

Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group NEWSLETTER

Website: <http://aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net/>

Issue no 23

Jan/Mar 2014

RECORD OFFICE MOVE PUT ON HOLD

Plans to bring Suffolk's historical records together in one, purpose-built, facility have been put on hold. The proposals, which would have seen records stored in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft brought together under one roof with sufficient storage space for the next 25 years, will now be reconsidered. This means that the existing records offices in the three

towns will remain open. It follows a 14 month period of investigation and consultation with local organisations.

Suffolk's Record Office collects, preserves and provides access to the past and present history of Suffolk's communities, organisations, individuals and families for present and future generations. These records cover the 12th – 21st century, are

unique, and part of local and national heritage. The Suffolk Record Office is currently rated 4 Star by the National Archive and with 30,000 visitors each year, is one of the most popular in the country.

In late spring 2014, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet will consider recommendations to provide interim storage space.

MICHAEL NEUBERGER

It was with great sadness that we heard of the untimely death of Michael Neuberger on 26 October. Those of us who were involved with the recording of the monumental inscriptions on the gravestones at the Aldringham burial ground in 2012 will remember with affection the day when Michael and his family welcomed us into their home, the Oratory (the ex-chapel), put up with our muddy boots, fed us coffee and cakes, and let us use the loo. When he knew he had terminal cancer Michael

expressed the desire to be buried near the Oratory – a site with which

he felt great affinity. It is lovely to know that he finally had his wish, and he is now at rest in the Aldringham burial ground (see below). Michael was one of the most brilliant molecular immunologists of his generation: it is ironic that he died of the antibodies that he was researching. With typical humour, Michael himself wrote, "So after 35 years of tormenting antibodies in the lab, they are now getting their own back on me in the clinic."

But to us, he was not so much an eminent scientist but a kind and friendly man who was unassuming, helpful and caring. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, Gill, and their four children.



Michael Neuberger (left) and John Peters



WE HAVE A NEW SECRETARY

Sadly we report on the resignation of David McFarlane as our Secretary. We will miss his professional contributions. In the interim period, we are grateful to Angela Skelcher who has agreed to take over the duties of secretary pro tem.

Her contact details are:
a_skelcher@hotmail.com
1 Orchard Road
Leiston
Suffolk IP16 4DB
01728 830949

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 14 April at 7.30pm at the Leiston Community Centre. Only paid-up members may vote. Any proposed amendments to the Rules must be supported by at least three members and submitted to Angela Skelcher by 3 March.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY WANTED

Rona Newson has been arranging speakers for our monthly meetings since the Group's inception in 2008. She now wants to hand over the job, and Angela Skelcher has agreed to take it on in the short term, until we can find someone else. Can you help?

* * * * *

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Just a reminder that your membership of the Group was due for renewal on 1st January, and that the renewal fees are still £6 for an individual and £10 per household. Many thanks to those members who have already renewed, and a plea for those who haven't yet done so to complete the form attached to the newsletter's covering email and return it with your cheque to Roger Baskett at the address on the form. If you find it easier to pay by standing order, the Group's bank details are also on the form.

OUR VERY OWN RONA NEWSON (née HART)

Most of us knew that Rona was a dancer in her youth, but did you know that a celebration of her life and work is on display at Burgh House and Hampstead Museum until 2 March 2014? A beautiful collection of images, artifacts and film of the life and work of the founder of the Rona Hart School of Dance, Rona tells the story of her fascinating life, her well known devotion to dance and the founding of her historic school in 1946.

Well done Rona!

<http://www.ronahart.co.uk/the-rona-hart-exhibition/>

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NEW VENUE – DON'T FORGET !

We're moving from Saxmundham. Our monthly meetings will in future be held at Leiston Community Centre, King George's Avenue, IP16 4JX (between the Crown Public House and the Fire Station).

OPEN DAY

The Group's Annual Open Day will be held on Saturday 25 January 11am - 4pm at the Long Shop Museum, Leiston.

A variety of exhibits will be on show, including local graveyard surveys, directories, parish registers, census returns, and a special display about the Leiston Great War Centenary Memorial Book Project.

Have you got any old family photos which you can't put a date to? Bring them along and let our expert advise you.

Light refreshments available.

Do come and support the Group, and see what some of our members have been doing.



Janet Huckle dating old photographs at last year's Open Day

LEISTON MEMORIAL BOOK 1914-1918

Most people are aware that 2014 marks the centenary of our involvement in the First World War when Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914. Servicemen from Suffolk were called upon to fight with the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) in Europe and in other places around the world. Very many men of Leiston responded to the call, and sadly, very many died 'For King and Country'.

Great losses befell the Leiston men of H Company, the 4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment early on in the war at the battle of Neuve Chapelle 10th-12th March 1915. Further Leiston losses occurred on land, sea and air throughout the war.

