

Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no 30

Oct/Dec 2015



BARRIE SKELCHER 1932 - 2015

In the last edition of this newsletter, the award of Honorary Membership to Barrie Skelcher was reported. It is now with great sadness that we have to record that Barrie passed away on 1st August. He was suffering from motor neurone disease, and was at home with his family when he died, which is what he wanted.

Barrie was instrumental in forming the group in 2008, and was our Chairman for many years. At his funeral on 24th August several members of the group attended the service along with ex colleagues from the nuclear industry and members of local sailing clubs. I'm sure you'll be pleased to know that our group has donated £25 to each of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, Marie Curie, and St Elizabeth Hospice, in Barrie's memory. We extend our condolences to Barrie's wife Shirley and the rest of the family.

Photo: Barrie photographing the Aldringham Chapel burial ground in 2012

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

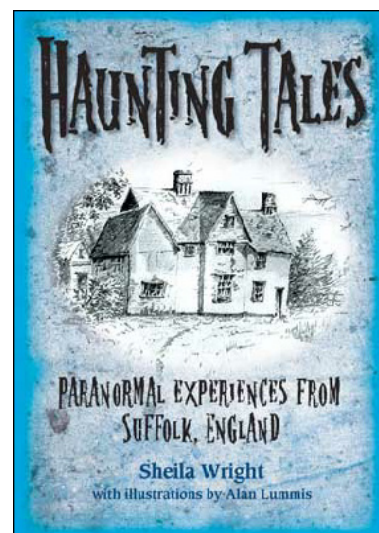
Stradbroke High School,
Sat Oct 24, 10 – 2.30, £21
Tutor: Rosemary Steer

Want to trace your family history, but not sure where to start? Here you will explore key techniques and sources, including those to help you trace a First World War ancestor. You will then work in groups on a real life case study to see how family history research can work in practice. Computers will not be used on this day workshop.

To enrol, contact Sian Hart:
coastalleisurelearning@gmail.com;
01728 833171

GHOSTS AND GHOULS – MYSTERIOUS TALES FROM SUFFOLK AND BEYOND

If you are intrigued by the weird and wonderful, come to our next meeting on 19th October! Sheila Wright will tell stories, contributed by residents of Suffolk, of 'things that go bump in the night', also sightings in broad daylight of folk who inhabited Suffolk villages, woods and fields in bygone centuries. There are out-of-body episodes, messages communicated through dreams or visions – even a few UFOs! Sheila Wright is a retired teacher and mother of seven children who lives with her husband Ron, a retired music teacher, in a pre-Elizabethan Tudor farmhouse. She has written several books, and is a Lay Reader in the Church of England.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are very pleased to report that Pat Carter has agreed to be our archivist in place of Cilla McFarlane. Please contact her if you have any suggestions of what to buy for our Research Centre.

We are also pleased to welcome Kevin Gale, our new webmaster, onto the Committee.

COMMITTEE

Chairman: Vacant

Treasurer:

John Martin 01473 727545
jhm.foxf@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Angela Skelcher 01728 830949
a_skelcher@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary:

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

Archivist:

Pat Carter 01728 831852
pm42carter@gmail.com

Computers:

Terry Davis 01728 830113
bodgers_99@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster:

Kevin Gale 01728 604861
kevin_gale@hotmail.com

Programme:

Angela Skelcher 01728 830949

Newsletter, FFHS, publicity:

Maggie Strutt 01728 602298
maggiestrutt@btinternet.com

Raymond Green

John Last

Di Mann

Rona Newson

Henry Mann

John Peters

Jan Lovell

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members:

Clare Secret of Sternfield

Neil & Chris Palmer of Woodbridge

Janette Robinson of Worlingworth

John Gadsby of Leiston

Bill Hendley of Snape

We now have 82 paid-up members.

* * * * *

PLEA FOR HELP PLEASE

Our recent high attendances at our Monday night meetings has put a great strain on committee members, setting out chairs, washing up etc, and signing in visitors. Could anyone help out, by arriving a bit early and giving a hand, please? Your Committee is actively considering the problem of not having enough chairs for everyone.

I'm always looking for articles, letters and contributions for the newsletter – please keep them coming! [Ed]

FFHS REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION LEAFLET

In August the Federation of Family History Societies published updated editions of their essential resources for genealogy. They are online and you can download them for free.

'Our Really Useful Information Leaflet', is a comprehensive guide to family-history research in the British Isles.
<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/tips/guides.php>

AFTERNOON MEETING IN JANUARY

On Friday 22nd January 2016 the Group will meet at **2.30pm at Kelsale Village Hall**, Bridge Street, Kelsale, IP17 2PB. This afternoon meeting is an experimental new venture: if it proves popular we may have more afternoon meetings the following winter. The Village Hall is up an external flight of stairs, but there is a stair lift: if you think you are likely to need it, although not essential, perhaps you could let Maggie Strutt or Angela Skelcher know beforehand, so we can get organised! There is a large free car park over the road.

At this meeting, Charles Cuthbert will give a talk entitled 'The Minsmere Story - a personal perspective'. It will focus on the history of Minsmere from earliest times to the first Leiston Abbey and World War 2, followed by its transition from a farming and shooting estate to the now world famous nature reserve.

Charles spent his early life growing up close by at Eastbridge, Leiston and Theberton, and his talk will include references to his experiences there, and to some of the people associated with Minsmere, such as the pioneering RSPB warden Bert Axell, as well as the landowners, farmers, and gamekeepers, also the birdwatchers and volunteers like himself. Minsmere has been a part of Charles's life for the last 60 years, and it has shaped his career, driven by a life-long interest in wildlife and conservation.

