cottage by Sayers Green at the top of Watson's Hill, he had become a looked-after child.

Eventually, Frances was persuaded by her brother-in-law to take legal steps under the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act. In 1863, the case of *Cooke v. Cooke* was heard in London, which revealed the details of the domestic circumstances of the rector and his wife. Frances was granted a decree of judicial separation, which meant that the couple remained married but they were not legally tied to each other. James lodged an unsuccessful appeal and she applied for financial relief and custody of their two youngest children, **Mildred** and Arthur, neither of which was granted. Mildred had been placed by her father in a ladies' school in Middlesex where she was receiving proper care and instruction, which the judge deemed most suitable. Frances intended to enter Arthur into an institution that provided professional care in a suitable environment, but as the judge considered that this meant Arthur would not receive his mother's love directly, the boy continued with his nurse at her cottage a mile-and-a-half from Semer Rectory. One wonders whether there was any contact between the two, other than the monthly payments for Arthur's care.

Rev. James Cooke died at home on 16 March 1875, aged 71, having served his cure for 37 years (Church of England clergy have ‘cure of souls’, so a rector’s cure would be his parish). Four days later, he was buried in Semer churchyard alongside other Cooke graves. In his will signed earlier in January, James only mentioned two members of his family: his eldest and youngest sons. He entrusted his executors to oversee support of Arthur for the remainder of his life with a £150 annuity to provide maintenance, clothing and care. Having spent 18 years in the care of Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Lemon, the young man died, aged 24, and was buried in the same grave 19 days after his father.

Sue Andrews Mb 11113

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THE REPERCUSSIONS OF A LIFE HALF-LIVED

This is the brief story of my great-grandmother, **Kezia Catchpole (née Morter)**. She was born in 1830, married in 1852 and had three children, and to all intents and purposes lived an ordinary life in Ipswich. But after the birth of her fourth child, my grandfather, **Arthur Henry Catchpole**, in 1869, she developed milk fever. She was admitted to an asylum in Ipswich where she stayed for the rest of her life, dying in February 1922 at the age of 92! It probably says much about the mental health service of Victorian England that she never had the appropriate help to recover, but was cared for sufficiently to live such a long life.

Behind the tragedy of her wasted life is another. Her husband, **Frederick Charles Catchpole** (1831-1909), was left with three young children, **Emma Keziah** (17), **Frederick Charles** (10) and **Edward Henry** (6), and of course a young baby. I expect he was at his wits’ end wondering how to manage, keep a job and pay for the care of the three youngest. No doubt in desperation he started stealing from his employer and was eventually caught and sent to prison for two years.

It seems that two of his children were cared for at that time by a fellow warehouseman’s family, and baby Arthur was brought up by the **Warner** family in Playford. I expect in those times it was an informal arrangement. The daughter of the household, **Hannah**

Warner (later **Savage**) became a lifelong friend and support for the family. I like to think that the Warners provided a caring home for him.

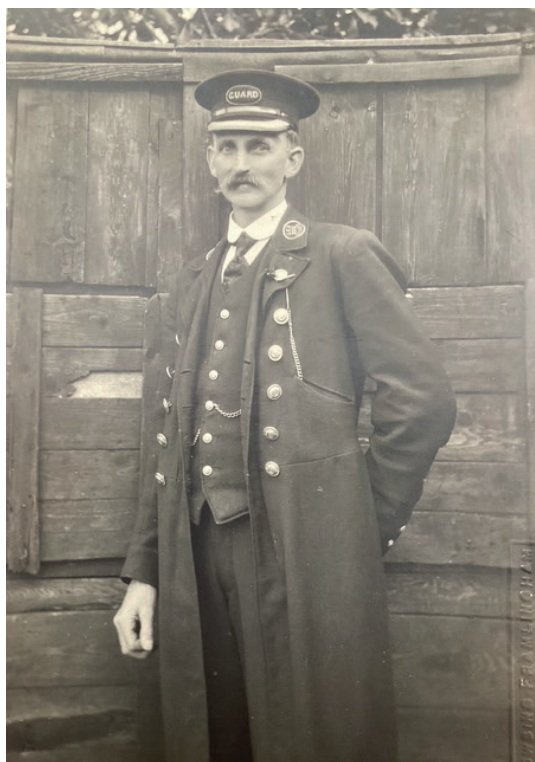
My auntie **May** (b. 1910) was told that as a small child, she was taken to see Kezia, who was told that this was Arthur's baby. Kezia replied that it can't be, because Arthur is my baby!

When my grandfather, Arthur, was ill and after his death in 1936, Hannah was there supporting my grandmother, **Florence (née Bonney)**. As a child in the 1950s I remember visiting Hannah in her cottage in Hasketon. A link that lasted a lifetime.

All the children had fruitful lives: Emma became a teacher, Frederick a hatter in central Manchester, Edward served with the mounted police in South Africa and Arthur was a guard on the railway at Framlingham.



*Emma Keziah and brother Arthur Catchpole
(author's own)*



Arthur in his guard's uniform (author's own)

It was said that family was everything to my grandfather and photos show lots of summer gatherings in the garden of their house in Wickham Market.

Jenny Wilson Mb 2983

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Editors' Note: The following are just two articles among many written by past members, which talk about family members or life in asylums. They illustrate the wealth of material contained in the back issues of *Suffolk Roots*, and are very relevant to the theme of this edition. Some of the language used in the booklet quoted in the first article reflects its origins in the early years of the 20th century.

WORKING IN AN IDIOT ASYLUM

from *Suffolk Roots* Vol 17 No.3 Nov 1991 p.153

I have compiled the following about my great-grandfather, **Charles Henry Marshall**. He was not himself a Suffolk man, being born just over the Essex border, but his father **John** and wife **Ann (née Gray)** were both born in Suffolk. The article is compiled from extracts from Charles Marshall's booklet *Fifty Years in an Idiot Asylum*, published in 1905.

I was born on the 16th June 1835 in the parish of Langham, near Colchester, Essex.

My father was a blacksmith in a small way of business. My mother was a good woman, and she loved me dearly from the day of my birth to the day of her death.

When quite a little fellow in petticoats, I was sent to a dame's school near my home. The school was kept by a maiden lady, rather past the prime of life, of portly appearance, with a very strong affection for her old tom-cat. Besides being a schoolmistress, she combined that with her occupation of general shop-keeper, selling tallow candles, red herrings, lollipops and brimstone matches (for these were the tinder-box days). She always used a cane about two yards long, so that she could easily reach every individual member of her class without rising from her chair, which she was obliged to do when customers came in.

I do not remember to have learned much here, except how to sit still, the alphabet, how to make a few figures, and to spell a few words. I was never very quick at learning, but was rather inclined to be what is called 'dull'. This fact may perhaps account in some measure for my having devoted fifty years of my life caring for idiotic children.

After leaving the dame's school, I was sent to a school at Dedham. Here I made some little headway in learning, but when I was about 10 or 11 years old, my father failed in his business, and I was obliged to leave. When my father disposed of his business we removed to the adjoining parish of Ardleigh. My first attempt to earn my living was at Mose Hall, Ardleigh. Here I was employed in keeping cows, sheep and pigs, at a weekly wage of two shillings. The cows and sheep I loved but the pigs I never did take kindly to. It may perhaps have been because of one old sow, more wicked than the rest, having one morning stolen my food bag and eaten it and its contents, so that I had to go foodless all that day!

Like many young men I often used to build castles in the air. I wished I could do something in order to benefit my fellow creatures. It was no wonder that when a friend of mine informed me of a vacancy for a junior attendant at the newly opened idiot asylum at Colchester, that I longed to obtain the post, for nothing could have suited me better. I applied for the post,

and my application proving successful, I entered upon my new sphere of labour on the 28th August 1854, at the modest wage of £10 per annum and 'all found'.

I could write volumes concerning cases which have come under my notice during my long experience, but that is not my present task. There is no difficulty in making them happy once you know how to do it. Though there is much to make one sad while looking after these poor things, yet the comic side of life is exhibited very frequently. One of the lads, who was allowed to go into the town, used to spend his pocket money at the Co-operative Stores, and the metallic checks received there he would save and drop into the collection bag at church on Sundays. Some time elapsed before he could be discovered, and when spoken to by the vergier about it, he said: "Tell the parson it is all right; if he save them till he gets £1 worth he will receive 8d. for them at the Stores."

On the 28th August 1904, I completed fifty years of work, having worked under ten matrons and five superintendents. I have lived a very plain and homely life, never faring sumptuously. In looking over my old diaries, I find that various members of the feeble-minded family have been allowed to visit my home some hundreds of times during the forty-one years of my married life, a privilege they have much enjoyed. God has been very good to me, although I have not been free from trouble. My work, I fear, is now nearly accomplished, and I shall soon have to give up, simply because I am feeling worn out.'

In view of the present policy of shutting down institutions in favour of care in the community, I thought that Charles Marshall's remarks about the Asylum might be of interest:

'This Institution has grown considerably and like other asylums has proved a great boon to many parents having the misfortune to have idiotic children. Considering the small number that can be cared for in their homes, it is surely the duty of the State to provide sufficient homes so that all can be cared for. The country must provide legislation so that all feeble-minded may be gathered in.'

Mrs P Potts Mb 2294

CHARCOT, MARIE AND TOOTH – WHO WERE THEY?

from Suffolk Roots Vol 17 No.1 May 1991 p.10

The chances are that if you know the answer to this question your family lived in the Norfolk/Suffolk area during the last century or previously, and also suffers from this extremely rare hereditary disease.

1886 was the key year; it was then that the eminent neurologist, **Professor J M Charcot**, and his most able pupil, **Pierre Marie**, wrote in the French *Revue de Medecine* of a 'progressive muscular atrophy' of a type my family is so familiar with – first the feet and legs are affected, and then, many years later, the hands. In the same year **H H Tooth** of London pointed out that the peroneal group of muscles of the legs are usually affected

first – hence the alternative name of ‘peroneal muscular atrophy’. The Paris hospital where Charcot worked still exists. It has had a long history and still is sited on a former gunpowder factory, this giving rise to its name – ‘Hopital de la Salpetriere’. For a long time before Charcot, it was a repository of up to 8,000 poor beggars, cripples, the insane. In this, the largest asylum in Europe, the most disturbed were bound to the walls by chains. Inmates were often deported and even murdered during the French Revolution! By 1783 a special infirmary had been built, and to this came Charcot in 1862 as Chief of Medical Services. He instituted a medical classification of the patients and formed a rudimentary laboratory for microscopic examination. Inpatients were restricted to those with neurological disorders. Charcot’s appointment in 1862 as the very first Professor of Neurology (Chair for Clinical Diseases of the Nervous System) was a realisation of an earlier dream of this place of misery becoming a centre for research into diseases of the nervous system. To his pupils Charcot had an almost uncanny ability to sense a diagnosis, such were his outstanding powers of observation. Medics came from all over the world including a very notable student, **Sigmund Freud**. A friend and colleague for many years was **Duchene de Freud**, long associated with the diagnosis of the most severe form of muscular dystrophy.

Whilst carrying out examinations, Charcot would stand quite motionless, with a stove-pipe hat on his head, apron around his middle and his feet encased in big galoshes.

Whilst all this was being discovered in Paris, my great-grandmother **Charlotte Ann Hurrell** from Wattisfield was being courted by **Albert Hunt** from East Harling; they married at Wattisfield in 1873. Albert was the eldest of ten children born to **Joseph Hunt** from Harling and **Harriet Borley**, who was born in Tostock about 1830. Harriet being a daughter of **James Borley** and **Maria Wright** who were both baptised at Tostock. Albert Hunt was the first person in my family who is known to have suffered with Charcot Marie Tooth syndrome. He probably inherited it from his mother Harriet Borley, who in turn could have inherited it from either of her parents.

Albert and Charlotte Hunt finished up living at Overa Farm at Larling (now a home for retired horses). They brought up 6 daughters there, **Ellen Sophia**, **Harriet Elizabeth**, **Margaret Ann**, **Gertrude Jemima**, **Alice Alberta** and my own grandmother **Laura**. None of these girls inherited the condition, but at least three of them passed it on to their children, grandchildren etc.

C.M.T., as it is known for short, can be very severe, leaving the sufferer in a wheelchair, or at best, as in my family, it can be a great inconvenience, leaving the sufferer walking very badly with a condition known as ‘foot drop’ caused by the withering of the heel muscles, and loss of fine movement in the hands, caused by wasting of the thumb and finger muscles.

Rosemary Ellis Mb 2964

MY MARGARET CATCHPOLE CONNECTION

Further to **Naomi Clifford**'s excellent article 'The Legend of Margaret Catchpole' (featured in March's edition), I am delighted to give my response to the Editors' request for anyone with further researched information to get in touch.

My husband and I have been Margaret aficionados ever since 2013 when, whilst researching the Manor House, Ipswich, we discovered she had once worked there for the Cobbold family. Having 17th century Catchpole ancestors myself, it fired us up to see if I may, in some way, be related to her. Thus began our relentless scouring of anything and everything relating to Margaret, including parish records, books, and her letters to England from Australia.

Like others, we cannot say for certain who her father was. Her mother **Elizabeth Catchpole** married **Robert Nunn** in Brandeston in 1766 but entries in the Hoo parish register for September 1761 show an Elizabeth Catchpole having banns read twice for a marriage to a **Richard Marjoram**, though there is no corresponding marriage. As Margaret's baptism is recorded as being at Hoo on 14 March 1762, might this point to Richard being Margaret's 'unknown' father? A Richard Marjoram appears in the Suffolk FHS Burial Index as being buried on 11 April 1821 in Charsfield, aged 85. He would have been about the right age and Charsfield is less than two miles from Hoo. Assuming this was the same Richard Marjoram, it proves that it wasn't through him dying that the marriage was halted, so we can only speculate as to why it never took place.