To honour these men one hundred years after the sacrifice they made in going to war, a Memorial Book is to be produced. Roger Baskett and Diana Mann, members of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History

Group, have been attending meetings at the Long Shop Museum to help with the organisation of events to be held in Leiston to commemorate the centenary of the start of the war. The Memorial Book is in the process of being produced by Roger and Diana. It was decided that, although dedicated to all the men of Leiston who lost their lives in the war, it would feature details concerning the 122 men whose names appear on the wall of the Leiston Cemetery War Memorial Chapel. The names of some Leiston men who died are on several different memorials, including the war memorial at St. Margaret's Church, a plaque inside the church, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and the Leiston Roll of Honour. Discrepancies, mainly in the initials or forenames of servicemen, have been found on these various memorials, and this influenced our decision to focus on the Leiston Cemetery War Memorial

Chapel.

Our research into the all-too-brief lives of these men is almost complete. One side of a page in the book will be devoted to details regarding the life of each man. The page layout has been designed with a poppy motif border appropriate to the style being used during the period of the First World War. Likewise, the information concerning each individual is to be printed using a typeface similar to those of the era.

We hope to publish the Memorial Book in two sizes. An A4 size copy will be distributed to local official bodies e.g. the Town Council and Leiston St. Margaret's Church, and an A5 copy which will be for sale to the general public. Publication is dependent on receipt of a Heritage Lottery Grant, but we hope, all being well, that the book will be available by the anniversary date of the war on 4th August 2014.

We really need further information about a number of these men:

WALTER CUTHBERT b.1882 Stratford St. Andrew d.1917 - Military details needed

STEPHEN GARRETT b.1879 Aldringham d.1915 - Not found on 1891 Census

E SNELL born Barking lodging in Leiston in 1911, no further details



The following names appear to have no connection with Leiston. If you are able to shed any light on why they appear on the Leiston Memorial please let us know:

LEONARD WALTER ERNEST BALDRY b.1897 Ipswich d.1917

GEORGE WILLIAM BUCKLES b.1886 Wickham Market d.1915

CHARLES CABLE b.1899 Benhall d.1917

RUFUS CHARLES DAY b.1896 Wenham d.1917

JAMES DOCKING b.1874 Castle Acre, Norfolk d.1916. Occupation Police Constable. Enlisted Saxmundham.

WILLIAM ELLIS 2 options for this man, no connection to Leiston for either:

1. b.1890 Nottingham d.1917. Suffolk Regiment

2. b.1863 Orford d.1915. Royal Horse Artillery

PERCY ARTHUR EMMERSON b.1900 Kelsale d.1918

ERNEST FREDERICK HONE b.1885 Kentish Town, London d.1915

H.KAY Believed to be Herbert Nelson Kay born Needham Norfolk

JAMES SAMUEL MARKHAM born at Iken

ALLEN CHARLES SMITH born at Bramfield, served in RN

FREDERICK JOHN SMITH born Peasenhall

LOUIS WILLIAM WOODARD born Saxmundham

Roger Baskett roger.2baskett@btinternet.com 01728 831782

Diana Mann diandhenry2@yahoo.co.uk 01728 660527

Volunteers Needed!

It's that time again!! WDYTIA?LIVE 2014 will soon be upon us and once again I am looking for willing volunteers to assist on the FFHS stand.

You will need to feel confident answering general family history enquiries from members of the public, be prepared to distribute 'our really useful information leaflet' and generally help to promote the work of our member societies. If you have helped before and would like to again or if this is going to be your first visit to the show and you would like to be involved, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

We have a limited number of free passes to the show and whilst I will endeavour to accommodate all who offer their services for specific days/times I can't promise!

I usually rota two hour slots and need to cover the show from Thursday February 20th - Saturday February 22nd.

If you would like to help, please email me by Friday January 31st and let me know what day/s you will be available and between what times.

The show opening hours are as follows:

Thursday 20 Feb 9.30am - 5.30pm
Friday 21 Feb 9.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 22 Feb 9.30am - 5.30pm

I look forward to hearing from you

Philippa McCray
Administrator
Federation of Family History Societies
PO Box 8857
Lutterworth
LE17 9BJ
Tel: 01455 203133
Email:admin@ffhs.org.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

World War Centenary Quilt

I thought you may be interested in a project I have launched for the First World War Centenary. This is something I have done as Philippa as opposed to Administrator of the FFHS!

I wanted to do something to :

- Raise money for two very worthy causes
- Commemorate the First World War
- Unite the family history community

The aim is to produce a quilt made up of squares embroidered with the names of your ancestors or those in your local community who gave their lives.

I have set up a web-page which explains the project:

<http://www.spanglefish.com/firstworldwarcentenaryquilt/index.asp>

I'm not on Facebook as me but I have set up a page for the quilt:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/WW1-Centenary-Quilt/637161519681055>

Maybe if you are on Facebook you will take a look and if you think it's a good idea 'like' it and spread the word!

