

SUFFOLK ROOTS

Vol. 51 : No. 4 : March 2026



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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VOLUME 51 : NUMBER 4 : MARCH 2026



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Theme of this Issue

Farming and Farmers

The agricultural life in Suffolk

Cover Picture

'The Employment of Children in Britain, 1914-1918'

Adult and child farm hands and German prisoners of war outside a farmyard barn in Suffolk, 1918.

Photo Q 31044 – Imperial War Museum Collection.

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Suffolk Roots

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SUFFOLK ROOTS

Journal of Suffolk Family History Society

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Suffolk FHS Fair



**A large range of interesting displays/stalls from
family history and related organisations;
together with presentations and displays reflecting
Suffolk's strong maritime connections**

+ Free family history help desk (from 11:00 to 15:00)

**11:00 Simon Partridge: Late Great Fishing Industry of
East Anglia**

12:00 Break (on site cafe or nearby cafes)

**14:00 Cathy Shelbourne: Researching Your Maritime
Ancestors: how Ipswich Maritime Trust can help**

Saturday 9 May 2026

10:00 to 16:00

Free entry

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



Join SFHS

Benefits of being a member of Suffolk FHS

- Quarterly *Suffolk Roots* Journal
- Discount on CDs and downloads
- Members Help Forum
- Extra resources on website
- Monthly free Zoom presentations

www.suffolkfhs.co.uk



Charity No 108774

Our Special guests



A recently retired charity director, Simon Partridge has spent much of his working life in education. For the last 14 years, he ran the Environmental Study Centre of the Broads. Earlier in his career, he was the education officer at the Great Yarmouth museums which is where he developed his deep interest in local history.

Herring fishing played a central role in shaping the coastal communities of East Anglia, influencing their economy, culture, and identity for centuries. From Saxon times, the seasonal arrival of herring determined patterns of work and settlement along the coast, providing food, employment, and opportunities for trade.

Cathy Shelbourne gives talks all over the world, on maritime heroes and brazen buccaneers, and has created a pack of Monumental Maritime Heroes playing cards to complement her talks. She is also a trustee of Ipswich Maritime Trust (IMT), and edits their twice-yearly magazine, *Ipswich Maritime Matters*.

Find out how to access maritime records, locally and nationally, of people and ships, and delve deep into Ipswich Maritime Trust's amazing Image Archive of photos and postcards. Led by maritime historian Cathy Shelbourne who will be sharing how she investigated a seafaring spy and notorious novelist lurking in her family tree! Photo from Ipswich Maritime Trust's Image Archive



Join SFHS

Benefits of being a member of Suffolk FHS

- Quarterly *Suffolk Roots Journal*
- Discount on CDs and downloads
- Parish register and other indexes available
- Extra resources on website
- 5 groups in Suffolk with monthly meetings
- Monthly free Zoom presentations
- Members Help Forum

Charity No 108774

SUFFOLK FHS FAIR TRANSPORT UPDATE

For those of you from out of town driving to Ipswich, there has been a significant change to previous years, in that the park-and-ride service from the Martlesham P&R (IP5 3QN) to London Road P&R (IP8 3TQ) has been modified to **add** a stop on Grimwade Street (confusingly called Fore Street), which is just round the corner from The Hold, and also a new stop in the University car park.

The weblink below has more detail. This avoids the need to drive in Ipswich's one-way system. Parking is free, but you pay per person on the bus – currently £4 per person for a day ticket. The buses are every 20 minutes on Saturdays for the hours of the fair.

<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/norfolk-suffolk/routes-and-maps/ipswich-park-and-ride>

We are hoping to have the same reduced-price arrangement as last year for parking next to The Hold, but it is too soon to be able to confirm. If we are successful in achieving this again, we will provide an update via our website, e-newsletter and social media.

Andy Kerridge, Chair

chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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TRUSTEES' MESSAGE

I am writing at the end of January, but hopefully as you are reading this at the beginning of March the weather is better and Spring is poking through (for northern hemisphere readers of course). Having said that, I have seen some daffodils in flower today, which I normally associate with Mothering Sunday and mid-March!

So, with Spring and a fresh start in mind, you hopefully have seen that we launched our new website in late January. It took longer than expected but we are pleased with the appearance and the performance. There is much more automation and reporting possible which makes our lives easier. Hopefully, you have had a chance to explore the website and try out the new search facilities. We look forward to adding more indexes to the search very soon. There is an article elsewhere in this edition explaining more.

We also look forward to two fairs in early 2026. First, in April in St Ives (Cambridge rather than Cornwall!), the Really Useful Show returns and we have information on that later. Then we have our own fair on 9 May at The Hold. This year the fair has a maritime theme, for which we have had significant support from Ipswich Maritime Trust. Suffolk's maritime history is diverse, from fishing to smuggling, from Thames barges to ferries at Bawdsey, Felixstowe and elsewhere, boat building and lifeboats. Come along, say hello, enjoy the presentations and explore the stalls.

You will also see that we have some more parish register index releases; the transcription teams have been very busy. We have been looking ahead at what we can transcribe next that is not covered by the Ancestry contract with Suffolk Archives but is still likely to be of interest to family historians. A Zoom in early January looked at possible records to target. A short report is included, but we are likely to be looking at manorial records. We would of course like to transcribe more, but it takes people and time.

Two years ago we ran a survey of members, and we will repeat this soon. The data provided was particularly useful. We took notice of the subjects you wanted for Zooms, and we were very happy with the response for volunteers in various areas. Please watch out for the 2026 survey form and please take part.

Sorry to close on a sad note, but in late November we lost **Margaret Barfield**, too late for a mention in our December edition, but we have an obituary below. Thank you also to all who responded to my quest for information about **Charles Fuller**. Sadly, he too had died, in 2023. We also have a few words about Charles later.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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MARGARET BARFIELD (1932-2025)

Margaret’s interest in family history was kindled when watching *Who Do You Think You Are?* on television: she applied for their pack on how to start finding out about her own family, and so it all began. After attending a lecture, she joined the Ipswich Branch of Suffolk Family History Society, later becoming Treasurer and then Chairwoman of the Branch. In 2004 she was awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her services over many years.

Margaret’s passion for the past grew, and so along with finding out personal information she found herself researching issues like child migration, and she presented talks on this and other topics.

Margaret became involved with and then led a team of transcribers at the Ipswich Record Office. With the knowledge she had built up, Margaret was able to advise others on spelling or dates.



Ipswich RO team 2012: Margaret (second from right)

Editors’ Note: We are grateful to Margaret’s daughter for supplying the above.

CHARLES FULLER

In December's edition of *Suffolk Roots*, I appealed for information about Charles Fuller. Thank you to all who responded. Sadly, we now know that Charles died in July 2023. Some great detective work by **David Gobbitt** found that he had also left a will, and I obtained a copy, which named two executors. I wrote to the first listed, and just before Christmas received a phone call back; we are now working with the executor to help them with Charles' family history material. In addition to the 4 or 5 boxes of books we already have in our stores, there is a lot more.

Charles was a frequent visitor to fairs attended by our Society, especially in the South (he lived in Surrey), and he would come along with his collection of books. We also know that he loaned the above-mentioned boxes of books to the then editor of *Suffolk Roots*, **Trish Turner**. In addition, I have learnt that he contributed to the development of the search facilities on firstly the baptism indexes, then the burials, and finally the marriages, and these continue to be used. He was also a frequent contributor to the Suffolk Groups-io chat group (<https://groups.io/g/Suffolk>).

Charles had a website covering his research which is still available on the Wayback Machine: https://web.archive.org/web/20220809082310/https://www.fullerfamilyhistory.org.uk/FFH_FH_Intro.html. Here is a screenshot of the families covered, not just Fuller, and it extends to other parts of the country. I tried a few of the links and they all worked as of January 2026.

It is planned to hold a small commemoration for Charles after Easter, in Surrey where he lived. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me and I will advise of developments.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk



NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

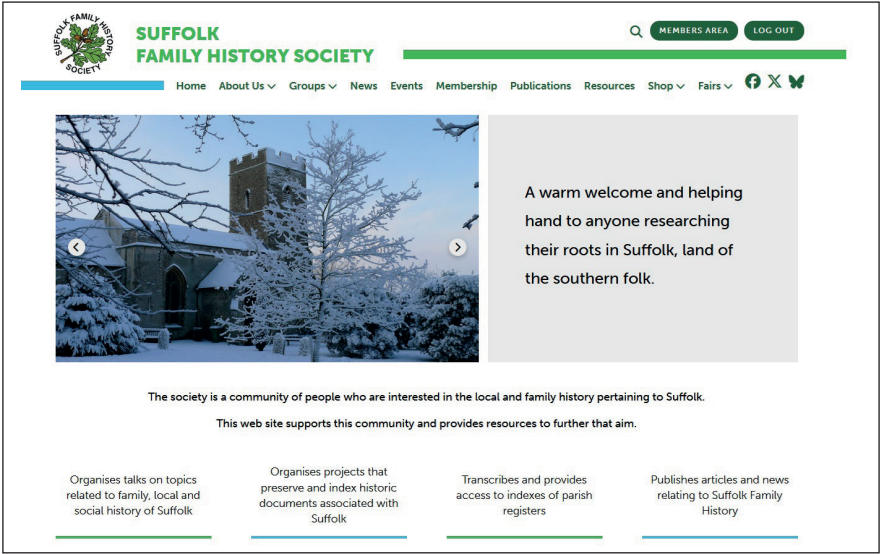
Below are the interests of our newest members who joined between 2 November 2025 and 22 January 2026 inclusive. If you see a name you are interested in, take a note of the member's number, go onto our website, and use the Members' Interests section (on the Resources tab) to find out more using the number 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 #
Aggis	SFK	Chelmondiston	All	13419
Aldous	SFK	Fressingfield, Any	1700-1750	13418
Barford	ANY	Any	All	13411
Branch	SFK	Any	All	13416
Briggs	SFK	Chelmondiston	All	13419
Brooks	SFK	Hoxne deanery	1780-1880	13412
Burrows	SFK	Wattisfield, Thedwastre, Kersey, Royal Navy	1939-2009	13426
Caselton	SFK	Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, Oulton	All	13396
Chambers	SFK	Hoxne deanery	All	13412
Clarke	SFK	Icklingham	All	13415
Coe	SFK	Ipswich	All	13403
Dawson	SFK	Levington	All	13401
Day	SFK	Any	All	13416
Drake	SFK	Messingham	All	13404
Drake	SFK	Any	1500-1700	13404
Everett	SFK	Capel St Mary	All	13401
Fayers	SFK	Bildeston	All	13401
Fenning	SFK	Naughton	All	13401
Flowerdew	SFK	Lothingland	All	13419
Foreman	ANY	Any	All	13409
Fosdick	SFK	Great Wenham	All	13407
Harwood	SFK	Bury St Edmunds	All	13409
Haste	SFK	Stutton	All	13403
King	SFK	Bromeswell, Sutton, Marlesford	1700 on	13413
Martin	SFK	Hoxne deanery	1750-1850	13412
Mayhew	SFK	Wissett	All	13401
Moyse	ANY	Any	All	13398
Norton	SFK	Brandon	All	13414
Passiful	SFK	Any	All	13416
Pipe	ANY	Any	All	13402
Plumb	SFK	Ipswich, Copdock, Buxhall	All	13403
Potkins	SFK	Worlingworth	1800-1900	13395

Surname	Cnty	Place	Dates	Member #
Punchard	ANY	Any	All	13399
Rolfe	ANY	Any	All	13411
Sheldrake	SFK	Stonham Aspel	All	13401
Snowling	SFK	Hoxne deanery	All	13412
Souter	SFK	Tannington	1830-1930	13395
Sowter	SFK	Tannington	1830-1930	13395
Stiff	SFK	Sudbury	All	13421
Thorndike	SFK	Worlingworth, Monewden	1700 on	13413
Thorndon	ANY	Any	All	13398

SUFFOLK FHS NEW LOOK WEBSITE

At the end of January we launched our new-look website, with Beachshore now hosting and managing it. I'll talk about why we outsourced later but want to get into the changes and new stuff, as that is what you will want to know about, and is more interesting, I am sure. I have sent some of this information in the e-newsletter (by the way, if you don't receive the e-newsletter and would like to, please let me know), but *Suffolk Roots* gives me more space to go into details.



First, we have the same web address (*www.suffolkfhs.co.uk*), and just as important, you keep the same login as you had for the previous website. The big difference is that we now have **one website** with the online shop integrated, so you need only one login instead of the two different ones required previously. This was frequently a source of confusion, especially with automated password completion assigning the wrong password.

The other significant advantage is that the system will automatically recognise you are a member once you are logged in, and thus will then apply any appropriate discounts to your purchases. So, the key thing to remember is that even if you are only coming on to the site to buy the latest CD/download, log in and your discount will be automatically applied.

The site still has a lot that you do not need to log in for. If you just want to check when the next Haverhill group meeting is, or look to see if you missed a Sudbury group newsletter, you do not need to log in; same with the News pages and Fairs information. Some of the resources are also open to non-members or members who haven't logged in, for example: Members' Interests, the Parish Locator, links to other genealogical resources, and even some of the indexes, which I will cover next.

Searching the indexes is another major change. There is now **a single portal for searching all of the indexes** which we have called SNAPPI, the acronym standing for Suffolk Name and Place Publications Index. SNAPPI contains the following indexes:

- 17th-century Suffolk Hearth Taxes
- Suffolk Monumental Inscriptions
- Coroners' Inquests for St Etheldreda (1767-1921) Index
- Great-grandparents index *
- WW2 Suffolk Roll of Honour *
- Tunstall Strict Baptist Church Membership Lists 1805-1868

PLUS, new records such as:

- Ipswich vaccination birth and death index for 1872-1910 *

All are now searchable from one portal instead of each index having to be searched individually. Some of the data sets are freely available to all (starred), the remainder are available only to members.

To say a little more about each of these record sets:

- The Hearth Tax returns are the nearest we come to having a census for 17th-century Suffolk post-Restoration. It was based on the number of hearths in a house, with exemptions for paupers and those with property of a rentable value of less than £10. The tax returns list the households which paid and those with exemptions, and identifies the number of hearths in the house. Thus, it is a measure of the wealth of the household. It was collected twice a year at Michaelmas (29 September) and Lady Day (25 March). The tax records were not well treated in the 18th and 19th centuries so there are missing parts and indecipherable entries in the transcript. The years covered are: 1662-1667, 1669, 1670, 1673 and 1674. Some years have better coverage than others; for example, 1662 and 1665 are poor, 1674 is very good. There is a file showing coverage by parish and year and an index to abbreviations used.

Here is an example entry in the Hearth Tax index:

1666	Clerke Roger	2	ALDERTON	28	Clarke in 1674 {blacksmith}
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Roger Clerke in 1666 had two hearths in Alderton, the notes say his surname was spelled differently in 1674 (not uncommon) and that he was the blacksmith. The number 28 refers to the line number in the original record.

- **Monumental Inscriptions** for 152 graveyards/cemeteries across Suffolk. We have a further 10 in the queue to process and add: Bures, Groton, Nayland, Sudbury Friends Meeting House, Sudbury All Saints, Sudbury St Gregory, Wetherden, Woodbridge St Mary, Woodbridge St John, and Seckford Hospital Cemetery.
- **Inquests into Sudden Deaths in the Liberty of St Etheldreda (1767-1921):** The said Liberty covers the area shown in the map, within the red outline. The inquests go up to 1936, and we are working on the missing 15 years now. Note also that the bundle for 1855 is missing.

Below are three random entries showing the wide range of deaths.



2957	THURGOOD	George	21	M	1896	Landguard Ft	A	G	crossing rifle range	EC/5/39/35	Accidental death; by gun or firearm; crossing rifle range
3004	TURNER	Edward	50	M	1915	Woodbridge	M	Y	killed by Zeppelin	EC/5/58/70	Murder or manslaughter; by human being or stone; killed by Zeppelin
1843	LEACH	Amy	83	F	1894	Otley	A	Z	immersion in baptistry	EC5/37/23	Accidental death; miscellaneous; immersion in baptistry

- **Great-grandparents index:** Entries submitted by current members.
- **WW2 Suffolk Roll of Honour:** This lists names from Suffolk town and village war memorials. As memorials vary in detail, entries have been expanded to include: Surname, Forename(s), Rank, Number (if known), Decorations, Major unit, Sub-unit (e.g. battalion or ship), and Town/Village. Names appearing on multiple memorials are listed more than once. Information is primarily sourced from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.com), with further details often found on the Roll of Honour site (www.roll-of-honour.com).

Note: There are no WWII memorials for Lowestoft and Oulton Broad, so names have been taken from CWGC records using those place names in the 'Additional Information' field – this may result in omissions. Eighty out of 3,450 names remain unidentified. Corrections and additions are welcome by email to: chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk

- **Tunstall Strict Baptist Church Membership Lists 1805-1868:** List of members with, as appropriate, dates of adult baptism and death, and occasional comments.
- **Ipswich vaccination birth and death index for 1872-1910:** I have covered these in a previous edition of *Suffolk Roots* (Sept 2024, pp. 145-7). Briefly, the vaccination returns are copies of the civil registers of births for the town, with the addition of the deaths of any infants who died before they could be vaccinated. The death registers should only be for deaths of infants within a year or so of vaccination. But for Ipswich, the medical officer of health decided to record ALL deaths, so again you get pretty much everything you would have on a death certificate. We have transcripts for both births and deaths from 1871 to 1910. They cover most, but not all of Ipswich, I think 13 out of the 16 current parishes. As the work on transcribing them was part of an Open University project looking at infant mortality, and paid for by grants, essentially public funds, we have been given permission to offer them on the basis that access is free. So, these join the list of indexes open to all on our new website. We are now part of the project team extending the coverage at least up until 1926, working with Suffolk Archives and the Universities of Cambridge, Suffolk, and Edinburgh, as well as a team in Denmark who are adapting and training an AI transcribing tool.

There will be more indexes added. We have re-started the wills beneficiary index, and recently started a BMD certificate index, which I will probably write more about in the next edition. We know there are other places in Suffolk with at least the vaccination birth registers, so that's a transcription opportunity for the future.

Other updates or items to highlight

Users of our website will be familiar with the opportunity to search *Suffolk Roots* **back copies**, which covered 1975-2019. These are now searchable up to the most recent edition and that will be a rolling process.

Help Forum: Some of you use the members' Help Forum, but not many; hopefully we can encourage you to try it. The new version is searchable, and provides prompts when posts are answered, making it much more user-friendly.

E-newsletter: We have started issuing the e-newsletter from the new website, which means it's no longer necessary to pull off a current list of members and their emails and then use a different tool to compile and send. It will come from a different email address (noreply@suffolkfhs.co.uk) and may be identified as spam. I will post on social media when I issue a newsletter, which is normally at the end of the month or in the first week. If you have stopped getting the e-newsletters, please let me know.

Other 'stuff': As well as all the material visible to members, there are a host of behind-the-scenes tasks which will be automated, saving us time, and some key measurements

will be gathered which will give us a better idea of website use, sales breakdowns and so on.

Why outsource and why Beachshore?

Several reasons for this. First, the site was looking dated, though it still functioned under the careful oversight of our webmaster, **Joe Bridgwater-Rowe**, who took on the role after **Kevin Pulford** stood down. However, the main reason was Magento, the software behind our shop, was becoming more and more complex, and more suited to high volume commercial shopping operations. The updates were getting more disruptive and difficult to manage. We were advised to move away from Magento.

We already knew Beachshore because when Kevin originally decided to stand down, we initially struggled to find a replacement. Talking to other family history societies and the Family History Federation (who use them for Parish Chest), we found out about and started talking with Beachshore. They handle the websites for several other societies (e.g. Cambs. and Hunts., Northwest Kent, Northants., Bradford). Then Joe came forward in early 2022, so we stood Beachshore down, and Joe, despite working full time and being based in California (though Suffolk-born), took over. Joe typically did his Suffolk FHS stuff at a weekend but always stepped in if there was an urgent need. Over time it became clear that although Joe had wanted to improve the website, the ongoing maintenance, uploading, downloading, troubleshooting passwords etc was taking all his time. If we wanted to have an improved site and resolve the Magento issue, we were going to have to go outside, so we called on Beachshore again. Yes, we must pay for the service, but we now have 7-day-a-week monitoring in case of problems, we have resolved the Magento issue, and we have a fresh-looking website with significant added functionality.

We are aware that the colour theme of green and white is not a great combination for some users, but unfortunately that is the scheme we have inherited with the Society logo and so forth. If there are specific pages or sections that cause difficulty, please let us know and we can look at altering them.

Take a look, explore, and if you find something that doesn't work, or a typo, please let us know. We have set up a special email address for you to do this: *contact@suffolkfhs.co.uk*

I want to close by thanking **David Talmage**, Kevin Pulford and **Matthew Ball** who developed and then maintained the 'old' website, and Joe for coming forward to take over from Kevin.

Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

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BAPTISM INDEX NEWS

If you're resolved to search for your early Suffolk ancestors this year, we might be able to give a timely helping hand, as we've now released our first two deanery areas of phase 4 baptisms (1538-1649) and have two more completed areas being prepared for release shortly.

New releases

Our first phase 4 release covers Dunwich Deanery, on the coast in the East, and comprises 33 of the earliest surviving parish registers. This is brought to you thanks to our dedicated Ipswich team at Suffolk Archives:

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

Our thanks also to **Arthur Bird** and **Derek Wright** for formatting the data and preparing this and all our CDs/downloads, which are available from the Society shop: <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/shop/index.php/>. CDs are also available 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: this is applied automatically on the new website when signed in (as explained above by Andy).

Our second phase 4 release covers Clare Deanery, bordering Cambridgeshire and Essex in the west of the county, and comprises 22 of the earliest surviving parishes. This is brought to you thanks to our dedicated Bury St Edmunds team:

Suffolk Baptism Index

Dunwich Deanery

1538* - 1649

Aldringham cum Thorpe (1551-),
Blythburgh (1563-1607), Bramfield (1539-1597), Carlton,
Cookley (1539-), Covehithe (1574-), Cratfield (1539-),
Darsham (1539-), Frostenden (1539-), Henstead,
Heveningham (1551-), Holton St Peter (1539-),
Huntingfield (1539-), Kelsale (-1598), Knodishall (1567-),
Leiston (-1664), Linstead Magna (1558-1565),
Linstead Parva, Peasenhall (1558-), Rumburgh (1559-),
Sibton (1558-), Sotherton (1558-), South Cove,
Southwold (1602-), Spexhall (1537-),
Theberton (1548-1651), Thorington (1561-),
Ubbeston (1555-), Uggheshall (1558-), Westhall (1559-),
Westleton (1545-), Wissett (1559-), Wrentham (1602-),
Yoxford (1559-).



SFK-BPI-15/P4

PDF



Christine Palmer (leader)
 Barbara Linton-Clowes
 Angela Cowling
 Maggie Driver
 Michael Hickman
 Sue Kentish
 Nicky Lewis
 Jane Marjoram
 Sheila Piper
 Kevin Prior
 Janet Robinson and
 Giles Youngs

Check the Society's newsletter or website for the latest on the release of two other new deanery areas: Samford & Colneis, and Hartismere. Together, these four new areas contain over 70,000 of the earliest phase 4 baptisms, which are also available from our Baptism Search Service (details at the back of this journal).