With no suitable baptism being found for an Elizabeth Catchpole in Brandeston, further searches revealed such a named daughter of a **Michael Catchpole** and an **Elizabeth née Girling** baptised in Framlingham on 19 April 1742. This led us to a settlement certificate dated 1741 (Suffolk Archives: ref FC101/G/9/1/76) showing the family moving from Framlingham to Brandeston. There Michael and Elizabeth had further children: **Sarah** (bp. 1744), **William** (bp. 1746, d. 1749), **Simon** (bp. 1748, d. 1764), **Ann** (bp. 1749), **Mary** (bp. and d. 1753) and **William** (bp. 1754).

The parish register for St Nicholas' Church, Ipswich, shows an **Ann Catchpole** marrying a **William Howes** on 1 February 1781, while Brandeston's parish register has a **Sarah Catchpole** marrying a **William Leader** on 18 August 1776. Margaret's letters are held in the **Nan Kivell** Collection at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and we know that some of these were addressed to her '*Uncle and Aunt Howes*' in Ipswich. In one from Sydney dated 8 October 1806 she writes: '*I should be very happy to hear how my aunt and uncle Leader and all my Cusones do*'. In other letters, Margaret names her cousins, and these match these couples' children, thus confirming that both Sarah Leader and Ann Howes were her mother Elizabeth's sisters.

Parish records further show a Michael Catchpole, presumably Margaret’s grandfather, being baptised in Framlingham in 1713 with parents **Michael** and **Elizabeth Catchpole**. It seems certain, therefore, that this latter Michael Catchpole is the one baptised 24 years earlier in Framlingham (1689) with father **James Catchpole** and mother yet another **Elizabeth**. It appears reasonable to assume that this James Catchpole was Margaret’s 2x great-grandfather. The Suffolk FHS Burial Index details such a named person, an ostler, being buried in Framlingham in 1701: we believe this to be him. A tad ironic, perhaps, as Margaret was a horse thief.

Sadly, we have been unable to locate this James’s baptism and so cannot prove a connection to my Catchpoles through him, though we know they were around in that area. We also have not, as yet, researched Sarah and Ann’s children, or any offspring their brother William Catchpole may have had. Nor have we investigated the possibility of Richard Marjoram having descendants. But amazingly, we did uncover a relationship between William Howes and myself, being 5x 3rd cousins. Thus, both Margaret and I would have DNA matches to any descendants of her ‘Uncle and Aunt Howes’. Though distant, and not blood-related, it is still super exciting to know that Margaret is indeed connected ‘in some way’ to me.

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‘FOLK IN RUINS’ AT SIBTON?

The Friends of Sibton St Peter’s are planning a two-day event on 19 and 20 July 2025. All are welcome to attend.

In the church there will be records of those who made their home, life and living in Sibton, including some unexpectedly famous people. There will be an opportunity to research into Sibton folk buried in the churchyard as well as those commemorated by notable monuments in the church itself.

Details of the church and the event can be found at: <https://www.sibtonstpeter.com/whatson>

Do you have ancestors buried at Sibton? Do you have research, stories or family trees to share? If so, please contact **Jan Belton** on the e-mail address below.

Jan Belton Mb 492
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JOHN PRESTON (1880-1955): HIS LIFE STORY

***Editors' note:** John Preston was born in Toft Monks, just inside Norfolk, in 1880. He was born out of wedlock and was brought up by his grandparents. Aged 10, they moved to Shadingfield, near Beccles, in Suffolk. At first John worked on the land but he then went to sea, as a cook in fishing smacks and later steam boats. He married his wife, Anna, in Lowestoft in 1901 and they had seven children. In the mid-1920s their three eldest children emigrated to Australia and shortly afterwards John, Anna and the younger children followed. In later life John wrote the following 27-page account of his memories of the UK. This was sent many years ago by one of his descendants to member **Sue Harris**, who has now shared it with Andy, our Chair. With the help of AI, Andy has been able to dictate the contents and have them transcribed. The memoir starts with an interesting account of growing up in a rural village in the late 19th century, then takes a turn to the adventurous when John goes to sea, and enlists in the First World War. Andy reports that he has kept the spelling and grammar as close to the original as possible, despite AI's attempts to correct them! But we have added a little punctuation.*

Borne in England 14th Jan 1880 Toft Monks parish of Norfolk, and I am at the time of writing. I am 61 and in the course of my life I have traveled a good many miles on land and sea. And from the begi[nni]ng of my life as a boy, I had a hard life and a hard struggle to get along as a poor boy, I was brought up the best my poor old Grand dad and Grand mar could do at that time. Wages were ten shillings a week, but they did there best for me. And now school days, I had a mile and a half to go and as food had to be plain those days lucky to get flour, from which the Wind Mill use to grind for use. As I had plain food to take to school, my grandma use to give me a penny to go into a little shop and buy a penny worth of Biscuits and as I had a good pall [pal], I use to change my biscuits for his currant cakes, as his parents were better off than mine. I use to have a pair of pants made out of G.Dads [old?] coat.



John Preston in later life

Of course I was a good boy. We use to have to pass a farmers orchard, and it was about 30 yards to get to it, and it was all right for two mornings going in after the apples. The third morning, two men laid wait for us in the ditch, let us get in all right, and then with a big stick out they came after us, and I ran for life. We had a wooden fence to get over. When my behind was on the top of the fence, down came the stick

just missed by a hair's breadth. If it had caught me, it would just have killed me. And when we got to school, out we had to go to the schoolmaster. We had two chances to go up to the farmers and be put in the dogs kennel for the day, or go in front of the school master and have the stick. We had the stick and thought that would be the shortest punishment. We never forgot going after **Mr Colman** apples. And another thing I had to do every week, pick up a penny worth of ye[a]st to make bread with, as no patent yeast was about those days.

One and a half miles to school and back, then once or twice a week to go another mile and a half for a penny worth of skim milk in another direction. It use to be dark before I could get back. I use to be afraid of the dark when a small boy, and of course, I use to hear Dear Old Grandma talk of gohst and hobby lanterns, which were supposed to hop about on the meadows at night and all very wet places. I was allways on the lookout for all these things, but I never did see anything to heart me as far as gohst goes. I use to hear the owl [?]crook sometimes when comeing home with the milk. Still, I did use to get a milk sop next morning if it was skim. It use to be good those days, with a bit of brown sugar it was to and cheap, 1½ penny a pound. Tea use to be very dark with it in but we all use to do well on it. No fancy food those days, and not much play for me. G.dad allways had a job for me on Saturday, let the fowls out and look after them. All went well untill one day I hit one with a stone and brook its leg. I was sorry I done it, but I got a good hiding for that and to bed I had to go without any tea, but dear old G.mar came to the rescue and brough me some tea upstairs. Must not let granddad [k]now, oh no.

G.mar, dear old soul, she use to shield me in every way. I was never wrong in her eye, and when we use to go to town, she use to take me with her sometimes, and she use to walk so as fast I could hardly keep up. I use to run and walk, then when we got to town she would give me a penny to spend, and I often went to two or 3 shops to spend it. You could spend farthing in those days.

And I use to go to Sunday school every Sunday, and in course of time I received 3 prize. And we use to have a tea party in the Chaple every Whitsun Tuesday, and races on the common in the afternoon. And one man use to ride his old bone shaker to make a bit of fun, and the men use to ride the penny farthing bikes and have races. And men and women use to play ring of roses and miss in the ring. And everybody use to have tea in the Chapel in the afternoon. They were good times at that time of the day. And the Great Day came in 1887. The good **Queen Victoria** Jubilee, all the children had to go in horse and waggons to Haddiscoe hall for the day and have a Grand tea provided for every one. Of course, we all had a medal, a lead one of course, but we thought the world of them and a jubilee mug. It was a great day for we children. I never forgot it as long as I live.



John's Jubilee medal

And another thing I never forget, about the same time as the jubilee, Jack the ripper was about London. I use to remember hearing my G.mar talk about him. Little did I think us school boys were going to meet him. One morning going to school, we got about half a mile to go then and Jack the ripper stoped us, he had a donkey and a crippled boy with him. I thought a lot of the poor boy since and Jack the ripper pulled a long knife out of his pocket, like a butcher's knife. He said, to us I cut your heads off if I get hold of you. My word we were off to school in a hurry then, we never stopped till we got in the school playground. We never forgot that morning run to school.

And we had a good school master, which, after years, he hung himself. He was very fond of fishing, and he use to come and fish on the common where I lived, in a big pond, and get us boys to carry his fishing gear for him and give us a few sweets, which we use to like very much, and now as a boy, we go and see the first traction engines at work ploughing in a field, one at each end of the field, and pull the plough backwards and forwards across the field. We thought that was great in those days, and when they moved along the road, one man use to walk about a quarter of a mile in front carr[y]ing a red flag to warn men with horse and carts on the road, and they were only allowed to go four miles per hour. And we use to run home from school to go and see the steam ploughs at work. They started as soon as it was light and worked till it was dark at night. They allways had a 4 wheel hut with them to live in and bunks to sleep in.

And now I begin to track to the farm where my G.dad worked to play with the farmers daughter when I got a chance and have great fun sliding down on the straw stack. Me and the farmers girl, Annie Brown, were great pals and she had two brothers much older than me, so they played a joke on me. Nice boys, they let me ride the pony to water, put me on its back, quite nice, gave me the reins. Say, of you go to the pond, when the pony put his head down to drink, I just slipped over the ponys head into the pond, did the boys get a good laught over that. Of course, I got a hiding for getting wet, but still, I had some good rides out with them once a week to pick up butter and eggs for the market. And when Xmas came round, we use to go out singing Xmas carols at the farms. Then we go out again collecting Xmas boxes, we would all get cakes and oranges and apples and nuts and a few pennys each. Then on the 14th of February we all use to go out singing good morning Valentine to all the farmers. We

all use to get a school bag full of nuts and oranges, apples an a few pennys each. One old farmer never use to give anything, only the horse whip. Off course, we all knew him quite well and use to play him up when we called on him, we allways got a bit of fun out of him.

Then when harvest time came round, we all had to go with our parents gleaning all day long to try and get enough wheat after it was threshed out to fill a 4 bushel bag. Then we use to send it to the mill to get it ground into flour which use to be a big help in the home those days, as farm labours wages was only 10 shillings a week then and for a long time afterwards, before it whent up to 11 shillings a week. And my G.mar use to go stone picking on the land to earn a few pence witch the price was for picking stones was 1½d [one and a half pence] a bushel. And in the winter months, my G.mar use to feed the stock and grind the root for them and clean all the root for them all for a shilling or two a week. They were bad times all right.

And then in the spring, I use to help G.mar when I could to single the Beet and swedes and turnips, and all G.mar use to get was 1 shilling an acre, and it use to just break our backs stooping down all day long. Sometimes G.mar would say I could have a rest. As soon as her back was turned I would be up of a tree, or running around the fences looking for birds nests, and get enough eggs to have for breakfast, and to get moore hens eggs, which use to make there nest as far in the pond as they could. We use to get a pole and tie a big spoon on the end and get the eggs out one at a time. They use to make a good pudding as they were big eggs. They use to lay from 10 to 12 eggs each before they use to sit on them.

And now for a bit of news in the course of my life and how we have advanced in all kinds of different things, from a magic lantern to an aroplane. The first thing I remember was when I use to go and see the magic lantern. They use to show it in the school room. We use to think it was great. I think it use to be about 2d to see it, and sometimes we use to have a concert, and some of the school children would be in it, which use to make a good nights entertainment.

And then later, when I went to sea, the next bit of music was something like a gramophone and a man had it on Grimsby market on a Saturday night. Six persons could listen at a time, three on each side. The man wind it up and use to stand and listen with tubes in our ears. Everyone said it was good to hear them singing inside, then later they got the sound boxes and then gramophones, and we use to go to school to hear them played for about 3 pence a night. And then the cinematograph picture showes come along, and then the talkies which are everywhere now, running and showing night and day and all over the old country, all kinds of shows still run. Circus still run, and Bostock and Wombles [Wombwell's] wild beast show use to be a great turn out. That's where I first see the kangaroo, I did not dream I would ever see him in his wild state. And there was Lord George Sangers circus which use to

be a great show in the old country. He had a splendid lot of performing elephants that even traveled on the road, and he gave up his show a few years ago and retired and went and lived on his farm for the rest of his life. He was a great show man and allways had a full tent when showing. I have seen it a good many times, and his elephants were wonderfull, do anything but talk. And when he retired, he sold out except his elephants. I think he had about 30, and those he had he kept on his farm to work. And after a time, there was someone had a grudge against him, and they came and poisoned the poor things, and then I think they all died, except two poor things. They could be heard for miles, trumpeting in agony before they died. No one could do anything for them. It was a mean trick to do. Lord George Sanger put a reward of £500 for them, but they never got found out. And he thought the world of his elephants, they were his best friends.

And another show, which use to be nice was **Mr. Genetts** circus. This was where I saw the first motor car going around the town, which in those days the town crier use to lead all the circus vans around the towns. And this time, the Ford Motor car took the lead and use to stear with a handle, not a wheel.

And then, later years, **Barnum** and **Bailey's** Great show came to England and spent two years touring the country, which I saw twice while it was in England, and allso **Buffalo Bills** Wild West show, but I did not get a chance to see that. But of course, we had plenty of fairs traveling the country, steam horses and round abouts, **Barker** and **Thurston** had a great turn out. It use to be hauled along the road with two big tractor from place to place.

And now I am about 10 years of age, still going to school, and we have moved from Norfolk to Suffolk into a big farmhouse, and we had a big moat. It use to just run all the way round the orchard, and was a good place for slideing in the winter on the ice and skateing all round the moat. Then I use to cut a big lump of ice out of the pond and make what we use to call an ice horse, and push it along and jump on it.