Best wishes

Philippa

ww1centenaryquilt@btinternet.com

The Webbs and Branches of Woodbridge

My great-grandfather, George Branch, was born in Woodbridge on 20th April, 1826. His father was John Branch, a mariner, and his mother Anne Webb. His parents were married on 6th May, 1822 and he had siblings Marian, Hannah and John. His mother died and his father remarried a widow, Mary Pratt, on 30th June, 1834. I found a death for an Ann Branch in the Woodbridge Parish Registers on 27th November, 1830, aged 31 years but the husband is shown as Robert – however, he is a mariner and, as I can find no Robert of suitable age, I am wondering if the minister made a mistake in recording the name.

I have also researched the Webb family and, although I have not proved it, there was an Anne Webb baptised on 23rd January, 1800, born to James Webb and Anne Brame (a close age to Ann above) – their second child was Mary baptised on 29th December, 1802, and a Mary Webb was witness at John and Anne's marriage – the Webbs also had a daughter, Hannah. I have also found a William and Ann Branch married in Hollesley with a son, John, born 23rd April, 1797 (possibly mine) and a son, George, born 8th May, 1804. With Anne, Mary and Hannah in the Webb family and John and George in the Branch family, it would seem possible

we have the naming in my Branch family – supposition I know but I have kept notes of these in case. In the 1841 Census George and Marian are not listed with my family but William and Ann Branch (possible grandparents) have Mary Ann Branch 20 years listed with them. I have also found a possible marriage for sister, Marian, to a George Kersey in Ipswich on 16th July, 1844.

George Branch came to Australia but I have not been able to find when – although I think he may have come out as a sailor. From his death certificate, it would appear he came here some time in the 1850's – he married my great-grandmother in 1866 and he was listed as a miner then. He later went into the tannery business and that was listed as his trade on his death certificate.

I am coming to the U.K. this year and hope to visit Woodbridge in July (dates as yet not set). Whilst I would like to prove some of the above information, I'm not expecting there to be any descendants to help me. I would, however, like to visit the cemetery and places where they lived. If anyone in your society could assist me, I would greatly appreciate it.

Yvonne Davidson (Mrs.)
yvonne_davidson@bigpond.com

AVSFHG Newsletter 23, Jan 2014

Ancestry special offer

Tickets for Who Do You Think You Are? Live

2 tickets for £24 (quote code
ANC24)

1 ticket for £14 (quote ANC14)
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/wdytya>
£2.25 transaction fee.

Expires 19.02.2014

Price on the door will be £22 per
ticket.

GENUKI - UK & Ireland

Genealogy Information Service

GENUKI (www.genuki.org.uk) made its public debut in March 1995; just some 4½ years after the inauguration of the WWW, and by its 10th anniversary in 2005 it comprised some 55,000 pages, and was at that time not only the oldest but the largest general genealogical site devoted to the British Isles. Now, in December 2013, GENUKI comprises 104,940 pages, containing some 4 Gb of data covering nearly 24,000 towns and parishes. The purpose of GENUKI is to provide a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. It is a free-to-use, non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and supported by a group of volunteers. The computer resources required to provide this service are kindly provided by a number of UK universities, e.g. the www.genuki.org.uk pages are hosted at Manchester University.

Regional Page Links

- [UK and Ireland](#)
- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Ireland](#)
- [Isle of Man](#)
- [Channel Islands](#)

Technical Links

- [Referring to GENUKI](#)
- [For potential contributors](#)
- [For maintainers](#)



Quick Links

- [Contents and Site Map](#)
- [Search GENUKI](#)
- [Gazetteer](#)
- [Church database](#)
- [Societies](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Guidance for first-time users](#)
- [Getting started in genealogy](#)
- [Genealogical events](#)
- [Who are we?](#)
- [GENUKI service status](#)

