

SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 51 : No. 2 : September 2025

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUFFOLK ROOTS

JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

VOLUME 51 : NUMBER 2 : SEPTEMBER 2025



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Theme of this Issue

Education in Suffolk

How our ancestors were educated

Cover Picture

Pupils at Stutton Primary School, Ipswich, c.1950. Shades of Just William!
Photo courtesy of member Jennifer McLinden.

Suffolk Roots

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SUFFOLK ROOTS

Journal of Suffolk Family History Society

Vol. 51 : No. 2 : September 2025

Trustees' Message	Andy Kerridge	84
Pat King-Gardiner (1932-2025)	Andy Kerridge	85
New Members' Interests		85
Membership Secretary's Update	David Horton	89
Baptism Index News	Alan Bumpstead	90
Marriage Index News	Yvonne Hesketh	91
Welcome from the Editors	Lesley Hall and Rob Ward	92
<i>'My First Day at School...'</i>	Bill Robinson	93
Nacton Road School, 1908	The Editors	95
Education in Suffolk: Nayland	Peter Winney	96
The Tragic Tale of the Death of the Worlingworth Schoolmaster	Geoffrey Robinson	98
<i>'He was a Rum-'Un, was Billy'</i>	Bill Sutton	105
Letter from a Victorian Schoolboy	Lesley Hall	108
A Suffolk Stray – Grace Matilda Rickards	Andy Kerridge	109
Open Skies: Women in Rural Industries in Suffolk	Angela Skelcher	110
Playford 1827 Census	Andy Kerridge	126
Suffolk Family History Society	AGM Agenda	127
	2024 AGM Minutes	128
	Joining the 2025 AGM	130
Richard Henry Rowlings	Janice Brinley Codd	132
Gamekeepers	Andy Kerridge	137
What's in a Name? The Everard Family	Brian Everard	146
South of the Border (Down Mexico Way)	John M Lines	148
What's in a Surname? The Lindleys, or Lingleys, of Suffolk	Janice Lingley	154
Help Wanted – The Vice Family	Eileen Blythe	165
Studying the Three R's	Andy Kerridge	165
Lawrence of Arabia ... and Felixstowe	Andy Kerridge	166
Suffolk Family History Society		
<i>Fairs and Events</i>	167	<i>Group Contacts for 2025</i>
<i>Zoom Talks</i>	170	<i>Co-ordinators and Search Services</i>
<i>Future Themes for Suffolk Roots</i>	170	<i>Honorary Life Members</i>
<i>Membership Subscription Rates</i>	172	<i>Members' Interests</i>
<i>Suffolk Family History Society</i>	173	<i>Suffolk FHS Publications</i>
		176

TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

Hopefully, those of you in the northern hemisphere have had a good summer, and for the lucky ones, that meant spending time in Suffolk, seeing the sights, doing some research, meeting family and maybe finding new family.

You will have read or heard about the launch by Ancestry of the parish register transcriptions for Suffolk, which also come with scanned colour images – far better than the microfiche and film many of us are used to. However, the transcriptions are Ancestry's own, not ours. The good news is that ours are still available, transcribed by people with local knowledge especially of names and places. As you will see elsewhere, we will shortly be issuing some more early Marriage and Baptism indexes.

We were saddened to hear (too late for the June edition) of the passing of Honorary Life Member, **Pat King-Gardner**. Following this message, you will find some words remembering Pat.

We are close to launching our new website, and indeed when you read this may already have launched it. Having to write this 5-6 weeks ahead of publication means there is some uncertainty about the actual date as we go through the final stages of testing and modifications. When we launch, I will send out an e-newsletter to let you know.

Briefly, the major change, apart from appearance, is that it will be one website – with an integral shop. So, you will only need one log in, not the previous two different ones.

Other changes include:

- A single search portal. So, the hearth tax index, great-grandparents index, MIs, Inquests, Suffolk Roll of Honour 1939-45 and the new Ipswich vaccination birth and death index 1871-1910, will all be searchable from one portal instead of searching each index individually.
- Newsletters. It will be possible to send these directly rather than having to pull off a current list of members and their emails and then use a different tool (Brevo) to compile and send.
- It will be possible to search *Suffolk Roots* up to the current edition, rather than having a time lag of 4-5 years.

There are other changes which you may notice and some behind-the-scenes changes that make things easier for us. We have plans to put more indexes online (more MIs for example), but first want to make sure the website works and settles in.

Lastly, a date for your diary. The Family History Federation and the family history societies in East Anglia have agreed to run another Fair in St Ives, Cambridgeshire after the success of the one in 2024. This will be on 18 April 2026. As a result our own

Fair, having run in mid-April this year, will need to move a bit, and we are currently checking alternative dates.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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PAT KING-GARDINER (1932-2025)

We were saddened to hear of the death in mid-May of Honorary Life Member Pat King-Gardiner. **Ann Youngs** has recorded Pat’s contribution to the Society:

‘Pat was one of the founder members of the Suffolk Family History Society way back in 1975 (then known as the Suffolk Genealogy Society). Over those many years she has been of great help to very many people – always trying her best to forward their research. I first came into contact with her when I joined in 1976. Later she was of great help to me when I became project manager for transcriptions of parish registers and monumental inscriptions. Pat’s enthusiasm for all projects was enormous and of great help to me, at that time a “rookie”. Her involvement with the parish church of Lowestoft must have helped many and she never turned down any request for help. Her dedication to the Society never faltered and we owe her a big debt. She will be sadly missed.’

Pat lived in Lowestoft and supported the group there, and she was able to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of the Society’s foundation held by our Lowestoft Group in January this year. Our thoughts are with her family.

Andy Kerridge, Chair

.....

NEW MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 1 May and 30 July 2025 inclusive. 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 #
Adams	SFK	Woodbridge	18th C	13322
Agnes	SFK	Long Melford	All	13338
Aldous	ANY	Any	All	13318

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Alexander	SFK	Bungay	All	13315
Alliston	SFK	Gt. Waldingfield	1700-1850	13307
Ambrose	SFK	Lavenham	All	13330
Arbon	ANY	Any	All	13332
Arnold	SFK	Rougham	All	13329
Bailey	ALL	Sweffling	Pre-1836	13308
Balls	SFK	Poslingford, Clare	All	13344
Barham	ALL	Sweffling	Pre-1836	13308
Barrell	SFK	Stowmarket, Woodbridge, Sproughton	1700s	13342
Barton	SFK	Poslingford, Clare, Hundon, Stansfield	All	13344
Basham	SFK	Poslingford, Clare	All	13344
Beckett	ANY	Any	All	13318
Betts	SFK	Rougham	All	13329
Biggs	SFK	Nayland	1800-1915	13359
Blackbird	BOR	Any	1700-1900	13320
Bloomfield	ANY	Any	All	13350
Bluett	ANY	Any	All	13354
Boreham	SFK	Brockley	1750-2000	13320
Branson	SFK	Bramfield, Walpole	17th & 18th C	13334
Bridges	SFK	South Elmham	Pre-1800	13305
Brown	SFK	Cavendish	1750-2000	13320
Brown	ANY	Any	All	13332
Buckman	ANY	Any	All	13318
Burroughs	ANY	Any	All	13350
Burrows	SFK	Eye	All	13316
Buttrum	SFK	Hasketon, Woodbridge	18th & 19th C	13322
Calver	ANY	Any	pre-1745	13333
Canham	SFK	Monks Eleigh	All	13325
Canham	ANY	Any	1400-1800	13325
Capon	ANY	Any	All	13336
Catlin	SFK	Fressingfield, Bramford	1790-1860s	13341
Chisnall	ANY	Any	All	13354
Clarke	SFK	Hartest	1650-1750	13333
Cockrell	SFK	Gt. Bealings	18th C	13322
Coleman	SFK	Bromeswell	1770s	13342
Collins	SFK	Lavenham	1800-1900	13359
Cook	SFK	Brockley	1700-1900	13320
Cook	SFK	Worlington	All	13344
Cook	SFK	Laxfield	1700-1800	13346
Creasy	SFK	Framsden	Pre-1800	13305
Crowe	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13354
Curtis	SFK	Kessingland	All	13355

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Demuth	SFK	Ipswich,	1800-1850	13348
Dennison-Smith	LND	Any	All	13353
Dunnett	SFK	Any	All	13319
Dunnett	SFK	Melton, Woodbridge	18th & 19th C	13322
Eastling	SFK	Barningham	1700-1800	13333
Edmonds	SFK	Lowestoft	All	13356
Elliston	SFK	Gt. Waldingfield	1700-1850	13307
Evans	SFK	Any	All	13319
Finch	SFK	Long Melford	Pre-1800	13338
Finch	ESS	Liston	Pre-1800	13338
Firman	SFK	Lackford, Flempton	All	13344
Fison	SFK	Langham	Pre-1745	13333
Folkard	SFK	Yaxley	Pre-1800	13305
Foreman	SFK	Lackford, Flempton	All	13344
Frost	ANY	Any	1825-1875	13317
Frost	SFK	Barrow, Bury St. Edmunds, Hargrave	All	13330
Fuller	SFK	Barrow	All	13332
Game	SFK	Cockfield	1700-1850	13307
Garrod	SFK	Gt. Blakenham	1700s	13342
Gaskin	SFK	Henley	1790-1860s	13341
Gildersleeve	SFK	Any	All	13319
Giles	SFK	Woodbridge	1800s	13342
Godbold	ANY	Any	All	13318
Goddard	SFK	Middleton	1700-1800	13328
Goldsmith	SFK	Mendham	18th C	13334
Gooderham	SFK	Stonham Aspal	All	13306
Green	SFK	Ipswich	1700 on	13314
Hadfield	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	1840-1858	13317
Hammond	SFK	Westerfield, Nacton	1790-1830s	13341
Hardy	SFK	Rougham	All	13329
Harvey	SFK	Stoven	All	13355
Haywood	SFK	Woodbridge	18th & 19th C	13322
High	SFK	Any	1700-1837	13357
Hinson	ESS	Any	Pre-1800	13346
Horry	ANY	Any	All	13326
Howard	SFK	Woodbridge	18th & 19th C	13322
Hughes	SFK	Any	All	13330
Ives	SFK	Clare	All	13347
Jeffries	SFK	Stradbroke, Hoxne	18th & 19th C	13335
Jennings	SFK	Trimley, Nacton, Ipswich, Earl Stonham	1780-1940s	13341
Kemp	SFK	Stradbroke	18th & 19th C	13335
Killet	SFK	Yaxley	Pre-1800	13305

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
King	ANY	Any	All	13332
Lewis	SFK	Clare	All	13347
Lillistone	SFK	Kirton, Witnesham	All	13358
Linnard	SFK	Chevington	1700-1900	13320
Lufkin	ANY	Any	1400-1800	13325
Mallet	SFK	Any	All	13355
Marsden	SFK	Any	All	13319
Mickleburgh	SFK	Lowestoft	All	13356
Middleditch	SFK	Bury St. Edmunds	All	13352
Middleditch	ALL	Any	All	13352
Moore	SFK	Beccles	18th C	13334
Mussett	SFK	Boxford, Gt. Waldingfield	Pre-1800	13338
Nichols	SFK	Stradbroke	18th & 19th C	13335
Ottley	SFK	Lavenham, Long Melford	All	13330
Palfray	ANY	Any	1700-1850	13317
Parker	SFK	Ipswich	1700 on	13314
Pearse	ANY	Any	All	13350
Peck	SFK	Any	Pre-1850	13346
Pennings	SFK	Kirton, Witnesham	All	13358
Perry	SFK	Dennington	Pre-1825	13305
Pettit	SFK	Hartest	Pre-1800	13333
Potter	SFK	Erismwell	Pre-1855	13360
Prime	SFK	Bramfield, Walpole	17th & 18th C	13334
Reeve	ESS	Belchamp Walter	1700-1850	13307
Rivers	SFK	Wherstead, Bramford, Nettlestead, Trimley St Mary, Levington, Woodbridge	1590-1878	13321
Roper	SFK	Any	1700-1800	13346
Rudland	SFK	Any	All	13319
Rumsby	SFK	Henstead	1700-1837	13357
Rush	SFK	Hoxne	1800-1900	13337
Sargent	SFK	Sudbury	All	13345
Sargent	ESS	Bulmer	All	13345
Sargent	ANY	Any	All	13350
Serjeant	SFK	Gt. Waldingfield	Pre-1800	13338
Shelford	ANY	Any	All	13343
Ship	SFK	Henley	1790-1860s	13341
Smee	ESS	Liston	Pre-1800	13338
Smith	SFK	Hartest	1700-1900	13320
Solomon	SFK	Any	All	13355
Souter	SCT	Any	All	13353
South	SFK	Lowestoft	All	13356
Spanton	SFK	Any	All	13355
Sparks	SFK	Bungay	1700-1800	13315

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Sparrum	SFK	Sapiston	1650-1750	13333
Steward	ANY	Any	1800-1850	13317
Stretton	ANY	Any	1850-1870	13337
Theobald	SFK	Debenham, Swilland	1830-1890s	13341
Tippel	SFK	South Elmham	Pre-1900	13305
Tuck	SFK	Eriswell	Pre-1855	13360
Turner	ANY	Any	1700-1800	13343
Tuttle	SFK	Any	All	13355
Watling	ANY	Any	All	13326
Watts	SFK	Wiston	1800-1900	13359
Welham	SFK	Lavenham	All	13330
Wigg	SFK	Walpole	1785 on	13349
Wigg	SFK	Theberton	1760 onwards	13349
Wooday	SFK	Lowestoft	All	13356
Woodgate	SFK	Sudbury	All	13345
Woodgate	ESS	Bulmer	All	13345

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S UPDATE

First, many thanks to those members paying by standing order who have responded to the letters and emails sent earlier this year by making the appropriate adjustments to their subscriptions. Also, the Society appreciates those who have switched to direct debit. In future this will make the inevitable changes to subscription rates easier to manage without the attendant reminders to members still paying by standing order. However, some members have indicated they prefer to stick with standing orders, which is understood and fine.

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.

I'm pleased to report that the majority continue to opt for electronic membership, which is having a significant impact on our finances, especially when it comes to publication costs and postage of our journal. It also simplifies the processing of new memberships from this end. However, we do appreciate that many members prefer to receive a hard copy of the journal and that option will continue.

A reminder that alternative methods of subscription payments are still available on the website, viz. via the online shop; or an online Google form, which is still processed by Suffolk FHS; or by making payment through Parish Chest (<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.

We are still in the process of moving to a new website platform, and to that end 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 should make membership processes simpler than at present, something I for one look forward to!

Finally, a reminder of the new subscription rates. Please note the change in life membership, to reflect the ongoing increase in our costs.

- 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) = £150.00

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

David Horton
Membership Secretary

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BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

Our 50th Anniversary Fair was a great occasion and also a welcome opportunity to meet up with fellow members, including several of the dedicated helpers from our three teams, hailing from both within and outside the county. Some we’d not seen for a long time, and others we met for the very first time! Some of us are pictured below, without **Diane Kirby** and **Arthur Bird** who were doing a sterling job running the Society stall all day.



We've also reached a new milestone, with over 1.6 million completed baptism entries on our database and all available to search via the Search Service (details at the back of the journal). We are also drawing very close to our long-awaited next deanery area release, but which one will it be?

- Clare – phase 4 (1538-1649) (Bury team) – 1 parish left to check
- Dunwich – phases 3 (1650-1743) & 4 (1538-1649) (Ipswich team) – 3 left
- Hartismere – phase 4 (1538-1649) (Home team) – 3 left

My thanks to all our dedicated helpers, past and present, and to you for your patience.

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

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MARRIAGE INDEX NEWS

In the last edition of *Roots*, the final stage of Colneis & Samford deanery was reported as nearing the end of the initial checking before CD production. Unfortunately, this work was delayed by problems with one parish, Stratford St Mary. However, it is now completed, the deanery is with **Arthur Bird** and **Derek Wright** in the final stages of CD production, and the results should soon be available to buy.

Also, whilst the delay was frustrating, it meant a further phase 4 deanery, Ipswich (1539-1649), could be checked and this is hopefully just a couple of parishes away from a further CD release.

Although Colneis & Samford proved to be a long-drawn-out deanery, it produced some interesting snippets covering all three life sacraments:

- Freston: '**Mary Prower** the daughter of **Robert Prower** and **Margaret** his wife as he saith, dwellinge in White-chappell neare London, borne occasionally in ye way travellinge homeward was baptised the 10th day of March 1636'.
- Raydon: '**Merible Shenne** the daughter of **Agnes Shenne** an harlot baptised ye 13th Sept 1589'.
- Sproughton: '**Thomas Bull** and **Marie Lambe** married 24th September 1607'.
- Stratford St Mary: '**Rebecca Cole** falling off an horse at Stratford Bridge was drowned. Buried 27th January 1596'.

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

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

Preparing this edition of *Roots*, with its 'education' theme, took us down memory lane, in my case (Rob) to Barnwood C of E Primary School in Gloucester, in 1962, when I entered Mrs Warren's infant class. **Doris Warren** had taught for many years and must have trained in the 1920s, so her methods were 'old-school': silence in class, clean hands, lots of repetition. Moving up the next year to young **Miss Haynes'** class was therefore a revelation, with plenty of warm encouragement and a motherly cuddle after a grazed knee in the playground. Looking back, the differences between these two estimable women perhaps shows that we were on the cusp of a change in the education system, as in wider society, with the pupil as individual moving centre-stage. If *Roots* was a different journal, we might perhaps consider whether that particular change may have gone too far! As it is, we look back to earlier times and the educational experiences, as teachers or pupils, of our ancestors. You will find below some education-related Suffolk stories and reminiscences. We hope you enjoy reading them.

On a sadder note, we regret to report that as this edition was being put to bed, we heard from **John Lines'** family in Australia that John passed away on 12 July 2025. Readers will recall him as a long-standing contributor of interesting and amusing articles that tended to venture out from family history into broader themes. We are delighted to publish what will be John's last contribution in this edition and are sorry we can't look forward to more of the same. His family have expressed their appreciation of the support and friendship the Society provided to John over the years, which they say truly enriched his life.

Andy Kerridge, our Chair, reports that some time ago John deposited his research, in CD form, in the Society's library in The Hold. Andy has saved the files from the CDs and is looking at how best to make the contents available to the membership. There are about a dozen other deposited family histories in CD form, which Andy thinks may together merit a new section on the website. Expect to hear more in due course.

Finally, we are now open for contributions to December's edition, on the theme '*Where did they Come from?*', covering all aspects of migration into, and through, Suffolk. My own Ward family migrated south from Norfolk, some putting down roots in mid-Suffolk and others eventually moving on to London. This sort of migration was no doubt common in many families throughout history, and particularly during the urban expansion of the 19th century. Please tell us who came, who stayed and who moved on in your family, and why. Prompts to further ideas on this theme can be found later in the journal, in the Future Themes section.

The Editors

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'MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL...'

The following account, taken from the journal of my mother, **Margaret Irene Robinson (née Bugg)** (1916-2014), of 32 Purplett Street, Ipswich, tells of her first day at Wherstead Road Infant School in Over Stoke, c. 1920:

*'My first day at school was a bright occasion. On being taken into the school hall to see the headmistress, **Miss Jolly**, I stepped forward gave my full name and address also my date of birth, then Miss Jolly asked me for my father's Christian names. I decided that this was none of her business and said that I did not know. The building was fairly modern being about 15 years old, although by today's standards it would be very primitive. The main entrance led directly into the school hall, at either end of which the fireplace accommodated a careful fire during the winter months. A raised platform occupied one corner of the hall where Miss Jolly sat at her desk watching over staff and pupils alike. The classrooms led off the hall and the top half of the dividing walls were glass panels so that the Head with her points of vantage could see everything that transpired. She knew when a child had left the room and for how long. It seemed a considerable distance for a 5 year old walking the length of the hall, passing a notice which read "Manners Maketh Man" through the cloakroom and across the playground to a block of diminutive lavatories, they were flush lavatories but there were no wash basins. Personal hygiene for elementary school children had a low priority in the first quarter of the 20th century.*

*I fell in love with poetry at the age of 7 in **Miss Pascall's** [sic] class, standard one it was, and we were still housed in the infant section. We sat two by two in rows each being a step higher than the other so that teacher could see us all, any number around about 50 children to a class, a boy and a girl at each desk. I sat next to **Henry Clark**, in front sat **Lily Frost** and **Edgar Taylor** and behind us **Marjorie Trigger** and **Raymond Smith**. It was there that we learned by rote some lines from **Henry Longfellow's** "Hiawatha". The word pictures remained with me all my life.'*

I also have this photograph of my mother's teachers and a class photo (see over) taken around that time, with the names of the classmates she could remember.

The final photographs are of my great-grandfather's spelling book. He was **John Haxell** (1848-1906) of Stone Croft Cottage, Battisford. The cover bears his name and the year 1859. Pretty hard going for an 11-year-old!