We use to have a great time at Xmas time, and my girlfriend use to come and see me for a holiday, and we use to have a good time, and she is still my girlfriend at 63 years of age. We have been pals all our lives from children. We played together on the ice, and we use to make some snow men, roll all the snow up into a big lump, then roll a small ball for his head and put a bit of coal in for his eyes, and then we leave him in the meadow till he melt away. They were happy days for us boys and girls. Then in the spring, we use to go bird nesting and picking the primroses and violets, which all grow wild in England, and go gleaning in the harvest time and in the autumn go blackberrying and picking up acorns for pigs, all for 1 shilling a bushell and plenty of back aches and a howl or two. Still, we pulled through it all somehow.

And I was about 9 or 10 years old when I went to see the first self-binder work, and I walked two miles to see it. A farmer hired it to come and cut his wheat crop. We

thought that was a great to see sheafs dropping out, all tied up, ready to stand up in shocks. But of course, we had the old sail reapers and the grass mowers before the binders came along. Most of the corn use to be cut with the scythe in those days, and wheat and oates use to be tied by hand which I done plenty of it myself later on, and in the meantime, now getting a big boy.

I have to help G. mar in the springtime to pick stones for 2 or 3 months, to earn a bit to buy my clothes with as wages were small, 10 shillings a week, not much to live on. And I use to have to call at the shop on the way home from school which I had to pass. I don't think I went to school one day clear of not going into shop. I allways had something to call for, a quarter of tea or half a pound sugar, half ounce of tobacco, which the price then was, 1½d for half an ounce, and later it jumped to be 6d a ounce, then to 8d an ounce. Then I had to go for a penny worth of skim milk two or three times a week, and if it was winter time and in the afternoon, I use to stop and play on the ice on the way home, till dark. Then when I arrived home, my milk use to be all ice in the Billy can. Still we use to have great fun on the ice. Men and women use to go skateing in the moonlight. I had a pair of my uncle's skates when I got older, a pair of his cast-off wooden skates, and he had a pair of steel ones.

And now I have left school to start work for myself, as you could leave if you past the 4th standard. I started work on the farm where I was living, and I had to work nine and a half hours a day, all for sixpence a day. I use to use the horses on the farm and do all kinds of jobs. Never aloued [allowed] to ride on anything. I use to have to walk all day long as farmer did not like to see a man ride on a machine those days, he think that was to [too] easy for him. Then in the harvest time, I use to be what they call half man. I use to drive the horses in the waggons when we use to be carting in the harvest, and I use to feed all the horses for a month all for 4s [shillings], as boys allways got half a mans wages which use to be from seven shillings 10 pence to eight shillings. It never was above that. And my time in the harvest was from 7 o'clock in the morning to 7 at night, except when carting, and it has been as late as 9 at night as we allways made the best of a good day for getting the corn up and in good order. And when the farmer could not find me a job, then I could go stone picking. I allways had that job to go to, as it was 1½d a bushell. I could never get clear of that job. I have been picking stones in the winter months when its been a hard frost, and I use to have a bent nail to pull the stones out of the ground. Sometimes I use to have to wait till the frost got out of the ground, standing in the field, nearly frozen to death myself.

Then in the spring, the wheather gets warmer, I be put on again to work daywork, all for sixpence a day. Sometimes I use to earn an extra 1d, singleing Beet and work a bit of over time till just dark at night, and I had to start to save as to save a 1s when I could, to buy a watch, when I could save enough. People did not think a watch was any good unless you could bye an English Leaver or a turnip watch. My G. dad had one, and when I went to town with G. dad and bought mine just after harvest I had

an English leaver, which I have in my possession at the present time. It was £3 15s 0d, and it took 2 years to pay for it, but is a good one, and I had it now about 45 years and still in going order. Use to wind with a key, and I might tell you I weighed a ton when I got that and a watch guard. How many times I looked at that watch the first day I had it the Lord only knows, but I can tell you how pleased I was with and I took care of it too.

Then I got a bit bigger. I had to save up for a suit, the first long trowsers I ever had. Of course, my G. mar helped to pay for it. I never forget the first Sunday I had them on, and my watch and guard. I fell down and split the knee of my trowsers. I was sorry I did it, I thought I was going to get a hiding but G. mar looked over it, and mended it for me the best she could do, as by now she was getting on in years, dear old Soul. And when she use to go to town, which was 4 miles, and if she was not home, when I left off work I allways use to go and meet her and bring some of the parcels for her, and do all I could for her. And she even use to walk 4 miles to Chapel and leave me to do the housework on Sundays, sweep up the house and put sand upon the flour [floor], cook the spuds for dinner for G. dad, uncle and myself, and do the washing up before I could go to church myself. G. mar allways left ever thing to me as she knew every thing would be all right till she got home.

And now I thought I like to have a bike. Well I got a bike, not a flash one, I can tell you, it cost me two an sixpence, one of the old cushion tyre bikes, but never the less, I got good rides out of it. A fixed wheel, of course. I use to put my feet up on the front forks, which had 2 brackets on it. Then I thought I would have a little better one, which was a little better than my first one. This was not an expensive one, it was a 5s one. It had a nice bell that was the best part of it, and if the tyres came off you would have to go to the blacksmiths to have them put on with pitch and resin. That was the most expense, but still, I got plenty of fun out of it.

And now I gets a little better job working for the farmer where I went and saw the first self-binder work here, I got a big rise in wages, from 3s to 6s a week to look after stock all the summer. Labourers wages still 10s a week. And after summer was over, I was put off again, and I use to get a job with the threshing machine and go from place to place with it, and I use to get a 1s a day with that, and if it rained we could not work.

And I was getting fed up going about looking for a job as I was anxious, anxious to go to sea. My G. dad did not want me to go, but at last they left me to please myself, and a mate of mine which was going to sea, he said he could get me a berth. So in February I went to Lowestoft with him and got a berth, and we went round the west of England, mackrel catching for about 4 to 5 months. Then we go to Plymouth for a while, then we use to go to Penzance and Newlyn. We use to land the fish at Newlyn, sometimes across the Scilly Islands. It nice to go there and see all the lovely flowers which grows there, which they send to London markets. The mail boat run across and put them on

the train at Penzance. And I use to go round to the West ward. I think I can say I use to see the last of the royal coaches, which use to run from Penzance to Lands End and back, and all around Penzance fields and fields of lovely flowers grow. I use to like a walk into the country when we use to lay in the harbour a night or two if it was bad wheather. This was in the sailing boat days. I spent 7 years in sailing boats use to have 4 voyage a year, pay off after every voyage, one voyage round the West Ward, one at home port mid-summer voyage about 2 months, then we use to go to Shields [South Shields] and Scarboro which was in the summer, and then to Grimsby. Then we finish that voyage up sometime in September and start again on the home voyage and run up to about two weeks before Xmas. Then we would be herring catching about eight months of the year.

I did not earn much the first year as I was cook, and cooks get half share. We never had any weekly wages, all by the share, the more we earnt, the more we use to get. After the expenses had been paid, we use to get 5 pounds on every clear 100 pounds we earnt. I only earned 15s for my first years work and my liveing but that was better than being on a farm. Sometimes we use to get a few shillings [?]hovel money out of pieces of fish, which we use to sell for bait to the liners for catching deep sea fish.

But now, after my first years work, I buy my own clothes. I buy my first navy blue suit, all made to measure, and a pair of kid shoes to measure, and a nice hat, collar and tye.

And fishman allways had a costume of there own. All use to buy the best of clothes that money could buy. I was 17 years old when I started to sea but the second years work was good. I got over 50 pounds. And I allways use to save all I could, it was all hard cash those days, no papper money we did not get. I use to give my G. mar all my money to take care off for me as I earned it from one voyage to another.

And the girlfriend, which is still the girlfriend, she had to earn her own living. Girls were like boys, they did not get much money. Girls were only slaves those days. She started work when she was twelve, all for 1s a week. Then after a year or two, she went to London, w[h]ere she got more money, so I lost touch of her for 3 years as I was going to sea and she started to travel about to Scotland and France. We were allways good friends from children, and now it's 3 years since we had seen one another. I arrived home one bright Sunday morning from a good voyage around the west of England. To my surprise, here my girlfriend had arrived from France. Oh boy what a meeting. I arrived about eight o'clock in the morning, and she was home for a fortnights holiday. G. mar was pleased to see me home, as she did not like the warter. And now after breakfast I have a clean up and a shave and get into my Sunday best. Then after dinner, I and the girlfriend goes out for a walk across the foot paths through fields and meadows, and of course, we had a nice sit down under the old oak tree. Off course we were quite pleased to see each other again after 3 long years.

I am now 21 years of age, Mady⁽¹⁾ girlfriend 23, so I finished up the west ward voyage and had a weeks holiday and off to sea again. So Mady and I had a few days together and up to London she goes again, and I go on to the North Sea again for another voyage. And during the voyage, I wrote to my fiance and ask her if she would agree to be engaged to me, and she agreed, and she was entitled to another fortnight's holiday at Xmas. She wrote and asked me if she should come home. Of course, what did I say, Yes, by all means as we finish up at Xmas for about two months before we go to sea again. And of course, I wrote and let her [k]now when to come home. Of course we had a good time. I had a good voyage, and I use to go to bed when I like and get up when I like. It was better than being on the farm, working for a few bobs [shillings].

And now we are together we talk and plan for the marriage, to get married in July, the year 1901, and as there was a cottage empty in the parish w[h]ere I was liveing I went and hired it in advance, ready for when the day came to get married, when I and Mady agreed to get married on the 18th July 1901 at the old St Margarets church, Lowestoft. And I must say, it was a grand day and sun was shineing, and it did shine on the bride too. It was one of the happyest days of our lives, and we had every thing to make every one happy, and plenty of drink, and everyone enjoyed themselves. We held the wedding at Madys mothers at Lowestoft, as our new home was in the country, 10 miles from Lowestoft. And next day after the wedding, we go to our home, which was all finished and ready to live in, and it was called the Lower Barn Cottage, which was near the barn.

I only had 4 days at home and off onto the North Sea I go again for another three months fishing, onto the dogger bank and sometimes herring catching. And while nets are out you can fish for cod with a hand line. Just please yourself, as if you catch any you could sell them and have the money for what you caught. I picked up a good few bobs sometimes. Then we finish about the end of September and pay off and have a few days home, and off we go again till about a fortnight before Xmas. This was in the sailing boat days. I spent 7 years in sailing boats. Then the Germans came over and started buying our fish, and it opend up the export, and the fishing industry went ahead in leaps and bounds.

And the owners went in for steam boats, and its all steam now, and we have to go farther away fishing. And we opened up a fishing port at Lerwick on the Shetland Islands, when all the boats were in there was about 5 or 6 hundred. It is very cold there in the winter and not very hot in the summer time. But I must say, through the German buyers comeing, we had some real good voyages, but it's a rough life. While the voyage last, eat, work and sleep when you get the chance, but on the home voyage, from Oct to Xmas, we have a night in harbour. We get home for a night and see Mum and the children who was allways pleased to see me and know we were safe. I have been in some awfull Gales at times round the west of England and on our own co[a]st too when we had to crawl on our hands and knees to get from aft to

forward, to attend to the sails, to take a reef on, to do anything to keep the boat as safe as possible, till the weather fined up again.

And before I went to sea myself, I lived with an uncle who went to sea, and as a boy every time he went off to sea my G. mar always use to throw her old shoe at him. I use to wonder what it could be for and as years passed on I went to sea myself, and grandma use to throw her old shoe at me. Of course, I knew by this time what it was for. Good luck, good voyage, and a safe return.

I lived with her until we got married, and then we were not far from her, dear old Soul. I always use to bring her something home after the voyage from Plymouth, Penzance, Grimsby and Scarborough and Shields. She use to think the world of these presents I use to bring her home when I came off a voyage. I thought the world of my Grand mar. She could read, but G. dad could not read, and I use to buy him a quarter a pound of tobacco, which was a shilling a quarter those days. They both lived to a good old age. G. mar died first at the age of 71 years and G. dad was about 81 years of age. He spent his last years with my mother. I never use to forget him when I finished a voyage, always buy some tobacco and give him, as he only got the old age pension to live on. And to think at the time of writing, me and Mum are in the same boat now, living with our daughter and son in law and Grandson all in one big house. We have 7 children in the family, we brought them all up. Six are married and got children of their own. We got one girl left to get married some day, one of the best, and she is in the airforce, and she thinks the world of Mum and me.

Well now I will say a bit more of the fishing life. After a few years in the steam drifters I broke off the westward voyage and started on my own, Mole catching. So I use to start fishing again about May every year until the last war broke out. I got a man to give me a start at mole catching to see if I could make a go of it, which I did. I got all the farms around after a year or two, then I got one big estate, and so I had all my time occupied for 4 months. I use to take farms and estate by contract, to trap anywhere I like to go. When I first started, I could not sell the skins. After 3 or 4 years, the skins came on the market, so I started skinning and drying them for a penny each. A good skin is 5 x 4 inches. And as time went on, the prices went up. And the second year after the last war, the skins went up to 2s each. And I had a good season for 3 months work when



The Preston family landing at Freemantle, Western Australia, aboard the SS Barradine in 1925. In the front row (from left) are Maggie, Rose ('Tiny'), Harry, Charles. Holding Rose is John, and next to him is his wife Anna

the skins are at there best, before they loose their winter coat. My best days work was 60 moles for one day and for the season, I made 70 pounds out of skins, and 40 pounds the year before, and then the market went slump. I use to make all my own traps, wooden ones. I use to have 18 to 20 dozen out at a time, and I had to look at them every day or the skins would be no good for sale. And I use to do a lot of pigion shooting as well in the spring, when the farmers use to put the spring crops in. And I still have the same gun now in my possession, still in good order, a double barrel 12 bore. I use to have some good days sport as you could sell pigions anywhere at 1s a pair. They use to make nice pies as well. I often [took?] a shot at something as well as pigions.

I lived at the Low Barn Cottage 9½ years till my family got big and I wanted a bigger house. And I must say it was 9½ years of pleasure we enjoyed while we lived there and had a good big garden and fruit trees of all kinds. I use to grow all my own vegetables, and I was a big rose grower of all the best kinds available. I use to graft them myself and sell the roses as well when in flower. I use to make a few shillings that way and sell some of the bushes as well, as I use to be home in the winter months then to transplant anything. I use to love roses, as I must say, they are a lovely flower and such lovely colours and sweet scent they give us all.