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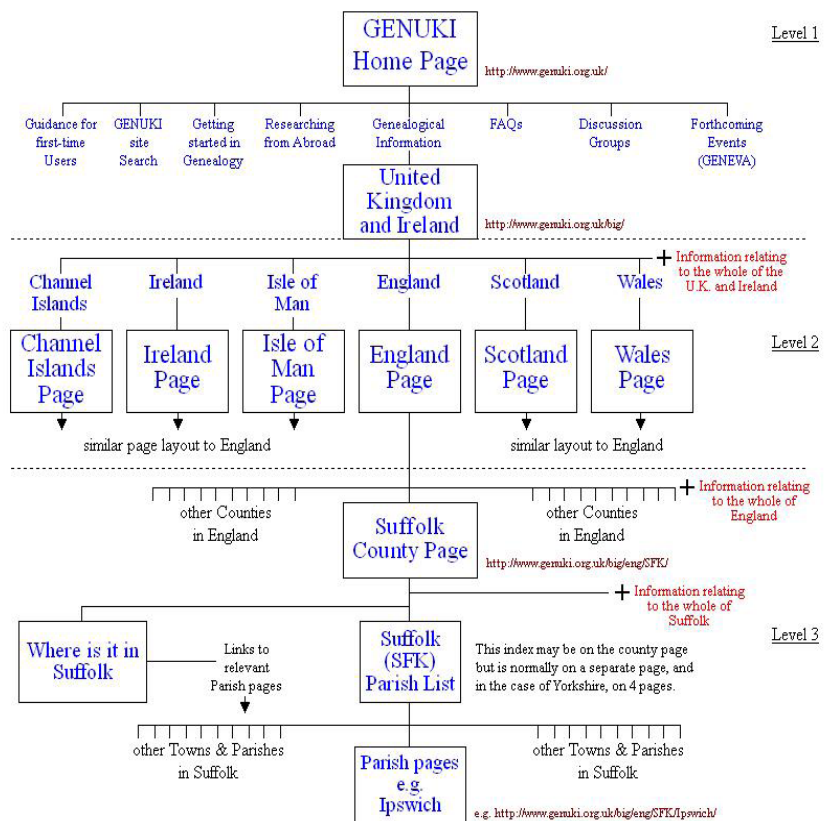
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The GENUKI Home Page leads to individual pages for England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Below each of these country pages are pages for individual counties, towns and parishes (the structure is based in general on the “historic counties and parishes” of the mid-19th century), although not every parish yet has a page of its own. On each of these pages, after a brief geographic and historic description, and (usually) a map, individual links for the county, parish or town are grouped under a strictly defined set of subject headings that are consistent across GENUKI. What the user can usually expect to find on each page are details of record offices and libraries (under Archives and Libraries); information about parish registers (under Church Records); links to family history and other relevant societies in the area (under Societies); online map collections (under Maps) and photographs (under Description and Travel). Where possible, the Church Database is used to auto-fill pages with information on churches, church records, graveyards and cemeteries. The church database can also be searched directly, and is one of a number of areas where users can usefully contribute valuable local knowledge. On many pages the links to maps and photographs are also auto-filled. GENUKI SFK (www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/SFK/) is a typical example. The general structure of GENUKI is shown here:

(continued overleaf)



Search Facility

A wide-ranging search facility lets the user search the contents of all the GENUKI pages and more - the search database includes pages from the websites of the National Archives, the Society of Genealogists and the Federation of Family History Societies. It also includes all the majority of Family History Society and County Surname Interest List sites. Although in some cases GENUKI does have some primary records containing personal names and information, the majority of the information in GENUKI is there to help indicate what information is available for particular places, and identify where to obtain it.

Gazetteers

GENUKI provides an extremely valuable feature in the Gazetteer, which can be searched from the Home Page and other pages. The Gazetteer covers the whole of England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. There is good coverage of place names in England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. Information for Ireland though is not as complete as desired, and unfortunately there is little or no information for the Channel Islands. The gazetteer can be used to find places, their location, and to view online maps.

The user can choose to show the search results in the form of:

- Places plotted on a map - a Google map is displayed with all the places matching the search criteria marked upon it. A list of the matches, ordered by county, appears on the right. The user can click these to get to the GENUKI page covering that area.
- A tabular list ordered by county - The tabular list provides links to:
 - The appropriate GENUKI county page.
 - A page of information generated dynamically from gazetteer-based information, showing its physical location on a map with links to various other online maps etc.
 - The GENUKI page containing information about that place and useful genealogical resources for it.
- A list of nearby places - If more than one match is made, the user is presented with a list of places ordered by distance from London, England; or, if the user has restricted searches to an individual county, from the county town. If there is only one match, or once the user has selected from the list, a page is displayed showing its location, and also a list of all the nearby places in the gazetteer.

Church Database

The GENUKI church database originated as one containing the approximate location of the parishes that existed around 1837 ("the historic parishes"). Since then the database has had further fields added to contain additional information, many more churches have been added (in some areas), and more precise locations have been added where known. (In most cases the original church locations were given as the corner of the nearest Km square on the relevant Ordnance Survey map. Some have now been updated to the more precise 1/10 Km location, but the majority have not).

It should be noted that the term church is used to refer to all places of worship and graveyards for convenience, as there is no simple word which encompasses them all. However for individual churches the term is generally avoided where it is not appropriate for a particular denomination. The term church is also used in the context of the congregation meeting at a particular place, rather than referring to an individual building. The records that are of interest exist as a result of a group of people worshipping together and the registers reflect that rather than the physical building. So any founding and closing dates that are given refer to the congregation rather than to a particular building.

(continued overleaf)

Subject Headings

The set of subject headings used includes all those found in the sections of the Family History Library Catalogue relating to the various major regions within the British Isles. (Following the practice in the Library's Research Guides, a few "see under" entries are included to allow for differences in terminology on the two sides of the Atlantic.) Most of these entries are believed to be self-explanatory. However, if in doubt about the typical usage of a particular subject heading it is worth checking how it is used in the Family History Library Catalogue.

