

# SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 51 : No. 3 : December 2025

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



# SUFFOLK ROOTS

JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

VOLUME 51 : NUMBER 3 : DECEMBER 2025



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### **Theme of this Issue**

#### ***Where Did They Come From?***

*Migration into Suffolk*

### **Cover Picture**

*Sutton Hoo helmet. Photo courtesy of British Museum, public domain,  
via Wikimedia Commons.*

*East Anglia derived its name from the Angles – the Germanic peoples who originally migrated to Eastern England. It is thought that the **Wuffings**, the East Anglian Royal Family, settled in the area surrounding the River Deben and Sutton Hoo was chosen by them to bury their royal dead.*

### ***Suffolk Roots***

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# SUFFOLK ROOTS

## Journal of Suffolk Family History Society

Vol. 51 : No. 3 : December 2025

|                                                   |                          |                                          |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Trustees' Message                                 | Andy Kerridge            | 180                                      |     |
| Katherine Bardwell (1927-2025)                    | Janis Kirby              | 181                                      |     |
| Paul Scriven MBE (1932-2025)                      | Janis Kirby              | 182                                      |     |
| Patricia Turner (d. 2025)                         | Andy Kerridge            | 183                                      |     |
| Joan Key (1937-2025)                              | Brian Thompson           | 183                                      |     |
| New Members' Interests                            |                          | 185                                      |     |
| Baptism Index News                                | Alan Bumpstead           | 188                                      |     |
| Marriage Index News                               | Yvonne Hesketh           | 190                                      |     |
| Membership Secretary's Update                     | David Horton             | 191                                      |     |
| Transcription: What Next?                         | Andy Kerridge            | 192                                      |     |
| Welcome from the Editors                          | Lesley Hall and Rob Ward | 193                                      |     |
| John Stanesby and Eleven Italian Aliens           | Sue Andrews              | 195                                      |     |
| The Coming to Suffolk in the 16th Century         | Mary-Ann Dunn            | 197                                      |     |
| From Norfolk to Berkshire via Suffolk             | Paul Reeve               | 199                                      |     |
| Frank Graves, Lowestoft Fisherman                 | Dawn Adams               | 201                                      |     |
| 'We'll meet again...'                             | Jill Williams            | 205                                      |     |
| The Emigration of Scottish Farmers                | Zoe Montgomery           | 209                                      |     |
| The Twists and Turns of Life                      | Eileen Barrett-Whitehead | 211                                      |     |
| Go East! The Cross-Country Journey of John Rogers | Andrew Rogers            | 213                                      |     |
| From Italy to Ipswich                             | Zoë Burrows              | 216                                      |     |
| Some Departures                                   | Lesley Hall              | 219                                      |     |
| Playford 1827 Census – Error                      | Andy Kerridge            | 219                                      |     |
| Whepstead Land Worker to Millionaire              | Andrew Allcock           | 220                                      |     |
| Leaving Suffolk                                   | Peter Holford            | 227                                      |     |
| The Mystery of Lydia and William Gosling          | Liz Brooks               | 229                                      |     |
| Mary Ann Marjoram: Criminal?                      | Peter Holford            | 235                                      |     |
| Visiting The Hold – Parking Update                | Andy Kerridge            | 236                                      |     |
| Behind Bars – Suffolk's Criminal Past             | The Editors              | 236                                      |     |
| Record-breaking Attendance at Alde Valley         | Maggie Strutt            | 237                                      |     |
| Help Preserve Suffolk's Historical Records        | Neil Langridge           | 238                                      |     |
| Help Wanted – Dunnett                             | Raymond Dunnett          | 239                                      |     |
| Request for Information about Charles Fuller      | Andy Kerridge            | 240                                      |     |
| Help Wanted – Stow Hitchcock                      | Malcolm Setters          | 240                                      |     |
| Freedom of Information                            |                          | 241                                      |     |
| Save the Date! We are Going Live in St Ives!      | Andy Kerridge            | 242                                      |     |
| Suffolk Family History Society                    |                          |                                          |     |
| <i>Fairs and Events</i>                           | 243                      | <i>Group Contacts for 2025</i>           | 250 |
| <i>Zoom Talks</i>                                 | 245                      | <i>Co-ordinators and Search Services</i> | 251 |
| <i>Future Themes for Suffolk Roots</i>            | 246                      | <i>Honorary Life Members</i>             | 252 |
| <i>Membership Subscription Rates</i>              | 248                      | <i>Members' Interests</i>                | 252 |
| <i>Suffolk Family History Society</i>             | 249                      | <i>Suffolk FHS Publications</i>          | 252 |

## TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

It is that time of year, although while writing this the shops here seem to be focussing on Halloween, with only small space for Christmas items. That will soon change. So, I start with best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

I will give a brief report of our AGM held on 28 October. Otherwise, you will have to wait until next September's *Suffolk Roots* to see the full minutes. We had excellent attendance with over 70 taking part. I noted that membership has fallen from around 1,600 to just under 1,500, partly due to membership fee changes and standing order updates. We need to enhance the Society's offering to attract and retain members.

I reported on the new projects, including the restart of the Wills Beneficiaries Index and the Ipswich Vaccination Birth and Death Registers Project, in partnership with Cambridge and Suffolk Universities, and Suffolk Archives. I also mentioned that we have expanded collections on Findmypast, adding the Coroner's Inquest Records Index (1767–1921). The Hearth Tax Index will be added next. Findmypast is a significant contributor to our income.

As you will be aware, the website migration to Beachshore has taken longer than expected but should be completed soon.

I noted with sadness the passing of founder members **Katherine Bardwell** and **Paul Scriven**, and former Vice Chairman and *Suffolk Roots* editor **Trish Turner**.

Our Treasurer, **Carolyn Alderson**, presented the Society's accounts for the financial year 2024-2025. She explained the Society's structure as a charity with a trading sub-company, SFHS Publications Limited, and detailed their financial activities, including charitable expenditure and investment accounts. Carolyn mentioned the Society's focus on the new website, new projects, and investment to ensure the Society's future.

No Trustees retired. **Ken Finch** stepped down as Secretary but continues as a Trustee. Carolyn will take over the Secretary role as well as being Treasurer.

Lastly, we were delighted to be able to make several awards. **Helen Richardson** of the Sudbury Group and **Christine Palmer** and **Diane Kirby** from the transcription team are made Life Members. **Liz Cole** of Sudbury Group will receive the **Derek Palgrave** Award in appreciation of her work.

Elsewhere, you will see our appeal for your thoughts regarding what we should look at from a transcription point of view once we have finished the baptisms and marriages. Please take the time to let us know your views. We have made suggestions for possible candidates, but there are other possibilities.

*Andy Kerridge, Chair*  
[chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk](mailto:chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk)

## KATHERINE BARDWELL (1927-2025)

*We have received memories of Katherine Bardwell from her daughter, **Sylvia Crisp**, and also from **Janis Kirby**, Chair of the Suffolk FHS Lowestoft Group*

Katherine M E Bardwell (née Lockwood) passed away peacefully at Brandon Park Nursing Home, aged 97, on Monday 18 August 2025.

Born on 7 October 1927 in Lowestoft, Katherine lived a long and full life devoted to her family and her passions. She will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, granddaughters, great-grandchildren, and, as of February 2025, her 2x great-granddaughter – an occasion that once again completed five generations of women in her family, a source of great pride and joy.

Katherine had a lifelong love of gardening and will be forever remembered for founding the Suffolk Genealogy Society more than 50 years ago – a lasting legacy that continues to inspire and connect people with their roots today. Some years ago, in recognition of her work with and for the Suffolk Genealogy Society, she was invited to an event at the Houses of Parliament.

She was laid to rest alongside her beloved husband, **Roy**, with a woodland burial on 10 September 2025.

Katherine's kindness, curiosity, and dedication to family and history will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

### ***Sylvia Crisp, Daughter***

I feel ill equipped to write an obituary for Katherine Bardwell as I lost contact with her for many years due to moving out of the area. However, after reconnecting with Katherine recently, leading up to the Society's 50th anniversary, I've written this personal statement.

On 10 September 2025 I attended the burial of the ashes of Katherine at the Colney Woodland Burial Park in Norwich. Katherine leaves a daughter, granddaughters, great-grandchildren and a 2x great-granddaughter. Katherine, born in Lowestoft in 1927, founded Suffolk Genealogy Society (SGS, later Suffolk Family History Society) in 1974/1975, following a desire she'd had since 1953 to bring like-minded people together. She never thought it would grow so big or still be going 50 years later.

I first met Katherine in the late 1970s when I attended an SGS meeting at Lowestoft Library, where I was made very welcome and became hooked on family history from then on. Katherine went out of her way to help members and was a very inspirational lady.

By chance I had been working on a file of papers left anonymously at Lowestoft Maritime Museum and trying to ascertain who it related to. By an amazing coincidence, it contained Katherine's parents' family history written by Katherine in 1989 (incidentally, Katherine's mother's family and my own linked on two lines).

*Janis Kirby*  
*Chair, Suffolk FHS Lowestoft Group*

.....

PAUL SCRIVEN MBE (1932-2025)

Paul Scriven passed away at James Paget Hospital, Gorleston on 13 August 2025, aged 93, and was buried at his beloved church of All Saints, Frostenden on 29 August. He was the husband of **Carol** and brother of **Graham**.

Paul was a founding member of Suffolk Family History Society (Mb 16). He dealt with beginners' queries, transcribed documents and was a regular contributor to *Suffolk Roots*. He was Frostenden / Wrentham Parish Recorder and a regular attendee at Suffolk Local History Council Societies Day at Elmswell until his health prevented this.

Paul and I became friends when I investigated my **Scriven** family history. We shared an ancestor – Paul's grandfather was my 2x great-grandfather – and we met often to share information. His knowledge of the local area and families was phenomenal. Both Paul and Carol welcomed me into their home and showed me their beautiful garden on my first and subsequent visits. Paul showed me the thatched house where my ancestors lived, and we began a regular correspondence. He collected every press cutting from local papers containing names relevant to his family research. After our first meeting, Paul told me it was the first time he'd sat down and talked about family history with a fellow enthusiast.

Paul was very community-minded and was Churchwarden of All Saints, Frostenden. His greatest achievement was raising £48,000 with his team to enable restoration work to the church. He was also Chairman of Frostenden Parish Council. He held various roles at Southwold Museum, including cataloguing, and stewarding with Carol, and



*Paul Scriven at East Coast Heritage Day at Lowestoft 2019*

was President for 6 years. He also represented Southwold Museum at exhibitions and fairs throughout the area, despite suffering from poor health.

Paul was a volunteer speaker for the National Trust for 42 years and travelled the county giving talks to raise funds. I am sure he was involved in more roles than I've listed here, and I apologise for overlooking any organisation. In 2005, Paul was awarded an MBE for his voluntary work over 50 years.

Paul had so much energy and drive, and I feel privileged to have known him. I will miss that enigmatic smile of his, and he seemed to know the answer to any question that I asked, or at least where to look for it. He truly was a font of all knowledge, and these few words hardly do him justice.

*Janis Kirby*  
*Chair, Suffolk FHS Lowestoft Group*

.....

PATRICIA TURNER (d. 2025)

We heard in July of the passing of Patricia (Tricia) Turner. Tricia was editor of *Suffolk Roots* in the 1990s and also served as Vice-Chairman.

Tricia's daughter contacted us to let us know, and also offered us some of Tricia's files and effects. Tricia's own research was passed on within the family. We are now sorting through the books, files, photographs, etc., to determine where they can be best utilised.

*Andy Kerridge, Chair*



.....

JOAN KEY (1937-2025)

**Joan Key** was born in 1937 and married **George** in 1957. They were married for 62 years and received a letter from the Queen on their diamond wedding anniversary.

After moving to Haverhill, Joan worked for Pye Telecommunications for a short time before training as a traffic warden, a role she held for over 20 years and for which she became well-known around town.

Joan was always eager to help out in the community. She served as a school governor at both Castle Hill and Castle Manor schools and would listen to children read at



Clements School. She also assisted with Meals on Wheels and the Blind and Partially Sighted Group. Joan was involved in the Volunteer Network, Victim Support, and Stepping Out in Suffolk groups. She set up a coffee morning and lunch club at the Clements Community Centre and supported the foodbank with REACH. Joan was always kind and caring, willing to do anything to help anyone. For her dedication to the community, she received an award from the local Chamber of Commerce. In 2022, she carried a torch in the county-wide relay for the Festival of Suffolk. The following year, Joan received the highest accolade, the Freedom of Haverhill Town.

Joan played a significant role in the Haverhill Family History Group. She had been a member for many years and took on the role of Programme Secretary in 2000, later becoming the Group Secretary. Even after retiring from these roles, she remained an active committee member until the most recent AGM, when she had to step down due to ill health.

In 2013, Joan was honoured with the Chairman's award given by **Doug Howlett**, then the Society's Chair, in recognition of her work for the Haverhill Group and the Society.

Joan's enthusiasm and warm, welcoming nature inspired many. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and the entire community. In recognition of her tireless community work, the Haverhill Town Council lowered their flag to half-mast during her funeral.

**Brian Thompson**  
*Chair, Haverhill Group*



*Joan Key (1937-2025)*



*Haverhill Town Council flag lowered in Joan's honour*

## NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 31 July and 1 November 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 your contact details, and he will forward to the relevant member.

| Surname   | Cnty | Place                  | Dates     | Member # |
|-----------|------|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Abbott    | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13388    |
| Aggis     | SFK  | Barrow                 | All       | 13374    |
| Amy       | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13389    |
| Anderson  | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13389    |
| Atkins    | NFK  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Atkins    | ESS  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Atkins    | MDX  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Baalle    | SFK  | Eye, Syleham           | All       | 13362    |
| Baker     | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13388    |
| Balle     | SFK  | Eye, Syleham           | All       | 13362    |
| Banyard   | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13390    |
| Barker    | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13388    |
| Barker    | SFK  | Earl Soham             | All       | 13393    |
| Bilton    | HRT  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Bilton    | CAM  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Blake     | SFK  | Chedburgh              | Pre-1881  | 13383    |
| Blake     | SFK  | Yaxley                 | Pre-1800  | 13383    |
| Bucher    | SFK  | Eye, Syleham           | All       | 13362    |
| Catchpole | SFK  | Leiston                | All       | 13380    |
| Cheney    | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13363    |
| Chesher   | HRT  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Clark     | SFK  | Bury St Edmunds        | All       | 13382    |
| Clarke    | ANY  | Any                    | All       | 13363    |
| Coote     | SFK  | Any                    | All       | 13369    |
| Crick     | SFK  | Earl Soham, Hollesley  | All       | 13393    |
| Crooks    | MDX  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Crooks    | SRY  | Any                    | All       | 13367    |
| Dameron   | SFK  | Ipswich                | 1400-1637 | 13376    |
| Davey     | SFK  | Peasenhall, Pettistree | All       | 13370    |
| Dearnley  | SFK  | Dalham                 | Pre-1800  | 13383    |

| Surname     | Cnty | Place                               | Dates     | Member # |
|-------------|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Dobbs       | ALL  | Any                                 | 1500-1600 | 13364    |
| Douglas     | SFK  | Ipswich                             | 1850-1950 | 13368    |
| Dunnett     | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13389    |
| Emeny       | SFK  | Bosmere & Claydon                   | All       | 13368    |
| Fairweather | SFK  | Stonham Aspal                       | 1500-1600 | 13364    |
| Flowerdew   | SFK  | Thrandeston                         | All       | 13382    |
| Gage        | SFK  | Mildenhall, Barton Mills            | 1840-1920 | 13386    |
| Garnham     | SFK  | Lt. Glenham, Any                    | All       | 13385    |
| Gilbert     | SFK  | Sibton, Framlingham                 | All       | 13368    |
| Godfrey     | HUN  | Any                                 | All       | 13367    |
| Godfrey     | CAM  | Any                                 | All       | 13367    |
| Goodwin     | SFK  | Rumburgh, Westhall                  | All       | 13380    |
| Grantham    | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13371    |
| Green       | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13389    |
| Hale        | SFK  | Barrow                              | All       | 13374    |
| Hammond     | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13390    |
| Hancer      | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13388    |
| Harper      | NFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Harper      | SFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Haywood     | SFK  | Bury St Edmunds, Walsham le Willows | All       | 13380    |
| Hazell      | SFK  | Gt. Barton, Bury St Edmunds         | All       | 13374    |
| Herring     | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13363    |
| Higham      | SFK  | Eye, Syleham                        | All       | 13362    |
| Holden      | YKS  | Any                                 | All       | 13377    |
| Hubbard     | SFK  | Ixworth                             | All       | 13393    |
| Hynard      | SFK  | Polstead                            | All       | 13361    |
| Ivory       | NFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Kirsop      | LAN  | Liverpool                           | All       | 13377    |
| Last        | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13389    |
| Last        | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13390    |
| Lawrence    | SFK  | Ipswich                             | 1615-1637 | 13376    |
| Leech       | SFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Leech       | NFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Lydle       | SFK  | Barrow                              | All       | 13374    |
| Markham     | ANY  | Any                                 | All       | 13368    |
| Marshall    | SFK  | Hargrave                            | All       | 13393    |
| Mayhew      | SFK  | Wickham Market, Pettistree          | All       | 13370    |
| Middleditch | SFK  | Any                                 | All       | 13369    |
| Moyse       | NFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Moyse       | SFK  | Any                                 | 1700-1850 | 13384    |



