

# **ROOTS and BRANCHES**



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

**Volume 36 No 3**  
**September 2021**

## ROOTS AND BRANCHES



Volume 36 No: 3

September 2021

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Spa Theatre, Felixstowe © Brian Lewis

## COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS

With Covid regulations relaxing we have decided to resume our monthly Speaker Meetings in Broadway House, starting with the Annual General Meeting which is on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The evening will be a celebration of our first gathering together for many months, there will be a short AGM followed by a Speaker: Mark Mitchels will be giving us a talk on 'The Lost City of Dunwich'; this will be followed by a social gathering with non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles as well as the usual coffee and tea! I hope to see many of you there!

The Committee will also resume their meetings face-to-face. We have many interesting talks arranged over the coming months, but if there is a topic that you would like to hear, please let me know and I will look into the possibility of a Speaker.

Don't forget that you can pay your 2021/22 subscriptions at the AGM, Ann Sanderson will be at the meeting if you haven't already sent it in.

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620  
Secretary

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Broadway House has now opened! As you can see from above the Annual General Meeting will be held there on 8<sup>th</sup> September, we hope as many of you possible will be able to come along and join us in the celebration!

In the June edition you will have received your Membership Renewal form, this will look a little different to you. For those of you who have kindly agreed to add Gift Aid to your membership, I hope you read the new rules on the Membership Form carefully.

In the June 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. This month I have used an image of Felixstowe taken by Brian Lewis.

If you have any images of Felixstowe that you would allow me to use for the cover, please email them to me as a jpg file, maybe it's a view of the area, or a building or statue that you like, or any other ideas, I eagerly await your photos!

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620  
Editor

## DIARY DATES

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND**

**'The Lost City of Dunwich'**

**Mark Mitchels**

No one can stand on the cliffs of Dunwich and not wonder about the city which is now more than a mile out below the North Sea. At the time of Domesday Book Dunwich was spoken of as the tenth largest city in England. Since it began to crumble and fall into the waves, the Lost City has engrossed both historians and visitors. This lecture describes the story of a city as fascinating and elusive as El Dorado - and just as exciting. The rise and fall of any human creation speaks to all of us in a common language, because it calls upon our shared fears, but the decline of Dunwich assumes an almost Biblical dimension in that it truly demonstrates that Pride does indeed come before a Fall. And still the North Sea advances, grasping the retreating land.

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**The Treasures of Ipswich  
John Field**

This is a new talk which illustrates Ipswich's wide range of buildings and features of great architectural and historic importance. These include the town's Mediaeval Churches, Mansions and Halls, its important legacy of Victorian buildings, Nationally and Locally Listed Buildings and the many features and artefacts of local, national (and some of International) importance. The talk explores the breadth of Ipswich's rich history over many centuries through its architectural heritage and aims to create greater public awareness of this legacy in the local area and elsewhere.

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**The Medway Queen  
Mark Bathurst**

*Paddle Steamer Medway Queen* was built in Scotland in 1924, for the New Medway Steam Packet Company of Rochester. The *Medway Queen* is the last of the estuary paddle steamers that were built to take passengers on day trips on the Thames and Medway Estuaries, calling at locations such as Southend, Herne Bay and Margate. At the outbreak of the Second World War she was commissioned into the Royal Navy and became a minesweeper, joining the 10<sup>th</sup> minesweeping flotilla, but she was so much more.....