The subject headings available are (although of course not all are used on any one page):

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Almanacs | Handwriting | Occupations |
| Archives and Libraries | Heraldry | Officials and Employees |
| Bibliography | Historical Geography | Orphans and Orphanages |
| Biography | History | Parish Registers |
| Business and Commerce | Inventories, Registers, | - <i>see Church Records</i> |
| Records | Catalogues | Pensions |
| Cemeteries | Jewish History | Periodicals |
| Census | Jewish Records | Politics and Government |
| Chronology | Land and Property | Poorhouses, Poor Law, |
| Church Directories | Language and Languages | etc. |
| Church History | Law and Legislation | Population |
| Church Records | Manors | Postal and Shipping |
| Civil Registration | Maps | Guides |
| Colonization | Medical Records | Probate Records |
| Correctional Institutions | Merchant Marine | Public Records |
| Court Records | Migration, Internal | Religion and Religious |
| Description and Travel | Military History | Life |
| Directories | Military Records | Schools |
| Dwellings | Minorities | Social Life and Customs |
| Emigration and | Monumental Inscriptions | Societies |
| Immigration | - <i>see Cemeteries</i> | Statistics |
| Encyclopaedias and | Names, Geographical | Taxation |
| Dictionaries | Names, Personal | Town Records |
| Ethnology | Naturalization and | Visitations, Heraldic |
| Folklore | Citizenship | Vital Records |
| Gazetteers | Newspapers | - <i>see Civil Registration</i> |
| Genealogy | Nobility | Voting Registers |
| Guardianship | Obituaries | Yearbooks |

Find Help, Report Problems, Contribute Information

At the foot of each page is a contact box that allows the user to find help, report problems, and contribute information. It should be stressed that this is not intended for general family history enquiries, for which the relevant message forums, newsletters and mailing lists are more relevant. Information on such facilities can be found under the "Genealogy" heading on the British Isles, country and county pages.

The Spider

Finally, let's not forget the Spider, running tirelessly in the background, automatically analysing the pages hosted at www.genuki.org and producing performance statistics, detecting broken links and facilitating indexing. This information is primarily used by the many GENUKI volunteers to assist in managing their pages.

In Conclusion

If you haven't used GENUKI before, do give it a try and browse the pages, you never know what you might find. With its wide coverage of the British Isles, consistent structure and many thousands of links, for those with British or Irish ancestry GENUKI is extremely valuable for finding genealogical information on the web.

David McFarlane
GENUKI SFK

With acknowledgements to Phil Stringer and Peter Christian, Trustees of the Charitable Trust GENUKI

SNIPPETS FROM THE INTERNET

From the National Archives

The National Archives has launched a First World War Portal*, bringing together all of The National Archives' First World War resources in a single place. It has just made thousands of digitised First World War unit war diaries from France and Flanders available online. The unit war diaries are among the most popular records from the First World War collection (file series WO 95) and the first in a series of First World War records to be digitised as part of the centenary programme.

<http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>

The National Archives' November 2013 newsletter includes articles on medal card indexes (WO 372), prisoner of war interviews 1914-1918 (WO 161), RAF Officers' service records (AIR 76), service and pension records 1914-1920 (WO 363 & WO 364 respectively), Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WO 398), and British Army Nurses (WO 399).

<http://enews.nationalarchives.gov.uk/MAN-1Y772-083BPBJ129/cr.aspx>

* Searching the records is free but a small charge applies to download digital copies.

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Scottish burial grounds

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies has produced a list of 3,500 burial grounds in Scotland ordered by county and parish - if you're trying to figure out where your Scottish ancestors were buried it's a great place to start, although there's not a lot of information about the individual burial grounds (and no names).

© <http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/latenov13news.htm>

Jamaican genealogy site is now completely free

The website Jamaican Family Search is now completely free - previously some records were chargeable. If you have family connections with the island it's an excellent place to start your research.

<http://jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>

© <http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/dec13news.htm>

DON'T FORGET....

Ancestry and FindMyPast are free to use at Suffolk Libraries

1901 Channel Islands Census

Ancestry.co.uk has recently added the Channel Islands Census for 1901 to its online collection.

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=7816>

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Date Calculator

Want to know what day of the week an event occurred? This website will work it out for you:

<http://calendarhome.com/calculate/day-of-week>

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WW1 Trench Maps

The McMaster University of Canada has an online collection of WW1 trench maps and aerial photographs:

<http://repository.mcmaster.ca/fedora/repository/macrepo%3A49/-/collection>

FFHS Ezine Nov 2013

Irish probate records free online

For some time the National Archives of Ireland has had online images and transcriptions of the 1901 and 1911 Censuses of Ireland, but not everybody is aware that there are several other key datasets available online, including probate calendars. These cover the whole of Ireland from 1858-1920, and the Republic of Ireland from 1923-1982.

You can search the 1858-1920 records by executor/beneficiary as well as by the name of the deceased.

© <http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/newyear14news.htm>

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Norfolk Register of Electors at FamilySearch

FamilySearch have recently uploaded millions of electoral records for Norfolk covering the period 1844-1952.

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1824705>

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Historical Maps and Writings

Search by placename to view historical statistics, maps, writings and more...

