Malta Heraldry
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The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Committee and Officers of the Society.

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Bobsworth or Jobsworth!

It has come to pass that I have to get my head around economics. As a sideline, my governor Heather, and I have today sent out 140 four-page invitation packs to those who have shown an interest in attending our Weekend Conference next year. My ink has run low! We have discussed certain subjects quite vocally. But Heather has gone over the road to see our beloved great granddaughter Zoe, bearing with her a toy called “Russell,” (he rustles) and will be very happy. I am left to turn my thoughts to the Christmas period diatribe we call an editorial. It must be about money.

The Treasurer pinned me to a seat after the Annual General Meeting. “Did you know…?” he started. I thought “I do the Michael Caine impressions round here”. Not many people know that! Ron had done a detailed analysis of the cost of the Historian over a number of years. A long police career had taught me that at moments like this an itching begins in your back, just before the weapon strikes. “Did you know?” he repeated (somewhat theatrically I thought) that the cost of the Historian has remained almost constant over a number of years? Actually, no I did not and was quietly overjoyed. I was aware that I had kept within the generous budget allowed me, on almost all occasions, but I was struck dumb by this revelation and a warm glow overcame me. I had been in a bit of a mood, having just sat on a think tank as an “expert.” I was aware that the other two members had expertise, but in my case the police dictum of expert is : ‘Ex is a has been, spurt a drip under pressure’. I was a bit miffed when no-one asked a question of our panel that was not about computers. I thought that I might have been better employed having a quiet snooze in the back row, which happens quite frequently. “However,” Ron broke into my reverie, “the postal costs have gone mad.” So much so that the cost of membership does not cover the cost of the magazines we send to some members. Then he came up with a super plan for lowering the costs and improving the Historian, for which I earnestly thank him.
Changes are already afoot!

If you have only read this far in the Historian you will not have noted that Ian, the Production Manager and I have started the changes. Not the cover! Those were purchased some time back, in one of our money saving efforts, where colour printing costs are more acceptable if we get a number of covers done at one time. I have them up to March 2015. The money saved is what provides the occasional extra we have sent you over the years. With this issue you will find the 2013-2014 Directory of the Society. We have previously repeatedly printed this information four times a year and this Directory should allow us to give you up to eight pages more information with each issue. So, you may find there is more content. Finding it has been stressful on Ian and me, but enjoyable. In a perfect world you would send me so many articles that I would not need to commission articles. I suppose that day might come. We have moved the colour pages around to see if it produced a different look and some of the text is now in Arial, up to now it has always been my favoured Times New Roman. For I do have certain proclivities, notably a penchant for altering “The First World War” and “World War 1” into “The Great War” on every conceivable occasion. Yes, I can bore on an international level! And a lot of people know that!

Fred Feather

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Publication Deadlines

Copy should reach the Editor not later than Friday, 31st January, 2014 for the March edition of the Journal.

Society Website

www.esfh.org.uk

Members’ Surname Interests

See page 81 for Members’ new and changed Surname Interests up to and including 4th October, 2013.
## County Calendar

A quick reference guide to Branch Meetings during the next quarter

### DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Southend Home of the Stars by Chris Izod</td>
<td>SOUTHEND</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Bygones Quiz then Mince Pies with Ian Torrance</td>
<td>HARLOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Christmas Social</td>
<td>COLCHESTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Members Christmas Evening</td>
<td>SAFFRON WALDEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>History of New Hall by Tony Tuckwell</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Family History Quiz with Barbara Harpin</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (T)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Google – Not just a Search Engine with Steve Cordery</td>
<td>CH COMPUTER GRP</td>
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### JANUARY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>The Royal Flying Corps and the bombing of Southend by Roger Smith</td>
<td>SOUTHEND</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Trace of the London Bodysnatchers by Ruth Richardson</td>
<td>HARLOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Personal Assistant to a High Court judge by Roger Smith</td>
<td>SAFFRON WALDEN</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Colchester’s Roman Wall with Jess Jephcott</td>
<td>COLCHESTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Stairway to Heaven-1943 Bethnal Green Tube Shelter Disaster by Sandra Scotting</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Our Newspaper Heritage by Meryl Catty</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Workshop – bring your laptop or just come and see what others are doing</td>
<td>CH COMPUTER GRP</td>
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### FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Writing about Southend by Dee Gordon</td>
<td>SOUTHEND</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Family History Quiz with Barbara Harpin</td>
<td>HARLOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>SAFFRON WALDEN</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>Family History through Register of Electors by Eric Probert</td>
<td>COLCHESTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>The Military Archive by Jonathan Murphy</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>History of Stained Glass by Chris Parkinson</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (T)</td>
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<td>15th</td>
<td>To be advised</td>
<td>CH COMPUTER GRP</td>
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### MARCH

