

# **ROOTS and BRANCHES**



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

**Volume 34 No 4**  
**December 2019**

## ROOTS AND BRANCHES



Volume 34 No: 4

December 2019

### CONTENTS

<b>Article:</b>	<b>Page</b>
Audited Accounts for 2019	5
Treasurer's Report for AGM	6
Speaker's Meeting—October	6
Secretary's Report for AGM	8
Membership Secretary's Report for AGM	8
Speaker's Meeting—November	9
Our Annual 'Christmas' Dinner	9
Cetti's Warbler	10-11
Publicity Officer	12
Can You Help?	12
My Hale Family of Highgate	13-14
Members' Interests	14
Website Updates	15-16
The Meaning of the Season of Advent	16

### **Regular Features**

Chairman's Comments	3
Editor's Notes	4
Diary Dates	7

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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

This is my last report as Chairman of the Society to the Committee and the Annual General Meeting.

I have been on the Committee for over twenty years and enjoyed it, but the time has come to hand over to someone else. For the Society to continue we need a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Editor, Programme Organiser and at least one other committee member. There must be five people on the main committee in accordance with our Constitution.

If these positions are not filled then a vote would have to be taken as to whether the Society can continue, the vote for closure must be three quarters of those members present at the AGM. The assets would have to be discussed and decided where they should be placed.

My thanks, and I am sure yours as well, go to Linda, Secretary and Editor, Nick, Treasurer for keeping us straight financially, Ann, Membership, Rosie for committee, Valerie for her sterling efforts in giving us such a varied programme and for doing next year's, she will hand it over to the next person as from this meeting, we must also add Stuart to Valerie's name for making the coffee at the end of the talks. Those who deliver the magazine, John Woollan for book sales, Nick and Pam for helping people with their research, we must also thank The Old People's Welfare Centre for letting us use the little side room for this.

May I just add that the duties for the Chairman are to Chair the Committee meetings and the talks, or to find someone who will take over if required, also to make sure the room is open and ready for the speaker and to make sure that it is closed up securely at the end of the meetings.

Thank you for your support over the years.

Gillian Smith

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Here is the final edition of Roots and Branches for 2019, my apologies for the delay. The Society has generally had a good year, unfortunately numbers have gone down, but the Society is still going.

As many of you already know, Gill resigned as Chairman of the Society at the AGM; according to our Constitution we must have a Chairman to continue, so far, we still haven't a Chairman, If anyone feels they may possibly be able to help in this matter and would like further information on what it involves, please telephone me on 01394 448354.

The magazine and the Speaker's Meetings remain very popular, and I must congratulate Valerie Humphrey on her booking successes for the programme, well done! Valerie has now resigned as Programme Secretary, but she has left a full year of bookings until July 2020. However, we still need someone to continue her good work, again if you think you can help with this please telephone me.

Thank you too to those members who have sent in an article. It is interesting to hear members' stories, of how they might be struggling to climb over those 'brick walls', we all get them, or even better is to hear of the successes that members have.

There are changes taking place with the help session at **Broadway House**, sessions are held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** of every month except December and August between 10 am and 12 noon.

May I wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Linda Negus Membership No: 0620



## AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2019

FELIXSTOWE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES  
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 296115