Please note, however, that this is **not** primarily a talk about the RSPB or wildlife, although both will feature strongly, but Charles's personal story of Minsmere, past, present and future!

Do please come along and let us know what you think of this new venue.

WE VISIT THE NELSON MUSEUM



Inspired by Sue Pearce's colourful talk about Lord Nelson a year ago, eighteen of us went to visit the Nelson Museum in Great Yarmouth in August, and were given a warm welcome by Sue and the volunteers. The exhibits were nicely presented, and the display boards interesting



and comprehensive: to take it all in would take longer than we had. We were particularly impressed by the interactive "toys", and activities for children – learning can be such fun these days!

To continue the Group's links with the museum, Sue and her volunteers are coming back by popular demand on 16 November to give us a new and different talk: "Hearts of Oak... the ships of the navy and the men who sailed in them".

Sue will give a short history of the events that led up to the creation of the Navy, how and why the ships were built, how the crews were obtained, and what life was like on board. She will finish with museum volunteers reading actual eye witness accounts



taken from men and boys who were at Trafalgar – on both sides!

As before they will have some items for us to look at and also a few bits and pieces from their shop.



WHEELS OF IPSWICH

On a miserable, dark night in September, Russell De'Ath, a volunteer with the Ipswich Transport Museum, braved the rain to drive over from Sudbury to give us a slideshow on the history of transport in Ipswich and Suffolk. He told the story of the early railways, and how the new horse-drawn omnibuses undercut the fares of their rivals the horse-drawn trams, and would park across the tramlines to obstruct them. We heard how the shortage of horses during the First World War spurred Ransomes on to build electric vehicles, and how fuel rationing during the Second



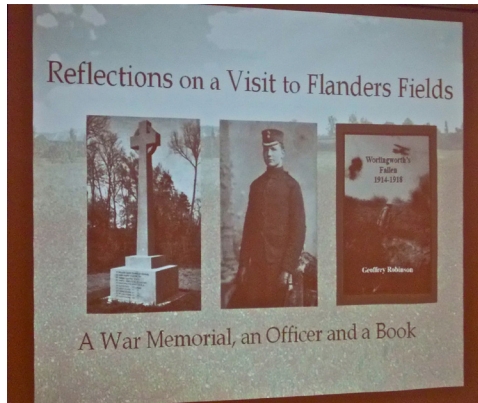
World War led to gas-powered buses.

Russell had a stock of anecdotes to accompany his substantial supply of old photographs; like the fire-engine driver who wasn't allowed to go near the fire because he was the only one who could drive; and the horse-drawn tower wagon whose horse bolted, toppling the vehicle and tipping out and killing the man at the top of the tower. And that diesel trains were introduced in 1959 as a temporary measure only until the line could be electrified – which didn't happen until the late 80s!

We are contemplating arranging a group visit to the museum sometime next year.



'A WAR MEMORIAL, AN OFFICER AND A BOOK'



For those of us who lost ancestors during the First World War, the current commemorations marking the centenary of the war hold a particular poignancy. There can be no question that the men and women who served our country and achieved victory must be honoured and remembered always.

One of the most worthwhile experiences for anyone, whether or not they have the name of a past relative inscribed on a memorial in Flanders or elsewhere, is to visit the numerous cemeteries, large and small, where thousands of headstones and monuments record so many lost lives.

Geoffrey Robinson, the speaker at a recent meeting of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group, told us of his quest to visit the sites in France and Belgium where headstones and memorials mark the resting place of the twenty men from Worlingworth, Suffolk, who were 'killed in action' during the war.

Geoff, who asked me to refer to him by this abbreviated form of his Christian name, spoke of his 'journey of discovery', as before the visits he made to Flanders and the research he

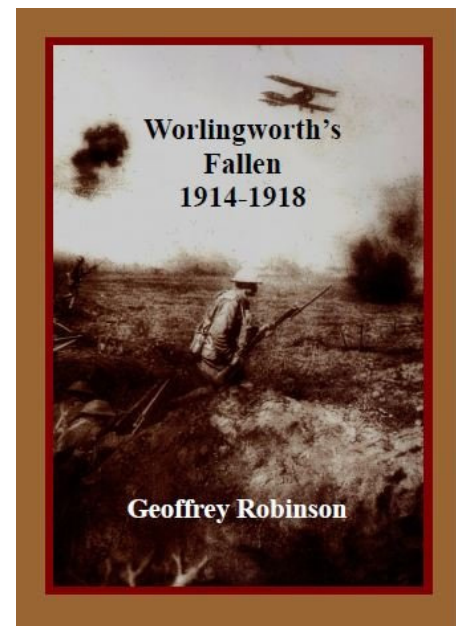
carried out, he professed to knowing just the basics concerning the 1st World War. Within his own family he had no ancestors who lost their lives in the war. However, he developed a particular affinity to one soldier whose name appeared on the Worlingworth memorial. This man was Major William Cotton French of the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. Major French was the youngest son of the Rev. Frederick French, a former rector of Worlingworth. He was killed on 12th March 1915 during the battle of 'Neuve Chapelle'. This battle, fought from the 10th to the 12th of March 1915, had great significance for families in Leiston and the surrounding locality, as many of their loved ones fought and died there, predominantly whilst serving with the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment.

Geoff made the journey to Le Touret Military Cemetery at Richebourg L'Avoue in France where Major French is buried, along with men from Leiston, whose names appear on the memorial at the cemetery: a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of soldiers who are not forgotten. The research Geoff carried out into both the military career and private life of William Cotton French deepened his interest in the French family history and he is now anxious to trace any known descendants.