*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.*

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

Statement of funds as at July year end	2021	2020	2019
TSB current Account	£5,311.44	£5,520.03	£373.71
TSB deposit account	£0.00	£0.00	£5,074.59
Unbanked cheques on hand	£44.00	£0.00	£0.00
Cash held by Treasurer	£21.58	£16.13	£1.05
Cash held by Publications officer	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£5,397.02</b>	<b>£5,556.16</b>	<b>£5,469.35</b>
Liabilities (unpresented cheques)	-£25.00	£0.00	£50.00
<b>Income</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Membership subscriptions	£804.00	£837.00	£935.00
Sale of Publications	£38.62	£22.78	£57.69
Donations including legacies	£157.50	£125.00	£1,044.95
Royalties	£114.97	£130.01	£144.07
Speaker Meetings	£14.00	£169.10	£615.70
Christmas / New Year meal	£0.00	£0.00	£308.00
Gift Aid recovered from Inland Revenue	£149.00	£168.75	£201.82
Bank Interest etc.	£30.00	£37.21	£8.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,308.09</b>	<b>£1,489.85</b>	<b>£3,216.18</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Computer equipment	£55.89	£11.48	£244.18
FindMyPast World Seat	£470.93	£470.93	£470.93
Stationery & Postage	£12.99	£8.02	£14.18
Gift (Auditor)	£25.98	£26.00	£29.00
Committee Expenses	£0.00	£2.50	£28.14
Christmas / New Year meal	£0.00	£0.00	£350.00
Speaker meetings	£328.08	£320.37	£715.65
Website Hosting	£42.00	£42.00	£84.00
Data Protection	£36.00	£36.00	£36.00
Federation of F H Societies	£34.47	£55.86	£55.86
Magazine production	£422.52	£287.71	£271.88
Publications officer	£0.00	£57.72	£13.43
Publicity	£0.00	£14.85	£38.93
Photocopying	£0.00	£3.60	£0.00
Drop-in sessions & open days	£14.39	£67.00	£51.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,442.23</b>	<b>£1,403.04</b>	<b>£2,402.58</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>-£134.14</b>	<b>£86.81</b>	<b>£813.60</b>

NOTES to the 2020-2021 accounts

This year's accounts have been distorted by the Covid-19 pandemic

## SPEAKER'S MEETING—JUNE

### A Suffolk Bevin Boy

Barbara McElroy

Our June meeting, held by Zoom, was a talk by Barbara McElroy on the Bevin Boys.

In 1944 Les Raymond, Barbara's father, turned the age at which young men became old enough to be conscripted into Military Service in the Second World War. He was looking forward to this, and the chance to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, but it was not to be.

When war broke out in 1939, the government decided that as much of the export market for British coal was now denied by enemy activity, coal miners would not be deemed to have a reserved occupation and many of them found themselves conscripted into the army. Many of the miners preferred it that way, as the dangers in the mines were perceived as more perilous than the dangers facing soldiers.

In 1941 the government changed their tune and put an embargo on coal miners being taken from their work and put into the armed forces. But this was not enough to maintain the production of coal and by 1943 the shortage of coal and of coal miners was so serious that the government decided to introduce civil conscription (and not military conscription) to bring 10% of young men reaching 18 years of age into the mines. The 10% were selected by ballot and there were very few who evaded the call. Most of those who did evade found themselves in prison.

Les was sent to Creswell, in Derbyshire but very close to the border with Nottinghamshire and not far from Yorkshire. He and the other Bevin Boys had to find their own digs, not an easy task. Many of them ended sharing the same bed on a "cox & box" system with one lad awake and down the mine and the other sleeping in the bed. On the first day Les and his group of fellow conscripts were introduced to one of the pit ponies being used underground to haul coal wagons. They were asked how old they thought the pony was. Being a Suffolk boy born and bred, Les knew at once what to do and as a result he was given the job of working with the pony while the others were given other jobs in the mine. This might seem like a bit of a let-off from the most gruelling of the work, but it meant he had to walk the many miles to the coal face rather than travel on the underground train used by the other miners.

The work was dirty and dangerous. No pit head baths and the concept of "Health & Safety" lay well into the future. They soon learnt that the food they took down the mine had to be in a tin which snapped shut to keep the rats out. Not only was the work dirty, it was hot and wet underground and many of the miners preferred to work naked except for their boots and hats. Some seams were only just thick enough for a man to squeeze into.

Eventually some Nissen huts were put up for the miners to use as dormitories, and some of them had (primitive) ablution facilities. Irregularities with food ration coupons were rife, but by and large they did get enough to eat for their arduous work.

Life was not easy for them away from the pit. They were not in the armed forces, so they couldn't get drinks from the NAAFI tea stands at the railway stations on their infrequent visits home, a fate that also befell the Bomb Girls who made the bullets, shells and bombs so vital to the war effort.

*Cont Page 7*

There was constant harassment from police (on the lookout for deserters), and white feathers from others (who had no idea about the Bevin Boys). After the war, the Royal British Legion refused to let former Bevin Boys march along Whitehall past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Unlike the Bomb Girls, who were released once the need for ammunition ended, the Bevin Boys had to stay down the mines until 1948: 1947 was a very cold winter, there was great need for coal and many of the former miners returning from active service found other jobs rather than go back down the mines. When the Bevin Boys did get released, there was no de-mob suit like the soldiers got, no thanks, no military record for their CV and no jobs to go back to because they had gone straight down the mines from school.