Miss Pulham, Miss Jolly and Miss Pascall (L-R)



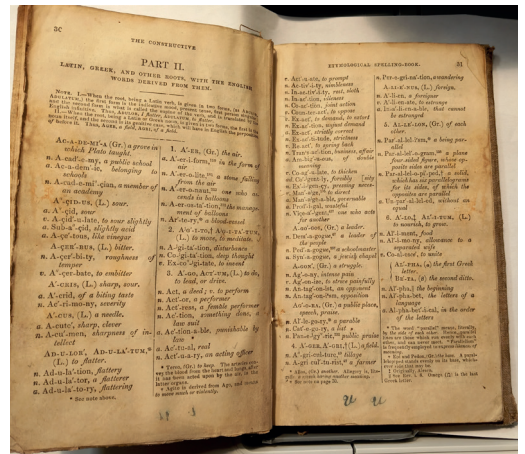
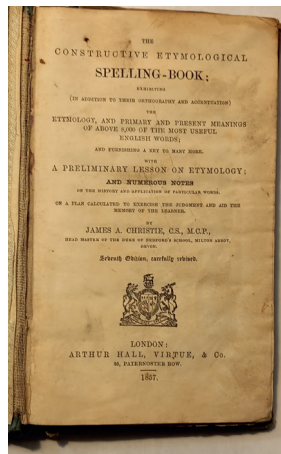
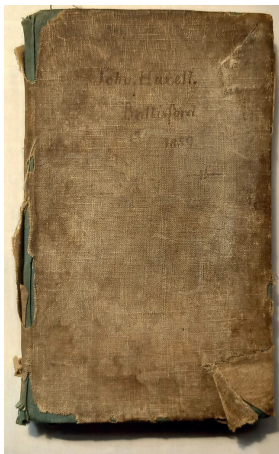
Class photo, Wherstead Road Infant School c. 1920

Back row L-R: Unknown, Freda Jackman, Doreen Marchant, Margaret Bugg, Dora Reynolds, Unknown, Marjorie Tricker, Unknown (x 4)

First row from back L-R: Unknown, Vera Clark, Molly Baggot, Unknown (x 3), Lucy Green, Doris Palmer, Unknown (x 2), Kathleen Howard

Second row L-R: Malvina Webb, Kathleen Clover, Dorothy Jocelyn, Unknown (x 7), Lauraine Pryke

Front row: Unknown (x3), Elsie Ely, Mary Bloomfield, Irene Holden, Rhoda Pinkney, Unknown (x 2)



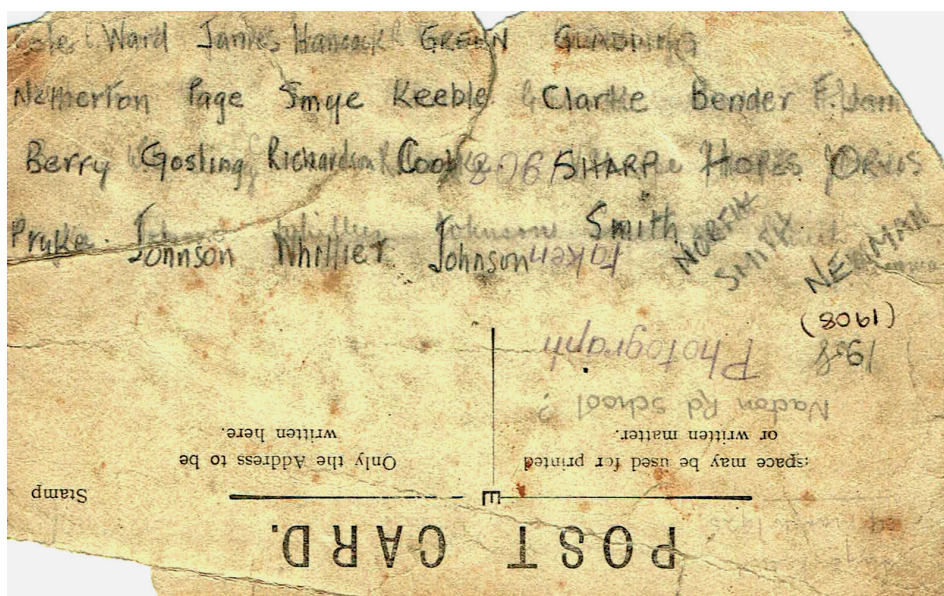
John Haxell's spelling book (1859)

Bill Robinson Mb12533

robrow@sky.com

NACTON ROAD SCHOOL, 1908

Member **Eileen Barrett-Whitehead** has sent us a scan of a class photo inherited from her grandfather, **Fred Berry**, which, according to Eileen's mother, was taken at Nacton Road School in Ipswich in 1908. The surnames of the pupils – but not, it seems, the teachers – have been written on the back. The card is in a fragile state, but does anyone recognise an ancestor?



The Editors

EDUCATION IN SUFFOLK: NAYLAND

My great-grandfather, **George Henry Winny**, was a journeyman miller in the vast mill that once dominated Nayland. He and his wife **Martha (née Cook)** were literate and signed the register when they married in 1850. My grandfather **Thomas Edmund Winny** and his siblings were born and raised in Nayland and went to school there. Some of them became teachers. As rural trade and businesses went into decline in the 1870s, they left Suffolk to seek work, their education enabling them to find wider opportunities elsewhere. To set the scene and to show who is related to whom, I extracted some data about them from the 1881 census.

My great-grandfather's widow and six of her seven children were in London:⁽¹⁾

Martha Winny	Head	52	
Charles J Winny	son	27	Organist & Pianoforte Tuner
Alice M Winny	dau	25	Clerk
Challis F Winny	son	23	Pianoforte Maker
Thomas E Winny	son	22	Clerk
Kate C Winny	dau	16	Pupil Teacher
Arabella J Winny	dau	16	[original blank]
George F Winny	nephew	19	Pianoforte Tuner
George H Mooney	boarder	17	Pianoforte Tuner

Martha's eldest son was in Linthorpe, Yorkshire:⁽²⁾

Henry William Winny		29	School Master	b. Nayland SFK
Grace Winny	wife	27		b. Richmond YKS
Florence T Winny	dau	4		
Horace T Winny	son	2		

So, looking at it again, fewer teachers than I had thought. Perhaps I should have waited for a musical theme in *Suffolk Roots*!

On one of my visits to Nayland I bought some booklets from the local history society, including *A History of Nayland Schools 1707 to 2004*,⁽³⁾ in which I was pleased to find reference to my relatives. Under 'Teacher Training' it describes how teachers in elementary schools were trained in post, usually at the school they had attended as a pupil. Initially, senior pupils could be selected as Monitors to assist the teachers. From about the age of 15 or 16 they could become Pupil Teachers. Certified Teachers could become Assistant Teachers with full salaries once they had passed their examinations.

The booklet says that Miss Winny who was the Assistant Schoolmistress in 1879, had been a pupil at the school, probably a Monitor, but does not appear to have been certified. I am uncertain which Miss Winny this might be, possibly not one closely related to me. If it was my great-aunt Alice Maria Winny, she would have been 23 years of age in 1879. But if so, she did not continue as a teacher, as by 1881 she was a clerk. The twins would have been too young. Or this might have been a cousin, as there were a lot of Winny families living in Nayland at that time.

Appendix 2 to the booklet lists ‘*Children Presented for Examination in 1863*’. In Standard V appears C Winny and in Standard VI is H Winny. I believe these are likely to be Charles John Winny, then aged 10, and Henry William Winny, 12.

Appendix 3 lists a ‘*Prizegiving: Pupils reaching the required standards in the School Inspection in 1865*’, with 1st Class including Charles Winny and 3rd and 4th Class Challis Winny.

Searching for possible relatives among registrations of teachers,⁽⁴⁾ I discovered the following:

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Registration Year</i>	<i>Year of 1st Position</i>
Winny	Charlotte Elsie	1915	1909
Winny	Christine Mary	1928	1925
Winny	Elsie Humphris	1921	1918
Winny	Helen Mary Victoria	1915	1908

Of this list, I am confident from my records that the last two are linked to families from Nayland.

Concerning the education of women, it is interesting to see from the *History of Nayland Schools* that a girls’ school was founded in 1707, shortly after the boys’ school, but the girls were taught only to read their catechism and to sew, whereas the boys were also taught writing and arithmetic. Fees and clothing were funded for the children of the poorest families, among them **Sarah Winney** in 1795.⁽⁵⁾

In conclusion, I believe my Suffolk ancestors benefited from their schooling in Nayland.

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References and Sources

1. TNA RG11 / 103.
2. TNA RG11 / 4857.
3. Mary George, *A History of Nayland Schools 1707 to 2004* (published 2004 by Nayland Primary School, Bear Street, Nayland).
4. Teachers’ Registration Council Registers 1914-1948, Findmypast.
5. *A History of Nayland Schools 1707 to 2004*, Appendix 1(ii).

THE TRAGIC TALE OF THE DEATH OF THE WORLINGWORTH SCHOOLMASTER

Background – The development of teaching in the parish

The early 1850s saw great changes to the structure of teaching in the parish of Worlingworth. Prior to 1850, the master of the Free School was a local man, assisted by the parish clerk and the rector. In 1850, **James Cotton** from Leiston was appointed master. His tenure was brief, and the subsequent appointment was of a schoolmaster from outside of the county. His name was **Silvester Tissington** and he came from Cromford, Derbyshire in 1852. Silvester was single and 24 years of age.



The Old Schoolroom – classroom (left) and schoolmaster's home (right) (courtesy of Worlingworth Local History Group)

The school itself had been founded in 1818 on land which belonged to **Lord Henniker**. The schoolmaster's accommodation was added in 1825, thanks to the generosity of **John Cordy Esq.**, who owned the general store and, in Woodbridge, a maltings and brewery just off the Thoroughfare.

A new schoolmaster

Silvester Tissington had already gained experience of school-teaching in a small school at Etwell, in his home county, under the patronage of the **Rev Joseph Bosworth**, a noted Anglo-Saxon historian and antiquarian. It is not clear how Silvester was recruited to the position at Worlingworth. By searching through the churchwardens' minute book for the period, we can estimate the date of his arrival in the parish. An entry for the year ending 21 December 1851 tells us that **Mr Cotton**, his predecessor, was paid 18s 6d for coals for the Sunday School.⁽¹⁾ This was half-a-crown less than the full annual payment, suggesting that Cotton left Worlingworth six weeks before the end of that year. For the year ending in December 1852, Tissington was paid the full

amount (a guinea). Again, for 1853, the account states: '*Paid Mr. Tissington for Coals for Sunday School £1 1s.*' It can therefore be proposed that Silvester Tissington arrived in Worlingworth just before Christmas 1851.

By all accounts, Silvester was poetical and very intelligent. He almost immediately noticed and fell in love with **Betsy Clayton**, a granddaughter of the parish clerk, **John Clayton**. Silvester was musical and played the organ at church. Betsy's father **William** was the leader of the church choir, the group of singers who sang from the old gallery. It is possible that Betsy Clayton was part of that choir.

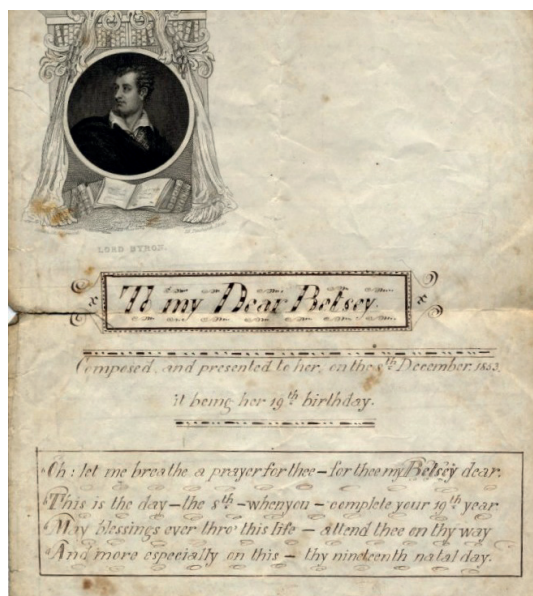
Silvester wrote poetry and sent his verse to Betsy – an example of his love poetry survives in a letter of December 1853 which celebrates her 19th birthday. Betsy, who was supposedly an attractive girl, would have been impressed. The verse reads as follows:

*Oh: let me breathe a prayer for
thee – for thee, my Betsey dear;*

*This is the day – the 8th – when
you complete your 19th year.*

*May blessings ever thro' this life
– attend thee on thy way*

*And more especially on this –
thy nineteenth natal day.*



Silvester's love poem to Betsy (courtesy of the Cater family, descendants of Richard Tissington)

A popular wedding

The couple were married on 28 July 1854 at St. Mary's, Worlingworth, by the rector, **Rev Frederic French**. It is not known how many of Silvester's family came from Derbyshire for the great event, but his brother **Richard** (of whom more later) would have been only 17 at the time and probably did not travel on his own. As no Tissington signed the marriage certificate, it might be assumed that there were no Tissington witnesses present. If they had travelled all that distance for their son's and brother's wedding, for one of them not to be invited to sign the register would have seemed odd.

Betsy and her family lived on Shop Street very close to the Red House. Her father was a colt breaker and her mother, **Mary**, was the daughter of **Charles Marshall**, a farmer of 66 acres at Wortham. Two of Mary's siblings, her brother **Charles** and sister **Jane**, signed the marriage certificate – so the two witnesses had at least travelled from Wortham, if not Derbyshire. Betsy could have asked her father and a sibling to sign

the register, but she did not. The reason is unlikely to have been that William Clayton could not write, given his own father's position as parish clerk.

A growing family

Silvester and Betsy started a family with the birth of **Elizabeth** in 1855. She was baptised on 17 June 1855 and so is likely to have been conceived soon after the wedding. It must be pointed out here that illegitimate conceptions and births were still common in early Victorian England. But I would imagine that any whiff of scandal involving the schoolmaster would have been severely dealt with by the new rector, Frederic French, who was two years into his living and just 32 years of age. He was one of the young 'uns himself, and there would have been some empathy between French and his young schoolmaster, who would have wanted to impress the rector.

A book of monumental inscriptions

Silvester was evidently a clever young man; he was working on a book of monumental inscriptions which was published in January 1857. The full title of the work, *A Collection of Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions of the Most Illustrious Persons of all Ages and Countries*, itself tells you that here is a young man who is comfortable with learning and writing prose. The book (price 8/-) was a success and would have earned Silvester extra money to supplement his meagre wage as the schoolmaster. The writer has a first edition of the book.

Extra-curricular activities

The Worlingworth records contain no evidence of any charitable clubs or associations formed to help the poor of the parish (for example, a clothing club). We rely for this on the local newspapers. From the *Framlingham Weekly News*, we learn that Silvester was a leading member of the Loes, Hoxne, Thredling and Plomesgate Hundreds Provident Society and Sickness Club, and his brother Richard would carry on that association, becoming its local agent in the 1860s.

In 1858 the churchwardens' accounts mention for the first time that Silvester was paid £3 for playing the organ. The entry continues for succeeding years and thereafter for his brother, suggesting that in due course Richard Tissington made a smooth transition to schoolmaster, organist and Sunday School teacher.

The tragic event on Tuesday 3 July 1860

A visit to the rifle-shooting at Stradbroke was the Victorian equivalent of a trip to the cinema in the 1960s. It was entertainment, of which there was very little in the more rural parts of Suffolk. People probably travelled from miles around to come and see the sharpshooters of the rifle volunteers compete against each other.

There are three sources of reference for the tragedy enacted in Stradbroke on Tuesday 3 July 1860, the *Ipswich Journal*, the *Suffolk Chronicle* and the *Derbyshire Mercury*. The detail published in each newspaper varies slightly, but the essential facts are these.

During the early evening, Silvester (32), his father-in-law William Clayton (43) and **Arthur Leggett** (17), the blacksmith's son, set off in a gig for Stradbroke to attend the volunteers' shooting practice. The horse pulling the gig was a four-year-old colt, broken in by Clayton himself. Sunset would have been around 9.15pm, so the shooting event would have finished by then.

The inquest records have not survived, but from the evidence of the inquest reported in the newspapers, the three men retired to the *White Hart Inn* and left that establishment close to midnight. All were sober when they left. The main street would have been virtually pitch black unless the moon was full. It does not take a huge stretch of the imagination to consider that the young colt would have been nervous and would be frightened by any noises.



A dark signboard hangs from the White Hart Inn (courtesy of Worlingworth Local History Group)

It transpired that as Silvester and another man named Plant attempted to get into the gig, the horse took fright at something and caused the gig to jerk violently. Plant was uninjured, but Silvester fell backwards and the back of his neck hit some solid part of the gig, possibly the backboard. The *Suffolk Chronicle* report of 14 July 1860 is quite specific as to what transpired: '*Mr. Clayton held the colt's head and asked deceased to get in; he got in, so did **Mr. W. Plant**, farmer, Worlingworth, when the horse ... made a little start and went a step back. Deceased and Mr. Plant fell out, the seat having turned up.*' It was straightaway apparent that Silvester was seriously hurt from the blow to the back of his neck and **Dr Read** was sent for immediately. He was unable to do anything for the injured man except to have him placed in the back of a cart for transport home. The journey might have been agonising for Silvester, laid in a cart travelling over uneven

roads. Yet, if the post-mortem findings of a severed spinal cord were correct, he was probably paralysed from the neck down and would have had limited sensation in his lower body and legs.

The cart arrived at the Schoolhouse in the early hours of Wednesday morning and Silvester languished in bed surrounded by his family until he expired on the Thursday. An inquest was held at the *Swan Inn* on the Saturday, with at least a dozen local men on the jury returning a verdict of 'Accidental death'. No blame was attributed to anyone. The horse was said to have been 'a quiet one'.

The parish must have been thrown into a mood of great despondency, for the schoolmaster was well liked and respected by the villagers. At Divine Service the next day, Rev French was absent, presumably comforting Betsy and the children. The service was taken by the curate, **Rev Isidor Lichtenstein**, who was clearly very affected by the death: An article in the *Suffolk Chronicle* recorded that, during his sermon, the curate wept into his handkerchief on a cushion in the pulpit for fully three minutes in front of the congregation.⁽²⁾ Silvester's funeral took place on Monday 9 July, and the whole village must have turned out in support of the widow and her children and to pay their respects to the likeable young teacher.

His headstone is quite unusual, combining a form of Celtic cross with a wide headstone. It has withstood the elements for over 160 years and the inscription can be quite easily deciphered.



Silvester's headstone (author's own)

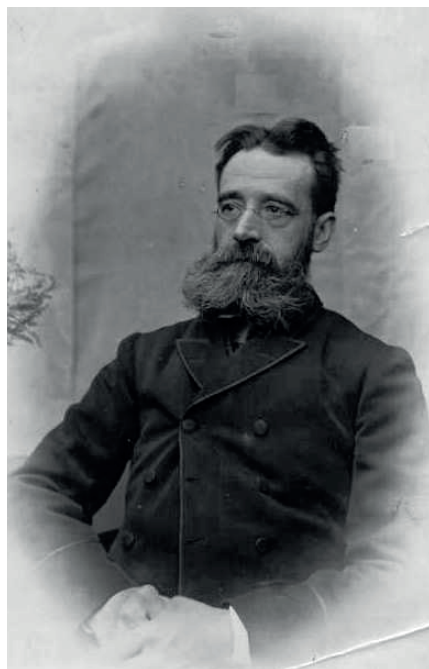


William Clayton's weathered headstone (author's own)

By contrast, the headstone of his father-in-law (colt breaker William Clayton) has been rendered unreadable by weathering.

Silvester's brother Richard travelled to Suffolk after learning of his accident and death. We might presume that he set off as quickly as he could and arrived soon after, staying for at least two weeks to deal with his brother's estate. It is suggested that at some stage during this necessary business, Rev French invited Richard to tea at the rectory and discussed the vacant position of schoolmaster.

The rector probably suggested that Richard might step in as temporary master until such time as a permanent replacement could be found. Richard's accomplishments as a musician would have been a factor in his favour. Rev French would have advised Lord Henniker and the other Free School trustees of the situation, and Richard Tissington was subsequently appointed as the schoolmaster. For the next eight years, Richard gave good service to his managers, although the question of where he lodged is a curious one. He must have slept in one of the other bedrooms in the Schoolhouse.



Richard Tissington c. 1890 (courtesy of the Cater family, descendants of Mr Tissington)

The departure of Richard and Betsy Tissington in 1869

There are several sources which help to explain what happened to the Tissingtons and why they left Worlingworth. We must first understand that eight years of a widow and her brother-in-law living together must bring on some form of mutual affection. For this couple, it most certainly manifested itself in a physical relationship which culminated in the birth of a son, **Frederick Richard Tissington**, in the summer of 1869. What is more, the registration of the birth took place in Ardwick, Manchester in the third quarter of the year.⁽³⁾

Frederick was conceived in the winter months of 1868-1869. Perhaps Betsy did not 'show', but by the late spring there must have been some indication of the pregnancy (sickness, etc.). Although it was convenient that the pair of lovers had the same surname and gave an air of innocence to any enquiries by outsiders, this turn of events would undoubtedly have been unacceptable to the rector. This was no common labouring family, but the schoolmaster and his sister-in-law, the schoolmistress, who might have been expected to lead a scandal-free existence. Marriage in Worlingworth was out of the question, given the law at that time prevented a man marrying his brother's widow.

The rector had little choice but to give Tissington notice to quit at the end of July before the harvest vacation, which would allow some progress to be made in appointing

a new schoolmaster before the school reopened. It may have been hard to find a replacement of the same calibre, as Richard's reputation as a musician and chorister was at its zenith in 1868, when the *Ipswich Journal* wrote: '*The village choir is one of the best we have heard, away from those villages where the services of a trained choir-master are engaged, and it does great credit to Mr. Tissington, the village schoolmaster.*' In any event, Richard and Betsy and her two surviving children left Worlingworth for the North, possibly stopping off at Cromford where Richard's parents lived, before the child was born, baptised and registered at Ardwick, a suburb of Manchester.

Richard's many musical talents now served him well. The couple left for London, probably in 1870, and settled in Clerkenwell. Richard had started a business as a music writer and engraver whilst in Suffolk and this continued in London. Betsy was described as his housekeeper in the 1871 census – they were not yet married, though a civil ceremony took place in late 1871. Two more children were subsequently added to the family, **Edward James** and **Herbert John**.

This almost concludes the tragic story of Silvester Tissington, but sadly there was to be no happy ending for his widow. Betsy died at Willersley, Matlock, on 11 May 1875. The cause of death was '*morbus cordis*' – heart disease. She was almost certainly living in a healthier environment than that in Clerkenwell, but to no avail.

Epilogue

Our story concludes with a 'what-if': suppose Silvester had insisted on returning to Worlingworth immediately after the end of the rifle practice, when the streets of Stradbroke were still bathed in the dim glow of the summer sunset? Would he and Betsy have lived long and prosperous lives in the village, with Silvester increasing his stature as a man of learning and seeing the opening of the new school in 1875? What is certain is that Worlingworth lost two very talented and capable schoolmasters in Silvester and Richard Tissington. How different the parish might have been if one or the other had stayed the course and carried on teaching. The children of the inhabitants nevertheless would soon benefit from the teaching talents of **John Holland** and his wife **Jane** from 1869 to 1886; their contribution to schooling in the parish was immense and has been recognised.

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Sources and References

1. The Sunday School was held under the auspices of the church and the coals were used in the chancel where there was a small stove. The schoolmaster's salary came from the Worlingworth Charities and was not the responsibility of the churchwarden.
2. '*The Suffolk Pulpit*' (no 138) (on the first page of the Supplement, dated Tuesday 11 September, to the Saturday edition of *Suffolk Chronicle* 8 September 1860). According to **John Blatchly**, the *Suffolk Pulpit* articles were written by journalists **Richard Gowing** and **Herbert Wright** from 1857 to 1861.
3. In both the 1871 and 1881 census returns, Frederick's birthplace is given as Manchester.