| Surname   | Cnty | Place                      | Dates     | Member # |
|-----------|------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Mullinger | SFK  | Any                        | 1500-1800 | 13365    |
| Parrot    | SFK  | Any                        | All       | 13369    |
| Peck      | SFK  | Rumburgh, Westhall         | All       | 13380    |
| Pettet    | SFK  | Earl Soham                 | All       | 13393    |
| Pettit    | SFK  | Eye, Syleham               | All       | 13362    |
| Phipps    | GLS  | Any                        | All       | 13367    |
| Phipps    | OXF  | Any                        | All       | 13367    |
| Piggett   | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13363    |
| Plantain  | SFK  | Somersham, Winesham        | All       | 13390    |
| Potter    | ALL  | Any                        | 1800-1870 | 13372    |
| Quinton   | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13389    |
| Read      | SFK  | Bromeswell, Nacton         | 1800-1900 | 13368    |
| Reede     | SFK  | Eye, Syleham               | All       | 13362    |
| Reeve     | SFK  | Blaxhall                   | All       | 13385    |
| Reynolds  | SFK  | Earl Soham                 | All       | 13393    |
| Ribbans   | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13390    |
| Richards  | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13375    |
| Rose      | SFK  | Occold, Eye                | Pre-1840  | 13392    |
| Rudd      | SFK  | Palgrave                   | All       | 13363    |
| Sale      | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13375    |
| Sanders   | DEV  | Any                        | All       | 13367    |
| Saunders  | DEV  | Any                        | All       | 13367    |
| Scott     | SFK  | Bury St Edmunds            | All       | 13382    |
| Seal      | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13375    |
| Seeley    | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13375    |
| Self      | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13388    |
| Sharman   | SFK  | Nacton                     | All       | 13368    |
| Simpson   | SFK  | Stoke-by-Nayland           | All       | 13361    |
| Skinner   | SFK  | Occold, Horham, Stradbroke | Pre-1840  | 13392    |
| Small     | SFK  | Stoke-by-Nayland           | All       | 13361    |
| Smith     | SFK  | Blaxhall                   | 1810-1900 | 13385    |
| Spalding  | SFK  | Framlingham                | 1800-1900 | 13368    |
| Spurling  | SFK  | Ipswich, Woodbridge        | 1400-2000 | 13366    |
| Stanton   | CAM  | Any                        | All       | 13367    |
| Starling  | NFK  | Any                        | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Taylor    | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13375    |
| Taylor    | SFK  | Bury St Edmunds, Westhall  | All       | 13380    |
| Walker    | LAN  | Any                        | All       | 13377    |
| Wall      | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13377    |
| Walton    | ANY  | Any                        | All       | 13375    |

| Surname | Cnty | Place     | Dates     | Member # |
|---------|------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Watling | SFK  | Syleham   | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Watling | NFK  | Brockdish | 1700-1850 | 13384    |
| Watts   | ANY  | Any       | All       | 13388    |
| Wilson  | SFK  | Bildeston | 1900-1935 | 13387    |
| Wooby   | ANY  | Any       | All       | 13368    |
| Wrinch  | ANY  | Any       | All       | 13371    |

## BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

'Tis the season to be jolly, and we're jolly pleased to be bringing you the long-awaited good news of the release of another deanery area collection of baptisms, and progress on others!

### New release

Our latest phase 3 release covers the large Dunwich Deanery, comprising 44 parishes with surviving registers. The area is centred, not surprisingly, around the ancient port of Dunwich but stretches from Aldringham in the south to Benacre in the north and inland to Cratfield. Over 25,000 baptism entries are included and brought to you thanks to our dedicated team of helpers working from Suffolk Archives in Ipswich:

Diane Kirby leader,

Carole Athroll,

Sandra Fosker,

John Fox,

Adrian Howlett,

Audrey Howard,

Linda King,

Jean Licence,

Joan Munns,

Silke Pinson-Roxburgh,

Jeff Ward and

Marion Withey

### Suffolk Baptism Index Dunwich Deanery 1650\* - 1753\*

Aldringham cum Thorpe, Benacre (1727-), Blyford (1695-), Blythburgh (1690-), Bramfield (1694-), Carlton, Chediston (1653-), Cookley, Covehithe, Cratfield (-1718), Darsham, Dunwich (1672-), Frostenden, Halesworth (1653-), Henstead, Heveningham, Holton St Peter, Huntingfield, Kelsale (1669-), Knodishall (1706-), Leiston, Linstead Magna (1653-), Linstead Parva, Middleton cum Fordley (1653-), Peasenhall, Reydon (1712-), Rumburgh, Sibton, Sotherton, South Cove, Southwold, Spexhall, Theberton, Thorington, Ubbeston, Uggeshall, Walberswick (1656-), Wangford (nr Southwold) (1694-), Wenhaston (1687-), Westhall, Westleton, Wissett, Wrentham, Yoxford.



SFK-BPI-15/P3  
PDF



Our thanks also to **Arthur Bird** and **Derek Wright** for formatting the data and preparing the CD / download.

By the time you receive this copy of *Suffolk Roots*, CDs and downloads should be available from our shop: <https://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk/shop/index.php>. CDs can also be obtained from our Publications Manager:

Jean Licence, 60 Oldfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3SE

Cheques payable to SFHS Publications Ltd.

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

## Progress

Our **Ipswich team** have achieved the 'double' by also completing Dunwich phase 4, first started back in the spring of 2023. That's not bad progress considering the entries span over 200 years and across all those parishes – plus, we've had the closure of the record offices to contend with and some very difficult-to-read parish registers with some details only revealed using our UV torch.

Our **Bury team** have completed their first phase 4 collection, for Clare Deanery in the opposite corner of the county to Dunwich. This covers all surviving parish registers except one, Hundon, which is listed as 'unfit for production' owing to damage sustained in a fire at the church. Its condition is being reviewed by Suffolk Archives and if favourable, and made available in time, we would hope to include this parish; otherwise, we will add it to our Corrections & Additions section on the website.

Our **Home team** are very close to completing Hartismere Deanery phase 4, and its release is likely to follow after Clare Deanery – so a busy time for releases into the New Year.

All teams are progressing well on new phase 4 deanery areas, including Ipswich, Fordham, Samford, Sudbury West and Thingoe. Entries from all completed parish files, published or not, which might perhaps help you trace your earliest ancestors, are available from our Baptism Search Service, details at the back of the journal.

## Gleanings

As well as 'additional information' sometimes found with entries, which we include in our transcripts, some registers also have information about incumbents, such as the following entries, extracted and summarised from Erwarton's earliest parish register:

*'Edmund Salmon was baptised in the latter part of Oct or former part of Nov 1555 & was Minister of Erwarton in the beginning of the year 1586.*

*Richard Olmstead, minister, born & bap at Bocking Essex in 1576, inducted 8 Feb 1612 [?]*

*Robert Wickes was born & bap in Wickhambrooke about July 1597 & inducted 1622.*

*Thomas Meech succeeded Mr Wickes in 1659.*

*John Berdmore born 19 Aug 1647, came to the Rectorie in the 25th year of his age.*

*Richard Enock born 3 Nov 1657, inducted 6 May in the 25th year of his age.*

*Thomas Cornwallis born 19 April 1662, inducted in the 25th year of his age’.*

It seems the small Erwarton church, with its single bell, was the ideal place for would-be rectors to ‘cut their teeth’, aged 25 – and fresh out of theological training perhaps?

*Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.*

**Alan Bumpstead**  
Baptism Index Co-ordinator  
[baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:baptisms@suffolkfhs.org.uk)

MARRIAGE INDEX NEWS

Since the last edition of *Suffolk Roots*, the CD for Colneis & Samford deaneries phase 4 has become available for purchase (see front of CD for the list of parishes covered).

This leaves Ipswich phase 4 in the final production stage, and Dunwich deanery phases 3 & 4 going through checking. This last deanery is quite a ‘monster’ one, comprising 48 parishes covering over 200 years. So far six ‘sections’ are complete, from Aldringham to Bramfield.

One parish, Benacre, has produced an amazing item covering three closely-written pages at the start of the new register (the previous one having been destroyed by fire in 1727), in which in 1739

### Suffolk Marriage Index

#### Colneis & Samford Deaneries

1538\* - 1649\*



Belstead (1539-), Bentley (1539-), Brantham (1634-),  
Burstall (1540-1640), Capel St Mary (1538-),  
Chattisham (1561-1637), Erwarton (1560-), Falkenham (1538-1650),  
Freston (1538-1639), Higham (1538-), Holbrook (1559-),  
Holton St Mary (1568-), Kirton (1623-1650), Levington (1564-1646),  
Nacton (1562-1650), Newbourne (1561-), Raydon (1562-),  
Shotley (1587-1641), Sproughton (1551-),  
Stratford St Mary (1588-1637), Stutton (1646-),  
Trimley St Martin (1539-1643), Washbrook (1561-1643),  
Wenham Lt (1567-1645), Wherstead (1590-), Woolverstone (1539-).



**SFK-MI-44**  
**PDF**

the curate, **John Leman**, wrote out a long ‘*Receipt*’ from **Mrs Joanna Stephen** for ‘*ye Cure of ye Stone*’ – presumably kidney stones. It involved cooking garden snails (best harvested in the summer months) and crushing them with eggshells, adding wild carrot seeds, burdock seeds, ashen keys, hips and haws ‘*all burnt to a blackness*’ and mixing with honey to make into pills. The method of getting the sufferer to swallow them, helped by half a pint of white wine, was quite grim! It was followed by **Dr Mead**’s ‘*Receipt for the Bite of a Mad Dog*’! I wonder if they worked?

**Yvonne Hesketh**  
Marriage Index Coordinator  
[marriages@suffolkfhs.co.uk](mailto:marriages@suffolkfhs.co.uk)



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S UPDATE

As we approach the end of fairly significant year for the Society, I would like to highlight the main changes over the year.

First, we increased the subscription last year for members wishing to continue receiving a hard copy of our journal *Suffolk Roots*, and removed the senior category. This was largely instigated as a result of increased printing and postage costs, particularly in regard to overseas members. I am happy to report that it does not appear to have resulted directly in a loss of members, but rather has led to an uptake of electronic membership, for which the Society is grateful. A summary of membership fees is printed on page 248 of this journal.

The current membership stands at just under 1,500 as, unfortunately, we have lost several members this year, due to deaths and other issues. However, we have gained 250 new members over the course of the year.

The second and more significant change is the introduction of a new website, managed by Beachshore, which hopefully will be in place by the time you read this. It should make things easier as all membership functions, including renewals, and shop purchases will be under one roof, so to speak.

Finally, my position as Membership Secretary is entirely voluntary, as with all our Trustees, and I would like to thank those members who have expressed kind comments in response to queries. I wish everyone a merry Christmas and good luck with the research in 2026.

**David Horton**  
Membership Secretary



## TRANSCRIPTION: WHAT NEXT?

We are now at the end stage of the transcription of the parish registers – though having said that, the remaining registers are probably the hardest to transcribe and index, with the challenges of 16th century handwriting as well as the poor condition of some registers when they were filmed. However, we need to start thinking about what to tackle when they are complete.

So, over to you, our members: where would you like us to focus our transcription effort next?

To help you choose, we know that Ancestry have nearly finished scanning and indexing the gaol books and these will be released soon (not committing to anything after the delay on the parish registers). They are now working on the Bishop's Transcripts and then will move on to wills and other probate documents.

We know that the poor law files, covering such things as settlements, removals and bastardy examinations, have mostly been card indexed and the index is available in Suffolk Archives' online catalogue. So, there's no real value in repeating that.

However, this is but a fraction of the available resources which are useful to family historians. It's impossible to list them all, but they cover a wide variety of types, and so I have chosen four record sets to illustrate ...

### **Workhouse records**

These help family historians by providing detailed information about ancestors who were in need of relief, including their family relationships, reasons for entering the workhouse, and the conditions of their stay. The records can reveal family connections, health issues (through infirmary registers), and details about occupations, births and deaths that may not exist elsewhere.

### **Manorial records**

These provide a rich source of genealogical information, especially for periods before parish registers became widespread, but they exist up to the 20th century. They can reveal family relationships, land ownership, and property transfers, as well as give context to ancestors' lives through details on land tenure, occupations, and even minor offences recorded in court rolls. This information is especially useful for tracing lineages and understanding how property was passed down. Records before 1733 are in Latin (we probably wouldn't do these, at least not to start with), but later records were kept in books, which very often contain an A-Z index to aid with finding people.

Sometimes part of, or a whole Will is included in the court record.

Leet court records document minor offences, providing a more detailed picture of daily life and the community structure.



Quarter Sessions records

Can provide details of an ancestor’s involvement in legal and administrative matters, revealing information beyond typical birth, marriage and death records. These records, created by the local courts that were also responsible for county administration, can include information on people as offenders, witnesses, or even minor officials. Researchers can find records of petty crimes, licensing, poor relief, and the performance of roles such as justice of the peace, bailiff, and juryman.

School records

Can help with direct details about an ancestor’s life, including their birth date, family, and address, and by offering context about the time they lived through. They may include events such as illness, local news, and academic performance. Admission registers are useful for administrative data, while school log books offer a window into the daily life and environment of the school. Both registers and log books might contain notes on an ancestor’s health, behaviour, or other personal circumstances.

School yearbooks, photos, and class pictures may offer a visual record of ancestors, their classmates, and their activities.

As I said, these four are a small sample of the records available, so please let us know. We are investigating putting on an extra Zoom in January to explore these four areas to help you choose. By choosing, you will not be rejecting the others, but prioritising. We would like to transcribe all!

Please email me if you have a preference from the above four or indeed any other record set. We have time if you want to wait and see if we can get the Zoom sorted out.

Andy Kerridge, Chair  
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk



WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

Recently, a humorous/satirical article appeared in the *Suffolk Gazette* bemoaning an influx of Norfolk ‘country bumpkins’ into Suffolk, to escape the harsh living conditions of their home county!<sup>(1)</sup> And both of us have ancestors from the other side of that border!

With daily news reports of small boats full of would-be immigrants arriving on our shores, we should not forget that our isles have been populated and repopulated from further afield many times. A project looking at the Ancient Occupation of Britain recognises at least eight attempts by humans to live here, with freezing weather

driving people back on seven occasions. The project lists the first known settlers, 700,000 years ago, to be at Pakefield, Suffolk (either late *Homo ergaster* or early *Homo heidelbergensis*), and the flint tools unearthed at Pakefield represent some of the earliest evidence of humans in Northern Europe.

However, British people today are products of more recent settlement – starting a mere 12,000 years ago.<sup>(2)</sup> We see evidence of these through archaeology, and later through old documents. Some of the better-known incomers were the Romans and Anglo-Saxons.

The former left a network of roads, of which the straightest in Suffolk (according to **David Ratledge**<sup>(3)</sup>) was between Ixworth (Sitomagus) and Coddtenham (Combretovium); and they possibly enjoyed a prosperous life in the county, as evidenced by the contents of the Hoxne hoard, and the remains of villas. Incidentally, Suffolk County Council has a Lottery-funded project underway to excavate key villa sites in Suffolk. There are thought to be at least 65 sites, of which only four were investigated in the 20th century.<sup>(4)</sup>

The Anglo-Saxons left their mark at Sutton Hoo, the site of two extensive Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, including the famous undisturbed ship burial.

Our current issue's theme on migration into Suffolk does not attempt to stretch that far back, but we have been sent a number of interesting articles on forebears who came to live in the county, either transiently or permanently, from various places of origin – neighbouring Norfolk, other parts of the UK, or further afield. In addition, we have received reminders of folk who left Suffolk to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

We are looking forward to contributions for the March edition on the theme of Farmers and Farming. Most of us have an ag lab ancestor or two (or even a farmer) tucked away in our files. Let us know about their lives and, if there is any indication, how they found the farming life. How were they affected by bad weather, infamous political developments such as the Corn Laws or the enclosure movement, or factors such as industrialisation? There are more prompts on this theme later in the journal, in the Future Themes section; and as always, we welcome all contributions (preferably with some link to Suffolk), whether on theme or not.

## ***The Editors***

### **References and Sources**

1. Doug Trench, 'Suffolk faces Norfolk-bumpkin migrant crisis', *Suffolk Gazette*, 24 October 2025
2. The History Files: Prehistoric Britain - Waves of Migration into Britain, <https://www.historyfiles.co.uk/FeaturesBritain/PrehistoryMigration01.htm>
3. Suffolk's Roman Roads – a Lidar Re-appraisal, <https://www.twithr.co.uk/suffolk/suffolk.html>
4. Romans Unearthed: Suffolk's Hidden Villas, Suffolk Heritage Explorer, <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/romans-unearthed>

## JOHN STANESBY AND ELEVEN ITALIAN ALIENS

During the late medieval period, the south Suffolk districts of Babergh and Cosford were at the forefront of the county's woollen-cloth industry. During the 1460s, when Suffolk was England's leading cloth-manufacturing county, the name **John Stanesby** stood out as heading the list of top Suffolk textile producers.

John Stanesby's origins were in Bildeston<sup>(1)</sup> and like other Suffolk clothiers, his business took him to London, where he was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.<sup>(2)</sup> As a stockfish monger, he traded in dried cod from Norway. As a clothier producing woollen textiles, John came into contact with brokers from wool-producing counties in England and a myriad of middlemen in London, who dealt with exporting cloth and importing commodities needed for cloth production. It is known that he had particular associations with merchants from Florence in Italy.