Bevin Boys were not awarded medals for their contribution to the war effort and official recognition by the British government was only conferred in 1995.

It was only in 2013 that a memorial to the Bevin Boys was unveiled (by the Countess of Wessex) at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

A number of Bevin Boys went on to become well known for other reasons, including Brian Rix and Eric Morecambe the entertainers, footballers Alf Sherwood and Nat Lofthouse and others who became politicians, actors and so on.



Nick Smith  
Membership No: 1179

## **AUSTRALIA, INWARD, OUTWARD & COASTAL PASSENGER LISTS 1826-1972**

FindMyPast have merged their huge collection of Australian passenger lists into one searchable record set and added over 9 million new entries. The collection consists of records from multiple sources and can reveal useful family tree information including age, occupation and marital status.

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new/australiapassenger-lists>.

You can see a 64 minute video on Australian migration here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qcmuXNiAQY>

In May last the Society had an e-mail from Ole Reinert Berg-Olsen in Norway. Probably the first we have ever had from there. Here is an edited version of the e-mail he sent. Subsequent e-mails from Ole have given interesting details of his parents' lives (to follow in a future edition of Roots & Branches perhaps).

Few research enquiries have given me as much satisfaction as this one. I am delighted to say that our enquirer is now in contact with the chap he sought help in tracing and also family of one of the other chaps killed in the crash

Nicholas Smith

**The purpose of this inquiry is to find David D. McCall born in around December in 1948, in Samford.**

My father, Ole Reinert Berg-Olsen born 1916 was killed in an accident on October 15th 1949 at Veden, Spangereid, Norway when his aircraft, the Short Sealand G-AKLM crashed. I was born on November 11th 1949, a posthumous baby and named after my father.

The pilot's name was David Gordon McCall. Short Brothers & Harland had borrowed him from the Marine Experimental Establishment. He had completed Empire Test Pilot Course at Cranfield and Farnborough in 1947. He was 26 years old when he was killed. The two other persons killed in the accident were George Edward Puddicomb who was sales manager for Short Brothers and mechanical inspector Hugh Adams who was 36 years old, married, but had no children. Adams was 38 years old and had married in the summer of 1949.

Last summer my son wanted to see the place where his grandfather died. We came into contact with Bjørn Gabrielsen of Spangereid. He was a boy aged 10 in 1949 and he was one of the first persons to see the burning plane. Unfortunately there was nothing marking the place when we arrived. Nobody could see that such a dreadful accident had happened at the place. When the Mayor of Lindesnes municipality heard about it he wanted to mark the place with a memorial. During the past 72 years there has been no contact between the families of the deceased. All we know is that the 3 brits were all cremated in Kristiansand and their urns were sent to Britain. There was a ceremony in Kristiansand. The British vice consul Mr. Vereker participated and so did a representative from Short Brothers.

Now we hope that there are relatives of some of the three Brits. The problem is that we can't find them. The Norwegian Air Accident Investigation Board asked the British Ministry of Civil Aviation to report on what certificates McCall had. The British did not answer. I wrote to the Belfast Municipality some years ago, but they answered that they had no information about any of the three killed British. Then I found that The Evening Telegraph of Dundee was one of few British newspapers to publish a notice on the accident: it was published Monday 17 October 1949. I contacted a facebook group "Dundee Memories" and searched for information on David Gordon McCall.

I had a response from Mr. Andy Boyd who wrote:

*"David Gordon McCall, of Lavender Cottage, Peewit Hill, Felixstowe, Sussex, died 15 October 1949 at Lister, near Oslo, Norway.*

*Administration, Ipswich, 19 November to Daphne Margaret Wilson McCall, widow.*

*England & Wales, National Probate Calendar*

*Also, David G McCall married \*Daphne M W Plunkett around July 1947.*

*Cont Page 9*

I got these pieces of information from Mr. Grant Millar:

*“Dr David McCall is the name of the pilot's father, and the family lived at 411 Blackness Road, Dundee. Dr David McCall ran the School of Pharmacy at Dundee Technical College from 1920 to 1947. The family moved to Edinburgh in 1947, when Dr McCall took up a new post as Scottish Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.”*

*It's possible that David Gordon McCall married Daphne Margaret Plunkett in Deben, Suffolk, in around September 1947.*

*“Dr David McCall is the name of the pilot's father, and the family lived at 411 Blackness Road, Dundee. Dr David McCall ran the School of Pharmacy at Dundee Technical College from 1920 to 1947. The family moved to Edinburgh in 1947, when Dr McCall took up a new post as Scottish Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.”*

*It's possible that David Gordon McCall married Daphne Margaret Plunkett in Deben, Suffolk, in around September 1947.*

There will be a ceremony in Lindesnes when the memorial will be unveiled and we are trying to find family members of the three deceased Brits hoping they can participate in the ceremony.