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

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RNVR Medals

Genes Reunited have added Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Medal Roll 1914-1920. You can search this for absolutely free, in 'Armed Forces & Conflict'.

<http://www.genesreunited.co.uk>

THE HERRING GIRLS

Every autumn for 100 years, an army of Scotswomen invaded the fishing communities of East Anglia. Known as herring girls or fisher girls, the women from the Western Isles, Shetland and eastern Scotland travelled along the British coast working as gutters and packers. Each September from the mid-1800s they descended on the ports of Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft for around 12 weeks at a time. While many women in this era were tied to their communities, the herring girls followed the fishing fleet in search of work, often leaving young children at home to do so.

"The girls had to work in the open with the haar coming off the river, the icy sleet coming in off the North Sea, fog rolling in and gales of wind", Barbara Buchan of the Fraserburgh Heritage Society recalls, "It happened to a lot of families because it was the only way they could earn a living, especially during the lean years in the '20s and '30s. It was sometimes the woman gutting that put the food on the table".

When Great Yarmouth's herring industry was at its peak in the early 1900s, 10,000 seasonal workers were welcomed into the town - of that number 5,000 were Scotswomen. As the East Anglian herring season began, several trains a day would leave Scotland for the ports with upwards of 100 fish workers on board each one. Eighty-one-year-old Ethel Reid, a former gutter, first made the long journey south in the 1950s. "There was a special train left Fraserburgh [in North East Scotland] and it picked up people all the way down to Yarmouth and Lowestoft," she says.

When the women arrived at their destinations they were committed to working long, uncomfortable hours, often from 7am until 9pm, or whenever the day's catch had been dealt with. Barbara Buchan travelled

with her mother and recalls the quayside settings, "It was much harder work in Yarmouth and Lowestoft because it was autumn and into winter. Down south the curing yards weren't covered. They had no protection overhead so [the girls] had to work in the open with the haar coming off the river, the icy sleet coming in off the North Sea, fog rolling in and gales of wind. Sometimes the women would actually faint with the cold."

The women worked in crews of three. Two gutted the herrings while the third packed the fish into barrels. Dressed in their trademark uniform of floral pinafore, long rubber apron and rubber boots, the gutters had to wrap their fingers with cloth, or 'cloots', and tie them with string for protection against their sharp knives. Dr Gillian Munro researched the herring girls for the School of Scottish Studies. "Some [women] claimed that they could gut a fish a second," she says. "Round about them would be men - coopers and lads that would be taking away the barrels and bringing new ones. You can imagine the noise of the seagulls and the smell and the fun and banter that they would have with the men." Singing kept their spirits up. "Some of the women would be singing hymns, other folk would be singing common songs of the time," says Dr Munro. "The girls from the west coast, Gaelic speakers, would be singing religious songs and other Gaelic songs."

Working alongside the gutters was the packer, the third member of the crew. It was her job to fill barrels with the gutted fish. Each barrel would hold 700-1000 herrings. Presentation was important and a barrel filled incorrectly would lose the women money. [The packer] would pick the best of the herring and she would pack the first tier on the bottom of the barrel, says Barbara Buchan. "Each tier was packed in a different direction

so that it formed a spiral and there was rough salt spread on each tier," she says. Former gutter Margaret Strachan recalls her own crew: "One day we were busy the whole day and [filled] 110 barrels. Now, we were slow because we were only learners so you can imagine what some of them had [it could have been] 130 barrels".

The Scots herring girls began working in East Anglia in the mid-1800s. While in England, the women lodged in guesthouses, where they were welcomed by local landladies, according to Lowestoft historian and author Ian Robb. "A lot of houses in Yarmouth and Lowestoft were also boarding houses, and to make ends meet, certainly during the depression in the '30s and after the war, a little bit of extra pocket money came in very handy." But the nature of the women's work meant they were treated differently to other guests. "They stuck them in separate rooms away from everybody else," says Ian Robb. "They had to leave all their boots and their clothing outside. Herring processing is very messy and very smelly."

The herring boom days peaked before the First World War, but the girls continued to find work in the town until the 1960s. However, dwindling stocks meant that they increasingly found themselves without much gutting to do. Margaret Strachan remembers, "We'd been in Lowestoft and sitting in the Denes for two or three days without any herring [landings]. It just grew scarce and it wasn't worth going."

It is now over 50 years since the mass migration of herring girls to England ended but they are remembered with affection in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, according to Ian Robb. "Elderly women remember their parents and their grandparents boarding the Scots girls. There are a lot of fond memories."

SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE EVENTS

Life and Times of the High Street - Ivan Bunn £5.00

Sunday 11 May 11.00am Lowestoft

A walking exploration of Lowestoft's ancient High Street, the buildings and its occupants. For joining instructions book at Lowestoft Record Office.

The Growth of Modern Kirkley - Ivan Bunn £5.00

Sunday 20 July 11.00am Lowestoft

Explore the growth of modern Kirkley from the early nineteenth century by enjoying this circular summertime walk. For joining instructions book at Lowestoft Record Office.