Statement of funds as at July year end	2019	2018	2017	2016
TSB current Account	£373.71	£376.41	£2,152.24	£1,448.65
TSB deposit account	£5,074.59	£4,261.82	£2,259.93	£569.74
Unbanked cheques on hand	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Cash held by Treasurer	£1.05	£11.08	£28.45	£37.93
Cash held by Publications officer	£20.00	£6.44	£7.25	£0.00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£5,469.35</b>	<b>£4,655.75</b>	<b>£4,447.87</b>	<b>£2,056.32</b>
Liabilities (unpresented cheques)	£50.00	Zero	£50.00	
<b>Income</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Membership subscriptions	£935.00	£1,142.00	£1,397.00	£1,721.00
Sale of Publications	£57.69	£98.33	£143.59	£102.94
Donations including legacies	£1,044.95	£25.00	£113.00	£736.34
Grant	£0.00	£0.00	£400.00	£0.00
Royalties	£144.07	£119.31	£82.39	£44.35
Speaker Meetings	£515.70	£549.50	£447.15	£743.50
Christmas / New Year meal	£308.00	£320.00	£130.00	£0.00
Tree House items	£0.00	£0.00	£285.14	£659.30
Gift Aid reclaimed from Inland Revenue	£201.82	£262.72	£345.35	£424.98
Bank Interest	£8.95	£1.89	£1.25	£0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,216.18</b>	<b>£2,518.75</b>	<b>£3,344.87</b>	<b>£4,432.55</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Computer equipment	£244.18	£33.49	£584.28	£0.00
FindMyPast World Seat	£470.93	£509.38	£470.93	£0.00
Stationery & Postage	£14.18	£27.40	£163.99	£140.80
Gift (Auditor)	£29.00	£16.49	£13.98	£9.98
Tree House expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,758.93
Committee Expenses	£28.14	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00
Christmas / New Year meal	£350.00	£320.00	£130.00	£0.00
Speaker meetings	£715.65	£691.29	£567.00	£576.00
Website Hosting	£84.00	£36.56	£36.00	£0.00
Data Protection	£35.00	£38.60	£35.00	£35.00
Federation of F H Societies	£55.86	£56.42	£73.34	£74.10
Magazine production	£271.88	£330.86	£260.40	£317.04
Publications officer	£13.43	£53.58	£0.00	£0.00
Publicity	£38.93	£10.00	£0.00	£0.00
Photocopying	£0.00	£1.80	£47.20	£8.64
Drop-in sessions & open days	£51.40	£135.00	£50.00	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,402.58</b>	<b>£2,260.87</b>	<b>£2,432.12</b>	<b>£2,940.49</b>
Excess of income over expenditure	£813.60	£257.88	£912.75	£1,492.06

NOTES to the 2018-2019 accounts

During the year we received a legacy of £1000.00, of which £244.18 was spent on a computer projector.

NOTES to the 2017-2018 accounts

All cheques drawn before the year end were presented before the year end

The Tree House having closed, there will be no further income from associated items

I have examined the above statement of accounts together with the books and vouchers relating thereto.

In my opinion the statement is correct according to the books, records and vouchers submitted to me.

and represent the funds available for use by the society

Hon. Auditor

*Shirley J. Bailey*

Date

*30/8/2019*

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AGM

Having made sure that everyone present had a copy of the Audited Accounts for 2018-2019, Nicholas Smith, Treasurer, drew the attention of the meeting to the following points.

The apparently healthy excess of income over expenditure (£813.60) should be read in conjunction with the receipt of a legacy of £1000 and related expenditure of £244.18.

The assets of the society (funds at bank plus cash) totalled £5469.35, more than enough to support the present level of activity (speaker meetings and other events) for at least 2 years.

The Income from membership subscriptions and the associated Gift Aid recovered from the Inland Revenue continues to show a steady decline, reflecting the shrinking membership of the Society.

The level of other income and expenditure continues to be airily steady (ie within a variation of  $\pm$  10%).

An invitation to the meeting for detailed questions drew a nil response.

Nicholas Smith  
Treasurer

## SPEAKER'S MEETING - OCTOBER

### Life as a Harwich Pilot

Jane Stone

For our October Speaker Meeting we were treated to a most entertaining talk by Jane Stone. A Master Mariner of many years' experience, she now pilots ships large and small in and out of Felixstowe and other ports under the jurisdiction of the Harwich Haven Authority. Having outlined her career from Deck Cadet to Master Mariner with Shell, a process which took her all over the world, she then worked for 10 years on ferries from Felixstowe and Harwich. Sensing that she could continue to enjoy sailing the beautiful River Stour and the even more beautiful River Orwell, yet have more time at home to relax, she took on her present role as a Pilot.