And during our time at the Lower Barn, 9½ years, we lived alongside the main road from Yarmouth to London, 127 miles. It was 107 miles from our home, the parish of Weston near Beccles, and we use to get a lot of callers travelling on the road, which we allways helped the best we could do. Some wanted a little water to make tea. Some want a match or two, some food. Men and women and children tramping the roads and begging for anything they could get. And I can say we have given them food, and as soon as they were out of the gate they would through [throw] it over the fence, as they would rrather have money, if it was only a penny, as 2 pence would get a pint of beer at that time of the day. And 1½d, would get half an ounce of tobacco, that's what they wanted the most.

And now, after 9½ years, we moved half a mile up the road into a bigger house, still alongside of the London Road, and I still had a nice garden. At the Low Barn we lived all alone, now we live in the village and got a neighbour, and the children only had half a mile to go to school. And we lived 12½ years in this house. Then we had to get out to let the landlady have it for herself, and we spent 2 years in another house close by before we left for this country, Austrilia.

And now a bit about the war. I was down at the Shetland Islands fishing when the last war broke out, and as soon as war was declared we had to pack up and come home. We filled up with coal and made for Lowestoft straight away. I was in a boat then called the *Nevertheless*, and I was sorry to say we had to pack up, as our best time had just started when we look to make a good voyage. And I had to get a job just where

I could, sometimes with a Thrashing machine, sometimes not a job at all. So I and my neighbour decided to go and enlist on the 6th of October 1914. We both passed one day and in training the next day at Felixstowe. We were all trained in 13 weeks, fit for the front, but they did not pass me out until May 1915, so the government took over another boarding house and the Sargent asked me if I would like to go cook for 25 men. I said, yes I would, and carried on cooking till they passed me out for the front.

I had a few days leave. My Dear Wife came halfway to town to have the last minute with me before I got on the train. I never forget the last parting words we had. I said to Mum, if only half of me come back, will you have me back? Yes, dear, with tears in her eyes. It was a hard parting to leave a wife and six children under 14 years of age, and a hard struggle, which, with half my pay I had to allow her. She had 29 shillings a week to get along with, to keep herself and the six children. And I got to say she was a Brick. I left her for the front in a bad way, I was behind with a years rent, and believe me, in 12 months, she kept the home going and paid off two years rent in one year, and got me out of debt, all though I could not help her with my little bit of pay. Being a Private my pay was 6d a day, and for two years of the last war, and three year I got 9d a day until early 1917, we all had a rise in pay, 2d a day and 3d a day for 3 years service. So made it 2s 3d a day, and we all got credited with six months back pay, which brought me 20 pounds in credit [credit]. And so it stood till the end of the war.



John Preston's World War I souvenir

And now a bit to say, we leave Felixstowe for the front. I never forget the day I marched to Felixstowe station when we got sent off with the old tune, Typperary, and still they play the same old tune, and we all hope the time will soon come when the band will play Show Me The Way To Go Home. What a happy day that will be for everyone. I have two sons and a daughter in this war, and I am sorry I cannot get in again as I am now an invalid, still never mind, we must all hope for the best.



John and Anna Preston in 1944

References and Sources

1. John's girlfriend and later wife was **Anna Elizabeth Oldman**, who was his first cousin. It is not known why he referred to her as 'Mady' - could it be because she was a maid when they were courting? They married in St Margaret's church, Lowestoft, on 18 July 1901.

THE RIVERS FAMILY OF SPROUGHTON, BRAMFORD AND IPSWICH

My grandmother was **Gladys Rivers** (b. 1904, Ipswich), who married **Harry Brooks** (b. 1903, also Ipswich). As a young child I thought it was amusing that a Brooks met a Rivers.

Gladys was the daughter of **Herbert William Rivers** (b. 1877, Sproughton) and **Ellen Heffer** (b. 1878, Framlingham). Herbert was the son of **Walter George Rivers**, of whom more below.

The earliest generation found so far is that of **Samuel Rivers** who married **Elizabeth Rudland** on 10 September 1809 in Sproughton. They are my 4x great-grandparents. According to a hand-drawn tree sent to me by **Brenda Bixler (née Rivers)** about 20 years ago, Samuel was baptised in Sproughton in 1785. I have not been able to confirm this. The tree was drawn up by one of Brenda's immediate family about 30 or more years ago. Elizabeth Rudland was born in Bildeston in 1784, baptised 26 June 1784, the daughter of **Richard Rudland** and **Elizabeth Reeve**.

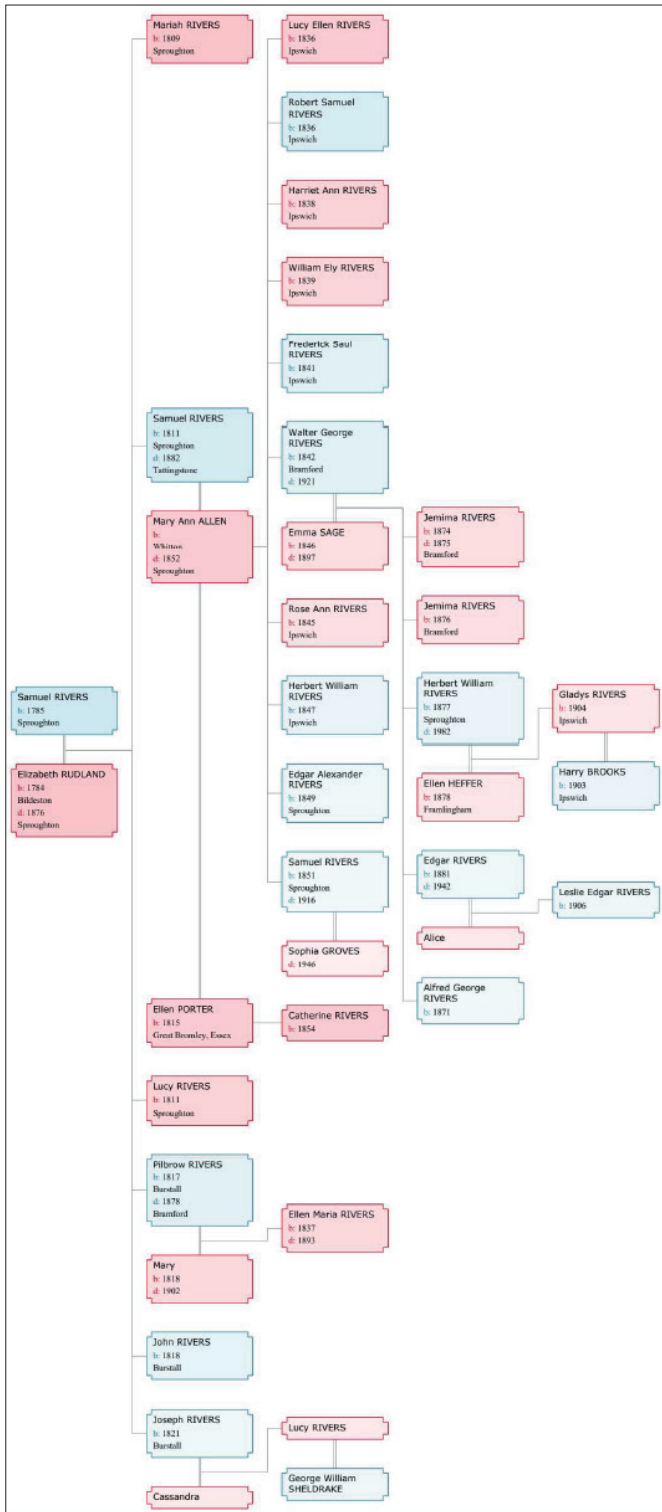
Samuel and Elizabeth had six children: **Mariah** (1809), **Samuel** (1811), **Lucy** (1812) (all born in Sproughton), **Pilbrow** (1817), **John** (1818) and **Joseph** (1821) (all born in Burstall). Pilbrow gave his birthplace as Burstall Hall on the census records, possibly to give himself airs and graces. In the Burstall baptism register entries for Pilbrow and John Rivers, Samuel's occupation is '*Labourer*'. It is fairly certain that he was a farmworker at Burstall Hall and the family lived in a tied cottage in the Hall grounds.

Samuel can't be found on the 1841 census in Sproughton or Burstall. I have also been unable to trace him on later census records or find a burial for him. However, there is a burial entry in the Sproughton register for Eliza Rivers, buried in Tattingstone Burial Ground in 1876. Unfortunately, the print I made in the Ipswich Record Office many years ago has faded so I can't read the age at death – if it is Elizabeth Rudland, she would have been 92. I suspect they were back in Sproughton at some time, but not captured by the census enumerator.

Samuel Rivers (b. 1811)

Samuel Rivers, b. 17 January 1811, was my 3x great-grandfather. He married **Mary Ann Allen** from Whitton on 16 July 1834, in St Clement's Church, Ipswich. She was the daughter of **William Ely Allen**, a farmer from Whitton. The farm is shown on the tithe map of 1835 but is no longer in existence – the land is now occupied by the Whitton housing estate, Ipswich.

Their children were **Lucy Ellen** (bp. 1836, Ipswich, along with her brother **Robert Samuel**), **Harriet Ann** (1838), **William Ely** (1839) and **Frederick Saul** (1841). Walter George, my 2x great-grandfather, was born in Bramford in 1842. The family were



Descendants of Samuel Rivers (created from information in this article, and not a complete family tree)

back in Ipswich in 1845 when **Rose Ann** was born, followed by **Herbert William** (1847), then **Edgar Alexander** (1849) in Sproughton and **Samuel** (1851). The 1841 census placed them in Ipswich, but they were living in Sproughton at the time of the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses. Samuel gave his occupation as 'Hay Merchant' in 1841, but in later censuses he was an 'Ag Lab'. They were in the Ipswich parish of St Matthew's which neighbours Sproughton, the parish boundary being about where the Ipswich to Norwich railway line is today. They may have been living near the border with Sproughton at the time.

In 1842 the *Ipswich Journal* reported Samuel's conviction for obstructing the highway:⁽¹⁾

'On Thursday last Samuel Rivers was charged before the magistrates at the Town Hall, with having left a waggon on the Bramford Road, on Monday night week, about ten o'clock. It appeared that Edward Charlesworth, Esq. was returning to Bramford on horseback, and the night being very dark, he was thrown, in consequence of the obstruction caused by the vehicle, and fell into an adjoining field lying about six feet below the level of

the road. Mr Charlesworth stated that he did not lay the information merely because he was thrown, but because a nuisance had been created by the defendant upon the highway, which might have proved highly dangerous to other persons. It was stated, in mitigation, that the vehicle, which had Rivers' name upon it, was returning to Ipswich with a load of hay, and one of the horses being taken ill, the driver was compelled to leave the waggon in the road, placing it as nearly as possible against the fence opposite the cottage of a man named Crowe. Mr. Charlesworth denied that the Waggon had been placed as nearly as possible against the fence, and said that though the defendant had left the waggon in the road from the cause he had stated, still he ought to have placed a light upon the vehicle in order to forewarn passengers of the danger arising from its being left in such a situation. The Magistrates were of the opinion that Mr. Charlesworth had acted properly in laying the information, and the defendant having undertaken not to leave his waggon in such a spot again, the Magistrates imposed a fine of five shillings and costs.'

Mary Ann Rivers was buried in Sproughton in March 1852, her death certificate recording the cause as 'unknown'. The following year, on 7 August, Samuel remarried in Sproughton to **Ellen Porter** of Great Bromley, Essex, the witnesses being Samuel's brother Joseph and his wife **Cassandra**. Ellen (Eleanor) Porter had been baptised in Great Bromley on 19 November 1815, her parents being **William** and **Mary Porter**. William's occupation was recorded as carpenter, as it was on Samuel and Ellen's marriage entry in the Sproughton register. There is a belief that Ellen was employed as a housekeeper by Samuel before they were married.

This second marriage had an unfortunate first year. They had a daughter, **Catherine**, who was baptised on 9 April 1854, but less than two months after this Ellen was convicted of cruelty to one of her stepsons.⁽²⁾

*'At the meeting of the Magistrates at the County Hall, on Tuesday last, Ellen Rivers was charged with cruelty to Samuel Rivers, her son, and **Martha Williams** was also brought up charged as a participator in the offence. The woman Rivers lives at Sproughton, and is the wife of a labourer there, the charge being preferred by **John Josselyn, Esq.** and **Mr. John Thomas Ward**, the overseer of the parish. The child was four years of age, the defendant Rivers being the step-mother, Williams being employed in the house as nurse, Rivers having been recently confined. It was shown by the evidence that the child in question had suffered from want of food, and had become greatly emaciated, being reduced almost to a skeleton, this neglect having been aggravated by the fact that a fortnight ago the child was thrown out of the house, and struck a great many times by Williams on the head; after which she threw the child back into the house, Rivers witnessing the whole without making any complaint or appeal to her neighbours. The child upon being shown to the Magistrates, exhibited a black eye, the result of the ill usage. The Magistrates, under the circumstances, enforced the powers of the new Act of Parliament. They accordingly sentenced each of the defendants to three months' hard labour, Rivers, at the expiration, to find sureties to keep the peace for six months.*

COMMITTED TO THE COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION. – *Ellen Rivers and Martha Williams, for violently assaulting and ill-treating the stepson of the former at Sproughton: 3 months each hard labour*'

Ellen was 41 when she had her first child. I wonder whether she suffered from post-natal depression, which could perhaps explain her treatment of Samuel. Her actions must have affected her other stepchildren.

Samuel Rivers died in Tattingstone Workhouse on 10 March 1882, aged 71. The cause of death was diarrhoea (7 days), rheumatism and heart disease.

