

# **ROOTS and BRANCHES**



Journal of the  
**FELIXSTOWE**  
**FAMILY HISTORY**  
**SOCIETY**

**Volume 36 No 4**  
**December 2021**

# ROOTS AND BRANCHES



Volume 36 No: 4

December 2021

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Spa Theatre, Felixstowe © Brian Lewis

## COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS

Well, we have now held three face-to-face meetings in Broadway House, and those who have attended have found that it is safe to do so. We have had three wonderful speakers on 'The Lost City of Dunwich', 'The Treasurers of Ipswich' and 'The Medway Queen', and we have more exciting topics over the next few months, I hope to see you there!

The Committee continue to meet together and discuss ways we can make the Society work for you all. We are still looking at the possibility of having hybrid meetings; this is when we have a face-to-face speaker and a Zoom session running at the same time. This will enable those who cannot attend the meeting to listen and see the speaker at the same time.

If you have been to any of the meetings you will have noticed that we now have a rolling PowerPoint presentations before the start, this gives news of events that are coming up and other information such as the drop-in sessions and even who is doing the refreshments that night!

Linda Negus  
Secretary

## EDITOR'S NOTES

In the last issue I asked members for ideas for images to be used on the front cover of Roots and Branches, unfortunately I haven't received any, so this month I have again used an image of Felixstowe taken by Brian Lewis. Brian has also taken on the task of updating our website, so if you haven't looked at it recently please do so, you will also see more of the images he has taken of Felixstowe which I might use on the front of future issues. If you have any other ideas or photos that you think might be suitable, then please send them as jpg files to our email address.

Before all the lockdowns started we had a Christmas lunch at The White Horse, we are arranging another one on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Spa Pavilion Restaurant. Please see page 13 to see how you can book your place(s)! It will be lovely to meet up over a meal again!

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM in September you will find the Secretary's Report and the Membership Secretary's Report further on in this issue. The Annual Accounts were published in the September issue.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022!

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620



## DIARY DATES

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Charlie and 'The Dig'**

**Charlie Haylock**

This is an intriguing and sometimes humorous look behind-the-scenes in the making of the Netflix film "The Dig" . . . a film based on a novel with the same title about the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship and the people involved.

Charlie will explain how a potential "scam" email from "The Dig" producer, turned out to be real, and followed by a phone call from Ralph Fiennes. Charlie will show how Ralph Fiennes, who played Basil Brown, and the other "Suffolk" actors learnt their Suffolk accent . . . and not sound like West Country pirates! Charlie will also explain the extreme lengths Ralph Fiennes took, not only to play Basil Brown . . . but to become Basil Brown. The talk is both informative and entertaining.

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Behind the Scenes at WDYTIA?**

**Gill Blanchard**

This talk describes Gill's work on the programme 'Who do you think you are?' Gill has worked with many people including Mary Berry and Jonnie Peacock.

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**Stuart Durrell**

Stuart is coming to talk about the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its educational charity, the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation.

*Monthly Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Broadway House,  
Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD*

*Meetings are free for members, but if you wish to bring a guest they will be charged £3.00. Refreshments are available at the end of the meeting.*

**THE SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

The year has once again seen a decline in membership, but this wasn't unexpected due to the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

I am happy to say that after a few months of joining the Committee at the AGM in 2019, Steve agreed to become our Chairman, he has been responsible for organising Zoom for our online talks which have been marvellous and I thank him for all the work he has put into this.

I have continued as Editor of Roots and Branches for another year which I am happy to continue doing. Over the year I have received some articles from members for the magazine which are appreciated. However, I am always very grateful for more! Also, don't forget to use your Members Interest forms as these can be very useful for getting details of your search for families out to a wider audience. The magazine goes out to other UK societies and also to Australia and Canada, so it is worth submitting your forms, you never know what might come back!

We unfortunately have not been able to attend any Fairs over the last 18 months, but hopefully these will begin again in 2022.