Geoff's talk was enhanced by slides showing many cemeteries and memorials, including the famous Menin Gate Memorial, Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Thiepval Memorial, all of which record the names of thousands of those who gave their lives during the war. Other illustrations of relevance, such as battlefield maps and photographs of the devastation caused to towns and villages in Flanders added interest for his audience.

We are fortunate as family historians that so many new books have been published recently commemorating the lives of service men and women from our local towns and villages.

They are a valuable source of information for anyone researching a W.W.1 ancestor, or for those wishing to know the part local families played during the Great War. Among these publications is Geoffrey Robinson's book '*Worlingworth's Fallen 1914-1918*', which is available to read at the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group's research office at the Council Chambers, Main Street, Leiston; one of the many publications we now have concerning local W.W.1 memorials.



Following his informative and often poignant talk, for which worthy appreciation was expressed, Geoff took comments and questions from group members and guests. It was stressed how important it is to remember each individual service person commemorated on a grave or memorial: a fact brought home to him by his own research into the lives of those named on the Worlingworth memorial.

Basil Jenkyns, who has spoken to our group on several occasions, alluded to the fact that more consideration should be given to women, upon whose shoulders the burden of support and personal sacrifice fell. A thought-provoking conclusion to a thought-provoking meeting.

Diana Mann

AVSFHG Newsletter 30, Oct 2015



Tyne Cot Cemetery

THEY WENT TO WAR

by Diana Mann

They went to war.
The fathers and sons,
the husbands and brothers,
answering the call their country had
made
when it was said
she needed them.

They left behind
the mothers and daughters,
the wives and sisters
who waved goodbye in faith
but feared
for their return.



They went with pride,
not wanting to fail
this fervent force
marching onward
for England
to glorious victory.

But, distant from home
truth dawned
in the fields of mud,
in the dead,
in the dread,
in the countless men who fell.

Was fate their fortune
for those instantly killed?
Never found,
never buried,
who lay scattered and shattered
beneath the ground.

While those who remained
lived
in sorrow and pain,
with minds in torment.



Home as heroes.
Duty done.

They returned from war
to those who had waited.
To the mothers and daughters,
the wives and sisters
they had left
when they went to war.

Copyright ©Diana Mann
2014

War records at the National Archives:

<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-royal-air-force-airmens-service-records-1912-1939>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/raf-officers-service-records-1918-1919>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/raf-combat-reports-1939-1945/>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/raf-operations-record-books-1939-1945/>

The National Archives' Japanese Index Cards of Allied Prisoners of War. You can browse the index online. To view an actual document you will need to either visit The National Archives or request a quote to have a copy sent to you, or view it on FindMyPast. The 50,000 cards give details such as name, nationality, rank, camp, parents' names, date of birth and service number.

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14549>.

<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/prisoners-of-war-1715-1945>

The National Archives are pleased to announce the release of two newly-digitised series of naval service records, ADM 362 and ADM 363. These particular documents are records of service specific to ratings and will potentially enable researchers to complete the careers of any Royal Navy Rating who enlisted before 1923 and served after 1924. For those that joined after 1926, service records remain at the MoD.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/newly-digitised-records-complete-story-of-naval-careers/>

THE BATTLE OF LOOS

24 – 30 September 1915

the first main British offensive of the First World War, 100 years ago this week

Excerpts from the Unit War Diaries of the South Staffordshire Regiment

“24th Sept 1915

In reserve trenches NOYELLES 9.30pm Battn moved to front line trenches prior to attack. It rained heavily about 8pm. The Bn which forms part of the 22nd Inf. Bde. 7th Inf Division received orders to attack the German fortified position at 6.30am the following morning. During the night of the 24th-25th Sept it rained in torrents & the trenches in which the 1st Battn South Staffordshire Regt spent the 24th Sept were ½ full of water. At 10pm the Bn left its trenches at NOYELLES & moved forward through VERMELLES – which was impressive – & occupied thickly by Field Artillery – through the maze of trenches up to its position. The mud was knee deep & everyone was pretty wet & muddy by the time our position in the line was reached.

25th Sept 1915 12 m.n.

The Battn was in position at about 12 m.n. and distributed as follows:– (21 offrs 729 infantrymen)

“C” Company in front line trench
Lieut Wm COOPER Comnd Coy
Men 138, M Gunners 19, Grenade men 21, Stretcher bearers 2, Signalers 4 = 184. In this & other companies M. Gunners & others were away under special arrangements so the Coy’s strength was really about 140.

“A” Company – In 1st Support Trench about 80x behind “C” Coy

Men 125, M Gunners 16, Grenade men 24, Stretcher bearers 6, Signalers 5 = 176

Captain HENRY J. de TRAFFORD comdg coy

“D” Coy In 2nd Support Trench about 80x behind “A” Coy

Men 130, M Gunners 23, Grenade men 26, Stretcher bearers 4, Signalers 1 = 184

Under Command of Captain CLAUDE LIMBERY

“B” Coy in Old British Trench about 50x behind “D” Coy

Men 131, M Gunners 17, Grenade men 24, Stretcher bearers 8, Signalers 5 = 185

Under command of Lieut HENRY BURKE

Total of Battn

1 Medical Officer + 21 offrs + 729 infantrymen

The line occupied by the Battalion was about 300x long & facing nearly due EAST. The German line we were told off to attack was about 450x long & strongly fortified, powerfully strengthened with flank defence, wire in front of exceptionally thick wire & strong posts. There were small redoubts manned with numerous machine guns at intervals, & the left flank was enfiladed by a variety of fire from HOHENZOLLERN FORT and FOSSE 8. The distance to be traversed by the battalion in the attack before reaching the enemy’s lines was approx. 500x. Behind the enemy’s front line were communication trenches & a powerful 2nd line, & behind that on higher ground were the QUARRIES & further on CITÉ ST ELIE.