Finally, don't forget we include any additional information found with entries which may bring a smile, some colour or even a helping hand to grow your tree, for example:

- Frostenden in 1564 – **John** s/o **Henry & Katherine Pase**, *'mother daughter of Robert Lockles'*.
- Freckenham in the 1580s has a father named **Francis Francis**.
- Leiston in 1600 – **Anne** bb dau of **Annis Pierce**, *'reputed father John Redbeard who has run away'*.
- Mildenhall in 1603 – *'A child left in this parish in an outhouse at Sandelane, whose father and mother is unknown – as yet'*.
- Peasenhall in 1610 – bb son of **Margaret Green**, *'begotten & born in the tyme of her widowhood'*. Also in 1619 – **Henry** bb son of **Margaret Goodman**, *'contrary to her name she was playing the bad woman'*.
- Brockley in 1628 – **Alice Baxster** *'who said that she was married about 6 years ago to one Mathew Corbel & dwelt in Norfolk in a town called Castleacre, who being a wayfaring woman came to Brockley the 17th day of November about an hour after candle light to the Constable. Within half an hour after she came was delivered of a woman child, and the said childe was baptised (Mary) in Brockley church'*.

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

Suffolk Baptism Index

Clare Deanery
 1538* - 1649

Barnardiston (1540-49 1577-),
 Bradley Lt (1561-), Chedburgh,
 Clare (1557-1640), Cowlinge (1559-),
 Dalham (1558-), Denham (nr Bury) (1539-),
 Denston (1561-), Depden (-1565 1579-1652),
 Gazeley (1543-), Haverhill (1561-1642),
 Lidgate (1553-), Moulton (1560-1650),
 Poslingford (1559-), Stansfield (-1650),
 Stoke by Clare, Stradishall (1548-),
 Thurlow Gt (1636-), Thurlow Lt (1561-),
 Wickhambrook (1560-), Withersfield (1558-),
 Wrattling Gt (1593-).



SFK-BPI-02/P4
 PDF



MARRIAGE INDEX NEWS

In December 2025, the CD for Ipswich Deanery phase 4 was finalised and made available to purchase from the Society shop – see the image, below, for the parishes covered. There are fewer parishes than for phase 3 as the older records are sparser. However, they produced some suitably quirky entries! There were the usual odd names – **Rose Thorne** (married 24 January 1639) and **Freegift Love** (married 4 November 1611), both from Ipswich St Stephen, and **Lettyce Greene** (married 3 December 1587) at Ipswich St Margaret. Ipswich St Nicholas recorded the marriage on 22 December 1625 of **William Wells** prisoner to **Joane Harvie** of Combs. I wonder what the circumstances of his imprisonment were, and also the outcome; prison was a holding stage before sentence was passed and carried out.

Ipswich St Stephen also produced a ‘snapshot’ of social history. On 4 March 1611 *‘John, the sonne of Anne Smallage, and the supposed sonne of John Throsher the younger, as the mother aforesaid confessed in her travails, and afterwards affirmed, was baptised’*. An illegitimate child was a financial burden to the parish unless the father could be identified. I wonder who extracted the confession during Anne’s labour?

The checking of Dunwich Deanery (48 parishes over 200 years) has now progressed from Bramfield (as reported in December’s *Roots*) to Sibton and has finally passed the halfway mark! As always, I express my appreciation for the hard work of Arthur Bird and Derek Wright and also **Catherine Kendal**, my first and very new helper.

Yvonne Hesketh

Marriage Index Coordinator
marriages@suffolkfhs.co.uk

Suffolk Marriage Index

Ipswich Deanery

1538* - 1649*



St Clement (1564-), St Lawrence (1540-),
St Margaret, St Mary at Elms (1554-),
St Mary Stoke (1563-1641), St Mary Le Tower (1614-1642),
St Matthew (1559-), St Nicholas (1539-),
St Stephen (1586-)



SFK-MI-45
PDF

LIFE AFTER PARISH REGISTERS

In mid-January, we held a Zoom session to explore what record sets might be suitable for future transcription projects once the parish registers are complete. Our own **Carolyn Alderson** and guest speaker **Simon Fowler** introduced a range of sources and discussed their value for genealogical research.

Carolyn began with an overview of manorial court rolls and books, outlining their historical importance in documenting land tenure, local jurisdiction, and the workings of copyhold land. She explained how these records can be rich sources for family historians, offering details about ordinary people, their occupations, property, and involvement in local disputes. Although immensely valuable, manorial records can be challenging to access due to their scattered locations and the use of Latin before 1733. Carolyn noted that many courts produced their own indexes, though the quality varies, and suggested that a searchable database would greatly benefit researchers — provided archives are willing to collaborate.

A question was raised about whether Ancestry might digitise Suffolk's manorial records. Carolyn considered this unlikely, given that the material is held across multiple repositories, including The National Archives and university collections. This led to a wider discussion about the difficulties of indexing such records and the ongoing efforts by archives to digitise and transcribe them.

Simon Fowler then took over, beginning with an explanation of workhouses under the Old (pre-1834) and New Poor Law. He described their role in supporting the poor and unemployed, and highlighted the survival and condition of the relevant records, which can offer valuable insights into the lives of both inmates and staff.

Simon went on to discuss school and Quarter Sessions records. He outlined the types of information these sources contain and their historical context, noting that many school records have already been transcribed and indexed by FindMyPast. Quarter Sessions records, however, may be of limited use to family historians due to their patchy survival and inconsistent detail.

He concluded with a brief mention of Napoleonic militia lists, which he advised should be considered alongside parish chest records.

The session ended with a quick poll of attendees, which showed a clear preference for manorial records as the most appealing next transcription project: see below.

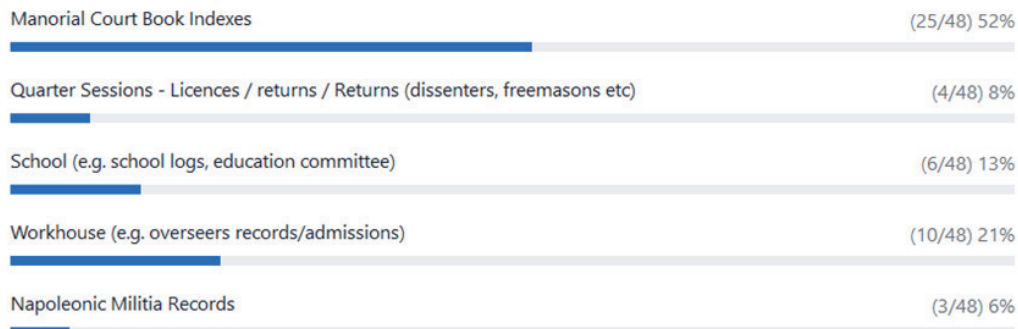
Andy Kerridge, Chair
chair@suffolkfhs.co.uk

What next after parish registers??

Poll ended | 2 questions | 48 of 48 (100%) participated

1. Which class of records would you like us to look at first to transcribe (Single choice)

48/48 (100%) answered



WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

As you'll see, we had an excellent response to our request for contributions on the theme '*Farming and Farmers*'. I (Rob), being a 'townie', found the results educational: my limited knowledge of agricultural matters comes largely from following the shenanigans at Diddly Squat as **Jeremy Clarkson** learns by trial and error how to become a farmer!

The contributions give a strong impression of the labour-intensive nature of Suffolk farming in the 19th century and left me wanting to put some facts and figures around this. Online searches identified that the total land area of the county is roughly 940,000 acres, of which 70%, i.e. 660,000 acres, is used for agriculture. This percentage appears to have been much the same in the 19th century. As for employment, an 1835 survey⁽¹⁾ identified 5,647 occupiers of agricultural land in Suffolk, who between them employed 33,040 'ag labs'. If one includes the occupiers themselves, that makes nearly 39,000 people employed in agriculture, not counting family members who also contributed to the farm economy. That's a ratio of about one worker to every 17 acres, though the figure would no doubt have varied throughout the county depending on such matters as soil and crop type. Also, the ratio will have become smaller as the 19th century wore on, due to the productivity effects of the agricultural revolution.

What of today's employment picture? I couldn't find Suffolk-specific figures, but DEFRA's *Agricultural facts: East of England region* (October 2025)⁽²⁾ records that 3,500,000 acres of the region's land is farmed by a workforce (regular and casual) of nearly 35,000. That makes roughly one farm worker to every 100 acres, a ratio

nearly six times smaller than that of 1835. This must reflect in large part the impact of mechanisation and automation, particularly in arable farming.⁽³⁾

This comparison is of course very rough, and readers with a statistical bent (or farming knowledge) may see obvious flaws in it. But it does indicate the scale of the loss of rural employment in our county over the last 200 years. Modern methods and equipment also mean that many of today's farming jobs would be unrecognisable to our Victorian ancestors, let alone those from earlier eras. Indeed, some of the remarkable developments in agricultural practice over the period were due to the efforts of ingenious Suffolk folk, as the article below by **Sue Tearne** explains.

We hope you enjoy all the farming-related pieces, as well as the other items we are able to bring you in this edition. In June, we'll scrape the mud from our heels and move into town with the theme '*Along the High Street*', placing the focus on ancestors who were shopkeepers or tradespeople. If you have a butcher, a baker, or a candlestick maker nestling in your family tree, please tell us about them and their business. Further prompts on this theme can be found at the rear of the journal. If your forebears visited the High Street only to shop, never fear – we welcome articles, snippets, poems, images or anything else that may help or entertain other readers, regardless of the highlighted theme.

The Editors

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1. *The British Almanac for the Year 1835* (Charles Knight, London, 1835), p. 86, available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015065273321&seq=188&q1=suffolk>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/agricultural-facts-england-regional-profiles/agricultural-facts-east-of-england-region>
3. Suffolk's Elveden estate, which has 10,000 acres of farmland, advertises itself as the largest ring-fenced arable farm in lowland Britain: <https://www.elveden.com/farm-land>



Farm off Church Lane, Creting St Mary. Photo by Andrew Hill, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia

Editors' Note: This article, by Sue Tearne, appeared in a past issue of Suffolk Roots. It gives a fascinating overview of the individuals and developments that were key to Suffolk's agricultural past and so makes an excellent backdrop to the more specific farming-related articles that follow.

THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION – SOME INNOVATIONS FROM SUFFOLK

from Suffolk Roots Vol 13 N1 Jun 2013 p. 10

Suffolk has always been famed for its agriculture, and since well before 1700 there has been evidence that farmers in the county were avid experimenters, innovating and specialising. This article aims to look at a few individuals and innovations from our county.

Suffolk has three major kinds of landscape, which gave rise to three quite different kinds of farming. In the north-west of the county beyond Bury St Edmunds, the Breckland area supported, alternately, sheep and corn. When the fields were fallow they were grazed, compacted and fertilised by Norfolk horned sheep, which resulted in a better following harvest. In the eastern coastal strip of the county, the Sandlings area was similar, but had additional belts of marshy land which were drained and used for grazing. In the central part, known as High Suffolk, where the soil was heavier, dairy farming was more important.

The local dairy cows had become a distinct breed by the 17th century, ranging in colour from cream to red, small and without horns, the ancestors of the Suffolk Red Poll breed.

Suffolk butter was renowned, and much was sent to London and elsewhere by ship from Woodbridge. Suffolk cheese did not enjoy the same reputation, some saying it was



Red Poll cow and calf © sophronitesredpoll.com

only fit for the 'labouring classes' or 'for making wheels for wheelbarrows'. One innovation was the droving of black beef cattle to East Anglia from Scotland and the north of England to fatten on the lush grass of the eastern Suffolk marshes. A burial recorded at Spexhall in 1770 is that of 'Peter a Scotch drover'. After fattening, the cattle were entrusted again to gangs of drovers and sent to market, often to Smithfield in London.

The distinctive black-faced Suffolk sheep were bred in order to satisfy an increasing demand for animals which had good quality meat and produced a large number of lambs. Demand for wool was declining. Around 1800, good results were obtained by crossing Southdown rams with Norfolk ewes. They were first called 'Black-faces', but were soon classified as a distinct breed – named the Suffolk sheep. The **Earl of Stradbroke**, at Henham Hall, was an early enthusiast of the new breed, and his renowned shepherd **Ishmael Cutter** raised an incredible 606 lambs from 413 ewes in 1837, winning many prizes throughout his career.



Suffolk sheep

Thomas Crisp – Horse breeder

The famous breed of chestnut heavy horse known as the Suffolk Punch was perfected by **Thomas Crisp**, a farmer of Rendlesham and Gedgrave, in about 1768. Thomas was born in Rendlesham in about 1737, the third son of **Samuel Crisp** and **Sarah (née Yorke)**. Thomas married **Anna Edwards** at Dennington about January 1779 and they had three children. He died on 27 January 1823, leaving a will which was proved at Ipswich on 18 June 1823.

Landowners who experimented in agricultural methods in the late 18th century had their successful ideas swiftly taken up by smaller farmers. This must have been partly due to the reporting of such developments in newspapers, a new means of disseminating knowledge to the masses.

Arthur Young – Landowner and commentator on agriculture

Arthur Young was one of the leading influences in agricultural innovation at the end of the 18th century. He achieved an international reputation as an observer, writer and editor and is regarded by many as the greatest of all English writers on agriculture.

Arthur Young was born in 1741 at Bradfield Combust, into a well-to-do family. His father was **Rev Arthur Young**, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Arthur was sent to school in Lavenham and in 1758 went to a mercantile house in King's Lynn, but he had no interest in commerce. In 1759 his father died, and at his mother's request Arthur took over the running of the family estate at Bradfield Hall, learning the basics of agriculture in the process.

In 1765 he married **Martha Allen**, a sister-in-law of the music historian **Charles Burney**, but this was not a happy union despite Arthur's devotion to his children. He was profoundly affected when their daughter **Martha Ann** died aged 14 in 1797, from consumption.

Arthur Young (right) wrote on many subjects, and his first pamphlet, concerning the American War of Independence, was published when he was only 17. In 1762 he took over a farm in Essex and began a series of experiments, detailing the results in *A Course of Experimental Agriculture*, published in 1770. His *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Suffolk*, published in 1813, made him the greatest agricultural authority of his day. In all, Arthur wrote about 25 books and pamphlets on agriculture as well as 15 on political economy, four novels and many essays. Arthur Young died in 1820, aged 78, and was buried at All Saints, Bradfield Combust.



The end of the Napoleonic Wars in the early 19th century led to a period of peace, and a quickening of pace in the Industrial Revolution. Large numbers of people were leaving the countryside and moving to towns in search of work. This led to an increasing demand for food, yet there were fewer agricultural workers available to keep the farms operating. People living in the towns and cities often had no time or land to grow crops or keep animals, so became reliant on the agricultural sector for their food. The Agricultural Revolution gathered momentum.

Farmers and landowners needed to respond to this demand and wanted to increase yields, operate with fewer labourers and become more efficient. One way to improve crop yields was by using fertiliser. Back in the mists of time, someone had discovered that adding manure to soil was a good way to boost production. However, there was never enough manure to meet demand and in the years of the Agricultural Revolution many other sources of fertiliser were tried. Guano (bird droppings) from South America was imported as a fertiliser from 1838 onwards, and the chemists of the day found that it contained high levels of calcium phosphate. It was expensive, but effective. Farmers being cost-conscious, the hunt was soon on for a cheaper alternative.

John Henslow – Clergyman, mineralogist and philanthropist

John Stevens Henslow was born at Rochester, Kent on 6 February 1796, the son of a solicitor, **John Prentis Henslow**. He graduated from Cambridge University in 1818 and the following year visited the Isle of Wight where he became interested in geology, having been fascinated by natural history since childhood. He was appointed Professor of Mineralogy at Cambridge in 1822.

Henslow began to organise a herbarium of British flowering plants, persuading family, friends, other botanists and his students to help him. In 1829 **Charles Darwin** became one of Henslow's students, and in 1831 when Henslow declined an offer to sail on the survey ship *HMS Beagle*, he suggested his protégé Darwin should join the expedition. But that is another story. In 1833, Henslow was appointed vicar of a parish

in Berkshire. This was followed in 1837 by a move to the Crown Living at Hitcham in Suffolk, where it appears he devoted much of the rest of his life to the betterment of his parishioners. John Henslow established a Parish School where he himself taught on Monday afternoons, botany and scientific thinking being on the timetable. He also established the Hitcham Labourers' and Mechanics' Horticultural Society to 'improve' the workers' education and knowledge, with competitions, shows and excursions. Henslow worked on his ideas of applying chemistry to farming and in 1842 discovered coprolites in the Red Crag cliffs at Felixstowe, which quickly led to the development of the superphosphate industry in Suffolk. Henslow did not benefit from these discoveries, but others such as **Edward Packard** did.

Henslow helped to found the Ipswich Museum and also the museum at Kew. He was an Examiner in Botany at the University of London and exhibited botanical models at the Paris Exposition of 1855. He championed the provision of allotments, which had begun to appear in the 17th and 18th centuries as numerous Enclosure Acts made it harder for poor people to use common land for growing food and rearing animals.

John Henslow married by licence **Harriet Jenyns**, daughter of **George Jenyns**, a clergyman and landowner, at St James Church, Paddington on 16 December 1823. Their eldest daughter **Frances Harriet Henslow** married the famous explorer and botanist **Joseph Hooker**. Their son **George Henslow** became a Professor of Botany. John Henslow died on 16 May 1861 at Hitcham aged 65 years and was buried at All Saints, Hitcham on 22 May 1861.



All Saints, Hitcham

Edward Packard – Pioneer of the fertiliser industry

As mentioned above, John Henslow discovered what he believed were coprolites (fossilised dinosaur dung) in the cliffs at Felixstowe in 1842. Chemical tests showed that the phosphate content was high, and Edward Packard, a chemist from Saxmundham, succeeded in converting the coprolite into 'superphosphate' by pulverising it, then dissolving it in sulphuric acid. This gave a more effective product. A new mining industry rapidly developed supplying coprolite to the chemical processors. Packard opened a factory at Ipswich, next to the River Orwell, in 1847. The site was ideal for transportation of the fertiliser by river and sea downstream on the Orwell and also upstream on the River Gipping by barge as far as Stowmarket on the canal system. The proximity of the railway also proved invaluable.



*Warehouse from the old Fisons works – a listed building (courtesy of Wikimedia Commons).
The works were supplied by barge on the River Gipping until about 1922.*

Edward Packard was born in Saxmundham in about 1816, son of **John Harrison Packard** and his wife **Elizabeth**. The 1841 census describes Edward as a '*Chemist and Druggist*', living in the Thoroughfare in Saxmundham. In 1842 Edward married **Mary Woods** at Kelsale and a number of children quickly arrived. The family moved from Saxmundham to Ipswich in about 1852, and by 1861 Edward is described in the census as a '*Chemical Manure Manufacturer*' employing 350 men and boys, and also a farmer of 86 acres employing four men and one boy. Perhaps he was conducting trials of his product on his own land. The family's address at this time was 42 Tuddenham Road, Ipswich, in a very fashionable area. By 1871 Edward had been widowed, but had married again and produced two more children with his second wife **Anna Maria**. He was now an employer of 500 men and 20 boys, had six servants and resided at Westerfield Lodge, Ipswich. One of his sons was a student at Cambridge University. In 1881 the census shows the family had moved to Birkfield Lodge, in St Mary Stoke parish, Ipswich, presumably so Edward could be nearer to the factory. He was then described as a '*Magistrate and Merchant*', clearly a pillar of the local community. His son, also **Edward**, a noted painter, had taken over the day-to-day running of the business, and was a '*Chemical Manufacturer employing 320 hands*', living at the Grove House, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, not far from the factory, with a large family and five servants. By 1891 Edward snr. had moved back into central Ipswich to Partridge House, Anglesea Road, and was a '*Retired Chemical Manufacturer, JP and DL*'. Edward Packard died in Smallburgh, Norfolk aged 80 on 27 October 1899 and was buried at Ipswich Cemetery four days later. He left an estate valued at over £61,000, a huge sum which would be equivalent to over £6m in today's terms.

John Gurdon – Agricultural philanthropist

The Assington Co-operative was an experiment begun in 1830 to improve the situation of a group of impoverished agricultural workers in Suffolk. **John Gurdon**, the local squire, selected 20 labourers and allowed them to jointly rent 120 acres, for which he provided capital and livestock. In about 10 years all the capital had

been repaid and those taking part had greatly improved their living standards. The scheme was extended in 1852, and continued into the early 20th century. From the *Post Office Directory* of 1865: *'There are two societies, originated by John Gurdon, Esq. (upon the allotment principle), jointly occupying 200 acres of land; one is called the Agricultural Association, the other the Agricultural Co. Co-operative Society, also the Industrial and Provident Society (Limited).'*

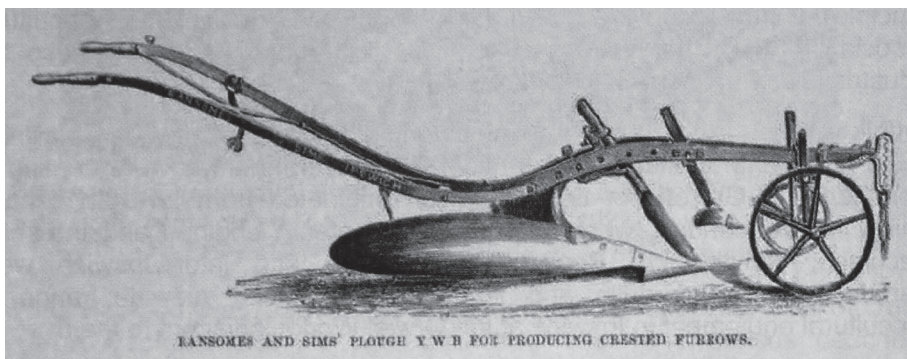
Suffolk was at the forefront of developments in the mechanisation of farming in the 19th century. By the mid-1840s several names were coming to prominence – Garretts of Leiston, which originated from an 18th century smithy in Woodbridge, were best known for steam engines and threshing machines, Smythes of Peasenhall, Sweffling and later Ipswich were manufacturing seed drills, and Ransomes produced a wide range of agricultural equipment in Ipswich at the Orwell Works, adjacent to the river.

Robert Ransome – Agricultural engineer

Robert Ransome was born into a Quaker family at Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk in 1753, the son of **Richard Ransome**, a schoolmaster, and his wife **Prudence**. His grandfather **Richard Ransome** was a miller of North Walsham. Robert was apprenticed to an ironmonger and later set up in business in Norwich, initially as a brass-founder and later expanding to iron-founding. On 19 February 1782 Robert married **Mary Raven**, and they had two sons, **Robert** and **James**. The family moved to Ipswich in 1789. In 1808 Robert's son James joined the company and the name was changed to Ransome and Son. In 1825 Robert retired from the business and in later years lived in Woodbridge, where he died on 7 March 1830.