I have been acting as Programme Secretary since Valerie Humphrey retired. I hope you have enjoyed the 20/21 programme, I think we have had some very interesting talks. The programme for 21/22 is nearly completed, we have talks on 'The Treasures of Ipswich', 'The Medway Queen' and in December we have Charlie Haylock who will be giving an intriguing and sometimes humorous look behind-the-scenes in the making of the film 'The Dig', which is based on a novel with the same title about the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship and the people involved. One not to be missed I think!

Thank you for your continued support of the Society and may we all look forward to a more normal year!

Linda Negus  
Secretary  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Membership Secretary's report for AGM**

In common with most other Family History Societies across the country, our membership figures are steadily declining. We presently have 88 members - the lowest it has been in many years. Attempts to increase membership numbers will continue, coronavirus permitting.

The change to our bank account details in 2019 meant that some Standing Order members were lost. Others paid by different methods - some decided not to renew. The new option using bank transfer is a welcome addition.

May I take this opportunity to thank members for their continued support for the monthly raffle. Any donations for prizes are always welcome.

Ann Sanderson      Membership No: 1292

## Election of Officers at the Annual General Meeting

Mrs Gillian Smith called for nominations for the position of Chairman. She also asked if there were any nominations for Committee Members.

Gillian asked if there were any further nominations from the floor, there were none, so she proposed that the current Committee were elected en bloc, this was agreed. So Steve Deacon was elected as Chairman, Linda Negus as Secretary, Ann Sanderson as Membership Secretary, Nicholas Smith as Treasurer and Lorna Fraser and Jennie Smith as Committee Members.

John Woollan has decided to step down as Bookstall & Mail Order person, if anyone is interested in finding out more about this please contact either Linda Negus or Nick Smith. The position involves posting out our CDs and/books when requested.

### DROP-IN HELP SESSIONS

Once a month a drop-in help session is held at Broadway House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD from 10.15 am till 12 noon.

We aim to help members and non-members who wish to take their Family History research a bit further, either from where they've got to or from the very beginning of their journey.

Here are the dates for 2022:

January:	the last Friday (the 28th)
February:	the last Friday (the 25th)
March:	the last Friday (the 25th)
April:	the last Friday (the 29th)
May:	the last Friday (the 27th)
June:	the last Friday (the 24th)
July:	the FOURTH Friday (the 22nd)
August:	no session this month
September:	the FOURTH Friday (the 23rd)
October:	the last Friday (the 28th)
November:	the last Friday (the 25th)
December:	no session this month

All subject to availability of staff and Broadway House.

Nick Smith  
Membership No: 1179

## SPEAKER'S MEETING—OCTOBER

### **The Treasurers of Ipswich**

**John Field**

October's talk was an interesting look at the many gems of architectural note in Ipswich. We sometimes forget to appreciate that which is on our own doorstep, and John certainly reminded us of the many outstanding buildings to be found in Ipswich. He began with the earlier period which included fifteen notable churches and the Ancient House with its distinctive pargeting and 'Ipswich' windows, not forgetting the depiction of Adam and Eve on the Royal crest at the front of the building. Together with Pykenham's Gatehouse in Northgate Street (formerly a pub, now a solicitors) and the old Manor house in St. Margaret's Green which has undergone recent restoration, Wolsey's gate with its Henry VIII crest is well worth a stroll around the central area of town. Now demolished, Thomas Seckford's mansion Great Place was situated in the Museum Street area but only the former stable cottage remains, being the oldest building in the town centre. Not far from here, in Silent Street, Lord Curzon built Curzon Lodge which was situated opposite the Thomas Wolsey statue. It was interesting to hear how Georgian house fronts had often been added to older rear wings of houses. An example of this can be found at 9 Northgate Street. Also in the town centre, the former Packhorse Inn at the corner of Soane Street had previously served as a hostel for the Holy Trinity Augustinian Priory which stood on the site of Christchurch Mansion. John pointed out the intricate Trinity pattern still to be seen on the corner post. His own family connections link to the Black Horse and a former pub in St. Margaret's Place.

Moving on to the Waterfront area, we heard how the Isaac Lords complex included a Merchants house and Sail room. The river silted up during the Georgian period and no ship could reach the quay. However, by 1842 the building of the Wet Dock became a magnet for industry and investment with an effect similar to the Californian gold rush.