'HE WAS A RUM-'UN, WAS BILLY'

During the 19th century, my direct Sutton ancestors moved periodically, living in the villages south-east of Bury St Edmunds and working on local farms. They are recorded in the registers and censuses for the parishes of Rougham, Felsham, Bradfield St George, Bradfield St Clare and Thorpe Morieux, before arriving in Cockfield in 1873. The family address was then Bird's Lane, Colchester Green, Cockfield, and the family consisted of my 2x great-grandparents, **William Sutton** (1839-1909) and **Emma Farrow (née Howe)** (1840-1895), and their four children. They were to have four more children born in Cockfield. Thanks to good fortune, one Admission Register for Cockfield National/Voluntary School exists. It is held at Suffolk Archives and has been copied by Findmypast. The Register covers the period from March 1873 until after 31 March 1886: just 13 years, but seven Sutton children are recorded in it. Sadly, the school log books for this period seem not to have survived.

In October 1873 three Sutton children, new to Cockfield, were admitted to the school. They were **Emma**, aged 10 years 5 months, **Anna**, aged 8 years 1 month, and **John**, 5 years 5 months. Next to go to school was **Abraham**, in May 1874, at the age of 4, his birthday recorded as 21 December. Sister **Mary** followed, being admitted in April 1879, aged 4, with a birthday of 20 August. **William** was admitted in February 1882, aged 5, with a birthday of 14 February. William Thomas (1877-1951) was my great-grandfather. Lastly, **George** was admitted in March 1885, aged 4, with a birthday of 13 July. Youngest child **Charles**, born in 1884, would have attended the village school in 1889, but there is no surviving register. Until the family left the village in 1915, they lived in Colchester Green. It is interesting to note that William and Emma believed in taking advantage of the elementary education available to their children, sending them to school as soon as they were old enough. Emma, for instance, registered the birth of great-grandfather William Thomas, but could not sign and instead made her mark. However, her children were able at least to sign their name, an improvement on their parents.

William Thomas, who was 14 at the time of the 1891 census, was already working as an agricultural labourer. He married **Annie May Mott** in 1898 in Cockfield and both signed the register. They were to have six children all born in Cockfield and the three eldest, **William Charles** (my grandfather), **George Henry** and **Mabel Alice**, all attended Cockfield Primary School.

On a visit to Cockfield in 1990 I met **E G(eorge) White**, the author of a booklet published in 1986 titled *And the Flour Came in Ten Stone Sacks*. The booklet records the memories of George White from his arrival in Cockfield in 1908 as the 5-year-old son of the new village grocer and draper, and tells of the village people and how the village had changed in the 75 years he had lived there. Realising that George would have attended Cockfield village school during the period that William Charles, George

Henry and Mabel Alice were there, I asked if he remembered them. Yes, he did, and he told me where the house was that they lived in and which farm they worked at. When asked about Grandad, he lowered his voice and said, '*He was a rum-'un, was Billy*'. I asked what he meant, and he told the following tale. It is one that doesn't appear in his booklet, and he wouldn't have mentioned it if I hadn't asked directly.

In 1913 a new, inexperienced 17-year-old teacher arrived at Cockfield School, Miss Steggall. **Ada Blanche Steggall** had been born in Cockfield on 18 July 1895, the daughter of **John Steggall**, the village blacksmith. She had attended the village school and had won a scholarship in 1908 to the County School in Bury St Edmunds. This meant that she had to catch the 8am local train to Bury alone from the age of 12. The scholarship awards made by the West Suffolk Education Committee for the whole of West Suffolk for 1908 were printed in the *Bury Free Press* newspaper, and she was the only pupil from Cockfield that year to receive one. At the end of her five years at the County School, she sat for and passed her Pupil Teacher Examination and received her Certificate. She was qualified and keen to start her career at Cockfield School.

George White describes the school in 1912 as having 40-50 infants aged 5-7 years and 100-112 in the upper school. The headmaster was **James Bird**, called 'Jimmy Bird' by pupils behind his back. There were four other teachers, all female. George describes Mr Bird as '*a wonderful man for discipline*'. He also states that one teacher, **Mrs Parish**, used to say that it was not her fault if a child could not read before it left her room.

Grandad turned 14 on 9 February 1913 and was due to leave school for good at the end of term. He was not a scholar and longed to leave and, with his father's influence, get himself a job on the farm. How the youngest member of staff and the most senior and unmotivated pupil came to face each other in the classroom is not known, but they did. As Ada Steggall would have attended the school as a pupil between 1900 and 1908, and Grandad from 1904 onwards, perhaps they knew each other in and out of school and had history? Miss Steggall, to underline her new authority, carried a 12-inch flat wooden ruler and would tap a dozing pupil or anyone talking in class to show who was boss. On the fateful day, it is not known what Grandad did to provoke her anger, but she forcefully brought her ruler down on his knuckles, not the flat side but the much more painful ruler's edge. Young Billy reacted straight away and, picking up his own ruler, moved towards her and began hitting her. There was uproar and Miss Steggall fled the classroom, but returned in seconds with Mr Bird, cane in hand, and Grandad was thrashed in front of the class and sent home, where no doubt he was beaten again. It was so shocking that George White would remember the incident clearly 75 years later.

Thankfully, Ada Steggall was not injured physically or mentally and continued her teaching career, perhaps having learned the lesson that corporal punishment should be served cold and by the headmaster. In the 1921 census she is listed as single, aged

25 years, and living with her widowed mother; her occupation is 'Teacher', employed by the Managers of Cockfield School. In 1923 Ada became Headmistress of Cavenham Primary School and remained there until the school closed in 1929 due to low pupil numbers. She, along with the remaining pupils, transferred to Tuddenham Voluntary School where she also became headmistress. She resigned in 1931 on her marriage to **Geoffrey Cyril Arthur King**, a commercial beekeeper and honey producer. Their address was the Apiaries, Middle Green, Higham. In the 1939 Register, Ada is listed as a housewife.

Grandad also survived the altercation and got the job he wanted at Hall Farm with his father. William Thomas was stockman and William Charles worked with the horses. Unfortunately for them, in 1915 the farm was sold and they both lost their jobs. However, at this time advertisements were placed in the *Bury Free Press* wanting farm workers in Yorkshire. Agents operated in Bury linking interested farm workers with job vacancies. In the summer of 1915, the Sutton family of six, with their train fares paid, arrived in York and, with accommodation provided, started work on the Middlethorpe Hall Estate for **Mr Leo Paget**. Great-Grandad was a stockman and Grandad a groom. As soon as Grandad was 18, he enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery on 2 March 1917. His enlistment was for six years followed by six years on the reserve, and because he had volunteered, he was able to select his unit: he chose to work with horses as a driver. He arrived in France later in 1917 and survived there until the Armistice. Shortly after this, his Brigade was posted to India and the 1921 census finds him in Rawalpindi District at Murree in what is now Pakistan.



Annie May Sutton (née Mott) and daughters Mabel Alice and Trixie in a studio portrait taken in York and sent to Grandad in France in 1917 (author's own)

It was the Army which gave Grandad his education. My uncle once told me that his father was barely literate before enlisting and that he had to attend classes provided by the Army and gained proficiency certificates which he kept. These would have stood him in good stead when he later applied to be a postman, delivering in his van to the villages surrounding Tadcaster, near York. It was a job he loved and did for nearly 40 years.

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LETTER FROM A VICTORIAN SCHOOLBOY

My grandfather, **William James McConnell**, was born on 23 September 1885 and grew up in Norwich (not quite Suffolk, but close!), which is where his father had settled after a life in the Army. At the time of the 1891 census the family were living in Compass St, Norwich, and by the mid-1890s someone in the family must have been working at the Colman's Mustard Factory, as William was attending the Carrow School, opened in 1864 for children of its employees. In December 1896, aged 11, he wrote the following letter to his parents which gives a flavour of the type of education offered.

*'Carrow School
Norwich
23rd December 1896*

My dear Parents

Christmas is drawing near and we are looking forward to the holidays hoping to enjoy the pleasures of the season.

As the end of the year is the time for looking back and ascertaining the progress made during the months of study, I will briefly mention the past years work and the report which accompanies this letter will show the position I have taken in my class at the last examination.

Each morning at the opening of the school we begin with Singing, Reading of Scripture and Prayer and the important studies such as Arithmetic, Reading, Writing, Geography, History and Composition occupy the principal portion of our time, while Drawing, Word-Building, Mental Arithmetic, Mapping, Music and Object Lessons receive their share, and a further portion is devoted to Mensuration, Musical Drill, Recitation, and manual work. The last subject includes [?]Lloyd, Venetian iron-work, Modelling-in-clay and Chip-carving.

It is proposed in the early part of next year to give any of the Parents who may wish to see the manual work in operation an opportunity of visiting the school.

Our work this year will terminate on Wednesday, December 23rd and the school will reopen on January 19th 1897.

With my best thanks to you for permitting me to enjoy the advantages of a good education and wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

I remain my dear Parents

Your affectionate Son

William J McConnell'

William followed his father into the Army in April 1899, aged 13.

Lesley Hall

Co-editor

A SUFFOLK STRAY – GRACE MATILDA RICKARDS

I recently received an email from **William Cumming** of Rowan Tree Research saying he had been wandering Gateshead East Cemetery (Tyne and Wear) that morning when he came across the gravestone of Suffolk-born **Grace Matilda Rickards**. William sent a photograph and wondered if the information might be of use to someone in their research?

Having received William's message, I became curious...

Grace Matilda's birth was registered in the March quarter 1855, in Blything Registration District. She was baptised at Yoxford St Peter on 10 June 1855, the daughter of **Thomas**, a schoolmaster, and **Eliza**.

She appears as Matilda, aged 6, in the 1861 census of Yoxford, with her three elder brothers and an elder sister. Her parents were from Gloucestershire. She was in Kensington in 1871 with a married sister, **Eliza**, this time recorded as Grace, a scholar. In 1881, again as Grace, she was at Beamhurst Hall, Checkley, Staffordshire, working as a lady's maid for the Jennings family. **William Jennings**, the head of the family, had no profession but was formerly a 'Proctor of B...' (unclear as it overwrites William's birthplace). Looking at earlier censuses it appears William was a 'Proctor of Bar' - i.e. a practitioner in the ecclesiastical and admiralty courts who performed duties similar to those of a solicitor in the ordinary courts.

Grace's gravestone records that she died at Catherine Terrace, Gateshead, on 4 January 1890.

I was about to give up then, as I do not have a Findmypast subscription to enable me to search by address in the 1891 census. But even without that subscription I was able to see an Alfred Richards, born c. 1846, in Gateshead, and I remembered that Grace had an elder brother named **Alfred**: could this be him? Searching for said Alfred gave the hoped-for result: Alfred Rickards, born Yoxford, Suffolk, a widower, was living at 6 Catherine Terrace in the 1891 census, with five sons, a niece and a servant. So, although we do not know without buying the certificate what Grace died of, at least she was with family when she passed away.

Andy Kerridge, Chair



Grace Matilda Rickards' gravestone in Gateshead East Cemetery (courtesy of William Cumming)

OPEN SKIES: WOMEN IN RURAL INDUSTRIES IN SUFFOLK

PART II: THE 20TH CENTURY – FOOD, THE SEA AND THE LAND

Introduction

Part II of my article 'Open Skies' (Part I appeared in the March 2025 issue of *Suffolk Roots*) focuses on the 20th century, and the work women did in rural industries and all-important food production in Suffolk.

I will look at some of the resources available to family history researchers, including personal accounts and works by historians, and how to research a member of the Women's Land Army (WLA). This will broaden our understanding of the nature of the work done by our forebears, their working conditions and lives.

As women began to enter higher education and gain professional qualifications in the latter part of the 19th century, so two agricultural colleges for women were established. In 1889, **Arthur Harper Bond** set up Swanley Horticultural College in Kent as a centre for the scientific study of plants. The demand for places from women was high and by 1903 it had become women-only.⁽¹⁾ Then in 1898 **Francis Evelyn, Countess of Warwick**, founded Studley College in Warwickshire as an agricultural and horticultural college solely for women.

These colleges '*specialised in the so called "lighter branches" of farming: dairying, poultry, and horticulture*'.⁽²⁾ Most students were from the wealthier classes, although some scholarships were available. The colleges became increasingly popular in the interwar years.

World War I transformed women's opportunities in so many areas of life, including agriculture: '*thousands of women from comparatively ordinary backgrounds were suddenly required to go far beyond the old boundaries of dairying and gardening into a hitherto male dominated world of heavy horses*'.⁽³⁾ Both world wars increased the pressure for the country to produce enough to feed itself, with reliance placed on the female labour of the WLA.

In addition, women farmers, and farmers' wives and daughters, crucially kept many farms running in wartime. Their contribution to the agricultural economy in general is often overlooked: '*in the past, women farmers were usually referred to as farmers' wives or farmers' daughters, and the true extent of their work is often not fully recognised or recorded*'.⁽⁴⁾

Following the urgent wartime need to increase production and land use, intensive farming methods continued in the post-war years, with more specialisation and mechanisation – an agricultural revolution. Herbicides, pesticides and artificial fertilisers were introduced on a large scale.

Land Girls drove horses to plough the fields and learnt to thatch traditional hayricks in World War I, but their successors in World War II drove Ferguson tractors.

Horsepower, relied upon since time immemorial and still in use, was being replaced by the tractor and later the combine harvester. The nature of work available to women was also changing; harvesting and gleaning in the fields became less common as this machinery automated the work.

At the same time, fishing grounds were suffering from intensive trawling, leading to dwindling stocks with consequent effects on the fishing industries in the important East Anglian ports of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. Women made a vital contribution to the industry and were in many ways the backbone of these communities.

Land Girls – the Suffolk Women’s Land Army

World War I

‘God Speed the Plough and the Woman Who Drives It’⁽⁵⁾

The slogan is from one of the first recruitment posters encouraging women to step up to fill the places of the male farmers and farm labourers who had gone to fight. By 1917, the government was becoming increasingly desperate about food shortages, caused by German blockades and attacks on ships importing food and animal feedstuffs. The priority was to feed the nation.

Two years earlier, the Women’s National Land Service Corps had been established, mostly aimed at middle-class women living in towns. Although recruitment was slow, some of these volunteer women became Group Leaders in the newly formed WLA.⁽⁶⁾ The government also encouraged women in rural areas to produce and market more homemade foodstuffs. The Women’s Institute was formed in different regions to help this, but many women initially lacked the confidence to participate.⁽⁷⁾

Formed in 1917, the WLA was headed by **Dame Meriel Lucy Talbot**. She had a strong interest in women’s employment and was the first female inspector on the Board of Agriculture.

Affectionately known as Land Girls, 23,000 women worked full time. There were three divisions: Agriculture, with over 12,000 women, the Forestry Corps, to increase timber production, and the Forage Corps, producing food for grazing animals and driving horses.

Figures produced for the WLA in the autumn of 1918 show that the majority in the Agriculture section were dairy and field workers, but there were also carters, market gardeners, ploughwomen, tractor drivers, forewomen, threshers, shepherds and bailiffs.⁽⁸⁾



*Dame Meriel Talbot 7 March 1918 by Bassano Ltd.
Photo: Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*



*A member of the Women's Land Army leads a horse from the stables on a farm during the First World War. Photo: **Horace Nicholls**, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

Most of the available farm horses had been purchased by the War Department for the war effort, so the ones that remained were either too small, too tall or too light. The horse in the photo is unlikely to be a Suffolk Punch, as they don't usually have any white.⁽⁹⁾

Women's War Agricultural Committees were set up in each county, to encourage farmers to employ WLA recruits. Training centres and short courses at agricultural colleges were established to give the women, who often came from urban areas, an introduction to the work.⁽¹⁰⁾ On completing training, recruits could be sent anywhere in the country where they were required.

At the training centre in Framlingham, one of the courses was thatching a hay rick. It lasted two weeks, and around 100 female thatchers were working by 1918. They received a uniform, and wages were 2/- a week:

'Starting at eight each morning, (they) firstly learnt the art of yealming (preparing) long straws, and carrying full yokes aloft to the ricks. Then, instruction on thatching over the rick and trimming their work...'.⁽¹¹⁾

There was a prize for the best rick, awarded by **Lady Cranworth**.

The edition of *The Landswoman* of August 1919 contains an article by **Daisy Brock** describing her experience on the course.⁽¹²⁾ This was the official magazine of the WLA and Women's Institutes, priced at 3d. The WLA was not disbanded until November that year.

Daisy Brock wrote: 'You may be sure that I got no encouragement from the men folk, who laughed and said that, of course, thatching was essentially man's work, and very hard at that ... By the time our stacks were combed, bound and clipped we were quite proud of them'. Although she admitted that it was hard work, 'personally, I found it no harder than some other kinds of farm work'.⁽¹³⁾



Female agricultural labourers thatch a hayrick during the First World War. Horace Nicholls, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Sketch of Land Girls, both wearing typical overalls and hat, WWI. Randolph Schwabe, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The magazine also carried mail order adverts. The uniform, such as khaki smocks, breeches and the Land Army coat, could be bought from Harrods, and was described as smart and business like, yet practical. Available from a chemist in Regent Street were '4 Essentials for Ladies Working on the Land'. They were Betula Alba Jelly to stop insect bites, Pumice Stone Soap for removing stains from the skin and 'thoroughly cleaning Dirty Hands', Sambuline, or Elder Flower Jelly, for exposure to the sun and chafing, and Glymiel Jelly for rough hands and skin, to make them 'soft as Velvet'.

The small advertisements included books for Landswomen, and employment services for former Land Girls.

World War II

'The Women's Land Army overcame the prejudices of a male dominated countryside and proved that women - and, moreover, women from towns - could do the necessary work.'⁽¹⁴⁾

At the start of WWII, the UK was importing about 70% of its cheese and sugar, almost 80% of fruit and about 70% of cereals and fats. It also imported more than half of its meat.

Shipping bound for Britain was heavily targeted by the Germans, threatening to starve the nation into submission. *'The government's objective was to save scarce shipping space by reducing dependence on imported animal feedstuffs, via the expansion of homegrown cereals and root crops.'*⁽¹⁵⁾

The Women's Land Army was crucial to achieving this and was re-established. It was a civilian agency under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Timber Corps was slightly different, as employment was arranged by the Ministry for Supply, rather than with individual farmers as for the WLA. Over 200,000 women served between 1939 and 1950.

All the women were paid volunteers, many from towns and cities and new to farm work, but most thrived and enjoyed it. There was some scepticism and reluctance by farmers to employ them at first, although this was generally overcome.

The training hostel and centre at Shimpling in Suffolk was described by WLA member **Pearl Mortlock** as having no running water but with its own well, no gas or electricity, and lit by oil lamp. The recruits were trained in general farming, tractor and dairy work. *'We had a large herd of Friesian cows, served by a Holstein bull, weighing 1 ton. 1,000 acres were taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide milk, eggs, corn and potatoes.'*⁽¹⁶⁾

The 40 trainees spent three months there, sleeping in bunk beds, four to a cubicle. When Pearl started work, she was paid £1 2s 6d a week, much less than in her previous job in a reserved occupation. However, she had been 'hooked' by a recruitment drive, as were many thousands of women living in urban areas outside Suffolk.



Interior of a billet with bunk beds and Women's Land Army girls preparing for bed.
Evelyn Dunbar (1906-1960), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Other places with accommodation hostels included Wickham Market, Halesworth, Lakenheath and Risby. The hostel at Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge, the site of the recently-discovered royal Anglo-Saxon burial ship, was in Sutton Hoo House. This was the home of **Mrs Edith Pretty**, who passed away in 1942. It is now known as Tranmere House and part of the National Trust. The girls carved graffiti into the stone fireplace and left tiny holes in the wood panelling from playing darts. **Pat Davies** was billeted there from 1946-1948, and her work included planting and harvesting potatoes, thrashing and hedging.⁽¹⁷⁾

There was a training centre at Culford for the Timber Corps, the 'Lumber Jills', where 100-150 women at a time took a month's course in forestry. They were then sent to camps and mills throughout the country.



Two members of the Timber Corps sawing timber into lengths for pit props at the training centre at Culford, Suffolk during 1942. Ministry of Information Photo Division Photographer, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Timber Corps member Vera Howson at the Women's Timber Corps training camp at Culford, Suffolk (c. 1939-1945). Ministry of Information official photographer. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Videographer **Holly Brega's** documentary, *Land Girls and Horses of Suffolk*, released in 2022, tells the story of the Suffolk women, especially those who worked with Suffolk Punches. As she explains, there were 1,853 Land Army women working in Suffolk in 1943.

Researching a Suffolk Land Girl

- 'Soil Sisters' was founded by **Nicky Reynolds** and **Vicky Abbott** to research, collect and preserve the women's histories. They worked with volunteers at Suffolk Archives to create a display as a 'Sharing Suffolk Stories' project, for the opening of The Hold, the new archive centre on the Waterfront in Ipswich

(this is now available to view online on the Suffolk Archives website).⁽¹⁸⁾ They also created an online interactive map with stories and photos about local WLA members.⁽¹⁹⁾ The group's invaluable website is at www.suffolkwomenslandarmy.com, where they have a fundraising campaign for a permanent memorial to honour the women.

- The WLA website, <https://www.womenslandarmy.co.uk/>, created by **Cherish Watton**, explores the history of the Land Girls, and has a lot of useful background information. It features many testimonies, letters, photos, and registers of Land Girls from all over the country, contributed by former Land Girls themselves, or their relatives.
- The WLA records cards (from 1939-1950) have been digitised by Ancestry and Findmypast. **Sue Dring**, Trustee of the Suffolk Women's Land Army Memorial Trust, explained to me that not all are available online, as some have got lost over the years and the 100-year rule protects the confidentiality of the living. If your relative was born less than 100 years ago, contact the Imperial War Museum, where you might be able to obtain a copy of her card. Sue added that *'it can be further complicated by the fact that some girls decided to use their middle name or a nickname when enrolling'*. This might have been a chance to escape from the old routines. The records don't track a woman's different work placements, but record personal details, and when she joined and underwent training. Further advice on research is available at www.womenslandarmy.co.uk.

Sue is compiling a digital Roll of Honour and has around 1,900 names so far. She encourages anyone who has information about a relative, or who would like her to do some research on their behalf, to contact her via their website, to make sure that every woman is included.