25th Sept 15, 6.28am

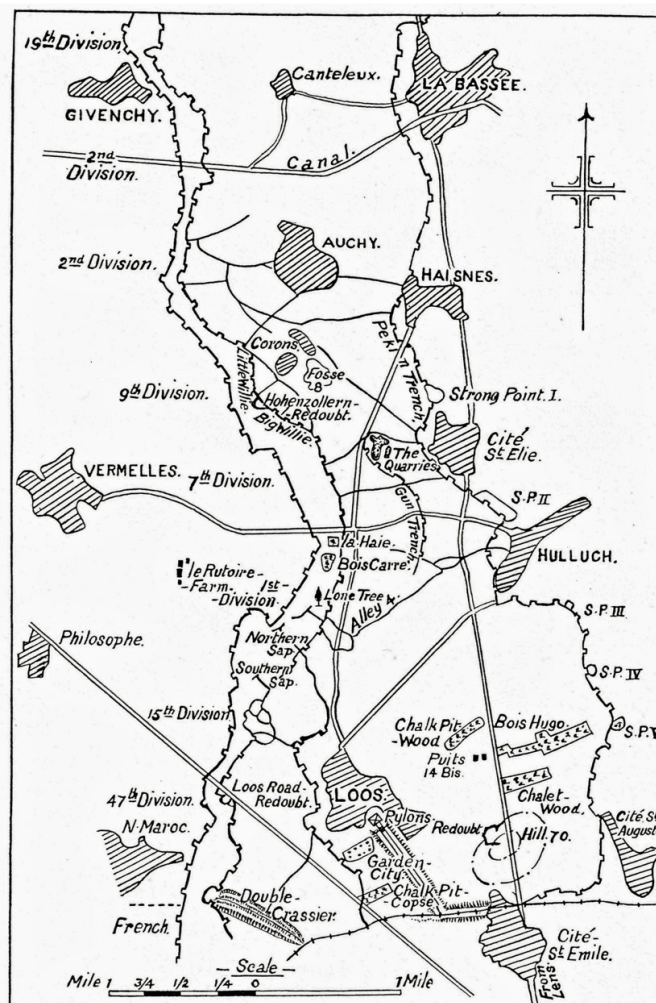
At 6.28am the order “Get ready to charge” came down the line & LIEUT COOPER, whose eyes had been on his watch, gave the order “Scouts & wire cutters advance”. Directly after, the order to the Coys to advance was given, & “C” Coy climbed up the ladders & advanced through the smoke, which was very dense. This smoke I may mention was chiefly caused by “smoke bombs”, smoke candles & gas, there was also a thick cold mist & a drizzling rain. Lieut COOPER led his men on with the utmost gallantry & was killed on the German wire, had he lived he would have been recommended for the D.S.O. He was a most gallant officer & much loved & respected by all ranks.

“A” Company came on splendidly ably led by Captain Henry de TRAFFORD, who behaved with the greatest coolness and daring, & would have been recom-

mended for the DSO had he not been killed. He fell on the German wire, & his last words were “Don’t mind me, push ahead”. Truly he & Lieut COOPER & other brave officers & NCOs & men, who fell on this fateful day, deserve the undying gratitude & respect of their country & their Regiment. LIEUT BELL with “A” Coy also did excellent work & proved himself – as at FESTHUBERT – a leader of men.

“D” Company led by Captain LIMBERY did gallant work under their plucky young commander who, with many others, was wounded. CAPT LIMBERY was recommended for the Military Cross.

“B” Company under LIEUT Hy.J. BURKE was the reserve coy in fourth line, & were very well led by their extremely young officer, who displayed much bravery & keenness. He was, it is much regretted, killed during the advance. Had he lived he would have been recommended for the Military Cross.



THE BATTLE OF LOOS.

There is very little to describe about the actual assault, but the facts stand out very clearly. The regiment had to cross a fire zone of about 500x exposed to very heavy gun, machine gun & rifle fire, & storm a powerful line of trenches protected by broad strong lines of thick barbed wire. There was a strong support line behind the front line on higher ground & behind them the famous "Quarries" on still higher ground. The final objective of the 22nd Inf Brigade was Cité St Elie, behind a very powerfully entrenched & wired position. To make a long story short, the gallant 1st Battn SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGT rose to their feet at 6.28am on the 25th September 1915, on the order to "advance" being given, they advanced in extended order at about 3 paces interval between men & moved steadily forward against this almost impregnable position. They stormed it, took the 2nd or support line & what remained of this magnificent old regiment moved on, and with other corps mixed up with them captured the "Quarries" & some of them under the C.O. went on up to within about 50x of the German position at Cité St Elie.

The regiment lost in this attack about the following number of officers, NCOs and men:-
430 NCOs & men were killed or wounded out of 729 who went into action
Officers: 9 killed, 8 wounded (one died of wounds), 1 gassed, Total 18 out of 21 who went into action on 25 Sept 15.