John Field's expert knowledge was evident in his presentation which he would have happily continued for several more hours. We came away with a renewed appreciation for the many and varied historical buildings so close to home.

Ann Sanderson  
Membership No: 1292

# ROSEMARY GITSHAM 1935-2021

Many of you will have heard that Rosemary Gitsham died in October, she had been ill for some time. You will probably have met Rosemary, or Rosie as I called her, either at Speaker's Meetings, Open Days or helping beginners in the Tree House! Rosie was a member of Felixstowe FHS for many years! She joined the Society in 1990 and soon joined the Committee as Membership Secretary in 1991, her membership number was 0194. She remained an important Committee Member until her health deteriorated.

Felixstowe FHS began after a 10 week course on Genealogy began at the Orwell High School on 25<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> December 1985 with Rev Kenneth Francis. When I took the same course some years later it was led by Mike Durrant who was also Chairman of the Committee some time later. A public meeting was held at St John's Church Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1986 to see if there was sufficient interest in forming a Society, there was and so began Felixstowe Family History Society with monthly meetings being held at the Library.

The Society grew and larger premises were needed, so on 16<sup>th</sup> February the research rooms were opened on the corner of Highfield Road and Orwell Road, but we outgrew those premises and on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1991 the Hut was opened on Orwell High School playing fields. This remained an important asset of the Society for ten years and was eventually replaced by The Tree House, our resource centre with resources from books to microfiche machines and eventually 5 computers with access to FindMyPast on one of them for members and visitors to use. It was officially opened by Lord Deben on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

All through these changes Rosie was on the Committee in various positions and was always at Open Days or Fairs that were held, she was a great supporter of the Society and we shall miss her.

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620

This shows Rosie at the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebrations in 2007 held at Trinity Methodist Church Hall in the Town Centre. The aim was to help people get to grips with their past and explain how to start putting together their family tree.



This cutting shows Rosie at the opening of the Hut in 1991 in the presence of the Mayor of Felixstowe along with his wife and other guests.

In January we usually hold a Members' Evening when members can bring along items of interest to share with other members. Rosie always had such interesting items eg maps, Victorian clothing and old newspaper articles.



## SPEAKER'S MEETING—NOVEMBER

### The Medway Queen

Mark Bathurst

For our November meeting Mark Bathurst told us about the fascinating history of The Medway Queen, the last estuary paddle steamer, illustrated by film, photographs and music from the times.

The Medway Queen was built in Scotland in 1924 for the New Medway Steam Packet Company of Rochester as a pleasure steamer, taking passengers for day trips on the Thames and Medway Estuaries calling at sea side towns including Southend, Herne Bay and Margate the passengers enjoying sumptuously furnished restaurants and bars.



At the outbreak of the Second World War The Medway Queen was commissioned into the Royal Navy as a minesweeper being repainted in battleship grey and fitted out with guns. Working out of Harwich The Medway Queen worked as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> minesweeping flotilla until Operation Dynamo saw her crossing the channel in May 1940 to assist with the evacuation of troops from the beaches of Dunkirk using the ships lifeboats whilst under heavy fire. During the operation the Medway Queen was credited with shooting down 3 enemy aircraft. On 4 June 1940 the Medway Queen returned to Dover having made 7 crossings of the channel and having saved over seven thousand lives. Once back from the evacuation the Medway Queen returned to minesweeping duties until she was replaced by a purpose built vessel and for the remainder of the war served as a training vessel.

In 1947 The Medway Queen returned to her original purpose as a pleasure steamer and in 1953 took part in the naval procession celebration of the Coronation. However, in 1963 the ship was taken out of service as times had changed and demand for the day trips had declined. For a time the ship then became a night club on the Isle of Wight, in 1984 returning to the Medway and into the hands of the receiver and eventually being allowed to sink. In 1985 a public meeting was called by Marshall Vine asking for volunteers to restore the ship which led to the formation of the Medway Queen Preservation Society with £15,000 raised to purchase the ship. Following two unsuccessful applications at the third attempt Heritage Lottery Funding of a grant for £1.86m was received in 2006 for the first stage of restoration. Due to the poor state of the ship the decision was taken to dismantle her and construct a new hull and Mark showed film he had taken at that time which documented the condition of the ship.