She gave us an insight into the huge variety not only of ships and their navigational requirements but also the various personalities to be found among the crews and officers of these ships. Illustrating her talk with a judicious selection of stills and video clips she brought to us the joys and frustrations of life as a pilot.

Climbing rope ladders to transfer from the pilot launch to the ships, checking the experience and personality of the Master of the Vessel, determining the dimensions and characteristics of the ships, recovering from being called for duty in the small hours of the morning with refreshments in the ship's galley, co-ordinating the work of the tugs, knowing exactly where she was despite fog or rain lashing down on the windows of the ship's bridge in the dark – all part of a day's work for her and she enjoys it.

Nicholas Smith

## DIARY DATES

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Felixstowe 1939-1945: The Untold Stories**

**Julian P Foynes**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2020      Members Memorabilia & Social Evening**

This will be a memorabilia evening for members to bring along articles/items of interest to show other members. We will also have available two PCs to help members with any research queries they may have.

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2020      History of the Ownership of the River Orwell**

**Andy Parker**

The spring of 2019 was the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII gifting the rights of the River Orwell to Ipswich Corporation. Back in 1519 the borough council didn't exist; the Corporation, as it was called, consisted of merchants and port men who ran the town. By being given these rights they had control of the river, including the rights of navigation, trade and commerce, as well as rights over-arching those that sailors had on the river. It is this that makes the Orwell unique in Britain, in that the river and riverbed are owned by the town of Ipswich, unlike nearly all other tidal rivers, which are owned by the Crown Estate.

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2020      Behind the scenes of the TV programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?'**

**Gill Blanchard**

Gill has been conducting family, house and local history research since 1992, beginning her research career at the Norfolk Record Office where she worked as a researcher and with the public for nearly six years. She has worked behind the scenes of WDYTVA? interviewing Mary Berry and Jonnie Peacock.

*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 £1.00.*

*Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) are available at the end of the meeting.*

**Did You Know that** .....that a pightle or pyghtle was a small enclosure of land? There are dozens of variants: pightel and pighel are found soon after 1200. Later it was often rendered as pickle and hence it being used as a term meaning very little. This once common term for a unit of land is not obscure but similar words may be found in old wills, as this example from the will of George Wernham from Chiveley in Berkshire in 1738 demonstrates:

"Also, six acres and three small piddles of arable land in the common fields of Chieveley".

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM

The year has seen once again a decline in membership, but this seems to be happening at many other societies and organisations. However, thinking of our future we must try and encourage people to join.

As you are aware Gill is resigning after many years' service as Chairman of the Committee, this means that we need at least one more committee member in order to meet the rules of our Constitution. I hope we are successful in doing that so we are able to continue.

I have continued as Editor of Roots and Branches for another year which I am happy to do so for the present. Over the year I have received some articles from members for the magazine which are appreciated. However, I would be very grateful for a few more over this coming year. I receive many articles from our member Roger Sutton which is great, but it would be nice to have some contributions from other members. The other item I would like to mention is Members Interest forms; these can be very useful for searching for families. Don't forget that 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 will once again be holding a stall at the Suffolk FHS Fair in Ipswich, please come and see us. Other societies also have stalls there who you may find useful in your research. In previous years I have managed to collect information and CDs from Bedfordshire, Huntingdon and also the One Name Society.

Finally, may I thank everyone for their continued support of Felixstowe Family History Society. The Committee and other members work hard to support the Society, through arranging the Speakers Meetings and the Roots and Branches journal; both of these are still flourishing and I am hoping that the Society will go on for many more years.

May I also remind those of you who have not yet renewed your membership that it was due on the first of September. I look forward to another good year with the Society.