Towards the end of the 1460s, during a period of 12 months, John presented 2,400 narrow cloths to the alnager, the official attesting to the quality of woollen cloth as regulated by statute. Historian **Nicholas Amor** has estimated that in one year, for the production of narrow cloths on looms no wider than the weaver's span, a spinner could produce sufficient yarn for 20 cloths; that a master weaver and an assistant could weave 160; and that a master fuller with two assistants could full 260 narrow cloths. For his level of production, John would have had to employ 120 spinners, 30 weavers and 28 fullers, plus carders, dyers, shearmen and finishers.<sup>(3)</sup> John's workforce was not confined to the people of Bildeston, as he was also employing as servants 11 alien clothmakers reported to be Italians.<sup>(4)</sup>

An alien was someone born in a country outside the jurisdiction of the King of England, and while resident in England, foreign nationals had a poll tax levied upon them. Information concerning aliens was firstly collected at parish level and then passed on to local justices of the peace. However, instructions were not always clear, so churchwardens and constables had to determine what details they were expected to collect.

In 1483, a year for which such tax records, known as 'alien subsidy rolls', have survived, 345 aliens were recorded in Suffolk who, together with their wives and families, would have totalled approximately 520 people. They were resident throughout the rural areas of the county in ones and twos, and at river and sea ports on the east coast in groups of 10 to 20; but the main centres of settlement were the major towns of Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich.<sup>(5)</sup> Aliens resident in England originated from many different backgrounds, and groups of Italians appeared in London, in southern England and in one location in Suffolk, that is, Bildeston.<sup>(6)</sup>

These servants, as they were called, employed by John Stanesby have names similar to other migrants in the country at the time from the Netherlands. Economic historian **Jim**

**Bolton** has suggested that the Bildeston group might have originated from Brabant or Holland.<sup>(7)</sup> Why then were these 11 people referred to as Italians? The lack of guidance addressed to parish officers caused local men to make their own judgements when completing their returns. Perhaps, it was known in Bildeston that John Stanesby had connections with Italy, and the assumption was made that the newcomers to the town's workforce originated from there.

Whether they were foreign nationals from Italy or the Netherlands, **Jacob Racelotes** and his companions made John the exception in Suffolk's textile trade in that he had such a large number of aliens working for him. The term 'servants' suggests that they were not living in households on their own account but were accommodated somewhere by their employer. If they were living in John's own home, as yeomen or husbandmen housed their farm servants, such a number would have caused overcrowding. It is possible that the terrace of four houses in Chapel Street, confirmed later as in the ownership of the Stanesby family<sup>(8)</sup> but erected sometime towards the end of the 15th century,<sup>(9)</sup> was purpose-built for these workers.

#### **Bildeston's Italian aliens**

Jacob Racelotes  
Peter Dememke  
Desmar, an artisan  
Simon van Dele  
Peter van Hobard  
John de Man  
Daniel van Dour  
Barbell Fandemar  
Lewes Boskyes  
Rowland Boskyn  
and his wife Palet



*The four 15th-century homes with workshops for textile production in Chapel Street, Bildeston. By the 19th century, they had been subdivided to accommodate 10 households. John Stanesby's house was the double-gabled building on the left (Photo: Henry Morphew Collection)*

#### **Sue Andrews Mb 11113**

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1. In 1435, a **Robert Stanesby** was making cloth in Bildeston. N R Amor, *From Wool to Cloth: The Triumph of the Suffolk Clothier* (2016), p.132.
2. Litigation: *Adys v Stanesby*, 1478, The National Archives, C241/258/109.

3. N R Amor, 'Merchant Adventurer or Jack of All Trades?', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, vol.XL.4 (2004), p.427.
4. Amor (n.1), p.200.
5. Alien subsidy roll: Suffolk, 1483, The National Archives, E179/180/111.
6. Lecture: J. Bolton, 'Aliens in Suffolk during the 15th century', Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, 22 March 2003.
7. Correspondence: J Bolton to S Andrews, 23 February 1998, private ownership.
8. Will: **Richard Stanesby**, 1550 (probate 1552), Suffolk Archives, Archdeaconry of Sudbury register Buxston, fo.124.
9. L Alston, 'Renters discovered', *Eavesdropper* 11, Newsletter of Suffolk Historic Buildings Group (Winter, 1997-1998), p.19.

## THE COMING TO SUFFOLK IN THE 16TH CENTURY OF JOHN COLLETT AND THOMAS WALL, FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE

**John Colet** was born in Wendover, Buckinghamshire in 1495, the son of **William Colet** and his wife **Katherine**. He was the great-nephew of **Sir Henry Colet**, twice Lord Mayor of London, and cousin once removed of Sir Henry's son, humanist **Dean John Colet**, scholar and founder of St. Paul's School in London. John's grandfather **Thomas Colet** was a sheep farmer in Wendover. His 4x great-grandfather **Henry Colet** (b. 1340) was the first recorded with this name, and the family had come some way in 150 years.

**Thomas Wall/Awall** was born in Crich, Derbyshire in 1475, the son of **Thomas Wall**. It is not known when he arrived in Suffolk. He became a member of the Worshipful Company of Salters in the City, but his Suffolk home was 'Basts' in Grundisburgh. This was built by Thomas on the site of an earlier house, and the name is likely to have come from **William Bast**, who was Prior of Woodbridge. The house still stands and was described as a '*fine 16th century manor house*' at its last sale. The sign of a Salter can still be seen on an outer wall. Pictures may be found on the Historic England website (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1198244>) and on the sites of various estate agents.

Thomas Wall married **Alice Langston**, whose father had been master cook to **Edward IV** and **Henry VII**. Their daughter was **Katherine**. By 1522 John Collett (whose name was now being spelt with double ls and ts), having left Wendover and being described as a Citizen of London and a mercer, married Katherine, and they are my 12x great-grandparents. It would seem that the arrival in the City of both John from Buckinghamshire and Thomas from Derbyshire led to the marriage, and was the Colletts' introduction to Suffolk, with scores of descendants still there today.



In 1534 Thomas Wall was appointed by **Henry VIII** as the fifth Garter King of Arms, when he was described as the son of Thomas Whall of Crick. He was sent in embassy to the King of Scotland and from the king he received '*a gowne of purple velvet lined with blacke boche and a purple Crown of the Sunn*'.

Thomas died in 1537. His will stipulated: '*To my Wife Alice the manors and lands in Suffolk, Essex, Kent and London. If she yearly during her life at her costs and charges do find an honest and secular priest to sing and say divine service within the church at Grundisburgh for my soul, my father's and mother's souls at yearly stipend of £6 paid quarterly. The remainder to John and Katherine Collett manor in Grundisburg, Hasketon, Great Bealings, Culpho, Tuddenham and Playford*'. Mention was also made in the will of '*The Sun Inne*' and of shops in Billingsgate. It would seem that Thomas did not have great expectations of the Grundisburgh clergy! On his death it was stipulated that '*Thomas Wall senior citizen and salter of London 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1539 buried in St. Botolph's Billingsgate and to be conveyed for burial with twelve torches and four tapers borne by sixteen poor men in their hands, the dirge to be sung by note and next day a solemn requiem to the fellowship of the salters to drink overnight and for their recreation day if they come to mass and dirge three pounds*'.

In St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, the Chantry Chapel is dedicated to Thomas Wall, where an inscription asks the reader to pray for the soul of Thomas and that of his wife, displaying the merchant's mark and the shield of the Salter's company – three salt cellars. In addition, the Church has a memorial to **John** and **Margery Awal**, possibly grandparents of Thomas.

Many of the branches of John and Katherine's descendants prospered, although a 7x great-grandson, **William Collett**, could only mark a bastardy order which his father had to sign, paying £50; he has been described as the first Suffolk Collett in 300 years to be unable to write. John Collett died in 1554, and in 1561 was posthumously awarded arms. Katherine re-married, to a relative of **Sir Thomas More**, and died in 1558. John Collett and Katherine Whall had seven children. Their eldest son, **Thomas Collett** (1523-1599), was named as John's heir with, in 1558, his son **John** (1554-1599) named as Thomas' own heir. However, along came 'wicked uncle **William**' leaving John penniless, though he did eventually marry a descendant of **Edward I** – but those are further stories.



*The Coat of Arms of the Salters' Company*





*Church of St Mary, Grundisburgh. Photo © **Tim Marchant** and licensed for reuse under CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1948094>)*

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#### **References and Sources**

**Brian Collett** : Collett Family History.

**Simon Knott**'s website 'Churches of East Anglia, Suffolk'

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## **FROM NORFOLK TO BERKSHIRE VIA SUFFOLK (AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE)**

One of the first ancestors I started researching was my paternal 2x great grandfather, **James Gladden Reeve**. He was born in Wangford (near Southwold), Suffolk in 1817 and baptised there on 26 May of that year. After being misled for a while by an Ancestry tree (since corrected), which had him born in Ousden near Newmarket, I then misled myself by believing that his parents were also born in Suffolk! Once I had found some of the immediate family, I decided to join the Suffolk FHS. I later discovered that my 3x great-grandparents actually came from Norfolk. On 22 June 1836, James married **Caroline Taylor** (daughter of **William** and **Hester Taylor**) in Wangford.

**Robert Reeve** (my 3x great-grandfather) was the son of **Thomas Reeve** and **Ann (née Rackham)**. He was born in Neatishead, Norfolk in 1789 and baptised there on 2 September. He became a butcher and on 30 November 1812 he married **Mary Anne Gladden** in Salle, Norfolk. She had been born in Marsham, Norfolk on 18 September 1787 and baptised there five days later. At the time of their marriage (by licence), she was *'of the Parish of Salle'*. Her parents were **James Gladden** (1764-1816) and **Elizabeth (née Peters)** (1765-1831).

At some point between December 1812 and May 1817 they moved to Wangford. James was their only child that I have found – he was born quite a time after the marriage, so I wondered if there might have been one or more beforehand who had died in infancy, but have not (yet) discovered any more. I have not found any reason so far to explain why they moved counties.

Robert Reeve died in 1874 in Boyton Almshouses, near Woodbridge, and was buried in Wangford. Mary Anne died in 1863 in Wangford and was also buried there.

Thomas Reeve was born in 1758 in Bawburgh, Norfolk to **Henry Reeve** (c. 1730-1799) and **Mary** (surname unknown, d. 1803 in Bawburgh). I believe that Henry and Mary were married in Bawburgh about 1754/5, but, unfortunately, there is quite a large gap in the marriage records there around that time. Thomas Reeve married Ann Rackham on 6 June 1780 in Bawburgh. She was the daughter of **Nicholas Rackham** and **Mary (née Tunney)**. Ann was born and baptised in 1761 in Melton Magna (now Great Melton), close to Bawburgh.

Henry Reeve was probably born in Hethersett, Norfolk, in 1730 (it is quite close to Bawburgh) and died in Bawburgh in 1799. Henry and Mary's first child was also named **Thomas** (b. and d. early 1756), followed by **Martha** (b. and d. 1757). They had another six children after Thomas, **Henry** (b. 1760), **John** (1763-1785), **Sarah** (b. 1766), **Elizabeth** (1767-1769), **James** (1771-1829) and **Elizabeth** (b. 1773). All were born and baptised in Bawburgh. If this is the correct Henry, he was the son of **Roger Reeve** and **Thomasin (née Kemp)**, who died there in 1774 and 1776 respectively. There is, however, no subsequent child named Roger which I have found.

James Gladden Reeve had six siblings, three of whom died in infancy. **Robert Reeve** (1818-1898) became a butcher in Wangford like his father, and married **Clarissa Smith** from Beccles in 1850. **William Reeve** (1822-1888) was also a butcher/dealer in Wangford, moving to Wrentham and then to Guildford, becoming a tobacconist. I believe he married **Fanny Gearey** in Paddington in 1844, but have yet to discover why he was in London, given he is in Wangford in both the 1841 and 1851 census records. **Sophia Reeve** (1825-1905) married **Thomas Godfrey Crowe** (1824-1871) in Wangford in 1848. They had 10 children.

James moved from Suffolk to Gloucestershire in about 1844-45 and joined the Great Western Railway. Later he moved to Appelford, Berkshire, with his second wife

**Rebecca Tyler (née Arnold)**, where their remaining children (including my great-grandfather **Alfred Reeve**) were born. A previous article in *Suffolk Roots* (June 2023) tells a little more about this move.

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**FRANK GRAVES, LOWESTOFT FISHERMAN**

If **Frank Graves** had stayed in Dover, he would probably have become a stoker in the gas works rather than a fisherman. When he was born in 1876, his father, **Robert**, was a stoker in the gas works, as were his brother **Richard** (1868-1918), his half-brothers **Robert** and **Andrew**, his aunt **Jemima**’s husband **Richard Dixon**, his uncle **Andrew Graves**, and his aunt **Sarah**’s husband **Edward Champion** (in 1871 the Champions were sharing Robert Graves Snr.’s house, conveniently near the gas works).

Frank’s father died at home in Dover on 22 April 1881, aged 37, following a heart attack. Frank’s mother, Elizabeth, aged 40, had been at home with his father for the census earlier that month, as had all her children who I can trace, though it was her niece who was the informant on the death certificate. The birth certificate of Harold Frank Graves (Frank) names **Elizabeth Ellen Graves née Shave** as his mother. Elizabeth was the daughter of **William Shave** who kept the *Salutation Inn* in central Dover; she had married Robert Graves’s older brother **Richard** on 1 July 1855. Before Richard died in 1866, they had six children. After Richard’s death, his widow and her brother-in-law Robert could not legally marry: had they attempted it, the marriage would have been void under the law in force from 1835 until 1921.<sup>(1)</sup> Nevertheless, she and Robert had at least five children together, registered as Graves with Shave as their mother’s maiden name: Richard in 1868, **Arthur** (1872-1873), **Sarah Ann** in 1874, Harold Frank in 1876 and **Florence Edith** in 1878.

By 5 April 1891, when the census was taken, the three youngest children, Sarah, Frank and Florence, were not in Dover but in Lowestoft, Suffolk. Sarah, aged 19, was living with a blacksmith in Lorne Road, her occupation ‘*tinsmith*’. Frank and Florence were in the Workhouse at Oulton, described on the census form as ‘*legitimate children of Herbert Greaves*’, born in Dover. Greaves was a more usual spelling in East Anglia. I am dependent on online resources and cannot (yet) find why they moved to Lowestoft or what happened to their mother.

Unsurprisingly, given his new location, Frank became a fisherman. In 1892 the *Lowestoft Journal* reported that a lad named Frank Greaves had asked to return to the Workhouse after two months working on a smack, because a crew member had stuck a knife into his calf. The reporter expected to hear more of it, but nothing further

emerged. By the 1901 census, Frank was fourth hand on the fishing boat *Our Boys* near Newarp Light Ship, the master and crew being members of the **Grice** family of Lowestoft.

On 4 March 1906, Frank entered our family history by marrying my partner's grandmother, then a widow, **Ellen Martha Wigg née Hood**. He was recorded in the register as Frank Harold Grieves, fisherman, father's name unknown. The witnesses were Ellen's 18-year-old sister **Ethel Mary Hood** and **William J Crowe**, Frank's brother-in-law, husband of his sister Sarah since 1893, and, at the time, master of a deep-sea trawler.

Ellen Hood had been born on 3 August 1878 in Corton, just north of Lowestoft. Her father, **Christopher**, was a fisherman. Her mother was **Ann Maria née Beamish**: Ellen was the sixth of Christopher and Ann's 10 children, nine of whom survived to adulthood. By 1891 the family lived at 2 Mill Cottages with five of their children. Next door lived their daughter **Charlotte** (31), married to **Samuel Segers** with two children, and with them were two of Charlotte's sisters, **Mary Ann** (17), and Ellen (12).

On 9 August 1897, Ellen married **James John Wigg** in the parish church of Lowestoft, with her brother **Sidney** and sister **Jane Maria** as witnesses. James, aged 20, was a fisherman, son of a mariner, living with his parents and siblings in Raglan Street, Lowestoft. James and Ellen's first child, **Russell James**, was born in November 1897. **Allan Christopher** (known in the family as **Joe**) followed in March 1899, **Dorothy Eliza Ellen** in September 1900 and **Vera Elsie** in July 1902. In the 1901 census James, Ellen and their family were living at 52 Queen's Road, Lowestoft. James died of TB there on 29 July 1903, leaving four children aged under 5. Ellen stayed on at 52 Queen's Road, the address given for both parties at her wedding to Frank Greaves in March 1906.

Four children were born to Ellen and Frank: **Harold William Frank** in July 1906, **Leonard Henry Percy** in March 1908, **Ellen Martha May** (June 1910-September 1911) and **Ada Jane Ethel** in March 1912. Frank, Ellen and her seven children continued to live at 52 Queen's Road, though in 1911 Frank was at sea for the census, third hand on the Lowestoft fishing vessel *Boy's Friend* at Padstow in Cornwall. Ellen's widowed father, Christopher, was living at 82 Queen's Road, with two of his unmarried sons plus a married daughter and son-in-law. So, Ellen had family close by.

In anticipation of a wartime need, the Royal Navy set up the Royal Naval Reserve Trawler section, RNVR(T), to employ trawlers as minesweepers and patrol vessels. Once war was declared, whole crews were requisitioned with their vessels.<sup>(2)</sup> Ellen's son Russell Wigg didn't wait to be called up, enlisting on 16 December 1914, only just 17 but claiming to be 18 years of age. On 9 June 1915 his brother 'Joe' joined the RNVR(T), at the age of 16, also stating his age as 18. Then on 5 August that year Frank



Greaves was recruited into the RNVR(T). This left Ellen at home with Dorothy and Vera Wigg (15 and 13), and Harold, Leonard and Ada Greaves (9, 7 and 3), supported by Frank's separation allowance from his naval pay.