Following extensive work at David Abels shipyard in Bristol The Medway Queen was relaunched in 2013 and the original engine refitted. In April 2014 the blessing of the ship was the first public function for The Medway Queen followed in 2015 by taking part (under tow) in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Dunkirk celebrations at Ramsgate. Mark explained that restoration work continues with the ultimate aim to see The Medway Queen fully restored to working condition but that this would take an estimated £5m. In the meantime The Medway Queen is playing an important educational and training role and acting as a physical reminder of history from her berth at Gillingham Pier where there are also work shop facilities for the restoration work. The Medway Queen Preservation Society also runs an active visitor centre and gift shop and Mark advised that visitors were very welcome and further information was available on their website.

Lorna Fraser

Membership No: 0170

## OUR ANNUAL LUNCH!

We are holding our annual New Year lunch on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January at the Spa Pavilion at 1.00 pm.

The Spa requires a £10 deposit per person. You can give this in at our next Speaker Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December, or you can book your place and pay your deposit online.

You can book your place and send your £10.00 deposit to the society's bank account {77-66-25 00002316} using the word [Lunch] in the free-text field of your bank transfer. Or you can send a cheque for £10.00 to our treasurer (address on the inside front cover of Roots & Branches). Cheque must be made payable to [Felixstowe Family History Society] with the words [New Year Lunch] on the back of your cheque. Please make payment well before 08 January

We will have some Spa menus at the Speaker Meeting for you to make your choices as they need to have the orders in two weeks before the lunch. If you need to do this online you can look at the menu at [www.https://spapavilion.uk/food-drink](https://spapavilion.uk/food-drink), you may need to scroll down to see the full menu, and then send an email to me at [lindanegus@googlemail.com](mailto:lindanegus@googlemail.com), I will then collate all the orders and take them in to the Spa.

Payment on the day will be on an individual basis, taking into account the £10.00 deposits paid, you can pay for any drinks or coffee on the day.

Looking forward to sharing a meal with as many of you as possible.

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620

## THE 1921 CENSUS

**Findmypast** has announced that the 1921 Census for England and Wales will be published online on 6th January 2022. Taken between two world wars, during a period of economic turmoil and at a time when women had just won the right to vote, the 1921 Census will provide some fascinating insights about society and how it has evolved over the past 100 years. You can find out more about what to expect from the 1921 Census of England and Wales by visiting [www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census).

## IN THE BEGINNING .....

In 2021 we are celebrating 35 years of our Roots & Branches Society magazine! I have a copy of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition and the following is from that issue, it is written by Jack Brookes whom many of you will have known.

“Twenty years ago I sat down and tried my hand at something quite new to me and the result was Vol. 1 No.1 of the magazine that was to become Roots and Branches. In that first edition we asked for people to give it a title and design a front page for it and went so far as to offer a prize for the best offers.

The first magazine was in A4 size and consisted of 16 pages with articles mainly from members of the committee. It was printed on a duplicating machine and even then I was begging people to contribute, something which has been a constant part of editing!

Vol.1 No.2 was complete with a title and a cover design with the arms of Felixstowe and a drawing of the Spa Pavilion plus a large tree complete with roots. A design that lasted until Vol.2 No.2 when a new design by the late Elizabeth Cordy was used and this cover is still in use today.

Vol.3 No.1 changed format from A4 to A5 and for reasons that I cannot remember I have a copy of both sizes with the centre page of the A5 size printed upside-down! Vol.3 No.2 was printed with a yellow cover and looked very professional after our earlier efforts and consisted of 24 pages as the norm.

Vol.7 No1 I had a new Logo on the cover that of the Felixstowe Dock Co. who were making available their photocopying facilities for the printing of the magazine. We were now publishing 32 pages as the norm.