In 1789 he established his casting business, making ploughshares in a disused malting at what is now Old Foundry Road in Ipswich. In 1803, due to an accident in the factory, a mould broke and Robert noticed that when the molten metal contacted cold metal, the resulting rapid cooling gave the metal an unexpected extra hardness, which he developed into 'self-sharpening' ploughshares, which he patented. This set him on the road to fame and fortune. The company grew rapidly and at the Royal Agricultural Society's first show in 1839, Ransomes were awarded a gold medal for their agricultural implements and machinery. They diversified into steam engines, millwrighting, bridge building, lawnmowers, railway rolling stock and gas supply equipment. In 1849 the company moved premises to a shipyard which became the Orwell Works, eventually employing over 1,000 people. His sons and grandsons continued to run the company, which became known as Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies. The Great Exhibition in 1851 saw them awarded another three gold medals. In 1869, four of the company's engineers left amicably and formed Ransomes and Rapier, which specialised in railway equipment and later produced other heavy machinery such as draglines used in mining. During World War I, Ransomes made munitions and built FE2 fighter aircraft for the war effort, with about 5,000 people employed.

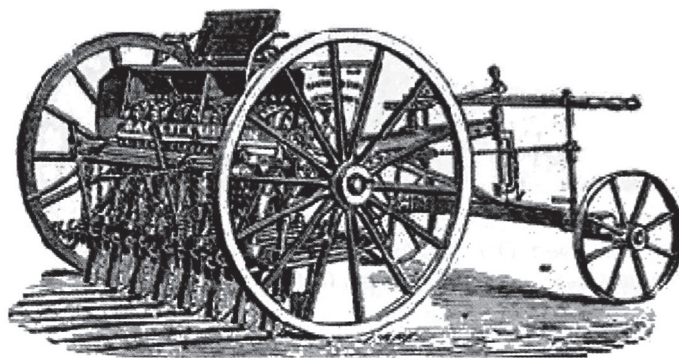
Following World War II the company made a wide range of agricultural machinery, such as grain dryers, tractors, combine-harvesters and many types of grass cutters.



Ransomes' truss-beamed iron plough, marked YWB, 1862

Garretts of Leiston – Agricultural machinery

Richard Garrett, founder of the company, was born in 1757 in Woodbridge. After marrying, he moved to Leiston and worked as a sickle-maker. His son, also **Richard**, married **Sarah Balls** in 1806 at Chediston. Sarah's father had designed a new type of threshing machine, and he went into partnership with her father-in-law to build and sell the machines; these were very successful and the company expanded. By the time the founder's grandson, also named **Richard**, took over in 1836, the company was employing 60 workers. In the following 20 years this expanded to 600, and the works covered seven acres. Their most important product was threshing machines, but they also made drills, horse-drawn hoes, ploughs, chaff-cutters, winnowers and hay-making machinery. The company earned numerous awards from agricultural societies. They produced a lavishly-illustrated catalogue which, by 1861, was being printed in four languages, and employed agents in Europe, Africa, North America, Australia and India. While the home market had stagnated, much of their production was exported. As with many other engineering companies, they produced munitions during the two World Wars.



Garretts seed drill, very similar to Smyth's Suffolk original (below), 1881

Smyths of Peasenhall

At the end of the 18th century, **James Smyth** of Sweffling set up in business as a wheelwright in Peasenhall, along with his brother **Jonathan**. Part of their business was repairing seed drills, and James set out to improve the type of drill that was used in the area. He succeeded in 1800, when he produced and patented the 'Suffolk Drill', which featured adjustable coulter, the blades that make the grooves for the seeds to be sown in. The company grew slowly throughout the 19th century and by 1900 was employing about 100 people, much of their production being exported. The immediate market for the drill was amongst the neighbouring farmers, but a wider market was necessary if the infant firm was to prosper. Smyths sent out travellers, often given the occupational designation 'drillman' on the census, expert in the use of the drill, who exhibited the machines in various markets and offered to do contract drilling for 6d. an acre. This plan was successful, and contract drilling became the practice as far away as Oxfordshire. James' son and grandson expanded the business by applying design and international marketing to the mass production of drills. The works, behind the church, continued to make drills to the same basic design, but with a steady input of innovations, until 1967. The Smyth family increased its fortunes and this benefited village life and the local economy. The Smyth design came to be known world wide as 'The Suffolk Drill'.



Peasenhall's 'Swiss Chalet' Assembly Rooms: the village hall. It was built in 1888 by Josiah Smyth of the Seed Drill Works, who had returned from a continental tour with a passion for all things Alpine (image © Adrian Cable)

Sue Tearne

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Wikipedia; Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich): *Ransomes' Astronomical Equipment*, <https://oasi.org.uk/OPO/Ransomes/Ransomes.php>; Graces Guide to British Industrial History: Robert Ransome, https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Robert_Ransome

Image of Ransome's plough from an old 1881 catalogue.

Garretts seed drill from <http://www.gracesguide.co.uk>

ESCAPING AGRICULTURAL POVERTY IN SUFFOLK

A DNA match with a family in Worcestershire in 2021 led to a fascinating journey of discovery about our agricultural ancestors from Stratford St Andrew, Suffolk.

If you have ever taken the A12 from Ipswich to Lowestoft, or vice versa, you may well have driven through Stratford St Andrew and not noticed this rural village. Blink as you pass the Riverside Leisure Centre on your left and you will pass over the bridge into the village of Farnham, the two villages are that close! They are both soon to be bypassed by the Sizewell C Two Village Bypass (TVB). However, before the A12, Stratford St Andrew and Farnham were on the main Turnpike Road from Ipswich to Lowestoft.



In the postcard above, you can just see the mill sails in the distance (on the right) and the church tower above the tree in front of the house in the centre.

The Worcestershire DNA match was with a **Mike Pratt**, and after initial contact via Ancestry the Pratt family shared their tree as far as they had researched it, which was up to a **Charles Pratt**, born in Suffolk, who was the landlord of a pub in Hallow, Worcestershire.

My 5x great-grandfather, **James Pratt** (1746-1836), was baptised and buried in Stratford St Andrew. James married **Rebecca Graystone** in 1770 and they had 12 children, 10 sons and two daughters. I am descended from the third son, **Jonathan Pratt** (1775-1866), who went on to become head gardener at the Vicarage in Benhall, Suffolk.

From the parish registers it is clear that James Pratt was sometimes employed as a labourer; he is described as a '*pauper*' on some of his children's baptisms. James was 90 years of age when he died in 1836. How was Mike Pratt from Worcestershire linked to this James Pratt, a poor labourer of Suffolk?

The ninth son of James Pratt and Rebecca Graystone was **Robert Pratt** (1790-1847). He was baptised on 29 August 1790 at Stratford St Andrew.

On the June 1841 census, Robert was recorded as an agricultural labourer living with his wife, **Hannah (née Ditcher)**, and his son Charles Pratt, born 1814 in Stratford St Andrew, who was also an agricultural labourer. Based on the 1847 tithe map, Robert Pratt and family were occupying a cottage that formed part of Chapel Cottages (being located next to the Methodist Chapel), which were owned by the **Hon. Sophia North** of Glemham Hall.

Sadly, Robert contracted pneumonia, and despite being nursed by one **Mary Packard**, he died on 28 June 1847 and was buried on 1 July at Stratford St Andrew church. He was only 57 years old. His wife Hannah, now in her mid-50s, obtained employment as a servant of farmer **William Sewell** in Middleton, Suffolk, but son Charles decided that continuing as an agricultural labourer was not the future he had in mind, instead he wanted to work on his own account.

On the 1851 census we find him in Hallow, Worcestershire, his occupation stated as '*Threshing Machine & Drill Man*'. He had married **Elizabeth Rouse** in Hallow on 20 December 1847, and they had a daughter, **Elizabeth Pratt**, born 1849.



*Showing Robert Pratt's house, and its position on the tithe map.
Author's own.*

How do you go from being an agricultural labourer in Suffolk to a drill man in Worcestershire? In the 1840s the practice of seed-drilling in Suffolk, being the mechanical sowing of seeds in uniform rows, began to replace the less efficient method of hand-broadcasting. The new Suffolk seed drills were able to be pulled by horse or oxen, sow all types of grain and cover acres in very quick time, quite an advance in

agriculture. The drill sowed the seeds at the proper seeding rate and depth, covering them with soil and therefore reducing seed wastage. A manure cup sowed manure in with the seed, improving germination, which led to higher crop yields. Suffolk was at the forefront of invention – but where did Charles get his seed drill?

The most prominent Suffolk manufacturer was James Smyth of Peasenhall, who began manufacturing seed drills in 1800. His drill, known as the ‘Suffolk Drill’, had earned the reputation of being reliable and effective and was exported globally.

However, James was one of several Smyth brothers who produced seed drills. His younger brother, Jonathan, manufactured seed drills in Sweffling, employing several men, and another brother, **George**, set up a drill-making works in Ipswich in 1837.

The immediate market for the seed drill was neighbouring farms, and Suffolk, being a predominantly arable district, was initially the perfect market. Once saturated, a wider territory was necessary. Travellers, experts in the use of the drill, went out to other counties, where they could demonstrate the new machines and offer to do contract drilling for a price per acre. Did Charles obtain a seed drill from the Smyth family at Peasenhall or Sweffling?

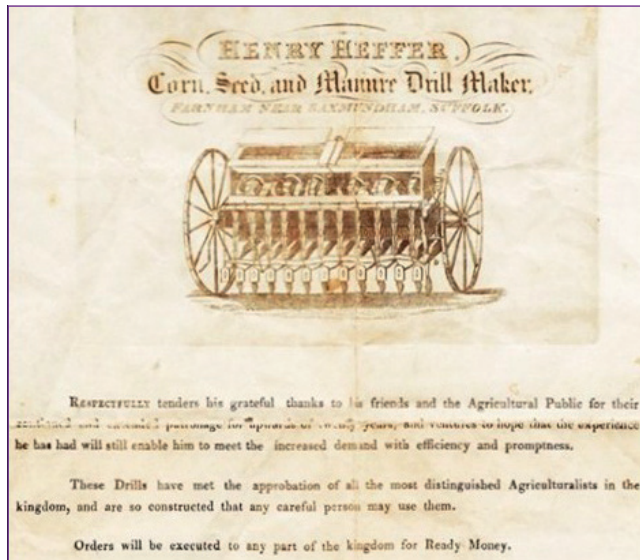
Roger Horton, ex-resident of Stratford St Andrew, proposed an alternative, much closer and more likely, seed drill manufacturer: the **Heffers** of Farnham.

At one time the Heffers owned most of the village of Farnham and parts of Stratford St Andrew, as well as other property in East Suffolk. **Alfred Heffer** was a wheelwright in Farnham, and there exists a lease dated 1829 from a **James Hurren** to a **Henry Heffer** (1807-1889), ‘drill-maker’ at the Farnham blacksmith and wheelwrights.



Photo of Heffers of Farnham⁽¹⁾, courtesy Roger Horton

It seems the young Henry Heffer decided to expand upon Alfred's wheelwright skills and commenced manufacturing on his own account around 1827, despite being only 20 years of age.



Heffer drill circular dated 1850, from Heffers of Farnham, courtesy Roger Horton

The following Heffer client list includes the Pratt family and isn't restricted to Suffolk; it includes one client in Worcestershire.

H. H. has been kindly permitted to refer to the following gentlemen amongst many others who have favoured him with their patronage.

SUFFOLK,	J. Barthorp, esq., Hollisley. J. Bryant, esq., Dawdsey. R. Bond, esq., Hacheston. T. Barber, esq., Farnham Hall. Mr. G. Blomfield, Framlingham. Mr. S. Blomfield, Framlingham. Mr. Benham, Great Glenham. Mr. Barker, Cranford. T. Catlin, esq., Botley Abbey. Mrs. Catlin, Chilsford Lodge. Mr. Clark, Worlingworth. Mr. Darham, Stratford St. Andrew's. Mrs. Darham, Little Glenham. Mr. J. Daves, Finsboro. Mr. H. Daves, Finsboro. Mr. Dew, Middleton. Mr. Dennington, Bromswell. Mr. Dove, Helmingham. Mr. Easter, Benhall. J. Platt, esq., Tunstall. Mr. Garrod, Stratford St. Andrews. R. Gross, esq., Alderton. Mr. Heffer, Farnham House. Mr. Heffer, Brinsyard. Mr. Hillen, Alderton. R. Kersey, esq., Framlingham Lodge. Mr. Largent, near, Marlesford. Mr. H. Largent, Marlesford. Mr. Ludbrook, Wenhamston. Mr. Mills, Benhall Lodge. Mr. Orford, Sternfield. Mr. Lewis, Hollisley. Messrs. Page, Melton. Mr. Plant, Theberton. Mr. Plant, Farnham. Mr. Pope, Orford. Mr. Packard, Farnham. Mr. Plant, Benhall. Mr. Pratt, Campsey Ash. Mr. Pratt, Little Glenham. Mr. Pratt, Farnham. R. Rowlands, esq., Akenham Hall. G. Roberts, esq., Alderton. Messrs. Ransome's, Ipswich. Mr. Rands, Farnham. Mr. Saunders, Farnham. Mr. Smith, Hollisley. W. Tacon, esq., Wingfield Castle. Mr. Tacon, Great Glenham. Mr. Toller, Benhall. Mr. Toller, Blaxhall. T. Waller, esq., Eke Rookery.
SURREY,	Mr. Ashby, Beddington. Mr. Browne, Ewell. T. Baker, esq., Tilfage, Guildford. Mr. Burt, Guildford. Mr. China, Oakley. W. Chapman, esq., Esher Lodge. Mr. Dalen, Cobham. Mr. Daniels, Moulsey. Mr. Eagle, Esher. W. Fuller, esq., Tooting. Mr. Frelands, Stoke. Mr. Heffer, Cheam. Colonel Lester, Cheam. Mr. Lee, Goddleming. Mr. Langton, Wokingworth. Mr. Lawrence, Reigate. J. Mangles, esq. M. P., Guildford. Mr. Martin, Lingfield. Mr. Mason, Worplesdon. Mr. Mayor, Cheam. Mr. Marshall, Morden. T. Overton, esq., Sutton Lodge. Mr. Pennington, Cheam. H. Tuke, esq., Walton on Thames. Mr. Thompson, Reigate.
SUSSEX,	A. Davis, esq. W. Farncomb, Eishopstone. Mr. Martin, Hartfield. Mr. Westgate, Chiddingfold. Mr. Salisbury, Eden Bridge. Mr. Eristow, Ifield Court, Crawley.
ESSEX,	Mr. Edford, Ardley. H. Bright, esq., Orsett. Mr. Heffer, Bradley hall, Ardley. Mr. Green, Romford. R. Ingram, esq. Little Thurrick. Mr. Stephens, Bulfins.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE,	Mr. Allen Barrow, Baddington.
HANTS	Mr. Grimwood, Muck Bitch. Mr. Young, Marston, Farnborough. Mr. Green, Waterdale.
KENT,	Mr. Calcott, Horsewooden.
SURREY,	Mr. Gilbert, Alvely.
WORCESTERSHIRE,	Mr. Brown, Kidderminster.

Heffer Client List, from Heffers of Farnham, courtesy Roger Horton

In 1878 Henry Heffer was still noted as a drill-maker, so the business existed for over 50 years in Farnham.

In 2021 the Pratt family from Worcestershire visited Stratford St Andrew, bringing with them Charles Pratt's seed drill account book! He had indeed been self-employed and offered his seed-drilling expertise to farmers around Hallow for a price per acre, the price being dependent on which crop they required and at what frequency it was to be sown. He noted in the book the date, each farmer's name, the acreage covered per day, the crop and the amount he charged.

Charles Pratt was no longer a seed-driller by 1871, but instead a beer house keeper at the *Royal Oak* in Hallow. The picture below has **Henry Samuel Pratt** (1861-1915), Charles' son, in the doorway of the *Royal Oak*.



Photo courtesy of the Worcestershire Pratt family

The *Royal Oak* was to stay in the Pratt family for several generations, but why the change from agriculture to beer selling? An article in the *Worcester Journal* dated 25 June 1859 provides a very good reason why!

'ACCIDENT AT HALLOW. On Monday Evening last as Mr. Charles Pratt was returning home with a horse and drill from Moseley, the animal took fright, knocked him down, and the drill passed over him, fracturing his collar bone and also two ribs. The assistance of Dr. Strange of this city, was immediately obtained, and under his skilful treatment he is satisfactorily progressing.'

Jane Evans Mb 12036

janese@talktalk.net

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1. Roger Horton, *Heffers of Farnham – A Brief Overview of a Family Firm, circa 1827-1964*. <http://farnhamwithstratfordstandrew-pc.gov.uk/history/heffers-of-farnham/>

CHARLES COOKE, FARMER AND HORSE BREEDER

My family farmed in Norfolk for several generations, back to the 1700s in fact! My great-grandfather was **Charles Earsham Cooke**, a tenant farmer at High House, Litcham. It was a farm of 580 acres.

I am collecting facts to add to my **Cook/e** family story. I list below some assorted snippets from it which I thought might be of interest.

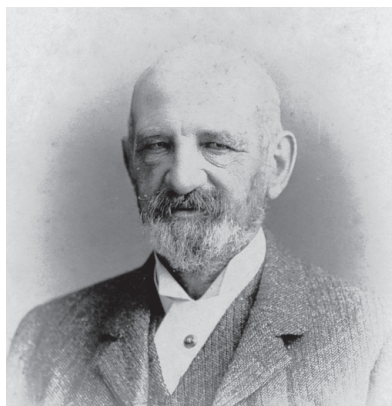
High House farm cropping record – 1834 to 1843

The image below shows the pattern of crops grown for these years at High House farm. The rows are each for different fields, and the letters represent the crops grown: W = Wheat, B = Barley, T = Turnips, L = Linseed, P = Pasture.

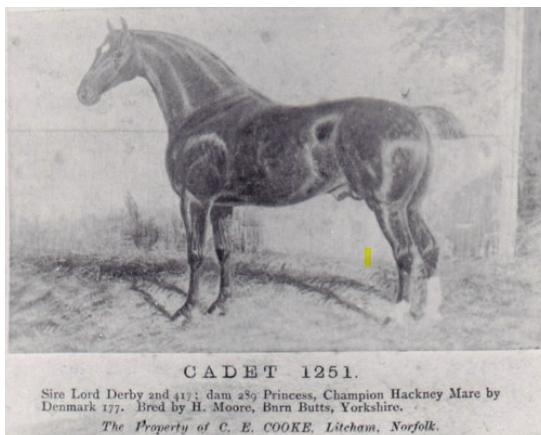
	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Field 1	L	P	T	B	T	B	L	W	T	B	L
Field 2	L	W	T	B	L	W	T	B	L	W	T
Field 3	W	T	B	L	W	T	B	L	W	T	B
Field 4	L	L	L	W	T	B	L	W	T	B	L
Field 5	B	T	B	L	L	W	T	B	L	W	T
Field 6	W	T	B	L	W	T	B	L	W	T	B

Hackney horse breeding

On some Norfolk farms they bred Hackney horses. Charles devoted his later life to breeding these horses and showed them at Norfolk agricultural shows. He also acted as a judge. He gained a reputation as a very successful breeder. He obtained a stallion called 'Cadet 1251', and such was its fame that in 1892 he was able to sell it to the President of the American Hackney Horse Society for £3,000, a then unheard-of sum.⁽¹⁾ Shortly afterwards he sold, by auction, 55 horses (51 breeding Hackneys and four geldings), many of them sired by 'Cadet 1251', with a sale value of £3,987.⁽²⁾ In 1896, a further 56 animals (50 breeding stock and some geldings), 'all but 3 or 4 bred at Litcham', realised £3,314.⁽³⁾ In 1901, prior to his own retirement, he retired the stud and sold more horses – 60 for £2,216.⁽⁴⁾ Were they all his horses?



*Charles Earsham Cooke.
Photo: Author's own.*



Cadet – from a stud book, c. 1892. From author's collection.

A farming miscellany

These items give a flavour of the agricultural life of Charles Cooke and his farm:

- 1852 Threshing machine accident, in which a 12-year-old boy's foot and ankle caught in a feeding machine – the boy later died.⁽⁵⁾
- 1853 October: a ploughing match at High House, Litcham, organised by the Launditch Agricultural Association in their 28th year. It involved 29 wooden ploughs and eight iron ones.⁽⁶⁾
- 1865 Endorsed (helped advertise) the 'Eclipse' one-horse reaping machine (manufactured by R S Baker of Kings Lynn).⁽⁷⁾
- 1872 Foot-and-mouth court case: 800 sheep at High House, Litcham, may have been affected due to a careless farmer.⁽⁸⁾
- 1883 Fined £1 12s 0d for employing a child aged under 13 years.⁽⁹⁾
- 1901 Five pigs moved without a licence – fined £1 13s 6d.⁽¹⁰⁾

Richard Cooke Mb 7528

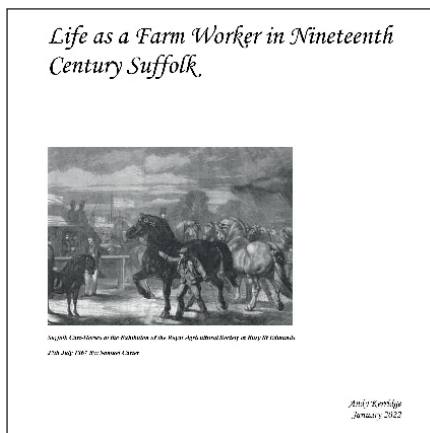
frcooke2@gmail.com

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1. *Downham Market Gazette*, 17 September 1892.
2. *Norwich Mercury*, 24 September 1892.
3. *Norwich Mercury*, 1 August 1896.
4. *Norwich Mercury*, 20 July 1901.
5. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 13 November 1852.
6. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 15 October 1853.
7. *Lynn Advertiser*, 3 June 1865 (for example).
8. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 20 July 1872.
9. *Norfolk News*, 27 October 1883.
10. *Norwich Argus*, 30 November 1901.

LIFE AS A FARM WORKER IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Just a reminder that the Society website carries a booklet written by Andy Kerridge entitled *Life as a Farm Worker in Nineteenth Century Suffolk*. It may be accessed in the Members' Area, on the Past Publications page.



The Editors

WILLIAM VALE – WHY HE LEFT

***Editors' Note:** One of the questions posed for the theme of this issue was 'If your ancestors left the land, what were their reasons?' Member **Jane Morrison** sent this snippet about her ancestor who 'left the land' under duress, only to return to it later, albeit on a different continent.*

My family are directly descended from **William Vale** (1775-185?), son of **Martin Vale (Veal)** of West Stow, Suffolk. William and his 'partner in crime', **Phillip Harrold**, were likely agricultural labourers who had fallen on hard times and turned to stealing poultry to make ends meet. Vale and Harrold were apprehended on Saturday 14 November 1801 for stealing poultry at the Mildenhall Market. They were transported to the colony of New South Wales on the *Fortune* in 1806, to serve seven-year sentences.

Once emancipated, William Vale became a farmer himself in New South Wales where he had a 'housekeeper', **Ann Shadwell**, another convict, and three or four Australian-born children, including **Hannah Vale** (1813-1897), our direct colonial ancestor. William Vale and Ann Shadwell were never officially married – it turns out that William still had a wife in Suffolk!