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>The Library at the Bishopsgate Institute by Stefan Dicker</td>
<td>SOUTHEND</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Highgate Cemetery by Matthew Pridham</td>
<td>HARLOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>The work of a Pargetter by Bill Sargeant</td>
<td>SAFFRON WALDEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Promiscuous Letters by Meryl Catty</td>
<td>COLCHESTER</td>
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<td>15th</td>
<td>Terror in the Night The 1953 North Sea Surge by Michael Holland</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Marriage Law for Genealogists by Rebecca Probert</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>To be advised</td>
<td>CH COMPUTER GRP</td>
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(L) Lecture; (T) Tutorial

*Please Refer to Pages 73-80 for further details.*

*We have included Postcodes of the Branches to help those with SatNav find a venue*
A Son of Harwich

Great Uncle James Henry Lawrence

BORN 20th May 1862 in Harwich, James was the eldest surviving son of William Lawrence born 1834 in Aspall Suffolk and Laura Long born 1834 in Harwich. His parents William and Laura owned or ran the Hannover Square Dining Rooms in Church Street Harwich, Hall Farm in Dovercourt, Albemarle House and had bathing machines for hire on the beach plus an interest in the camera obscura on the promenade and many other business interests in Harwich. I can locate James in 1881 as working for his father on the farm in Dovercourt but thereafter he appears not to be either in England or ever felt obliged to fill in any later census forms. At the Newspaper Archives I found an article describing his journey to the Australia goldfields.

The Harwich and Dovercourt Newsman, February 19th 1887
An Emigrant’s Experiences:- the following letter has been received from James Lawrence, son of Mr. William Lawrence, refreshment room keeper, at Harwich:
- Dec. 30th 1886.

“I now write to you from a place called Blaney, in New South Wales, and am in middling health. I will first give you a brief review of what I have been doing of late. I arrived at Derby all right, on my way to Kimberley Goldfields. And after five weeks’ travelling we arrived at the field with the loss of one of our horses. On arrival we found to our regret that it was a complete fraud, and there we were, thousands of us, in a wild and barren country, with no prospect in front of us if we stopped, but starvation. They were dying with scurvy, and nearly everyone down with fever and ague. Gold there was everywhere, if you liked to look for it, but in such small quantities it would not pay half rations. We found all the flour that we had brought from New Zealand had gone bad, so we had to sell our tinned meats to buy Adelaide flour at the rate of Is.3d. per lb: bacon 3s per lb: sugar 2s per lb.

We had about six weeks’ prospecting about all round the country, but could not find anything that would pay working. We decided then upon going back by way of Cambridge Gulf. The first day on our way back we lost a horse with the poisoning gases. We had to leave the cart, harness, and everything but what we could carry on our backs, our remaining horse carried the provisions. The road was lined with dead horses, carts, and wagons of every description, and every few miles a mound of stones, which told for itself the sad fate of some poor fellow. The fifth day out from the field we lost our only horse. Then came our hardships. Footsore and weary, with our boots worn through to the uppers, scorched and blinded with the burning light.
sand (even now my eyes are not right, as when I wake in the morning I cannot see until I have bathed them well) we arrived at the Gulf. One of my mates was down with the fever and ague.