Vol.8 No.1 and we now began to number the magazine as it was felt that it would help when asking for a reference and so it was now Issue No.28.

Vol.9 No.1 (32) contained for the first time an index and it is not perhaps strange to note that many of the contributors are still regularly contributing today.

Vol.10 No.3 (37) and a new name appeared as giving help with the printing and this time it was the Railfreight Distribution who were helping us get our magazine into print.

Somewhere around this time we sent the copy away for printing to Whitby but we still assembled it ourselves. I had forgotten this but was reminded by Eileen Cook when we spoke recently about this issue.

I think that I should point out that getting it into print and publishing it were two different events and for many years a group of volunteers would gather, first in my living room and then as we acquired our own room space at the reading room to assemble the magazine. Many thanks to all of you over the years gathered together to perform what for some reason or the other always become a race to assemble it faster than the time before!

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The preparation of the magazine went on like this for many years and then we had to change our system and we were helped by In-House Recycling and then we went to a professional printer for the last few issues.'

The current issue is still compiled, printed and delivered by a small group of members who I would like to thank very much for all their hard work and continued support. Also to those who have contributed an article or two over the years, more is always needed so put your heads together and see what you can come up with!

Many thanks,  
Linda Negus  
Editor

18/8/21

Dear Mrs Anderson,

Please find enclosed cheque for £10 for renewing my membership of the F.F.H.S.

A big thank you to your members for putting on Zoom talks during lockdown. I found them fascinating and as an out of county member I appreciated being able to join your meetings for the first time.

My interest in the area on the north side of the River Orwell is because some of my ancestors lived in the area. For example my 3\* GGF Hyem Peirce/Pierce (1780-1841) was for part of his life a farrier in Trimley St Mary.

His son my 2\*GGF Charles Pierce (1815-1863) was the innkeeper at the Ship Inn Levington from 1837 to his death in 1863. He was a farrier as well as the inn keeper. Oral family history is that he was also a smuggler – or was he? Perhaps it was just one of those stories granddads love to tell. I have disproved some of his stories.

I was born in Ipswich but when I was a baby my father and his brother with their families moved to London to further their careers as engineers. They were the first of the family to leave the county. My parents did retire back to Suffolk for the last 20 years of their lives.

Sorry to bore you with the above, again many thanks for the talks.

Yours sincerely



Mary Strutt

We were given permission by Mary to print her letter. It is nice to know that members appreciate what we try to do for them. We are continuing to look at using the Zoom method in a hybrid format. Watch this space!

## **The Lost City of Dunwich**

**Mark Mitchels**

For our September meeting we were back at Broadway House for the AGM following which we were entertained by a fascinating talk by Mark Mitchels entitled “The Lost City of Dunwich”, the city which had been lost to the North Sea. Mark started by explaining that despite the romantic stories of being able to hear the bells in the churches below the waves this was not the case and you would not find any evidence of the city laid out below the waves.

In Roman times (200AD) the city had been about a mile and a quarter inland and developed into a city of great importance going from strength to strength having a natural harbour protected by the Kings Holme shingle spit, by 1086 Dunwich was listed in the Domesday Book as one of the ten great cities of England.

The 13th century was Dunwich’s golden period and the people were planning for the future with Greyfriars being founded in 1228, but within 50 years this had been taken by the sea. However, the fees that Dunwich charged, including to its neighbours in Southwold, Blythburgh and Walberswick, for use of the port facilities inevitably caused friction. Conflict between the inhabitants led to violence and a court case brought by Lady Margery de Cressy. Although the case initially went in Dunwich’s favour, together with the decision to set the boundaries of the city around the harbour, later this left the city with nowhere to retreat inland away from the advancing sea.

In 1286 the New Year storm flooded the town and the harbour entrance was blocked and this took 3 years to reopen during which time trade moved to Ipswich further down the coast. In 1328 a further storm was to block the harbour entrance permanently. The closure of the harbour entrance had a devastating impact on the city with some of the population turning to piracy, including the mayor who was later hanged at Ipswich, and becoming a smuggling centre. The population reduced from around 6 thousand in the heyday to 600.