Meanwhile, in another part of town, **Earnest Lancaster's** wife **Bertha** died of TB at 104 Carlton Road, on 22 April 1915. Their 18-month-old daughter, **Grace Ernestine**, went to live with her paternal grandparents in Leiston, where she remained until her marriage.

On 6 May 1916 a notice was published in the *Lowestoft Journal* warning local tradespeople that H F Greaves would no longer take responsibility for the debts of his wife, then living at 52 Queen's Road. That 'home' address was crossed out on Frank's naval record and the Sailors Home in Lowestoft substituted. His children were placed in the care of Barnardo's.

**Ernest Edward Wigg Lancaster** was born on 19 October 1918 at 14 Queen's Road, Lowestoft, father Earnest Lancaster, foreman engineer at a motor works, mother Ellen Martha Grieve, late Wigg, formerly Hood. The birth was registered somewhat late, on 30 December that year, by *both* parents, as was required by the Act of 1874 if a father's name was to be included and the parents were unmarried. A sister, **Molly**, followed in March 1920.

When Frank was demobbed on 1 July 1919, he went to live as a lodger at 25 Mariners Street, Lowestoft. By then his sister Sarah was living at 96 Queen's Road with six children and a husband at sea. His sister Florence, a housemaid, had moved to London, been married and widowed, and lived with her mother-in-law in Guildford, Surrey.

The 1921 census gives further clarification. Frank's daughter, Ada Greaves, aged 9, was fostered, with another girl, by a widow near Stroud in Gloucestershire (she was later to marry from that house). His sons, Harold and Leonard Greaves, were boarders at Watts Naval School, a Barnardo establishment in Shotley, Suffolk, preparing boys for careers at sea. His stepson Russell Wigg, who had been discharged from the Navy in 1916 with acquired deafness, was a patient in the Special Surgical Hospital in Hammersmith after an injury. Russell's brother 'Joe' was a crew member on a fishing boat in Padstow, Cornwall. At 14 Queen's Road, Lowestoft the household was headed by Ernest Lancaster, widower. Ellen Martha Wigg, married woman, was said to be a boarder, as were her daughters Dorothy (18) and Vera (20). Vera worked as a beatster (mending nets). The two Lancaster children, Ernest Edward and Molly Ellen, were correctly shown as having both parents living; this has been altered in green ink to 'mother dead', by a clerk, perhaps misled by their Lancaster surname.

So far, I have not found Frank Graves/Greaves/Grieves in the 1921 census, though in 1939 he was still at 25 Mariners Street with the **Newsom** family, described as a retired fisherman.

After leaving Watts Naval School, Frank's son, Harold Frank Greaves, became a merchant seaman with the Isthmian Steamship Company. Though headquartered in England, Isthmian was a subsidiary of US Steel. One document shows the address of his next of kin, his father, as 96 Queen's Road, Lowestoft, his aunt's home. On the basis that he was resident on US ships, Harold applied for US citizenship in 1935. It was granted in 1938. US Steel placed their ships at the disposal of the US Defense Department after America's entry into WWII, and Harold went down with the *SS Steel Navigator* when it was sunk by a U-Boat on 19 October 1942.

Harold's younger brother, Leonard Greaves, joined the Royal Navy, entering *HMS Ganges* in April 1924, then proceeding as a 'Boy' to *HMS Ajax*. Although his available record ends in 1929, there is an associated document which refers to a request to remain in the service after 1945. Moreover, although service personnel were not supposed to be recorded in the 1939 Register, he appears (with the correct birthdate) as Able Seaman RN of *HMS Speedwell*, in Gillingham, Kent with Mary Grace Greaves. He married **Mary Grace Smith** formerly **Chadwick** early in 1942 in the Chatham District. By 1967 he was in Lambeth, London, where he died of lung cancer.

Ellen's husband, Frank Grieves, did not divorce her. He died of pneumonia in January 1950. His death certificate shows that on 28 December 1949 he had been knocked down by a taxi in High Street, Lowestoft, and subsequently confined to bed, and that the coroner's verdict was death by 'misadventure'. On Thursday 12 February 1953, Ernest Lancaster married Ellen Martha by licence at the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Clerkenwell, London. The witnesses were ladies associated with the church.

In the 1950s, Lancaster family holidays from London were spent either in Lowestoft, where Russell Wigg had a fried fish shop and Joe a 'wet' fish shop, or in Fleetwood, Lancashire with Vera and her husband **Ernest Edmonds**, who had moved there from Lowestoft pursuing Ernie's occupation as a deep-sea fisherman. No one mentioned Frank Greaves or his children.

NB When I was piecing these events together before the 1921 census became available, a descendant of Frank Greaves very generously shared his family history research. I have not quoted those parts he wished to remain private.

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- 1. Rebecca Probert, *Marriage Law for Genealogists* (Takeaway, 2012).
- 2. Simon Fowler, *Tracing your Naval Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2011).





## 'WE'LL MEET AGAIN, DON'T KNOW WHERE, DON'T KNOW WHEN' - BUT THIS TIME, WE DO!

This story concerns two families who moved from Norfolk to Suffolk via different routes. They were the **Rushmer(e)** and **Pitcher** families and, eventually, there was a marriage between them in 1853. They were probably unaware that their families' paths had crossed much earlier.

We begin with the Rushmer(e)/Rushmore family, who I have traced to the Langley / Hardley area of Norfolk in the mid-17th century. While preparing this article I found an online site *History of the Shard\*low Name*<sup>(1)</sup> which said a **Thomas Rushmer** (1580-1648) of Hardley married a **Jane Bennett** (c. 1583-1637) in 1603 and they had three children, **Thomas**, **Elizabeth** and **Margaret**. However, I have not been able to confirm this and can only say that when a Thomas Rushmer 'of Hardley' died in 1658/9, his Will, proved in the PCC (as were all Wills during the Commonwealth period) in March, detailed bequests to his wife Jane and eight children. My direct ancestor, son **Henry**, baptised in Thurlton on 10 August 1637, and the only one whose baptism I have found, received £50, a feather bed and three pairs of sheets, while one of his brothers, **Charles**, was left *The Pye* in Loddon when he was 21. Thomas had purchased *The Pye* in November 1652 from **Francis Rowe** and also had other property in Loddon. In 1649 a tenement and eight inclosures of land totalling about 40 acres spread out in the Loddon fields were sold to Thomas, and this was the subject of another deed in October 1659 when Thomas the younger, yeoman of Hardley, was acting as executor of his father's Will. With comprehensive help from the Loddon History Group (which was greatly appreciated) who sent me detailed information, I now know that *The Pye*, a Grade II listed building, later became known as *The King's Head* and was just one of seven inns on the main thoroughfare through Loddon.



*The King's Head, Loddon (Photo courtesy J Thomas, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons)*

Did the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 affect this family? Probably not. According to **B Gordon Blackwood's** *Tudor and Stuart Suffolk*<sup>(2)</sup> things changed hardly at all for the gentry, and, as they were not dissenters, they were unlikely to have suffered persecution. I have not yet traced what happened to the other siblings, **Thomas** (son of Thomas d. 1658/59), **Jane, James, Nicholas, William** and **Mary**, nor found their baptisms, but the latter four and Charles were all under 21 in 1658/9. They would have lived through **James II's** accession and probably heard of the anti-Catholic riots at Bury St Edmunds and Cheveley in Cambridgeshire.<sup>(3)</sup> Then came the Declaration of Indulgence, which resulted in **William of Orange** being invited to take the throne in 1688, with his wife **Mary**, daughter of James II. Nine years after their accession, in 1698, Charles sold *The Pye* to **Thomas Aggag** of Loddon and so it passed out of the Rushmer family's possession.

One of the customers at *The Pye* might have been a member of the Pitcher(s) family, who came to the town in the late 17th century; and now we turn to their story. **Thomas Pitcher** and **Phillipa (née Gallant)** had married and baptised three children in Attleborough between 1626 and 1639. Just as their family was complete, they, like the rest of England, were plunged into the chaos of civil war, culminating in the execution of **Charles I**.

Attleborough was also where their second son, **John**, and his wife **Priscilla (née Brett)** baptised seven children between 1660 and 1674. In spite of **Charles II's** restoration, none of the children bore this name, their parents staying with **William, John** and **Thomas**, before diverting to a **Valentine** (baptised in September, but perhaps born in February?) and then, as was often the case, calling their last born son **Benjamin**. We can wonder if they worried about the war with the Dutch, especially the sea battles of Lowestoft and Solebay. Perhaps they could hear the cannon fire.

It was son William (1669-1728+), following his marriage to **Elizabeth Barker** in Earlam on 1 June 1691, who moved to Loddon, and thus into the orbit of the Rushmer family. Their children, **William** (died young), **James, William** and **John** were christened in Holy Trinity church, Loddon. James (1693/4-1732/3), another ancestor, married **Lucia Jeckell**, while his brother William (1698-1727/8) married **Elizabeth Tricker**. Fortunately, on William's death an inventory of his possessions was taken from which we learn that he was a cooper. Probably the third brother, **Daniel**, also followed this trade, while it seems that James was a cordwainer or shoemaker.

After this, the paths of the two families diverge for another 150 years or so.

The Pitchers stayed in Loddon for another generation until **Cornelius**, the eldest surviving son, moved south and married **Hannah Baldry** in Ditchingham in 1739. From then on it was one place per generation. This couple seems to have only had one child, **John**, who married in All Saints, Ellough, Suffolk; but he created his own large family, and this was where his 14 children with **Margaret (née Turrell)** were

christened. Sadly, about half of them were buried as infants but children 1, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 survived (**Cornelius, Hannah, James, John, William, Robert** and **Henry**). Life was risky then.

The ninth child, James, married in Carlton Colville, Suffolk, his bride's place of birth; both were '*of Carlton*' and single. Apart from the tower, built in the 13th century, the rest of the church was rebuilt in the late 19th century and so we cannot see what the couple saw on their wedding day. It was 5 November 1787, and I hope there were no jokes about fireworks. The bride was **Honor** (sometimes **Hannah**) **Lee**, aged 22. They were in Carlton Colville for the baptism of their first child, **Harry**, in 1797 but later moved to Barnby and then to Kessingland where Honor was buried in 1853. James, however, was buried in Pakefield in 1846, possibly because his daughter **Harriet** and her five children were there.

Their second son, **Robert**, was said to be '*of Kessingland*' when he married in 1825. Although banns were called in Kessingland, his marriage to **Anne Spanton** took place at Gisleham, his bride's place of residence. Their first three children were christened there between 1826 and 1829, but by 1831 they were in Kirkley. This is where my ancestor **Patience Pitcher** was baptised on 27 November 1831 and where she married **Charles Rushmore**, a descendent of the Norfolk family, thus bringing us full circle. Her married life was brief; having given birth to six children, she died in October 1869, a month short of her 38th birthday.

The Rushmers took a different path south. Henry Rushmer (1637-1718) married twice, and his first wife's parents had been married in Loddon in 1612. I believe their daughter, **Mary Playforth**, married Henry at Hardley in Norfolk in 1663; we did once manage to visit the church, which seemed remote but very peaceful. Fortunately, Henry's Will mentioned the children of both his marriages as, following his second marriage to **Susanna Tangate/Tungate** at St Matthias' church, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, they stayed in that village where their seven children were baptised between 1694 and 1711. It was a tiny parish of about 900 acres between Haddiscoe and Thurlton and the chancel is not the one Henry and Susanna would have seen as it was rebuilt in brick in 1838. Henry made a Will in 1702, remarkably early in his life (it was 15 years before his death), and thus it only mentions his first three children. Each was left £20, and one wonders what actually happened with the other two surviving children.

As we move through the Georgian era we find Henry's fifth child, **Charles**, married twice. Although I located his second marriage at Reedham on 6 April 1742 to **Eleanor Snagg**, I have yet to find his first marriage to a **Mary**. I assume it would be around 1730, as four children were born to Charles and Mary between 1731 and 1738 and were christened at Reedham, before Mary died. She was buried as '*Mary, wife of Charles*' on 26 November 1740; Charles survived her by only nine years, leaving Eleanor a widow.



The next generation, all 12 of them, including **Henry** (now Rushmore) baptised on 15 February 1761, were also christened at Reedham. The town is situated on the River Yare and lies about 12 miles east of Norwich, which could have been easier to get to by boat than by road. Many of the family remained in the Reedham/Thorpe/Thurlton area. Indeed, I found the name mentioned in *Reedham Remembered* by **Sheila Hutchinson**.<sup>(4)</sup> A **James Rushmere** lived in a cottage, one of four, called Old Hall Farm 'barracks' in 1900, while a James and Henry appear in the 1840 tithe award.

However, Henry was on the move. When he married **Sarah Bullion** 'of Hales' in July 1784 at Hales St Margaret, Henry was 'of Geldeston'. Both were single and Henry was aged 23. This 12th-century church is another with a round tower and has a thatched roof, medieval wall paintings and a 500-year-old font. This was where their first five children were baptised, followed by one in St Mary's, Ditchingham in 1812 and the last in Ilketshall St Andrew, Suffolk. The fifth child, **Charles** (1794-1866), married a **Mary Ann**, possibly *née Westrope*, on 20 February 1816 at Shadingfield.



*St Margaret's Church, Hales by [Helen Steed](#), CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia*

Another large family of nine children followed, of whom Charles, baptised at St John the Baptist, Barnby on 10 August 1828, was the Rushmore man who married Patience Pitcher at Kirkley in 1853.

Both Charles and Patience are buried in Pakefield churchyard. I remember spending summer holidays as a child in the 1950s at my great-aunt's cottage which backed onto the burial ground (seen below). This has now been replaced by a modern building, but was this where my interest in family history began, I wonder?



*Pakefield churchyard, 1992. Photo: Author's own*



*Former cottage of author's great-aunt, Pakefield, 1992. Photo: Author's own*

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1. <https://www.shardalow.com/histories/shardalowname.php>
2. B Gordon Blackwood, *Tudor and Stuart Suffolk* (Carnegie Publishing, London, 2001).
3. *Ibid.*, p.246: 'In early December 1688 "the rabble of Bury St Edmunds" joined forces with a Cambridgeshire mob to attack the magnificent house of **Henry Jermyn**, 1st Baron Dover (1636-1708) at Cheveley, Cambridgeshire. The rioters also pulled down the Catholic chapel there.'
4. Sheila Hutchinson, *Reedham Remembered* (Sheila and Paul Hutchinson, 2006).

***Editors' Note:** The following is another article written by a past member, which talks about the migration of family members (this time from Scotland) into Suffolk. It helps illustrate the wealth of material contained in the back issues of Suffolk Roots, and is very relevant to the theme of this edition. The family featured in the article had many descendants with the same names (Thomas, James, David, etc.). In the interests of clarity we have at added one or two comments in square brackets to help identify the family member being referenced.*

## **THE EMIGRATION OF SCOTTISH FARMERS TO EAST ANGLIA IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY**

*from Suffolk Roots Vol 23 N3 Nov 1997 p.158*

As a child, my mother told me of how my father's grandparent, the **Black** family, had emigrated from Scotland to Darsham, Suffolk in 1886. Whilst realising it was a long way from the pioneering days of the American West, it ultimately began a lifetime of intermittent genealogical research, helped by being able to question great-aunt Elizabeth in her 80s.

Drovers had, from at least the mid-17th century, brought cattle down winter and summer to East Anglia to be fattened before going to local markets and Smithfield.



Therefore, it must have been well known in Lanarkshire that good arable and dairy land was to be found in East Anglia. It is possible my great-grandfather arrived without a prior inspection.

A freak, wet summer in 1879 led to many farmers becoming desperate and often bankrupt. In the 1880s, farms in East Anglia were in danger of remaining uncultivated, and the landowners leased land at very low rates. Large landowners (**Lord Stradbroke** in this case) advertised in Scottish newspapers and magazines, and Scottish farmers were attracted by the terms offered. These included the waiving of restrictions on the crops grown, and there were also cash benefits. These almost certainly included free LNER passage from Scotland (hence the hired train mentioned by my mother). They travelled south with very little capital, took over farms, and worked hard. They farmed as they had done in Scotland, but were known as 'land skimmers' – i.e. men who ruined the land by continuous cultivation, and not maintaining the traditional method known as 'Norfolk Crop Rotation'.

In Livingstone, at a farm called 'New Year's Farm' (due to a Scottish king staying overnight one New Year's Eve), lived **David Black** and wife **Agnes**. They married in 1825, and lived to celebrate their Diamond Wedding with four sons and their wives and five daughters and their husbands; two sons had already migrated to New Zealand. Fortunately, this occasion was photographed at the front of the farm [*this photo was of insufficient quality to reproduce but may be viewed in the original article*]. The sons were **John**, who in 1885 was 60, **James** (56), **David** (52), and **Thomas** (41). John was killed by a kick from a horse, so Thomas' son **David** ran his farm to the year end.

In 1886, James, then 57, brought with him to Suffolk by LNER special train his wife, four of his five daughters (the eldest married a local farmer), and son **James**, then aged 28. **James**, nephew of David (son of David) also travelled with them, along with all their goods and chattels, cattle and farm implements. James went to White House Farm at Darsham, **David** [*seems to be brother David's son*] to Sibton.