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM

In common with many other Family History societies across the country, our membership numbers have decreased over the past few years. This time last year we had 146 members. Since then we have both lost and gained members, and today's total is 125 comprising of 67 single, 28 joint and 2 honorary members.

May I take this opportunity to thank members for their continued support of the monthly raffle at the Speakers Meetings. Any donated prizes are always welcome. Thank you.

Ann Sanderson  
Membership No: 1292

**MEMORIES OF WW2 IN KIRTON**

**J**

**ANE BRADBURN**

For our November meeting, Jane Bradburn gave us an extremely interesting describing how the events of the second World War affected the small community of Kirton near Felixstowe.

The research was the result of her being asked by Len Lanigan, the local history recorder, to record the memories of people who had lived in Kirton for most of their lives and many of them told me stories about WW2.

Using her audio tape recording of elderly villagers, Jane explored the impact the war had on rural Suffolk life. Some of the more amusing tales focused on the evacuees from Dagenham who often failed to settle in such a small and quiet environment – one family lasting only four days! Also the proximity to the docks at Felixstowe meant that, for some, London was a safer option.

We heard about when a plane, a Whitley bomber, returning to base crashed in the village killing all the crew on board. Some of the crew were Canadian. In the village church of St Mary & St Martin the villagers commemorated the crew by inscribing the names and wings of the five crew members on the pew ends down the central isle.



Image © [www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk](http://www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk)

Ann Sanderson  
Membership No: 1292

**OUR ANNUAL 'CHRISTMAS' DINNER**

**A**t the last Speaker's meeting I mentioned the annual meal that we normally have in January. I suggested that as many members do not like coming out on the cold, dark nights in January that we change the meal to a lunch time, this was agreed. So I sent round a chart for people to add their name if they were interested and to tick their chosen option for a venue. I had put The White Horse, The Mariners and The Hand in Hand, the majority of people ticked The White Horse, so I have booked a table for 20 on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

If you put your name down on that night, but are no longer able to go, please let me know. If you weren't able to attend that meeting but would like to come to the lunch, please ring me on 01394 448354 so that I can add your name(s).

I will give out further information at the next Speaker's meeting evening on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January concerning time to meet, this is a Members' memorabilia and Social evening. Research help will also be available.

Look forward to seeing you all there!

Linda Negus, Membership No: 0620

## CETTI'S WARBLER

Mrs Cetti was a friend of my mother and a client of my father, and I saw quite a bit of her in the 50s and 60s. She was as English as they come, but her name did cause some consternation. One day my father asked his new office junior to bring him her file, but she could not find it. She was looking for Mrs. Chetty. A name like Cetti must indicate some Italian history, so I decided to do some digging. This has also given me the opportunity to compare Ancestry with Find My Past. I thought it might also prove useful to share as a case study for the benefit of others starting their research with a blank sheet of paper (and internet access).

Many years later I learnt of the bird now well known to bird-watchers and twitchers as Cetti's Warbler. It is named in honour of Francesco Cetti, born in 1726 to parents from Como and who was educated in Monza (according to Wikipedia). Both places are in Lombardy, in the North of Italy. More of Lombardy anon.

Also, according to Wikipedia, the bird has greatly increased since 1990, so it must have been a bit of a rarity during the 50s and 60s. (I do find Wikipedia very useful when I do my Family History Research – it clarifies obscure place names and gives pointers to circumstances and events which affected the people we are researching.)

Knowing that Mrs. Cetti died after mid-September 1981, and that her husband died before I knew her, the starting point for my research was the 1939 Register. This produced Albert V Cetti, Stockbroker/bookkeeper, born 1880-01-25 and Elizabeth R Cetti, born 1897-09-08, living at Lyndon, Queslett Road, Aldridge (on the borders of Staffordshire and Warwickshire). I thought his name was Mick, but that must have been the name by which he was known and not his actual name.