- The national Register of September 1939 can also be useful, as no census was taken in 1941.
- Other archival sources include the national magazine *The Land Girl*, first published on 1 April 1940. The Ministry of Agriculture quickly realised its popularity and began funding it, to prevent the women from feeling isolated. Local WLA news sheets were also distributed in each county.⁽²⁰⁾

Lady Eve Balfour OBE (1898-1990), pioneer organic farmer in Suffolk and founder of the Soil Association

In many ways **Lady Evelyn Barbara Balfour's** life and achievements illustrate the themes of this article. Born into Scottish aristocracy in 1898, she was the niece of former Prime Minister **Arthur Balfour** (later the Earl of Balfour) and his sister-in-law **Lady Frances Balfour**, a leading suffragist.

As a young girl she decided that she wanted to become a farmer. With the support of her parents, she studied at Studley College, now Reading University.

During WWI, aged 19, Lady Eve was appointed bailiff of Grove Farm, a requisitioned farm near Newport, '*finding herself in charge of [its] daily running*'.⁽²¹⁾ Her employers, the Monmouthshire Women's War Agricultural Committee, overlooked that she was too young to qualify for this position and to supervise WLA members.

When she was 21, she and her sister **Mary** used their intended inheritance to buy New Bells Farm, at Haughley Green near Stowmarket. The 157-acre farm dated from the 1530s but was very dilapidated, with no running water.

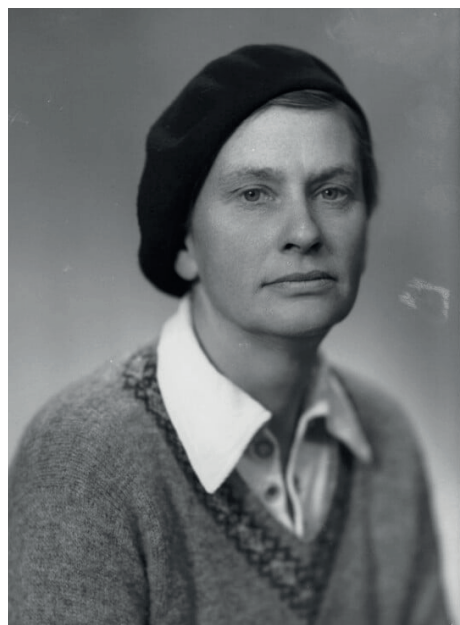
Here she later sheltered Jewish refugees, teaching them and other local women agricultural skills. Her partner **Kathleen Carnley** was a skilled dairy worker.

In 1939 Lady Eve started conducting what became known as the Haughley Experiment. It was a pioneering scientific comparison between conventional farming with livestock using artificial fertilisers, and organic farming also with livestock, on separate farmland. The results appeared in her bestselling book *The Living Soil*, published in 1943.

She employed a biochemist to take '*soil samples from every field every month for nearly two decades*'. The results found that on the organic farm there was a seasonal release of nutrients, resulting in up to 10 times more phosphates during the growing period than in the dormant period, without having applied anything. In other words, '*the soil was alive; there was something going on that made it a living thing*'.⁽²²⁾

In her foreword to the revised edition of *The Living Soil* in 1975, subtitled '*Evidence of the importance to human health of soil vitality*',⁽²³⁾ Lady Eve wrote that in the 1930s she had realised '*the paramount need for new scientific research*' and that the '*health whether of soil, plant, animal or man is one and indivisible ... it consists of mutual synthesis between organism and environment*'.⁽²⁴⁾

The worldwide success of her book led directly to the founding of the Soil Association, an organisation promoting and collating research into organic farming, with the recognition that just as soil can be damaged, so it can be enriched. She became an educator, travelling the world promoting organic farming (and being heckled at times!). However, the government drive to intensification and specialisation of farming continued in the post-war years.



*Eve Balfour by Elliott & Fry, 1943.
Given by Bassano & Vandyk Studios, 1974
Image © National Portrait Gallery, London
NPG x95254, under CC BY-NC-ND
3.0 License. [https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw105022/Eve-Balfour?](https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw105022/Eve-Balfour?from-open-search)*

Lady Eve has been described as a fascinating woman, forthright and with a loud voice like a drill sergeant, who in later years had to wear an eye patch; she was also modest.

In the 1980s, her MP **John Gummer** (now **Lord Deben**) was a junior agriculture minister and requested that she be included in the New Year's Honours List. He was refused, the Department calling organic farming '*muck and magic*', but he insisted. When he later checked and found that she was still left out, he personally rang the Prime Minister, also persuading Buckingham Palace to bring forward the announcement. Lady Eve learnt of it just before she died, aged 91, on 16 January 1990.⁽²⁵⁾ The day after her death, the government for the first time announced grants to encourage farmers to change to organic methods.

Working in orchards and fields

Orchards

'Suffolk's orchards are located mainly on the clay soils found in the east and southeast, where the principal river valleys are located ... a scattered pattern of small orchards'.⁽²⁶⁾

In the previous century, most small orchards were part of individual farms, and the fruit was for domestic consumption with any surplus sold at a local market.⁽²⁷⁾

In 1910, Suffolk had only 2,000 acres of commercial orchards, but this number grew during the interwar years, as happened across all Eastern England. The acreage in Suffolk doubled by 1938 and continued to grow until the 1960s.⁽²⁸⁾ As well as apples, cherries and plums were also grown. The main markets were London (accessible by rail and road) and the large market towns, as the urban population expanded.

In both world wars, crops were picked by the WLA, while in peacetime they were often picked by groups of experienced local women, with extra casual workers working alongside them.

Piers Parry Crooke's father started fruit farming in north Suffolk in the 1950s. He writes:

'When my father started, his farm still had some arable land ... [I]n line with the move to greater specialisation, in a more commercially driven industry, he turned it all over to apples and pears, and introduced blackcurrants which were sold for Ribena.'⁽²⁹⁾

Crooke can remember the women pickers arriving by bicycle in the early days. He refers to **Ronald Blythe's** book *Akenfield*, published in 1969, where the system was similar. **Alan Mitton**, an orchard foreman recorded by Blythe, said:

'[T]he picking of the fruit is really controlled by nine special women - our regulars, we call them. These women will pick eighty acres of fruit, earning between £10-12 a week. They come ... after they have managed to get their housework done, mostly between 8.30 and 4.30 and they only stop for a flask of tea'.⁽³⁰⁾

Blythe also writes about the gooseberry and blackcurrant harvests, with the partial introduction in the mid-1970s of machines that shook blackcurrants from the bushes. I remember commercial blackcurrant fields in Leiston in east Suffolk, now gone. They were a source of casual employment for men, women and children alike, and as a teenager in the 1970s I earned a little picking in them.

Field and barn work: Moor Farm, Middleton-cum-Fordley

'She had to turn her hand to most of the field or barn work'.⁽³¹⁾

Janet Barnes has extensively researched the histories of the farms of Middleton-cum-Fordley in east Suffolk, one of which is Moor Farm. A plan from the 1920s, as described by a tenant in the 1990s, shows apple and damson trees, medlars, nuts and asparagus growing in the area in front of the farmhouse.⁽³²⁾



Farmland and Farm Buildings : Middleton Moor, Suffolk. Photo courtesy Nick Macneill, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2895762>

Moor Farm underwent several changes of ownership. In 1963 it was bought by **Mr P W Fraser** of Simpson's, the Seed Merchants in Darsham, together with the Yankee Lodge (less the farmhouse and three acres of land) from **Mr and Mrs Woolnough**, Janet's parents, on their retirement. The size of the farm was 170 acres. In time it passed to his son, **Mr P J Fraser**.⁽³³⁾ From 1963 to 2003 it was officially known as Moor Farms (Middleton Ltd).⁽³⁴⁾

Janet writes that her father had been '*in the vanguard of farms who moved from horsepower to tractor farming*'.⁽³⁵⁾ From the 1970s, under the new owners, perhaps as much as half of Moor Farm was producing vegetables, with much less arable than at the start of the century. Hedges were taken out and drainage ditches filled in, creating three large fields, and artificial fertilisers were used much more. This was a typical development, which over the years altered the nature of work available to local women. There was still a lot of demand for the work, however, and the following is from Janet Barnes' research on those working at Moor Farm:

Clare Nesling was one of around 120 casual workers there in the 1970s. *'Her favourite job was harvesting potatoes when you straddled the row after the lifter had been along, gathered the potatoes in to a bucket and tipped them into a sack'.*⁽³⁶⁾ Hoeing sprouts was the hardest work.

Brussels sprouts were grown for Birds Eye (frozen foods) for 22 years. The seed was drilled in April and the plants singled manually until a precision drill was used. Harvesting began in early September and could continue until Christmas if a large area had been planted – the most was 40 acres. In the barn, 30 or more women stood at benches and used knives to strip each stalk, the sprouts dropping into a bin. They could be frozen when they came in off the fields; the stems and outer leaves were chopped up for cattle feed.

There was also strawberry picking, on contract for Birds Eye or for canning, and at the height of the season, the women could pick four tons in a day. Barn work also included cutting cauliflower heads into florets, ready for Birds Eye. It would be cold in the barn with the concrete floors, even with heaters in winter, and no protective gloves.

Hours were from 9am to 4pm, although with some flexibility, with evening shifts at busy times such as Christmas. She writes that the jobs were demanding on the back and knees, and only very wet weather stopped work in the fields. Children might work there in the school holidays. *'It was hard work and you needed to be strong'.*

Mrs Marienne Brown was in charge of the women, managing a large workforce. It required a lot of record keeping, for much of it was piece work. *'The women would rely on her records for their wages. She needed to know what each person was doing, the weight of the produce they handled, their names and so on'.*⁽³⁷⁾ She earned a reputation for working very hard, with a lot of responsibility.

Mary Field CBE OBE (1896-1968), pioneering film director and producer

In the 1930s **Mary Field** made a series of short black and white documentaries about farming in Suffolk. Commissioned by Gaumont British Instructional Films, they record traditional farming practices that were soon to be replaced by mechanisation and intensive farming methods.

Mary was a teacher and historian who became fascinated by the potential for film as an *'educational medium'*⁽³⁸⁾ and went to work for the British Film Institute, becoming one of the first women to work in directing and production.

The Film Archives at the University of East Anglia⁽³⁹⁾ holds her work, including the series *Farming In ... Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter*, all filmed in Leiston, Suffolk. The subject of



Mary Field, 1954. Public domain, via Wikipedia

the teaching film *The Farm Factory* (1934)⁽⁴⁰⁾ is Upper Abbey Farm in Leiston, a 1,000-acre pre-mechanised farm.

Her career began as the silent films gave way to sound, although the cameras and recording equipment were still unsophisticated and cumbersome. She specialised in making short nature and educational films: '*If her area of focus had been fictional films for an adult audience she would probably be much better known*'.⁽⁴¹⁾ Fortunately, however, her films are still available to us today.

Women in the fishing industries in Suffolk

Scottish herring women

'It's Up with The Dawn'

*'It's early in the morning and it's late into the night,
Your hands a' cut and chappit and they look an unco' sicht;
And you greet like a wean when you put them in the bree
And you wish you were a thoosand mile awa' frae Yarmouth quay.'*⁽⁴²⁾

The song *It's Up with The Dawn*, also known as *Come A' Ye Fisher Lassies*, was written by **Ewan MacColl** and set to the music of a Scottish song. It was recorded by **Elizabeth** and **Jane Stewart** from Aberdeenshire for *Singing the Fishing*, a BBC radio ballad created by MacColl, **Peggy Seeger** and **Charles Parker**. It can still be found online.

A tribute to the men and women of the herring fleets of East Anglia and northeast Scotland, the series of eight programmes combined interviews in everyday speech (rather than being dubbed) with folk songs. It won the Prix d'Italia in 1960, in recognition of the innovative research and production techniques.

The Scottish 'herring women', or *lasses* as they were known, were highly skilled herring gutters who worked in ports as far south as Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and even Southwold – the industry there revived for a few years in the early 20th century.

They followed the fleets down the coast, leaving Lerwick in the Shetland Isles in May, then on to Fraserburgh, Peterhead, and Grimsby. The women would reach East Anglia by October, working outdoors in the cold east winds straight off the North Sea until December. Following that, some even travelled to work in the Isle of Man.

Contracts, or 'arles', were arranged with the important fish curers in Scotland beforehand, binding them to work in the coming season. Herrings are known as 'silver darlings' for their bright appearance, and famously the women could gut one fish a second with their sharp 'futtle' or knife. To prevent cuts on their fingers, which were made more painful by the salt used to preserve the herrings, they bound them with strips of sacking. They worked in groups of three, two gutting and the other intricately packing the fish into barrels for pickling. The basket in which the guts were dropped was a 'coug'.⁽⁴³⁾



Scottish fisher girls gutting and packing herring, Lowestoft. Courtesy Suffolk Archives (1300/72/18/26)



Gutting herring, Lowestoft (Author's own)

Many were single, and experienced independence in earning their own wages and being away from home. Some married local men and settled here, or the newlyweds moved to Scotland. It may be that someone in your family history ran one of the many boarding houses where they stayed, as letting out rooms to the girls provided extra income in the off-season. However, as the work was dirty and the lasses became covered in fish oil, the landladies would remove all but essential furniture and cover the walls in brown paper!

The lasses sang songs in Gaelic, their own language, and knitted ganseys (jerseys) for their families while waiting for the boats to arrive in harbour. This also helped to keep their fingers nimble.

The herring fishing industry suffered badly in WWI, as Russia and Germany were the largest export markets. When steam drifters were superseded by trawlers, which dredged the seabed and caught all that was on it, herring and other fish stocks declined. By the 1960s, only a very few Scottish women were coming to Lowestoft and the industry halted. Stocks are now recovering, however.

The fishing community

'To every man employed at sea, it was said there was an estimated one hundred men and women employed on land ... to do with fishing.'⁽⁴⁴⁾

Women worked in curing and pickling. Butcher's Smokehouse in the old Beach Village at Lowestoft, which probably started c. 1900, employed both local and Scottish women to prepare the herrings for curing.

'Beat'⁽⁴⁵⁾ is an old term for making or repairing drift nets, another source of work. **Ian Robb** writes that both his grandmother, **Gertrude Coleman**, and his mother were drift net beatsters. It could be done at home, *'in the backyard or garden, or occasionally as my mother did in the winter months, in the kitchen or living room'*.⁽⁴⁶⁾



View of Lowestoft Harbour, with fish market in the background, 1914. Courtesy Suffolk Archives (1300/72/21/33)



Women mending fishing nets at Skagen, Denmark, 1912. Similar wooden posts were used for drying the herring nets at Lowestoft and Southwold. Michael Peter Ancher, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The fishing communities in the cottages of the Beach Village, Southwold, Aldeburgh and all along the coast were tightknit, and had roots and traditions going back centuries. The wives supported their fishermen husbands in many ways, supplementing the family income by gutting, boning and selling fish or mending nets. They often needed to be numerate and literate in an age of just basic education, to keep the accounts or records whilst husbands were away at sea.

The rivalry between the ports of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth is well known. It was said that you could walk right across Lowestoft harbour from one fishing boat to another, there were so many boats there. The industry included not only herring in the 20th century.

With many thanks to **Mandy Rawlins** and the team I was part of at *The Hold*. We researched 'Following the Fish', a travelling display and online exhibition about the Scottish Herring Women.⁽⁴⁷⁾

Under the open skies

‘Women have long played an important role in British agriculture, though their work hasn’t always been acknowledged.’⁽⁴⁸⁾

Social, local and family historians have greatly contributed to discovering the wide range of work carried out by women. Even when their wages were lower than those of men, they always formed a vital part of the rural economy. These women remain hidden from history until we uncover their lives and stories.

Well-known organisers and campaigners such as Dame Meriel Talbot and Lady Eve Balfour used their skills and success to improve the lives of other women, helping those coming after them. War artist **Evelyn Dunbar** created a body of work featuring the Women’s Land Army, and we can now use many different media, including film, song and digital records as sources in our research.

The *East Anglian Daily Times* carried a report in 2022 under the headline ‘*Suffolk college students launch female farmers campaign*’.⁽⁴⁹⁾ Five young female agricultural students said they had not been encouraged to pursue farming when they were at school and so had launched a campaign to visit local primary schools to create the ‘female farmers of the future’. One said that girls ‘*look amazed and shocked*’ when they saw her at the wheel of her tractor, and they feel that it is still a male-dominated industry.

Angela Skelcher Mb 12925

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PLAYFORD 1827 CENSUS

Not long ago, I wrote an article on pre-1841 censuses which mentioned the Early British Census Project. At that time, there were no Suffolk entries. A check earlier today (late May 2025) found that the Playford 1827 census is now on there. About 40 surnames are listed. Entries are brief, and some have nothing more than a name. But some have more and will be genealogically useful, for example:

Jno Lord

1827 - Playford , Suffolk

Individual	Household
First name: Jno Surname: Lord Gender: Male	Image Number: 1383 Household Record Name: Lord Household Members: Lord, Jno Additional Information: "1" single person or head of family. 7 Children. "1" able bodied men relieved from illness in their family or from having more than 4 children under 10 yrs. 1 Wife.

If you have Playford ancestors, check this website: <https://ebc.byu.edu/Home>.
 Now that one parish has been done, hopefully it will be followed by many more.

Andy Kerridge, Chair

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Society
to be held at 19:30 UK time on Tuesday 28 October 2025**

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

AGENDA

Welcome by Andy Kerridge, Chair of the Society

Invitation to Doug Howlett, Patron of the Society, to chair the AGM

1. APOLOGIES

for absence: Proxy Forms received.

2. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 October 2024, with matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

3. TRUSTEES' REPORT – presented by the Chair.

4. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS – To receive the Financial Accounts for year ended 31 March 2025, presented by the Treasurer.

5. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

To approve the appointment, as the Independent Examiner, of: Peter Watters FCA BFP, Accountant, Counterculture Partnership LLP. Registered Office: Unit 115 Ducie House, Ducie Street, Manchester, M1 2JW

6. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

To receive other proposals for, and to appoint, additional Trustees. Brian Thompson and Joan Horton have completed another 3-year term but are willing to stand again. Garry Pyett came forward during the year and was co-opted as a trustee. Ken Finch is standing down as Secretary but is willing to continue as a Trustee.

7. OFFICERS

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

Chair *Andy Kerridge*

Treasurer *Carolyn Alderson*

Carolyn has agreed to take on the duties of Secretary from Ken Finch.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An announcement will be made at least 1 month before the planned date of 2026 AGM.

Kenneth J. Finch
Company Secretary

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Registered Charity No. 1087748)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on 1 October 2024

The Meeting started at 19:30

Andy Kerridge, Chair of the Society, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Doug Howlett, the Society's Patron, who chaired the Annual General Meeting. Doug thanked Andy for inviting him to chair and he also thanked everyone for their attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Fifty (50) members were present on Zoom, and there were four (4) proxy votes received. The meeting was quorate. Five (5) apologies were received by email.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 10 October 2023, as published in the September 2024 issue of *Suffolk Roots*

No questions or comments were raised, and the minutes were accepted and approved by an online poll.

3. Trustees' Report for the 2024 AGM presented by the Society's Chair, Andy Kerridge

It had been decided to continue to hold the AGM remotely as it worked well in 2023. Separating it from the Fair provides greater freedom on timings.

The Trustees had continued to meet on Zoom with a couple of physical meetings. Measures to mitigate costs associated with producing and posting *Suffolk Roots* continued. A new Trustee, Julie Johnson, had been co-opted during the year, and is involved in planning our 50th anniversary celebrations.

We continued to have representation at several Fairs around the country.

Last year we announced the closure of the Bury Group, but I am pleased to say that it has restarted.

Monthly Zoom meetings continue to attract a strong attendance from both members and non-members, and membership has continued to grow steadily.

The temporary closure of the Suffolk Archives until the New Year, and Suffolk County Council's decision to permanently close Lowestoft and Bury Archives came as a surprise. However, the transcriptions team continued their work with several new releases.

Beachshore, who run websites for several family history societies, have been engaged to improve our website and integrate the shop.

The Society Chair thanked everyone for their support.

The AGM Chair congratulated Andy on a successful year.

A question was raised about the Society's membership numbers. The Society Chair informed the meeting that membership currently about 1600 but fluctuated significantly with a large drop around renewal, some due to member leaving, some due to late renewals.

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

The Chair invited the Treasurer to present the accounts as of 31 March 2024.

The Treasurer reported a healthy general reserve of £177K up from £162K the previous year. This resulted from higher interest payments and reduction in administration costs.

5. Independent Examiner

The Independent examiner, Counterculture Partnership, was reappointed by an online poll.

A question was asked around the duties of the Independent Examiner. The Treasurer briefly summarised the role as a review of the accounts ensuring the Society follows the approved processes.

6. Appointment of Trustees

Jean Licence was due to retire by rotation but has indicated that she is willing to continue. Her re-appointment was proposed and seconded, and then voted on and approved by an online poll. Julie Johnson had been co-opted during the year and her appointment was proposed and seconded, and then voted on and approved by an online poll.

7. Appointment of Officers

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

Andy Kerridge had been nominated as the Society's Chair and Carolyn Alderson had been nominated as Treasurer. Their re-appointment was proposed and seconded, and then voted on and approved by an online poll.

8. AOB

The Society Chair informed the meeting that membership fees would increase, effective for the membership year starting 1 April 2025. There had been no increase in the last 10 years or so, but due to increased printing and postage costs for *Suffolk Roots* the following would apply:

- **Digital, Overseas postal, and Life memberships – no change**
- **Removal of the concessionary Senior membership rate**
- **A UK postal membership of £14**

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Chair advised that the date had not been agreed but would be announced by 1 March 2025. It would probably be by Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and involvement and the Trustees for their support. The meeting finished at 20:18.

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY 2025 AGM

The 2024 AGM will be held on Tuesday 28 October 2025 at 19:30

The 2025 AGM will be held via the Zoom platform. To participate using Zoom you need to be online and have Zoom installed on your computer/tablet, smartphone etc. The AGM will be recorded.