We got a small schooner to take us (about 150 of us) round to Port Darwin for the sum of £1 each, where we landed after six days knocking about in calms and squalls. Packed like herrings in a barrel. Port Darwin is the capital of the northern territory of South Australia. It is the terminus of the Submarine Telegraph Cable. They are constructing a big railway there, but they are all Chinese employed to make it. It is frightfully hot there - up to 120 degs. in the shade. I had a fortnight in hospital with fever, which took every cent I had.

I got a passage on one of the China boats to Sydney, where I landed without a penny in my pocket (la -de -da). I started up country in a place called Balkurst, where there is a lot of harvesting. I soon got work and have now come up to Blaney, and have taken a bit more harvesting, and then I am going to do a bit of prospecting around here, as it is all auriferous ground, and it is one of the oldest gold diggings in Australia. I may be lucky, or I may not. My turn of fortune’s wheel may come yet.”

It would appear that he was eventually a successful gold miner as on his return to England he presented all the females in the family with a gold nugget ring.

In the 1980’s I saw one of these rings belonging to an aunt whilst another aunt said that she did not own one as she was too young at the time when he returned to England, she being born in 1908. Family legend has it that on his return he held a huge party at the Great Eastern Hotel in Harwich. As a child I remember being shown a photograph of two or three somewhat scruffy men standing by a tent which had a very obviously hand written sign saying either “Hannover Mine” or Harwich Mine”.

I have managed to trace his whereabouts in 1914/15 when he had a photographic business in Fulham, West London and from then until 1922 at addresses in Watford, Hertfordshire where he had a photographic business called The Australian Studio.

Various members of the family held the view, when I asked what happened to him, that James Henry “got into bad company” or “had a drink problem.” Either or both of these are possibly true but I have a soft spot for James Henry who probably got fed up with hoeing the crops or milking the cows and set forth for pastures new. If he travelled to Australia as a deckhand and jumped ship as so many did or if he paid his way I do not know. Whether he ever married or where he died I have no idea either but I hope to find out one day. Surely there must have been other “sons of Harwich” who got gold fever and headed for Australia. I would of course be most interested if any member would have any information about Blaney, New South Wales.

Joy Wowrek (ESFH8439)

Correspondence via the Editor, please.
Daniel Brown Did Not Return

WHEN HISTORIAN 147 was published in March 2013 I was in Tasmania tracking down what did happen to Daniel Brown. A fuller account of his life both before and after the Riot at Myland is being published in the Essex Journal, but, for the benefit of readers of the HISTORIAN who do not have access to the Essex Journal, a synopsis is given here:

Daniel married Sarah Kittie at Myland parish church in 1827 and they had three children, two of whom were alive at the time Daniel was convicted of stealing a sack of wheat from Thomas Turner in 1832, for which he was sentenced to be transported to Van Diemen’s Land. In the documents completed on his arrival in Hobart he stated that his previous conviction was for riot, that he was married with two children and that his wife Sarah was living at Mile End.

His trade was stated to be ploughman, not painter. He was assigned initially to Mr Neville and subsequently to ‘Captain’ Matthew Curling Friend, newly appointed Port Officer on the River Tamar, who from 1835 was based at George Town, north of Launceston. Daniel obtained his Ticket of Leave in November 1836 and his Certificate of Freedom in April 1839, remaining as a free inhabitant of George Town, and he appears in the censuses for 1843, 1848 and 1851. From 1858 to 1875 he appears in Valuation Rolls, Directories and Assessment Rolls, living at Low Head Road to the north of George Town.

In 1867 he secured a government contract to supply firewood to the Telegraph Station at Low Head. This was renewed annually until 1870.

Daniel died on 21 May 1875 aged 76. He is buried in George Town cemetery. There is no evidence that he re-married, though he may have had a common-law wife. Nor is there any evidence that he fathered children and has descendants in Australia, unlike the Daniel Brown transported from Coventry on the Bussorah Merchant in 1830, who received a Conditional Pardon in 1841, settled at Green Ponds, married twice and had numerous descendants.