Herbert William Rivers (b. 1847)

We now come to Herbert William Rivers, who was 7 years old when his stepmother was convicted. He seems to have got himself into mischief on at least two occasions in 1868, when he was about 21. The first was a case of vandalism which caused an obstruction in the road, reported in the *Ipswich Journal* as follows:⁽³⁾

'Charge of Obstructing the Highway. – Herbert Rivers and James Maidwell, labourers, were charged with obstructing the highway, by laying two gates thereon, on the Sproughton Road, on the 13th May.

James Farrow, a youth, of Sproughton, said, on the 3rd May, which was a Sunday evening, he was returning from Ipswich with James Smith, about 11 o'clock, and saw Maidwell and the other prisoner near Boss Hall, and he heard Maidwell say "Kersey has done us no good, let us throw the gate down". They went up to a gate, and witness heard a noise as if a gate had fallen, but did not see it thrown down. He went towards home, over the bridge, and saw the prisoners go to another gate, and then heard something rattle, but did not see the gate thrown down...'



Sproughton Church, December 1996. Photo: Christine Brooks

James Maidwell denied the charges and tried to blame one of the witnesses. Also, the owner of the second gate deposed that his son had dragged that gate off the road. The case was adjourned, to allow more evidence to be produced.

Mr Thomas Kersey owned Boss Hall and about 200 acres of land. Possibly he was Herbert and James' employer, against whom James, at least, had a grievance. I have not found a further report, so don't know if they were convicted. It looks as if Herbert was not the instigator but just followed his friend's lead.

In the second incident, reported in the *Ipswich Journal* in October the same year,⁽⁴⁾ Herbert was nearly convicted of stealing a ferret:

'Stealing a Ferret. – George Smith and Herbert Rivers, two men belonging to Sproughton, were charged with stealing a ferret, the property of Wm. Mee, thatcher, Sproughton.

The Complainant lives in Sproughton street, and kept two ferrets in a box in his back premises. He missed one ferret on the morning of the 1st October, about 7 o'clock. As he was going to work about 9 o'clock he saw two men (the defendants) behind a hedge digging, as they said, for a rabbit. He looked over the hedge and asked them if they had a ferret. They said "No," but they had seen a rabbit, and were trying to get it. He went home and got the other ferret and put it into the hole, and it immediately turned the other ferret out. The defendants then denied all knowledge of the ferret being there.

Both defendants said they were in search of mushrooms and acorns, and seeing the rabbit go into the hole they went after it, but were not aware of the ferret being in the hole.

The Magistrates considered this a case of strong suspicion, but discharged the defendants.'

The *Suffolk Chronicle* of the same date added that the prisoners were dismissed with a caution. Perhaps they had just 'borrowed' the ferret to catch the rabbit. I think they were lucky not to be charged with poaching as well.

Herbert presumably mended his ways after this as I have not found any more newspaper reports concerning him.

Samuel Rivers (b. 1851)

His younger brother Samuel, who as a child had suffered cruelty from his stepmother and his nurse, turned to crime in his early adult life as the following report from 1874 shows:⁽⁵⁾

'STEALING CLOTHING FROM A SHOP DOOR.

Samuel Rivers and George Brooks, the latter an agricultural implement maker, and the other a labourer, were charged with stealing, at the Parish of St Matthew, on the 3rd ult, two coats, the property of Henry Charles Riches, clothier, Westgate Street, Ipswich...

From the evidence of Mr. James Flint, manager to Mr. Riches, it appeared that on the evening of the 23rd, the two coats were hanging up outside the shop door from whence

they were missed. On the following day the prisoners were seen by a policeman in Ipswich, on three different occasions, and on the 25th the prisoners had migrated to Colchester, where they lodged at the house of a man named **Spurgeon**, in some way connected with Ipswich, who knew the prisoners well. From enquiries that were made it was found that two coats were pawned by the prisoners at different shops. One prisoner was described as giving the name of Samuel Rivers, and he was dressed as the prisoner of that name, the other gave the name of Walter Jones, and in answer to further questions he stated that he lodged at Spurgeon's, Magdalen Street. It was evident, however, that the prisoners had exchanged their clothing before pawning the goods. Prisoner Brooks was apprehended at Sproughton by **Policeman Alexander**, and in answer to the charge he said "I have not stolen anything." Rivers was apprehended at a place known as Five Elms, and when he was charged he asked if Skippon was apprehended, which was the name Brooks was known by. On being told that Brooks was in custody, Rivers said "That is all right then. I will take good care he has his share of it, if I have twelve months." Before the Magistrate, Brooks said "I didn't steal the coat. I took it up near the shop, between the Public Hall gates and Mr. Riches' shop."

The jury found them guilty, and as both had previous convictions they were sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour. The report goes on to say that the pawnbroker tried to claim the price of the coat which was returned, but this was refused by the Magistrate. The Ipswich Gaol Record shows they were taken into custody on 8 April and tried on 2 July 1874.

In 1876 Samuel committed another crime, this time in Essex, at Havering near Romford. I suspect he had been visiting his brother Edgar, who was living in Rainham, and by 1881 Samuel was living with Edgar. This report from the *Essex Weekly News* gives the story:⁽⁶⁾

'DARING ROADSIDE ROBBERY.- On Monday morning last two labourers, named William Baker (of Queen-street) and Samuel Rivers (of Sproughton, Suffolk), were brought before the Rev. E. Fox, charged with stealing a box containing a quantity of ladies' apparel, value £8 10s, the property of Mrs. C. Way, of Cranham Lodge.- William Patience, carrier, Hornchurch said on Saturday evening he left the Romford Railway Station with his cart, containing various cases and packages, and a box directed to Mrs. C. Way stood on the cases in the centre of his cart. When near Havering Well Crown witness missed the box from off the cart, put his cart up at the Crown, and returned on the road in search, but could not find it, and then gave the information to the police. Did not see prisoners at the station or on the road. The box must have made a great noise if it had fallen off.- Sergeant Dennis received information of the loss at seven on Saturday evening, made enquiries, and watched Baker's house. Inspector Pepper brought Rivers to Baker's house, and witness remained at the house with Rivers till Baker's return. On his return the Inspector told prisoners the charge, and they said they knew nothing about it. They searched the house, and inside a flock mattress upstairs witness found two black

silk skirts, two jacket bodies, and a yard of muslin. Both prisoners were taken into custody. Next morning witness found a box in a field near Havering Well Crown, labelled "From J. G. Bond, Chelmsford, to Mrs. C. Way, Cranham Lodge, near Romford." Afterwards accompanied Inspector Pepper to Cranham Lodge, where one of the dresses was identified.— Mary Ann Knight, housekeeper to Baker, said that on Saturday evening Rivers came to her house with a bundle, and said "Here's something I picked up in the road tonight." Witness took the bundle and put the things inside her bed. Baker was not there at the time, and did not know the things were brought in. Did not tell the Inspector where the things were on his coming, as she did not know what he had come about.— By Rivers: You said when you gave me the things that there might be an owner found for them.— Prisoners were then remanded in custody to the Petty Session, and bail refused.'

There were further reports in the *Chelmsford Chronicle* and then in the *Essex Halfpenny Newsmen* of 8 April 1876 under the heading 'Romford Liberty Quarter Sessions'. William Baker was acquitted but Samuel was found guilty and sentenced to two years hard labour.

At the 1881 census he was living with his brother Edgar's family in Rainham, Essex, his occupation factory miller. On Easter Day, 17 April, he married **Sophia Groves** in Romford. His occupation was given as labourer. I can't find a record of them in the 1891 census, but by 1901 they had moved to Dagenham, Essex, where he was an agricultural labourer. No children were recorded. Samuel died in 1916, and Sophia married again in 1917 to **Walter Tarling** in Dagenham. She died in 1946.

Did the treatment Samuel suffered when he was aged only 2 affect him so that he turned to crime? He probably only had his brothers and sisters to care for him while his stepmother was serving her sentence; his father would have been working for a good part of the day. He must have felt ill-used at the time and probably for a long while after.

Pilbrow Rivers (b. 1817)

Pilbrow Rivers was a hay dealer in 1841, and in the 1861 census his occupation was recorded as '*Hay Trusser and Heckler*'. A heckler was another term for dealer, i.e. someone who buys and sells products. A hay trusser baled hay into trusses, a skilled task as trusses weighed 60lb for new hay, 56lb for old hay (which would have lost some moisture, hence the lower weight), and 36lb for straw. Thirty-six trusses made up a load, which is 80lb short of 1 ton, and would have filled a waggon. The hay trusses were used as animal feed, and stored in hay stacks, which in Pilbrow's day were circular with a conical 'roof', unlike modern straw stacks. Straw from wheat etc. would have been used for thatching, or shredded into chaff which could be used for animal feed.

On 2 May 1863 Pilbrow Rivers was assaulted outside the *Grasshopper Inn* on Bramford Road.⁽⁷⁾

'IPSWICH POLICE COURT, MONDAY

Violent Assault

John Lambert was charged with assaulting Philbrow Rivers, on May 2nd.

Mr. Champ, who appeared for the complainant, said he believed this would turn out a case which could not be dealt with by the Magistrates in the ordinary way, but that it would be their duty to order an indictment to be preferred against him for an assault at the Sessions. If this course were pursued it would be open for the complainant to bring an action for damages for the injuries he had received; but if they took the case summarily he could not bring any action in a court of common law. He, therefore, suggested that the depositions should be taken in the first instance.

Philbrow Rivers said he was a hay trusser, living at Bramford. On the evening of Saturday, May 2nd, he was at the Grasshopper Inn on the Bramford-road, which is kept by the defendant. The defendant was then drunk. Witness went out and got into a cart that was standing at the door. There were two other men in the cart, and he sat on the left-hand side of the cart. He had not been in the cart more than a minute or two when he was pulled out of the cart.

Mr. Champ: Do you know who pulled you out?

*Witness: I saw Lambert by my side as I was falling at the back of the cart. I lost my senses, and when I recovered them it was on Sunday morning, and I found myself in the East Suffolk Hospital. I had a wound on my head. I left the Hospital on Monday, and afterwards went to **Dr. W. P. Mills**, the surgeon to the society I belong to, and he is still attending me. I am suffering great pain still. I was quite well when I went to the Grasshopper, and perfectly sober.*

James Mee, thatcher, Sproughton, said he saw the defendant run to the cart and pull Rivers out of the cart on to the ground. He pulled him out sideways, over the wheel, and when he was on the ground the defendant kicked him once, and then went into the house. Rivers lay bleeding from his head, and was insensible. Witness stopped by him for half an hour, till a cart came in which he was taken towards Ipswich. He could not say what state the defendant was in. The horse had just started off on a trot.

Samuel Markham, labourer, Sproughton, said he was passing the Grasshopper on Saturday evening, May 2nd, about 8 o'clock, and he saw Lambert pull Rivers out of the cart, and kick him when he was on the ground.

James Miller, gardener, Ipswich, gave similar evidence as to the defendant pulling the complainant out of the cart, and said he got his own cart, and took the complainant to the Hospital.

Dr. G. A. Angier, house surgeon at the East Suffolk Hospital, said the complainant was taken to the Hospital at a little before nine o'clock. He examined him, and found he had

received a severe blow at the back part of the scalp, which caused a great effusion of blood under the scalp. The man was not unconscious, but complained of his back very much. On Monday he left about four in the afternoon. He was then quite unfit for work. Witness could not detect any evidence of the complainant being intoxicated. There were no symptoms of concussion of the brain at all.

Dr. W. P. Mills said the complainant went to his surgery some days since, and complained of being bruised all over from being pulled out of the cart. Witness was still treating him, and he was unable to go about his usual work.

Sergeant Norman said he went to Lambert's house at about a quarter past nine on the Saturday night, and found him the worse for liquor. He asked him if he could give any information about some accident or some person being injured at his house that evening. Defendant said "No; I haven't heard anything of the kind." Afterwards, in answer to his wife, he said, "Oh, there was a man went away from here drunk, and fell out of the cart backwards." He said he did not know the man's name. Witness asked him if, when the man was lying there insensible, he took him into his house, and the defendant said "No; certainly not, I had other matters to attend to."

John Miller, gardener, Ipswich, proved that the complainant was sober.

After a lengthened consultation, the Magistrates determined to adjudicate upon the case themselves.

The defendant said he was not guilty. When Rivers got into the cart he said, "You b——, you'll die in the workhouse." Some other words passed, and he (the defendant) moved forward, and the horse setting off the complainant accidentally fell out of the cart. He called,

William Andrews, who said he was driving a cart belonging to Mr. Cobbold Perry, and the complainant asked him to give him a ride to Bramford. Witness agreed to do so, and Rivers got into the cart, and then began to call the defendant ill names. He could not say how it was that Rivers got out of the cart. Lambert was not at all tipsy, but Rivers was the worse for liquor. He saw Rivers sitting in the road, and drove off. There was no one in the cart besides him and Rivers.

William Ford was also called, but appeared to know nothing at all about the matter.

The Mayor and the Magistrates convicted the defendant of this assault, and a very violent assault it was, and they fined him to the greatest extent in their power – 40s, and costs, which would make up altogether £5; in default, one month's imprisonment.'

Pilbrow must have been reasonably well off, as he has a gravestone in Bramford Churchyard that commemorates him and his wife and also one of their daughters. I have not found any other Rivers gravestones in Bramford or Sproughton. The transcript of his gravestone reads:

*'In Loving Memory
of
PILBROW RIVERS
who died March 10th 1878
Aged 61 years*

*MARY widow of the above
who died July 26th 1902
Aged 84 years*

*ELLEN MARIA BROWN
eldest daughter of the above
who died October 11th 1893
Aged 56 years'*



Joseph Rivers (b. 1821)

Joseph Rivers was convicted of poaching in 1863, as recounted in the following report:⁽⁸⁾

'Joseph Rivers of Bramford, labourer, was charged with killing game without a certificate, on the 22nd January, namely one partridge, on land in the occupation of Mrs. Morgan, of Bramford.

The prisoner pleaded guilty to setting the trap, but in defence said he set it for a rabbit, and when he went the next morning he found a partridge in it.