What's in a Surname? - Charlie Haylock £5.50

Saturday 1 February 10.30am Ipswich

Saturday 8 February 10.30am Lowestoft

Charlie will give a very informative and highly entertaining talk about the sort of names we had prior to 1066 AD. How and why surnames evolved after the Norman Conquest, and the disruption it caused. He will then enlighten us on the four different types of surnames, and give us their meanings and why some surnames are peculiarly Suffolk.

Caring for Suffolk's Poor Part 2: Incorporations and Unions - Ray Whitehand £5.50

Saturday 26 April 10.30am Ipswich

Ray gives an insight into the large incorporation workhouses which first appeared in the Suffolk countryside between 1750-1780, exclusively in East Suffolk. Then, after the New Poor Law Amendment Act, the Union houses, which covered the whole county, variously up to 1930. As well as the facts and figures such as location, parishes covered, periods of operation and capacity, he identifies the type of information found in surviving material.

Introduction to Suffolk Record Office - Louise Kennedy

Friday 2 May 10.00am Ipswich

Through this talk you will be introduced to the work of Suffolk Record Office and the origins of the Ipswich collections. Knowledgeable staff will walk you through the searchroom and give you a guided tour of the strongroom. You will have the opportunity to look through specially selected archives. £5.50

Who Lived in Your House? Getting Started £10.00

This two hour session uses a variety of maps (tithe, enclosure and district valuation), tax returns, censuses and directories to help you find out the social history of your property back to 1800.

Wednesday 5 February 2014 2.00pm Lowestoft

Thursday 27 March 2014 2.00pm Ipswich

Thursday 15 May 2014 2.00pm Ipswich

Introduction to family history - 5 weeks £27.50

Tutored by Record Office staff

Starts: Monday 20 January at 10.00am Lowestoft

Starts: Tuesday 18 March at 10.00am Ipswich

Find out about tracing your family through civil registration, census, parish registers, wills and probate records, school records and Poor Law documents. This course provides everything to get you started on your research and will include access to primary sources as well as the internet.

Introduction to Local History - 5 weeks £27.50

Tutored by Record Office staff

Starts: Monday 3 March at 10.00am Lowestoft

A new five week course using original archives and local studies resources as examples, as well as online resources. The two hour sessions will look at maps, census, newspapers, photographs and house history to give a flavour of exploring the history of a local village or area.

On-line sources for family history £5.00

Tuesday 8 April 5.30pm Lowestoft

A new one hour taster session introducing Ancestry and Find my Past.

Military ancestors on-line £5.00

Tuesday 20 May 5.30pm Lowestoft

A new one hour taster session looking at on-line sources for Military records including WW1 information.

East Anglian Villages Film Show Free

Wednesday 12 March at 2.00pm Lowestoft

From Blundeston to Griston and Yoxford, drawing on a series of documentaries made by Jean Goodman for BBC East in the 1970s.

Natural History Film Show Free

Friday 11 April 10.00am Ipswich

This short film show includes clips of Broadland throughout the seasons, the challenges of farming the marshes, bird and insect life, samphire picking, John Barnes the eel catcher, Kenzie the wild goose man and Ted Ellis one of Suffolk's well known naturalists.

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If you would like to book a place on any of these courses, talks or workshops please contact the relevant branch.

I have not included all events, nor any at Bury: see the full list on <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/libraries-and-culture/culture-and-heritage/suffolk-record-office/events/>

Telephones: Ipswich 01473 263910

Lowestoft: 01502 674680

Bury: 01284 741202

Grave Symbols

Graveyards are full of secrets and symbolism which can especially be seen on the grave statues and epitaphs on tombs. Have you ever wondered what an angel with a sword means or what a rose represents about the deceased? Here's a guide to what certain symbols in the graveyard signify and what they reveal about your relatives from the past.

Lambs: Children. A lamb or hummingbird on a graveyard denotes a child whilst a vacant chair depicts the loss of a child. Hummingbirds and empty chairs also signifies the death of a child.

Owl: Wisdom and watchfulness. In ancient Greece, the Owl was often associated with Athena, goddess of wisdom and it's become a symbol of status, intelligence and wealth.

Rabbit: Humility, gentleness and self-sacrifice. Rabbits tend to be seen as gentle and not self-assertive. The symbol of the rabbit is strongly tied to the cycle of life, fertility, death, and resurrection.

Ox: Patience and strength. In ancient times the ox was a sacrificial animal and it has become a symbol of patience and strength. In early Christian writings the ox is accepted as a symbol of Christ, the true sacrifice and is often seen on gravestones to represent this religious meaning.

Lion: Strength. As well as strength the lion is seen as an icon of self-control, nobility, fairness, courage and patience. Lions tend to be charismatic, prideful, protective, and peaceful creatures so one marked on a grave is a true compliment to the deceased.

Dog: Loyalty, fidelity, watchfulness and vigilance. The dog has long been known as man's best friend and the animal denotes companionship, loyalty and protection.