I then went to that very useful web site, [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk), but there was no mention of her death. I knew she was still alive in 1981 (when I last saw her), but there was no entry for her there, so I had to look somewhere else. Meanwhile, I checked the FreeBMD site to see how many deaths have been transcribed so far for 1981, and it's not that many. (FreeBMD wants Surname first, but FindMyPast wants Surname last, so I lost a bit of time putting [Cetti] in the wrong box, but eventually I got there. Moral – check what you've typed in which box if you get a Nil response to your enquiry.)

I then tried <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#calendar>, and soon tracked her down. She died 1981-10-03 (a few days after I last saw her). The address given is that of the nursing home where I last saw her.

Next step - when did Albert die? Not hard to find on FreeBMD. He died 1947 Q1 in Birmingham, aged 67. A quick calculation from this gives his date of birth to be 1880, which agrees with the 1939 Register. His death certificate would show cause of death and address at date of death, but I decided to save my pennies.

Next step – find their marriage. A search on FreeBMD for Cetti, marriages, 1900 – 1939 brings up just the one record. 1927 Q4 in Solihull, to Elizabeth R Collett. I could have sent for their marriage certificate to find out where they were living when they married, but again I decided to save my pennies.

*Cont Page 15*

I could have started searching the Electoral Registers to find out where they lived during the 20s and 30s, but decided instead to start looking at the Census records. The most recent census available is for 1911, which I looked up on Find My Past. This shows details for 736 Coventry Road, Birmingham.

The Transcript shows:

Head of household – Charles Gitanna Cetti, age 70, Widower, formerly dealer in Tobacconists' sundries. Implied year of birth 1840/1. Born in Dudley, Worcestershire. And Free BMD shows Charles Gitanna Cetti born in Dudley in 1840 Q4.

Other members of household:

Albert Victor Cetti, Son, age 31, Single, Stockbroker's Clerk. Implied year of birth 1880, which tallies with the previously established birth year, and his occupation is compatible with subsequently becoming a Stockbroker/Bookkeeper. Born in Wandsworth, Staffordshire.

Adelina Cetti, Daughter, age 29, Single, domestic duties at home. Born in Wandsworth, Staffordshire.

As Wandsworth is in London, I thought this must be a mistake. So I looked at the image of the original document and found it clearly showing Handsworth, with the initial letter quite different from the initial letter used for Worcestershire. Moral – always try to look at images of documents and do not rely solely on a transcription. The image also shows “4 children of present marriage, 3 still living”: but this has been struck out, presumably because the “present marriage” ended when Charles Gitanna became a widower.

I then went to [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com) to find 736 Coventry Road, Birmingham. Not only did I get the postcode, but also a map so that I could now see which part of the (long) Coventry Road has house number 736. After the 1911 Census, my next stop was the 1901 census.

Nothing in FindMyPast for Albert Cetti for 1901 but by ticking the “Name Variants” box, it came up with Albert & Adeline Cetti living with their parents Charles and Mary at the same 736 Coventry Road, Birmingham. Charles is showing as “living on own means”, born 1841 in Dudley, and Albert is shown as a Commercial Clerk, born 1880 in Birmingham.

So, Mary must have died between the 1901 census and the 1911 census. Sure enough, FreeBMD shows the death of Mary Cetti age 66 in Aston in 1908 Q1. Implied year of birth – 1842.

Now to find the marriage of Charles and Mary. And Free BMD shows a wedding in Lichfield in 1872-Q4 between Charles Gitanna Cetti and Mary Jones. The 1901 census also shows John Cetti (single, 63) and Inlio Cetti (single, 53), both British Subjects born in Italy, living in Cregue Street, Birmingham This is a mis-transcription, the image shows Cregoe Street (another place I have encountered when researching my own family history and might yet prove to be the initial connection between my mother & Ruthie, as she was known to us).