I hope you can help me to find David D. McCall.

Thank you for your attention. Hope to hear from you.

Best regards

Ole Reinert Berg-Olsen

Nicholas Smith

Membership No: 1179

<b>NORFOLK GRAVEYARDS</b>
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Browse for your Norfolk ancestor in this collection of Norfolk grave and memorial photographs from churchyards the length and breadth of the county. This is a first release and FindMyPast will be adding more photographs in due course. Each record includes an image of a grave or memorial taken in a Norfolk churchyard. Some of the collections, which are organised by location and published here for the first time, may also include general shots of the interior or exterior of the church. This series of photos is released as a browse-only collection. <https://avsfhg.org.uk/links/nl53/nfkmi>

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## MY FAMILY LINKS TO DAVID RICARDO (1772-1823)

**M**y direct Sutton line can easily be traced back to East Kent because my grandfather Daniel Sutton was born at Harbledown, just outside Canterbury. My mother Eileen Pickering's ancestry is altogether more cosmopolitan. But one of her lines can be traced back to Sandwich. This is the Wilkinson family, who were interesting in their own right. But what I am highlighting in this article is their multiple links to David Ricardo, who was sufficiently famous for me to have learned about him when I studied A level Economics at Worthing High School for Boys in 1959-1961.

I have found that it is frequently possible to trace East Kent families back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. But in the case of the Wilkinson family the earliest record found has been the marriage of Thomas Wilkinson to Elizabeth Plover on 2 May 1659 at St Peter, Sandwich. Their son Thomas Wilkinson was christened on 11 June 1660 at St Mary, Sandwich. He was enrolled as a Freeman of Sandwich on 5 December 1688. He was a grocer and lived at the Fish Market (now Market Street). He married Mary Hickles at St Mary, Walmer in August 1689: the Hickles family had lived in Sandwich for at least four generations. Their children were christened at St Clement, Sandwich until 1697, after which they were christened at Cornmarket Independent or Presbyterian Chapel. Thomas was still alive on 29 April 1718 when he was taxed 1 Shilling 3 Pence.

His son (and my ancestor) Edward Wilkinson was christened on 10 November 1695 at St Clement, Sandwich. On 11 May 1718 he married Susannah Deare at St George, Ham By Sandwich, like his father he was a Freeman of Sandwich and a member of Cornmarket Independent or Presbyterian Chapel. He was the Captain and Part-owner of the boat "The Maiden's Adventure". His wife Susannah died in March 1725 and was buried on 21 March 1725 at St Peter, Sandwich. Edward then married Mary, but the marriage has not been found. Edward died on 24 August 1743. In his will dated 22 June 1743 he left his interest in "The Maiden's Adventure now riding in Sandwich Haven" to his wife Mary. His aunt was identified as Susannah Moon of Sandwich. The surname Moon appears to be Flemish. The Flemings had arrived in Sandwich in the 1560s, fleeing religious persecution by the Spanish conquerors in Flanders and Brabant.

Another beneficiary of Edward Wilkinson's will was his daughter (and my ancestor) Sarah Wilkinson who received £50. She was born on 21 March 1721 at Sandwich. She was christened on 6 July 1721 at Cornmarket Independent or Presbyterian Chapel. She married Joseph Ray on 15 November 1744 at St Mary, Whitechapel, London. Joseph was a joiner and carpenter. Sarah was accused of assault by Mary Crookdike, wife of Robert Crookdike. Joseph stood bail for his wife. The outcome of the case is unknown. Sarah was buried on 5 September 1805, aged 84, at Bunhill Fields, London.

Sarah's half-brother was Edward Wilkinson (son of Mary) who was born 8 April 1728 and christened 1 May 1728 at Cornmarket Independent of Presbyterian Chapel, Sandwich. He was a Freeman of Sandwich. He married Mary Patteson on 22 April 1755 in a Quaker wedding at Devonshire House, London. She was a member of a Quaker family in Canterbury. Edward was a surgeon in partnership with Moses Ricardo. Edward died on 4 November 1809, aged 81.