The Quarries 25 Sept, 9.30pm
Lieut. Colonel R.M. Ovens, C.M.G. (Comdg), Lieut Geoffrey Beville Schön, Machine Gun Officer, and 2nd Lieut Brocklesby and about 100 men were in the "Quarries" with the 27th INF BDE on the East & North, & the Yorkshire Regt on the South. The Detachment were ordered to guard the South, & went out at 9.30pm & took up a position there. Later on the 27th I.Bde were driven back by a mass of Germans, & after holding on for hours the Yorkshires and the small party of South Staffords fell back to fresh positions. Lt Col R. M. OVENS & 2nd Lieut Brocklesby with the remainder of the 1st S. STAFFORDSHIRE REGT's DET joined the YORKSHIRE REGT (which was commanded by Lt COL YOUNG) and were about to relieve that Battalion when bombing attacks commenced in the "QUARRIES" & firing of different kinds from the EAST (near CITÉ ST ELIE), they

were subjected to a very heavy bombardment by Artillery. Eventually Lieut.Col. R.M. OVENS & LIEUT BROCKELSBY & the few remaining men of their battalion who were with them joined a detachment of the 1st S. STAFFORDS REGT under Major H.E. WALSH, with whom was the Adj. Major SINGLETON BONNER D.S.O., 2nd LIEUT PARKES, 2nd LIEUT K. DUNLOP & LT & QM BRADBURY. These officers had been left in reserve with the Regtl Transport (except Major S BONNER who was ill, & who very pluckily came up & helped until on the evening of the 26th Sept he was seized with gas poisoning symptoms & was sent back to Hospital & thence to ENGLAND).

On the evening of the 26th Sept at about 11pm the Germans attacked the Brigade holding the North side of the "QUARRIES" and drove back this Brigade, which had already suffered much earlier on that day. Here Br General BRUCE was wounded & captured also Lt Col HEATH (killed) commndg 2nd The Queens Regt & other officers & men. Lieut. Colonel OVENS and Lt. Col. YOUNG with an N.C.O. & four men reconnoitered the "QUARRIES" on the North side & were nearly shot, a timely use of his revolver by Lt Col. OVENS enabled (under Providence) this party to get away, when they found the "QUARRIES" (N. side) held by GERMANS.

From the 27th Sept to the 30th Sept 15, the small remnants of the 22nd Inf. Bde. were disposed as follows:-
2nd The QUEENS REGT, 2ND ROYAL WARWICK REGT, 1ST SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGT in the trenches (OLD GERMAN TRENCHES) below HOHENZOLLERN FORT and FOSSE 8.
2nd ROYAL WELSH FUSRS in OLD BRITISH TRENCHES EAST OF VERMELLES.

For these four days the 1st S. STAFFORDSHIRES did magnificent work under every description of fire. Especially must the Bombers be mentioned who repeatedly withstood the fiercest & most determined onslaughts of picked GERMAN Bombers, & who continually went to the assistance of hardly-pressed regiments on their right & left flanks. The bravery & determination shown by the SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGT Bombers & by the Machine Gunners & indeed, truly be it said, by all ranks, form a glorious series of achievements in these trying six days of hard fighting. Heavy rain fell part of

the time, the trenches were a sea of mud, & the bullets & shells fell thickly, day & night, but confident of final victory the representatives of the immortal old 38th Regiment, the "Fighting Staffords" held their ground, & beat back all attacks.

At about 1am on the 29th Sept 15 a burial party under Lt Col OVENS and LIEUT PARKES carried out the sad duty of burying that gallant & much beloved officer Capt. H. de TRAFFORD & many NCOs & men. LIEUT PARKES did excellent work during these trying five days & showed grit & pluck. 2nd LIEUT BROCKELSBY also for the six days he was in this battle did very good work & was plucky & self-possessed.

30th Sept 15, 3AM

The battalion was relieved by the EAST YORKSHIRE REGT & marched to SAILLY-LA-BOUSSE where they went into billets for two nights.

RM Ovens, Lieut Colonel"

Two of my relations took part in this battle: Lieut Ernest Bell was my great uncle, and his nephew, 2nd Lieut Theodore Parkes, was my father's first cousin.

The War Diaries can be downloaded from the National Archives website, or read online at Ancestry.co.uk

Maggie Strutt



Ernest Bell, MC

THE ANGEL ROOFS OF EAST ANGLIA

BY

MICHAEL RIMMER

Having said I would review this book I then wondered whether I would enjoy reading it, but I am pleased to say the book was very interesting and very easy to read. Apparently the photography of angel roofs has been almost completely neglected due to the problems in photographing them. The first twenty-two pages outline the history of Angel and Hammer Beam Roofs, covering the churches, how they were made and when, and explaining why East Anglia is the region where most of these roofs can be found, and why. Many were destroyed in the Reformation period, the latter years of Henry Eighth, and during the English civil war.

The text is very readable and holds one's interest.

The book features twenty-three Norfolk churches, plus nine in Suffolk, and four in Cambridgeshire.

The photographs, of which there are many, are stunning: really detailed, with close-ups of the angels. A short write-up accompanies each photograph, explaining how the roof was made up; other facts about each church are also included.

Altogether this is a very interesting book, very readable, with fantastic photography.

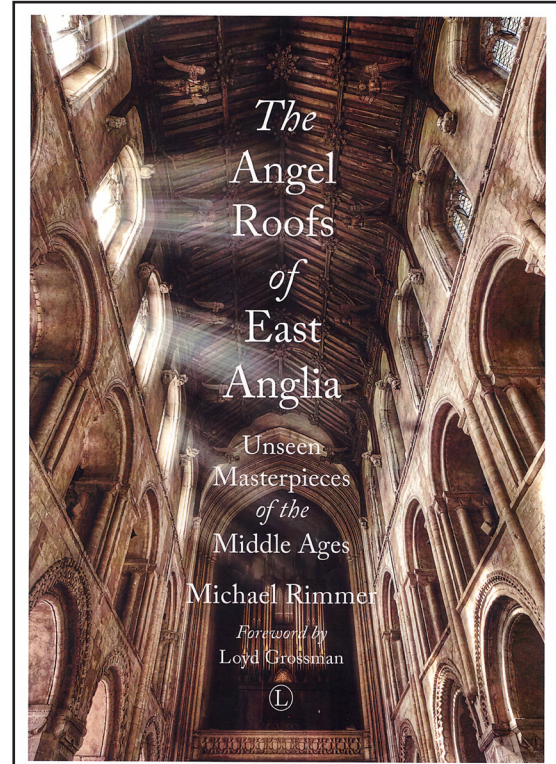
At the back is an appendix showing where all the churches which had/have angels in East Anglia are listed, with a map. Also included are examples of roof types.