If you wish to participate by Zoom:

1. **Before 1 September 2025:** Please notify our Membership Secretary, David Horton at membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk if you have changed your email address recently.
2. A notice about the AGM will be sent out with the September e-Newsletter, asking people to register their intention to attend.
3. For those joining the society after the 1 September, please contact the Chair at chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk directly for information on how to register.
4. Two days before the meeting: Those who have expressed an intention to attend by Zoom will receive, by email, the meeting details and the Zoom 'key'.
5. **The 2025 AGM Agenda, a Proxy Vote form and the Minutes of the 2024 AGM published in this issue of Suffolk Roots** will be repeated (under AGM) on the Society's website at www.suffolkfhs.org.uk, together with a copy of the Society accounts.
6. **Only Society members will be able to participate and/or vote.** Where members hold joint membership, both members are allowed to vote.
7. **On the day:** Please log in to Zoom at or soon after 19:15 to allow for any connection issues.
8. **If you have technical issues** (can't hear audio etc.), there will be no time to deal with these once the meeting starts, so we suggest those not already familiar with Zoom try a practice session with friends or family.
9. To ask questions or vote: Questions may be asked via the chat function in Zoom. To vote we will try to use the Poll function. Explanations of how to use these will be given at the beginning of the meeting.

A quorum requires 30 members.

Please use the proxy form if you cannot attend – your vote is important.

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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



PROXY VOTE FOR 2025 AGM

I/We

Of (address)

Being Member Number

Hereby appoint*

Or failing him/her appoint*

As my/our proxy to vote in my/our name(s) on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 28 October 2025 and at any adjournment thereof.

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

Signed Date

Completed proxy forms should be sent to the Society Secretary:

Mr K Finch
65 Churchill Avenue
Ipswich
IP4 5DT

e-mail: secretary@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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

PROXY VOTES BY E-MAIL

These will be accepted provided members' full details are given, including membership number, and instructions are clear and unambiguous.

e-mail to secretary@suffolkfhs.org.uk with 'proxy vote' in the subject box.

TRUSTEES

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

ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 will be posted on the Society's website by 28 September 2025. Copies by post may be had from the Secretary on receipt of a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

RICHARD HENRY ROWLINGS – A BOATMAN IN THE PREVENTIVE WATER GUARD

During the course of my family history research, I discovered that my 3x great-grandfather had worked as a boatman in the Preventive Water Guard, a precursor of the modern-day Coastguard service.

The Coastguard – an early history

Smuggling (the illegal importation of goods) has taken place along the UK coast since the Middle Ages, once taxes started to be levied on imports and exports. It was estimated in 1743 that half the tea drunk in the UK was illegally imported. Smuggled goods came from France, Belgium and Holland and smuggling was an attractive proposition for many out of work fishermen, as goods could be landed on beaches at night from small boats and later sold on for profit. The gangs were violent, with people living in fear, violent reprisals against informers, and the murder of Revenue Officers; while corruption meant smugglers evaded the law. The threat to the UK's economy and security, and the public shock and dismay at the number of lives lost at sea each year, drove the need for lifesaving organisations and an end to smuggling.

A PhD thesis entitled *English Smuggling in the Eighteenth Century* by **Paul Muskett** mapped some of the main smuggling routes and hubs. Routes from France and the Low Countries to the east coast of England included the running of brandy from Calais and Boulogne to sell to ships; of brandy and wine from Calais and Boulogne (1713-1735), and tea from Boulogne (after 1730); of tea, gin and brandy from Ostend, tea and spirits from Flushing, and gin from Schiedam; and tea, brandy, gin and rum smuggled directly to England, or sent to other French ports or the Channel Islands to supply smugglers.

The Suffolk coastline is a long one, full of lonely out-of-the-way places where goods could be landed unchallenged. Mounted Riding Officers were established in 1690 by the Board of Customs, and were employed to seek out clandestine hiding places for smuggled goods, and to try to prevent further landings by liaising with other Riding Officers. They had to ride out in all weathers and report on any ships moored offshore or other suspicious activities.

By 1698, they were known as the Land Guard, were recruited locally and were expected to cover many miles of coastline, but they were too few to make a difference. The smugglers operated in large gangs and although Dragoon regiments were deployed at various points along the coast, by the time they were summoned and had arrived, the smugglers were long gone. In the late 1600s and early 1700s, the Riding Officers were also responsible for the apprehension of 'owlers' (illegal exporters). There was a problem because the price of wool was much higher on the continent, and this led to illegal export activity, especially to France. Spies and double agents were recruited to

operate in France, and by 1703 illegal exports had dramatically fallen, but owlers still operated until the 1730s.

The predecessor of the modern Coastguard was established in 1809 as the Preventive Water Guard, whose principal function was to prevent smuggling, which was still rife due to the high taxation on liquors such as brandy and on tobacco. The Water Guard used boats to patrol every bay and cove along the coast, and in bad weather they formed a shore patrol.

The Preventive Water Guard quickly acquired extra duties, being instructed to take responsibility for shipwrecks, to safeguard the cargoes and vessels from looters and wreckers. Their training lasted six months and included map-reading and basic lifesaving skills, and took place at important ports like (Great) Yarmouth and (King's) Lynn. They also needed to know the law and how to find contraband on incoming ships, working together with the Revenue Cruisers who were the first line of defence.

In 1809, each Water Guard station was issued with a Manby Mortar by the Board of Trade. This device was invented by Captain George Manby in 1808. It fired a shot with a line attached from the shore to the shipwrecked ship. The line was fixed in place, and then a bosun's chair was sent over and the crew pulled ashore. Thus, the lifesaving role of the 'Coastguard' began.



The Manby Mortar in use. Plaque in the Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth. Photo: Author's own



A Bosun's chair and the Manby Mortar, as displayed in the Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth. Photo: Author's own

In 1816, a Royal Navy Captain was appointed to the new post of Controller General of the Water Guard, reporting directly to the Lords of the Treasury (bypassing the Customs Commissioners). At each Water Guard station there was a Chief Officer and a Chief Boatman, who were usually experienced ex-naval seamen or fishermen.

In 1821 a committee of enquiry examined every aspect of the Customs service and recommended that the Preventive Water Guard, the Riding Officers (Board of Customs) and the Admiralty and Board of Excise Revenue cutters should be brought under a single management structure. Accordingly, in 1822 these branches were amalgamated under the oversight of HM Customs and named HM Coastguard.

The new Coastguard inherited shore stations and watch houses from its predecessor bodies, as well as several coastal vessels, providing bases for its operations over the following years. In 1829, the first Coastguard instructions were published and mainly dealt with discipline and the prevention of smuggling, or directions for carrying out preventive duties. They also stipulated that when a wreck occurred, the Coastguard was responsible for taking all possible action to save lives, to take charge of the vessel and to protect property.

In 1831, the Coastguard took over the duties of the Navy's Coast Blockade, which were vital for the suppression of smuggling and had been run by the Admiralty from the Martello Towers along the South Coast. This finally gave it authority over the whole of the UK coastline. The Admiralty retained the right to appoint Coastguard officers and to select boatmen from paid-off naval crews, so setting the scene for the Coastguard to become the Naval Reserve and recruiting agency of the Navy.

In the 1850s, lowered taxes also helped to end the illegal trade in goods, and with smuggling on the wane, oversight of the Coastguard was subordinated to the Admiralty in 1845. The Admiralty re-styled the Coastguard and members wore naval-style uniforms and had to drill. In later years, training on large guns for coastal defence was added to their role. The Coastguard continued to take charge of wrecks and to save lives and following the 1854 Merchant Shipping Act, the Board of Trade issued lifesaving apparatus to all Coastguard stations, fulfilling its responsibility for safety at sea.

Richard Henry Rowlings/Rawlings

Richard was born in Saltash, Cornwall on 2 May 1802, but his baptism has yet to be confirmed. He was possibly the son of **William Rawlings/Rowlings**, a seaman on *HMS Culloden*, and **Elizabeth Jenkins**, who were married by licence at St Stephen's, Saltash in 1791. There was also a possible brother, **William** (b. 1804), living in Saltash in 1841, a waterman with sons employed as fishermen and boatmen.

Richard's early life is uncertain, but handling boats would possibly be something that he had learnt from a young age. When he was issued with his Seaman's ticket in

1845, it stated that he had gone to sea as a boy. He may have been aged 8–10 when this happened. The same document states that he was not employed by the Royal Navy, so we can assume that he served on a merchant or passenger vessel.

In August 1822, we find him, aged 20, having already trained as a Water Guard and working at Landulph station, Cornwall. He might have trained for six months in Devonport, or, due to being underage, he may have served his probation closer to his family.

In 1823, aged 21, he was posted to Southwold, Suffolk, where he served four years as a boatman (described as a '*Water Guard Boatman*'). He could have lived in the Coastguard cottages, opposite the church in Southwold. He was now 350 miles away from his family. This was a normal posting for the Water Guard at the time, as they could make independent decisions without fear of reprisals by the smuggling gangs on their families.



Coastguard cottages, Victoria Street, Southwold, Suffolk. Author's own picture

It was during this posting that he met **Elizabeth Maltus (née Waters)**. Her husband **Charles Maltus**, according to the Southwold diary of **James Maggs** (1818-1876), had drowned on 9 December 1825 in the River Deben, and was buried in St Edmund's church, Southwold. Also, the '*lad Maltus*' referred to in Maggs' diary entry for 13 October 1822, who was lost on the passage from Newcastle, could have been her son.

In March 1827, Richard was posted to (Great) Yarmouth where, on 7 May, he married Elizabeth Maltus by licence, in the Minster.

Elizabeth's family were originally from Norfolk. Her grandfather, **John Waters**, was Master of the Pilot Cutter *Samuel*, and according to James Maggs' diary was involved in the rescue of the crew of the galliot *Zeland*, which foundered in heavy seas off Southwold. The crew were taken to Yarmouth, while the ship was towed into Southwold harbour by the brig *Union*.

Elizabeth's father, **William**, was Master of the *Abeena*. Maggs recorded in 1837 that one of the *Abeena*'s crew had been accidentally knocked overboard and drowned. The following year, William Waters and a few others accompanied Maggs on an 'aquatic excursion' on the gig *Princess Victoria*, in which they visited many ships moored off the coast awaiting pilots, and later had a meal at the *Ship Inn* at Dunwich before arriving home at 10 pm.

Elizabeth's husband's family were involved in the salt trade. Charles Maltus was the son of **Charles Maltus** and **Anne Poole** and married Elizabeth Waters in 1811 in Southwold. The Maltus family appear to have had business interests in both Southwold and Woodbridge, which was where Charles drowned in 1825. Charles' brother, **John**, was a Trinity Pilot and so, with all the family links to the sea, Elizabeth's marriage to a Customs boatman was not unusual.

Richard and Elizabeth lived in several coastal villages in Norfolk before he was posted to Devonport in 1839. Once the Coastguard were placed under the Admiralty, they tended to be posted to larger coastal ports, like Grimsby, and so was Richard from 1849. He remained in Grimsby for the rest of his life, dying in 1882 at the age of 79 years.

Janice Brinley Codd Mb 12415

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GAMEKEEPERS

Gary Winder contacted us via our Facebook page and sent this list of gamekeepers, which was published in the *Ipswich Journal* on 22 October 1796.

I transcribed the original list using AI and then checked the results. Most were clear, but of course the list uses the old-style 'long s' (similar to 'f' without the full crossbar) for an 's' in the middle of a word, and unless you know the location concerned there may have been some errors with 's' wrongly used instead of 'f'. There were also a couple of smudges on the pages – I have indicated where that the case.

As you can see, some of these manor names are not easy. They give some indication of the evolution of names and pronunciation: see, for example, '*Keddington, alias Ketton, and Barnston, otherwise Barnardiston*' and '*Heggesett otherwise Hessesett*'. I was also fascinated by the spread of ownership of the manors, from university colleges to religious houses to the ranks of the high and mighty, with Lidgate owned by four of the latter, including the Prime Minister, **William Pitt** (the Younger, as his father, the Elder, was already dead by 1796).

Andy Kerridge, Chair

SUFFOLK GAME DUTY 1796

From : Ipswich Journal 22 Oct 1796

A List of the Names of the several Persons acting as Gamekeepers, under or by virtue of Deputations or Appointments duly registered, to whom Certificates have been issued in the County aforesaid, in the Year 1796; with the Names of the Persons deputing, and of the Manors in respect of which they depute, pursuant to the Directions of an Act of Parliament, passed in the 31st year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for granting to his Majesty, an additional Duty on Certificates issued with respect to the killing of Game."

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Ablett John	Ann Betts and Rebecca Anguish	King's-hall, Rouse-hall, Brendhall, and Wascolies
Adams Robert	Mrs. Alice Baker, John Orford and Ann his wife, and James Hitch and Sarah his wife	Brookes-hall
Aldhouse John	Rev. Richard Gifford	Dunningworth
Ambrose John	Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.	Tuckett's Peverell
Anson Thomas	Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.	Benacre
Arthy Joshua	John Parker, Esq.	Lindsey, alias Lillesly
Ashford Abel	Thomas Mills, Esq.	Kenton in Suddon-hall
Atfield John	Mrs. Mary Smith	Barham with Gosbeck and Ash
Ayton John	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.	Laxfield and Laxfield Rectory
Baker Isaac	John Negus and Charles Negus, Gents.	Dallinghoo, Dallinghoo Campsey, Bredfield Campsey, and Bast Broadish
Baker John	Edmund Tyrell, Esq.	Netherhall, otherwise Thurston
Baker Thomas	Wm. Jones	Wood-hall in Sudbury
Baker Thomas	Archibald Hamilton, Esq.	Butley and Tangham
Baker Wm.	Earl of Dysart	Stutton-hall

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Balls Francis	Richard Miller, Esq.	Redishill Ilketshall, Ellis and Strattons
Bantock John	Edward Goate, Esq.	Brent Ely
Barber James	Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury, Bart	Withingham-hall with Wakelyns
Bard Wm.	John Swale, Esq.	Worlington Tyndalls
Barfield Wm.	Wm. Beaumarice-Rush, Esq.	Raydon-hall and Shelly
Barkham Francis	Sir Thomas Gage, Bart.	Hengrave, Flempton, Risby Westly, and Fornham All Saints
Barlow John	Mrs. Elizabeth Leathes	Herringfleet, late Priory, in the Island of Lothingland
Barton James	Dame Elizabeth Clarke	Freckenham
Batley Robert	Peter Clarke	Stoke next Ipswich
Batley Waldgrave	Wm. Reynolds and Patty Lucas	Kirketon, otherwise Shotley-hall
Beales John	Wm. Plumer, Esq.	Halesworth, Dame Margeries in Halesworth, Bavents in Cheston, Cookley Grange, Rawlings in Elmham, Metfield, Withersdale, the Rectory of Waybridge, otherwise Weybread and Sweffling, Campsey with Snape Campsey
Bird Samuel	Mrs. Mary Moore	Earl Stonham
Blogg Samuel	Alexander Adair, Esq.	Creting St. Olaves, otherwise Woolney-hall, with Mickfields, Cookes upon Cranes, and Creting all Saints
Bolton Samuel	Emerson Cornwall, Esq.	Akenham
Booty Wm.	John Sparke, Gent.	Reeves-hall, otherwise Rusalls, with Master Stevens in Hepworth
Brewer Samuel	Robert Trotman, Esq.	Peyton-hall
Brightwell Thomas	Dudley North, Esq.	Banyards in Tunstall, Blaxhall-hall, Great Glemham, Little Glemham, Griston, Stratford and Pistrees, otherwise Over Pistrees
Brookes Isaac, jun.	Earl of Bristol	Westley
Browne John	Wm. Mason, jun. Esq.	Gislnghams in Bedingfield
Bullock Edward	John Frere? Esq.	Wilhomes
Burchall James	Peter Isaac Thelluson, Esq.	Bavents and Colvilles
Butcher James	Rev. Wm. Fonnereau	Withepole-house and Wix Ufford
Butcher Osborne	Thomas Holt, Esq.	Mellis Saint John's
Button Martin	Charles Garney, Esq.	Gisleeham with Pyes
Canham John	Robert Rushbrooke, Esq.	Little Saxham
Carter Edward, jun.	Abraham Reeve	Kersey
Chapman John	Sir Henry Gough Calthorpe, Bart.	Pakenham
Church Clem. Rutland	Elizabeth Gwennop, guardian of John Fuller, a minor	Witnesham with Cockfield
Claxton John	John Revett, Esq.	Brandeston, Cretingham, otherwise Tyes and Harrolds, in Cretingham

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Clutten Samuel	Thomas Etheridge	Chippenhall
Coates Henry	Richard Hopkins, Esq.	Hinton-hall
Coates Valentine	George Golding, Esq.	Thorington Wimples
Coates Wm. Banyard	Wm. Middleton and Mileson Edgar, Esqrs.	Dennies with Sackville, Rents, Bunwalls, and others in Coddenham
Cobble John	Edward Bouverie, Esq.	Rougham
Coe Charles	Dame Ann Henniker	Stoke-hall with Thorpe
Coleby Thomas	Anthony Deane, Esq.	Monksoham and Woodcroft-hall
Coleman John	Edmund Tyrrell, Esq.	Mendlesham with the Members, and Thorney-hall
Coleman John	George Pretyman, Esq.	Old Bacton, Bresworth, Newhall in Bacton, and Old Newton
Collett John	Francis Robinson and Wm. Sawbridge, Esqrs.	Dunwich
Constable Golding, jun.	John Reade, Esq.	Illaries and Spencers in East Bergholt
Cook Wm.	Rev. Geo. Anguish, Committee of the Estate of Thos. Anguish, Esq. a lunatic	Somerleyton, Lound, Blundeston-hall, and Gunvilles in Blundeston and Flixton
Cottingham Lionel	Sir John Rous, Bart.	Wenham with Cravens, Wangford, Raydon, Reydon Wingfields, Ugghall, Sotherton and Bulchamp
Cotton Thomas	Sylvanus Bevan, Esq.	Knettishall, Stantons, Salhouse, and Hoptons
Cousens Samuel	Robert Pocklington, Esq.	Chellesworth and Furneaux
Creeton Thomas	Wm. Windham, Esq.	Chilton, alias Waldingfield-hall
Crofts Samuel	Charles Earl Cornwallis	Culford, Ingham, Timworth, Brome, Oakley, Thrandeston, Sturston, Palgrave, Eye-hall, otherwise Priory, Thelthetham, Eye Sokemere, Braiseworth, Old-hall and New-hall with Barnes
Crowfoot John	Mrs. Jane Denton	Kessingland, Itchlinghams, Kessingland Stapletons, Kingstons and Rothen-hall
Cuss Carrington	Benjamin Keene, Esq.	Bentley Falscoffs
Day Richard	Joseph Windham, Esq.	Ilketshall Bardolfes
Deane Wm.	James Sewell, Esq.	Alton, otherwise Alpheton-hall, and Thurkolton, alias Shurlowton, alias Thurcolton, alias Shurocolton in Kirketon, alias Shotley
Debney Richard	Joshua Lord Huntingfield	Ubbeston
Dickinson Joseph	Nathaniel Lee Acton, Esq.	Great Livermere and Little Livermere
Downes Benjamin	Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury, Bart.	Great Barton
Eagle John	Richard Moore, Esq.	Poslingford-hall, and Over-hall and Nether-hall in Poslingford and adjacent parishes
Eagle Wm.	Miss Sarah Rustat	Temple Ebnd and Sowley, in Great and Little Thurlow, and Carlton cum Willingham, in Suffolk and Cambridge

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Eagle Wm.	Thomas Simmonds	Wadgells, otherwise Wadsells
Edgeley Henry	Rev. John Weller Pooley	Boxted and Hartest
Edwards John	John Sheppard , Esq.	Brockford with its Members
Eley Samuel	Wm. Mannock, Esq.	Giffords-hall and Chamberlains, Scotland-hall, Stoke Rectory and Nayland, Ravens-hall and Higham
Emmery John	Peregrine D'Oyly, Gent.	Overbury-hall and Netherbury-hall in Layham
Everett George	Alexander Adair, Esq.	South Elmham and Flixton Priory
Favre John	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.	Leiston
Fenn George	Philip Gurdon, Esq.	Assington, Shimplingford, Stratton, and Searles
Fenn Robert	Thomas Clarke, Esq.	Hadleigh-hall
Fenn Robert	Richard Savage Lloyd, Esq.	Hadleighs in Hadleigh
Fenton James	Algernon Earl Beverly	Burnivills in Levington
Ferrier Richard	Mrs. Elizabeth Baret	Burgh Castle
Flowerdew Robert	John Hyde, Esq.	Wortham-hall
Ford Nicholas	Rev. Richard Frank, D.D.	Earls Alderton
Forrest Robert	Francis Turner, Esq.	Fritton
Frost George	Alexander Adair, Esq.	Depden
Frost Samuel	Dame Susannah Harland	Little Belstead
Frost Thomas	Earl of Bristol	Ickworth, Barrow, Hargrave, Chedworth, Read, Chevington and Horringer-heath Farm
Fruire Benjamin	John Lord Rous	Bedfields
Fuller Wm.	Earl of Rochford	Hoo
Garrod John	Benjamin Keene, Esq.	Great Dodnash
Gedney James	John Holmes, Esq.	Walsham-hall
Glasspoole Henry	The Master and Scholars of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxford	Caldecot-hall
Godfrey Robert	The Executors of Wm. Mayhew, Esq.	Vezeys in Stratford
Goodbould Jonatham	Isaac Bayley, Esq.	Thorney Keebles in Stowupland
Gooding Richard	Philip Bowes Broke, Esq.	Cowhaugh, otherwise Brokeshaugh, in Nacton, Levington, Purdewes, Bixley and Rushmere, Tyrells-hall in Levington and Bucklesham, Alnesbourne, Pondys, Granewiche otherwise Greenwiche, in Alnesbourne, Halchatre and Ipswich St. Clement's
Gooding Robert	Philip Bowes Broke, Esq.	Ipswich St. Peter's, in Nacton and Kembrooke cum Bucklesham
Gosnall John, jun.	Anthony Deane, Esq.	Copdock, Bentley-hall, Stratford-hall, and Scrانبies [Spranbies] in Stratford Sulyard
Gray James	Humphrey Brewster, Esq.	South-hall, otherwise Wrentham by Pounds, and Northall, otherwise Wrenthams Poynings