Edward's daughter Priscilla Ann Wilkinson was born on 5 November 1768 at Bow, London. She was a Quaker. David Ricardo was born on 18 April 1772 at 36 Broad Street Buildings, City of London. Coincidentally my mother Eileen's father Arthur Edwin Pickering worked for Collins of Broad Street whose founder Hyman Henry Collins (1883-1905) was the senior London-based Jewish architect of Victorian England. The firm specialised in designing Synagogues for England's growing Jewish

population. Hyman Henry Collins was instrumental in the framing of the first London Building Act and was one of the pioneers of improvements in sanitation of towns.

The Ricardo family then moved to Bow, close to the family of Edward Wilkinson. The Ricardo family were devout Sephadic Jews where the norm would have been to marry other Sephadic Jews. The year 1793 was to change all that. That was the year when Moses Ricardo (David's brother) was apprenticed to the surgeon Edward Wilkinson; and on 20 December 1793 David Ricardo married Priscilla Ann Wilkinson at St Mary, Lambeth. The marriage was opposed by both families. The problem of religious incompatibility was resolved by David Ricardo converting to Christianity. David and Priscilla had eight children between 1795 and 1810.

David amassed a considerable personal fortune, largely from financial market manipulation. By advocating free trade he was one of the most influential classical economists, which is why his theories formed part of the syllabus for my A Level Economics course. In 1817 he produced his chief work "Principles of Political Economy and Taxation". He was a close friend of Thomas Malthus and James Mill. In 1819 he became a Radical MP. He owned Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, where he died on 11 September 1823. His wealth was estimated at £675,000 - £775,000. Gatcombe Park is now owned by Princess Anne. As a widow, Priscilla had an income of £3,000 per annum. She died in October, 1849 aged 80. Her sons Osman Ricardo and David Ricardo both became MPs.

Edward Wilkinson's daughter Frances Wilkinson was born on 25 August 1766. On 7 February 1805 she married Moses Ricardo at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster. Moses had been born on 13 November 1776 at Bow. He had been apprenticed to the surgeon Edward Wilkinson and they subsequently became partners. In 1811 Moses was listed in the Royal College of Surgeons at Bow. He subsequently moved to Brighton (where I was born) and was active as a reformer and Liberal. He died on 7 March 1866, aged 89. His obituary referred to his "vast intellect", Frances died, aged 60, in Brighton, where she was buried on 27 July 1827.

Edward Wilkinson's son Josiah Henry Wilkinson was born 28 October 1762 at Bow, He married his clousin sarah Patteson on 7 October 1794 at St Andrew, Canterbury. Their eldest son William Arthur Wilkinson (1795-1865) was David Ricardo's clerk on the Stock Exchange. He married David Ricardo's sister Esther (born 1789) in 1818. She died in 1823. He then married her sister Rachel (born 1784) in 1826. She died in 1851. William was MP for Lambeth 1852-1857. William and Rachel's son David Wilkinson was a member of the Stock Exchange 1851-1905.

So why were the two families so attracted to one another? Because Edward Wilkinson (1728-1809) was a surgeon it is probably true to say that the two families were a match in terms of social class. Because the Ricardo family were Sephardic Jews and the Wilkinson family were Quakers, both families would have been regarded as outsiders by the English establishment, which at that time was firmly Anglican. In her book "Historic Haven: The Story of Sandwich" (1954) Dorothy Gardiner gives examples of how the Quakers in Sandwich were made to feel like outsiders. Perhaps, therefore, the Ricardos and the Wilkinsons were partly drawn to each other because of their shared outsider status.

The internationally renowned Ricardo Consulting Engineers in nearby Shoreham-by-Sea was founded by a member of the wider Ricardo family.

I am grateful to my Cousin Mike Ray of Sidcup,, Kent for discovering that our Wilkinson ancestors were related to the Ricardo family. Collaboration is very important when researching.

Roger Sutton      Membership No: 1126

**The Anglo-Saxon Ship**

**Joe Startin**

Resurrecting the Sutton Hoo ship

In July Joe Startin from the Sutton Hoo Society spoke to us via Zoom about the current project being undertaken by the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company in the long shed at Whisstocks boatyard in Woodbridge. Work has begun to build a full size replica of King Raedwald's famous burial ship excavated at Sutton Hoo in 1938/9. Joe began the story in 600AD when Angles, Saxons and Jutes migrated to East Anglia. King Raedwald is believed to have died c624.