Butterfly: Short life. The butterfly symbolises the soul leaving the body and also represents a short life.

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October 2013

British Newspaper Library on the move

For 82 years the British Newspaper Library has had its home at Colindale in north London. On November 8 the Colindale repository was closed and a six month project is now underway to relocate 750 million pages of print to the Library's new state of the art home in Boston Spa, Yorkshire. The new home of the Library will consist of a low temperature and low oxygen environment to prevent fire and preserve the life of the increasingly fragile newsprint. Currently, some 15% of the collection is in too poor a condition to be viewed by the public.

Once the library has been fully relocated, the public will be able to order newspapers from Boston Spa to be delivered to a new reading room in St Pancras. The retrieval process will be undertaken by robotic cranes which will obtain the newspapers from the shelves and these will then be delivered to St Pancras within 48 hours. A short video about the changes including the new robotic cranes can be viewed on the BBC website:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-25041871>

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FACHRS

Welcome to the Family and Community Historical Research Society.

Explore this domain that embraces research topics such as Victorian social history, migration, Victorian social classes & history, local history projects, research projects for pre-Victorian England, plus many more aspects of UK 18th, 19th & 20th century family & community history research. There is also a members' area open to members only. <http://www.fachrs.com>

New Year Traditions

New Year's Day is perhaps one of the oldest feast days on record and Babylonians are thought to have been the first to make New Year Resolutions. *Tacitus* mentions New Year in the first century but it is first referred to as a Christian festival around 567AD. In Rome, it was dedicated to *Janus* and all grudges and hard feelings would be forgotten along with sacrifices of cakes, wine and incense. It is also known as *Sylvester's Eve*, named after the Pope who died on 31 December, a date which since the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, has coincided with New Year's Eve. Several countries such as Austria, Germany, Italy and Poland use a variant of Sylvester's name as the preferred name for New Year's Eve. Of course, in Scotland, it is known as Hogmanay.

One of the most famous traditions in the United States is the dropping of the New Year ball in Times Square. Perhaps the most well-known tradition around the UK is the singing of Auld Lang Syne. Thought to have been written by Scottish poet Robert Burns around 1788, there are some lyrics which appear to have been taken from an earlier poem, 'Old Long Syne' written by James Watson. Set to an old Scottish folk tune, it fast became traditional throughout Scotland and the rest of the British Isles and as people emigrated they took the tradition with them.

FFHS Ezine Dec 2013

JOINING THE GROUP

If you would like to join the Group please contact Roger Baskett on roger.2baskett@btinternet.com or 01728 831782 for an Application Form, or print an Application Form from <http://aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net/>.

Annual Membership Fees:

£6 Single, £10 Household.

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Raymond Green John Peters
Christine Hayward Di Mann

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO NOTE:

Our meetings from February 2014 will be held at Leiston Community Centre. It is best to confirm with Nigel Turner on 01502 718019 before travelling any distance just in case there are last minute changes. Visitors are very welcome. The admission fee is £1-50 for members and £2-50 for non-members, tea, coffee, and biscuits included. Experienced family history researchers are at most meetings to help you with your research.

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| Sat 25 Jan 2014 | Family History Open Day 11am - 4pm at Leiston Long Shop |
| Wed 5 Feb 2pm | Committee Meeting, Leiston Research Centre |
| Mon 17 Feb 2014 Basil Jenkyns | "Some Weird and Wonderful East Anglian Churches" at Leiston Community Centre |
| Mon 17 Mar Roy Tricker | "100th Anniversary of St Edmundsbury Cathedral" at Leiston Community Centre |
| Mon 14 April Barrie Skelcher | Annual General Meeting followed by "The History of Money" at Leiston Community Centre |
| Mon 19 May Phil Hadwen | "The Suffolk Suffragettes in Felixstowe" at Leiston Community Centre |
| Mon 16 June Clive Strutt | "50 Years Working in the Media in Suffolk" at Leiston Community Centre |

OUR RESEARCH CENTRE

The research centre has computers, printers, and a scanner at the Council Chambers in Leiston, and is open to members and non-members from 10 -12 noon on the first and third Weds of the month: Feb 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16, May 7 & 21, June 4 & 18. We have local information including graveyard catalogues for Benhall, Saxmundham, Leiston, Eastbridge, Sutton, and Aldringham. We have recently acquired a large number of CDs and microfiches of local interest. Experienced family history researchers will be present to help and give assistance if required. For further details contact a committee member.

The Newsletter is normally circulated by email - it's quicker and easier that way, and of course saves funds. And you get the photos in colour! I send it as a blind copy attachment, so that no-one else can see your email address. If you don't want to receive it by email, just let me know and I'll post our printed edition in the usual way. If, on the other hand, you have received this by post but are happy to have it by email, please email me at the address below. I may also send out interim emails from time to time if there are urgent items. The next Newsletter goes out in early April – any contributions by mid March, please. I'm always looking for articles – please keep them coming!

Maggie Strutt, Editor
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