William Vale later married a 'widow', **Mary Henry**, in New South Wales. Phillip Harrold, on the other hand, may have returned to Suffolk after serving his sentence.

Jane Morrison

AN EXCURSION INTO FARMING

Years ago, when I asked my mother if she had any information about either her or my father's forebears, she mentioned there was a 'family story' that my father's family had been wealthy but lost it all to '*wine, women and song*'! That was fairly intriguing, and although this article does not address or answer the hanging question, it may help to explain a more realistic cause of the loss.

My great-grandfather, **Joseph Oscar Salmon**, was born on 12 May 1852 in Bury Street, Stowmarket, the first son and third child of **Thomas Edwards Salmon** (1817-1889) and **Elizabeth (née Mayhew)** (1816-1891). He must have been a treasured child as his older sister, **Elizabeth**, had died only a couple of months earlier of erysipelas, at the age of 11 months, on 4 February 1852; his younger brother, **Thomas Edward**, born in September 1853, died aged 4 months in February the following year from pneumonia; and his eldest sister, **Mary Ann** (b. 1848, Stowmarket) died, aged 13, of *Tabes mesenterica* (abdominal TB) in June 1861, when Joseph was 9 years old.

Joseph's family appeared to be respectable middle-class tradesmen, with his father following in grandfather **Joseph's** footsteps as a tailor. The 1841 census listed both Thomas and his father, Joseph, as '*taylor's*' in the same Bury Street household. By 1851, Joseph snr. and Thomas Edwards were in separate properties in Bury Street, Thomas listed as draper and master tailor, employing 5 men. Newspaper advertisements for the tailoring business, in partnership with **Albert Tillott**, appear from 1855 until the partnership was dissolved in 1889, following Thomas Edwards' death.

Bury and Norwich Post and Suffolk Herald, 23 May 1855:

*'SALMON AND TILLOTT, WOOLLEN DRAPERS, TAILORS AND HATTERS,
BURY STREET, STOWMARKET*

Beg respectfully to inform their Friends and the Public they have just received a full and most fashionable STOCK OF GOODS, suitable to the approaching Season, to which they invite an early inspection; also a good variety of best makes of Waterproof Coats, and of the Newest Styles of Ponchoes, &c., and at the Lowest remunerating Prices.

*BLACK FROCK COATS, from 15s. | VESTS, do. 3s 6d. | SMART & USEFUL FRENCH
HATS, do. 6s 6d.'*

The business did well, as by 1871 the census listed Thomas, now living in Ipswich Road, as a tailor employing 10 men and a boy. However, Joseph jnr., now 18 and in the same household, was recorded as a farmer of 111 acres, employing 6 men and 2 boys.

It appears that Joseph had not suddenly won the lottery and splashed out on a farm. The 1881 census indicated all the family had moved there and it was his father, Thomas, who was the farmer of 111 acres, employing 4 men and 2 boys; and Joseph, now with wife **Grace Isabel (née Southgate)** (1852-1934) (the daughter of **Walter Southgate**,

a corn merchant), and daughter **Isabel Mayhew Salmon** (1879-1961), had been demoted to 'Farmer's son'.

This seems rather a departure, and I have long wondered what led to this foray into agriculture with apparently no prior experience (although Thomas Edwards' cousin, another **Thomas Salmon**, had a farm in Coddenham, so perhaps Joseph could have learned the ropes there). It's possible that as farming in Suffolk was suffering at the time the lease on the farm was going cheap.

Suffolk Farming in the Nineteenth Century⁽¹⁾ states that 'when the "golden age" of agriculture came to an end in the mid-seventies, Suffolk yet again became one of the most depressed counties in England.' It further says that if prices were low, the Suffolk land, most of which was expensive to cultivate, was non-profitable, not helped by a nearly continuous series of bad harvests from around 1875 to the end of the century. Indeed, 1879 was called the 'Black Year', and a Stowupland farmer recorded snow falling at rye-seeding time, and a very wet summer followed by snow from mid-November.⁽²⁾

Or perhaps with the tailoring business doing well, the farm was hoped to be some form of investment, and becoming a 'gentleman farmer' would provide a higher social standing, and security, for son Joseph.

Thomas Edwards died of 'servile phthisis' (TB) in 1889, and his widow, Elizabeth, renounced the Letters of Administration for his personal estate in favour of Joseph. She passed away only a couple of years later in February 1891.

The 1891 census now listed Joseph's occupation as farmer, and he would have been running the farm for at least several years leading up to his father's death. Local directories⁽³⁾ for farmers listed him as Oscar Salmon under entries for Earl Stonham and Little Stonham (aka Stonham Parva). He was living on the farm with wife, Grace, his four living children to date – Isabel Mayhew, **Daisy Eliza** (1881-1955), **Joseph Hugh** (1884-1951, my grandfather) and **Mary Grace** (1886-1972), and 16-year-old general servant, **Alice Rampley**. Baby **Olive Elizabeth** had died the previous year, aged 2 months, another victim of 'septicaemia erysipelas'. Two more children, **Bessie** (1892-1899) and **Thomas Oscar** (1896-1978), arrived in subsequent years



Joseph Oscar Salmon. Photo: Author's own

It is not clear how hands-on Joseph was with the farming, or, if this had been his father's project, whether his heart was really in it. Maybe it proved more difficult and expensive than had been anticipated. In 1890, he joined in partnership with **William Cleveland**'s coach building business. The *East Anglian Daily Times* of 30 January 1890 carried the following business announcement:

‘WILLIAM CLEVELAND,
COACH BUILDER,
THOROUGHFARE, WOODBRIDGE,

RETURNS sincere thanks to his numerous patrons for the kind favours bestowed on him for many years past, and begs to inform them that he has taken into partnership Mr. JOSEPH OSCAR SALMON, and from Jan 1st, 1890, the business will be carried on under the style and name of

CLEVELAND & SALMON,

Who respectfully solicit a continuance of your kind patronage and recommendation. A larger stock of New Carriages (including Broughams, Landaus, Phaetons, “Woodbridge Gigs”, Rustic Carts, Dog Carts, Governess Cars, &c.) will now be always on hand, the prices of which will compare favourably with other firms.

Every description of Carriage built to Order, and Estimates given for all kinds of Repairs. Carriages bought and sold on commission.

C. and S. have a large variety of Second-hand Carriages in good condition at very low prices.

*Please address all communications to
CLEVELAND AND SALMON,
Carriage Works, Woodbridge.*

January, 1890'

Perhaps Joseph was investing money in the business to help a relative. William Cleveland (1815-1897) was his uncle, the husband of Thomas Edwards' sister, **Ann[e] Salmon**. At this time the carriage business was being managed by William's son, **Thomas Charles Cleveland**, who was responsible for designing a 'safety lever patent dog cart' which was granted Royal Letters Patent, and won a 1st prize for models of carriages (for a 'patent pole cart of new design and highly-finished construction, which is decidedly one of the best exhibits in the room') at the 1891 Suffolk Industrial Exhibition.⁽⁴⁾ Both these achievements featured heavily in the Cleveland & Salmon company advertising in 1892.⁽⁵⁾ This partnership was dissolved 'by mutual consent' in July 1892, followed by an auction of stock, including 20 new and second-hand carriages, a funeral car, spokes, waterproof aprons, lamps, a pony and hay, etc.⁽⁶⁾

What can we know about the farm, where was it, and what type? I did not gain much insight from trying to follow the census enumerators' route on maps. The 1881 census plotted a route which went up through Creeting Hills, past Creeting College

Farm and onto the Norwich Road, after which it passed several properties, some listed as unnamed farms – one of which belonged to the Salmons – before reaching Poplar Farm, the Rectory (*‘unoccupied’*) in Creting St Mary and the *Kings Head* public house (whose site was on All Saints’ Road). The 1891 census provided neither an enumerator’s route, nor any road, street or house names.

I knew that Joseph and his family had left Suffolk for London in the 1890s, and a breakthrough came while searching for Joseph Oscar in the newspaper archives, when I came across a notice of auction in 1895 of all the goods from Moat Farm, Earl Stonham, as instructed by Joseph Oscar Salmon:⁽⁷⁾

‘MOAT FARM, EARL STONHAM.
On SATURDAY, October 5th.

The FARMING Live and Dead STOCK, Dairy and Brewing Utensils, and Miscellaneous Effects, by direction of Mr. Joseph Oscar Salmon, comprising –

*4 CART MARES and GELDINGS,
Promising Suckerel Foal,
Capital Dark Bay Hackney,
Capital Black Pony,
2 Prime Milch Cows,
54 Head of Swine,
Poultry;*

All the agricultural Carriages and Implements, &c, also an excellent Governess Car on Warner’s patent wheels, and miscellaneous useful articles.’

Later adverts listed the land for rent, and gave a breakdown of the land usage:⁽⁸⁾

*‘To Let, at a low rent and with immediate possession,
the Moat Farm, Earl Stonham, comprising –*

		A.	R.	P.
<i>Arable.....</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>38</i>	
<i>Pasture....</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	
<i>Homestead, &c.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	
		<i>121</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4’</i>

The interactive map on the National Character Areas website⁽⁹⁾ indicates the area in which the farm lies is on the border of the *‘South Norfolk and High Suffolk Clayland’* and the *‘South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland’*, and a study on Suffolk farmsteads⁽¹⁰⁾ suggests these areas are characterised by isolated farms, mixed farming (some dairy but largely arable), and with much woodland cleared. Much, less suitable, Suffolk land was turned to arable use for increased crop production during the Napoleonic and Crimean wars earlier in the century. The Earl Stonham entry in the 1892 *Kelly’s*

Directory⁽¹¹⁾, described the soil in the area as ‘stiff, rich loam; the subsoil is clay. The chief crops are beans, barley, oats and wheat’.

I also found in the Suffolk Archives the Sale Particulars⁽¹²⁾ for the auction of the Moat Farm freehold in 1903, which provide further detail.

The sale at auction covered three lots, of farms totalling 357 acres in Earl and Little Stonham and Stonham Aspal, described as being in a good corn-growing district. Moat Farm was listed as:

‘An Eligible Holding of 124 ACRES in the Parishes of Earl Stonham and Little Stonham, Suffolk.

Near the Main Road from Ipswich to Norwich, and abutting upon the Road leading from the Three Pies Corner on the said Main Road to Stowmarket, about 4 miles from the Town and Station of Stowmarket, and 13 from Ipswich, and adjoining Lot 2. It comprises:

A FARM HOUSE,

Pleasantly situate opposite a well-timbered Road and approached by a Gravel Carriage Drive. It is brick, stud and plaster built, with slated roof, and has:-

On the Ground Floor – ENTRANCE HALL; DINING ROOM, 15ft by 15ft; DRAWING ROOM, 16ft 6in by 13ft 9in, with cupboard; BACK LOBBY, with two cupboards; TWO LARGE STOREROOMS; CELLAR; CHINA CLOSET; BACKHOUSE, with brick oven and Pump from the Moat through a stone drain; and GOOD DAIRY

On the Upper Floors – LANDING; TWO FRONT BEDROOMS, respectively 16ft 6in by 15ft 6in, 15ft by 15ft, each 9ft 3in high; TWO BACK BEDROOMS, LINEN CUPBOARD; and TWO ATTIC BEDROOMS.

At the Rear – OUTHOUSE, and Excellent KITCHEN GARDENS and ORCHARD, with Fruit Trees.

A MOAT nearly surrounds the House, Buildings, Gardens and Orchard.

FARM BUILDINGS,

Chiefly clay lump on brick pinning with tiles and thatched roofs, consist of a Range of TOOL and WOOD SHEDS; FOWLHOUSES; and THREE PIGSTYES and COURTS; and LOFT over; NAG STABLE for 2 horses; with GRANARY over; HORSE SHED and Yard; BARN, with asphalt floors in two bays; lean-to CART SHED; WAGON LODGE and DRILL SHED; GIGHOUSE.

There is always a good supply of Water from the Moat and Pond.

A COTTAGE,

Approached over an Occupation Road from Middlewood Green, brick and clay lump, and thatched, having SITTING ROOM, PANTRY, TWO BEDROOMS, and a GARDEN.

THE LAND,

Of a useful description, with some 18 Acres of OLD PASTURE, is divided by the following:

[A Table was included showing the numbered plots on an accompanying map, with their area and use. Most was arable, with some grass (meadow, pasture and orchard). The moat occupied 2 Rod 10 Perch.]

Summary: 124 Acres 1 Rod 2 Perch

There are some good Oak Trees in the Hedgerows

TENURE FREEHOLD

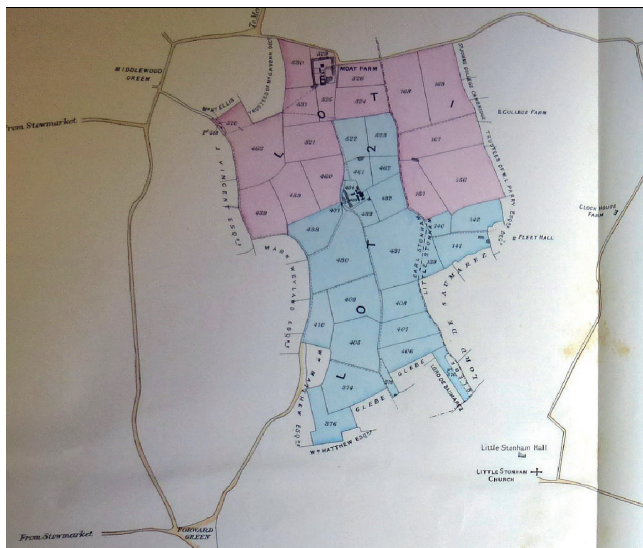
TITHE RENT-CHARGE – *In Earl Stonham, commuted at (apportioned for this Sale only) £18 1s 8d; In Little Stonham at £16. Total £34 1s 8d. Payable 1903, £23 12s 10d.*

Now let to Mr. JOHN KEMP (Mr. J. F. Kemp, occupier) at the very low Rent of: £60 per Annum,

Who for the purposes of this Sale is under notice to quit at Michaelmas next, and POSSESSION MAY BE HAD ON COMPLETION OF THE PURCHASE.

The lot is sold subject to the reservation of a Right-of-way for all purposes as now used over the Cartway through No. 525 to the Road, in favour of the Owners and Occupiers of Lot 2.'

The Schedule indicated that Lot 1 (Moat Farm) consisted of the plots of 439, 459, 460, 463, 519 pt., 520, 521, 524-531 in Earl Stonham, and 156, 157, 167-169 in Little Stonham.



Partial map accompanying the Sale Particulars for three farms at Earl Stonham, Little Stonham and Stonham Parva. Photo: Author's own

These documents indicated the Salmon family would have had a comfortable life on the farm, which appeared to mostly support crop growing, with some pigs. The number of cows suggests they were for domestic use, and similarly a farmer's wife would keep some chickens. There were sufficient horses for use to manage the farm, and venture out in the carriage. The family would also have enjoyed the fruits of the orchard, and maybe brewed cider as well as beer.



Moat Farmhouse, and pumpkins. Photos: Author's own.

While I was in the area, I drove up to the farm to see how much was visible today (it has previously been listed as a B&B, and more recently was advertised for sale at £1.3 million!). When I visited, the house was well cloaked by hedges, but the farm was running a Pick-Your-Own pumpkin venture, so I was able to purchase a pumpkin grown on ancestral land!

So what became of Joseph Oscar and family? The 1901 census showed them living in Station Road, Shepherds Bush, although daughter Bessie had died of typhoid, aged just 7. Joseph Oscar was working as a bus conductor, and 17-year-old Joseph Hugh was a grocer's assistant. The family later moved to Percy Road, Shepherds Bush, and by 1911 Joseph Oscar described himself as a retired farmer. Joseph Hugh was still a grocer's assistant, daughters Isabel and Mary were clerks, Thomas Oscar was at school. Joseph Oscar died in 1913 of '*vesicle carcinoma*' (a rare type of prostate cancer), whilst his wife, Grace, continued living in Shepherds Bush until her death in 1934. As yet, I have not found wills for either Joseph Oscar or his wife Grace. Possibly the expense of running a farm, and the excursion into the carriage building business, ate into the family funds, and with the continuing decline in Suffolk agriculture (suggested by the advertisement of the farm at very low rent) they decided to cut their losses and move to London while they could still afford to.

Lesley Hall Mb 11189

lesley_hall@rocketmail.com

Sources and References

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THE HADENHAMS OF WORLINGHAM

John Hadnum arrived in Beccles to marry **Elizabeth Pennyville** in 1803. They had 12 children and moved to Worlingham where John was an ag lab. Their second child, **George**, was born in 1805.

George, as George Haddenham, married **Anne Calver** of Chediston in 1827, and they produced seven children, eventually living in Marsh Farm which was then 30 acres. He took an active part in the village, being involved in Church and school activities, and was made an Overseer. The records show that as time went on the family name came to be spelt Hadenham.

The first born of George and Ann was also named **George**, but he had other ideas and registered as a seaman at Yarmouth in 1848. At various times he was also employed as a fen reeve, a marshman and an ag lab. His marriage to **Charlotte Codling** of Ilketshall St Lawrence produced four children. They eventually took over Hall Farm, which was 72 acres and employed three men. This George too was active in the village and was a churchwarden.

At some point they moved from Hall Farm to Marsh Farm, which bordered the River Waveney – ships sailed past going up to Beccles. The fourth child of George and Charlotte, born 1863, was named **William**. In 1881 he joined the Norfolk Regiment, spending some time serving in Ireland. After three years he left the Army and took over Marsh Farm. His association with the military continued as a part-time volunteer. Over the years he was promoted and eventually became Colour Sergeant, recruiting for Beccles. His uniform is on display in Beccles Museum.

Lucy Brinded of Hales, a teacher, moved to Worlingham school. She married William on Christmas Day 1886 and went to live in Marsh Farm. Of their four girls, sadly two died.

In 1916 the then Lord of the Manor decided that he wanted more profit from shooting parties. William, who was a tenant farmer, in the middle of the farming year had to find fresh 'pastures'. In 1916 he moved his stock to Red House Farm, Leiston, and was there until his retirement in 1923.

The eldest daughter, **Janet**, undertook teacher training in Norwich and eventually returned to Worlingham to teach. She remained in Worlingham school for 46 years as a teacher and then Head. Her life revolved round Worlingham and with her death in 1978 there were no longer any Hadenhams living in the village. Her name will live on, as the Rector's Board in the church is dedicated to her and there is a road named after her. The churchyard has many Hadenham headstones.

The following story was passed down to my mother from her Haddenham ancestors. How true? Quite possible!

'The Smuggler

*This story happened a long time ago,
About a Suffolk smuggler, whose name was Joe.
Marsh Farm, Worlingham, he liked to haunt
He smuggled goods; the law he did flaunt.
The booty he carried throughout the night
Always on guard, he had a keen sight,
From a barn he took an old gray mare
To take his goods we know not where.
As a reward and payment in kind,
A barrel of rum, the farmer did find.
The old sweaty mare stood in the barn,
The dastardly smuggler had long since gone.'*

Elizabeth Arkieson Mb 2191 (former Trustee)

elizabeth.arkieson@gmail.com



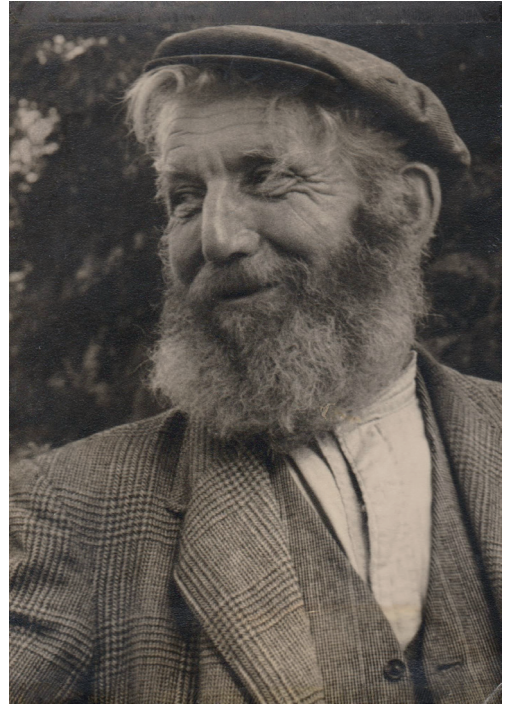
The River Waveney at Marsh Lane, Worlingham (Evelyn Simak, CCA-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

Editors' Note: Elizabeth's story of smuggling near Marsh Farm is supported by the 'Smuggling in Suffolk' website, at http://www.smuggling.co.uk/gazetteer_e_13.html#fn261. It appears that contraband goods were moved from landing points at Worlingham and Barney on the River Waveney into Beccles down a byway known as Smugglers' Lane. In 2024 Worlingham Marshes were purchased by Suffolk Wildlife Trust (with help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund) for use as a nature reserve: <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/worlinghammarshes>.

NOT 'JUST AN AGRICULTURAL LABOURER'

This is the story of a much-loved and respected country character, '**Hap**' Dorling, who although working all his life as an agricultural labourer, had even more to contribute to his village, where he was connected with almost every activity in the parish.

Hap Dorling, whose baptismal name was **Horace**, was born in 1885, the son of **William** and **Betsy Dorling** of Bacton. He had three older brothers, **Reuben**, **Ready** and **Wright**, as well as two younger sisters, **May** and **Lily** (my grandmother). William was widowed when he married Betsy and there were also two very much older half-brothers, **Frederick** and **Edward** – quite a crowded household when they were all together. William, an agricultural labourer, is said to have introduced tomatoes and bantams to the village, and a family story says that '*gentlemen in carriages*' would arrive to see his innovations. Hap's grandfathers were farm labourers and even Betsy had been stone picking in the fields as a child. The family lived in Prettyman's in Bacton, opposite St Mary's Church: the building is still there today, though then it was two dwellings. At times, some of the children had to sleep at the home of the couple next door.



Horace 'Hap' Dorling. Photo: Author's own.



Prettyman's as painted by John Bonny (1874-1948). Photo: Author's own.

Hap attended Bacton village school, and as soon as his education was finished he became an agricultural labourer, which is how he was described when he was 16 years old on the 1901 census, living at home with his parents and Wright, also an 'Agri Labourer', and his sisters. By 1911, Hap, still single, was the only one of all the children remaining at home, this time described as a 'Farm Labourer', as was his 68-year-old father. He was already a keen participant in village activities, was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and also of *The Bull quoits* team.



*The Bull quoits team, with Hap on the left.
Photo: Author's own.*

William, by now crippled, died in 1915. May had married and was living in Haughley, Lily had also married and was in Ipswich, Reuben and Wright had gone to Yorkshire, and Ready had moved away, so Hap's farm worker's wage was the only income for him and 65-year-old Betsy once war was declared in 1914.