Sarah remained at Mile End and married twice more. Some of the descendants of Sarah and Daniel are still living in Essex. The Essex Journal is published twice a year and annual subscription is £10.00. The membership secretary is Jenepher Hawkins, 13 South Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2RF. Residents of Essex can probably read a copy of the Essex Journal in their local library.

Christine Jones (ESFH 82)
DID YOU KNOW?

JONAS HANWAY 1712-1786 THE GEORGIAN PHILANTHROPIST, WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO CARRY AN UMBRELLA IN THIS COUNTRY.
Lady Anne Caesar was the third wife of Sir Julius Adelmare Caesar, who served in many different capacities under Queen Elizabeth 1st, and James 1st, including MP, Judge, Master of the Rolls and Privy Councillor.

Dying in 1636, in his Will he bequeaths numerous charitable gifts to various organisations and individuals in some detail. He leaves his lands and leases to his three sons, then carries on thus:-

‘All the rest of goods, chattels, silver, plate, jewels, coaches, horses, and household stuff, in my houses at Brudenham, Norfolk, or Hackney, or the Rolls, Chancery Lane, or at Tremnalls, Essex, to wife Dame Anne Caesar’.

[‘Tremnalls’ or ‘Fremnalls’, in Downham, Essex, was the Manor House which with most of the estate, is now sadly submerged beneath Hanningfield Reservoir.]

Lady Anne, dying just a year later in 1637, in her own Will also leaves a number of charitable bequests but is nowhere near as precise. After the usual preamble she proceeds thus:-

‘Touching such lands that are anyways in my disposition, I have already by several deeds or recitings, under my hand and seal, disposed of the same, and of the rents, profits, and other proceed thereof, to such use and uses, and for the benefit of such person and persons, as I have thought fit’.

Obviously these missing ‘deeds and recitings’, set up before her death, are the very deeds needed to ascertain her intent. However, a document headed ‘The Reports of the Charity Commissioners for the County of Essex 1819-1837’ is fortunately far more enlightening, and allows us a brief account of each of the parishes involved, as follows:-

**Parish of Downham**

“In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, it appears that Lady Caesar, by Will, in 1635, gave a rent charge of £5. 0s. 0d., payable out of certain lands at Crow’s Heath, in the Parish of Downham, to be distributed in four equal shares (£1. 5s. 0d) to each of the parishes of Downham, Ramsden Bellhouse, and East and West Hanningfield”. This land subsequently came into the possession of a Mr. Disbrow, who built a house upon it, and it is called Disbrow’s Folly. The property now belongs to Mr. John Brewitt, who pays £1. 5s. 0d yearly to each of the several parishes before mentioned. The churchwardens of Downham distribute their proportion to aged widows in sums varying from 1s. 6d. to 4s.

**Parish of Ramsden Bellhouse**

“This parish shares £1. 5s. 0d being a forth part of Lady Caesar’s Charity, reported under the parish of Downham,”
and is distributed in sums of 2s. 6d. to aged widows, and occasionally 1s. 6d. is given to aged men.”

**Parish of East Hanningfield**
‘The origin of this charity will be found under the head of West Hanningfield. The yearly sum of 25s. is received from John Brewitt, the tenant of the manor, who pays it to the churchwarden, and he distributes the whole of it to Mrs. Mary Cooper, a widow and parishioner, she being the only widow in the parish who receives no parish relief. We were informed here that the manor belonged to the Earl of Arran.’