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Green Benjamin	Mr. Wm. Mann	Syleham Comitis
Green Charles	Rev. Henry Hill	Buxhall
Green Robert	Thomas Bennett, Esq. Alexander Bennett, Esq. and Elizabeth Mertins, widow	Codnam-hall
Groome Wm.	Dame Martha Shaw	Casnells in Foxhall and Brightwell
Haggard John	Sir Walter Rawlinson, Knt.	Stowlangtoft
Hall Joseph	Earl of Leicester	Desning with its Members
Hammond Thomas	The Guardians of John Vernon Esq. a minor	Rishangles with the Members
Hardcastle Charles	Nathaniel Lee Acton, Esq.	Bramford, Normans and Beverlies, in Bramford
Harrison Thomas	Dean and Chapter of Ely	Lakenheath
Harwood Samuel	Charles Boone, Esq.	Battisford-hall, otherwise Bishops-hall, with Lynge
Haward Hayward	John Vernon, Esq.	Blakenham on the hill
Hayward Henry, jun.	Hayward Henry, Gent.	Hestly-hall [probably – smudged]
Hazelwood Simon	Joshua Grigby, Esq.	Woolpit and Liffey-hall in Buxhall
Heard Jeremiah	Assignees of George Thompson, Esq.	Seckford-hall
Hillary Francis	Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.	Cove-hithe, Eason, Bavent, Frostenden, and South Cove-hall, with Northales
Hostler John	Mrs. Ursula Whitaker	Mendham-hall, Mendham King's-hall, and Mendham Priory
Houghton Michael	Richard Ray, Esq.	Rockylls , otherwise Rockylls in Shelland
How Henry	Edward Sulyard, Esq.	Haughley with its Members, and Wetherden, late with Palham-hall, in Wetherden
Howard Robert	Charles Long, Esq.	Hurts in Saxmundham, Swans in Saxmundham, Mundevilles in Sternfield, Verlies in Sternfield, Farnham-hall, and the Liberty of Layston Soak
Howard Robert	John Sheppard, Esq.	Benhall Sir Roberts
Howlett Samuel	Rev. Richard Moseley	Wyverton
Howlett Robert, jun.	Edward Bouverie, jun. Esq.	Wickenhall
Hubbard Wm.	Rev. Temple Chevallier	Marbrow-hall cum Aspoll and Debenham
Hudgell John	Nathaniel Lee Acton, Esq.	Bayleham with Dermesden, otherwise Darmsden, Terston-hall in Dermesden, otherwise Darmsden and Stonham, alias Stonham Jerninghams, alias Little Stonham
Hudson John	John Earl of Ashburnham	Barking, Needham, and Combs
Hunt Gilford	Thomas Clarke, Esq.	Pountney-hall in Mellis
Keer George	Rev. St. John Priest and Geo. Chinery, Gents.	Parham
Kendall John	Marquis of Hertford	Sudbourn, Orford with Stirmins and Gedgrave
Kerridge Robert	Earl of Rochford	Wickham, Gelham, Horpole, and Bynge
Kerridge Robert	Jacob Whitbread, Esq.	Loudham-hall and Ufford, with the Members

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Kersey Pells	Earl of Dysart	Framsden
Kindred Matthew	Algernon Earl of Beverly	Knodishall
Kindred Matthew	Right Hon. Conolly Richard Wm. Howard Vyse, and Leveson Vernon, Esq.	Snape, Aldeburgh, Billesford, Becklings, Cantlets, and Risings
King Wm.	Sir Gilbert Affleck, Bart.	French-hall in Moulton
King Wm.	Mrs. Mary Moore	Lavenham
Kingsbury John	Gill Badesley, Esq.	Crepinghall
Kirby Gravenor	Rev. Charles Wright	Kesgrave and Tuddenham in Kesgrave
Lambert Edward	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.	Leiston
Last Bradbury	Sir Charles Davers, Bart.	Bradfield, Little Welnetham, and Nowton
Lay Thomas	Benjamin Keene, Esq.	Bentley Church House
Lee John	Lord Abergavenny	Overhall in Otley
Lee John	Earl of Dysart	Creikes-hall, and Bocking-hall, and all other the Manors in the parish of Helmingham, Abbots-hall in Pettaugh, and Kitts le Campo, or in Campis, or St. Christopher in the Fields
Leekes James	Richard Moore, Esq.	Monks and Kentwell, in Melford and Glemsford, in Glemsford
Lewes David	Rev. Thomas Howes	Thorndon Rectory
Ling John	Mrs. Mary Jessop	Rumburgh
Ling Samuel	Mrs. Mary Rebow	Nether-hall in Otley
List Wm.	Sir John Blois, Bart.	Westleton with the Members, Blythburgh with Walberswick, Blythburgh late Priory, Hinton late Priory, and Northales with South Cove late Priory
Loder Roberts	Rev. Robert Reynolds	Debach
London Robert	The Trustees of Dame Ann Heniker	Great Bealings
Mabson John	Wm. Ketts, Esq.	Shottisham
Makin Thomas	The Dean Chapter of Christ's Church, Canterbury	Monks Eleigh
Mannall Richard	George Golding, Esq.	Kelsale
Mannall Richard	Thos. Truffen, Esq.	Rendham Barnies
Martin John	Robert Sparrow, Esq.	Beccles, Wadehall in Cove, Ellough and Redisham Magna
Martin John, jun.	Mary Washbourne and the Rev. Washb Cooke	Pipps
Mayes Edward	John Timms, Esq.	Stoke next Clare and Erbury, otherwise Stoke with Chilton, in Suffolk, and Couples, otherwise Curpayles, in Stermer in Essex, and in Ketton and Haverhill in Suffolk, and Great Wilsey in Little Wratting and Ketton, in Suffolk
Mayes Edward	Mrs. Mary Bird	Keddington, alias Ketton, and Barnston, otherwise Barnardiston, in Suffolk, and Essex
Mayhew Nathaniel	Edward Craddock Hartopp, Esq.	Wisset and Leroos

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Millard Daniel	Lord Cadogan	Downham, alias Downham New-hall, alias Shardlows, and Downham Munck's-hall, Ixworth and Mersie, alias Marsie, and Santon Downham
Moore Thomas	John Gibson, Esq.	Bridge Place in Coddendam
Morgan Benjamin	John Mosely, Esq.	Rattlesden-hall and Drinkston, with Louvaines
Mothersole Robert	Michael Wm. Lehrup, Esq.	Heggesett otherwise Hessem, with part of the hundred of Thedwastry
Moxon Samuel Barker	Richard Ayton Lee, Esq.	Waybtead and Istead [Weybread and Instead]
Mumford Wm.	Provost and Scholars of King's col. Cambridge	Great Bricet
Muntford Wm.	Miss Susannah Blackwell	Oulton
Notley Wm.	Thomas Maynard, Esq.	Denham with Flimworth and Chickering with Wingfield
Nunn Wm.	John Clayton, Esq.	Peasenhall, Colston-hall, and Baddingham-hall & the Liberties
Nunn Wm.	Eleazer Davy, Esq.	Middleton Chickering
Otley Wm.	Thomas Holt, Esq.	Westhall, Hinderclay, Redgrave with Botesdale and Gislingham, Wortham, late the Abbots, Mellis St. John's, Burgate, Rushes and Jennies, Heigham, Facons-hall & Fitz Johns
Pattle Daniel	Rev. Richard Gifford	Elmswell
Paul John Dawson	Rev James Safford	Mettingham Castle, with Bungay Soca, and Ilketshall St. Andrews
Pawsey George	The Duchess of Rutland, the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Mansfield, and the Right Hon. Wm. Pitt	Lidgate
Payne Joseph	Nathaniel Randall, Esq.	Rivers-hall in Waldringfield
Peck Samuel	Mrs. Maria Rebecca Reilley	Westhorp-hall
Pepper John	The Trustees of Michael Collinson, Esq. dec.	Mells in Wenhasdon
Pierce Wm.	Daniel Bull, George Brook Keer, Wm. Waller and Joseph Barker	Otleys in Ufford
Platfoot	Alexander Adair, Esq.	Redlingfield
Pole Wm.	Charles Berners, Esq.	Woolverton, Freston, Holbrook, Harkstead-hall, and Erwardon
Pope Thomas	George Ruth, Esq.	Benhall
Postans Wm.	Sir Wm. Rowley, Bart.	Groton and Spratts in Polstead
Press James	Edmund Jenney, Esq.	Wetheringset
Pyman Jonathan	Wm. Mason, Esq.	Breams-hall
Randall Ralph	Edmund Jenney, Esq.	Bredfield
Rashbrooke Jeremiah	Thomas White, Esq.	Tattingstone
Rice John	Capel Lofft, Esq.	Stanton and Mickfield cum Badwell

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Riches Edmund	George Nassau, Esq.	Walton with Trimley, Russells in Falkenham, Felixtow Priory, and Stratton with Seabridge
Roe Joseph	Miss Sarah Minter	Tuddenham-hall and Lowdham-hall
Rose Robert	Capel Lofft, Esq.	Troston
Safford Samuel	Rev. John Edge	Weybread
Sayer Wm.	Miles Barne, Esq.	Sotterley and Willingham
Scott George	John Wenyeve, Esq.	Brattenham with Rises, Westherdenhall, Loofehall, Bavents in Combs, and Bradfield St. Clare
Scott Robert	Dame Peggy Cullum	Hardwicke and Hencote, and Hawsted-hall with Buckenham
Scott Wm.	Dame Susannah Harland	Borne-hall, Wherstead-hall, Pannington-hall, Goddlesford, Abbey Canonry, otherwise Cannon Leigh, in Little Belstead, and Langstons in Burstall
Self Stephen	John Dresser, Esq.	Blyford
Sewell John	Le Grice Browne Bohun, Esq.	Westhall with Bacons, otherwise Wingfields, Barringtons and Empolls
Sexton James	Rev. Charles Wright	Nettlestead-hall
Simpson Thomas	Sir Charles Davers, Bart.	Newton
Simpson Thomas	Sir Charles Davers, Bart.	Nowton
Simpson Thomas	Mileson Edgar, Esq.	Redhall with Burwash, in Witlesham, and Cardens-hall, in Witlesham
Simson John	Burwell Edwards, Gent.	Fenn-hall in Sutton
Smith Edward	Wm. Beale Brand, Esq.	Polstead-hall and Boxted Boathouse
Smith Richard	Sir Henry Parker, Bart.	Melford
Smith Richard	Thomas Cocksedge, Esq.	East Gate Barnes
Smith Richard	John Revett, Esq.	Ash Campsey with the Haugh, and North Land, and Vallence in Blaxhall
Smith Thomas	Reginald Rabett, Esq.	Kettlebers in Cretingham
Smith Wm.	Eleazer Davy, Esq.	Middieton cum Fordley
Smyth John, jun.	George Rush, Esq.	Sweffling Sparkes, otherwise Leighs
Sparrow Isaac	Wm. Sheldon, Esq.	Edwardstone-hall
Sparrow Wm.	Richard Moore, Esq.	Houghton-hall, Bulley-hall, and Impey-hall, in Cavendish, Clare, Eye, and Poslingford
Spink Robert	John Freston Scrivener, Esq.	Sibton with the Members
Spurling Wm.	Duchess of Chandos and John Hen. Major, Esq.	Worlingworth
Stebbing James	Wm. Morris, Esq.	Staverton with Bromeswell
Stebbing James	Lord Archibald Hamilton	Tangham
Steptoe Peter	Duchess of Chandos and John Hen. Major, Esq.	Crows-hall, Old-hall, Scotness with the Haugh, Blood-hall, Debenham, and Ashfield with Thorpe
Stollery James	Rev. John Freeland	Hasketon Rectory
Strange Robert, jun.	Wm. Mason, jun. Esq.	Gildingham in Bedlingfield
Studd John Lynch	John Frere, Esq.	Gislingham, Goldingham, alias Goldingham-hall

Gamekeepers	Lords and Ladies of Manors	Manors
Syer Wm.	James Powell, Esq.	Walsham and Walsham Church-house
Syer Wm.	Sir Patrick Blake, Bart.	Langham
Talbot Wm.	Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury, Bart.	Mildenhall
Taylor James	Thomas Mills, Esq.	Great Saxham
Thrip Wm.	Rob. John Buxton, Esq. and Meadows Taylor, Gent.	Yaxley, Bulls-hall, with Blogets-hall
Thurston James	Marquis of Hertford	Iken with Framlingham, and Russels in Chillesford
Tilney Robert	Thos. Maynard, Esq.	Hoxne-hall with Priory
Tyler Joseph	Letitia Seagrave, widow, and Nathaniel Warner Bromley, Gent.	Badmondishfield
Tyrrell Robert	Wm. Middleton, Esq.	Aspal Stonham
Vale Robert	Sir Henry Gough Calthorpe, Bart.	Ampton
Waddelow Matthew	Thos. Browne Evans, Esq.	Undley
Walne James	Francis Woollaston, Clk.	Monks-hall in Syleham
Watkins Edward	Richard Savage Lloyd, Esq.	Hintlesham
Watkins Edward	John Meadows Theobald, Esq.	Henley-hall
Welton Robert	Thomas Green, Esq.	Watersdale in Laxfield
Wharton Wm.	Sir John Hennister, Bart.	Ufford-hall
White Robert	Sir Thos. Gage, Bart.	Stanningfield-hall
White Robert	Nathaniel Lee Acton, Esq.	Lawshall, and Hunningfields in Lawshall
Whitney Benjamin	Sir John Blois, Bart.	Yoxford with the Members
Wiffen John	Nathaniel Lee Acton, Esq.	Shimpiling Thorn
Wild James	Wm. Waller	Sutton-hall, Talvas, Stockerland and Campsey
Wincopp Edward	John Garneys	Westleton Clifffes, otherwise Cleaves
Wing Abraham	Thos. Browne Evans, Esq.	Newhall, otherwise Malkins-hall in Blakenham
Woolnough John	Sir John Rous, Bart. Geo. Golding and Chas. Long, Esqrs.	Beyton
Worledge Robert	Richard Ray, Esq.	Shelland, otherwise Shelland-hall
Worledge Robert	Earl of Jersey	Thorney Lezons
Worledge Wm.	Earl of Jersey	Thorney Mumpliers, with Braziers
Wright Thomas	Sir John Rous, Bart.	Branfield with Brooke-hall, otherwise Stonham
Wynne Rev. Wm.	The Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge	Saxted
Yallon James	Robert Harvey, Esq.	Bacons
Youngman John	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.	Heveningham, Huntingfield, Cookley, Walpole with Chickering and Sibton-hall

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE EVERARD FAMILY

Whilst researching our **Everard** family before 1400, I came across a reference in *Suffolk Roots* to a booklet by **Anthony J Camp**, 'My Ancestors Came with the Conqueror' (subtitled 'Those Who Did and Some of Those who Probably Did Not').⁽¹⁾ It is a comprehensive analysis and listing of those involved in the Battle of Hastings and **Duke William's** invasion; no Everards are mentioned.

Before the invasion I've found no record of this name in East Anglia, but it was used in Flanders/northern France as a personal name.

The *English Surnames Series*, Volume II, *Norfolk and Suffolk Surnames in the Middle Ages*,⁽²⁾ makes the following points:

1. There are no clear cases in which hereditary surnames were used in East Anglia before 1066. It is not until after then that any East Anglian surname can be shown to be hereditary.
2. In the 13th century, for the first time, there is evidence that personal names then current, of Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian or French origin, also became surnames used by various social classes; the book lists those that became so used. Everard was one such, in both Suffolk and Norfolk.

When Duke William invaded in 1066, **Odo, Count of Penthievre**, was one of the noble 'companions' who provided and led William's army. Odo was accompanied by his sons, one of whom was **Brian of Brittany** (c. 1042-1086), who was recorded as fighting in the Battle of Hastings.

William gave Odo extensive areas to govern, with an obligation to provide him with armed forces should he need them – as indeed he did, because rebellions against Norman rule continued into the 1080s.

Brian was given much of south-west England to govern by his father and became the first Earl of Cornwall. In 1069 the sons of **King Harold** returned to England to reclaim the throne. At the Battle of Northam, in Devon, Brian led the forces that defeated them, after which he relieved Shrewsbury and Exeter and then won the Battle of Exeter. Presumably as a reward, he was given more land to govern, some of it in Suffolk.

Brian had three sons; their personal names were **Ralph, William** and **Everard**. Everard was given Cheveley (now in Cambridgeshire) to govern, around which Everard and variants were family names present into the 19th century. It adjoins the part of Suffolk from which the records show our line fairly certainly descending from the 16th century, and probably earlier. In his will of 1540, **Henry Everard** of Denston (not by then of our line but of the same great-grandfather) left land in and around Cheveley.

So – descent from Continental ancestors present at the Battle of Hastings? It’s not impossible, but needs a lot more investigation; at present this is just one amongst other possibilities until more 11th-13th century records are examined.

Three, probably more credible, ancestral lines are:

1. *Descent from later Norman immigrants*

Post-invasion, extensive Norman immigration across social classes was encouraged into East Anglia, particularly by **Henry I** (reigned 1100-1135). Such early records as I’ve seen point to Everards then as people of some substance and modest position in society, ‘gentry’ in later terminology, which accords with the later lineage I’ve found, based initially around Wisbech.

2. *Descent from one of Everard’s retainers*

If so, probably from one of his Knights, given my family’s probable later history. Before the invasion, those in authority were usually known by a personal name and title or location (as above), commoners generally only by a personal name. The Normans began the record-keeping that made surnames necessary. Retainers, recognising who provided their daily bread and protected them, would surely have seen the benefits of taking their Lord’s name.

3. *Anglo-Saxon descent*

It was the policy of the Normans to impose their language and culture everywhere. The use of Norman French soon became widespread, and until the 14th century virtually suppressed English. The Anglo-Saxon name Eofhard and the Norman Everard have the same Old German root and mean the same (‘doughty’).

Are we Everards of Anglo-Saxon heritage, Norman immigrants or descended from Norman nobility? About all that can be reliably said is that the Norman invasion and the Everards are linked – but that can be said for many of the then population of East Anglia.

One source has Count Odo as illegitimate half-brother of Duke (King) William. Now there’s a thought!

Brian Everard

Sources and References

- 1. Anthony J. Camp, *My Ancestors Came with the Conqueror: Those Who Did and Some of Those who Probably Did Not* (Society of Genealogists, 1990).
- 2. Richard McKinley, *English Surnames Series*, vol. II, *Norfolk and Suffolk Surnames in the Middle Ages* (Phillimore, 1975).



SOUTH OF THE BORDER (DOWN MEXICO WAY)⁽¹⁾

This **Dame Nellie Melba**-reminiscent submission was prompted by my recent baptism into Artificial Intelligence. I had avoided any association with 'AI' until a couple of months back after my sub-editor daughter had kindly critiqued a proud grandfather speech I prepared for the impending nuptials of my grandson.⁽²⁾

I could have sought a second opinion from my other talented sub-editor offspring, but spot on as always, her probing assessment induced me to unilaterally invite ChatGPT® to review my words. I planned to keep that never-to-be-repeated exploratory visit secret, but my wordsmithing pride was positively pricked. I hereby formally acknowledge that AI has defeated both me and the known universe. To the best of my knowledge, AI does not taint this offering in any way and responsibility for the content is entirely mine. I believe such acknowledgement is obligatory in these fake news days. Perhaps I should provide it IN CAPS.

Everything seems to depend upon exactly what you ask AI to do. Precision is paramount. Its/his/her response to my initial enquiry was decidedly non-committal but vaguely flattering, in a resigned sort of way. AI decisively deleted the word '*nuptials*'. No idea why, but I took the fairly obvious hint and specifically asked the insentient AI machine to suggest what was needed to make my scribblings intelligible/acceptable to Millennials. Gen Z is way beyond me.

My somewhat querulous appeal resulted in a total – and I mean total – AI rewrite that diminished my ridiculous (but human) endeavour by more than two thirds. In less than a third, AI proposed replacement text using what I can only describe as a 'jocund style'. Averse to social media, I have never encountered anything like it over the last eighty-seven-odd years of my exposure to the written word. Naturally, only those in English. I am not sure what our subject teacher c. 1943 would have made of it. As a cultured gentleman nearing retirement, his response would have been far too restrained for use by commentators, influencers, and even bloggers.

Said AI translation commenced with '*Hey there*' and ended with '*Sending lots of love and emojis your way*'. Presumably, the entirety of my eradicated text was deemed too potentially stressful for a captive audience accustomed to texting. But I did look up 'emojis'. Oh dear! The generation gap is a boundless abyss.

Rather dolefully, I saw that the recommended AI text obliterated my amusing reference to trickle-down economics. Evidently it was not as hilarious as I imagined. My comical assumption that happy couples would appreciate advice about life with a mortgage was clearly mistaken. Maybe I needed to couch my instructions to AI differently, but I did learn that I will need to be conversationally circumspect if I ever encounter an under-60 (post-colonial?) not suffering nomophobia.⁽³⁾ There have to be a few others free of the affliction?

So, what does all this have to do with our revered journal, I hear our editors ask (while contemplating its reduction by two thirds)?

Well, I noted in the March 2025 edition that the theme for December 2025 is '*Where did they come from?*' and that '*Where did they go?*' had been addressed in September 2023. I missed the latter but thought something like '*How did they end up in Chelmsford?*' could possibly fit somewhere between the two. Relevance to target audience was never my strong point.

As I have mentioned on too many previous occasions, my sojourns in Lowestoft and Beccles were brief. My tiny bit of the **Lines** dynasty arrived in Chelmsford via Ipswich and/or Layham sometime between 1933 and 1935. I know not why. In a letter from our Chelmsford address dated 19 September 1935, my father volunteered as an air raid warden. His services were declined. Undeterred, he continued on regardless, habitually observing bombing raids from the street with a couple of similarly unauthorised veteran neighbours.⁽⁴⁾ Our authorised wardens were not impressed.

His letter does not provide the exact date we reached Chelmsford. A Tenancy Agreement dated 1 July 1936 found in the sparse family archives covers a three-year rental from 24 June 1936 at £39 *per annum*.⁽⁵⁾ We may have been living in the house under some other agreement before that date. My arrival on the planet possibly did not cause that much upheaval, but anything before WW2 is a bit of a blur.⁽⁶⁾

A newspaper advertisement shows the property was advertised for sale by auction on 24 February 1933:⁽⁷⁾

'BROOMFIELD near CHELMSFORD.