This book makes very good reading, and is useful to take with you when visiting churches. We have a copy in our Research Centre.

ISBN 9780718893699, £19.95 from <http://www.lutterworth.com>.

It is also available as an eBook.

Jan Lovell



Discover the changing face of Britain

Ever wondered what your local towns and villages looked like in Victorian times? Now you can find out with Ancestry's UK City, Town & Village Photos, 1857-2005. This comprehensive collection includes more than 220,000 landscape and portrait images of 7,000 individual cities, towns, and villages across the UK.

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=60587>

Sax on YouTube!

See the history of Saxmundham into the 1950s:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLflBCSyy0U>

British Movietone: historic newsreels from 1895

There are tens of thousands of wonderful clips in the British Movietone archive, which you can search and view completely free (though you'll have to pay to use any of the footage). In all there are over 10,000 hours of digitised video in the Associated Press archive, and as some events were recorded both by British Movietone and British Pathé (whose archive can be searched) you can see them from more than one perspective.

<http://www.aparchive.com/> <http://www.britishpathe.com/>

©<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/aug15news.htm>

What is a chrism?

The term 'chrism' or 'chrissom' has had several meanings over the centuries - according to Wikipedia it initially referred to a small piece of cloth placed over a baby's head at the time of christening, but later came to refer to the robe or cloth that covered the child. You may find the term in burial registers where it is mostly thought to have been used for a child which died within a month of baptism, though Peter Laslett in his book "*The World we have lost*" suggests it was used for children who died before they could be baptised - in either case they were buried wrapped in the cloth used for, or intended for, their baptism.

©<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/midjul15news.htm>

SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE EVENTS

SUFFOLK'S EARLY MAPS AND THEIR MAKERS £5.50

Vivienne Aldous Sat 19 Sept 10.30am Ipswich
We take maps for granted today, but this talk will go back to a time when maps were new-fangled things, and the surveyors who made them were sometimes viewed with suspicion and mistrust. East Anglia was an area where local map-making established itself in the later sixteenth century, and Suffolk had its fair share of home-grown map-makers. This talk will look at some of Suffolk's early maps and the men who made them, why they were made and how, by the seventeenth century, maps had become part of the norm of literate life and estate management.

SAX STORIES £5.50

Belinda Moore Sat 10 Oct 10.00am Lowestoft
Tales from Saxmundham, drawn from oral history memories.

CAKES, ALES AND PARTYING: FEASTING AND FUNDRAISING IN MEDIEVAL SUFFOLK £5.50

Dr Kate Jewell Sat 17 Oct 10.30am Ipswich
Medieval people worked hard but also knew how to celebrate. This talk explores the ways in which medieval Suffolk communities marked important festive occasions, and the activities they enjoyed at times of relaxation and entertainment. Using original archive documents, the talk looks at the major feasts of the medieval Christian calendar and the entertainments attached to them, including the music, drama, sport, food and drink which played such an important part. We will also discover how celebrations and festivities were used at times of financial crisis.

MARKETS AND FAIRS IN MEDIEVAL SUFFOLK £5.50

Prof. Mark Bailey Sat 24 Oct 10.30am Ipswich
The number of markets and fairs in Suffolk exploded during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, creating many of the county's market towns and transforming its society and economy. This talk looks at the process of commercialisation, its impact upon the landscape, and some of the sources in the record office which throw light upon the process.

ZEPPELINS £5.50

Ian McLachlan Sat 7 Nov 10.00am Lowestoft
This talk explores airpower during World War One in East Anglia: Zeppelin air-raids, young aviators engaging the enemy and British woman-power manufacturing munitions and flying machines.

RANSOME, SIMS AND JEFFERIES: A HISTORY £5.50

Brian Bell Sat 14 Nov 10.30am Ipswich
This company with a 200 year history had their beginnings in Norwich before moving to St Margaret's Ditches in Ipswich and then to the Orwell Works and finally to Nacton. There will be an opportunity to look at some of the company's original archives following talk.

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY £27.50

Tutored by Record Office staff
5 week course starts Thur 1 Oct 2.00pm 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 THE CENSUS £5.00

One-hour taster Sat 3 Oct 10.30am Lowestoft
An online taster session introducing the census 1841-1911 and its value to family history researchers.

WORLD WAR ONE ANCESTORS £5.00

One-hour taster Sat 14 Nov 10.30am Lowestoft
A one hour taster session looking at online sources for military records including WW1 information.

WHO LIVED IN YOUR HOUSE? GETTING STARTED £10

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

Mon 2 Nov 2.00pm Lowestoft
Thurs 10 Dec 2.00pm Ipswich

FIND OUT ABOUT METHODISTS £10

Using examples of original archives from newly catalogued Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit Methodist collections, this workshop will explore how to use these collections for family history research.