He was convicted and fined 9s including costs; in default seven days.

He asked time for payment, having eight children, and a fortnight was allowed.'

Most country people probably set traps to help supplement their food supply, Joseph just happened to be caught.

Joseph took part in the Bramford Horticultural Society annual show in 1871 and won the 'Best 6 table apples' section, was 3rd for 'Best 12 Plums' and came 4th for 'Best round red [potatoes]'.⁽⁹⁾

On 25 April 1875 his daughter **Lucy** married **George William Sheldrake**, a tinman and brazier from Sudbury, at St Peter's Church in Sudbury.⁽¹⁰⁾ From census records, George came from Stuston, Suffolk, a village between Eye and Diss in Norfolk, just to the west of the Ipswich to Norwich Road. George was baptised on 22 September 1850 in Stuston, to parents **William** and **Harriett**. I wondered how Lucy came to meet George, and while searching the 1871 census I found him living in Fitzroy Street, Ipswich, with his widowed mother. Sproughton is only just outside Ipswich, so the Rivers family may have bought items of tinware from George. Presumably he moved to Sudbury for business reasons, and he was recorded there as a 'Tinman and Coppersmith' in 1881, a 'Locksmith and Gas Fitter' in 1891, and a 'Tinman and Brazier' again in 1901. In 1911 he just states that he is a brazier, for some reason giving his birthplace as Diss. According to that census, George and Lucy only had two children (both still living), which was unusual considering the large families most couples had in those times.

A report in the *Suffolk Chronicle* in 1865⁽¹¹⁾ recounts the death of **John Lukes**, who was staying with Mr Rivers of Bramford. It doesn't give a full name for the latter but it would have been either Pilbrow or Joseph Rivers, as Walter George (below) was not living in Bramford at the time. John Lukes had got very wet seven weeks earlier, and since then had complained of pains in his chest and could not work. On Thursday night the week before, he went to bed at 8 o'clock and called Mrs. Rivers about ten. She found him retching and barely able to speak and he appeared to be about to faint. He died a short time later. **Mr W H Meadows**, a surgeon from Ipswich, found that he had died from '*exhaustion and retching from gastric disease*'. The jury returned a verdict of '*Death from natural causes*'.

Walter George Rivers (b. 1842)

Walter George Rivers (usually known as George), my 2x great-grandfather, was the son of Samuel Rivers jnr. He was not quite 12 years old when his stepmother Ellen was convicted of cruelty to his young brother Samuel. My great-grandfather, Herbert William, told my father that George earned 17/6 a week working in the fertiliser factory in Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, and spent 12/- of it in the pub. His wife **Emma** had to feed the children on potatoes and dumplings because this was all they could afford. She also had to tell Herbert to '*fetch father from the Wild Man because dinner was ready*'. When I was young, great-grandfather told me that on one occasion when he had new boots his father (George) said to him '*Boy, take long strides so they don't wear out too quick*'.

On 11 June 1867, George and Emma were being visited by **Mary Ann Barnes** at their home in Sproughton when **Francis Jennings**, a labourer, came in and accused Mary Ann of being involved in some wilful damage the week before, that his son had been charged with. She denied it and Francis hit her on the arm. Emma and George saw this but didn't think she had been hurt. Francis was further accused of assaulting Samuel Rivers, George's brother. At the Samford Petty Sessions of 18 June 1867, Francis was fined 1s and costs for the assault on Samuel; the charge of assaulting Mary Ann was withdrawn but he had to pay expenses.⁽¹²⁾

A sad story appeared in the *Ipswich Journal* in 1875 about the death of George and Emma's daughter, **Jemima**:⁽¹³⁾

'Sudden Death of a Child.—Yesterday (Friday) evening H. M. Jackaman, Esq. held an inquest at the Inkerman Inn, Norwich Road, on the body of Jemima Rivers, the infant daughter of George and Emma Rivers, residing at Bramford. The child was taken ill yesterday morning, and the mother took it to Claydon, in order that Dr. Hammond might see it. Dr. Hammond was not at home, and she then proceeded to Ipswich with the deceased, and when a little way past the last milestone on the Norwich Road the deceased expired. Dr. Mills afterwards saw it, and gave it as his opinion that the deceased died from exhaustion caused by diarrhoea. The jury returned a verdict of Death from natural causes.'

Jemima was only 18 months old. Their next daughter, also named Jemima, was born early in 1876 and baptised on 7 April in Bramford. **Jemima Sage (née Prike)** was Emma's mother, so the name was important to her.

Like his uncle, Joseph Rivers, George was successful in growing vegetables. At the Cottage Horticultural Show at Sproughton in 1887 he was 1st in the 'Best 3 Savoys' class and 2nd in the 'Best collection of vegetables'.⁽¹⁴⁾ At the Village Fete and Show at Sproughton in September 1889 he was successful again, with 1st prizes in a number of classes not open to employed gardeners (who had their own classes), with white kidney potatoes, parsnips, celery and pumpkins. He was also awarded a 'Special' for the 'Best Cultivated Allotment with kitchen garden'.⁽¹⁵⁾ In September 1893, he once again did well at the Bramford Cottagers' Show.⁽¹⁶⁾ The 'Savoys were well represented by **James Francis and George Rivers**', with George coming 2nd this time. He shared the prize for spring and autumn onions with **Alfred Worledge**, won the red cabbages and shared the prize for both celery and best collection of vegetables with **George Garnham**.

Emma Rivers died on 29 September 1897, in Sproughton, aged 51. The cause of death was given as heart disease (18 months) and general dropsy (3 months).

George Rivers died on 3 February 1921, aged 78. He had suffered from acute bronchitis for 7 days, and also senile decay.

Alfred George Rivers (b. 1871)

George and Emma's son, **Alfred George**, was born in Sproughton in 1871. He worked as a gardener at Abbey Oaks, Sproughton. He was also a keen cricketer, as various newspaper reports show. For example, he played in a match described as:⁽¹⁷⁾

'Sproughton v. Copdock. This match was played on a hard, bumping wicket, on Saturday at Sproughton, and though by good bowling the visitors kept the scores small, still the home team, by smart fielding backing the bowling, took advantage of every opportunity and won easily, after a pleasant game.'

However, Alfred scored only two runs, and from other match reports it seems he was a better bowler than batsman. In 1893 he claimed 3 wickets, but was bowled out for a duck, in a match between Claydon and Sproughton,⁽¹⁸⁾ and in 1896, when Sproughton played Cowell's, Alfred only scored eight runs, but shared bowling honours with **W O Ranson** and **G M Davidson**, each taking 3 wickets.⁽¹⁹⁾

In March 1896 he stood as a candidate for Sproughton Parish Council, but was not elected.⁽²⁰⁾ It is possible that he was the A Rivers who won prizes for chrysanthemums at the Beccles Flower Show.⁽²¹⁾ It would have been an easy train journey from Ipswich to Beccles on the East Suffolk Line.

Edgar Rivers (b. 1881)

Alfred's brother Edgar (b. 1881, Sproughton) was also a gardener. My great-grandfather Herbert William told Brenda Bixler (née Rivers), his granddaughter, that Edgar was Head Gardener to Lord Woodbridge. **Arthur Churchman** (later Lord Woodbridge) owned Abbey Oaks in Sproughton, and bought Holywells Park in Ipswich from **John Cobbold** in 1929. The Cobbolds had bought the land in 1811 to secure a good fresh water supply for their brewery on what is now Cliff Quay. Holywells Park was presented to Ipswich in 1931, becoming a public park in 1936. From 1920 to 1929, Arthur Churchman was the Conservative MP for Woodbridge, and with his brother **William** ran the Churchman tobacco firm in Ipswich.

Edgar and his brother Alfred were bellringers at Sproughton church. There are many newspaper reports of the bells being rung for special occasions and for change ringing. In January 1898 the bells were rung in a peal of 720 changes of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 25 minutes, the first part in the method being rung by Alfred.⁽²²⁾ In 1903 Sproughton rang a 'date touch', 1903 changes in 4 methods. Alfred was one of the ringers, and Edgar rang the tenor and conducted the touch. As I understand it, a touch is a phrase of notes played on the bells.⁽²³⁾

Edgar was also a member of the local Conservative Association, and at the annual dinner in February 1912, he was described as one of the '*energetic secretaries*' when he proposed a toast to the '*Dinner Committee*'.⁽²⁴⁾

By this time he had married, and at the time of the 1911 census was living in Lower Street, Sproughton, with his wife of seven years, Alice, and their one surviving child, **Leslie Edgar**. In the 1921 census Edgar and Alice were still in Lower Street. His employer was Sir Arthur Churchman MP and his place of work was Abbey Oaks. His son Leslie was 14 years 8 months old and employed as a farmworker at Sir Arthur's Abbey Oaks Farm.

Edgar died of cancer on 8 December 1942, his address recorded as Gardener's Cottage, Abbey Oaks, Sproughton, which bears out the family knowledge of him being Head Gardener.

Gardening seems to have been in the family. Edgar's older brother Frederick was also a gardener.

And now...

This brings us into the 20th century. My great-grandfather Herbert William Rivers (b. 1877), another son of George and Emma, lived to the grand age of 105, dying in 1982. There is a great deal more to say about his life which will need a separate article, with the editors' permission.

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QUAKER RECORDS

I want to draw attention to the Quaker Family History Society (QFHS). They have online indexes to quarterly meetings for five counties, one of which thankfully is Suffolk. There are 2,000 births (1641-1837), 901 marriages and 2,428 burials available via their website: www.qfhs.co.uk/index.html, although the indexes may be easier to find on their new front-end: https://newtrial.qfhs.co.uk/?page_id=2448

Andy Kerridge, Chair

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REEVE DNA MATCH SUCCESS

I've not had a lot of luck with 'good' DNA matches until recently – my highest match was 68cM. The other day I checked to see if there was anything new, and there were two of interest. The first was a higher match (though still under 3 figures) – but no tree. The second looked much more interesting, with a common ancestor, and I thought I'd share this to show how useful they can be.

Ann Sophia Reeve was one of my half-great-aunts. She was born in Wenhashton in 1838, the second child of **James Gladden Reeve** (1817-1899) and **Caroline Taylor** (1814-1848). James was born and baptised in Wangford (Southwold) and Caroline was born in Wenhashton and baptised in Wangford. They were married in Wangford on 22 June 1836.

James was the son of **Robert Reeve** (b. 1789, Neatishead, Norfolk, a butcher) and **Mary Ann (née Gladden)** (b. 1787, Marsham, Norfolk), while Caroline was the daughter of **William Taylor** (b. c. 1771, in Uggleshorpe) and **Hester** (b. c. 1776). I had to negotiate an erroneous Ancestry tree fairly early in my research which had James Gladden Reeve born in Ousden, near Newmarket and then being baptised in Wangford (near Southwold) – over 50 miles away!

James Gladden Reeve was a miller (in Wenhashton by 1838). Their other children from Suffolk were **Maria Taylor Reeve** (b. 18 November 1836, Wangford), **William Reeve** (b. 1840, Wenhashton) and **Ellen Reeve** (b. 3 January 1843, Stratford St. Andrew). I believe that James was by then a miller in Wickham Market or Campsea Ashe. Wherever it was, by 1845 the family had moved to Frampton Mansell, Gloucestershire, most likely because the mill failed, and their fifth child (**James Reeve**) was born there on 16 January 1846. James' wife Caroline died in Gloucestershire (of TB) on 15 October 1848, and in 1851 James married my 2x great-grandmother, **Rebecca Arnold**, who was living in Gloucestershire at the time. By January 1850 they had moved to Appleford, in Berkshire, where their first child (**Robert Reeve**) was born on 6 January. James and Rebecca had eight more children together, all born in Appleford and all of whom survived into adulthood.

Try as I might, I had been unable to find anything after the 1861 census for Maria, Ann or Ellen Reeve – all were enumerated in Appleford, Berkshire in the 1861 census. For the new DNA match, Ancestry's Thrulines feature indicated that the line of descent is through **Ann Sophia Reeve**.

I have now found a marriage record for Ann Sophia (6 October 1856 in Appleford to a **Henry Hutt**) and, so far, found records for their four children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I have at last found out what happened to one of my half-great-aunts! Just two more (of that particular branch) to go.

Paul Reeve Mb 11276

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ROSE BARNSDALE

Unlucky for some, this summer will mark 13 years since I first ‘dipped in’ to researching my family history. It was because of my grandfather, **Peter Newman** (1929-2010), one of four siblings born to **Rose Barnsdale (née Smith, formerly Newman)** (1897-1973), that I did so.

Unbeknownst to me, he had actually conducted some research himself back in the early 1990s, via ‘snail mail’ with one his nephews, his sister **Pauline**’s son, who resided in America – in Nebraska, to be precise.

I was but 12-13 years old at the time, halfway through comprehensive school, and had no idea what the outside world was all about, let alone anything of my family’s past; that really hasn’t come to light until the past five years when, because of certain situations in 2020, I picked up the baton well and truly, and went all-in to researching my ancestors.

A lot has changed since then, and I’ve found out so much, and to be able to write articles about my ancestors is a dream come true. This one is about my great-grandmother, my grandfather’s mother, Rose.

She was Sudbury born-and-bred: raised there, married there (twice), had four children there, and lived there her entire life. But that is only a snippet of her story, and I continue to find out more as time progresses.

I never knew my great-grandmother. Unfortunately, she passed away in her mid-70s, five years before I was born. But from photographs of her, boy did she look an amazing character, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky, in every aspect of those words.

Rose was born in the summer of 1897, on 26 August, and was one of a number born to **Thomas** (1847-1919, b. Gestingthorpe, Essex) and **Harriet Smith**. Harriet was Thomas’ second wife, and they were married in 1889, a year after the death of his first, **Ellen (née Jarmin)** (1848-1888). Harriet was possibly Harriet Savage, b. 1859 at Alton, Hampshire, but she too may have been married previously, as there is no marriage evident between a Thomas Smith and a Harriet Savage.