So far, so good. Now, let's look at the census for 1891

Excellent – it shows Coventry Road, Bordesley

Charles G Cetti – head of household – Wire Maker's Clerk – age 50, born in Dudley

Mary Cetti – wife

Charles A Cetti – son aged 15 (implied year of birth 1876), born in Birmingham

Albert V Cetti – son aged 11 (implied year of birth 1880), born in Birmingham

Adelina Cetti – daughter aged 9 (implied year of birth 1882), born in Birmingham

And they had a live-in servant (Mary).

© Nicholas Smith Treasurer

**TO BE CONTINUED IN MARCH 2020 ISSUE**

## PUBLICITY OFFICER

Your Society needs a Publicity Officer to join the team. If you think you can help tell the world about our events, please speak to one of the committee and they will be delighted to tell you more about it.

Here is a list of some of the duties involved to give you an idea.

- Prepare notices of forthcoming events
  - ⇒ Arrange/display on notice boards at
    - ◇ Broadway House
    - ◇ Library
    - ◇ Community notice boards in supermarkets etc
  - ⇒ Submit for publication to local magazines
- Check local magazines to ensure that publicity is printed and is accurate
- Remind the committee of copy dates for local magazines
- Liaise with Programme Secretary for details of forthcoming speaker meetings
- Assist at meeting occasionally by asking visitors how they heard about that evening's event.

Events involved are:

- Speaker meetings
- Drop-in sessions at Broadway House
- Open Days

## CAN YOU HELP?

Does your local shop have a community noticeboard?

Would it be prepared to display notices about your Society's events?

Would you be prepared to supply them with notices each month, from a batch which we can now prepare for the next few months (thanks to help from the Museum & History Society who share our monthly Speaker Meetings in Broadway House), and give you to hold and deliver?

Do you have contact with anyone else who has a community notice board?

Do let your committee know, and then we can co-ordinate our publicity in the most effective and efficient way.

We had more people at our October, November and December meetings, to the extent of having to get out some extra chairs – do help to continue that trend.

## MY HALE FAMILY OF HIGHGATE

My Great grandmother Louisa Elizabeth Hale (1848-1940) was a Londoner. She was born at 85 Jermyn Street, St James, Westminster. Her mother was Amelia Pain Rowe (1814-1898) and she was born at Great Vine Street, (off Regent Street). She was probably from farming stock. When Amelia died she left £20 to her cousin Amelia Rowe of Denmans Farm, Cannington, Somerset.

But the Hale family were from Highgate. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Stephen Hale was a shoemaker. He was buried on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1777 at Highgate Chapel (Stephen is a name that remained in the Hale family. My cousin Malcolm Stephen Hale, died in April 2007). It was Stephen's son John Hale (1740-1807) who transformed the fortunes of the Hale family. He started a business which made and hired out coaches and carriages. By 1823 Hales Coaches left Highgate for London nine times a day. By this time the business was being run by John's son Abraham Hale (1778-1843). He retired from coaching in 1832. He had an extensive property portfolio which suggests that the coaching business was successful.

Meanwhile Abraham's brother Thomas Hale (1772-1833) had established himself as a merchant of Throgmorton Street in the city of London. He was also a member of Lloyds. At one time there was an oil painting of him in Lloyds insurance office. A portrait of another of my ancestors, Tycho Wing (1696-1750) the philosopher and astronomer is in Stationers Hall off Ludgate Hill.

John William Hale (1803-1886) followed in the footsteps of his father Thomas Hale. In the 1839 London Commercial Directory he is shown as an Insurance Broker and Accountant. He was also a member of Lloyds and a director of the Bank of England. An obituary notice in The Times dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 1886 describes him as "founder and Treasurer of the Governesses Benevolent Institution". Arising from an unprecedented mid Victorian economic boom there was a huge increase in the number of governesses. Many families in the middle classes, particularly in London, could afford to educate their daughters at home for the first time. One daughter educated at home was my grandmother Florence Gerrett, daughter of Louisa Elizabeth Hale. The Gerrett family (the surname is foreign) ran a business and lived over the shop at Old Cavendish Street, Marylebone over the period 1831 to 1881.