Thurs 22 Oct 2.00pm Lowestoft

THE HISTORY OF HANDWRITING £10

Explore the history of handwriting and look at older alphabets using prime examples from Record Office sources. Useful to both Family and Local historians

Thurs 12 Nov 2.00pm Lowestoft

FIND OUT ABOUT WORLD WAR ONE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA £10

This two hour session will give you a taster of the kinds of sources you can use in researching events relating to World War One in your local area. You will have an opportunity to use a selection of records that are available at Ipswich Record Office, including oral history recordings, photographs, school records, newspapers, and personal papers.

Friday 20 November 10.30am Ipswich

For more events see: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro>. To book a place please contact the relevant branch:

Ipswich 01473 263909 or 01473 263910; Lowestoft 01502 674680; Bury 01284 741212

Record Office Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.30-16.30.

Closed to the public on Wednesdays and Sundays but offering a full archive production service on Saturdays.

SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL



The SLHC is still looking for volunteers to be the Local History Recorders for the following parishes: Aldeburgh, Aldringham, Thorpeness, Knodishall, Leiston, Sibton and Thorington.

A Local History Recorder will note significant happenings in their area, especially changes going on around them, and collect their local village magazines, leaflets, election pamphlets and newspaper cuttings. At the end of each year, they are asked to submit a short report summarising the activities of their parish. The reports are deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and are available to future researchers together with the collected items. For more information, go to <http://www.slhc.org.uk/recorders.html> or contact Janette Robinson at recorders@slhc.org.uk

* * * * *

The Autumn editions of the SLHC Newsletter and Review are available to read in our Research Centre. The contents of the Review are:

"Brewing in Lowestoft 1560 - 1760" - David Butcher

"The Loyal Worlingworth Volunteers 1798 - 1802" - Geoffrey Robinson

"Suffolk Mills through the Centuries" - Bob Malster

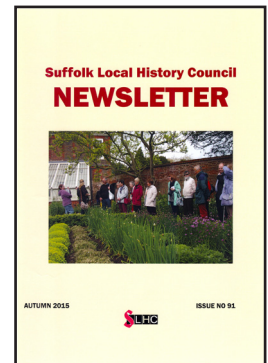
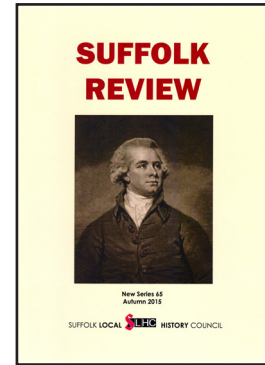
"Stoke by Nayland and its Protestant Martyrs" - Gerry Smith

The Newsletter contains, among other things, an article on the East Suffolk Railway Line, and a book review by

our member Janette Robinson of "*The Bigod Earls of Norfolk*" by Marc Morris, which is on sale from Boydell and Brewer with a 25% discount to our members by quoting code 15416. Electronic versions of back issues of the SLHC newsletter may be available on request from its editor (our member) Neil Langridge by emailing neil@stowman.plus.com

* * * * *

If you would like attend the conference on 17 October (see below), please contact Angela Skelcher who will count numbers, so first come first served! (You do need to book a place even though it is free).



SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE IN HONOUR OF PETER NORTHEAST

PROTEST, RIOT AND CHANGE IN VICTORIAN SUFFOLK

SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 2015

BLACKBOURNE HALL, ELMSWELL

9.45 am – 4.15 pm

TICKETS: FREE TO MEMBERS / RECORDERS £5 / NON MEMBERS £10
SOCIETIES MAY SEND UP TO FOUR MEMBERS FREE TO THIS EVENT

Tickets are available from our Secretary, Dr Anne Folan. Please email, or write to her, including a stamped addressed envelope. Her address is 22D Lancaster Drive, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IP5 3TJ. Cheques should be made payable to SLHC.

PROGRAMME

9.45	WELCOME - Dr Margaret Thomas Chairman SLHC
9.50 – 11.05	ESTATES IN EARLY VICTORIAN SUFFOLK: CONFLICT AND PROTEST - Dr Margaret Thomas
11.05 - 11.25	Coffee and biscuits
11.25 - 12.40	RIOT AND ARSON IN SUFFOLK IN 1840S – Clive Paine
12.40 - 1.25	Lunch (Coffee/tea will be provided but please bring a PACKED LUNCH)
1.25– 2.40	PEOPLE AND HOUSING IN NINETEENTH CENTURY SUFFOLK - Dr David Dymond
2.40 - 3.55	PROCRASTINATION AND PROGRESS : PUBLIC HEALTH IN VICTORIAN IPSWICH - Dr Anne Folan
3.55	Tea and cakes

Illustrated London News

TheGenealogist has now completed the 1880s decade of the hugely informative newspaper, the Illustrated London News. The 1880s saw Jack the Ripper terrorise the streets of Whitechapel, the end of the first Boer War, as well as the attempted assassination of the Queen. This now gives complete coverage from 1842 (the year the paper started) to 1889, as crystal clear, searchable copies. Each issue is bookmarked by article and is easily searchable. They contain many announcements of Births, Marriages, Deaths, Obituaries, Wills & Bequests. <http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/news/#latest>

The 1939 Register

In 1939, on the eve of World War II, the British government introduced an act that would allow them to gather vital information about the country's population. This information would inform their decisions on identity cards, rationing, conscription and more, including – eventually – the formation of the NHS. In 2015, for the first time, Findmypast in partnership with The National Archives are publishing the 1939 Register online, providing an unprecedented insight into a country on the verge of war. This register bridges the gap in Census records caused by the Second World War.