His [*James'*] four daughters, aged 17-24 years, were **Agnes**, **Elizabeth**, **Jeannie** and **Christina**. Apparently, these girls milked the cows in the meadows, a sight which drew many farmers sons, my maternal and paternal grandfathers and great-uncle among them. Jeannie, at 18, married **Andrew Aldrich** at Westleton Chapel in 1887, and by 1913 they and Andrew's parents were renting four farms in Darsham: Darsham Old Hall, White House Farm, Priory Farm and Low Farm (now known as 'Truscott's'). Jeannie died from cancer in 1914 at the age of 44, having borne 11 children and lost four. Later, Jeannie's husband, Alan Aldrich (they were my paternal grandparents), with his brother **Horace Aldrich**, were the first farmers to negotiate contracts for their milk to be despatched by train daily to Ilford and London. [*James'*] son, James, married **Elizabeth Boyles** of Bramfield in 1891 and in 1916 they emigrated to Western Australia. With history repeating itself he answered an advertisement

offering enormous benefits to would-be farmers there. Western Australia at that time was an empty area needing immigrants.

Brother David moved to Southminster, Essex in 1896, whilst his son **David** farmed at Sibton House, Sudbourne.

Brother Thomas farmed at Bacton. His son David, born in 1874, became a national authority on pig farming. ‘Black Pigs of Bacton’ are still very well known. His [*David’s*] son, **Thomas**, born 1900, pioneered the growing of sugar beet (sugar beet factories began in 1924, sugar beet prospering on the light land of East Anglia as it has deep roots), and tulips, and he grew large areas of outdoor flowers for cutting. During WWII he was responsible for preserving stocks of flowering bulbs to maintain growth after the war. In 1966, 15 acres of gladioli were grown as a flower crop followed by nine years of farm crops. He pioneered the growing of rhubarb in fields in 1965.

When Lord Stradbroke realised that my grandfather was a Liberal, he sold up the estate and the family moved to Brampton Old Hall in 1913. They continued to live there until 1920, Andrew having died at 58 years of age.

There are many descendants in Suffolk of these three brothers and their sons who made the original move in the late 19th century. This is but one of these families. There are many more Scottish families scattered around East Anglia.

*Zoe Montgomery*

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THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF LIFE: A WILTSHIRE  
LASS’ JOURNEY TO IPSWICH, VIA LONDON

As a child growing up in Wiltshire, my great-grandmother, **Sarah Ellen Preston**, would doubtless little have thought that one day she might have descendants who regarded themselves as having roots in Suffolk!

Born in Crudwell, Wiltshire, in January 1862, Sarah was the daughter of an agricultural labourer. Nothing much is known of her early years but by the age of nineteen she was still in Wiltshire and working as a domestic servant for a farmer named **Frank Moore**. The farmer’s wife, **Emma**, was from London. Is that perhaps how Sarah came by her next job, which involved her moving away from the rural West Country and going to ‘the big smoke’? Either way, by the time of the 1891 census, Sarah was no longer in Wiltshire but had become a live-in parlourmaid and domestic servant for **George Lea**, a judge, and his wife, whose home, ‘Montague Grove’, was in Frognal, Hampstead.

It must have been while she was in the employ of the Lea family that she met her future husband, **Frederick Walter Boddey**. Fred was a Londoner, born and bred,

and by the early 1890s had become an established French polisher. Was he perhaps called to the judge's house to do work on the furniture there, and is that how the two of them first met? Whatever the circumstances, they clearly formed a firm relationship, because they were married in St Matthew's church in Oakley Square just a year or so later, in April 1892.

Their first home together was in West Hampstead, but things changed sometime between the birth of their first son, **Henry William**, and their second, **Frederick Thomas**, when they moved to Ipswich. Why this happened is not entirely clear, except that Sarah's former employer, George Lea, was a judge of the Suffolk County Court. Was it perhaps his influence that had triggered the move?



*Sarah Preston. Photo: Author's own*

While the exact reasons for the family's relocation may never be known, they happily put down roots in Ipswich, where Fred continued his work as a French polisher and also branched out into business as a fruiterer. The 1901 census records them as living at 87 Princes Street. It looks as though the fruit shop was on the ground floor of the building, because an article in the Ipswich *Evening Star* of 13 March 1902 reports some lads having stolen money from Fred's shop till and cites that same address as the location of the crime.

By this time, Sarah and Fred had produced a third child, a girl by the name of **Frances Ellen**, and in due course they moved from Princes Street to Tokio Road where Fred reverted to focusing on his work as a French polisher. There they would remain until Sarah's death in April 1927. As for the children, they would always think of Suffolk as 'home', and even though Frances Ellen (my grandmother) and her husband ended up living in Birmingham (having had to move there for work reasons during the Great Depression of the 1930s), I well remember that an annual holiday in Felixstowe was non-negotiable!

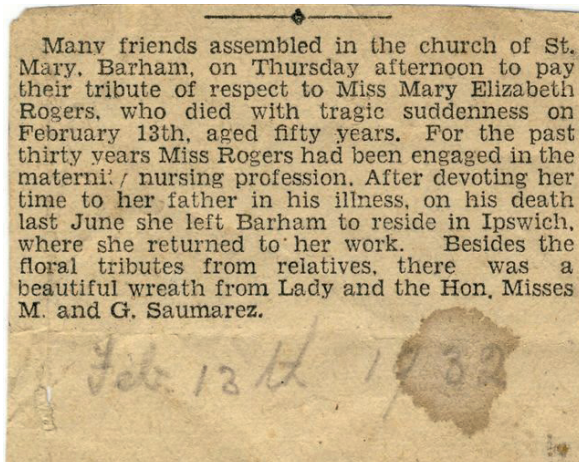
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## GO EAST! THE CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNEY OF JOHN ROGERS

I've traced most branches of my family tree well back into the 1700s, the vast majority from Suffolk. I've found photos of all eight great-grandparents and even four 2x great-grandparents, including **John Rogers**, the subject of this tale. How frustrating, then, that the man who brought my surname and DNA into Suffolk in the 1870s after a years-long cross-country trek remains the biggest brick wall in my genealogy. The wonderful photo I have of him and his family remains a mystery too ... Perhaps you can help?

Born in 1843 in Abbey Dore, Herefordshire, John Rogers died in Barham at the ripe old age of 87, nursed through his later years by his daughter **Mary**. Considering the exhausting nature of his work over the years, John's venerable age was some achievement. He laboured on farms and in iron foundries, made bricks and laid drains, migrated 150 miles across England to Suffolk, and still had time to work around 25 years on the Shrubland Hall estate, then owned by **Lord de Saumarez**. He must have been valued, as when Mary died a year later in 1932, the local press recorded that a wreath was sent by **Lady** and the **Hon. Misses M and G de Saumarez**.



*Mary Rogers, and her death notice. Photos: Author's own*

### Herefordshire

Let's go back to the beginning. I've visited the serene abbey church where John was baptised on 3 September 1843. The birth certificate only names his mother, **Sarah Rogers**, and even the Herefordshire Archives wizards cannot determine which of the several Sarahs alive in the area she was. By following all their later lives in turn, I'm pretty certain 'my' Sarah married a **Robert Hoskins** in 1850 and in 1851 John was named as his 'nephew' on the Hereford city census. Sarah died of tuberculosis in 1854 and by 1861 John was lodging in nearby Kentchurch, close to other families who had presumably moved there from Abbey Dore for work.



## Wiltshire, Wales and Dorset

How John ended up marrying **Eliza Brown** some 100 miles south in Mere, Wiltshire in March 1869 is beyond me.<sup>(4)</sup> John and Eliza's first child, **Sarah Ann**, was born in December 1870 in Stourton Caundle, Dorset, but by the time of the 1871 census, mother and baby were back living in Mere with her parents while John was working at an ironworks in Aberystroth, Wales.

## Devon and Bucks

There is a connection between the two places, as John's brother-in-law **Thomas Brown** was toiling at the same Welsh location come the 1881 census. The agricultural depression and industrial expansion of the 1870s forced people to move significant distances to find work. As **A N Wilson** writes in *The Victorians*:

*'Canon Girdlestone, vicar of Halberton in North Devon, organised single-handedly the migration of between 400 and 500 men with families over six years from areas where they were trying to survive on [low wages] to towns, factories or parts of the country which were more prosperous and could afford to pay a living wage.'*

In 1873 when daughter **Kate Victoria** was born, John and Eliza were living 13 miles from Halberton in Rockbeare. By the time of the birth of **Henry John** in June 1876 they were in Quainton, Bucks, and I wonder whether they moved there as part of one of these migration schemes? My great-grandfather **Harry Rogers** was born in the same place two years later, by which time his father was a bricklayer's labourer.

## Suffolk

If I can speculate how John and family got from Devon to Bucks, I've no idea how they arrived in Crowfield, Suffolk, by 1881. Were there recruiting agencies for rural labourers during this period? If so, they certainly got their money's worth out of John, who we find living in School Road, Coddendam in 1891 and at Barham Lodge, opposite the *Sorrel Horse* pub, on the Shrubland Hall Estate in 1901 and 1911.



*Barham Lodge, Shrubland Hall Estate. Photo: Author's own*



The unusual and undated family photo below was presumably taken some time in the 1890s near Shrubland Hall, but for what occasion? John and Eliza's silver or 30th wedding anniversary? A day for staff on the de Saumarez estate? All tips very welcome! Left to right standing we see Sarah Ann (whose turbulent marriage to **Henry Hearn** made the press on several occasions)<sup>(2)</sup>, Harry (hotel omnibus driver and coachman for Singletons undertakers), John, Eliza, Henry John (nurse at Ipswich mental hospital), Kate (admitted to Melton asylum in 1911 until her death in 1949). Seated are probably **Lily Hearn** (living with her grandparents in 1901) and Mary (community nurse).



*John Rogers and family. Photo: Author's own*

By 1921 John and Eliza had moved to Sharpstone Street and John was still working as a labourer on Lord de Saumarez's estate at 77 years old. Eliza passed away a year later and her shared grave with John, who outlived her by a decade, is still visible close to the entrance of Barham church.



*Harry Rogers takes John and Eliza for a spin in the 1910s. Also in the carriage are Harry Rogers (author's grandfather) and his mother Minnah Rogers (née Kersey). Photo: Author's own.*

#### References and Sources

1. While their marriage certificate names his father as John, I can find no records of a John Rogers born to a John in Herefordshire between 1843 and 1847. Can I presume John just gave a name to avoid discussion of his origins?
  2. See the Ipswich *Evening Star*, 11 and 19 October 1909.
- .....

## FROM ITALY TO IPSWICH

My great-grandparents, **Napoleone Zagni** and **Maria Motroni**, were born in the early 1870s – Napoleone in Nonantola, Modena, and Maria in Borgo a Mozzano, Italy. Napoleone was working as a ballistics engineer on the Apennine mountain tunnel between Bologna and Borgo a Mozzano when he met Maria, who was tending cattle and picking grapes on the mountainside – they married in Borgo a Mozzano in 1896.



*The famous Ponte Del Diavolo (The Devil's Bridge), otherwise known as the Ponte della Maddalena, in Borgo a Mozzano, Italy. Photo: Author's own.*

Napoleone also crafted plaster statues, but with limited opportunities in Italy, the couple decided to follow in the footsteps of Napoleone's eldest brother who had emigrated to America in 1895.

### A change of plans

On their way to America, they stopped in Ipswich to visit Maria's brother, **Antonio**. He had settled there, having been in the UK since at least 1881 working first in Plymouth and then in Colchester and Ipswich as a '*figurista*' (plaster figurine maker). Maria was heavily pregnant with their first child at this time, so they decided to stay rather than continue to America. Napoleone found work in those early years as a corn chandler, hot chestnut seller and ornament maker.

Their children's vaccination records show that the family moved frequently in the late 1800s, but by 1900 they had settled at 66 Rope Walk, Ipswich, where Napoleone set up business as a shopkeeper. In 1901, Napoleone's younger brother **Benigno** (14) and half-sister, **Ernesta** (13) were living with them. Benigno remained in Ipswich, but Ernesta eventually returned to Italy.

### Life at 66 Rope Walk

Sales particulars, dated 1902, for the sale of three houses and shops and a large yard in Rope Walk, Ipswich<sup>(1)</sup> provide a good description of 66 Rope Walk:

*'It is brick and plaster built, with tiled roof, and has a shop, 15ft by 11ft 9in, with two windows and door in centre; private Entrance Passage; Back Room 15ft by 12ft; Scullery with a small range, copper, sink and water supply; Cellar; Landing; Two Bedrooms with cupboards; Attic and Lumber room, and at the rear a yard and W.C. and a right over the cartway of Lot 4 to the Street. The property has a frontage of about 20ft and an area of 3 rods or thereabouts. Land Tax 4s 4d. Now let to N. Zagni at 4s 9d a week amounting to £12 7s per annum. The tenant pays the rate and the tenant claims the fittings in the shop.'*

### The birth of Peter's Ice Cream

According to my grandfather **Victor**, Napoleone bought an ice cream machine for 30 shillings – made possible using Maria's savings. They set up an Italian ice cream business in Ipswich called Peter's, as the locals, unfamiliar with Italian names and Napoleone's strong accent, had nicknamed Napoleone 'Peter'.

The book *Felixstowe At Work*<sup>(2)</sup> recounts how Napoleone would walk or ride a horse-drawn cart from Ipswich to Felixstowe, selling ice cream in small glasses that customers returned. He gave away samples to entice people to try this new treat. In 1919, he commissioned his first motorised van – a French-built Darracq – and pioneered mobile ice cream sales in Suffolk. When street trading was banned in Felixstowe, Napoleone rented the garden of Langer House on Undercliff Road, opposite the pier.

During the slum clearance of Rope Walk (c.1937-1939), Napoleone negotiated a move to Grimwade Street, where the Peter's Ice Cream shop and factory were established.

At the start of WWII, as Italian immigrants, Napoleone and Maria were forced to leave Ipswich and relocate to London with their daughter **Anna**, due to coastal



*Napoleone Zagni in the Darracq van, trading from the garden of Langer House, Undercliff Road, Felixstowe, c. 1919.*

*Photo: Author's own.*



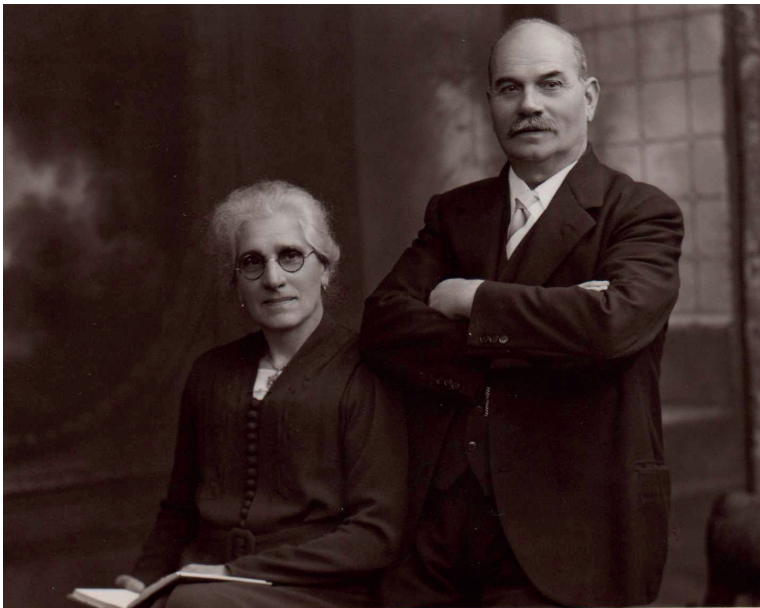
restrictions on ‘aliens’. They had to report regularly to the War Office. Local support for ‘Mr Peters’ was strong – so much so that the community reportedly petitioned the Mayor of Ipswich to allow the family to return. Though I haven’t found documentation to prove this, I hope the story is true.

**Legacy**

Napoleone and Maria had nine children, eight of whom survived to adulthood and started families of their own. Today, if you meet a Zagni in the UK, there’s a very good chance they descend from my great-grandparents!



*Peter’s Ice Cream factory (on the left) & shop (on the right).  
Date unknown, but possibly c. 1937-39, as the shop looks empty.  
Photo: Author’s own.*



*Napoleone & Maria Zagni, Ipswich, Christmas 1938. Photo: Author’s own.*

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**References and Sources**

- 1. 66 Rope Walk Sales Particulars 1902, The Hold (Suffolk Archives), Fore Street, Ipswich, Ref: HE402-1-1902-84
- 2. Phil Hadwen et al, *Felixstowe at Work*, The Lavenham Press Limited, 1994

## SOME DEPARTURES

The Suffolk Archives website carries an online display on emigration from Suffolk. Research performed by history students at Suffolk University displays information on selected Suffolk emigrées in an interesting and graphic way.

Part 1: **Ellen** and **Margaret Dauson**, to be Jamestown Brides; **Margaret Emma Barber**, to be a missionary in Fuh-Kien, China; and **John Winthrop**, part of the Puritan migration from Suffolk in the early 17th century.

Part 2: **George Head** and his wife, **MaryAnn**, and children, **Elsa**, **Mary Ann**, **Eliza** and **Ellen**, to Australia in 1839; **Bartholomew Gosnold**, explorer and captain of the *Godspeed*, carrying some of the first settlers to America; the **Martin** children, **Victoria Lilian**, **Frank Harold**, **Olive** and **Percy**, who were sent to Canada as part of the Home Children scheme.

Part 3: **John Hudspit Turner**, to be a missionary in the Arctic; **Catharine**, **Susanna** and **Samuel Strickland**, emigrants to Canada.