The storms continued to take their toll on the city and Edward III removed the borough status but Dunwich was not the only area to suffer and the Candlemass storm of 1570 was documented to have impacted the whole east coast.

Mark explained that whilst the city declined a visit by Daniel Defoe and the visit by Turner on his tour of East Anglia and other writers, artists and poets helped to create the romantic legend of Dunwich as the city lost to the sea. A growing number of tourists led to the building of specialist accommodation with the houses which remain in Dunwich dating mainly from the Victorian and Edwardian periods.

Mark recommended a visit to Dunwich’s museum to view the model of the medieval coast line and to visit the cafe on the beach which was said to be built with wood from the sailing ship Flora which was wrecked on the coast during a storm.

Lorna Fraser  
Membership No: 0170

## WEBSITE UPDATES

### **Ancestry**

- World War II Index to Allied Airmen Roll of Honour, 1939-1945
  - Royal Navy Officer Patrol Service Cards, 1904-1970
  - Ireland, Irish Emigration Lists, 1833-1839
  - Canada: Canadian Airmen of WWI, 1914-1918, World War II, Faces of the Second World War, 1941-1945, World War II Newsreels, 1942-1945
  - France: World War I Volunteers from Schools and Universities, 1914-1918, World War I Casualty Lists, 1914-1918 and Nancy Casualty Lists from Various Conflicts, 1914-1918, 1940-1945
  - Rhodes, Archives of the Jewish Community, 1939 (USHMM)
  - United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Patents, 1970-2019
  - US, Palm Beach County, Naturalization Records, 1823-1974
  - US, Puerto Rico, Federal Naturalization Records, 1897-1985
  - US, Illinois: Peoria County Deaths 1878-1915 and Births 1878-1915
  - US, New York Bodies in Transit, 1859-1894
- US, Oregon State Deaths, 1864-1968

### **FamilySearch**

- Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Ratings, Medal Roll, 1914-1920
  - Devon, Plymouth, Captive Registers, 1680
  - Anguilla, Civil Registration, 1901-1991
  - Belgium, Limburg, Lommel, Civil Registration and Church Records, 1668-1875
  - Belize, Civil Registration, 1881-1951
  - Barbados, Civil Registration, 1900-1931
  - British Virgin Islands, Civil Registration, 1859-1992
  - Cuba, Church Records, 1584-1918
  - Dominica, Civil Registration, 1901-1991
  - France, Ardèche, Parish and Civil Registration, 1481-1924
  - France, Belfort, Alsace, Birth, Marriage and Death Registers, 1792-1917
- France, Doubs, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1860-1918
- France, Mayenne, Parish and Civil Registration, 1427-1897
  - France, Yvelines, Births, Marriages and Deaths 1792-1916
  - Grenada, Civil Registration, 1866-1940
  - Martinique, Church Records, 1662-1847
  - Puerto Rico Slave Registers, 1863-1879
  - Saint Kitts and Nevis, Civil Registration, 1859-1932
  - South Africa, Western Cape, Deceased Estate Files, 1951-1958
  - Turks and Caicos Islands, Civil Registration, 1822-1991
  - United States, Selected Genealogy Bank Obituaries, 1980-2014
  - US, Arizona, Yuma, Prison Records, 1884-1910
  - US, Minnesota, Brown County, Obituaries, 1855-1990
  - US, Missouri Death Records, 1968-2015
  - US, North Dakota, State Death Certificates, 1908-2007
  - US, Oklahoma, Military Discharge Records, 1898-1993
  - US, Virginia, Vital Records, 1715-1901 and Library of Virginia State Archive, Births, Marriages, and Deaths
- US, West Virginia, County Marriage Records, 1776-1971

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## Findmypast

- Essex Marriages and Banns 1537-1935
  - Devon, Diocese of Plymouth Catholic records
  - Yorkshire National school Admissions Haugh Shaw, 1892-1922, Akroyd Place Board School, 1896-1919, Heath Grammar School, 1874-1875, Halifax School Board, 1859-1884 and Halifax Technical College, 1902-1910
  - Scotland, Edinburgh Apprentices 1583-1800
  - Scotland, Names of Witches 1658
  - Scotland, Court & Criminal Database
- US, California marriages, 1850-1945, Indiana marriages, 1811-2007 Iowa marriages, 1809-1992, and Massachusetts marriages, 1841-1915