During the excavation, the 90ft. ship found at Sutton Hoo was identified by its iron rivets by archaeologist Basil Brown. The wooden structure had rotted away leaving an imprint in the sand. The treasure, including the famous helmet, was taken to the British Museum. Nowadays excellent replicas of the treasure can be viewed in the exhibition in the High Hall at Sutton Hoo.

Joe told us of similar ship burial grounds in Sweden, in Vendel and Valsgarde. Another ancient ship excavated in Denmark was smaller than the one at Sutton Hoo. It too had been made of oak with iron nails. Although the same shape, it had a narrower profile with a V shaped hull. A smaller half size replica of the Sutton Hoo ship (Sae Wylfing) had been undertaken historically but with the support of Southampton University, it was decided in 2016 to attempt a full-size reconstruction.

The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company, made up of professionals, volunteers and enthusiasts, drew up reconstruction plans from the original photographs. One of the challenges was to create stability using ballast, a broader hull and a bigger keel. The construction is being undertaken using authentic ship-building methods with great attention to detail. For example, wedges are being used to split the green trunks of wood in the traditional way. Joe estimated that it will take 2-3 years to build the hull, followed by the internal structure. The local rowing club will be involved to test manoeuvrability. By launching it on the River Deben, the ship builders will gain valuable extensive knowledge.

With the release of the recent film *The Dig*, interest has increased hugely. Visitor numbers at Sutton Hoo have reached record numbers during this Summer. The Whisstocks boatyard in Woodbridge is open to visitors to glimpse the reconstruction work through a mesh screen. Further information on this fascinating project can be found at [www.saxonship.org](http://www.saxonship.org).

Ann Sanderson  
Membership No: 1292

**SCOTTISH ROMAN CATHOLIC REGISTERS ONLINE**

Findmypast have added over half a million Roman Catholic records from Scotland (mostly the Archdiocese of Glasgow). For details of the parishes included please follow this link.  
<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/scotland-romancatholic-parish-list?>

## WEBSITE UPDATES

**Findmypast** © IHGS Newsletter 242

- British Armed Forces, First World War Soldiers' Medical Records
- Dumfries and Galloway Census & Population Lists 1792-1821
- Ireland, Court of Chancery Bill Books 1627-1884
- Ireland, Court of Exchequer Bill Books 1627-1884
- England Roman Catholic Parish Registers update
- Scottish Roman Catholic Collection update

Prison records:-

Pentonville (prison registers, minute books)

Gibraltar Prison (visitor's book, journal of proceedings)

Chatham Prison, Kent (Register of Prisons)

Portsmouth Prison (Index of working parties)

Wormwood (Index of working parties, register of prisoners under separate confinement)

Wormwood Scrubs (index of working parties)

Millbank Prison (book of questions)

Newgate (list of prisoners; chaplain, surgeons and sheriff visits)

Bedford Gaol (governor's journal)

Lindsey Gaol (Visiting committee)

Liverpool Gaol (calendar of trials and quarter sessions)

Reading Gaol (entry book of pardons of prisoners, visiting justices)

Lancaster Gaol (Register of Debtors and Plaintiffs)

Oxford Gail (Gaoler's journal)

### **Ancestry**

- Westminster, London, Cemetery Registers, 1855-1990
- Worcestershire, Electoral Registers, 1837-1974
- Dundee, Poor Law Indexes, 1854-1878;
- UK and Allied Countries, Index of International Bomber Command Losses, 1936-1966
- Ireland, Jameson Distillery Staff Wage and Employment Books, 1862-1969
- Ireland, Casey Collection Indexes, 1545-1960
- Australia, Wyong, New South Wales, Headstone Images, 1800-2020;
- U.S., Confederate Army Payrolls for Enslaved Labor, 1840-1883
- U.S., New Hampshire, Prison Records, 1812-1968
- U.S., Montana, Military Records, 1904-1918
- U.S., Pennsylvania, Veterans Card Files, 1775-1916

### **FamilySearch**

- Surrey Marriages Bonds and Licenses, 1536-1992
- Argentina, Cemetery Records, 1882-2019
- Finland, Passport Registers, 1900-1920
- U.S., Missouri, Civil Marriages, 1820-1874
- Zimbabwe, Voter Registration, 1938-1973