These may be found at the following URL: <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/be-inspired/exhibitions-at-the-hold/displays-online/>

**Lesley Hall**

*Co-editor*



### Departures: Student Research

History students from the University of Suffolk have explored stories of emigration from Suffolk. Click on a section below to explore:

- [Part One](#)
- [Part Two](#)
- [Part Three](#)

## PLAYFORD 1827 CENSUS – ERROR

I wrote a short article about the Playford 1827 census in September's *Roots*. A small but important error has since been pointed out to me. In the magazine, the website is given as *ebc.byu.edu*, but there is an 'i' missing, and it should be *https://ebic.byu.edu/*.

Sorry about that.

**Andy Kerridge**, Chair



## WHEPSTEAD LAND WORKER TO MILLIONAIRE LONDON LANDLORD IN 30 YEARS

With the pub trade a central thread, this rags-to-riches story sees loss and hardship; underlines the increasing draw of the growing cities, in this case London, during the 1800s for those previously working the land; highlights too the critical importance of family in helping to secure both employment and marriage – the latter sometimes aided by small deceits; and illustrates, finally, how in later years, family may provide a roof for elderly relations.

My maternal great-grandfather **Thomas Foreman** (1851-1897) was born in Whepstead, Suffolk. He was the third child of agricultural labourer **William Foreman** (1820-1855, b. Whepstead) and **Mary Ann (née Pearson)** (1820-1910, b. Whepstead). Thomas had elder siblings, **Sarah Ann** (1846-1925) and **James** (1848-1930), while his younger sister **Eliza** (1854-1882) joined the family three years later, all of them Whepstead born. In 1851, there were 618 inhabitants in not more than some 140 houses in Whepstead; the village name means ‘place where brushwood grew’.

At just four years old, in 1855, Thomas Foreman lost his 35-year-old father William (he is most likely buried at St Petronella’s, Whepstead). Thomas’ mother, Mary Ann, now had to feed four children aged under 10. In 1861, she was a ‘*Laundress*’ in Whepstead, with Thomas (10) and his elder brother James (13) now both agricultural labourers. The family occupied a house in Brockley Road (B1066 today), with no house number, between ‘Tuffields’ and ‘Stone House’ – all told, there were 23 people living in Brockley Road at the 1861 census.

By the 1871 census, the family had dispersed. Thomas was a ‘*Cellarman*’ at *The Crown* at Seven Dials, London, the then poor, crime-ridden area in the parish of St Giles near Covent Garden (the pub is still there today). An unattributed saying of the time was ‘*the walk through The Dials after dark was an act that no one but a lunatic would have attempted*’. His brother James was also in London, a ‘*Potman*’ at the *Alfred Tavern*, 47 Roman Road, Finsbury (closed around 1944 and now a shop). James will exit the pub trade by the next census, first becoming an ‘*Excavator*’ (digging railway cuttings), then marrying in November 1875 and entering the building trade, his father-in-law’s area of expertise. But the appearance of the brothers Foreman in the London pub trade in 1871 was very unlikely to have been chance; their uncle, their father’s brother **Charles** (1831-1880, b. Whepstead), was already a ‘*Sellarman*’ [sic] at a distillery in London in 1871.



*The Crown, Seven Dials, today – 20-year-old Thomas Foreman was a cellarman here by 1871  
(photo courtesy of Wikipedia)*

The 1881 census placed Thomas at the Collenbawn Beer House, 7 Buck's Row, Whitechapel (*'The Colleen Bawn; or, The Brides of Garryowen'* – a popular play of the time by Irish playwright **Dion Boucicault**). This was another dubious location – Buck's Row was the site of the first 'Jack the Ripper' murder in 1888, that of **Mary Nichols**, although Thomas and family had moved on by then. Now called Durward Street, the area has been redeveloped. This census also shows him with new wife **Emma Foreman (née Burgess)** (23, b. Westminster, Middlesex) and **Maria Mason** (61, widow, b. Whepstead), *'Mother-in-law'*. Maria was in fact Thomas' mother Mary Ann, who had remarried in 1865 at Brockley near Whepstead, but whose second husband, **Ezra Mason** (1812-1877), had expired soon after (more on this marriage later).

Thomas and Emma had married in February 1881, just ahead of the 3 April census. This marriage was not chance. Emma's parents were cabman **Henry Burgess** (1830-1903, b. Middlesex) and **Sarah Burgess (née Pearson)** (1829-1917, b. Whepstead). Two Pearson women from Whepstead? Yes, Sarah was Thomas' aunt, his mother's sister, meaning Thomas and Emma were first cousins.<sup>(1)</sup> So, it was the Pearson sisters – Mary Ann and Sarah, born in Whepstead but both now in London – who engineered the marriage. Thomas calls himself *'Licensed Victualler'* on the marriage document, but this is upselling, as a beer house is the lowest type of drinking establishment, while he elevates his father from agricultural labourer to *'Farmer'*.

As to how Sarah Pearson met and married cabman Henry Burgess of London in 1857, well, perhaps the link here was again Thomas' uncle Charles Foreman (Sarah's brother-in-law), whose wife, **Sarah Jane (née Brett)** (1835-1894, b. Hampstead, Middlesex), had a coachman father. Things really don't seem to happen by accident in this Foreman family story. Sarah, like Thomas, was also guilty of upselling on her marriage document, giving her father the trade of 'Gardener' rather than agricultural labourer. There may have been another small deceit: on all following census documents she is consistently shown as four years younger than her true age, perhaps to substantiate what she had told her husband and so appear a better catch for him.



*Sarah Burgess (1829-1917) with great-grandson **Raymond Henry Thomas Foreman** (1910-1997), c. 1911. Raymond was the only son of Henry Thomas Foreman (1884-1975), himself the only son of Thomas Foreman*

Now, to return for a moment to that coming together of Thomas' widowed mother Mary Ann and widower Ezra Mason in Suffolk, each with children in the house. This pairing was likely eased by Mary Ann's sister-in-law, **Susan Smith (née Foreman)** (1826-1904), who lived in Brockley, although Mary Ann was living in Brockley Road in 1861 (Whepstead and Brockley are about 1.2 miles apart). It is not the only matchmaking that Susan Smith will be involved in, as we'll see.

Also working in the London pub trade in 1881 was Mary Ann's daughter by Ezra Mason, **Lydia** (1864-1905, b. Brockley). She was a 'General Servant' at *The White Swan*, Great Alie Street, Whitechapel (still there today). Yes, Thomas Foreman's half-sister Lydia was born the year before his mother and Ezra Mason's marriage, so it looks suspiciously as if Mary Ann, then aged 44 (Ezra was 52), secured her future in one of the few ways open to her.

Moving on, and the 1891 census placed Thomas, his wife and his mother – and now two children, a daughter, **Florence Mary Ann** (1882-1971) and a son, **Henry Thomas** (1884-1975) – at the *Bear & Rummer*, 43 Mortimer Street. They had likely been there since April 1884, as nearby 45 Mortimer Street is the address on Henry Thomas' birth registration (his sister had been born in Buck's Row, Whitechapel). It's a more upmarket location, shown as a mix of 'middle-class, well to-do' and 'fairly comfortable, good average earnings' on **Charles Booth's Poverty Map of London** (1886-1903).



The pub is not there today, but the location was at the intersection of Wells Street and Mortimer Street on a plot taken by brickmaker **Thomas Huddle** in 1736, where he built what became the *Bear & Rummer*. An old carved panel of a bear hugging a 'large goblet-shaped drinking-glass' (or rummer) was recorded on the Wells Street front around the time the pub was altered and enlarged in 1896, but was removed then or during the next few years. The pub disappeared following a 1982 redevelopment.

By 1896, the family had left the *Bear & Rummer* for the *Duchess of Kent*, 72 Prebend Street, Islington. The area is described by Charles Booth as 'fairly comfortable, good average earnings'. No longer a pub, it is now the *Angel Sports Bar*, with the bookable Angel Townhouse Hotel above. Sadly, the pub bore Thomas Foreman's name as landlord for just a short time, because he died in 1897, aged 46. However, he had become a wealthy man, leaving over £9,300 to wife Emma (c. £1.4m today). This accumulation of wealth from nothing during some 30 years in London is a mystery.



*The Duchess of Kent, 72 Prebend Street, Islington, c. 1896. In the doorway can be seen (L to R) Emma Foreman (née Burgess, 1857-1949), Florence Mary Ann Foreman (only daughter, 1882-1971) and Thomas Foreman (1851-1897)*

Some underlining of this wealth comes with Thomas' burial in Highgate Cemetery, London, in a large plot with an imposing headstone, where he was later joined by wife Emma and her parents. Strong documentary and circumstantial evidence also places the ashes of Thomas and Emma's daughter, Florence Mary Ann, and her husband, **Thomas Foreman Hancock** (1877-1971), near the grave.<sup>(2)</sup>

Thomas' widow Emma remarried in 1899, to **Alfred James Green** (1865-1931, b. Welbourn, Yorkshire, but resident in London with family members). He was eight years her junior and described as 'Artist, Sculptor' in the 1891 and 1901 censuses. The couple remained involved in the liquor business, first at the *Duchess of Kent* but by 1910 in Bow, where they were running an off-licence. By 1912, Alfred Green's name was on the Tax Collection Rate Books for *The Dolphin*, Sutton High Street, Sutton, Surrey.

At the 1901 census, Thomas Foreman's mother, Mary Mason, now 80 years old, was head of her own household in Hammersmith. Also in the property are Thomas' son, Henry Thomas (now 17, 'Clerk at the Council Library'), Thomas's brother James's daughter **Gertrude**

**Eliza** (18, 'General Servant' in the house) and Mary Ann's single sister, **Eliza Pearson** (1832-1923, b. Whepstead, 'Living On Own Means'). Emma's inherited wealth must have been part supporting this household. But Mary Ann died in 1910, in Cosby, Leicestershire, while Thomas Henry and Gertrude Eliza married in 1907, at the parish church in Erith, Kent – they were living in nearby Belvedere, in the same road as other Foreman relatives from James Foreman's line. And, yes, the couple were first cousins. Eliza Pearson was in a house on her own elsewhere in London, still 'Living On Own Means' at the 1911 census.

Mary Ann was in Cosby at her death in 1910 because her eldest daughter, Sarah Ann (1846-1925) and husband **Henry Hancock** (1832-1919, b. Cosby) lived there. Their marriage, in 1867 in Plumstead, looks very much to have been engineered by Sarah Ann's aunt, the Susan Smith née Foreman mentioned earlier, via her husband **Winn Smith** (1828-1895, b. Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex) – both he and widower Henry Hancock were policemen in Woolwich and lived in Plumstead. Mary Ann is in a grave with other Hancock family members in Cosby.

Mary Ann's youngest daughter, Eliza Foreman, who remained single, had also moved to Cosby by 1881, to be a servant (this clearly engineered by sister Sarah Ann and



*The author, Andrew Allcock, by the family grave of Thomas Foreman in Highgate Cemetery<sup>(3)</sup>*



husband Henry Hancock), but she had died soon after, in 1882. Sarah and Henry named their daughter born the same year **Eliza**, in her memory. Mary Ann's daughter by Ezra Mason, Lydia Mitchell née Mason, died childless in 1905, in Middlesex, exact burial location unknown.

The 1911 census sees Emma and Alfred Green in Bethnal Green, running that off-licence, as already noted, but it also shows that apart from Emma's daughter Florence Mary Ann, her nephew Thomas Foreman Hancock is in the house – he was the son of Sarah Ann and her husband Henry Hancock. Florence and Thomas married in November 1911, at Benhilton Church, Surrey, as Florence was by then living at *The Dolphin*, while Thomas was still resident in Bow. And, yes, they were first cousins, but they had no children.

The 1921 census finds Alfred and Emma still at *The Dolphin*, along with Emma's unmarried aunt, Eliza Pearson and Emma's widowed sister, **Eliza Kettlewhite (née Burgess)** (1856-1953). Alfred died in 1931, but Emma was still at *The Dolphin* in 1934, although by 1939 she was living with daughter Florence Mary Ann and her husband Thomas Foreman Hancock in nearby Merton, Surrey. Emma died in 1949, leaving £1,918 (£94,000 in today's money – so, clearly some of Thomas Foreman's fortune remained).

It was tales of this last pub, heard through my late grandfather Henry Thomas Foreman, that led me to uncover this whole tale. Recorded as 'Bookkeeper' in the 1921 census, he is believed to have offered such services to

his mother at *The Dolphin* – he was also hosting his uncle (and also father-in-law) James Foreman in his Sutton, Surrey house at the census, incidentally. The pub is no longer in business; it is now 'The Dolphin – Sutton Vineyard', which is linked to the Vineyard Churches UK and Ireland. The location offers a space for smaller events, training and for community groups.



*Alfred Green in the doorway of The Dolphin, Sutton High Street, Sutton, Surrey c. 1920*

Thomas Foreman’s remarkable, and mysterious, success clearly lifted many within the family higher than would otherwise have been the case, and his line continues, as does that of his brother James, although the line from Sarah Ann ended with her childless Hancock children.

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Andrew Allcock (1954-) is the great-grandson of Thomas Foreman, tracing his line through his only son, Henry Thomas, and then through the latter’s only daughter, Catherine Gertrude.

**References and Sources**

- 1. Regarding the prevalence of first cousin marriage in the late 1800s, a paper from 1875 has this: ‘About 4 per cent of all marriages are between first cousins [in England]; in the country and smaller towns between 2 and 3 per cent; and in London perhaps as few as 1½ per cent. Probably 3 per cent is a superior limit for the whole population.’ This is taken from *Marriages between first cousins in England and their effects*, by **George H Darwin**, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge (read before the Statistical Society, 16 March 1875).
- 2. The ashes of Florence Mary Ann and Thomas Foreman Hancock would likely have been scattered without consent, as there is no record held by Highgate Cemetery – not an uncommon practice in the 1970s. The couples’ local church burial record clearly states ‘next to ancestor’, and that could only have meant Florence’s mother (and indeed father), to whom she was devoted. There are, in fact, two spaces available in the family burial plot that would allow for a full body burial, possibly reserved for Florence and her husband, but the associated costs of such a burial in 1971, plus the trend to cremation, saw the surreptitious scattering of their ashes instead. This was most likely carried out by my late eldest brother, who had known both since his earliest years and was involved in matters following their deaths.
- 3. The words on the headstone, inscription from the top, are:

*The family grave of Thomas and Emma Foreman*  
*In loving memory of my beloved husband*  
*Thomas Foreman,*  
*who departed this life May 9th 1897, in his 46th year*  
*Mourn not for him removed from pain,*  
*Our loss we trust is his eternal gain,*  
*With him we’ll try to win the saviour’s love,*  
*And hope to meet him with the blest above,*  
*A loving husband, dear father and true friend,*  
*With constant thought for others till the end*  
*Henry Burgess*  
*died November 15th 1906, aged 78*  
*Sarah Burgess*  
*died April 25th 1917, aged 92*  
*Emma*  
*the beloved wife of Thomas,*  
*died August 24th 1949, aged 92’*



## LEAVING SUFFOLK

I am a Londoner, born and bred. But having said that, I should point out that I haven't lived there for many years, leaving, like many Londoners do, for somewhere else – in my case, the South Pennines. However, like many whose roots are firmly in London, I have Suffolk ancestors (more than one line!). In fact, my roots are in every English county on the east coast, from Northumberland in the north to Kent in the south, with one strange exception – I have no ancestors from Essex. It seems that Suffolk folk travelled straight through that county to reach the bright lights of London.

One of my 4x great-grandfathers left Hengrave near Bury St Edmunds as a young man in about 1797 and settled in Marylebone. He was a shoemaker. He had a long and prosperous life with a big family and in 1851 at the age of 74 the census shows him as an employer of eight men.

### Saxmundham to Hampstead

One of the more remarkable of my Suffolk emigrés was **Nathan Ife**. He married **Eliza Watling** in Saxmundham in 1861. He went from being a Suffolk agricultural labourer to living in Hampstead, London, four years later. Nathan and Eliza left Suffolk with a new-born son, and shortly after arriving in Hampstead my great-grandmother **Alice Ife** was born. It doesn't seem feasible that an illiterate farm worker can head for one of the poshest places in London and find a place to live, but the 19th century was a different world. Yes, there were rich people in Hampstead, but there also needed to be servants and local trades people to see to their needs. Nathan transferred his skills from farming to gardening. He and his family lived in a small cottage – the sort that is now a fashionable mews residence. It appears that he also ran a sideline in providing food.

On 29 December 1884, the *Morning Post* reported that three labourers had gone on a spree of burglaries on Boxing Day night. One of their victims was Nathan Ife. They broke into two fowl houses belonging to him and stole twenty fowls, value £2 10s. The police were called and the thieves were apprehended at Haverstock Hill station. They had 16 fowls in their possession as well as a horse rug stolen from another victim. The paper recorded that Mr Ife had said his fowls had been quite safe in their houses by 5pm on the night of the burglary.

Nathan was also described in some documents as a florist. So, he managed to recreate a bit of his Suffolk life and use the skills he had to serve the rich folk of Hampstead. I've no idea how he came upon this opportunity to change his life. Sadly, he didn't enjoy it for long, dying a few months later in March 1885 of TB. He was 45. His widow Eliza lived till 1914 but ended her years in London County Lunatic Asylum, Hanwell. Their daughter Alice also succumbed to TB and died in 1901. She was just 36.

## The family criminal

Another Suffolk ancestor left the county under very different circumstances. **Emerson Jordan** was born in Kelsale, near Saxmundham, in 1788 to **Emerson Jordan** and **Ann Woolnough**. Emerson Snr. and Ann are my 5x great-grandparents. Emerson Jnr. seems to have been a bit of a bad lad judging by the newspaper reports of him.