## TheGenealogist

- Dublin Will and Grant Books
- Wexford Roman Catholic registers of baptisms, marriages and burials

## Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives

Donegal: Pettigo Town Methodist Marriages 1872-1921

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Name: Michael Atkinson                      Membership No: 1344

Address: 12 Victoria Road, Felixstowe IP11 7PT

Email: atkinsonme12@gmail.com

COUNTY	TOWN/	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DATES
Suffolk	Ipswich	Hewitt	Cyril William	1898-1978
Suffolk	Ipswich	Hewitt	Ethel Dorothy	1895-1973

Name: Susan Davison                      Membership No: 1341

Address: 62 Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7PY

Email: [susanmdavison@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susanmdavison@hotmail.co.uk)

COUNTY	TOWN/ PARISH	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	DATES
Scotland	Leven Fife	Meldrum	Mar      er	10.12.1917- 12.3.1996 Harlow
<i>This is my</i>	<i>Mother</i>			
Scotland	Leven Fife	Meldrum	Jessie Fisher	11.9.1893- 10.10.1977 Kirkcaldy Fife
<i>This is my</i>	<i>Gran</i>			
Pennsylvania, Derry USA		Stouffer	Robert L	31.10.1925- 21.3.2019
<i>Father, 490<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group</i>				

## THE TUFTON FAMILY AND THEIR RELATIVES

In about 1498 my ancestor, Nicholas Tufton of Northiam, East Sussex married Margaret Hever of Cranbrook, Kent. Margaret was the only child of John and Marion Hever of Cranbrook. John Hever died prematurely in 1483. I have a copy of his will which is dated 8 June 1483 and was proved on 19 July of that year, when Margaret was probably only about eight. John Hever was descended from the Norman family of Yvery. William de Hever fought with Richard I (1189-1199) in the Crusades in Palestine. During the reign of King John (1199-1216) he was a Justice of the Great Assize. The family is best known for building Hever Castle (near Edenbridge) in Kent. The Tufton family also appear to have been Norman in origin, although I have been unable to verify this. The earliest recorded member of the family was Elfege de Toketon, who was mentioned in a deed believed to have been made around the time of King John. One Louis de Tufton was a commander of the second battalion of the English army at the battle of Crécy in 1346. The family lived at Northiam Place, Northiam for many years. In about 1400 the Tufton family built a chantry dedicated to St Nicholas attached to St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Northiam.

Nicholas Tufton had various official positions, including Coroner of Hastings Rape 1498-1531 and General Attorney for the Cinque Ports. Nicholas died on 30 December 1538 and is buried in Northiam church before the altar of St Nicholas. The Tufton Manuscripts are to be found at the Centre for Kentish Studies, having been deposited by the family in September 1954. These demonstrate the steady accumulation of wealth by the family during the sixteenth century.

The Tufton family moved to Hothfield in Kent in 1547 and was destined for higher things. In August 1573 Queen Elizabeth I stayed for two days with John Tufton (the grandson of Nicholas Tufton) at Hothfield. He was appointed High Sheriff of Kent, was knighted and then created a Baronet. His eldest son, another Nicholas, was one of those who travelled to Edinburgh on 23 April 1603 to notify the death of Elizabeth to James, king of Scotland, and to invite him to become King James I of England.

Although listed as a Catholic family, the Tuftons were more renowned for their loyalty to the crown. During the 1624 parliamentary elections Sir Edwin Sandys is alleged to have criticized Nicholas for being too papist and royalist. On 5 August 1628 Nicholas was created Earl of Thanet. Nicholas had earlier married Lady Frances Cecil, the daughter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Exeter (1542-1622). Nicholas was succeeded as Earl of Thanet in 1631 by his eldest son John Tufton, who married Lady Margaret Sackville, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Richard, Earl of Dorset. John Tufton was the wealthiest man in Kent. At the outbreak of the Civil War in August 1642 he joined the army of Charles I at Nottingham. He fought alongside Charles I at the Battle of Edgehill on 23 October 1642, the first engagement in the Civil War. Victory for Parliament in the Civil War meant that John Tufton suffered severe financial penalties. He was still very much a suspected person and his movements were closely monitored through a system of registration.