Agricultural workers were initially exempt from military service, but Hap enlisted in 1916 when farm work was gradually being undertaken by women, who formed the nucleus of the Women's Land Army. Ironically, Hap's sister May's youngest daughter would become a Land Girl in WWII. Hap joined the rest of his family in the forces; his two brothers-in-law were serving in France and India, Wright had also enlisted, while Lily and two young cousins were munitions workers. He enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery despite '*slight flat feet*' as his army record shows, and joined the fledgling Anti-Aircraft Defence Command, at one time being stationed on the Isle of Wight. Discharge came in 1919 and Hap returned to Bacton, but not to a joyful reunion with his mother, as Betsy had died the year before. His half-brothers had emigrated to New Zealand and South Africa, where work on the land was much better paid, his brothers were in Yorkshire, his sisters, though near, had families of their own, and both his parents had died. Hap returned to the land, but there was little local employment and in 1921 he travelled up to Otley to work in the paper mill where Reuben was employed. Factory wages up north were much more attractive than an agricultural wage in Suffolk, and factory employment was not affected by the weather or agricultural depression and no doubt offered better prospects.

(**Harriet**) **Frances Castell** lived in Bacton with her husband **Edwin**, but in October 1918 was widowed when Edwin died from war wounds in a military hospital in Bury St Edmunds. Bacton was a small village of less than 200 houses, so 'everyone knowing

everyone' was certainly true, and in September 1921, having returned from Yorkshire where mill work will almost certainly not have appealed, Hap married Frances at St Mary's Church. His life now took a completely different turn, as in addition to being a married man at 36 years of age, he became the stepfather of nine-year-old **Charles**, seven-year-old **Frederick** and five-year-old **George**. For the rest of his life Hap worked on local farms, for many years at Boys Hall Farm in Old Newton. In 1923 his daughter **Joy** was born and in 1927 her sister **Phyllis**, and now began a long life of service to the village. He was a sexton at St Mary's, and dug the graves, frequently having to leave halfway through for milking, only for the children to complete the job! They would even sometimes take over the ploughing, while Hap ate the 'docky' (a local term for eleveses) they had brought him. Frances was responsible for cleaning the parish room and their lives revolved around the church, which was the centre of many parish activities. Roast dinners were on Saturdays as there was no time for cooking on Sunday, when the day was taken up with church activities, including a handbell ringing team of which Hap was a member. On Saturday afternoons he would light the boiler in the church, which they referred to as the gurney, and in the evening would light a lantern and go to the church to stoke the boiler for Sunday services. There would frequently be a tramp lying in the porch and Hap's daughter related that he would say *'It's alright boy, you can stay there the night as long as you're out by seven thirty in the morning before the Rector comes along'*.



*Bacton handbell ringing team, with Hap on the right.
Photo: Author's own*

By the 1930s a skilled horseman could expect a wage of approximately 30 shillings a week, but life for agricultural labourers was still hard and many spent a great deal of time tending their own gardens and allotments. Hap was no exception. His garden had 22 fruit trees, and all the family had to be at home on apple picking day for apples to be carefully laid out in the storeroom. Hap also had two allotments, one of which was given over to potatoes. He would bring the crop to the house with the plough and tumbrel, and it would be stored in sacks on the brick floor of the storeroom. Nothing went to waste, and Hap would regularly bring home rabbits for family meals.

When WWII came, Hap and Frances took in evacuees from London – who expected a cooked meal on Sundays! – the children then having to sleep four to a bed. To their credit, they kept in touch with their evacuees long after the war had ended. They

insisted that nothing was ever to be bought without paying in cash, no hire purchase, and the children were never to buy anything which couldn't be paid for straight away. In 1938 the family moved into a council house in the village when their tithe house was demolished, and they stayed there for the rest of their lives – but undertaking a mortgage was borrowing, so never contemplated.



Hap and Frances in later life, with daughters Joy and Phyllis. Photo: Author's own.

Hap campaigned tirelessly to get piped water supplied to Bacton, and all his life he was devoted to the aged of the village, being a founder member of Bacton Over-Sixties Club and frequently travelling to Brockford or Haughley to collect prescriptions for parishioners. He was a Bacton Parish Councillor for 30 years, a manager of Bacton Modern School for 20 years, and for 20 years a Trustee of the Bacton Charities. For 12 years he was also a Trustee of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and being such a keen gardener, he exhibited regularly at the Bacton and Wyverstone Horticultural Shows, winning prizes for his vegetables.

Hap died in May 1968. After 200 years he was the last Dorling in the village. Being connected with almost every activity in the parish, he was referred to as the 'local encyclopaedia', and everyone turned to him when they needed to ascertain local history, as he could be relied upon to remember dates and events with complete accuracy. More than 100 people attended his funeral in St Mary's, together with Frances, his sisters, nephews and nieces, his stepsons and their children, his two daughters and his grandson. Hap was certainly an 'ag lab', but was also so much more.

Mary-Ann Dunn Mb12766

maryanndunn2004@yahoo.co.uk

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ROBERT BRUCE – LEAVING THE LAND

During much of the 19th century, Suffolk was the poorest English county with many families working on the land only just able to make ends meet. The exodus from rural areas was driven by a prolonged agricultural depression. Lawshall, from 1841 to 1931, lost 35.4% of its population.⁽¹⁾ This short piece is not so much about how the land was worked in the late 19th century, but about what happened to one person who found a way out.

My great-grandfather, **Robert Bruce**, was born in Lawshall on 2 May 1841. His father was also **Robert Bruce** (b. 1808), and both worked on the land as labourers. Based on one incident alone, I surmised that young Robert was not an upstanding member of the community. In 1860, *Bury Free Press* reported as follows:⁽²⁾

‘Robert Bruce, labourer, of Lawshall, was summoned for an assault on Mrs. Elizabeth Frost, landlady of the Harrow Inn, on Thursday, the 18th inst. – Defendant admitted the charge – Complainant deposed: Defendant brought to my house an empty bottle, and demanded some beer for doing so. I gave him a glass of beer, and he asked if he might be trusted with a pint, which I refused. He then shook his fist in my face, using very abusive language. – The Bench said the young men in that parish seemed bent upon such misconduct, but they were determined to stop it, and should inflict a fine of £1, with costs 6s 6d – Paid.’

Given the precarious nature of life at the time, he and many others left the land. Robert opted for a life with food, accommodation and pay: he joined the army and went to India in the early 1870s, though not before getting wed. Described as a soldier, he married **Louisa Mary Jermyn** on 25 December 1869, just a few weeks before the birth of their son, **Albert William**, on 4 February 1870. Family legend has it that they made a handsome couple walking down the aisle of St George’s Church in Shimpling (Louisa’s home village), but that she was resented by the Bruces because she was younger and had more money. It is possible that she was related to the Jermyns of Rushbrooke Hall near Sudbury. They took Albert William with them when they went to India. Five more children were born in their 10 years there, the last being my grandmother, **Alice**, in October 1881. On their baptism records, Robert was described as a Gunner, Royal Artillery.

The family returned to England in 1882/3, when Robert got a job at the waterworks in Thames Ditton, Surrey. During the next few years three more children were born, the last in October 1890. I’ve often wondered why they ended up in Surrey and did not go back to Suffolk. Robert died in 1894, aged 53; his wife, Louisa, lived to be 88 – she died in 1934. They are now together, along with their son **George** (d. 1898, aged 10) in the churchyard of St Mary’s, Long Ditton, Surrey.

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CHANGING TIMES ON THE LAND: LOOKING BACK AT 100 YEARS OF FARMING

The following poem by **Bob Sharman**, of Benhall, was submitted with Bob's permission by member **Jane Evans**, who is also active in Benhall & Sternfield History Group. Bob's family have been farmers in Suffolk for 200 years. His uncle was **Len Sharman**, who wrote a book entitled *Working the Land* (Salient Press, 1987) recounting his life as a farm labourer in the early 20th century, and who also featured in the BBC TV programme *All Our Working Lives*.

*'Summer's here again, how the seasons come around,
A combine rolls across the fields, a familiar rumbling sound.
What was it like long ago, one hundred years or more,
When farming was so different before the First World War?
The 'Owd Boys' all lived locally then; the land had been their call.
With whiskers just like 'Lijah's', these men had seen it all.
Livestock, corn, roots and hay had always been their saviour.
The only thing that kept them fed was toil and manual labour.
Horses were the powerhouse, Head 'Hossman' was the king.
'Walk on, Giddup and Whoa' around the farm would ring.
An acre a day would be the aim of a ploughman and his team
The single furrows walked behind ensured the men were lean.
Steam was sometimes used, when ploughing and thrashing corn.
Stacks were built by hand and work started with the dawn.
And then disaster sadly struck, depression scoured the land.
For many farms and labourers, it all got out of hand.
Horses were in short supply, there were few tractors then.
The Great War had taken its toll, of animals and men.
Most farmers struggled to survive, the work force had it hard
Large families of children came close to being starved.
Hedges left untended, drains and ditches blocked as well.
Crops were grazed by rabbits, whose numbers continued to swell.
The plough, roll and harrow, hoe, tumbrel and drill,*

*Clipper, binder and water cart, relied on horses still.
 Once again war loomed in Europe, cheap food came from abroad.
 Government then declared the plough, as 'mighty as the sword'.
 Our food supplies were running low, an island standing alone.
 'We must be self-supporting, the war begins at home'.
 "Plough the parkland – drain the marsh" became the War-Ag cry.
 We will provide the tractors to make sure you can comply.
 To fill the nation's larder, we need more fields of grain.
 Agricultural workers, you're needed once again!
 And so, from these beginnings, once the war was won,
 The fields became much larger, a revolution had begun.
 Hedges and ditches were removed, chemicals used by the ton.
 Machines made so much bigger to get the year's work done.
 Now when walking footpaths, we see no men at all.
 Just massive great machines, which makes us seem so small.
 All machines to be controlled, by computer from the home.
 Soon even sheep will be herded, by one man and his drone!'*

Bob Sharman, Benhall, 2018

The Editors



Photo: Courtesy of Benhall & Sternfield History Group.



Photo: Courtesy of Benhall & Sternfield History Group.



Photo: Courtesy of Benhall & Sternfield History Group.

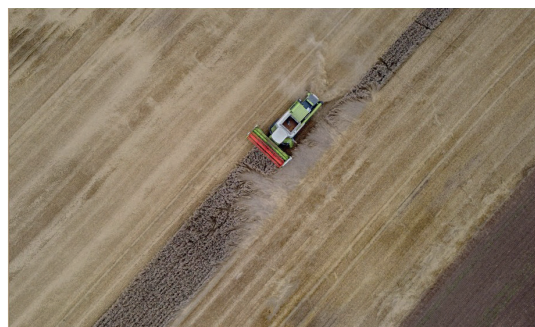


Photo: Jane's own, taken by drone.

THE SMITH FRUIT FARM

My husband's paternal great-grandfather, **George Rowlett**, was born in Upwell, Norfolk, in 1861. Twenty years later he had moved to London seeking work. His forebears had lived and worked in East Anglia for many years, and descendants are probably living there still.

While researching the background to this family I came across an article by **George Buckham**, published in *Town and Country News* (probably a local publication which no longer exists) of 24 January 1927, entitled 'A Wisbech Farmer' and containing a well-deserved tribute to **George Smith** of Walnut House, Upwell, then proprietor of a farm founded by his father **Isaac** some years previously:

'... the source of [the fruit] production [is] a poultry, dairy, and fruit farm of nearly one hundred acres, situated in the country villages of Upwell, Outwell and Christchurch, where the soil is acknowledged to be among the richest in the country.'

The many varieties of fruit grown included strawberries, raspberries, redcurrants, gooseberries, pears, plums, and apples, and Mr Buckham pointed out that the farmer's wife 'manages the home-made jams, pickles, and bottled fruits ... as well as the poultry ...'.

Reprinted from "Town and Country News" for January 24, 1927.

A Wisbech Farmer

By GEORGE BUCKHAM

In spite of the constant invention and production of new gastroscopic 'allurements,' of wondrous dishes, weird concoctions of the French mind, bizarre experiments, the preference in London is still, surely on the side of the simple farm produce, the fowls and vegetables and fruit and the dishes made from them, that have their source in the pleasant farms of the English countryside. And why not?

They are certainly more wholesome and healthy eating, and there is nothing to beat them

flavour. That, it may be said, is a matter of opinion; but the answer is that there is no taste or false as that which has to be accepted.

Such were one's reflections at the Imperial Fruit Show, where one of the most outstanding displays was that of Mr. George Smith, of Walnut House, Upwell, Wisbech. Following the exhibits of Mr. Smith to the source of their production, one arrived at a poultry, dairy and fruit farm of nearly one hundred acres, situated in the country villages of Upwell, Outwell and Christchurch, where the soil is acknowledged to be among the richest in the country. The herds of cattle on this land are all blood-red shorthorns.

Strawberries, raspberries, red currants, gooseberries, pears, plums and apples are the chief fruits grown; and as regards these, Mr. Smith is a great believer in the advantages of direct delivery to the consumer from the orchard. A practical demonstration of what the public can gain from this is the fact that he is open now to book orders for weekly or fortnightly assignments of cooling apples in season, from the end of

next July to Christmas, at the amazing price of only ten shillings for a box containing forty pounds. He is also prepared to send other fruit at wholesale prices that are equally advantageous.

Mrs. Smith manages the home-made jams, pickles, and bottled fruits sold at the farm, as well as the poultry, and one can testify from graceful personal experience as to the excellence of these. Just previous to Christmas there is always an enormous demand for dressed turkeys.



Some fine Upwell Turkeys.



Loading for market: The help of our shorthorns.

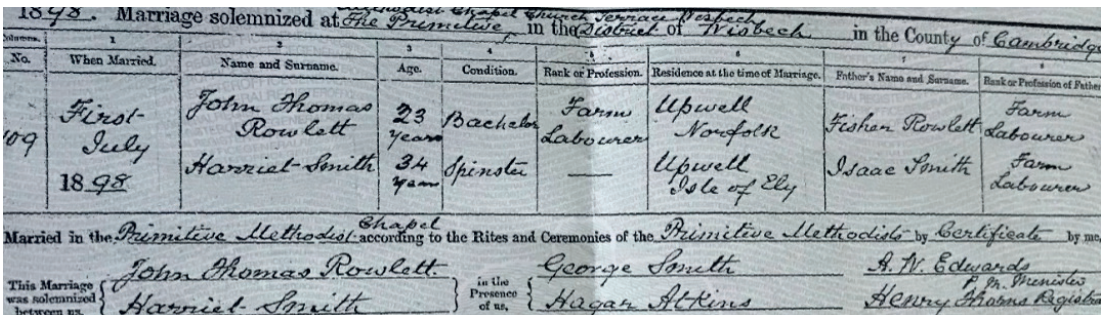


Turkey weighing 22 lbs. raised at Upwell.

From author's collection

The article continued the red theme with cattle described as ‘blood-red shorthorns’. This Norfolk beef breed is now extinct, replaced by the Red Poll, a cross between the Norfolk shorthorn and the Suffolk Dun dairy cow.

It transpired that the Smith family farm provided work for George Rowlett’s younger brother **John**, the only member of his generation to remain in Upwell from cradle to grave. Born in 1865, John worked at the farm from the age of 16 until his death in 1938. In 1898 he married **Harriet Smith**, whose father Isaac was also a farm labourer at that time.



Marriage certificate for John Thomas Rowlett and Harriet Smith 1898, author’s collection

The couple lived with the Smith family on Main Street, Upwell, until 1911 when they moved into their own four-roomed cottage. Prior to that, Isaac had decided to branch out on his own, founding the Smith fruit farm.

Isaac’s wife Susannah died in 1909, and his son George moved into the family home with his wife and children to help his father with the farm. Isaac died in 1922, leaving the business jointly to George and Harriet. Brother and sister managed and maintained the farm extremely well between them, with help and support from Harriet’s husband John. The farm, now a major employer in the region, entered the annual London Imperial Fruit Show in 1927, prompting the article in the *Town and Country News*.

John Rowlett died in 1938 from a combination of myocardial degeneration and arterio-sclerosis, and the widowed Harriet continued running the business with her brother. She suffered a stroke and died on 13 April 1951, and with no children to inherit that half of the business it passed in its entirety to her brother George, who himself died six years later. There is no further evidence of its continuing after George’s death and it seems likely the land has passed from commercial to residential use.

Ann Hunter Mb 35776
annh38353@gmail.com

HYEM PIERCE (1780-1841)

I first saw **Hyem Pierce**'s name on his son **Charles**' 1838 wedding certificate and noted that Hyem was a farrier. His death certificate and his only census entry (1841) also record that he was a farrier. I could have left it at that and assumed wrongly that he was a farrier in the same village for all of his life. In fact, he moved around and led a very interesting and varied life. As a young man he spent some time at sea as a mariner, and also managed to father four illegitimate children by three different girls between April 1796 and November 1799. He wasn't quite 16 on the first occasion. He also spent some years as a farmer.

Hyem was the son of **William** and **Rose (née Hyem) Pierce**. He was baptised on 4 September 1780 in the parish church of Ufford, Suffolk. The earliest records I found for him were some indemnity certificates from the Poor Law authorities regarding his illegitimate children. The first, in 1796, indicated his occupation as a mariner:

For Hyem/Perice/Pevice: *'Suffolk The voluntary examination of **Abigail Davis** of the Parish of Ufford in the County aforesaid, Single woman, taken on Oath before me **Edmund Jenney Esquire** one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace in and for the said County on this 5th Day of April 1796.*

Who saith that the said Abigail Davis is with Child which is likely to be born a bastard, and to be chargeable to the said Parish of Ufford and thereby to the guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds Loes Wilford in the County. And that Hyem Peirce of Ufford aforesaid in the County aforesaid Mariner is the father of the said Child.

The Mark of Abigail Davis

Taken and Sworn before me Edm. Jenney⁽¹⁾

By 1799, he was named again, this time with his occupation listed as farrier:

For Hyem Peirce: *'Suffolk The Examination of **Mary Drew** of the parish of Boyton in the County aforesaid, Single Woman, taken on oath before us two of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County, this 20th Day of February 1799.*

Who saith, that on Sunday the 29th Day of January now last past, in the House of Industry in the Parish of Melton in the County aforesaid, she the said Mary Drew was delivered of a male Bastard Child, which the Bastard Child is now living, and is become chargeable to the said Parish of Boyton and thereby the Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford in the Said County. And that, Hyem Peirce late of Ufford in the County aforesaid Farrier did beget her with Child of the said Bastard Child.

The Mark of Mary Drew

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, before us

Edm. Jenney

***John Higgs**⁽²⁾*

A parish record named Hyem as the father of a child by a third young woman in the same year, although he later married this girl. **Harriot Pierce Borrett** was born on 9 June 1799 at Ufford, and baptised on 16 June 1799, the illegitimate daughter of **Sarah Borrett**.

A couple of years later, now in Trimley St Mary, a fourth child was born, **Mary Borrett Pierce**, the daughter of Sarah Borrett, spinster, and Hyem Pierce. A private baptism was performed on 2 February 1803; the register specified '*born in November last*' and was annotated with the information that the child was '*base born*'.

The birth of **Mary** and the occasion of the couple marrying must have occurred in quick succession. Banns were published on the three Sundays, 24 October, 31 October and 7 November 1802, and both Hyem and Sarah were described as '*of this parish*'.

The marriage took place at Trimley St Mary on 18 November 1802, performed by **J Julian**, curate. Hyem wrote his name in the register but Sarah signed with a 'X'. The witnesses, **Robert Guilder** and **James Turtill**, both signed the register.

After the marriage, further children followed, being baptised at Brightwell with Foxhall:

- **William Pierce**, son of Hyem Pierce and Sarah his wife, late Borrett. Baptised 3 April 1804. Buried 7 October 1805.
- **William Pierce**, son of Hyem Pierce and Sarah his wife, late Borrett. Baptised 14 June 1806.
- **Philip Pierce**, son of Hyem Pierce and Sarah his wife, late Borrett. Baptised 31 July 1808.
- **Charles Pierce**, son of Hyem Pierce and Sarah his wife, late Borrett. Born 20 December 1812, baptised 27 December 1812.
- Charles Pierce, son of Hyem and Sarah Pierce of Foxhall, farmer, baptised 6 November 1815.

From the wills of his father William (1738-1806) and grandfather **Philip** (1708-1790), I discovered that Hyem came from a family of yeoman farmers, and I was able to learn more about his family background and the family structure/tree. I guess from his father's will (where he was mentioned) that money was settled on him to help him set up his own farm and home at Foxhall after he finally married Sarah in 1802. The will also referred to his brothers **Philip**, **William** and **Thomas**, his aunt **Mary Pierce** and his uncle **Philip Pierce**.

Hyem must have been a forward-thinking farmer and affluent enough to buy a threshing machine, but he was a victim of the Swing Riots in October 1822. The *Ipswich Journal* of 19 October 1822 reported that **John Bennett**, **John Robertson**, **Jonathan Browne**, **John Baldrey**, **Robert Carr** and **James Lewis** were convicted of '*riotously assembling in the parish of Foxhall, and ... pulling to pieces and destroying a threshing machine, the property of Hyem Pierce, 1 months imprisonment in Ipswich Goal, and pay fines of 1 shilling each*'.

There were no winners from that riot: the rioters went to jail and within three months of the event, Hyem had sold up and given up farming. The rioters were fighting for their jobs, and then, as I believe now, there was no insurance compensation for damage due to industrial unrest/ rioting.

For us, his descendants, the advert for the farm sale gives a wonderful insight into farming life and in particular everyday life on Hyem's farm in the early 1800s. This is the auction announcement from the *Ipswich Journal* of 11 January 1823:

*'To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By WM. HYEM,
On Thursday, the 16th of January, 1823,
Under a Bill of Sale,*

ALL the Farming Live and Dead Stock, Implements in Husbandry, Household Furniture, Dairy and Brewing Utensils, &c. of Mr. H. PIERCE, of Foxhall.

The Farming Stock comprises a bay mare aged, a chesnut ditto 8 years old, chesnt gelding 8 years old, ditto mare 3 years old, ditto 2 years old, suckerel colt, cow forward in calf, 3 ditto springers, weaned calf, sow and 10 pigs; road waggon, 2 half-load tumbrels, market cart, gang of harrows, 2 wheel ploughs, 4 pair of plough trace, 2 pair of cart ditto, 2 sets of thilhorse gears, barley roll, 4 dutfins, various farming implements, and dairy utensils.

The Furniture consists of a 4-post bedstead with moreen furniture, and a stump bedstead, 2 featherbeds and bolsters, excellent mahogany bureau, ditto clock in mahogany case, 2 wainscot dining tables, mahogany pillar table, ditto Pembroke ditto, ditto dining ditto, wheel barometer, pier glass, brewing copper and dairy ditto, flour chest, mash and guile tubs, beer stand and casks, copper boiler, tea kettles and skillets, chairs, and various other useful in-door effects...'

I did notice the farm sale was conducted by **Wm Hyem**, and wondered if he was a relative. Hyem's mother's maiden name was Hyem, and of course it was his own Christian name (more research needed there, I think).

He next appeared, aged 65, with wife Sarah (50) in the 1841 census for Trimley St Mary. His occupation was listed as a farrier once more.⁽³⁾

He died at Trimley St Mary later that year, on 23 August 1841 (at noon), this time listed as 64 years old. The death certificate recorded that he was a farrier, that the cause of death was '*Paralytic*' (i.e. caused by paralysis), and a **Hannah Tye** was present at the death. He was buried at Trimley St Mary on 29 August 1841. **Edw R Edgar** (curate) officiated.