Suffolk Resources

The Lost Cousins website gives details of where Suffolk (and other counties') parish registers can be found online:

<http://forums.lc/genealogy/index.php?forums/suffolk.46/>

About 870,000 Suffolk baptisms and marriages are included in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) at FamilySearch but not all parishes are included (you can see the coverage here <http://www.archersoftware.co.uk/igi/fs-sfk.htm>)

An estimated 300,000 entries from the Suffolk Baptism Index and 250,000 entries from Boyd's Marriage Index are online at findmypast. There are also nearly 1.1 million Suffolk entries in the National Burial Index. There is a much smaller collection of Suffolk records at Ancestry. The volunteers of FreeREG have transcribed some or all of the registers for about 40 Suffolk parishes.

©LostCousins

London Bomb Map

Using records from The National Archives' collection, the Bomb Sight project has mapped the London Second World War bomb census. Use this site to explore the bombs that fell on London between October 1940 and June 1941. www.bombsight.org/

Identifying boundaries and administrative units

The interactive maps online via the London Family Search Centre website make an excellent tool for determining not only a list of parishes in each county, the dates of surviving registers (and nonconformist registers) and where they are, but also showing the various administrative jurisdictions within each county such as dioceses, deaneries and larger units such as hundreds. Another facility is to view the area of your choice in the form of a 19th century OS map or a modern-day aerial view. An excellent tool and you could spend hours browsing here.

<http://maps.familysearch.org/>

© 2015 Heritage Family History

DON'T FORGET....

Ancestry and FindMyPast are free to use at Suffolk Libraries - and you can use your own laptop.

Irish Parish Registers Online

Images of Roman Catholic parish registers are now free to view on the National Library of Ireland's (NLI) website <http://registers.nli.ie/>. Ciara Kerrigan of the NLI said, 'this is the most significant ever genealogy project in the history of the NLI. The microfilms have been available to visitors to the NLI since the 1970s. However, their digitisation means that, for the first time, anyone who likes will be able to access these registers without having to travel to Dublin.'

Catholic parish registers are a key resource for family historians with an interest in Irish genealogy, particularly as returns for the censuses taken prior to 1901 were largely destroyed in Ireland. These records date from the 1740s to the 1880s and cover 1091 parishes across Ireland. Typically, the parish registers include information such as the dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of the key people involved, including godparents or witnesses. Genealogists will find researching easier if they have some idea in which parish their ancestors lived. The digital images are searchable by location only, and will not be transcribed or indexed.

FFHS Ezine July 2015

Norfolk Records

TheGenealogist (TG) and the Norfolk Record Office have signed an agreement to make Norfolk parish and other historical records available online. The registers of baptisms, marriages, burials and banns of marriage feature the 'majority of the parishes in Norfolk'. Although Norfolk parish registers are already on Family Search these are not complete, while the images on Findmypast are not yet searchable by name. TG's collection will include other records, not just parish registers, too. No doubt further details will be released in due course.

© 2015 Heritage Family History

WHERE IS THE COMMUNITY CENTRE?

The Community Centre is on the left hand side of King George's Avenue going out of Leiston, between the Crown pub and the Fire Station: IP16 4JX. There is parking for a few cars at the front, and lots more behind.

* * * * *

OUR RESEARCH CENTRE

The research centre has computers with Internet, printers, and a scanner at the old Council Chamber in Leiston, and is open to members and non-members from 10-12 noon on the first and third Weds of the month: Oct 7 & 21, Nov 4 & 18, Dec 2 & 16, and Jan 7 & 21. We have local information including graveyard catalogues for Benhall, Saxmundham, Leiston, Eastbridge, Aldringham and Sutton, and information on local war memorials. We have recently acquired a large number of CDs and microfiches of local interest.

Experienced family history researchers will be present to give assistance if required. For further details contact a committee member.

The Research Centre is upstairs in the old Council Offices in Main Street, Leiston, IP16 4ER, in the same building as and to the right of the Library, opposite the Long Shop Museum. You can park outside free of charge for one hour, or there's an "unlimited" free car park in Valley Road – go straight on past Barclay's Bank and it's on the right.

* * * * *

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 our website:

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

Annual Membership Fees:
£6 Single, £10 Household.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO NOTE IN 2015/16

Our meetings are generally held at Leiston Community Centre, IP16 4JX, at 7.30pm. It is best to confirm with Angela Skelcher on 01728 830949 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.

Sat 17 Oct	SLHC conference at Blackbourne Hall, Elmswell, 9.45am-4.15pm
Sat 17 Oct	Family History Fair at University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich IP4 1QJ, 10am-4pm
Mon 19 Oct Sheila Wright	"Ghosts and Ghouls – Mysterious Tales from Suffolk and Beyond"
Mon 16 Nov Sue Pearce, The Nelson Museum, Gt Yarmouth, back with a <u>new</u> talk	"Hearts of Oak – Nelson's Navy"
Wed 18 Nov, 2pm	Committee Meeting
Fri 22 Jan 2.30pm Charles Cuthbert	"The Minsmere Story – a personal perspective" <u>In Kelsale Village Hall</u>
Mon 15 Feb Phil Hadwen	"The Felixstowe Bath Hotel Fire & the Suffragettes"
Mon 22 March Sheila Harrison	Butley Priory
Mon 18 April	Annual General Meeting
Mon 16 May	Find My Past

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

Webmaster: Kevin Gale: kevin_gale@hotmail.com

THE NEWSLETTER

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 and without ink smudges! 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 Jan – any contributions by end Dec please. I'm always looking for articles – please keep them coming!

Maggie Strutt, Editor

maggiestrutt@btinternet.com, 01728-602298,

Park Farm House, Carlton Road, Carlton, Saxmundham, IP17 2QE