Nicholas, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Thanet, was born on 7 August 1631. He spent much of the Civil War in France. On his return to England in 1655 he was committed to the Tower of London on suspicion of plotting against Cromwell. Only on Cromwell's death was Nicholas finally released.

In the early-eighteenth century the Tufton family married into the other important branch of the Cecil family. In 1709 Lady Anne Tufton, daughter and co-heiress of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Thanet, married the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Salisbury. The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Salisbury was created 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Salisbury on 18 August 1789.

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The Tufton family are therefore ancestors of the Marquess of Salisbury, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil who was Prime Minister for three periods between 1885 and 1902. The Tuftons are also ancestors of his nephew, Arthur James Balfour, Prime Minister 1902-1905. There is even a link to John F Kennedy, the first Catholic President of the USA. On 21 April 1917 the man who was to become the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire married Lady Mary Gascoyne-Cecil, daughter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Salisbury. The eldest son was William Cavendish who married Kathleen Kennedy, sister of the future President, on 6 May 1944 at Chelsea register Office. Religion was a bone of contention between the two young people because 'Billy' Cavendish was son and heir of the fervently Protestant Duke of Devonshire. Somebody else who is descended from the Tuftons is Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

The last of my Tufton ancestors is Agnes Tufton. She married William Denne of Kingston, Kent. She was buried on 1 February 1588 at Kingston. Her brother John Tufton married Mary Baker, eldest daughter of Sir John Baker of Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. Sir John can fairly be described as a controversial figure. He was born circa 1489 and his first wife was the daughter of Richard Sackville. Sir John Baker held numerous public appointments, including Chancellor of the Exchequer 1540-1558. Under Queen Mary he earned an unsavoury reputation for undue zeal in the suppression of heresy and became known as 'Butcher Baker'. It is with this unpleasant soubriquet that he is associated.

However, the reality is rather more complex. He began investing in property well before the dissolution of the monasteries, but he was able to benefit from the dissolutions of both monasteries and chantries as well as the state confiscations that were a feature of mid-sixteenth century England. He was one of the leading voices on the Privy Council for religious condemnation in the final years of Henry VIII's reign. Baker's continued service under Henry, Edward and Mary is surprising. It suggests a remarkable ability to work with those of opposing viewpoints. His ferocity towards those of differing beliefs – including the burning of heretics – was in contrast with a generally cultivated character. He was a very learned man and a bibliophile.

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Jane Twemlow, daughter of a surgeon, maintained the family tradition by marrying John Beck on 29 August 1799 at St Mary's, Astbury. On 25 March 1787 he had been indentured for six years to William Theasby, surgeon of Northwich; the apprenticeship fee was £50. In 1799 John Twemlow was apprenticed to John Beck, by then an established surgeon himself. But the history of premature deaths repeated itself. John Beck died on 15 July 1833, aged 29. There is a monumental inscription at St Mary and All Saints, Great Budworth. His widow Jane and two others were bound by the sum of £10,000 regarding the administration of her father Richard Twemlow's estate. In 1841 she was living in Lower Bebington with Ann Twemlow aged 25 and Jane Ayrton aged 6. In 1851 Jane was living with Anne Ayrton her daughter, William Ayrton her son-in-law, and Jane Ayrton her niece in Pepper Street, Chester. Jane died on 8 May 1859 at Great Boughton. The will was proved in Chester by Alfred Ayrton of West Regent Park, Middlesex, gentleman and the sole executor. The estate was under £5,000.

In order to put this article together, I have been heavily reliant on the research conducted by Kay Brown and her hard-working team at the FHSC Mobberley Research Centre and also by my distant cousin Celia Cotton of Leicester. My sincere thanks to all concerned.

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