At the time of Rose’s birth, the Smith family were already residing in Sudbury, and she spent the first half of her life living on Mill Lane, the area now occupied by one of the local schools. Census results show that the family first resided at 37 Mill Lane (1891), then 35 Mill Lane (1901), and later 46 Mill Lane (1911 and 1921), and she was still residing at that last address when she married her first husband.

Prior to that first marriage, however, came the Great War (1914-1918). Among the soldiers who would go to battle would be her three brothers, **Richard Paul Smith**, **James Walter Smith** and **Joseph Thomas Smith**, the first two being killed in action on the battlefields of Europe – Richard in Belgium (24 May 1915) and James in France

(1 April 1918). So, by the time Rose was 20 she had already twice tasted personal heartache. The Smith family were perhaps fortunate that their third soldier son, Joseph, returned home. He also remained living in Sudbury, on Inkerman Row, until his passing in 1975.

It would be during the Great War that Rose would meet her first husband, **Cecil Walter Newman**, from up the road in nearby Middleton, on the Suffolk/ Essex border. The pair wed in June 1919 and went on to have four children of their own.

Less than year after their marriage, nine months in fact, Cecil and Rose's first child was born, **Evelyn May Newman** (b. 29 March 1920), who, like her mother, also married twice, in 1939 and 1955. **Edward James Walter Newman** arrived on 4 March 1922, married in 1946, and also stayed in Sudbury throughout his life. My grandfather, Peter Alan Joseph Newman, arrived on 17 August 1929, and married in 1954 before moving to Durham. Their youngest, **Pauline Joyce Philomena Teresa Newman**, was born on 28 September 1932, when Rose was in her mid-30s. Pauline became a GI bride, marrying **Jerald J Billesbach** in Sudbury in April 1952 (reported in the local newspaper, the *Suffolk and Essex Press*, on 30 April 1952). Four of their six children were born in Sudbury, prior to them emigrating to Nebraska around 1957/58.

Something happened, though, in the mid-to-late 1940s, in the aftermath of the Second World War (1939-1945), with Rose and Cecil parting ways and both remarrying. My grandfather spoke often of two of his siblings, Uncle Ted and Aunt Pauline (Evelyn had passed away in 1972), and there were brief mentions of his mum, Rose, but he never spoke of his father, Cecil. The more the years wore on, the more it became a kind of taboo subject – '*what happened to the marriage of Rose and Cecil?*', and '*what happened to Cecil afterwards?*'.

During her life, Rose was employed as a postwoman and a cleaner, as well as having it seems an active role in the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion. Newspaper reports record her representing the Legion at funerals, as Chairman of the Sudbury branch, and in 1957 as presenting the secretary's report at the branch AGM.⁽¹⁾

Rose would meet a gentleman named **John Robert 'Jack' Barnsdale**, and it was he whom my grandfather always spoke of. The two, both in their 50s, married in a festive wedding at Sudbury Registry Office in December 1949, and remained so until death did them part, their final resting place being in Sudbury Cemetery. Edward, her first-born son, and his wife were later buried nearby.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, the family lived first on Gregory Street and then over on East Street, with Rose and husband Jack, and played their part in Sudbury life throughout this time. Jack worked in the bootmaking/ mending industry, whilst Rose, as mentioned previously, was in the Royal British Legion. This much is known both from newspaper articles and from a photograph taken in the early 1950s. That image is a great one of my great-grandmother, showing her front and centre at the British

Legion's Silver Jubilee Fashion Show (August 1951), dressed in top hat and tails, and with a smile that would light up most rooms. It can be seen on the Sudbury Heritage Centre Photo Archive website (<https://photoarchive.sudburyheritagecentre.co.uk/photo/british-legion/>).

Most photos of Rose in her later years are of similar ilk, she smiling away, enjoying herself, as well one should (more, considering all she'd experienced in her life). Apart from the mentions in the newspaper listed above, little is known of her time in the Royal British Legion – can anyone help there?

Prior to Rose's passing in the early 1970s, her daughter Pauline came home to Sudbury from Nebraska for one last visit. At that time, Jack and Rose were residing at 46 Queens Road.

Following Rose's death on 22 January 1973, a local newspaper carried a report of her funeral (I have the clipping, but unfortunately it does not show the source or date):

'The funeral of Mrs R. Barnsdale, wife of Mr J. R. Barnsdale, of 46 Queens Road, well known in and around the Sudbury area and former secretary of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion.

*A requiem mass officiated by **Father Cureton** was held at the Roman Catholic Church on Monday, followed by burial at the Borough Cemetery.*

*Family mourners were widower Mr. J. R. Barnsdale, Mr. E. Newman, and Mr P. Newman, Mr. J. Smith, **Mrs. M. Smith**, **Mrs. A. Newman**, **Mrs. Myrtle Parker**, **Mrs. M. Pilgrim**, **Mrs. B. Smith**, also representing **Mr. B. Smith**, **Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith**, **Mr. A. Parker**, **Mr. and Mrs. T. Howe**, **Mrs. P. Brown** representing **Mrs. E. Hayward**; **Mrs. V. Hayward** representing **Mr. R Hayward**; **Mr. J. Pilgrim**, **Mrs. M. Dyer**, **Mr. and Mrs. G. Horswell**, **Mr. J. Smith**.*

*Women's Section of the British Legion were represented by **Mrs. Mulley**, standard bearer, **Mrs. R. Moulton**, **Mrs. Raymond**, **Mrs. Malton**, **Mrs. Stilitoe**, **Miss Salter**, **Mrs. Moulton**, **Mr. and Mrs. H. Allen**, **Mr. and Mrs. D. Clayton**, **Mr. and Miss McCain**, **Mrs. Eckford**, **Mrs. Gibbon**, **Mrs. R. Chaplin**, **Mrs. Jeggo**, **Mr. E. Bartlett**, **Mr. M. Ryan**, **Miss Bareham** representing Stour Valley Centre, and many other friends and neighbours.*

*Unable to attend were Mr. and Mrs. J. Billesbach, youngest daughter in America, and **Mrs. P. Newman**.'*

From this alone, the popularity of my great-grandmother is obvious. A handful of the names are recognisable as they are distant relations; of others, and members of the Royal British Legion, we have no knowledge at all.

As my family history research continues, especially with both the Newman and Smith families in and around Suffolk (I visited three times last year), I'd love to build up an even bigger picture of Rose and her life.

Anybody with any information, photographs, newspaper articles, and particularly information about Rose and her work with the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, please feel free to email me in the first instance.

Peter Mann Mb 12958
petermann78@hotmail.com

References and Sources

1. Reports in the *Suffolk and Essex Free Press* on 5 November 1952, 27 April 1955 and 6 November 1957 respectively.

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TOO CLEVER BY HALF?

You may have noticed references to AI being used to help generate content in several places in this issue:

- The reports from the Zoom talks, where AI was used to generate a summary from the recording of the meeting. For those interested, the product used was Otter AI, which the Society also uses to produce the Trustee meeting minutes and actions list.
- The transcriptions of both the handwritten diary of John Preston's life, and the images of the old *Suffolk Roots* articles, which was done using a mixture of ChatGPT (the free version has a page limit) and Claude.

It is worth noting that just because a computer has done it, that does not mean it is right. Some of the AI seems to have a mind of its own, as I discovered when checking the transcripts against the originals. Here are some examples from the *Working in an Idiot Asylum* piece, that you may find amusing:

- The maiden lady who had a '*strong affection for her old tom-cat*' became '*a strong affection for dogs and tom-cats*'.
- '*It may perhaps have been because old sow*' (who ate the writer's packed lunch) became the '*old man in charge of the house was a holy-show*'.
- It decided the idiot asylum at Colchester was the Eastern Counties asylum, which whilst correct, was not what the original text said, and the AI completely missed out the original's information saying it was newly opened.
- The writer's desire to '*do something to benefit my fellow creatures*' became a desire '*to be an architect*'!

And I couldn't believe these, which I felt both changed the tone and, as well as being inaccurate, were rather insulting:

- 'I could write volumes concerning cases which have come under my notice during my long experience, but that is not my present task' became 'I could write volumes concerning cases which have come under my notice during my long experience, **but it is not my present purpose to inflict the reader with such sickening chapters**' (my emphasis)
- 'Though there is much to make one sad while looking after these poor things, yet the comic side of life is exhibited very frequently' became 'Though the low type of mind never changes, you might not know how soon the deception and cunning side of life is exhibited very frequently'.

So, where AI is concerned, although it is very clever and often very impressive in what it does, user beware!

Lesley Hall

Co-editor



A prescient 1923 cartoon by H T Webster, joking about 2023 when electric machines can do the cartoonist's work (Public domain via Wikipedia)

HELP WANTED – THE VICE FAMILY

My father's family were living in Scole, Norfolk, when **Nicholas Vice** married **Mary Hellhouse (Helhowse)**, in Scole, in April 1665. Their marriage is also recorded at Barnham Broom, Norfolk. I have not found a record of Nicholas' birth, thought to be about 1640. This couple had 11 children between 1666 and 1685, all in Scole. Nicholas was a gardener by trade and he died in 1706. In his will, his widow Mary inherited his estate.

I have found a few other Vice families, close to Eye in Suffolk, at the same time, and *The Able Men of Suffolk* CD⁽¹⁾ lists two other families near Stowmarket.

There is a **Voice** family in Palgrave, Suffolk, who are not my family.

I have also found Vice families in Cambridgeshire, close to the Suffolk border, and also in Downham Market, Norfolk.

A **Lawrence Vye** lived in Downham Market and died in 1633 leaving a will, but with his widow **Jane** as the only beneficiary. This was all before Nicholas and Mary named their son **Lawrence** in February 1665/1666 in Scole.

Lawrence of Scole (1665-1706) was a gardener and was buried in Frenze, Norfolk, where he had been working. He married **Margaret Pawsey** in 1713 in Scole.

Their son **Lawrence** (1689-??) was also a gardener. He married **Elizabeth Jermy** in 1713, and was living in Wenhashton by 1723 when his daughter **Mary** (1714-1723) was buried in the village. Subsequent children were also baptised in Wenhashton until about 1726. There is a Lawrence Vice listed in the West Stowe Voters List in 1727, along with **Sir Sydenham Fowkes**, so he may have been working as a gardener for the latter; but his last child **Virtue** was baptised back in Wenhashton in 1732. I don't have a burial for Lawrence but his family were still in the village of Wenhashton in 1881. However, some of the descendants of Virtue later change their name to Howard. **Henry Howard** and his wife **Lucy Calver** were the last of the Vice family in Wenhashton - one family went to Beccles and others to Great Yarmouth, and Clerkenwell, London.

So, help with locating the birth of Nicholas Vice (Vye) (b. c. 1640) and the burial of Lawrence Vice (b. 1689) would be welcome.

The Vice family may be descended from the Vice de Lou family, who were land owners in the 1300s in Shelfanger, Norfolk.

Eileen Blythe Mb 8140

eileenb891@gmail.com

References and Sources

1. *The Able Men of Suffolk 1638*, S&N Publishing (1 April 2009), ISBN-13: 978-1847274762

HELP WANTED – SUDBOURNE

My grandmother **Iris Keer** was born in Sudbourne in 1921, as was her father **Arthur Keer** in 1881. Arthur's father **Charles** had moved to Sudbourne from Blaxhall around 1874. My **Raymer** ancestors have been living in Sudbourne since the 1780s. I have undertaken a Pharos course on one-place studies and two on researching local history, and chose Sudbourne as my case study. I have since registered my study of Sudbourne with the Society for One-Place Studies.

I aim to learn more about the social and local history of the village, and discover what life was like for the people who lived there. I also intend to create a family tree of historical Sudbourne residents as I am interested in exploring the familial connections linking Sudbourne people to those living in nearby villages.



*All Saints' Church, Sudbourne
(Photo by Paul Farmer, CCA-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia)*

I have set up a website to preserve Sudbourne's history, which is very much a work-in-progress: <https://sudbourne.wordpress.com>. I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has any memories or stories of Sudbourne or any old photos of the village; I'd love to create a little gallery of photos on the website. I have also set up a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Sudbourne> where I will post brief updates on the project's progress.

Liz Craig Mb 11647

liz.craig@one-place-studies.org

HELP WANTED – HERRINGTON

I am hoping to make contact with anyone whose research includes my Suffolk maternal great-grandparents' line. The great-grandparents in question are **William Herrington** (1871-1963) and his wife **Lizzie Ellen Herrington (née Howell)** (1871-1937).

Patricia Southgate

southgatepat2@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

Where are the Fellows who Cut the Hay by Robert Ashton

In the 1950s, as mechanisation was making an impact on agricultural practices, **George Ewart Evans** created a portrait of a bygone and fast disappearing age of rural life in Suffolk in his book *Ask the Fellows who Cut the Hay*, using recollections from local people in the Blaxhall area who remembered the 19th-century ways of farming, fishing, shepherding, and other rural activities.

Robert Ashton grew up in Suffolk, working on a farm as a young man and going to agricultural college before starting work in the fertiliser industry. He has recently returned to live in Suffolk, and inspired by Evans' book, which he was gifted by his parents as a teenager, has used it as basis to explore how the commodities that were important to life then (like milk, leather, barley, iron, etc.) are produced now, and how this has changed the local communities in rural Suffolk.

Ashton has used information from relatives who farmed in Suffolk and contacts from his days of working in agriculture, as well as seeking out descendants of those interviewed by Evans, to provide context, memories, and anecdotes, and bring the old practices back to the present, showing how they have evolved to take advantage of new developments.

The book is organised into a chapter for each commodity, and is filled not just with the stories of others, but also from his own life. As much as anything else, this book is a tribute to George Ewart Evans, drawing heavily on content from *Ask the Fellows...* and other Evans' books, to seed the subject matter of the chapter at hand; indeed, Ashton visited Evans' birthplace to better understand how his early life and experience would have coloured how he viewed the change in practices and customs in Suffolk.