Supporters of the Governesses Benevolent Institution were concerned that women who educated others should themselves receive education; as a result, Queens College of Harley Street was founded in 1848 and was the first school in the country established for the higher education of women. Among famous pupils of Queens College was Francis Mary Buss, who was to become headmistress of the North London Collegiate School for Girls. John William Hale financed Francis Mary Buss in this venture. Her father was one of the illustrators of "The Pickwick Papers" by Charles Dickens. John William Hale was a close friend of the Buss family, who lived at 46 Camden Street, Camden Town where the North London Collegiate School opened in April 1850.

Another son of Thomas Hale was Thomas Hale (1812-1896) who was an East Indian Merchant. He spent the latter part of his life in Suffolk where the 1881 census lists his family as having six servants. His brother Abraham Hale (1816-1903) was a bank manager and land agent. He spent most of his life in Pontefract, Yorkshire. The final brother was my great great Grandfather Stephen Hale (1810-1883) who acquired the Waterloo Hotel, 85 Jermyn Street after it had been run by his wife's family. Altogether it remained in my family for about 50 years. A curious feature of Stephen Hale's family life is that he and his wife sent their daughters together with a nursemaid down to Herne Bay, Kent while their son remained in London.

*Cont Page 18*



## WEBSITE UPDATES

### FindMyPast

- Britain, The Great War, I Was There, magazine
- Burma Star Association Membership Forms
- Dekho, Burma Star Association
- Kent, Swanscombe municipal cemetery
- Lancashire, 1801 Liverpool Census
- Northumberland, baptisms: Meldon, Tynemouth, Berwick upon Tweed and Elsdon, burials Newcastle St Nicholas, Meldon, Tynemouth and Berwick and marriages: Meldon, Tynemouth, Berwick upon Tweed and Elsdon
- Dundee and Agnus Collection
- USA, Official Army Register 1861-1865, Massachusetts: Index Of Casualties, World War II
- New Zealand, Women's Suffrage Petition

### Ancestry

- Brompton, London, England, Cemetery Registers, 1840-2012
- Germany, Limbach-Oberfrohn Births, 1876-1904, Marriages, 1876-1922, Deaths, 1876-1952 and School Lists, 1835-1920
- Canada, Nova Scotia, Petitions in Favour of Female Suffrage, 1918
- Finland, Pre-Confirmation Books, 1670-1918 and Communion Books, 1670-1917
- Norway 1801 and 1865 Census
- USA, WWII Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954
- USA, U.S., Navy and Marines Awards and Decorations, 1942-1994
- U.S., Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940
- USA, National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel, 1921-1970
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*Cont Page 20*

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### THE MEANING OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Firstly, my apologies for the delay in the production of this issue of the magazine. I am finishing this in the season of Advent so I thought I would write a little about the meaning of Advent.

Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas (or sometimes from the 1<sup>st</sup> December to Christmas Day!). Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. No one is really sure when Advent was first celebrated but it dates back to at least 567 when monks were ordered to fast during December leading up to Christmas.

An Advent Crown is a form of candles that are used to count down Advent. These are usually used in Churches rather than in peoples' homes. The crown is often made up of a wreath of greenery and has four candles round the outside and one in the middle

One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit on the second Sunday and so on. Each candle has a different meaning in Christianity. Different churches have given them different meanings, but I was taught the following:

- The first represents Isaiah and other prophets in the Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus.
- The second represents the prophets.
- The third represents John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who told the people in Israel to get ready for Jesus' teaching.
- The fourth represents Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- The middle one represents Jesus, the light of the world.

The colour purple is used to signify the season of Advent. The first three candles are purple, the fourth one that represents Mary is pink and the middle one that represents Jesus is white.

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