*The FREEHOLD DETACHED VILLA RESIDENCE, known as
"ST. LEONARD'S," FIRST AVENUE, BROOMFIELD PARK ESTATE,
WITH POSESSION ON COMPLETION OF PURCHASE. .*

*Also the FREEHOLD DETACHED VILLA RESIDENCE, known as "ST. VINCENT,"
FIRST AVENUE, BROOMFIELD PARK ESTATE, in the occupation of
Mr A. T. Greenaway at a Rental of £65 per Annum. Landlord paying Rates.*

We were definitely living in Beccles only a month earlier. I do not recall 'St Leonards', but 'St Vincent' was on our front gate for as long as I can remember. Interestingly, the previous rental was more than double that charged to my parents. Or was it? Perhaps we paid the rates?

My parents died years before I began to explore the family history, and my Norfolk/Suffolk lineage did not reveal any obvious links with Essex.⁽⁸⁾ What led to our move to Chelmsford slumbered until I recently started reviewing distant relatives perched on unclimbed branches of my tree. Suffolk FHS has extended my expiry date to 2038, so a spot of genealogical spring cleaning before doom strikes seemed appropriate.

During my childhood, **Joseph Redvers Lacey Ginn** (1900-1967) and his wife **Olive Gertrude (née Andrews)** (1902-1988) were sporadic visitors to our Essex family home. They had 'Aunt Olive and Uncle Joe' status, but apart from grasping that they were from my mother's side, I had no idea how the relationship came about. 'Joe' played the uncle role well, but was in fact my first cousin once removed. His father, **Joseph Ginn** (1873-1936), married **Emerita Boulter Bush** (1868-1958), who was an aunt of my mother, **Alice Emmaretta Hayden** (1895-1980). Norfolk-born Emerita was working in Marylebone at the time of her marriage in 1896 and Joseph was then serving with the Metropolitan Police.⁽⁹⁾

I remembered visiting Olive and Joe in Egham during the late-1940s, but genealogically my 'Ginn' and 'Bush' information was minimal. Long dormant in some deep recess perhaps, the 'Why Chelmsford?' question prompted a deeper examination of Joe's ancestry. This became increasingly convoluted and much remains to be done. The family name 'Ginn' had not crossed my path in 75 years but proved more ubiquitous than anticipated. Census takers of yore were capable of many – often bizarre – spelling variations. Including that of 'Ruin'.

Joseph Ginn (1873), the aforementioned father of my Uncle Joe, was born in Bromley. His father, **George Henry Ginn** (1846-1928), had moved to Islington with his elder brother, **James William Ginn** (1843-1924), in the mid-1860s. Married to sisters, both were bakers by trade and both were born in Chelmsford. Bingo! But so what? If nothing else, I could always use the exposé to inflict any really outlying relatives upon a readership similarly struggling to constrain matters within their own gene pool.

This part of the East Anglian Ginn clan settled in Chelmsford between 1808 and 1820, moving there from Sudbury, probably at the behest of **James Ginn** (1783-1870) after his marriage to **Mary East** (c. 1781-1857) at Sudbury St Peter in 1804. They possibly moved to Suffolk from Essex in the first place; a **Thomas Ginn** was involved in an inheritance dispute in Essex in 1691, but I let that one go. One of my Lines' cousins married at the Register Office there in 1940, but there was nothing suggesting a familial Lines/Ginn link ever existed in Sudbury.

It was quite an exodus from Suffolk. In addition to his wife and their two children, James Ginn was probably accompanied by his father, brother, and two siblings. Four members of the family were buried at Chelmsford St Mary: his father, **Zorobabel Ginn** (1753-1829), on 14 June 1829; his brother, **Philip Ginn** (1797-1842), on 18 May 1842; his niece, **Elizabeth Sarah Ginn** (1827-1850), on 17 August 1850; and his elder brother, also **Zorobabel Ginn** (1805-1862), on 25 September 1862.⁽¹⁰⁾ James' daughter, **Susannah Ginn** (1807-1862), never married and was buried Holy Trinity, Springfield, a couple of weeks later on 8 October 1862.

It is unlikely my mother knew anything of these connections, and they were never mentioned. Our esteemed editors may now be wondering what possessed anyone to seek out such remote origins and then write about them. Even I am not entirely sure why. Perhaps Huxley got it right when he suggested '*A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes*'.⁽¹¹⁾ AI-wise, that may be both sexist and ageist.

Nostalgia was certainly part of it. Chelmsford is a distant memory. I left there more than 70 years ago and last visited, briefly, in 2002. The street map has changed out of all recognition, but it is still possible to connect census records to places I last saw as a callow youth. Totally unaware there were four members of the Ginn family interred there, I gazed upon part of the St Mary graveyard from a drawing board in the early-1950s.⁽¹²⁾ For clarity, said board had a genuine T-square and was in a small office over a grocery shop that seemed to roast and grind coffee beans all day.

Ginn family burials are also recorded at Holy Trinity, Springfield. The hamlet – not the church itself – was a regular weekend walk during summer. Several school friends lived there, but I have no recollection of seeing the name while at school. Few of the Ginn addresses there can be recalled and some may no longer exist under their original names. The recent research did uncover that a member of the Ginn family played football with the father of one close school friend living in the same street. This is probably 'Gas' in Gen Z slang, but on mature reflection, trying to prove I was surrounded by members of the Ginn clan during childhood is hardly newsworthy.

There were 22 instances of the family name 'Ginn' registered in Chelmsford in 1939; there are others in the wider area and a few likely misspellings have yet to be finalised. Several Ginn households were within a mile or so of our house at earlier censuses. Whether this makes a reasonable story line for readers in Little Bealings or Great Wrattling is moot indeed, but it may support the 'six degrees of separation theory'. And, of course, it is remotely possible that within our global readership there is a descendant of a Ginn feverishly searching for a Lines ancestor.

Joseph Ginn snr. (1848-1919) originally lived on the other side of town but relocated to 'our' half shortly before 1879 (long before it became 'our' half). He established a family in a row of houses I walked past on the way to and from school for almost a decade; our tiny local grocery shop stood at the corner selling 'gobstoppers' among other things. His first son was born in the house on 7 November 1879. A couple of generations later, a close colleague during my early military activities lived in the row. Whether he knew the Ginns I know not, but I still recall his unseemly mirth after witnessing my inelegant descent from a speeding motor cycle as I hit black ice when we were returning to Chelmsford one bitterly cold dark winter's night.

Joseph snr. worked as a Dock Porter with the Great Eastern Railway (GER) for many years. He would almost certainly have known **Lovell Lawler Allshorn** (1825-1889), a first cousin three times removed to my late wife. Lovell was the highly popular GER

Station Master at Chelmsford for more than 20 years before his death.⁽¹³⁾ We only discovered this around the time of our golden wedding.

The eldest son, **Joseph Ginn jnr.** (1879-1968), was employed at the Hoffmann ball-bearing factory, located less than a crow-flight mile from our house. Several members of the Ginn dynasty worked there over the years and Hoffmann's was a regular target for bombing raids. Although a restricted area, we were eventually allowed access to a private road that provided a short cut to the swimming centre. This is mentioned simply because in summer months, we stopped to talk through the wide-open factory windows to the anonymous process workers labouring on the assembly benches. They were often younger women and briefly teasing youngsters relieved some of the monotony of the production line.

I cannot recall the location with certainty, but I think a regrettable experiment involving a military thunder flash and a 'borrowed' domestic dustbin may have occurred quite near Joseph jnr.'s house on the night of 5 November 1949. I have since found Joseph, but we never did find the bin lid. Or my eyebrows. Joseph may even have relocated to Portsmouth by then, but I apologise for the detonation *in absentia*.

His brother, **George Ginn** (1883-1951), became a GER employee after his marriage in 1905 and saw out the rest of his days in the family home. He died in what later became St John's Hospital, just before my late wife commenced her nursing training at the principal hospital. Our parents were admitted there during the scarlet fever outbreak in the mid-1930s, but I have never got to the bottom of that story. We, the two children, were looked after by an unidentified relative.

On 26 March 1921, the two brothers attended the funeral of their nephew, **Sidney Robert Cawley** (1900-1921), who died from wounds received while serving with the Essex Regiment at the Battle of Crossbarry, County Cork, on 19 March 1921. Described as an '*enormous gathering*', the published names of family mourners shed some light on the structure of this part of the Ginn dynasty in Chelmsford.⁽¹⁴⁾

The son of Joe jnr., **Joseph Frederick Ginn** (1908-1976), played water polo for Chelmsford before relocating to Portsmouth after his marriage in 1936. Newspapers are still being researched, but a 1930s match report is similar to one written a decade or so later when I was the youngest member of the team. It was a belated shock to discover at least two of your team-mates had been playing for years! I recalled some were old but surely not that old! One of our goal scorers was an exceptionally kind Quaker mentor to me. He was a scion of a Chelmsford flour milling family dating back centuries. Several members of the Ginn family were employed by the company.

Many of the Ginn family remained in the Springfield area where they first settled and several of the later addresses there were my regular teenage haunts. Browsing through the 1939 Register revealed many familiar names – and a few interesting surprises. **David Henry Ginn** (1877-1953) was living in the same street as my school

friend (and best man) in 1939, but he died in Braintree and may not have been in the neighbourhood when I was a regular visitor there during the late-1940s. Neighbours still knew each other then and were generally aware of those living 'further up the street'. However, at this stage I have found nothing to confirm I met any members of the Ginn clan in Chelmsford.

Rosa Mary Tott (née Ginn) (1891-1929) lived in a couple of houses near my school after her marriage in 1918, but at the time of her death in Chelmsford Hospital was resident in the street opposite ours within a few doors of one I regularly visited 15 years later. Rosa was born in Springfield and was returned to Holy Trinity, Springfield for her funeral, officiated by the incumbent at All Saints, Broomfield. The latter is where we were married, but by a different celebrant.

This is essentially a '*Back to the Future*' genealogical odyssey with a Suffolk connection that is discrete at best; a belated search of the Suffolk FHS database found no record for the name of Ginn. The 1911 census is the last to record the name in Sudbury. Twenty-seven entries are listed in Suffolk in the 1939 Register. None appear to be related, but four were at Halesworth Police Station. An immediately tempting story, but the progenitor Ginn turned out to be from Cambridgeshire.

The ritual inclusion of a musical morsel may fall foul of AI vigilance and the 1939 rendition now offered has not aged at all well. Join the club. The movie is possibly more relevant than its music score; the cowboys of 2025 are eerily reminiscent of those depicted in 1939.⁽¹⁵⁾ It is certainly possible that members of the Ginn clan also attended the packed Saturday morning children's matinees at the Odeon cinema c. 1943-1945. Personally, I preferred **Roy Rogers** and Trigger.

Be that as it may, I suppose I should have checked this through ChatGPT (or similar) to ascertain exactly just how remote the entire narrative is to Gen Z'ers. I only discovered we have Gen A'ers when *Britannica* told me this is so.⁽¹⁶⁾

John M Lines Mb 6180

References and Sources

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HFdJlFPFsw> – this popular song sets an appropriately nostalgic tone (for the Silent generation). **Gene Autry** sang it in a 1939 film about a US federal agent sent to Mexico to save it from rebellion! This later version sung by **Frank Sinatra** was in the US charts in 1953.
2. I have a contingent of highly capable familial sub-editors, but adopting the example of **Mr Murdoch**, I reserve the right to dictate editorial policy. Often disastrously.
3. Not recognised as a disorder (yet), the irrational fear of being 'phone-less' was coined in the UK in 2009.
4. *Suffolk Roots*, September 2020, p.148.
5. According to the *MeasuringWorth* purchasing power calculator, the relative annual rental in 2023 is £3,347 per annum but we will not mention trickledown economics again.
6. *Suffolk Roots*, March 2020, p.266.

7. *Chelmsford Chronicle*, 24 February 1933, p.5.
 8. My late sister was never bitten by the genealogy bug but was able to fill in some of the earlier gaps. She remained close to our parents following my exodus in 1953.
 9. Lines, John M, *Salus Populi*, Kurmond, 2023.
 10. There are many spelling variations – ‘Z’ is the only constant. Two Zorobabels are buried at Sudbury St Peter.
 11. Huxley, Thomas Henry (1825-1895), *Address on University Education* (delivered in 1876 at the opening of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore).
 12. Built c. 1200 and originally the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Peter and St Cedd, the church became a cathedral in 1914. I was baptised there.
 13. *Suffolk Roots*, December 2024, p.223.
 14. *Chelmsford Chronicle*, 1 April 1921, p.2.
 15. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_of_the_Border_%281939_film%29
 16. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/millennial>
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WHAT'S IN A SURNAME? THE LINDLEYS, OR LINGLEYS, OF SUFFOLK

I had always been vaguely aware that my **Lingley** surname was a little unusual, at least in the small town near the border of north-west Middlesex and Hertfordshire where I was born. I knew of no one else in the locality with the name, and so when I came across a small section in the local library devoted to family history, it occurred to me that researching my family tree probably would not present very much difficulty. Having gleaned from the library shelves the basics of searching the BMD records, I ventured up to St Catherine's House in London, and began searching through the hefty tomes that were ranged on long desks in the public search room, and duly ordering the certificates that would provide details of previous generations. My most vivid memory of these visits to St Catherine's House in the early 1990s was one occasion when a middle-aged Australian couple were searching the registers near to mine. London was for me no more than a 45-minute train journey away, but these people, it seemed, had travelled from the other side of the world to discover their roots! Was it a case of an ancestor having been transported, I wondered, perhaps for a stolen lamb, or a bushel of barley?

We had mostly lost touch with my father's side of the family after his death when I was 12 years old, and I had little knowledge of my family history. The research into my family tree was eventually to provide me with several unexpected and very interesting trails to follow; one of them leading in the direction of Ireland, where I was to discover, on the maternal side of my paternal ancestry, that my Irish great-grandparents (surname **McMahon**) had been small tenant farmers in County Limerick.

I was successful in tracing the Lingley family back more or less to the beginning of central registration, and there the matter rested for some years, until, quite by chance about 10 years ago, I found myself living in Norfolk, and the revolution in digital technology and the proliferation of family history societies had in the meantime made genealogical research very much easier. The rapidly increasing availability of archive material globally, as well as nationally, must surely be one of the great benefits of our current age.

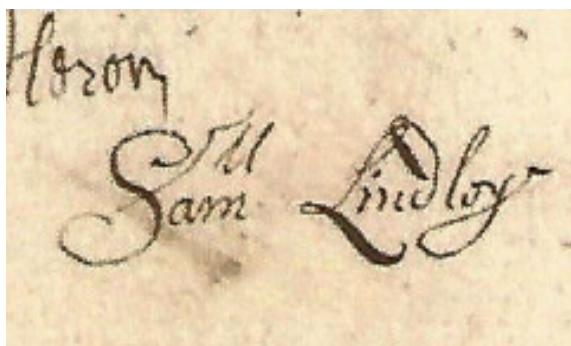
At the outset, I had no notion at all that the family had migrated into the London area from elsewhere. I had to radically adjust my ideas when, following enquiry through *Suffolk Roots*, I was kindly presented by a member of the Suffolk FHS with the outline of the family's direct descent from a 17th century citizen of a prosperous Suffolk wool town, distinguished by a beautiful church and the survival of a large number of its medieval buildings! It was thus I learned that my early modern ancestors were principally from Lavenham and, what is more, the name had changed: it had formerly been *Lindley*.



Medieval timbered building in Lavenham (author's own photo)

Apart from the evidence of the direct line, I found the signature of my 7x great-grandfather, **Samuel** (c.1650-1717), in a clear and rather stylish secretary hand on his marriage licence.⁽¹⁾ It also appeared on a Certificate of Legal Settlement granted by the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Lavenham, whose signatures Samuel witnessed with his '*own Proper Hand-Writing*'.⁽²⁾ On searching

the local registers to discover the family groups which made up the line of descent, I discovered that the variant form *Lingley* had only become predominant in the generation of my 4x great-grandfather. Prior to this, the name occurred fairly consistently in the registers as *Lindley*, along with the variants *Lindlee*, *Lindeley*, *Lindly*, and *Lindle*. From my researches to date, the registers have nothing further to say in



Samuel Lindley's signature, from marriage licence

terms of a direct line beyond my 7x great-grandfather, but the proverbial 'brick wall' was not so high that nothing could be seen beyond it. I found two Linley/Lindley marriages in the later decades of the 16th century: **Peter Linley** m. **Al[i]ce Hasel**, 1579, in Lavenham, and **Peter Lindley** m. **Rose Warner**, 1592, also in Lavenham.⁽³⁾ It seems likely that these two Peters are in some way the forebears of Samuel (although the first name, it has to be said, does not appear in the later generations, perhaps for religious reasons). The absence of a birth record for my 7x great-grandfather, Samuel, may be due to the disruption of genealogical records generally during **Cromwell's** Commonwealth (1649-1660).

From the mid-18th century, the original form *Lindley* and the major variant form *Lingley* occur confusedly in the registers, and are seemingly interchangeable. According to the parish records, the marriage of **Thomas Lingle** (my 4x great-grandfather) to **Susan Day** in Lavenham in 1757 produced three daughters, **Ann**, **Sarah** and **Martha**, and two sons, **Thomas** and **Roger**. In the baptismal registers, Ann and Sarah's father is stated to be Thomas *Lindley*; Martha's father is stated to be Thomas *Lingley*. The variant form denotes the father of the eldest son Thomas, whereas his younger brother Roger (my 3x great-grandfather) is stated to have been fathered by Thomas *Lindley*. In a document of Legal Settlement relating to Thomas and Susan, dated 1762, their surname again appears as *Lindley*.⁽⁴⁾ Thomas's surname is also given as *Lindley* in a marriage licence bond dated 1772.⁽⁵⁾ The couple's eldest son, Thomas, married in Lavenham in 1785, and his four daughters all appear in the registers with the surname *Lingley*, while his son **Thomas** is named *Lindley*.

The transition from the original *Lindley* to *Lingley* seems to have gained impetus when my 3x great-grandfather Roger Lindley married an **Anne Lingley** in Little Waldingfield in 1792. Only the eldest child of this marriage, **William**, appears in the registers with his father's surname; his seven siblings, six boys and one girl, are all stated to be *Lingleys*. William, however, is identified as *Lindley* in a Legal Settlement document dated 1818, to which he appends his mark, being apparently illiterate,⁽⁶⁾

though when in 1833 as a blacksmith in Hadleigh he took on an apprentice, he is named in the indenture as *Lingley*.⁽⁷⁾

William's mother Anne may have been from the dynasty (if I may so describe it) of *Lingleys*, four generations at least, which became well established in Newton, near Sudbury, with the marriage of **Edward Lingley** to **Hannah Mattock** in All Saints Church, Newton, in 1776. Interestingly, the first name Edward does not occur at all in the generations which descended from my 7x great-grandfather Samuel, the recurring names being Samuel, Thomas, John, and William; with Roger and Charles as comparatively recent additions. The Newton *Lingleys* favoured the names Edward, Joshua, and John, with the later addition of George, James and William. Whereas the generations of the Lavenham *Lindleys* are characterised by rural craftsmen in the form of the blacksmith, the Newton *Lingleys* were predominantly farm workers, rather than tradesmen. For example, in 1816, Edward Lingley's son (named after his father) and his wife **Elizabeth (née Golding)** appear in the 1841 census at Brooks Farm, Newton. Two of their sons, **Joshua** and **John**, were ploughing champions.⁽⁸⁾ Joshua's son was a horseman on a Newton farm, and his grandson also worked as a horseman.

Neither the *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names*, nor its authoritative predecessor, **P H Reaney's A Dictionary of English Surnames**, gives *Lingley* a separate entry. In these standard reference works, the name Lingley is stated to be a variant of *Lindley*. Of course, in the context of the Lavenham *Lindley* dynasty, the orthography of the seemingly haphazard change to *Lingley*—the softening of the digraph *nd* to *ng*—may simply represent a change of emphasis, for whatever reason, in pronunciation. Indeed, **Dr Basil Cottle**,⁽⁹⁾ an expert on British surnames commented that Lingley was almost certainly 'a typical English slur' in pronunciation of Lindley.

One wonders what significance the *Lindley* alias *Lingley* surname had for its 17th and 18th-century Suffolk bearers. Were Thomas and Susan aware of the conflation of *Lindley* with *Lingley* in the register? They had not the benefit of any surname dictionaries, of course, but would the name's provenance have been entirely opaque? Would the Lavenham cleric who, in registering the *Lindley* offspring perhaps was responsible for inadvertently creating the alias, have possessed any insight into the meaning and background of the name? **John Squire**, Rector of Lavenham from c. 1730 to his death in 1763,⁽¹⁰⁾ was a Norfolk man, born in Massingham, schooled in Walsingham and Lynn, educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and married to a Suffolk lady from Fornham All Saints. Confusion in the recording of a name in the registers is usually explained in terms of scribal error, or a misunderstanding of what was orally communicated in the transmission to print, particularly in the case of a dialect speaker, but Squire was born and raised in East Anglia. Though the etymology and pronunciation may blur the distinction, it is possible that *Lindley* and its alias *Lingley* acquired and/or expressed some kind of local differentiation.

I carried out a general search for the name *Lindley* and its variants in Suffolk from 1500 to 1900 with the following results. They show that, whilst *Lindley* continued to be well represented into the 19th century, by that time, in terms of its registration at least, *Lingley* had become by far the dominant form of the name.

Suffolk	1500-1580	1580-1660	1660-1740	1740-1820	1820-1900
Lindlay				2	
Lindle			6	1	11
Lindlee				2	
Lindley		1	13	72	222
Lindly		2	12	4	1
Lindsley					1
Lingley		3	16	373	2011
Linley		1	17	9	57
Linly	1	5	10		
Lyndly			1		

The results for Norfolk, though much less numerous, are comparable:

Norfolk	1500-1580	1580-1660	1660-1740	1740-1820	1820-1900
Lindlay					
Lindle				2	
Lindlee					
Lindley	5	5	91	92	268
Lindly		3	24	7	
Lindsley			2		22
Lingley				16	480
Linley	1	10	21	29	19
Linly	0	14	16	2	1
Lyndly			3		

My experience of reading Old and Middle English literature at university had endowed me with a sense of the English language which was historical as well as linguistic. In

terms of the surname's etymology and historical background, it is evident that the original form of the name, *Lindley*, is Old English (which is not very surprising, since most of our English place-names derive from Old English (OE) and Old Norse, or very occasionally Norman-French or Old Welsh). Moreover, while some surnames become distorted over time to the extent of being unrecognisable, the name *Lindley* survives to the present day remarkably intact. In the standard work of reference, *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names*, the name is stated to denote 'a residence near a lime wood (OE lind + leah) or a clearing where flax was grown (OE lin + leah)'. So, as well as being a locative, the compound (a type of word formation characteristic of Old English) is also toponymic. In his book, *A History of British Surnames* (1990), **R A McKinley** notes that 'Use of topographical terms as elements in place-names date from a period long before hereditary surnames developed'; also, that 'Many topographical surnames seem to have originated in the period between about 1150 and 1350.'⁽¹¹⁾ Attested in documents pre-dating the Norman Conquest, the elements of the surname are indeed equally ancient in their meaning and development.