Hyem's will, which he made in October 1839, and signed with what looked like a very frail hand, was interesting reading. My cousin **Rosemary** and I thought he sounded like our grandfather **Cyrus Pierce** (1875-1962) talking. For example, '*I wish to be buried*

in a plain and decent manner with no unnecessary expense’, and ‘the sum of ten pound and ten shillings due at my decease from the Society Club of which I am a member... to pay thereout my funeral expenses ...’. A forerunner of the Ipswich Co-operative Society perhaps!

The beneficiaries were his family: following the sale of all his ‘Household Furniture Goods and Chattels’, the proceeds were ‘to be divided into equal parts and I bequeath one such part unto the aforesaid Sarah Pierce my wife and the other such equal part I will and direct to be divided into six equal parts my son WILLIAM PIERCE to take two such shares and the rest of my children one such share each, they or their heirs respectively.’⁽⁴⁾ The estate was worth less than £50.

He started his adult life very much as ‘Jack the lad’, but by the end he was a sober citizen. If I had not persevered, and had incredible luck in my researches, I could easily have thought he spent all his life going around the villages in a horse and cart tending to the ailments of the farm animals.

Mary Strutt (née Pierce) Mb 3802

marysolcot@btinternet.com

References and Sources

- 1. Suffolk Archives, Loes and Wilford Poor Law Incorporation books and papers, 18th and 19th century; HB10 collection for Wood and Barham Solicitors of Woodbridge, HB10:50/20/19.9/103
- 2. Suffolk Archives, Loes and Wilford Poor Law Incorporation books and papers, 18th and 19th century; HB10 collection for Wood and Barham Solicitors of Woodbridge, HB10: 50/20/19.12/10
- 3. *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1841*, Trimley St Mary, Suffolk. RG10/107 Piece 1021 Folio 7 page 7. Sub district Colneis.
- 4. Suffolk Archives, *Original will of Hyem Pierce of Trimley St Mary, 1841*, Ref: IC/AA1/261/69

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A GOSTLING FAMILY STORY – PART 1

My surname is always written as **Gostling** (with a ‘t’) in signatures, although spelled phonetically by clerks in church registers and other documents, it often appears as ‘Gosling’ and once or twice as ‘Gossling’.

John Gostling (my 7x great-grandfather), a yeoman of Cotton, Suffolk, was born c. 1690-1695 and likely buried in Cotton on 23 April 1738. A definitive baptism and marriage for him remain elusive, and thus, also, the maiden name of his wife. There appears to be no will for him either.

Henry Gostling

An apprenticeship record⁽¹⁾ of 22 January 1732 showed **Henry Gostling**, son of John Gostling, yeoman of Cotton, being apprenticed to **Samuel Gissing**, collar maker of Mendlesham, for a term of seven years. He was about 13 years of age at that time, so he would have been born c. 1719. He completed his apprenticeship in 1739, and later

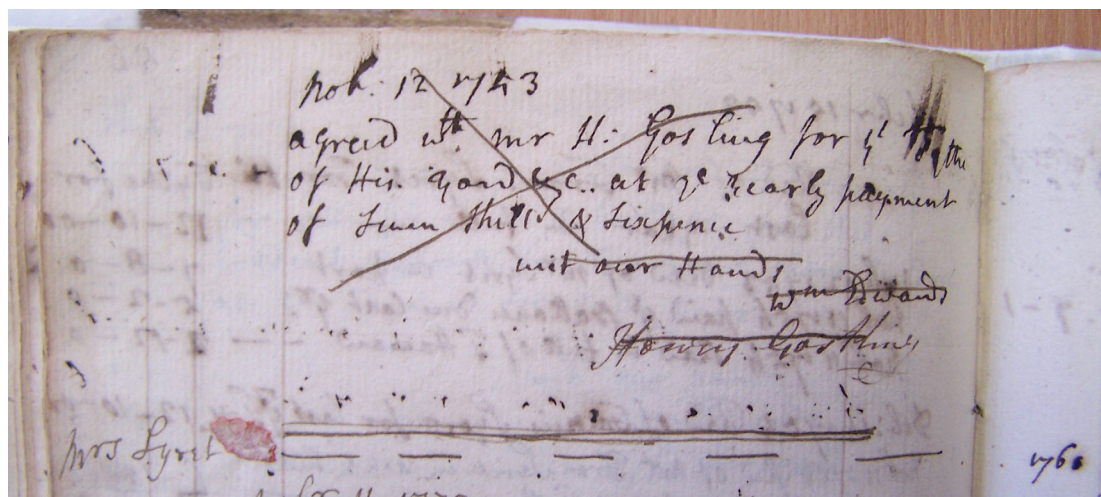
married **Mary Sheldrake** at St Bartholomew's church, Finningham, on 25 January 1745. (If his father was the John buried in Cotton, he would have lost his father the year before completing his apprenticeship, and whether his mother was alive at the time is unknown.)

Henry and Mary had six children, five of whom were baptised in St Bartholomew's, Finningham, and one in All Saints, Stoke Ash:

- **Mary**, bp. 28 November 1745
- **Elizabeth**, bp. 8 April 1747
- **William**, bp. 7 December 1749
- **Dorothy**, bp. 30 January 1752
- **Thomas**, bp. 29 April 1756
- **Dorothy**, pri. bp. 20 November 1758, and then pub. bp. 7 February 1760, both at Stoke Ash

The baptism of two Dorothys is confusing in that, despite extensive searching, I have only found a burial for one – at St Mary the Virgin, Diss, on 6 June 1843, age 88 which indicates a year of birth of 1754/5. Although this confirms neither the 1752 nor 1758 baptism, it is pretty well certain that this burial was that of the daughter of Henry and Mary of Stoke Ash. Dorothy's brother William and wife moved to Diss in 1774, started a business and remained there until their decease, their children being Dorothy's nieces and nephews. In fact, Dorothy's mother, Mary Gostling (née Sheldrake) was also buried there, thus providing a strong family connection with Diss.

Henry, as 'Gosling' (although his signature shows 'Gostling'), is next seen in a rare Tithe Book⁽²⁾ beginning in 1732, kept by the Rector of Finningham, the **Rev William Edwards**, wherein on 12 November 1753 Henry entered an agreement 'for ye Tythe of his yard & c: at ye yearly payment of seven shillings & sixpence'.



Tithe entry for Henry Gosling, 1753, in tithe book of Rev William Edwards, Finningham. Photo: Author's own.

The tithe was paid in advance every year, and Henry was recorded as paying it from 1753 until 31 October 1757. An entry the following year, for 17 September 1758, showed **William Gosling**, collar maker and saddler, taking over the premises from Henry. By all accounts they were brothers, with William being the younger by about 8 years.

Just where his business premises were prior to 1753, and why he moved from them, is unknown. If the former premises were situated on property of his deceased father, then perhaps Henry's mother might have died not long before the move. In the whole of Suffolk there appears to be only one unaccounted for burial, that of **Mary Gosling** on 20 February 1751 at Stratford St Andrew.⁽³⁾

Henry, as master collar maker, had taken on **Thomas Shave** as an apprentice on 29 September 1750 for a term of seven years, although the duties were not paid until 16 August 1753, just before what probably was the move to the yard in Finningham; and on 31 December 1756, **George Scarfe** for seven years – who by 1769 was himself a master collar maker, of Botesdale, taking on **John Phillips** as apprentice, and then **William Colson** in 1773. Was it purely coincidence that Henry left his premises to become a landlord at the same time his apprentice Thomas Shave completed his apprenticeship? As for George Scarfe, who still had six years of his apprenticeship to complete, perhaps William took him on?

Coinciding with Henry paying his last tithe for the year 1758 in respect of his business premises, an advertisement appeared in the *Ipswich Journal*⁽⁴⁾ notifying the public that Henry had taken on the 'Stoke White Horse' (the Stoke Ash White Horse). Henry was then about 40, his wife 34, with their children ranged from 2 to 13 years of age.

'HENRY GOSLING, late of Finningham in Suffolk,

Begs Leave to acquaint all Gentlemen, Ladies, and others,

That he has taken STOKES WHITE HORSE in the said County, a commodious House, on the Road leading from Norwich to Ipswich, on the great Road for London, and has laid in an entire fresh Stock of the best Liquors of all Sorts, and fitted up the House in a decent Manner. All Gentlemen Travellers, Ladies, and others, who will be so kind as to honour and favour him with their Company, shall meet with good Accommodation and civil Usage, and all Favours gratefully acknowledged, by their most obedient and humble Servants,

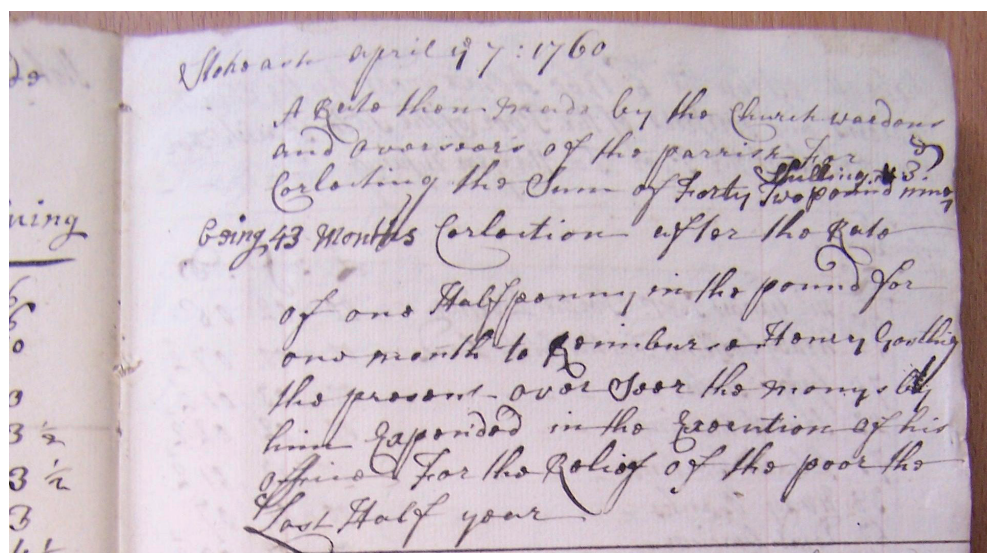
HENRY and MARY GOSLING.

N.B. To oblige Gentlemen and Ladies, I have to lett, a genteel four-wheel Close POST-CHAISE, able Horses, and a careful Driver.'



The White Horse, Stoke Ash. Photo: Tim Marchant, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia

The first record of Henry, as Gostling, in Stoke Ash is found in the Churchwardens' Rates Book of 27 March 1758,⁽⁵⁾ where he was recorded as occupying two parcels of land and paying poor relief rates, continuing to do so until October 1760. Poor relief was collected twice a year, in April and October. On 7 April 1760 he was described as 'the present overseer'.



Stoke Ash Church Wardens Rates, 1760. Photo: Author's own.

The next entry in this Rates book was on 12 April 1761, and showed widow 'Gossling' in place of Henry. From that time until 9 October 1764, 'widow Gossling' was mentioned in the accounts for both lands, but thereafter, until 8 October 1782, for just the glebe lands. Widow Mary Gostling was buried at St Mary's, Diss, on 23 May 1803, aged 79. She likely moved to Diss during October 1782, but the move might have been earlier,

with her retaining the glebe lands in Stoke Ash for up to 20 years between 1762 and 1782, whilst at Diss.

Henry is known to have died sometime between October 1761 and April 1762, probably suddenly because he died intestate. However, there is no burial record for him in the likely parishes of Stoke Ash, Finningham, or Great Thornham (also known as Thornham Magna, see later). In the whole of Suffolk there are just two recorded possibilities: Henry Gosling at St Michael, Framlingham on 22 January 1762, and Henry Gossling at St Peter & St Paul with St Edmund, Hoxne on 14 February 1762. But neither entry gives any additional information (e.g. '*of Stoke Ash*'). Wherever he died, if not in Stoke Ash, why was his body not brought back there for burial? Or was he buried in Stoke Ash with the clerk omitting to enter the burial in the register (not unheard of)? Of the options, Framlingham, which has a definite family connection, seems the most promising. Henry's brother-in-law, **John Sheldrake**, was a publican and brewer there, and there was also another brewing business, of his wife Mary's stepmother's **Bucke** family. Henry would have known of both and might have been visiting on business.

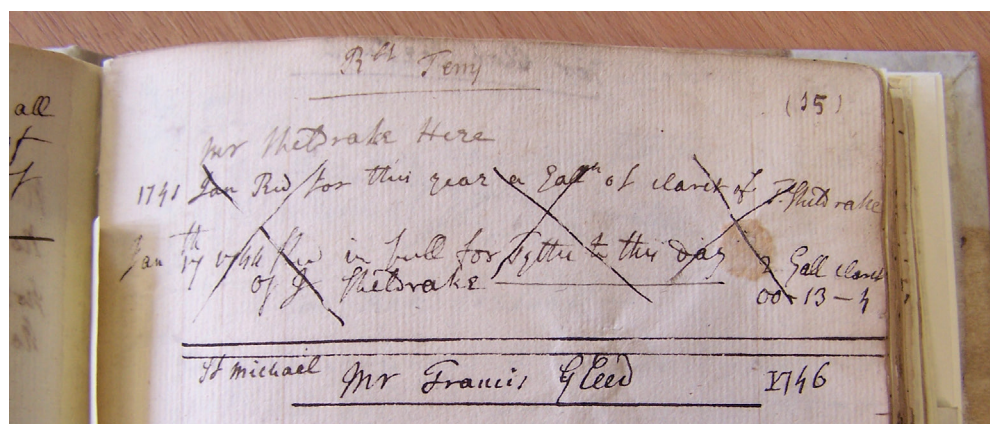
Finally, Henry Gostling, '*Innholder of Stoke Ash*', was Bondsman to a Norwich Consistory Court marriage licence between William Gostling of Finningham and **Mary Gosling** of Thornham Magna; the marriage took place in Thornham Magna on 24 April 1759, with Henry as a witness. Mary was the daughter of **John Gosling** and **Mary (née Palmer)**, and was baptised in Thornham Magna on 9 November 1734. Her father was a '*Grocer of Thornham Parva*' and had died a widower, still living in Thornham Magna where he was baptised. He was buried in Gislegham on 15 January 1759, and in his will he left his estate to Mary (and younger brother **George**, for when he attained the age of 21). There was a proviso – unusual in itself and quite extraordinary – which required Mary, within three months of his decease, to marry either William Gosling or **Edward Frere**, which she did, albeit slightly over the three months (more later about this William, probably Henry's brother and hence my 6x great-uncle).

The Sheldrake family

A word at this juncture about Henry's wife Mary (my 6x great-grandmother). Her parents were **Thomas Sheldrake** and **Mary (née Sawyer)**. Widower Thomas Sheldrake (30) married Mary Sawyer (25), single woman, by licence in Stoke Ash on 30 December 1717. Thomas had previously married **Sarah Fardin** in Finningham (or as per note '*Thwaite*', written beside the entry) on 2 February 1707. The only possible burial I could find for her is that of Sarah Sheldrake, wife of Thomas, 21 February 1716, at Creeting All Saints. On an unusual page of the Stoke Ash parish register headed '*Several Parish Officers in Stoke Ash*' detailing churchwardens, overseers, constables and surveyors between 1703 and 1719, a Thomas Sheldrake appears as Churchwarden in 1709 and 1710, Overseer in 1711 and 1719 and Constable in 1709 and 1717.

Thomas and Mary Sheldrake had three children, **Thomas** (bp. 15 December 1718), John (bp. 24 September 1720) and Mary (bp. 10 April 1724), all at Stoke Ash. Mary was buried at St Mary, Stoke Ash on 1 September 1728, and with the children being so young, aged 4, 8 and 10, Thomas snr. very soon married for a third time, this time in Monk Soham on 26 December 1728 as '*widower of Finningham*', to **Sarah Godbolt** of Worlingworth. Sarah was a widow who herself had children in need of a stepfather.

It seems the family were living in Finningham between (at the latest) 1735 and 1740. Thomas snr. (as '*T Sheldrake*') appeared in Rev Edward's Tithe Book, relating to Finningham, wherein he paid tithes between 11 November 1735 and 11 November 1740, and then, in 1741, on a page headed '*Rbt Terry*' his tithe was a '*gallon of Claret*'. Under this entry was one for 17 January 1744 requiring a tithe of '*2 Gall Claret*' worth '*00-13-4*' '*of J Sheldrake*'. Thomas snr. and son John might well have been landlords of the Finningham *White Horse*. What is interesting is that Thomas jnr., John's brother, married **Elizabeth Terry** in Finningham, the daughter of **Robert Terry** whose name heads the page in the Tithe Book, and who was buried in Westhorpe the following year on 6 April 1742.



Tithe Book entry for T and J Sheldrake in 1741 and 1744. Photo: Author's own.

Both of young Mary's older brothers followed in their father's footsteps, becoming publicans. Advertisements and notices in the *Ipswich Journal*⁽⁶⁾ show that Thomas jnr. took on the *Swan* in East Harling, Norfolk, with his wife Elizabeth (from 1748); and John was landlord of the Framlingham *Griffin*, and then the *Crown* (at least from 1748). It is possible he was involved with the Finningham *White Horse* prior to the *Griffin*, given the nature of the tithe (and I also have a note that '*John Sheldrake from the Finningham White Horse has taken the Griffin in Framlingham*' with a date of 9 February 1745, although I now cannot find this via newspaper searches⁽⁷⁾). As already seen, Mary herself was landlady at the Stoke Ash *White Horse*. There's nothing quite like keeping beer and claret in the family!

Sarah Sheldrake was buried on 19 January 1755 in Framlingham, where she perhaps moved when stepson John took a pub there. Her will was proved on 14 February 1755.

Also, she was the daughter of **Thomas Bucke**, a prominent brewer of Framlingham (surprise, surprise), so maybe she had other relatives there.

As for Thomas snr., everything is inferred. He must have died before 1755, but other than this there is no trace of him in Suffolk records, and he himself appears not to have made a will – just like his son-in-law Henry (Gostling). However, unlike Henry, it appears that there is neither a possible burial nor an administration bond sought by his widow. He vanishes from the record.

On 20 June 1763, Mary, Henry's widow, then of Great Thornham, applied for an administration bond from Norwich Consistory Court (NCC)⁽⁸⁾ to administer Henry's estate. The first thing to note is that the date was 18 months after Henry's decease. Whilst such delay is not unheard of, it isn't exactly a common occurrence either. Note also the name William Gosling of Finningham as the applicant alongside Mary: undoubtedly this was the William who took over the yard in Finningham in 1758, when Henry vacated and took on the Stoke Ash *White Horse*. Mary was bound over in the sum of £400 to produce an inventory by September of 1763. Assuming one was produced, a copy of it does not survive at the Norfolk Record Office, whence the copy of the bond was obtained.

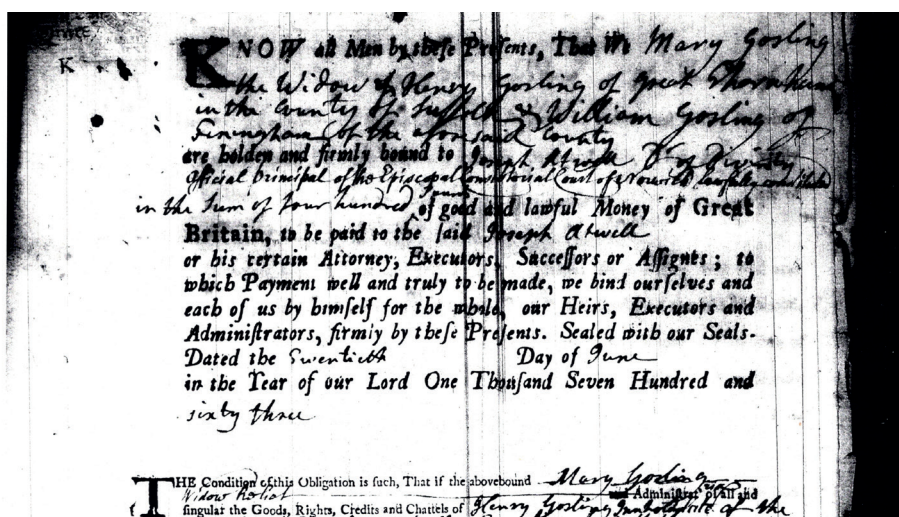


Image of NCC Administration Bond sought by Mary Gostling in 1763. Author's own copy of original held in Norfolk Record Office.

At the age of 36 Mary found herself widowed with six young children between the ages of 4 and 15. Son William was 11. Mary didn't marry again, which begs the question how she managed to bring up her family. Whether she continued as landlady at the *White Horse* for a while is unknown, although, as she was listed as 'of Great Thornham' on the administration bond, maybe she had moved. As an interesting quirk, it is said that the parish boundary between Stoke Ash and Thornham runs along the centre of the bar in the *White Horse*!

William Gostling, clockmaker

Henry and Mary's son, **William Gostling**, (my 5x great-grandfather) was apprenticed to **Daniel Dickerson**, clockmaker of Framlingham, on 29 September 1768 for a duration five years, in the sum of £20. His age of 19 was unusual: a clockmaker's apprentice would normally be taken on at around the age of 14, although William's apprenticeship was reduced from the usual seven years to five. A possible explanation of his older age is that his mother Mary needed his help around the house after husband Henry had died, or perhaps she couldn't afford the fee until then: £20 was quite a lot of money. Her other son, **Thomas**, was 12 at the time, with daughters **Mary** being 23 and **Elizabeth** 21. Thomas was himself apprenticed the following year, on 30 November 1769, to none other than William Gostling, collar maker of Finningham who had taken over the premises that Henry vacated in 1758.

The year following completion of his apprenticeship, on 11 March 1774, William Gostling, watchmaker of Stoke Ash, married **Ann Gardiner** of Stoke Ash, in Stoke Ash by NCC licence. Ann's uncle, **Charles Gardiner**, was sponsor. The Gardiner family was a prominent family in Stoke Ash for many generations back to the 16th century, and beyond that to Worlingworth in the 15th, traced through wills with references to Stoke Ash and beneficiaries' Christian names. It is also through two marriages in the lineage that ancestry leads to **Anne Boleyn**, and hence to Queen Elizabeth I, who is my 2nd cousin 14x removed (as calculated by Family Tree Maker 12). Also, to **Thomas Cocks**, who was Auditor and Registrar of Canterbury Cathedral for 25 years (c. 1585–1610).



*Monumental slate slab on the floor of the bell tower in Stoke Ash church, dedicated to **William Gardiner**, Ann's 2 x great-grandfather and his wife **Elizabeth Gates**. Photo: Author's own.*

Just days after their marriage, the following advert appeared in the *Ipswich Journal*.⁽⁹⁾

DISS, March 16, 1774.