He married **Letitia Smith** in Knodishall in 1809, but he didn't conform to a calm married life. In 1817 he was sentenced to 12 months in Ipswich Gaol for stealing three chickens from **William Kett** of Kelsale.<sup>(1)</sup> In 1822 he spent another 12 months at His Majesty's pleasure in Ipswich, this time for assaulting **Henry Berrett**, constable of Saxmundham, in the execution of his duty.<sup>(2)</sup>

In 1824 he was up before the judge again, accused of burglary, though on this occasion he was acquitted.<sup>(3)</sup> But on 20 October 1827 he found himself again before the bench at Ipswich Quarter Sessions, accused, with others, of stealing two hogs and receiving a number of stolen turkeys. Emerson was acquitted of receiving the turkeys but convicted in respect of the hogs, which had been transported away in his cart and whose throats he had later cut. It seems that the authorities had had enough of Emerson Jordan and his petty criminal ways, as he was sentenced to be transported for seven years to New South Wales. He appealed the conviction and the **Earl of Sandown** duly considered it. Unsurprisingly, the Earl decided there was no reason for any change in the sentence: Emerson Jordan was to be transported.<sup>(4)</sup>

Emerson spent the winter in a prison hulk in Portsmouth harbour. On 4 March 1828 he left England on the convict transport, *Phoenix*.<sup>(5)</sup> He survived the passage and is recorded in the penal colony later that year. The sentence was for seven years but in practical terms it was a one-way ticket; prisoners were very unlikely to return.

But there was a lifeline. Because of the desire to colonise Australia, and the imbalance between the sexes, coupled with the need to keep the convicts under control, the government thought it relevant to introduce a scheme for convicts to be able to apply for permission to bring family members out after them. It helped keep them settled, encouraged them to stay rather than return home at the end of their sentence and kept them manageable.

In 1837 Letitia and their three surviving children arrived in Australia.<sup>(6)</sup> There is no further record of Emerson being in breach of the law and the family survived and prospered with many descendants.

**Peter Holford**

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### References and Sources

1. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 22 January 1817.
2. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 24 July 1822.



3. Home Office Criminal Registers, TNA, HO 27; Piece: 28; Page 157 via Ancestry, *England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892*.
  4. *Suffolk Chronicle*, 27 October, 17 November 1827.
  5. *New South Wales, Australia Convict Ship Muster Rolls and Related Records, 1790-1849*, via Ancestry.
  6. *New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896*, via Ancestry.
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## THE MYSTERY OF LYDIA AND WILLIAM GOSLING

It has for some years been a mystery what happened to my 5x great-grandparents **Lydia** and **William Gosling** after 1787. However, with the publication of the Suffolk parish registers on Ancestry, the mystery has at last been partly solved.

Lydia Felmingham<sup>(9)</sup> was born in the village of Denham near Eye in Suffolk and was baptised in the parish church of Denham St John on 27 May 1763. She was the daughter of **Robert Felmingham** and **Mary (née Gosling)**, who had married in the nearby village of Worlingworth on 20 June 1757 and were both recorded as being resident in Worlingworth. Lydia married William Gosling on 3 November 1783 in Denham. William had been born in the neighbouring village of Stradbroke and was baptised on 3 January 1762, the son of **Francis Gosling** and **Margaret (née Jordan)**. William and Lydia had three children baptised in Denham. Their first son was **William** on 16 May 1784, followed by a daughter **Lydia** on 21 August 1785. However, both died as infants, William being buried on 13 November 1784 and Lydia on 1 January 1786. Their third child, **Benjamin**, my 4x great-grandfather, was baptised on 26 August 1787. This is the last record of the family living in Denham, so where did they go? No further baptisms have been discovered, nor have the burial records of Lydia or William; and as yet no connection has been made between William's Gosling family in Stradbroke and Lydia's Gosling family in Worlingworth.

The next relevant record is the marriage in Worlingworth of Benjamin Gosling of Wilby to **Jemima Lincoln** of Horham. The couple then appear in Ashfield cum Thorpe, which is about 9 miles from Denham, with the baptisms of two children, **Mary** and **John**, and the burial of Jemima.

I remember while searching through the Ashfield cum Thorpe registers a few years ago that there was an entry for **John Hawes Gosling**, bastard son of Lydia Gosling, born 2 June and baptised 21 June 1795. I wondered at the time if this had any connection to Lydia my 5x great-grandmother but didn't have enough information to reach a conclusion. I did, however, recall later having seen families by the name of Hawes in Denham.

Ancestry throws up many hints of records possibly relating to family members. Often these are red herrings, but sometimes they can be extremely useful. On this occasion,

Ancestry gave a hint to the marriage in the Ipswich parish church of St Clement's between **John Hawes** and Lydia Gosling on 13 July 1795, just six weeks after the birth of John Hawes Gosling in Ashfield. The Banns had been read on the three preceding weeks and both were recorded as being single and resident in the parish. There are records of Hawes families there, so perhaps they were staying with relatives at the time. Without a doubt, this was the Lydia Felmingham who had married William Gosling; but where did Lydia and John go from Ipswich?

John Hawes was the son of **John** and **Martha Hawes** and had been baptised in Denham on 20 June 1774. The Denham parish registers soon revealed that they had returned to their home parish, as the following baptisms and burials are recorded:

**Ruth**, daughter of John and Lydia Hawes, bap. 22 May 1796, bur. as an infant as Ruth Gosling 22 February 1797 (whoever wrote the burial record must still have been thinking of Lydia as Lydia Gosling, although Ruth's baptism records Lydia with the surname of Hawes and so she must have been recognised as married to John).

**Mary Anne**, bap. 20 May 1798, bur. 15 April 1799.

**Martha**, bap. 13 May 1799, bur. 13 October 1799.

**Walter**, bap. 15 June 1800.

**Elijah**, bap. 19 July 1801, bur. 1 September 1801.

**Martha**, bap. 24 October 1802.

**Eunice**, bap. 30 October 1803, bur. 6 November 1803.

Then over to the neighbouring parish of Hoxne:

**Sarah**, bap. 19 February 1804.

Before going back to Denham for:

**James**, bap. 29 September 1805.

No further baptisms are recorded in Denham. Sadly, Lydia lost most of her children from both marriages in infancy.

Lydia and John must have returned for periods of time to Ashfield cum Thorpe, because there are register entries in this parish as follows:

**Lewis**, son of John and Lydia Hawes Fellingham spinster, b. 18 April 1805, bap. 30 April 1805 and received at church on 12 May 1805 (Felmingham has sometimes been written as Fellingham, as is the case with this entry).

**Lewis**, infant son of John and Lydia Hawes Felmingham spinster, bur. 6 March 1807, aged 3 years (in fact he would have been just under 2 years old).

This is all conclusive evidence that this Lydia is my 5x great-grandmother.

The final record for Lydia is her burial in Denham on 27 December 1811, her age recorded as 47, which is correct for her birth year. Having wondered for so long where her final resting place might be, I discovered that she is buried about a quarter of a mile from where I now live!



*The church of Denham St John, south side (Photo: Christine Brooks)*

These records don't, however, give any clue as to what happened to William Gosling, who had disappeared without trace around 1790. What happened to him? The Navy was short of sailors at that time and was operating press-gangs to take men against their will. This was mostly happening in seaports, including Ipswich, so was William unlucky and in the wrong place at the wrong time? Or might he have been conscripted into the local militia, which was the main military reserve in Great Britain? It was a local force, the officers being gentlemen chosen by the local landowner, but the ordinary soldiers were local men conscripted by ballot from their own community to serve for five years unless they could provide a substitute. They were paid from parish funds, regularly mustered and had to drop everything in the event of an emergency. From the 1790s they were encouraged to volunteer for the Army, and many did so. Perhaps this was William's fate? Another possibility is that he became aware of an affair between Lydia and John and left her. There are no burial records for a William Gosling locally which could be attributed to him, although in Lavenham, Suffolk there is a record of the burial of William Gosling on 6 April 1840 aged 79,

which is correct for his baptism date. Whenever and wherever his demise, the rector of Denham appears to have recognised Lydia and John as lawfully married.

By the time Lydia was pregnant with her son John Hawes, her mother Mary had died, having been buried in Denham churchyard on 27 November 1791. Her father Robert outlived Mary by 22 years and was buried in Denham on 13 May 1814, aged 78. Lydia's brother **Robert** was living in the neighbouring village of Stradbroke with several children of his own and Lydia appears to have had no other family in Denham. The question is therefore, why did she move to Ashfield cum Thorpe for the birth and baptism of her illegitimate son John Hawes Gosling in 1795? Her mother Mary had been born in Worlingworth and baptised there on 22 February 1720/21, the daughter of **James Gosling** and his wife **Mary (née Fairweather)**. They had married in Worlingworth on 20 September 1719 and three more children followed after Mary: **James** (bap. 5 November 1722), **Nathan** (bap. April 1724) and **Lydia** (bap. 26 February 1742/43). By 1750 Nathan had moved to Southolt, a neighbouring village to Worlingworth, and on 11 February 1749/50 he married **Bridget Meadows** by licence at Pettaugh. There are records in the neighbouring village of Monk Soham of the burial on 30 September 1753 of a son **James** and the baptism on 19 May 1754 of a daughter **Bridget**. By 1757, the family were living in Ashfield cum Thorpe and the following children were baptised in the parish church there: **Mary** (bap. 23 October 1757), **John** (bap. 3 June 1759) and **Samuel** (bap. 25 July 1762).

At the time the Goslings were living in Ashfield, the church was in a state of disrepair and so parishioners were walking over the hill to the neighbouring church in the hamlet of Thorpe. The church at Ashfield was rebuilt in the 1850s by **Lord Henniker**, who owned most of the land in the village and the surrounding area. The Thorpe church then became redundant and derelict: all that remains today is part of the tower in the grounds of Thorpe Hall, barely discernible as it is completely covered with ivy.

The Hold has a 1773 bond in which **John Warner**, **Robert Meadows**, **Nathaniel Steptoe** and Nathan Gosling of Ashfield cum Thorpe, farmers, undertake to pay £80 to **Edward Clough** of Ashfield cum Thorpe, farmer, in two instalments of £40.<sup>(9)</sup> Not long afterwards, Nathan (Nathanael) Gosling was buried on 9 April 1775 in Ashfield cum Thorpe. His widow Bridget married **Samuel Baker**, a widower of Ashfield cum Thorpe, on 5 June 1785.

Although Lydia's uncle Nathan had died, she had other relatives living in the village, including her cousin John Gosling who had married **Elizabeth Hines** by licence on 20 November 1781. John and Elizabeth had the following children baptised in the parish church:

**John**, b. 9 September 1785, bap. 22 January 1786.

**Edmund**, b. 3 November 1787, bap. privately 27 January 1788.



**Jeremiah**, b. 21 January 1788, bap. privately 27 January 1788 and bur. 4 February 1788.<sup>(3)</sup>

**Jeremiah**, b. 4 June 1789, bap. 12 June 1791.

**William**, b. 29 April 1791, bap. 12 June 1791 and bur. 27 May 1792.

**William**, b. 11 September 1793, bap. 29 September 1793.

**Deborah**, b. 3 April 1796, bap. 15 May 1796.

**Richard**, b. 7 August 1798, bap. 2 December 1798.

Another connection Lydia had to the Ashfield cum Thorpe area was through her grandmother **Mary Fairweather**, who had married **James Gosling** in Worlingworth. There are two candidates for this Mary, the first being the daughter of **Isaac Fairweather** and his wife **Mary**, who was baptised on 15 November 1697 in Debenham. But the more likely one is Mary Fairweather who was born in Winston and baptised there in 1698. No baptism date is given but it was between 29 June and 22 September. She was the daughter of **Samuel Fairweather** and **Katherine Braham**, who had married in Winston on 19 April 1696. Their other children baptised in Winston were:

**Elizabeth**, bap. 24 January 1696/97.

**Samuel**, bap. 10 September 1699.

**John**, bap. 25 December 1700.

**Zilpha**, b. 15 March and bap. 26 March 1704/05.

**Merable**, b. and bap. 11 February 1705/06.

**Joseph**, b. April, bap. May 1707.

**Jane**, b. 1 April, bap. 3 April and bur. 1 June 1709.

**Matthew**, b. 17 August, bap. 19 August 1710.

I've made the connection to this couple as John Gosling who moved to Ashfield cum Thorpe named a son Samuel after his grandfather, and Winston shares parish boundaries with Debenham and Ashfield cum Thorpe.

I had often wondered why my 4x great-grandfather Benjamin Gosling had moved to Ashfield cum Thorpe, and this information explains it. I now know that he had several Gosling family members living in the village and must have accompanied his mother Lydia there in 1795. He would have been 8 years old when his half-brother John was born. Depending on when his father William disappeared, he probably only knew John Hawes as his father and named his first son John after him, and his first daughter Mary perhaps after his grandmother.

There is an interesting record in the Worlingworth parish register relating to Lydia's grandmother Mary Gosling and aunt Lydia Gosling: Mary, wife of James Gosling, was buried on 12 March 1762 and Lydia, daughter of James Gosling and Mary his wife, who dropped down dead in the churchyard as she was lowering her mother to the grave, was buried three days later, on 15 March 1762.

I will continue the search for my 5x great-grandfather William Gosling in the hope that one day I may find what happened to him.



*St Mary's, Worlingworth, north side (Photo: Christine Brooks)*

**Liz Brooks Mb 9984**

*[liz.crisaliz@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.crisaliz@btinternet.com)*

**References and Sources**

1. *Suffolk Roots* Vol. 47 : No. 2 : September 2021, 'The Felmingham Family of Denham' (pp. 115-122).
2. Suffolk Archives, The Hold, Ipswich, ref No FB45/N2/1.
3. There is a problem with the birth dates of Edmund and Jeremiah, which are only three months apart. This is, however, how they appear in the parish register and so the incumbent presumably made a mistake. Perhaps Edmund was born in 1786, rather than 1787?

## MARY ANN MARJORAM: CRIMINAL?

Very little is known of **Mary Ann Marjoram** (my 1st cousin 5x removed) before the age of 16. She was born in Knodishall, near Leiston, in May 1795, the daughter of **Thomas Marjoram** and **Elizabeth (née Watling)**. The next record of her is in March 1812 when she was standing in front of the judge at the Suffolk Lent Assizes being sentenced to death, presumably with the judge wearing his black cap. She was a few weeks shy of her 17th birthday.

Mary was convicted of arson, the allegation being that she burnt down the house of **John Welton** of Badingham on 25 November 1811. She had been working for Welton as a servant and was of previous good character.<sup>(1)</sup>

So, what precipitated this major criminal act on her part? There is nothing in the court records to suggest motive. She set fire to the house and it burnt down, and so she was guilty and had to be punished – and that punishment was to be execution. With our modern mindset we can see that this was probably an act of revenge, a desire to take retribution for some wrong she had suffered. She perhaps never considered the likely consequences of her actions.

However, before the judge left the town he reprieved a number of those convicted of capital crimes, including Mary, whose sentence was commuted to transportation for life.<sup>(2)</sup> This was justified by her youth and because it was her first offence. She spent 17 months in a Suffolk gaol before sailing on the convict transport *Wanstead* from Spithead with 119 other female convicts on 24 August 1813.<sup>(3)</sup> She arrived in Sydney on 9 January 1814 and was sent to the female factory to work in the storeroom.

In 1817 she became involved in a relationship with a young Australian, **Richard Batty**, who had been born in Sydney Cove in 1797, and they had a son called **Richard**.<sup>(4)</sup> However, the relationship didn't last and in 1820 Mary was given permission to marry a fellow convict, **William Coates**, in Parramatta, Sydney, New South Wales.<sup>(5)</sup> She was pardoned on 30 November 1821.<sup>(6)</sup>

Mary died in 1838 at the age of 43 at Bathurst, New South Wales, having given birth to a further 10 children. She was buried on 3 March 1838, at Castlereagh.

**Peter Holford Mb 12931**

*counthill@aol.com*

### References and Sources

1. *Ipswich Journal*, 30 November 1811; *Bury and Norwich Post*, 25 March 1812.
2. *Bury and Norwich Post*, 25 March 1812.
3. <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/wanstead/voyages/49>; [https://www.freesettlororfelon.com/convict\\_ship\\_wanstead\\_1814.htm](https://www.freesettlororfelon.com/convict_ship_wanstead_1814.htm)
4. <https://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=chatfield-plus&id=I31404>

5. *New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870*, via Ancestry.
  6. *New South Wales, Australia, St John's Parramatta, Marriages, 1790-1966, vol.1*, via Ancestry.
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## VISITING THE HOLD – PARKING UPDATE

For those of you from out of town wanting to visit The Hold in Ipswich (or for that matter the University or the Waterfront), the park and ride service from the Martlesham P&R to London Road P&R (and back) has been modified to add a stop on Grimwade Street (called Fore Street), which is just round the corner from The Hold, and also a new stop in the University car park. This avoids the need to drive in Ipswich's one-way system.

This weblink has more detail: <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/norfolk-suffolk/routes-and-maps/ipswich-park-and-ride>

*Andy Kerridge, Chair*  
[chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk](mailto:chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk)

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## BEHIND BARS – SUFFOLK'S CRIMINAL PAST

Members who enjoyed reading about **Margaret Catchpole** in March's edition of *Suffolk Roots* will wish to be aware of the current exhibition at The Hold, in Ipswich, on the theme 'Behind Bars – Suffolk's Criminal Past'. The centrepiece of the exhibition is the personal letters written by Margaret to friends and family during her Australian exile, which are on show in the UK for the first time courtesy of the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales. The exhibition, which explores gripping true local crimes, historic investigations and the evolution of crime and punishment, runs from 24 October 2025 to 17 January 2026. Entry is free. Further information is available on the Suffolk Archives website: <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/behind-bars/>.