Ashton shows how things are starting to go full circle. Whereas farms back in the 19th century were very large, often owned by a wealthy landowner and tenanted out to farmers (often staying with that farmer's family for generations), now many of the large estates are owned by large institutions or corporations,

WHERE ARE THE FELLOWS WHO CUT THE HAY?



*How Traditions From the Past
Can Shape Our Future*

ROBERT ASHTON

with tenant farmers. The difference being, that due to mechanisation a single farmer may manage several farms, and it is a much lonelier profession, especially as GPS is used to actually direct the field machinery (no more jokes in the pub about crooked furrows!). Ashton also discusses the current trends towards sustainability and reduced carbon emissions, which are questioning the use of ever more chemicals, and driving moves to greater engagement with the source of our food and health of the land. And despite massive changes to communication methods, which make it easier to chat to faraway friends than to our neighbour, there is a return to community initiatives seeking to maintain a viable and vibrant village life.

I found the book easy reading and interesting. I even found some background relevant to my own family history research.

The book was included in the longlist for the 2024 Wainwright Book Prize and the 2025 New Angle Prize for Literature, and is widely available.

Lesley Hall
Co-editor

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DNA TEST TAKEN, NOW WHAT?

SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION BY MIA BENNETT ON 31 MARCH 2025

Mia's presentation covered various aspects of DNA testing for family history. Y-DNA, autosomal and mitochondrial DNA tests were highlighted. The five main DNA companies were mentioned, noting that 23andMe recently filed for bankruptcy. Ethnicity estimates were discussed. DNA matches were emphasised as crucial for family history, with shared matches indicating common ancestors. The session also covered the importance of linking DNA to family trees.

Mia provided a very useful handout. The presentation was attended by about 90 folks, and there was an interesting Q&A session after the talk.

DNA test types and their implications

- Y-DNA tests are useful for identifying paternal ancestors as they are passed down the male line and mutate relatively slowly.
- Mitochondrial DNA is passed from mothers to children.
- 23andMe recently filed for bankruptcy but there is hope it will be bought by someone interested in ancestry purposes.

Ethnicity estimates and their limitations

- Ethnicity estimates provided by DNA companies are just that, estimates; they can vary between companies and will change over time as more people test and the reference population changes.
- Ethnicity estimates can be influenced by migration and the inheritance of DNA from different ancestors, leading to varying results even among siblings.
- Low level estimates (<5%) of ethnicity need to be treated with caution. A single value is given so always check the range for that ethnicity.

Matches and their significance

- Shared DNA and shared matches are key indicators to help determine your shared common ancestors.
- Predictive relationships are where companies estimate the likelihood of a relationship based on shared DNA.
- Shared matches can be used to identify common ancestors.
- The Shared cM Project Tool is a useful resource for understanding different relationships based on shared DNA.

Using DNA matches to build family trees

- Mia explained how to find shared matches on the different DNA platforms.
- The importance of linking DNA tests to family trees was emphasised, with tips on how to do this on various platforms.
- The use of common ancestors and Ancestry’s ThruLines to build family trees was covered, noting the need for caution when interpreting results as these are hints (generated from other Ancestry family trees) and not necessarily correct.
- The concept of private and linked trees was explained, with tips on how to find more information about matches with private trees.

Y-DNA testing and its applications

- Y-DNA testing focuses on the direct paternal line, and it can help identify and overcome brick walls in family history research.
- The process of testing Y-DNA at different marker levels was described, with an explanation of genetic distance and its implications.
- Emphasis was placed on using targeted tests to specific paternal lines to get more accurate results.

This summary is based on content generated by AI.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

WHISPERS FROM THE GRAVES: UNCOVERING THE LIVES OF ONEHOUSE'S PAUPERS

SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION BY
JULIE JOHNSON ON 14 APRIL 2025

Julie's presentation explored the lives of paupers buried in Onehouse, Suffolk, drawing comparisons with the better-documented site at Nacton. While Nacton's rich records support genealogical research, Onehouse presents a more fragmented archive. Nonetheless, strong local interest helped uncover the stories of those interred in its pauper burial ground.

The talk was framed within the social and economic upheavals of 1813-1835, including the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars and the rise of industrialisation, which led to widespread poverty. The Old Poor Law and workhouse system offered relief, though this was often inadequate. The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act imposed harsher conditions to deter dependence, deepening class divisions and stigmatising poverty.

Built in 1779, the Onehouse workhouse served the Stowmarket area, housing up to 350 individuals. It operated as a shelter, orphanage, infirmary, and penal overflow. Julie presented three case studies or examples to illustrate the varied events that might lead to someone entering a workhouse:

- **Robert Sparrow**, a young boy buried in 1834, whose family faced hardship after his mother's death despite receiving outdoor relief.
- **William Disney**, whose family's experiences intertwined poverty and criminality.
- **John Wink**, aged 85, imprisoned late in life for stealing a pig, and also buried in 1834.

A review of burial records revealed 302 known interments, with many more probably unrecorded. Most were older men and middle-aged women; 1818 saw the highest number of deaths, largely from infectious diseases like TB and diphtheria. Child mortality was also high.

Parish records prior to civil registration in 1837 were inconsistent, often omitting key details, with factors like economic hardship, illegitimacy, or religious dissent making it difficult to trace individual lives fully.

The presentation concluded with a lively Q&A session.

This summary is based on content generated by AI.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (May 2025) 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.

None for this quarter

In addition, there are the following Family History Shows:

Romany & Traveller Heritage Day **14 June 2025 11am-4pm**

Free, Museum of English Rural Life, Reading, RG1 5EX

Details: <https://rtfhs.org.uk/event/romany-traveller-heritage-day-at-merl-in-reading-berkshire-rtfhs-taking-part/>

Wiltshire FHS Family History Day **21 June 2025 10am-3pm**

Free, Michael Herbert Hall, South St, Wilton, SP2 0JS

Details: <https://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/images/wfhs/NewsItems/2025FamilyHistoryDayWilton.pdf>

GROUP PROGRAMMES

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

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

TBA = To be arranged : TBC = To be confirmed

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

JUNE

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	12	The Mayflower	Cathy Shelbourne
Ipswich	04	Guided Tour of Lavenham (limited numbers)	Jane Gosling

Lowestoft	03	The story of Sgt. 'Long' Jack Hargreaves	<i>Ivan Bunn</i>
Sudbury	24	Quiz (General) – All welcome	<i>Group</i>
..... JULY			

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	10	No Meeting	
Ipswich	02	The Story of Admiral DeVere Broke Monumental Maritime Hero with a Suffolk Link	<i>Cathy Shelborne</i>
Lowestoft	01	Baking in the Family	<i>Thelma Walker</i>
Sudbury	29	Stories behind the Stones	<i>Jannette Robinson</i>

..... AUGUST			
LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	14	No Meeting	
Ipswich	06	The Way Holidays Used to Be	<i>Jill Mann</i>
Lowestoft	05	No Meeting	
Sudbury	26	No Meeting	

..... SEPTEMBER			
LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	12	History of Art	<i>Edel Pinnock</i>
Ipswich	03	TBA	
Lowestoft	02	Merchant Navy Research	<i>Damon Rogers</i>
Sudbury	30	Horsehair Tales	<i>John Miners</i>

**For Bury programme and latest arrangements and details of other groups,
please check 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 June 2025 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.

Members will receive an email **shortly before each talk**, notifying them of the event and giving a link to register. If you do not receive such an email, please contact Andy Kerridge at 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 9 June 2025 at 7:30pm

Study the three R's: and Introduction to School and Education Records for Family Tree Research

Claire Moores

Monday 28 July 2025 at 7:30pm

Lawrence of Arabia ... and Felixstowe

Kim Smith

August No Meeting

Monday 29 September 2025 at 7:30pm

Freedom of Information

Richard Holt

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 accessible for two weeks.

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THEMES FOR SUFFOLK ROOTS

The theme of September's edition will be 'Education in Suffolk'. We take free education for all children for granted these days, but it was not always so. Prior to the state taking responsibility for education, dame schools, church and Sunday schools, and schools provided by employers, gave rudimentary teaching in reading, writing and Scripture. Even after laws were passed to encourage education for younger children, and prevent child labour, schooling was not compulsory or free, although poor law authorities were obliged to step in for youngsters under their jurisdiction.

Was your ancestor involved in any way in education, perhaps through running a school, as a teacher, as a poor law official (e.g. school inspector or attendance officer), or on an education committee? Or were they fined for not sending their children to school, and what was their excuse? Are there family memories of what schooling or schools were like? Tales of corporal punishment? Were your ancestors literate? What level of education did they attain? How did all this affect their life prospects?

Further suggestions are below, along with the provisional themes for other upcoming editions, to seed ideas for future contributions (although we welcome articles of Suffolk interest on any subject).

STATUS	ISSUE	THEME TITLE	DATE TO THE EDITORS
Final	Sep 2025	Education in Suffolk <i>How our ancestors were educated</i> It was not until 1880 that primary education became compulsory, and it was not free until later than that. In your research do you frequently find indications that your ancestors could not read or write? Have you been surprised that some were literate? How was your ancestor educated? At school? At university? Were they apprenticed to a trade? Was your ancestor a schoolmaster or mistress? What were the problems that stopped people going to school? Did any of your ancestors forfeit an education because they needed to work? Were any of them affected by medical conditions that prevented them from attending school? How did the wider availability of education affect communities?	Deadline 16 July
Provis'nl	Dec 2025	Where did they Come from? <i>Migration into Suffolk</i> We have previously looked at our ancestors who left Suffolk for other locations in the UK and further afield. But did your forebears move to live in Suffolk? If so, where were they before, what were they doing and why did they move? Was it for love, for work or perhaps something more unusual? Was their relocation temporary, for example for work, or war service? Were they successful in their new lives in the county? Did they set up a new business? How did their ingress affect the community? Were they welcomed or treated with suspicion?	Deadline 16 Oct
Provis'nl	Mar 2026	Farming and Farmers <i>The agricultural life in Suffolk</i> There has been farming in Suffolk since Neolithic times, and it has had a major effect on the development of the physical and social landscape. Most of us will have some ancestors who worked on the land. Were your forebears 'ag labs', or maybe they were farmers? What were the farms like, and what type of farming did they pursue? How did they cope with the changing economic landscape? Were their farms blighted by bad weather, disease, or government policy? Or perhaps they were involved in the supporting industries, such as manufacturing farm equipment, making fertiliser, or veterinary practice? If your ancestors left the land, what were their reasons?	Deadline 16 Jan

Our shopkeeper and tradespeople ancestors

One of the biggest changes in recent times has been the growth of electronic communication and commerce, and even before the Covid pandemic high streets were suffering from lack of footfall due to the rise in online shopping.

Did your ancestor work in a town or village as a shopkeeper?

What did they sell?

How did changing trends and fashions affect them (e.g. clothing and the rise of photography)?

Was your forebear a tradesman? If so, what sort (baker, blacksmith, etc.)?

Was special training or apprenticeship involved?

Was this trade/occupation passed down through the family?

Did they come to such trade after trying other occupations?

Or perhaps they found it unprofitable?

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Please note the changes for UK membership. If you pay by standing order and your subscription rate has changed, then you need to cancel and pay by other means as we no longer offer new standing orders as a payment option.

Please contact the Membership Secretary for help on the alternatives.

Subscriptions for the membership year beginning 1 April 2025:

A – UK postal membership/joint ⁽¹⁾	£14
B – Overseas postal membership	£25
C – Electronic membership	£10
D – Life membership (not available for overseas postal)	£120

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

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.

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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 2025

Haverhill:

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

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

Tel: 01440 712652

e-mail: haverhill@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Ipswich:

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month, at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:
The Salvation Army Citadel, 558 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PH

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

Tel: 01473 902367

e-mail: ipswich@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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

Tel: 01473 274300

e-mail: IpswichChairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Lowestoft:

Meet 1st Tuesday of the month, at 7:30pm (doors open 7:00pm), unless otherwise stated, at:
St Margaret's Church Hall, Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4BW

Contact – Chair: Janis Kirby

e-mail: lowestoft@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Sudbury & District:

Meet last Tuesday of the month, at 2:30pm unless otherwise stated, at:
Long Melford Village Hall, Long Melford, CO1 9LQ (Opposite Bull Hotel)

Contact – Chair: Sheila Piper

e-mail: sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Bury St Edmunds:

This group relaunched in June 2024 and has held two meetings. The future programme is being developed and details will be published on the Society's website (under the Groups tab) and Facebook pages when available.

West of London:

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

SFHS DATA CO-ORDINATORS AND SEARCH SERVICES

BAPTISMS

Index Co-ordinator <i>baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Alan Bumpstead 71 Downs Crescent, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 9LJ	Phone: 01440 704157
Search Service <i>baptismsearch@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Arthur Bird Search = 1 surname up to 30 entries <i>Please send your request by e-mail</i>	Phone: 01904 793884

BURIALS

Index Co-ordinator <i>burials@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Arthur Bird	Phone: 01904 793884
Search Service <i>burialsearch@suffolkfhs.co.uk</i>	Arthur Bird Search = 1 surname up to 12 pages <i>Please send your request by e-mail</i>	Phone: 01904 793884

MARRIAGES

Index Co-ordinator <i>marriagesearch@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Yvonne Hesketh	
Search Service <i>marriages@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Arthur Bird Search = 1 surname up to 30 entries Please state surname, forename, geographical area and dates <i>Please send your request by e-mail</i>	Phone: 01904 793884

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

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

Librarian <i>librarian@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Jean Licence 60 Oldfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3SE	Contact by e-mail
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SFHS WEBSITE

Webmaster <i>webmaster@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Joe Bridgwater-Rowe Website: <i>www.suffolkfhs.co.uk</i>	Contact by e-mail
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You can search for Members' Interests on our website
at <http://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/interests>

SFHS PUBLICATIONS

We carefully transcribe, check and index parish register entries from across the county of Suffolk and publish these in a series of 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. 51 : No. 1 : June 2025



ISSN 0306-8612