WILLIAM GOSTLING, Clock & Watch-Maker, takes this Method to acquaint his Friends and the Publick in general, that he has opened a Shop in the MEER-STREET, near the KINGS HEAD, and laid in a good Assortment of Clocks and Watches, with a Variety of Plate and Jewellery; which will be sold on the lowest Terms. He hopes to merit the Favours of all who shall make trial of his Work or Goods, by a steady Adherence to their Commands; which will be thankfully acknowledged by their obliged humble Servant,

WILLIAM GOSTLING.

N.B. Mourning Rings served with the greatest Expedition; Plate mended in the neatest Manner; and the utmost Value given for old Gold and Silver.'

William and Ann had no fewer than 12 children, all baptised in Diss at the parish church of St Mary the Virgin:

- **William**, bp. 3 January 1775, bu. 9 March 1796, aged 21
- **Thomas**, bp. 19 November 1775, bu. London 1808
- **George**, bp. 12 December 1776, bu. 19 December 1776
- **George**, bp. 30 November 1777, bu. 30 November 1800, aged 23
- **Elizabeth**, bp. 30 August 1778
- **Mary Ann**, bp. 1 September 1779
- **Francis**, bp. 18 July 1781
- **Benjamin**, bp. 23 December 1782
- **Henry**, bp. 17 April 1785, bu. 23 January 1795, aged 10
- **John**, bp. 26 June 1786
- **Dorothy**, bp. 10 September 1787, bu. 11 February 1790, aged 2
- **Eliza Dorothy**, bp. 13 March 1791, bu. 27 February 1793, aged 2

Another **William Gostling** and **Ann** were having children at the same time, thus creating confusion, but I am confident that these 12 were born to William and Ann (née Gardiner).

Six years after opening his shop in Mere Street, we learn from an advert placed in the *Ipswich Journal* of 15 April 1780 that William '*is removed from his former situation, and has taken the house and well-accustomed shop of the late Mr. **Samuel Buxton**, deceased*' in Diss, further notifying customers that '*The Stock in Trade of the late Mr. Buxton in the silver smith and cutlery articles, will be immediately sold off at a very cheap rate, as those branches are intended to be declined by the said William Gostling.*'

William died, aged 48, and was buried at St Mary's, Diss on 12 July 1797, with **Ann**, his wife, being buried there on 13 November 1819, aged 69. William would have been

in business for around 24 years, and so would have produced a number of clocks or watches during his lifetime. One of his longcase clocks of c. 1785 resides in Diss Museum, and there is another in the Basil Brown room at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich – discovered by ever vigilant **Elizabeth Brooks** of Denham. I am fortunate to own two: one a brass dial face 8-day clock and the other an enamel face 30-hour clock.



*William Gostling of Diss, Oak, 8-day, Brass Dial
Long Case Clock, made c. 1790.
Photo: Author's own.*

Starting on 5 July 1797 (the same month in which William was buried), and as an attempt to raise funds for the early Napoleonic Wars, a very unpopular tax was imposed on all owners of timepieces, who were taxed an annual fee of 2s 6d for a basic watch and up to 10 shillings for a gold watch. Any clock costing more than £1 (20 shillings) was rated with a tax of 5 shillings, which of course made the cost of owning a clock prohibitive for most ordinary people. As a result of this tax people stopped buying clocks and watches, and those they already owned were disposed of, or hidden away and not used. This had a massive impact on Britain's clockmaking trade and many clockmakers, and their suppliers, rapidly went out of business. That William was buried on 12 July 1797, just seven days after the tax came into force, might suggest that the impending threat of the tax and the effect it would have on his business, may have hastened his demise. It was probably purely coincidental, but who knows? In fact, the tax was repealed less than a year later, in March 1798.

William left a will dated 18 May 1797, proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 26 July 1798. His estate was bequeathed to his wife Ann, daughters Mary Ann and Elizabeth, and sons George, Francis, Thomas, Benjamin and John. The business was left to wife Ann and was to be carried on by George, for him to *'be as an assistant and to faithfully serve and do all in his power for the benefit of his mother'* for a term of four years. He was to *'not absent himself and leave his mother destitute'* and *'not take himself*

off to London'. The 'clock tools' were left to Francis, who 'at the end of his apprenticeship should come home and assist in the clock making business or any part of the business until the youngest son comes of age at which time the trade shall be his own'. Francis had first option to buy the premises, if sold. A quite substantial amount of money went to his other children.

It appears that at least for a time, widow Ann and son George continued the business. A notice was posted in the *Ipswich Journal* later in 1797:⁽¹⁰⁾

'WATCH and CLOCK MAKING.

ANN GOSTLING, Widow of the late WILLIAM GOSTLING, begs leave to inform the friends of her deceased husband, that she intends carrying on business as usual, in all its branches, with the assistance of her son, GEORGE GOSTLING, who jointly intreat the kind favours of their former customers, and of the public in general, as every exertion will be made that experience and diligence are capable of, to merit their future patronage and support, which will always be very thankfully acknowledged.

N.B. All persons having demands on the Estate or Effects of the aforesaid William Gostling, are desired to apply as above for payment; and those who stand indebted, are required to pay the same, to Mrs. Gostling, who is duly authorised to give legal discharges.
Diss, Norfolk, July 12, 1797.'

George, 20 years of age at the time of his father's death, was undertaking a five-year apprenticeship, the indenture dated 11 March 1795, to **John Ager**, clock maker, Clerkenwell, London. He died single, and was buried in Diss on 30 November 1800, aged 23, leaving everything in his will dated 4 June 1800 (but not proved until 25 November 1807) to his mother.

Thomas, the eldest surviving son, aged 24, was apprenticed to **John Hudson**, pewterer of Fetter Lane, London, on 28 October 1788, and married **Jane Young** at Lambeth St Mary, London, on 21 May 1798. No burial can be found for him, but he left a PCC will dated 28 March 1808 (proved on 22 April 1808). The executor was John Hudson and he left his entire estate to his wife Jane. There is no mention of children.

Elizabeth, aged 19, married **John Butcher** four years later on 16 December 1801 in Diss. They had five children, three boys and two girls.

Mary Ann, aged 18, married **Thomas Barkham**, a cabinet maker, 13 years later in Diss on 21 February 1810.

John, aged 11, I believe was the John Gostling who married **Sarah Waller** in Framlingham on 30 July 1811. An Ann Gostling, possibly his mother, was a witness. He was a blacksmith at the time of his children's baptisms, and his son, **George**, establishing himself in London with an ironmonger's shop.

Francis, aged 16 in 1797, was serving an apprenticeship with **Samuel Taylor**, clockmaker of Framlingham, entered into on 19 December 1796, for the short term of four years. He married **Sophia Taylor** in Diss on 2 May 1809. He was recorded as a 'watchmaker' at the time of his daughter **Mary Ellen**'s baptism, aged 6, at St Mary the Virgin, Diss, on 8 October 1820 (she was previously baptised in a Wesleyan church in 1814). This was borne out by two adverts in the *Bury and Norwich Post* in 1813 and 1814:⁽¹¹⁾

*'Wanted a steady active Youth, as an Apprentice to a Clock and Watchmaker –
Apply personally, or by letter post-paid, to Mr Francis Gostling, Clock and Watchmaker,
Diss, Norfolk'*

Francis died five years after placing the adverts, 'after a lingering affliction', being buried 8 June 1819, aged just 37. On 7 July 1819, one month after Francis' burial, an advertisement appeared in the *Bury and Norwich Post*, wherein **Edward Scrivener**, clock and watchmaker, announced that he had taken the shop and trade of the late Francis Gostling in the Market Place, Diss. Francis' mother, Ann, had finally sold the business that husband William had bequeathed her in his will of 1797, and which she, along with Francis, presumably had run for 20 years until Francis' decease, just four months before she died, aged 69. She was buried on 13 November 1819.

Francis himself left an NCC will of 1 June 1819, proved at Diss on 16 March 1820. His wife Sophia (an executor) and children – three boys and two girls, aged 9, 7, 5, 3 and 6 months – were provided with a residence and source of income. There was mention of a 'messuage or dwelling house, shop, yards and premises, with a piece of newly allotted land; parcel of the late Common called the Moor now in occupation in Diss, by part of the hereditaments and premises, late belonging to my deceased father and by his will given to Ann Gostling my mother for life'. Francis had been granted first option to buy this property after his mother's decease. He instructed his two other executors – his father-in-law, **George Taylor**, and George's son **Richard Taylor**, both of whom were collar makers – to hold the property in trust for Sophia, to be passed on to the children, share and share alike, once they were 21, and after Sophia's decease. The premises were contracted out to none other than his brother-in-law Thomas Barkham, cabinet maker, husband of Francis' sister Mary Ann. As a great surprise to me, Francis also left a farm in Palgrave to Sophia for her to manage, from which to derive an income. The 1841 census shows her in the Norwich hamlet of Heigham living on independent means, with her son, **Francis**, age 24, a 'taylor'.

The following year, on 19 July 1842, Francis married **Sarah Ann Horner**, at St George, Colgate, Norwich; but by 1851 Francis, a 'woollen drapers assistant', and family had moved to Chapel Field Road, Heigham. They were in Bedford Street, Heigham, in 1861, but with Francis now a 'Shoe Manufacturer employing 55 men and boys and 32 women'; and in 1871, living in Redgrave Court, in the Norwich parish of St Simon &

Jude, with Francis a '*Boot & Shoe Manufacturer employing 99 men and 4 boys*'. Sophia died the following year, aged 85. This Norwich branch is quite interesting but dies out.

Whilst William the clockmaker's sons Francis and George Gostling were known to have also been clock and watchmakers, no clocks are known to have been made by either, which seems rather odd.

It is perhaps worth noting here that **Thomas Gostling**, clockmaker of Diss, who produced several clocks and watches (I have two longcase, a mantle and pocket watch made by him), was not the son of William, clockmaker of Diss. We have already seen that Thomas, son of William, clockmaker of Diss, was apprenticed to a pewterer in London, dying there in 1808, and could not have been him. All known facts lead to identifying him as Thomas Gostling, baptised in Cotton 17 July 1801, son of **John Gostling** and wife **Judith (née Mat(t)hew(s))**, who was first cousin once removed to William, clockmaker. This made him grandson of William, collar maker of Finningham, William clockmaker's uncle. William of Finningham being my 6x great-uncle, Thomas is a distant 2nd cousin 6x removed – I think!? As he would have been 13 in mid-1814 he might well have responded to Francis Gostling's advert for an apprentice, and thus been apprenticed c. 1814, to Francis, clockmaker. But with the Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices ending in 1811, no record exists. If this Thomas Gostling was Francis' apprentice, then Francis' death and the end of his apprenticeship, normally seven years, would have more or less coincided (c. 1819/20).

Benjamin, aged 15 at the time of his father William's death, and through whom I am descended, married **Mary Newson Wright** on 10 October 1808 at St Michael, Framlingham. He would have been 26, and Mary 24. Mary's mother, **Sarah Wright**, and father, **Jasper Newson**, were married on the same day Mary was baptised! I will explore the descent from Benjamin through to my great-grandfather, **Ernest Frederick Fisher Gostling**, in the next part.

William Gostling, collar maker

Before I move on, more about William Gostling, collar maker, who took on Henry's former premises in 1758 and married Mary Gosling in 1759. He was buried in Cotton on 14 June 1808 aged 81, giving him a birth year c. 1726/7 and making him eight years younger than Henry. In 1763 it was probably he who assisted Henry's widow Mary to administer Henry's estate. Henry was bondsman to William's marriage licence and a witness at his wedding to Mary Gosling. There is no record for him as an apprentice, which suggests that he was a younger brother of Henry, from whom he would have learned his trade. When Henry completed his apprenticeship c. 1739, William would have been close to the apprenticeship age of 13. Henry's marriage in 1745 may well have coincided with William completing his apprenticeship aged 20 or 21. Both he and Henry might have occupied the same business premises until 1758

when William took over, likely for many years thereafter. On 20 May 1766 William took on apprentice **John Ward**, followed by Thomas Gostling, Henry's son, on 30 November 1768, **Nicholas Goddard** on 1 March 1773, and **George Bogas** on 2 March 1779.

William and his wife Mary (née Gosling) had two children: a daughter, **Frances** (who was buried 14 February 1761) and a son, **John**, baptised 10 June 1768, both in Finningham. William left a will dated 11 March 1796 bequeathing all to his wife Mary, and a large sum of money to his son John upon her decease. William was buried in Cotton on 14 June 1808, and his wife Mary on 1 September 1810. William's will was not proved until 20 October 1814, no less than four years after wife Mary's decease, with son John acting as executor. John, a miller, married Judith Mat(t)hew(s) in Stowlangtoft on 16 April 1793. They lived in Cotton, having 10 children, all of whom were baptised there. It was their son, Thomas, who later became clockmaker of Diss.

I will I return briefly in the next part to the highly educated and businesslike Gostling family of Cotton, only mentioning here that descendants of this family were later chemists in Framlingham, Halesworth and Diss, dental surgeon in Stowmarket and doctors in other parts of the country, and I believe in the USA as well.

Loose ends

Another relation living during this period was **John Gostling**, farmer of Westhorpe, who had married a **Mary** (maiden name and place unknown) c. 1750. Their daughter, also **Mary**, was baptised in Westhorpe on 9 April 1752 and buried the next day. A son, **John**, born in 1760, was buried in 1765. Mary, John's wife, was buried on 4 November 1763, leaving son John, aged 3, needing a stepmother. As a widower aged 44, John married his second wife **Hannah Downing**, aged 25, by an Archdeaconry of Sudbury licence, in Westhorpe on 3 October 1769. John's stated age gave him a birth year of c. 1725. He was buried on 2 January 1782, his will specifying bequests to his wife, and daughters **Hannah**, **Martha**, **Elizabeth** and **Lettice**, and appointing his '*brother William Gostling*' as executor. This William was highly likely to be William Gostling, collar maker of Finningham, who was also an insurance agent for a time.

Just one more thing: Henry Gostling's youngest son, Thomas (my 5x great-uncle), who was apprenticed to William, collar maker in 1769, married **Ann Rednall** in Finningham on 13 November 1780. Thomas tragically died after just three years of marriage and was buried on 12 April 1783, but had a daughter, **Mary**, baptised the year before on 19 January 1782. She married **Edward Thurman** of Finningham in Cotton on 6 July 1807. Another tragedy ensued, with Mary dying and being buried there just four years later on 12 December 1811, aged 30. Now, an Edward Thurman was witness to the will of Judith Gostling (née Mat(t)hew(s)) of Cotton, wife of John, of 21 January 1794, probated on 30 June 1809. This **Edward Thurman** was probably

the father of the Edward Thurman who married Mary Gostling (bp. 1782) in 1807. I doubt he was Mary's husband, but he might have been.

Summary

To summarise, I haven't been able to find, in Suffolk, any possible baptism, marriage or burial for my 7x great-grandfather John Gostling, born c. 1690, nor his (unknown) wife. Also, no baptism for his son Henry born c. 1719, or for his probable brothers, William born c. 1727 and John born c.1725. There might also be a sister, **Mary**, born c. 1730, who married **John Shave** in Cotton on 17 November 1751. In the register entry she is shown as 'of Finningham' and he 'of Bacton'. They had a family of six in Bacton.

I find this a great mystery. There is undoubtedly a close connection between the Gostling families of Cotton, Finningham, Stoke Ash, Westhorpe and Diss. Henry's father was a yeoman of Cotton; William, collar maker, and his wife Mary (John the miller's parents, Thomas, clockmaker's grandparents and, more likely than not, brother of Henry and aunt and uncle of William, clockmaker) were buried there. So, too, John the miller and wife Judith, for whom, although dying 24 years apart with John marrying a second time, there are side-by-side graves with headstones. Henry and William were both collar maker/saddlers occupying the same business premises, Henry acted as sponsor of and witness to William's marriage, and William assisted Henry's widow Mary with the estate after his decease.

Stephen Gostling Mb 12047
stephen.gostling@btinternet.com

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A SUFFOLK BLACK SHEEP

***Editors' Note:** A piece entitled 'Leaving Suffolk' by **Peter Holford** appeared in the last issue of Suffolk Roots (December 2025). It included a short section on Emerson Jordan. This article provides more detail of his life.*

Emerson Jordan was named after his father and baptised at Kelsale in Suffolk in 1788. His parents, **Emerson** and **Ann (née Woolnough)** are my 5x great-grandparents. Emerson jnr. was the third of seven children, most of whom appear to have died young. His only sibling who lived to marry and have children was his younger sister **Lydia**, which I am very pleased about since she is my 4x great-grandmother!

The family were agricultural workers and Emerson seemed to have a good grip on the economic realities of the rural economy. He knew how to make ends meet and how to turn a profit on his trading. The first recorded transaction was for three chickens in 1817. Unfortunately, they belonged to **William Kett** of Kelsale, and the judge at Ipswich Quarter Sessions wasn't impressed – 12 months.

In 1822 Emerson may well have been dealing in agricultural products again, but this time he wasn't charged with stealing. Instead, the magistrate presiding at Woodbridge Sessions, **William Carthew**, decided that another 12 months in Ipswich Gaol was appropriate for the assault on **Henry Berrett**, the constable of Saxmundham, in the execution of his duty – probably whilst trying to arrest Emerson.

In 1824 Emerson was charged with burglary and stood before the beak in Bury St Edmunds – he was certainly getting around the county of Suffolk. Perhaps the evidence was flimsy or possibly he was getting better at playing the system, because he was acquitted this time.

In 1827 he seems to have got into some bad company and been led astray again. Poor Emerson, he said he didn't steal anything, nor did he hit any local copper, but he was still having to stand in the dock at Ipswich Quarter Sessions. He was there with two obvious bad 'uns, **James Curtis** and **William Hawes**.

*'**Mr Burch** said that on January 9th, he had 16 turkeys, of which the next morning he missed three store turkeys and 6 young ones. The door of the fowl house, whence the fowls were taken, was latticed down in the middle, and had a stock lock on it. On the morning of the 10th the lock was broken, but not the door: he never saw the turkeys again.'*

So, who did it? Emerson tried to present an alibi for this charge. It was rejected by the bench without being put to the jury. That was ominous. The fly in the ointment this time was that one of their mates had grassed, or as it was put in the paper, had '*turned King's evidence*'. **Gregory Russell** was up for a whole series of thefts – clothes, turkeys, drakes, you name it – and he was in deep trouble. He was warned that turning King's evidence was unlikely to get him off the hook. But he had nothing to lose and decided to try his luck:

*'Gregory Russell (king's evidence) deposed, that Hawes and Curtis met at the witness's house [Gregory Russell's house] at Swilland, on a Wednesday night in January - they two, the witness, and his brother **Benjamin**, went to Helmingham to Mr Burch's: Hawes and Curtis broke open the fowl-house door (it was like a common house door), and put 9 turkeys into a sack: some were dark turkeys, they were of different colours, some old, some young; the witness [Russell] and Hawes carried them to Benjamin, who was in the road with a cart: and they returned with the turkeys to the witness's house; when they arrived at the house two of the turkeys were dead, being smothered in the sack: they dressed 6 of them on Thursday, and carried them and 3 live ones to Ipswich (not the smothered ones, they had another lot). Hawes and Benj. Russell sold two in the town and 4 were packed up and sent to London by the Monarch coach, in the witness's name; they were directed to **Mr Bayes**, Leadenhall-market: the 4 turkeys were very poor. About 3 weeks after the witness received, by a carrier, the basket in which the turkeys had been sent, with a note from Mr Bayes, and 7 or 8 shillings. The live ones were left in Benjamin's cart; who seeing a reward, killed them in the presence of the witness. Curtis was for selling them alive.'*

Now it was the turn of defence counsel, **Mr Eagle**, and things were about to turn nasty with accusations levelled at the propriety of the Chairman of the bench himself:

'Mr Eagle, who was Counsel for the prisoners, contended that the accomplice's evidence was not sufficiently corroborated to send the case to the Jury; he said he was sorry to see on the bench a disposition to partiality. "I will speak my mind freely and fearlessly: if you (to the Chairman) say the evidence is corroborated, I differ from you, and shall represent it in a proper place."'

Mr Eagle's accusation was based on the fact that the Chairman and the prosecution barrister had dined together the previous night and that the Chairman had gone back to chambers for drinks with the barrister and his colleagues. As we shall see, this was stated fully later in the proceedings. The Chairman responded forcefully to this challenge to his integrity:

'You behave very improperly and charge not only me, but several very respectable Magistrates with partiality: this is too bad, you behave very ill; you threaten the Magistrates.'

But Mr Eagle was not to be cowed and fought back:

'When I see a disposition to partiality, I will express my sentiments, and will repeat publicly what I have said: if the whole were investigated in a proper quarter, it would be seen who is right, you or I.'

It isn't recorded how others in the courtroom viewed this clash between the legal luminaries, but Emerson must have felt that his brief was doing a fine job of defending him, especially when the jury returned their verdict: James Curtis and William Hawes guilty; Emerson Jordan, not guilty.

Mr Eagle decided to confirm his line of defence and must have felt justified with the acquittal of Emerson Jordan: *'I conceive I must do my duty; there was no sort of confirmation; it was not evidence on which a man ought to be convicted.'*

So those two scoundrels, Hawes and Curtis, had stolen nine turkeys and Emerson had helped dispose of them. It had been an outrageous allegation that Emerson knew that the birds had been stolen, and the jury had agreed with him. Or perhaps they felt there was nothing concrete on which to convict him, as they couldn't be sure he knew the turkeys were 'hot' (not literally!).

Did that mean he could walk away a free man? Not yet – there were other charges still to come. James Curtis and William Hawes were then tried for stealing five turkeys and three drakes, the property of **Mr Woodthorpe Collett** of Clopton, and Emerson Jordan for receiving one of the turkeys.

'Mr Collett said he had, on Dec.24, 1826, 5 turkeys which were in a fowl-house shut up to fat, and 3 ducks; the fowl-house was not locked up; his house is about a quarter of a mile from Mr Steele's, it is near the church, by the turnpike road, on the right hand going to Woodbridge: of the turkeys three were cocks and two hens, of the sand or as commonly called bustard breed; the drakes were of a dark colour: the whole were worth 40s.; Such turkeys are not very common.'

The details of the robbery were confirmed by **William Blowers** and **Charles Parker**, who were servants of Mr Collett. Gregory Russell, the accomplice and of course chief grass (sorry, giver of King's evidence), was again the main weapon for the prosecution:

'He [Russell] said he was in company with the three prisoners on the night of 24th December at Jordan's house. Jordan was not at home when he first went, he came in afterwards; he was intoxicated and went to bed. The witness [Russell] and Curtis and Hawes took Jordan's cart and went to Otley Bottom, to Mr Steele's house and then to another farmhouse further towards Woodbridge. Curtis said, one Mr Collett lived there; I waited in the cart in the road, they went to the yard to see what was there; after being absent about half an hour, they returned over the hedge, bringing in a sack 5 sandy turkeys and 3 dark drakes, from Mr Collett's. They put the sack into the cart, and we all rode to my house. Hawes went with the horse and cart to Jordan's house. Curtis and I took one turkey, and carried it the same night to Jordan: he was in bed. Curtis told him there was a turkey for his dinner; it must at that time be 2 or 3 o'clock. I went home, and Hawes with me. Hawes and I dressed the turkeys; he took them to Ipswich on the Tuesday: The feathers were left in the house when I removed from it. I saw Jordan on the Christmas-day; he invited the two Mr Marshalls to dine with him off a turkey, this conversation took place at Swilland Half Moon; the Marshalls live opposite to that house. I saw Jordan after dinner: he said he had eaten some of the turkey; the two Mr Marshalls had dined with him, and they had some gin after dinner.'