*Cont Page 14*

## MyHeritage

- Austria-Hungary, Roman Catholic Indexes, 1612–1966
- Austria, Vienna Catholic Church Records Index, 1585–1918
- Poland, Gravestones, 1800-2020

U.S., Louisiana Death Index, 1819-1960

[www.corkarchives.ie/explore\\_collections/online\\_digital\\_collections/](http://www.corkarchives.ie/explore_collections/online_digital_collections/)

Cork Cemetery burial registers Rathcooney 1896-61 and Curraghkippane 1896-1962

<https://wexfordcountyarchive.com/our-collections/digital-collections/county-wexford-grand-jury-collection/>

Wexford Grand Jury Presentment Presentments from the Summer Assizes of 1817 to the Spring Assizes of 1823, Famine era Presentments spanning 1847-1850 and Presentments for 1859.

## FIBIS

- Dinapore Cemetery, Patna, Bihar Cemeteries & MIs
- Danapur Cemetery 3, Bihar Cemeteries & MIs >Bengal Pres) – 618 entries.

Patna City Cemetery, Patna, Bihar Cemeteries & MIs

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## Marriage Registration: Changes in the law from 4th May, 2021

You may be interested to learn that some quite fundamental changes have taken place in the way marriages are registered. It is a change which goes back to the Cameron government, but only became law at the end of February and took effect on 4th May this year. From now onwards, the marriage certificate will contain the names of mothers as well as fathers and this, apparently, was what instigated the changes. In addition, there will be room for more than one set of parents, to allow for situations such as adoption or remarried parents. Further, there can be up to five witnesses, although the legal minimum remains two. Finally the marriage will no longer be registered in church.

The parish priest is still responsible for arranging and carrying out the wedding, and ensuring the couple are qualified to marry, as well as calling banns. Instead of signing a register, a new document signed during the ceremony is then sent to the Register Office, where it is entered on an electronic register, and the couple are then sent a marriage certificate from the Register Office. This means that all the marriage registers and marriage certificate books held in the churches nationally must be closed, ruled through and returned personally to the Register Office. Each church holds two duplicate marriage registers, of which one will be returned to the church safe for aiding people who are doing research. [With thanks to a local Rector, who kindly allowed for her notes to be posted here.]

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## **AFTER THE RAILWAY: ONE MAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH WORLD WAR AND THE END OF EMPIRE**

My father, John Crooke, was a modest and quiet man who had an extraordinary life. From an impoverished middle-class childhood in an aristocratic Anglo-Irish family whose money, title and land had all disappeared, he served in the East Anglian 18th Division which was sacrificed in the World War 2 fall of the invincible fortress island of Singapore. 90,000 Australian, British, and Indian soldiers were defeated by a Japanese army half that size which, moreover, was about to run out of supplies. He then spent three and a half years as a prisoner of war (PoW), much of it as slave labour in the jungles of Thailand.

Up to 500,000 Asian slaves and 65,000 Allied PoWs built a railway inside a year for the Japanese Army to carry supplies to their armies on the Indian border. 90,000 Asians (we think; there were no records) and 12,300 PoWs died. That total nearly included John, whose life was saved from cholera by a transfusion of blood donated by his comrades and delivered via a bamboo needle. Starvation and lack of medical care was much worse amongst the Asian slaves, who lacked the formal military structures that helped sustain the PoWs. When the war ended the liberated PoWs returned to a country whose own war had ended several months earlier, and which wasn't terribly interested in their suffering.

For reasons I don't fully understand, John decided to go back to South East Asia, and help bring a rubber estate in the British colony of Malaya (then in the throes of a civil war) back into production. He stayed for 22 years as British Malaya became independent Malaysia, and raised a family (my sister Celia and me). He was a much loved and respected member of his local community, leading the church choir and being made a Justice of the Peace by the Sultan of Kedah. He could have done little of this without the support of his wife, Mary, who took a five-week sea trip to join him on his isolated rubber estate, threatened by revolutionary insurgents trying to overthrow the colonial regime. She had never left Britain before, and was thrown into the 30 degree C heat and humidity, with armed guards around the house, and a husband who carried a carbine to work. She herself was supported by a tiny Tamil lady we called Papa, who turned up at her house and told Mary that she (Papa) would be working for her from now on. Papa's husband became John's driver, and their son is today himself an estate manager. Our families are still in touch. Thanks to this support, Mary started a nursery school and became a magistrate on the youth bench. When John's estate was sold by his British employers in 1969, though, she put her foot down and insisted on a return to the UK.