McKinley further states as a general premise that 'Any topographical name which is not found in general use locally must be suspected of having been brought into the area by migration.'⁽¹²⁾ The paucity of results for *Lindley* and the major variant form *Lingley* for the 1580-1660 period in Suffolk and Norfolk, together with the absence of any place-names featuring *lind-*, or implying the prevalence of the tree in East Anglia, suggests that the particular branch of the Lindleys that became established in Lavenham had indeed migrated into Suffolk from elsewhere.

In *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names*, the surname's provenance is stated to be 'chiefly from *Lindley* near Otley, and *Lindley* near Huddersfield', both in the former West Riding of Yorkshire. Elsewhere it may be from *Lindley*, Leicestershire, (near Higham on the Hill, no longer populated), or *Linley*, a place-name found in both Shropshire and Wiltshire. Furthermore, in some instances of locatives with the place-name elements *lind-* or *lin-*, the latter serves as a variant of the former, and whether the name refers to the linden tree or the flax plant (*Linum usitatissimum*) cannot always be determined solely from the etymology. An additional complication is that a locative may refer to the place where its bearer came from; where he lived; where he held land; or a combination of any of these.

On the occurrence of the surname *Lindley* in the West Riding, the local historian and genealogist **Dr George Redmonds** stated that the name was prevalent as early as 1349 in the area of Almondbury (now, like *Lindley* itself, part of the borough of Huddersfield). Furthermore, he observed that all the most significant names in the parish were geographical, that the custom developed of 'naming a man according to the locality in the parish where he lived or held land', and that this custom had persisted. He also argued that distance was no bar to the movement of families from one area to another, since the Norman landowners of the post-Conquest period held manors in

various parts of the country.⁽¹³⁾ In his book *Norfolk and Suffolk Surnames in the Middle Ages*, McKinley records that: 'Locative surnames derived from all three Ridings in Yorkshire appear in East Anglia during the Middle Ages';⁽¹⁴⁾ and also that by the early 16th century, Yorkshire locative surnames were 'widespread in Norfolk', indicating a migration from the north.⁽¹⁵⁾ So it seems quite possible that the remote forebears of the Lindleys of Lavenham were originally part of this movement south.

The tree name *lind* is ecologically and culturally resonant. As a native broad-leaved tree, the lime or lind (*Tilia cordata*, *T. platyphyllos*, and the hybrid *T. vulgaris*, not be confused with lime of the citrus variety) was, in prehistory, predominant in lowland England, but over very many centuries has significantly declined. Its survival in wild places is now regarded as indicative of ancient, medieval woodland. The lime tree is remarkable for its longevity.

Traditionally, the tree's fragrant flowers, appearing in mid-summer after other trees have bloomed, were valued for their nectar, which is very attractive to bees. The tree was also amenable to coppicing, and valued by wood-workers (e.g. master wood-carver **Grinling Gibbons**), and for use in ancient weaponry (e.g. Anglo-Saxon shields, and possibly spear shafts). The phloem, or bast (OE *bæst*), of the lind was used as a fibre for making cordage and string; this economy is remembered in the Norfolk village names, Bastwick and Woodbastwick.

It seems rather bizarre that the Old English name of the tree, though surviving in place-names and the surnames derived from them, should have metamorphosed in prosaic usage into the equivocal and rather confusing 'lime'. The *Oxford English Dictionary* has officially declared the word *lind* as obsolete, its last recorded use being in the late 1700s. The citations dating from the OE period to 1796 show two main variant spellings occurring concurrently: the first, *lind*, *lynde*, *linde*, and *lynd*; and the second, *lyne* and *line*. In Middle English *lind* could refer to any forest tree, and was deployed in the sense of a wood or forest generally. The variant form *lynde* is quoted with this meaning. The adjectival form, *linden*, a beautiful word, is also stated to be obsolete. The two citations given are dated pre-Conquest and c. 1330. The aberrant *lime* features in quotations dating from 1625.



*Common or European Lime (Tilia x europaea).
Image Courtesy of The Tree Council of Ireland*

While place-names beginning with *lind-* are comparatively infrequent, those ending with *-ley*, deriving from OE *lēah*, are legion. The *Gazetteer of British Place-Names* lists 1,375 settlements and 326 geographical features with this place-name element. We nowadays think of a lea as referring to the pasture land of a 'planned' (as opposed to an 'ancient') landscape devoted to farming activity. It has also a rather quaint poetic ambience. **Thomas Gray's** (1716-1771) '*lowing herd wind[ing] slowly o'er the lea*' in his famous poem *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* (1751) comes to mind. But this is a comparatively recent application of the word. **A H Smith** in his *English Place-Name Elements* identifies five stages in the development of the simplex's meaning: 1 a wood, woodland; 2 an uncultivated space in a wood, a glade; 3 a natural clearing in a wood; 4 a cultivated glade or woodland clearing especially one used for pasture or arable; 5 a piece of open land, a meadow; this last connotation being in use as early as the Middle English period.⁽¹⁶⁾

Thus, *leah* derives ultimately from the natural world, and inherent paradoxically in the now predominant modern sense of open land is the ghostly presence of a landscape formerly wooded. In the late 9th century, the alternative Anglo-Saxon name for The Weald, *Andredes weald*, was *Andredes leage*. **Margaret Gelling** defines the ancientry of the word as '*an indicator of woodland in existence and understood as ancient when English speakers arrived in any region*',⁽¹⁷⁾ which dates the word's significance to at least the 5th century when, in the wake of the Roman withdrawal, the Anglo-Saxons began to settle in the eastern and southern parts of the country. **Oliver Rackham** also considered that the *-ley* or *-leigh* ending of English village names was evidence of residual wildwood somewhere in their vicinity.⁽¹⁸⁾

Leah is very commonly found in OE charters in combination with tree names such as oak, ash and birch, as well as, though less frequently, *lind*. It is also compounded with the names of wild animals, especially in areas which were once thickly wooded. For the Anglo-Saxons, however, *leah* principally came to mean a particular kind of communal land usage. It was customary in a district occupied by several farming settlements for the resources of woodland to be held in common. This method, known as 'wood pasture', was prevalent in the Anglo-Saxon period, and survived the Conquest, when it was referred to as 'wood ground'.⁽¹⁹⁾

Lindley near Otley, principally the place of the surname's origin, appears in Domesday Book as the location of two ploughlands together with extensive woodland of over 500 furlongs.⁽²⁰⁾ In 1086 it was '*waste*', with '*no recorded population*'. It can be surmised, therefore, that it was one of the settlements devastated in the Normans' so-called 'Harrowing of the North'. In 1086 the tenant-in-chief holding the land directly from the Crown was one **Ilbert of Lacy**; it had formerly been held by **Earl Godwin**. The Anglo-Normans who established themselves at Lindley denoted themselves 'of Lindley', prospered, and became wealthy and influential. Those *presently* bearing the name Lindley or Lingley who do not relish the notion of being descended from

the marauding Normans, however remotely, may take comfort from McKinley's comment that '*bye-names derived from place-names were in use long before 1066 among the indigenous Anglo-Saxons, though such names were probably not hereditary before the Conquest.*'⁽²¹⁾

So it is possible that the surname had a divergent development, chronologically, ethnically and culturally. The original inhabitants of Lindley, enjoying a peaceable farming existence before 1066, may have decided or been forced (if they survived the Normans' arrival in the locality) to seek a home and land elsewhere in the West Riding, taking with them a proper sense of the locative's meaning. Probably genetically diverse and consisting of several kinship groups united by intermarriage, they became known as 'the folk from Lindley', and in the post-Conquest period assumed the remembrance

of their toponymic identity as an hereditary surname. Had these displaced farmers and woodlanders, and/or their descendants, decided that the West Riding was not far enough away from the usurpers, it is understandable that a well-populated and prosperous medieval East Anglia, honouring **Edmund**, the 9th century English king as a patron saint and martyr, might have proved an attractive option. The influential and widespread cult of St. Edmund was of course centred at Bury, the Suffolk town named after him, which was to be the location of the origins of *Magna Carta*.⁽²²⁾

This is, of course, all highly speculative. For an alternative perspective, we may refer the whole matter of the obscurities of medieval surname development, locative lime trees, woodland clearings, and their human namesakes, to the Dorset dialect poet **William Barnes** who addresses the subject very satisfactorily, I think, in his poem *Linden Lea*, delightfully set to music by **Ralph Vaughan Williams**.⁽²³⁾

Janice Lingley Mb 13069

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*St Edmund in the Abbey gardens and Bury
(author's own photo)*

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2. Legal Settlement in Thorpe Morieux of Thomas Lindley, his wife Susan, and daughters Ann and Susan; document witnessed by Samuel Lindley, dated 13 and 20 November 1762. Suffolk

Archives: Catalogue reference: FL508/7/2/2/64. Ann was baptised in 1759; I did not find a baptismal record for Susan.

3. I also found records of Rose Warner's baptism on 26 October 1561 in Lavenham, Father: **George Warner**, and the likely marriage of her parents: George Warner = **Rose Smith**, Bury St Mary, 1561.
4. For details of this document, see note 2.
5. Marriage licence bond; **Thomas Nelson** and **Sarah Sanford** of Little Waldingfield, dated 20 July 1772; the bondsman Thomas Lindley of Lavenham, blacksmith. Signed by Thomas Nelson, **John Davy**, and Thomas Lindley. Suffolk Archives: Catalogue reference: E14/8/1/18/31.
6. Legal Settlement in Lavenham of William Lindley blacksmith, **Ann** his wife and one child, dated 2 February 1769. The signatures of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor were witnessed by **William Branwhite**, **John Lingwood** and **Sam Lindley**, a descendant of the original Samuel. Suffolk Archives: Catalogue reference: FL 645/7/3/1/21.
7. Indenture: Apprenticeship of **George Farthing** to William Lingley, blacksmith, dated 17 January 1833. Suffolk Archives: Catalogue reference: FB 69/G/2/5.
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9. Dr Basil Cottle (1917–1994), British grammarian, historian and archaeologist. He was a very knowledgeable philologist as regards the sound changes which over time modify diction, and his comment (during a university tutorial) directly explains the way in which, in the case of my own family history, the confusion between Lindley and Lingley could have occurred.
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12. McKinley (1990), p.198.
13. Redmonds (1973), pp.164-169.
14. McKinley (1975), p.81.
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17. *Lēah* originally meaning woodland: Gelling, pp.198 ff.
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20. Ploughland and furlong: 'Ploughland' is defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as a 'measure of land used in northern and eastern counties based on the area tilled by one plough with a team of eight oxen varying from circa 60-300 acres according to locality, usually circa 120 acres.' 'Furlong', predating the Conquest, is defined as 'the side of a square of ten statute acres'.
21. McKinley (1975), p.3.
22. Carpenter, David, *Magna Carta, with a New Commentary*, Penguin Classics, 2015.
23. William Barnes (1801-1886), Dorset dialect poet, also a philologist, writer, and Anglican priest. The poem 'My Orch'd in Linden Lea' was first published in the collection *Hwomely Rhymes* in 1859. It is likely the poem's key image is based on Barnes's recollection of the avenue of limes leading up to St Michael's Church in Mere, where he opened his first school, and, happily married, delighted in his home and garden: Alan Chedzoy, *The People's Poet, William Barnes of Dorset*, Stroud, The History Press, 2010, pp.69-70.

HELP WANTED – THE VICE FAMILY

Further to my appeal in the June 2025 issue of *Suffolk Roots*, I would like to provide the following information by way of clarification.

These are my three ancestors named Lawrence Vice:

1. **Lawrence**, son of **Nicholas** and **Mary Vice** of Scole on the Norfolk and Suffolk border. He was born in February 1665, and in November 1687 married **Margaret Pawsey**. He died in April 1707 and is buried in Frenze, Norfolk, where he was a gardener.
2. **Lawrence**, son of Lawrence and Margaret (née Pawsey) Vice. He was born in April 1689, and in December 1713 married **Elizabeth Jermy** in Scole. By October 1723 he was living in Wenhaston Suffolk. I have not been able to find his burial so far, and **any help would be welcome**.
3. **Lawrence**, son of Lawrence and Elizabeth (née Jermy) Vice was their son, born in 1715/6. In February 1745 he married **Jane Kerrick** in Bramfield. She died, and he married again by licence in September 1750 to **Sarah Murrell** in Halesworth. He was also a gardener, and died in Wenhaston in November 1770.

Eileen Blythe Mb 8140

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STUDYING THE THREE R'S: AN INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL AND EDUCATION RECORDS FOR FAMILY TREE RESEARCH SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION BY CLAIRE MOORES – 9 JUNE 2025

Claire set the scene by explaining the development of education in England, from **Augustine of Canterbury's** 6th-century schools to the impact of the Industrial Revolution. The demand for grammar schools increased with the growth of towns and trade. By 1509, there were around 400 grammar schools, increasing to nearly 2,000 by the 17th century. The curriculum was narrow, focusing on Latin and Greek.

The Industrial Revolution brought profound changes, including the Education Act of 1870, which made elementary education compulsory. The school leaving age was progressively raised to 11 in 1893, 14 in 1921, and 16 in 1973.

Claire introduced different types of educational records, including admission records, logbooks, punishment books, and school magazines, and emphasised the importance of understanding the context and detail of these records.

School magazines can provide insights into the work produced by ancestors. Inspectors' reports offer a snapshot of the school's performance, and the quality

of education provided, and Claire shared an example of a 1936 inspector’s report highlighting both positive and negative aspects of the school.

Another area Claire explored was Reformatory School records, which can contain detailed information about a child’s background, offences, and conduct.

The Q&A session after the presentation addressed questions about the location of records, the use of local archives, and the role of local history groups. Some records may still be held by the school, and some schools may have alumni associations. Local newspapers, many available in online archives, feature articles on sports days or school trips which may provide additional context.

After the meeting we received comments from a couple of members. One noted that prior to the early 1960s Suffolk had three separate education authorities, East Suffolk, West Suffolk, and Ipswich. East and West Suffolk had middle schools whereas Ipswich did not. Another member reported diving into the Suffolk Archives online catalogue for the school records of her parish of interest; although she did not find them there, she persisted, contacting Suffolk Archives who found the relevant records. This is not unusual, as Suffolk Archives strives to improve its online catalogue. Apart from being a difficult catalogue to use, it has two major faults. One is the depth of the indexing – there may be a box of papers which are identified, but not the contents of the papers. The other is the extent of the indexing – in other words, not all the boxes are indexed, either at all, or for the online catalogue. So not finding a result in the online catalogue should just be a prompt to keep going and contact Suffolk Archives direct.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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LAWRENCE OF ARABIA ... AND FELIXSTOWE

SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION BY KIM SMITH ON 28 JULY 2025

Our July Zoom presentation was from **Kim Smith** and explored the legend and the facts surrounding this famous figure. She started with an exciting trailer for the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*, starring **Peter O’Toole**.

Kim discussed **T E Lawrence**’s fascination with the Middle East, his academic achievements, and his personal quirks. She then discussed his role in the Arab Revolt during World War I.

Despite his heroic status, Lawrence struggled with mental health issues, including the aftermath of a traumatic wartime experience, which led him to seek anonymity and join the RAF under a pseudonym. Unfortunately, he was unmasked and forced to quit.

His attempts to rejoin the military were met with resistance, but eventually Lawrence was allowed to rejoin the RAF, where he worked on high-speed launches to rescue downed airmen.

He then accepted a post at the Marine Aircraft Establishment at RAF Felixstowe, which was on the site of the present dockyard. Disappointingly, as the role allowed him to go anywhere in the country, he actually spent little time in Suffolk.

After retiring in 1935, he lived in a small cottage in Dorset, which he named Clouds Hill. The property is now managed by the National Trust and offers an insight into Lawrence’s minimalist lifestyle (no toilets or running water). His retirement was brief; he was killed in a motorcycle accident in May 1935. His death certificate is under the pseudonym he adopted, Thomas Edward Shaw, but his younger brother, **Arnold**, managed to get his headstone to show his real name.

Lawrence’s death led to research into motorcycle helmet usage which resulted in the wearing of helmets being made compulsory for military motorcyclists in 1941. It was another 30 or so years before legislation was brought in to require required civilians to wear helmets.

Kim also discussed the mixed legacy of Lawrence in the Arab world and his funeral, which was attended by many notable figures. The presentation ended with a brief Q&A session.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (August 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.

Family History Show, London **4 October 2025 10am–4pm**
Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury, TW16 5AQ
Details: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

West Surrey FHS Fair
Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Rd, Woking
Details: <https://www.wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

8 November 2025 10am–4:30pm

In addition, there are the following Family History Shows:

Romany & Traveller FHS Open Day
Chesham Town Hall, Bucks, HP5 1EP, Free
Details: <https://rtfhs.org.uk/event/rtfhs-family-history-open-day-live-event/>

11 October 2025 12pm–4pm

Oxford FHS Family History Fair
Cherwell School (North Site), Oxford, OX2 7EE
Details: <https://www.ofhs.uk/events/event/ofhs-family-history-fair-2025>

25 October 2025 10am–4pm

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

SEPTEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	24 & 25	The Story of Three Surnames: Bowring, Jeffs, Nunn , and Some Suffolk Connections (both 7pm, Church of LDS, Bury St Edmunds)	Carl Mustoe
Haverhill	12	History of Art	Edel Pinnock
Haverhill	20	Research Day – Beginners and Experienced (Morning: Presentation, Afternoon: Practical)	Group
Ipswich	03	50th Anniversary Special: An Eccentric Look at Suffolk	Charlie Haylock
Lowestoft	02	Merchant Navy Research	Damon Rogers
Sudbury	30	Horsehair Tales	John Miners

OCTOBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Bury	30	Workshop – subject TBA	
Haverhill	09	Borley Rectory – Most Haunted House in England	<i>Bryan Thurlow</i>
Ipswich	01	TBA	
Lowestoft	07	Silver Harvest	<i>Daryl Fraser</i>
Sudbury	28	Not the Slightest Cause for Panic - B S E in the Great War	<i>Adrian Tindall</i>

NOVEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	13	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	<i>Paul White</i>
Ipswich	05	Protective Symbols in Houses and Barns	<i>Timothy Easton</i>
Lowestoft	04	The Real Dad's Army	<i>Richard Mann</i>
Sudbury	25	Secrets of the Suffolk Regiment in 10 Objects	<i>Claire Wallace</i>

DECEMBER

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
Haverhill	11	Christmas Quiz Group <i>Social evening with refreshments.</i>	
Ipswich	03	TBA	
Lowestoft	02	A Seaside Trip to London in 1797 <i>An account by 18-year-old Robert Paul, of Saffron Walden</i>	<i>David Butcher</i>
Sudbury	31	No Meeting	

For Bury programme and the most up-to-date information about other groups' activities, please check on the Suffolk FHS website, under the Groups tab

Note: Ipswich are looking to hold a short series of meetings aimed at newcomers to family history research, probably on Saturday mornings.

If any readers in the Ipswich area are interested in attending, please contact Howard King on IpswichChairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Organisers: Please inform Suffolk Roots of your upcoming Group Programmes

ZOOM TALKS

Zoom talks for members from October 2025 onwards are listed below. Please put the dates 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 29 September 2025 at 7:30pm

Freedom of Information

Richard Holt

Monday 27 October 2025 at 7:30pm

Researching Far East Theatre PoWs

Julie Johnson

Monday 17 November 2025 at 7:30pm

Quiz

Monday 1 December 2025 at 7:30pm

An Ancestral Christmas

Liz Yule

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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FUTURE THEMES FOR SUFFOLK ROOTS

The theme of December's edition will be 'Where did they Come from?'. Our ancestors not only migrated from Suffolk, but some migrated **into** Suffolk for one reason or another, maybe centuries ago or perhaps more recently. Were yours amongst the Norman invaders, or 'Johnny-come-latelies' with the airforce or telecoms industry? Perhaps they just travelled through, as a salesman, or with a fair, or for health reasons. Where did they come from and what brought them here? Was the move successful, or did they relocate again later? Once here, did they continue in the trade or business they had when they arrived, or diversify? Did they come for love, or find love in Suffolk and stay? Did they find Suffolk very different to where they had come from? How did they contribute to their new communities? Were they welcomed, or resented?

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

STATUS	ISSUE	THEME TITLE	DATE TO THE EDITORS
Final	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
Provis'nl	Jun 2026	Along the High Street <i>Our shopkeeper and tradespeople ancestors</i> 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?	Deadline 16 Apr

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?

Provis'nl Sep 2026

Choose a Tomb

Deadline 16 Jun

Your favourite, most interesting or intriguing gravestone

A favourite occupation for family historians, particularly in the summer months, is to visit a graveyard in search of an ancestor's memorial. For this issue, we invite you to write about the life of one of the people so interred. Or maybe you've walked through your local cemetery and an old stone has intrigued you, or you have discovered some interesting tales from researching a village war memorial. Please tell us about them:

Who were they, and what was their cause of death?

Who were their family – ancestors, descendants, and what became of them?

Was it an untimely death caused by social conditions or conflict?

Was their burial a small affair, or did the whole community turn out?

Are relatives buried nearby?

Contributions welcome relating to anyone (or anything) with a Suffolk connection, wherever they may be, and any other notable cemetery 'finds'.

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)	£150

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.

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Editors <i>Suffolk Roots:</i>	Co-editors Lesley Hall and Rob Ward can be contacted by e-mail Tel: 01276 679747	
		e-mail: editor@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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

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

GROUP CONTACTS FOR 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 meets at: The Church of Latter Day Saints, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds,
IP32 7DZ.

For dates and times, please check the Society's website (under the Groups tab) and
Facebook pages when available.

Contact – Chair

e-mail: chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk

West of London:

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

SFHS DATA CO-ORDINATORS AND SEARCH SERVICES

BAPTISMS

Index Co-ordinator <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

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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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MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

SFHS PUBLICATIONS

We carefully transcribe, check and index parish register entries from across the county of Suffolk and publish these 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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