William Marshall was at Swilland Half Moon on Christmas-day, at an early part of the evening, not in the forenoon; he went after a job of work. Jordan in the forenoon invited his

brother and him to have a piece of turkey and pudding and that like. He drank some gin in the shoemaker's shop before dinner. Jordan said he had a turkey in the pot given him by one of his friends.

Stephen Marshall's testimony was similar to that of his brother; he said he had known Russell 2 or 3 years. **James Marshall**, father of the two last witnesses, is a constable; he had searched Jordan's house and found nothing, in the house Russell had occupied he found a quantity of feathers, which were produced, and shown to Mr Collett; some of them he said, were like those for his bustard turkeys. This was the case for the prosecution.'

So once again Hawes and Curtis were nailed for the theft, but it seems that the turkey they gave to Emerson had been presented as a gift from two friends. Guilty again, but not our Emerson. The Chairman addressed the jury and told them there was no evidence on which they could convict Emerson Jordan.

There is little doubt that Emerson Jordan played a wily game. He was much older (39) than Hawes (23) and Curtis (29), and made sure to keep away from the sharp end of the process of acquiring the goods. Or was Russell making sure that he didn't provide the evidence to convict him?

So, was Emerson Jordan now free to walk away from the court? Ah, no. Not yet. There was still another charge to hear, that William Hawes and Emerson Jordan stole two fat hogs value £7, from the sty of **Mr Peter Kersey** of Offton. This was more serious, as Emerson was being charged with the actual theft rather than receiving the goods.

'Mr Kersey said, that he lost two hogs in Jan. last, which were shut up fattening; he tried in vain to trace them the next morning; snow had fallen in the night: one hog was white, the other blue and white.'

Again Gregory Russell (King's evidence) took to the stand as the chief witness for the prosecution while trying to save his own bacon:

'Russell said that he one Thursday night in January went in company with his brother Benjamin, Hawes, and Jordan, to the prosecutor's [Mr Kersey]: the witness and Hawes went to the pig-stye; Jordan and Benjamin Russell had each a cart, in which they continued in the road, the sty was near the dwelling house: the sty door was barred; Hawes unbarred it, turned out two hogs and drove them across a meadow to the road, all the four assisted in putting them into Jordan's cart: the witness and his brother in returning went before Hawes and Jordan: about half an hour after they left Mr Kersey's house, there was a fall of snow; Jordan said if the snow had not fallen, he would have left the hogs in the road. They all went to a stable occupied by Hawes near Swilland Half-Moon; Jordan and Hawes with their cart and the hogs, went through the Ashbocking Toll Gate, and the two Russells, in their cart, through Witnesham Toll-gate. One hog was white, the other blue and white; one a sow, and the other a seg hog. The hogs were killed in that stable about noon on the Saturday: Jordan cut their throats, and all four assisted in dressing them. One was parted

*between the witness and Hawes – Jordan took the whole of the other, paying Benjamin Russell for his part. Hawes sold his side to **Mr Foreman** who kept the Currier's Arms in Ipswich; and the witness, after taking off the half-head, sold his to **Mrs Gooch**, at the Salutation, in Ipswich. Witness, in going through the gate, told the keeper that they had had bad luck in going after gin. It was then about five or six o'clock in the morning.'*

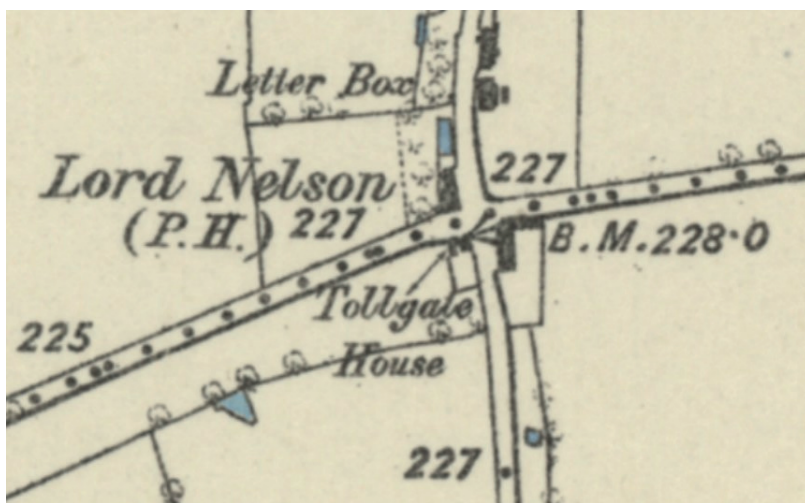
Emerson probably didn't realise that the pigs belonged to somebody else and said that he would have left the hogs in the road if it hadn't been snowing. He must have been concerned for their welfare!

Martha Gooch of the *Salutation* deposed to buying a side of pork from Gregory Russell, and **John King**, who kept the Winesham [turnpike] Gate recollected both Russells passing his gate between 5 and 6 o'clock. He continued:

'Gregory Russell asked me to trust him till he came again, and said he had had bad luck, he could get no gin; he saw nothing in the cart; this was after Christmas about a week or a fortnight.'

The other turnpike keeper recollected seeing Jordan:

*'**Thomas Hunt**, the keeper of Ashbocking Gate, saw Jordan go through the gate one morning in January, between one and two o'clock; he was alone; he did not recollect seeing him on any other morning.'*



Map showing location of Ashbocking Toll gate. Courtesy: National Library of Scotland Maps, OS 6", 1830s-1880s. CC-BY NLS.

The subject again turned to Gregory Russell and the reliability of his evidence. After all, he was in deep trouble with the authorities over numerous charges of stealing and he was obviously looking for a way out. Turning King's evidence was probably the only card he had available to him, and he was keen to avoid making it look as though he was expecting to get off:

'In his cross-examination by Mr Eagle, the witness [Gregory Russell] admitted that he had been 6 times before the Grand Jury, at these Sessions, to be witness, as an accomplice, in as many thefts. That he proposed to be King's evidence first to Mr Capper, and to other Magistrates whose names he did not know: he said he did not expect to get off clear by the evidence he was giving; this, he said was as true as everything he had said: he thought it would be better for him to do so on account of his sins.'

One of the local magistrates, **Rev George Capper**, was sworn in and said that Russell had sent a message to the magistrates that he had some *'important discoveries to make'* [information to give].

Capper continued, *'I told him over and over again not to entertain any hope of being admitted King's evidence. He told us of many thefts; he was then in gaol for stealing clothes from a servant of Mr Read of Holbrook. Mr Read's house was broken open.'*

Russell was then re-examined and said that the magistrates had told him that he must not expect to get off by making a confession. He also said *'he had never declared that he would be d-----d if he did not do for Curtis'*.

Mr Eagle, the defence barrister, again went for the jugular. He objected to allowing evidence from *'such a worthless character as Russell'*. And then he re-opened his accusations about the Chairman and, by implication, the whole judicial process in the court:

'He [Eagle] said, the Chairman and another Magistrate sat in company with the attorney for the prosecution till 12 or one o'clock in the morning. "If I were to preside as Judge in a court, I would not sit in company with a prosecutor's attorney." – The Chairman said, they dined at nine o'clock, and then, as he generally had done, he spent some time with the barristers and attornies; it was the usual practice; these cases were not mentioned; and he did not see why he should turn Mr Lawrance out of the room. Mr Prendergast was there. (This gentleman said he certainly was there, it was a public room.) Mr Capper said "It was mere chance that I was not there."

But this time Emerson Jordan's luck had run out and he was found guilty, as were Hawes and Curtis, of course. So, he was unlikely to walk away as a free man this time and probably expected another one or two years in Ipswich Gaol. The convicted prisoners in all the cases at the Sessions were being sentenced with a mixture of penalties such as *'twelve months with hard labour'* for **Thomas Tailby**, *'twelve months'* for **Hannah Martin**; three months with the obligatory hard labour for **Charles Woolnough**, and so on.

Then the Chairman came to Emerson Jordan, William Hawes and James Curtis. No gaol or hard labour for them! At least not in this country. Emerson Jordan: seven years transportation. If there was a silver lining it was that it could have been worse for Emerson, as Hawes and Curtis got 14 years each. Perhaps the authorities had

had enough of Emerson's crime wave with various accomplices. What is certain is that the theft of property was treated more harshly than other offences. My 3x great-grandfather, **George Stafford**, appeared in court a few years later charged with grievously assaulting a police constable performing his duties and trying to free an arrested man. He was sentenced to just six weeks in prison! That was a much less serious offence in the early 19th century.

Seven or 14 years; it made little difference really. Once they had been disposed of to Australia, prisoners very rarely came back, and Emerson was no exception.

Mr Eagle lodged an appeal and, of course, the case was '*carefully reviewed*'. The **Marquess of Lansdowne*** (**Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice**, 3rd Marquess of Lansdowne, who at that time was Home Secretary) called upon the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions before whom the prisoners were tried for a report of their case, which his lordship attentively considered. Not surprisingly he found no grounds to alter the sentence.

The three men went straight to Ipswich Gaol and a few months later were transferred to the *York*, a prison hulk in Portsmouth Harbour. The *Prison Hulk Registers* for the *York* record the three men together – a transcription of a part of the register shows their details:

Name	Age	Offence	Where & When	Sentence	Disposed of
Emerson Jordan	40	Stealing pigs	Ipswich 19 Oct 1827	7 years	27 July 1828
William Hawes	24	Stealing pigs & turkeys	Ipswich 19 Oct 1827	14 years	27 July 1828
James Curtis	30	Stealing turkeys	Ipswich 19 Oct 1827	14 years	27 July 1828

On 4 March 1828 they sailed on the *Phoenix*, a prison transport of 589 tons, and arrived at Sydney on 14 July 1828. The comment on Emerson Jordan was that he was '*very bad*' before his conviction but that his behaviour was good in the prison system.

This 'shipment' arrived in the colony just in time for the 1828 census. Emerson is recorded thus: '*Jordan, Emmerson, 40, GS, Phoenix, 1828, 7 years, Protestant, Labourer for Sir John Jamison at Evan*'. (Evan was later renamed Penrith, and is in the Greater Sydney area.)

And what became of 'King's evidence' Gregory Russell? Russell, who had given evidence against so many prisoners, was the thief who stole the articles in the indictment. But **Mr Andrews**, one of the counsel for the prosecution, said, that perceiving the feeling which unfortunately existed, he should not proceed in this case. Therefore, as there was no prosecution, the prisoner was discharged. Russell was called up to the bench, and the judge addressed him very solemnly on the '*flagitiousness*' of his conduct, and earnestly entreated him to abandon his wicked course of life, which Russell promised he would do, and he was discharged. It had worked – he was free! The men he had testified against would never trouble him with any retribution either. But it is unknown whether any other family members exacted any kind of retribution or, indeed, what became of him at all.

Evidently Emerson Jordan behaved himself in Australia and was awarded his Certificate of Freedom at the earliest possible opportunity in 1835, on completion of his sentence. But what then? He had probably worked as an agricultural labourer during his sentence, but without a conditional discharge and money, he couldn't return home.

His family in Suffolk hadn't written him off though. His eldest son, **William**, went looking for him either on 9 March 1833 or on 17 August 1834 on board the *Surrey* (this ship was mentioned on his wedding banns, but it's not clear which of these voyages William was on – probably the former). William found his father, because he ended up at Penrith marrying **Eliza Bradley**, next door in Castlereagh, in November 1834 when he was 22 and she was 15!

Because of the imbalance between the sexes, and the desire to colonise Australia whilst keeping the convicts in control, the government thought it prudent to introduce a scheme to allow convicts to apply for permission to bring family members out from England. It helped keep them settled and manageable during their sentence, and encouraged them to stay in Australia rather than return home afterwards (if they were able). Provided the family wanted to come, the (ex-) prisoners could apply through the Government, which then forwarded the application to England, to an agent in the parish where the family lived. The agent had to make sure that the family wanted to go to Australia, and if they did, usually they came out either on assisted schemes, or as private paying passengers on convict ships transporting further offenders.

Emerson applied for his wife, **Letitia**, and his adult children to be awarded assisted passage. Letitia and two children, **George** (23) and **Letitia** jnr. (22) with her husband, **James Drake**, arrived in 1837. Emerson died in 1852, aged 64. Letitia had died four years earlier, aged 65. Emerson's occupation on his death certificate? Farmer! Poacher turned gamekeeper? With his own farm he was probably quite skilled in the field of security! Emerson has many descendants in Australia.

Peter Holford

counthill@aol.com

* The Marquess of Lansdowne was erroneously referred to as the Earl of Sandown in the 'Leaving Suffolk' article in *Suffolk Roots*, December 2025.

Further information

The Pubs

The Swilland *Half-Moon* is now the *Moon & Mushroom* in the village of Swilland.

The *Curriers Arms* was situated on Curriers Lane, Ipswich. This pub closed in 1928.

The *Salutation Inn*, Carr Lane, Ipswich is a historic (17th century) town-centre pub, extensively renovated in 2018 (<https://suffolk.camra.org.uk/pub/545>).

Distances

Ashbocking to Witnesham	2.1 miles	Witnesham to Ipswich	4.9 miles
Witnesham to Swilland	0.9 miles	Ashbocking to Swilland	1.8 miles

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- State Records of New South Wales; *1828 Census: Household Returns*, accessed via Ancestry, *1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (Australian Copy)*. Series Number: NRS 1273; Reel: 2552
- *History of the Rope family* (who originated in Essex and Norfolk, and who Letitia Jordan, daughter of William and Eliza, married into in Australia), <http://familyhistories.atspace.com/rope/rope.htm>



The FHF Really Useful Family History Show is coming to East Anglia!

AGRA, Alde Valley Suffolk FH Group, Bedfordshire FHS, Burwell Museum, Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS, Cambridgeshire Archive Services, Cambridgeshire Collection, Cromwell Museum, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker, East of London FHS, Essex Society for FH, Family History Federation, Fenland FHS, FIBIS, Hertfordshire Archives, Hertfordshire FHS, Lincolnshire FHS, London, Westminster & Middlesex FHS, Northamptonshire FHS, Nuneaton & Warwickshire FHS, Overdale Postcards, Orders & Medals Research Society, Peterborough & District FHS, Pharos Tutors, RA Longley Publications, Romany & Traveller FHS, Suffolk FHS, This Way Books & Cassini Maps, WeAre.xyz

10AM - 4.30PM
Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU
What3words: ///rash.sharp.remaining

#RUFHSStIves2026

LIVE IN ST IVES APRIL 18TH 2026



FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND EVENTS

As *Suffolk Roots* goes to press (February 2026) 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.

FHF Really Useful Family History Show **18 April 2026 10am–4.30pm**
Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

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

Suffolk FHS Fair **9 May 2026 10am–4pm**
Free, Suffolk Archives, The Hold, Ipswich

Details: <https://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk/society-fair>

In addition, there are the following Family History Events:

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
MARCH			
Bury	26	Confronting Hagiography: Family legends about our ancestors	<i>Ben Warner</i>
Haverhill	12	Snapshots from the life of Lee Miller <i>Social evening with refreshments</i>	<i>Derek Adams</i>
Ipswich	04	Suffolk Regiment Soldiers – Fall of Singapore & Life as Japanese POWs	<i>Taff Gillingham</i>
Lowestoft	03	Target Lowestoft! Part 1	<i>Bob Collis</i>
Sudbury	31	Sudbury in the Sixties While London was Swinging	<i>Ashley Cooper</i>
APRIL			
Bury	30	TBA	
Haverhill	09	A Sign of the Times	<i>Sarah Doig</i>
Ipswich	01	'The Castle on the Hill' – all about Framlingham	<i>Barbara McElroy</i>
Lowestoft	07	From the Grit to High Rise	<i>Dean Parkin</i>
Sudbury	27	Lawrence of Arabia ... and Felixstowe	<i>Kim Smith</i>
MAY			
Bury	28	TBA	
Haverhill	14	Group AGM + The Change in Your Pocket	<i>Charmian Thompson</i>
Ipswich	06	A Fire Engine, a Church Tower, and the BBC's 'Repair Shop'	<i>Geoffrey Robinson</i>
Lowestoft	05	AGM + Film from East Anglian Film Archive and research	<i>Group</i>
Sudbury	25	Arsenic's Toxic Legacy: People, Places, Pests and Peppermints + Group AGM	<i>Neil Dickinson</i>

LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
..... JUNE			
Bury	25	TBA	
Haverhill	11	The Development of Helicopters	<i>Duncan Bickley</i>
Ipswich	03	Using the updated and FREE <i>FamilySearch</i> Software	<i>Lucy Reynoldson</i>
Lowestoft	02	What to do when your search fails	<i>Kevin Pulford</i>
Sudbury	30	Quiz – General – All welcome	<i>Group</i>

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

Note: Ipswich are holding a short series of meetings on 'Beginning Your Family History Research', on Saturday mornings on 14, 21 and 28 March, 10:30am-12pm.

Society members: £5 each or three for £10; non-members: £6 or three for £15.

If any readers in the Ipswich area are interested in attending, please contact Howard King at IpswichChairman@suffolkfhs.org.uk or on 01473 274300 (answerphone if required)

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

..... ZOOM TALKS

Zoom talks for members from March 2026 onwards are listed below. Please put the dates in your diaries and /or your computer-based calendars.

Further talks, prior to the next edition of *Suffolk Roots*, will be publicised via Facebook and in the News area of the website. Please check regularly for updates on upcoming and future talks.

Members will receive an email **shortly before each talk**, notifying them of the event and giving a link to register. If you do not receive such an email, please contact Andy Kerridge at chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk.

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

Monday 23 March 2026 at 7:30pm

An A to Z of Bench Ends in Suffolk Churches

Robert Halliday

Monday 13 April 2026 at 7:30pm

Transport in Suffolk

Chris Turland

Monday 18 May 2026 at 7:30pm
Understanding Old Photos

Steve Gill

Monday 15 June 2026 at 7:30pm
Coroners' Inquests

Vicky Holmes

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

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FUTURE THEMES FOR SUFFOLK ROOTS

The theme of June's edition will be 'Along the High Street'. Britain was known as a nation of small shopkeepers, and Suffolk would have been no different with many small towns and villages. Was your ancestor a shopkeeper, a tradesman, or maybe a market stall holder or busker? What did they sell, and was any training needed? What were their premises like? Maybe they worked in the supply chain for those shops, or in delivering goods from the shops to customers?

Were they affected by technology changes, like improved transportation, as our high streets have been impacted by e-commerce? What effects did other changing trends have, like fashion or photography, or changes in government policy (e.g. Education/ Factory Acts)?

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	Jun 2026	Along the High Street <i>Our shopkeeper and tradespeople ancestors</i> One of the biggest changes in recent times has been the growth of electronic communication and commerce, and even before the Covid pandemic high streets were suffering from lack of footfall due to the rise in online shopping. Did your ancestor work in a town or village as a shopkeeper? What did they sell? How did changing trends and fashions affect them (e.g. clothing and the rise of photography)? Was your forebear a tradesman? If so, what sort (baker, blacksmith, etc.)? Was special training or apprenticeship involved? 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?	Deadline 16 Apr

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'.

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.



The 4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment marching from Lowestoft North railway station to their camp along the Yarmouth Road (now the A12): Photo: Public Domain via Wikimedia

Ancestors who did those overlooked, unpleasant and unpopular jobs

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/2021 highlighted how dependent we are on those known as 'key workers'. They are described as 'essential personnel who provide critical services in society', yet they are often low paid, low-profile, or less popular employments. In recent times, key workers have included nurses, teachers, shop workers, refuse collectors, cleaners, transport staff, and so on.

Did your ancestor work in such a role?

Were they a railway navvy, a night-soil collector, an Inspector of Nuisances, a laundress (of either variety!), a straw-hat maker?

Did they work at a tannery, or in a factory, or at a knacker's yard?

What were the conditions like? Were they able to make ends meet?

Were they discriminated against?

Or maybe they were recruited from elsewhere to fill a local shortage in that area of employment?

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 2026:

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

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

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

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SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies : Reg. Charity No. 1087748 : Company Reg. No. 4191740

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Andy Kerridge, Jean Licence, Kevin Pulford, Garry Pyett, Brian Thompson

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Chair:	Andy Kerridge 8 Wyvern Close, Broughton Astley, Leicester, LE9 6NH Tel: 07858 775171 e-mail: chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk
Vice Chair:	Post currently vacant
Membership Secretary:	David Horton 26 The Crescent, Slough, SL1 2LQ Tel: 01753 537673 e-mail: membership@suffolkfhs.org.uk
Publicity Officer:	TBA e-mail: publicity@suffolkfhs.org.uk
Secretary:	Carolyn Alderson c/o 2 Stone Street, Crowfield, Ipswich, IP6 9TA e-mail: secretary@suffolkfhs.org.uk
Treasurer:	Carolyn Alderson c/o 2 Stone Street, Crowfield, Ipswich, IP6 9TA e-mail: treasurer@suffolkfhs.org.uk
Editors <i>Suffolk Roots:</i>	Co-editors Lesley Hall and Rob Ward can be contacted by e-mail Tel: 01276 679747 e-mail: editor@suffolkfhs.org.uk

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

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

GROUP CONTACTS FOR 2026

Haverhill:

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

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

Tel: 01440 712652

e-mail: haverhill@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Ipswich:

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

Contact – Chair: Howard King, 11 Bodiam Road, Ipswich, IP3 8QP

Tel: 01473 274300

e-mail: ipswich@suffolkfhs.org.uk

The post of Ipswich Group Secretary is currently vacant. If you would like to apply or find out more about the role, then please e-mail Howard King.

Lowestoft:

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

Contact – Chair: Janis Kirby

e-mail: lowestoft@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Sudbury & District:

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

Contact – Chair: Sheila Piper

e-mail: sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Bury St Edmunds:

This group meets at: The Church of Latter Day Saints, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7DZ.

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

Contact – Chair

e-mail: chair@suffolkfhs.org.uk

West of London:

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

SFHS DATA CO-ORDINATORS AND SEARCH SERVICES

BAPTISMS

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

BURIALS

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

MARRIAGES

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

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

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

SFHS LIBRARY

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

Webmaster <i>webmaster@suffolkfhs.org.uk</i>	Joe Bridgwater-Rowe Website: <i>www.suffolkfhs.co.uk</i>	Contact by e-mail
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All the above-named are volunteers. Please allow adequate time for research and delivery. To avoid any delay if you are paying by PayPal via the Shop, please be sure to state clearly for which service you are making payment.

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Mr Derek Wright : Mrs Ann Youngs

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

SFHS PUBLICATIONS

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

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

A full list is available from the Shop on the Society's website
www.suffolkfhs.org.uk
or please request a list (post free) from Jean Licence (see below)

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