Many ex-colonials like John didn't relish the challenge of retirement and return to the UK. They retired to warm climates like Spain to play golf and drink. John trained to be a primary school teacher and taught happily in his own village school, where he must have cut an unusual figure in a largely female profession. But the effects of his wartime experience were never far below the surface, and caught up with him in the late 70s when he had a mental health crisis and had to retire from teaching. Thanks to Mary and medical help, he recovered, and lived a happy retirement. But his early death in 1987 was, I'm sure, partly due to the physical and mental strains put on him in the jungles of Thailand all that time ago. His story can stand for many others. The COFEPOW (Children of Far East Prisoners of War) organisation still stands witness to their courage and sacrifice in the face of the arrogant incompetence of the government of the time. ©Roland Crooke

©My book 'After the Railway' is available on Amazon Kindle as both a Kindle and Paperback.

I first read this story in the magazine of Alde Valley FHS and found it very interesting. I emailed Roland and he kindly gave me permission to reproduce it here. Thank you very much Roland.

Linda Negus, Editor

## MY PICKERING FAMILY AND ITS LINKS TO CHESHIRE SURGEONS

It is only recently that I discovered my mother's Pickering family came from Cheshire. My ancestor Thomas Pickering was baptised on 5 April 1745 at St Mary's, Whitegate. His parents were Charles Pickering and the former Mary Weston. The Pickerings appear to have been minor gentry. Charles Pickering, who described himself as a gentleman, was churchwarden of St Chad's Church, Over, which earned him ten shillings a year. He had leasehold properties in Little Over and Bradford Wood.

The will of Charles Pickering was proved on 17 January 1761, when six of his daughters and Thomas Pickering were still living. Provision was made for all of them in the will, but it is significant that nearly all of the daughters married soon afterwards. All Charles' children were literate and so had been educated. Although this is speculative, it seems likely that Thomas Pickering was educated at Over Grammar School, which taught him Latin and Greek. On 15 April 1761 his mother and Thomas Naylor, gentleman of Middlewich, made £100 available for his education as a surgeon. It seems likely that Charles Pickering would have moved in social circles where he would have known surgeons and apothecaries, and it is likely that informal arrangements were made for the apprenticeship of Thomas Pickering. Various surgeons were based in Arclid, where Thomas was to become the diocese surgeon.

There is a mystery surrounding Thomas's wife. He supposedly married here while he was still a teenager, which is very unusual for somebody belonging to the professional class, particularly as he was still an apprentice. It is known she was called Martha, but no marriage has been found. There is a similar mystery over Thomas's will, which is missing. Thomas died when he was 32 and buried on 9 June 1777 at St Mary's, Sandbach. Although he held a prominent position his premature death presumably meant he was worth relatively little.

The widow Martha had a large number of children to support, including my ancestor Samuel Pickering (1767-1823), who had moved to London by 1799. His education may well have been interrupted by his father's early death and so possible career opportunities in Cheshire were limited.

On 10 October 1778 Martha married her second husband Richard Twemlow (1751-1816) at St Mary's, Sandbach. He was a surgeon of Sandbach and belonged to a prestigious family. Possibly this indicated that her family (about which nothing is known) also had professional status. Their daughter Jane Twemlow was baptised on 15 December 1779 at St Mary's, Sandbach.

Richard Twemlow was the son of John Twemlow, surgeon of Sandbach, and the former Margaret Skerratt, whose brother John was a surgeon. He married Jane Clarke at Astbury a parish near Sandbach, in 1732. Their eldest son was John Skerratt, who was also a surgeon.

Another of Margaret's brothers was Joseph Skerratt, Attorney-at-Law of Sandbach, who was included in a list of the principal inhabitants of Sandbach in 1782. When he died in 1795 he left an estate worth £5,000-£10,000. His parents were Randle Skerratt and the former Rebecca Hilditch, who had married at Sandbach in 1700.

Martha's second marriage was short. She was buried on 10 December 1782 at St Mary's, Sandbach. In the same year Richard Twemlow was described as a principal inhabitant of Sandbach. Presumably he was responsible for caring for his daughter Jane Twemlow. He died in 1816, aged 65 and was buried on 22 July 1816 at Sandbach. He left under £5,000.

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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.

Roger Sutton

Membership No: 1126

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