*The Editors*

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## RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE AT ALDE VALLEY FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY OPEN DAY

On 27 September 2025, the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group hosted a Family and Local History Open Day at the Long Shop Museum in Leiston. Well over a hundred visitors attended, some from as far away as Essex and Cambridge. Among other attractions, they came to see displays by a dozen organisations, including Suffolk FHS, and to browse **Peter Drew's** magnificent collection of historic local postcards. There was a special presentation celebrating the 200th anniversary of railway travel, and Aldeburgh writer **Pat Ward** was kept busy at the stall of books by local authors.

Members of the Family History Group were able to help visitors research elusive ancestors, and to date their old family photographs. The genealogy talks about the Ancestry website and Ancestry DNA testing were so popular we nearly ran out of chairs!

**Fraser Hale**, Manager of the Long Shop, together with his helpers and volunteers, really put themselves out to make the day a record-breaking success – Thank you, Fraser!



*Alde Valley Family and Local History Open Day*



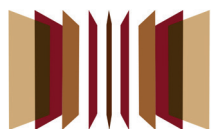
*Robin Durrell on the Suffolk FHS stall*

**Maggie Strutt**

*Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group*

## HELP PRESERVE SUFFOLK'S HISTORICAL RECORDS

You can make a major contribution simply by joining the **Friends of Suffolk Archives**.



**FRIENDS OF  
SUFFOLK ARCHIVES**

Formed in 1983 (as The Friends of Suffolk Record Office) the aims of FOSA are to promote the archives service provided by the County Council, and facilitate the acquisition and conservation of archives relevant to Suffolk. FOSA endeavours to purchase items either at auction or privately, in line with Suffolk Archives' acquisitions policy. We have saved many unique

items for the county. In many cases these might have been lost to Suffolk or even have left the country without action by FOSA.

FOSA are independent of but work closely with Suffolk Archives to identify items that would make a valuable addition to their collection. We also meet regularly with Suffolk Archives for updates and discussions on the service.

Just a few of the many and diverse items secured for Suffolk Archives over the years have been:

- The **Walton Burrell** collection of WWI photographs
- Manorial records of Waldringfield
- Shrubland Hall photographic collection
- The **Joan Corder** collection of East Anglian heraldic manuscripts
- The daybook of a Layham blacksmith
- *Features of Wortham* by **Rev. Richard Cobbold**
- The trade catalogue for Catt Brothers Ltd., Coach Builders of Ipswich

So that the documents we have bought can be available to be used by researchers as soon as possible, FOSA have funded the cataloguing and conservation of many of these items. Where we have not been successful in acquiring an item, we seek to obtain a digital copy from the new owner, often with positive results.

There are presentations or exhibitions each year at our AGM to keep our members up to date with the latest archival developments in Suffolk.

**Help us continue securing valuable documents and records for Suffolk.**

**Help publicise and promote Suffolk Archives and its important work.**

**Have a voice in discussions about the future of local archives.**

Please join us. Membership costs from just £12 per year.

For further details of membership: [www.fosa.org.uk](http://www.fosa.org.uk)

*Neil Langridge, Publicity Officer - Friends of Suffolk Archives*

## HELP WANTED – DUNNETT

My 3x great-grandfather **John Dunnett** was born about 1755 (Ipswich area?), and was buried at St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich on 7 March 1833 (age 78). He married **Elizabeth Notley** in Brome on 21 March 1782, when he was described as of St Peter's parish, Ipswich. Elizabeth was born in 1761 in Eye, and was buried on 2 April 1801 at St Mary at the Elms.

They had six children: **Maria** (1786-1805), **John** (1787-1790), **Rebecca** (1790-1870), **Caroline** (1792-1871), another **John** (1794-1867, my 2x great-grandfather) and **Susannah** (1800-1879). The first four were baptised at St Peter's Church and the last two at St Mary at the Elms. Although the four youngest married, none apart from John had children – and I have found quite a bit about them.



*The Church of St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich, by Andrew Abbott, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia*

The will of Elizabeth's uncle, **Samuel Notley** of Eye, dated 1801, refers to his niece 'Elizabeth Dunnett deceased the late wife of John Dunnett of Ipswich of the said County Ship Carpenter'.

So, I know John's occupation and the areas of Ipswich where he lived from 1782, but I have had trouble identifying his birth. I have found three baptisms in the Ipswich area at about the time he is likely to have been born:

1. 11 April 1756, St Mary, Tattingstone, parents **Thomas** (d. March 1766 or January 1769) and **Martha** (d. September 1764).
2. 30 March 1755, All Saints, Holbrook, parents **Henry** (d. 1778 East Bergholt?) and **Mary**.
3. 2 May 1756, St Mary & St Peter, Kirton [but I have ruled this one out as I have found pretty clear marriage and death records in Kirton for this **John Dunnett**.]

I would be grateful for any information about these John Dunnetts, even if only to eliminate one or both of the first two baptisms.

**Raymond Dunnett Mb 13295**  
[raydunnett@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:raydunnett@dsl.pipex.com)

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## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CHARLES FULLER

The Society has taken on some of Trish Turner's family history-related material. This includes three boxes of books, all related to Suffolk, labelled '*Borrowed from Charles Fuller*'. Some are 100-150 years old, and a number have values pencilled on the inside cover, some in excess of £100.

We have placed these boxes in our store until we can find out more about Charles. We know he was a member, but because of GDPR we do not retain membership details for longer than one year after lapsing; and in any case, he was probably a member 20 or so years ago when Trish was editor of *Suffolk Roots*. We also believe he moved abroad (possibly to Austria or Switzerland) for health reasons. If anyone knows any more about Charles, could they please contact me?

*Andy Kerridge, Chair*  
*chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk*

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## HELP WANTED – STOW HITCHCOCK

I am interested in researching my maternal great-grandfather **Stow Hitchcock**.

Some Ancestry accounts and the **Squirrell** research group (*www.squirrellresearchgroup.org*) give his date of birth as 1838, yet I cannot find any documentation to verify this. As the birth was supposedly after 1 July 1837 there might be an official record, but no luck with the General Register Office either. I have noticed the given name Stow in other families – was it a common name in Suffolk?

Stow married **Eliza Squirrell** on 15 May 1871 in the Offton parish church. He was a 32-year-old husbandman, and listed his father's name as **William Hitchcock**, also a husbandman. He and his family moved from Offton, Suffolk, to north-west London sometime in the 1880s, and from being recorded as an agricultural labourer in the 1881 census, by 1891 he was describing himself as a veterinary surgeon (and listed as Alfred S Hitchcock). In 1895, on the occasion of his daughter's marriage, he was also recorded as a veterinary surgeon but still named Stow. However, electoral rolls in the mid-1890s recorded his name as Authernell Stioi Decampennell Hitchcock! His death certificate spelt Stioi as Stow.

Unfortunately, I have no other documentation about his life. This is where I hope fellow members of Suffolk FHS may be of help.

*Malcolm Setters Mb 13381*  
*mal.setters@gmail.com*

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# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

## SUFFOLK FHS ZOOM PRESENTATION BY RICHARD HOLT – 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

On 29 September, around 50 participants joined a presentation by **Richard Holt** on the basics of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FOIA grants public access to recorded information held by public authorities in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Richard covered the basics of the Act, including common exemptions and the process of making requests. He provided examples of both successful requests and ones where he had had to challenge the authorities.

Information must be held by a public authority to be covered by the FOIA. Exemptions include information accessible by other means, personal data, prohibitive cost, or national security material. Court records are exempt from disclosure when held by the courts, but become accessible under the FOIA when transferred to depositories like The National Archives.

The importance of quality records management was emphasised. Authorities may have the information but may not have catalogued it, making it difficult to search.

The process for making a FOIA request was explained, and Richard advised participants to keep all correspondence. He also explained the escalation process if a request is not properly handled, including requesting a review and filing a complaint.

Richard demonstrated what can be achieved using examples of burial records, passports, and school records. The presentation concluded with a Q&A session covering medical records, church records, and a request for a template for making a FOIA request.

Richard shared the following link to the Information Commissioner's Office website, which may be helpful if wanting to make a FOIA request:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/preparing-and-submitting-your-information-request/>

**Andy Kerridge, Chair**  
[chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk](mailto:chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk)

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SAVE THE DATE!  
WE ARE GOING LIVE IN ST IVES!

The East Anglia Group of Family History Societies in association with the Family History Federation are holding a live family history show at the Burgess Hall, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire on **Saturday 18 April 2026**.



**WE ARE GOING LIVE IN  
ST IVES 18TH APRIL 2026**

The following are already confirmed as attendees, with more bookings coming in daily!

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS; Essex FHS; Fenland FHS; Hertfordshire FHS; Lincolnshire FHS; London, Westminster & Middlesex FHS; Northants FHS; Romany & Traveller FHS; Suffolk FHS; Cambridgeshire Archives Services; The Cambridgeshire Collection; Huntingdonshire LHS; Pharos Tutors; Quality Maps & More; RA Longley Publications; This Way Books; Cassini Maps; and WeAre.xyz.

**Donna Rutherford** will be giving a talk about DNA, Family Tree Maker will be holding teaching sessions on how to get the most out of their software, and there will be a panel giving advice about how to research your family history for free, so please come along and join us!

There is ample free parking outside the Burgess Hall and good transport links too.

Join the official show Facebook group to keep up to date with the latest news – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rufhsstives2026> or search #RUFHSStIves2026.

*Andy Kerridge, Chair*

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## FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (November 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** **18 April 2026 10am–4pm**  
**Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire**

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rufhsstives2026>

In addition, there are the following Family History Shows:

**East Surrey FHS Fabulous Virtual Family History** **24 January 2026**  
**Online, Free** **10am-12pm & 2pm–4pm**

Details: <https://www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk/index.php/fair>

**The Family History Show Online** **7 February 2026 10am–4pm**  
**Online**

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

**RootsTech** **5-7 March 2026**  
**Online, Free**

Details: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration>

**Guild of One Name Studies Conference** **24-26 April 2026**  
**Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth**

Details: <https://one-name.org/guild-conference/>

**FACHRS Annual Conference** **9 May 2026 9am-5pm**  
**Premier Inn, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent or online**

Details: <https://www.fachrs.com/>

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## 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

| LOCATION  | DATE | EVENT                                                                                   | SPEAKER         |
|-----------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| DECEMBER  |      |                                                                                         |                 |
| Bury      | 30   | No Meeting                                                                              |                 |
| Haverhill | 11   | Christmas Quiz Group<br><i>Social evening with refreshments.</i>                        | Group           |
| Ipswich   | 03   | By Stagecoach through Suffolk                                                           | Linda Sexton    |
| Lowestoft | 02   | A Seaside Trip to London in 1797<br><i>An account by 18-year-old Robert Paul</i>        | David Butcher   |
| Sudbury   | 31   | No Meeting                                                                              |                 |
| JANUARY   |      |                                                                                         |                 |
| Bury      | 30   | No Meeting                                                                              |                 |
| Haverhill | 08   | Ten-minute talks by Members                                                             | Group           |
| Ipswich   | 07   | The Fascinating Story of <b>Lady Lucy Houston</b>                                       | Dale Wiseman    |
| Lowestoft | 06   | No Meeting                                                                              |                 |
| Sudbury   | 27   | The Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission                                      | Paul White      |
| FEBRUARY  |      |                                                                                         |                 |
| Bury      | 26   | TBA                                                                                     |                 |
| Haverhill | 12   | London Docklands                                                                        | Paul Tatam      |
| Ipswich   | 04   | Foul Murders in East Anglia                                                             | Mike Wabe       |
| Lowestoft | 03   | Burn the Vicar!                                                                         | Trudie Jackson  |
| Sudbury   | 24   | The Perennial <b>Mr Potter</b>                                                          | Bryan Thurlow   |
| MARCH     |      |                                                                                         |                 |
| Bury      | 26   | TBA                                                                                     |                 |
| Haverhill | 12   | Snapshots from the life of <b>Lee Miller</b><br><i>Social evening with refreshments</i> | Derek Adams     |
| Ipswich   | 04   | Suffolk Regiment Soldiers –<br>Fall of Singapore & Life as Japanese POWs                | Taff Gillingham |





## FUTURE THEMES FOR SUFFOLK ROOTS

The theme of March's edition will be '*Farming and Farmers*'. Suffolk is well known as an agricultural county, with farming prevalent since Neolithic times. As such, it has periodically been impacted by such things as adverse weather, fluctuating crop prices, and outbreaks of animal disease. Our ancestors' lives will have been affected by such events, whether they were farmers of large acreages or humble agricultural labourers. Please tell us about your farming forebears – did they own or work on a farm, and if so what type of farm? Did they travel around farms based on the annual hiring fairs? What type of work were they involved with – was any of them a dairy maid or a goose herder? Perhaps they played hooky from school at harvest time? Were their farming endeavours affected by the ups and downs of politics, economics or war? Or perhaps they serviced farmers, as salesmen or manufacturers of equipment or farm chemicals? Did they remain on their farm for generations, or pack their bags for pastures new? If they left, what led them to do so?

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     | Mar 2026 | <b>Farming and Farmers</b><br><i>The agricultural life in Suffolk</i><br>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.<br>Were your forebears 'ag labs', or maybe they were farmers? What were the farms like, and what type of farming did they pursue?<br>How did they cope with the changing economic landscape? Were their farms blighted by bad weather, disease, or government policy?<br>Or perhaps they were involved in the supporting industries, such as manufacturing farm equipment, making fertiliser, or veterinary practice?<br>If your ancestors left the land, what were their reasons? | <b>Deadline 16 Jan</b> |
| Provis'nl | Jun 2026 | <b>Along the High Street</b><br><i>Our shopkeeper and tradespeople ancestors</i><br>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.<br>Did your ancestor work in a town or village as a shopkeeper?<br>What did they sell?<br>How did changing trends and fashions affect them (e.g. clothing and the rise of photography)?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Deadline 16 Apr</b> |

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

Was special training or apprenticeship involved?

Was this trade/occupation passed down through the family?

Did they come to such trade after trying other occupations?

Or perhaps they found it unprofitable?

Provis'nl Sep 2026

**Choose a Tomb**

**Deadline 16 Jul**

*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'.



*The tomb of Dicky Pearce (d. 1728), the Earl of Suffolk's fool and reputedly the last court jester in England, in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Berkeley, Glos.*

*Our musical (or otherwise) ancestors*

With Christmas approaching, one of our historic traditions is carol singing. This issue will focus on ancestors who were somehow involved with music.

Did your ancestor play an instrument? If so, which one?

Were they a bell ringer, or did they sing in a church choir?

Did they play in or conduct a band or orchestra?

Were they involved in music in the military or a uniformed profession?

Perhaps they worked in instrument manufacture or repair?

Or maybe they composed music or taught it in school?

As always, contributions welcome relating to anyone (or anything) with a Suffolk connection, wherever they may be.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

**Subscriptions for the membership year beginning 1 April 2025:**

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| A – UK postal membership /joint <sup>(1)</sup>          | £14  |
| B – Overseas postal membership                          | £25  |
| C – Electronic membership                               | £10  |
| D – Life membership (not available for overseas postal) | £150 |

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

Anyone joining during the membership year will receive or be granted access to copies of *Suffolk Roots* for that membership year. To enquire about membership, please contact the Membership Secretary whose details are in the list of Officers, below.

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# SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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

## GROUP CONTACTS FOR 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](mailto:haverhill@suffolkfhs.org.uk)

### **Ipswich:**

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

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

**Tel:** 01473 902367

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

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

**Tel:** 01473 274300

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

### **Lowestoft:**

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

**Contact – Chair:** Janis Kirby

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

### **Sudbury & District:**

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

**Contact – Chair:** Sheila Piper

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

### **West of London:**

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

# SFHS DATA CO-ORDINATORS AND SEARCH SERVICES

## BAPTISMS

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

## BURIALS

|                                                               |                                                         |                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Index Co-ordinator</b><br><i>burials@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i> | <b>Arthur Bird</b>                                      | <b>Phone: 01904 793884</b> |
| <b>Search Service</b><br><i>burialsearch@suffolkfhs.co.uk</i> | <b>Arthur Bird</b><br>Search = 1 surname up to 12 pages | <b>Phone: 01904 793884</b> |
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## MARRIAGES

|                                                                  |                                                           |                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Index Co-ordinator</b><br><i>marriages@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>  | <b>Yvonne Hesketh</b>                                     |                            |
| <b>Search Service</b><br><i>marriagesearch@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i> | <b>Arthur Bird</b><br>Search = 1 surname up to 30 entries | <b>Phone: 01904 793884</b> |
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| <i>Please send your request by e-mail</i>                        |                                                           |                            |

## MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

|                                                               |                                                          |                            |
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| <b>Search Service</b><br><i>burialsearch@suffolkfhs.co.uk</i> | <b>Arthur Bird</b><br>Search = 1 surname for each parish | <b>Phone: 01904 793884</b> |
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## SFHS LIBRARY

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

|                                                        |                                                                    |                          |
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| <b>Webmaster</b><br><i>webmaster@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i> | <b>Joe Bridgwater-Rowe</b><br>Website: <i>www.suffolkfhs.co.uk</i> | <b>Contact by e-mail</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|

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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).

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