**Parish of West Hanningfield**
‘Lady Caesar, in 1635, gave £5. a year, payable out of the manor of Fremnalls, at Crows Heath, in the parish of Downham, in this county, to be divided amongst the poor of the four parishes of Downham, Ramsden Grays, East Hanningfield and West Hanningfield, to be distributed every Sabbath Day in bread. It appears probable that the objects of this charity are widows not in the receipt of parish relief. The churchwardens receive a sum of 25s. a year. The manor of Fremnalls is in the occupation of the executors of John Brewitt (the same persons who are the tenants of the lands left by Richard Cannon), and belongs to one Manbey. The yearly sum is distributed in bread every Sunday to the same persons who are the objects of Cannon’s Charity and by the same list. In the paragraph under West Hanningfield, the substitution of Ramsden Grays instead of Ramsden Bellhouse does not stand up to scrutiny. This is most likely a transcription error for the following reasons:

1. If this was a different charity to the other aforementioned, Downham and the two Hanningfield parishes would be receiving two lots of 25s. each year. Nowhere in any of the parish records is this shown.
2. In the Report of the Charity Commission, each of the four original parishes supports each other on the basic principle of a fourth share of £5. On the other hand, Ramsden Grays does not even warrant a mention anywhere in this document.

Lady Caesar’s Charity is thus established as hard fact, and no longer in danger of disappearing into the mists of time with just distant memories based on folk law. Just when and why this ‘hard fact’ did indeed begin fading into the distance, has never been fully explained, yet fade away almost into oblivion it certainly has. Payments to the four parishes has long since ceased, exactly when is unsure but the Bellhouse Churchwarden Accounts from 1747 to 1752 confirm that it was being paid by Mr. John Brewitt, albeit somewhat late and sometimes in two instalments. It is varyingly described as ‘Crowsheath money’ or ‘from Downham’, the latest entry is as follows: -

‘1816 Jan 6th Rec’d of Mr. Brewitt, Crowsheath money due on Xmas day — £1-5-0.’

In Major Prebble’s excellent book, ‘The History of Downham’, he records a vestry entry thus: - ‘1728 April ” I am to pay £5 to ye Poor of 4 parishes from
We can perhaps gain a little insight as to the ‘when’ these payments ceased by the following episode. It is apparent that the then rector of Downham had become inquisitive about the Lady Caesar Charity and was making inquiries regarding it and the missing funds.

There is a letter from the Charity Commission replying to these inquiries in the Essex Record Office (D/P 257/25). Addressed to the Rev. C.E.S. Ratcliffe, it reads as follows:-

‘March 9 1898. Rev. Sir, in reply to your letter of the 2” instant, I am to say that if, as it is understood, the rent charge in respect of Caesar’s Charity has not been paid for upwards of 60 years the charge is now irrecoverable at law.’ Etc etc.

‘Upwards of 60 years’, would mean payments ceased sometime before 1838. The ‘why’ these payments ceased is always going to be conjecture, but the answers, if any, must revolve around the owners of Crows Heath and the Churchwardens of Downham. The facts as we know them are these; a John Brewitt served as Downham Churchwarden in 1741 to 1761, (20 years) then John Brewitt (Junior) took over until 1764. There is then a gap of 34 years until a John Brewitt reappears as Churchwarden in 1798 to 1834, (36 years). * A John Brewitt also farmed Crows Heath at some period during these years and in 1837 an auction notice depicts it as: ‘a new boarded and slated farm house containing 373 acres more or less’. More relevant than the notice itself is the handwritten note scribbled on its border: - ‘Sold after the sale by Private Contract to the tenant Mr. John Brewitt’.

This John Brewitt lived at Bridge House, Wickford, a well to do farmer and landowner, his brother Thomas lived at Downhall, Rayleigh, both appeared to be associated with the Essex Union Hunt, with the hounds at one time kennelled at Crows Heath farm. The ‘John Brewitt’ name, as shown above, would also appear to dominate the office of Downham churchwarden during the most significant years, as well as figuring prominently in the occupation and subsequent ownership of Crows Heath Farm, from where the bequest for the four parishes was due. Certainly it would seem a possible ‘conflict of interest’, could have arisen in the above circumstances. During this period the Billericay Union Workhouse was formed and again the name ‘John Brewitt’ crops up, this time as the Chairman of the Union!

From Elizabethan times each parish was responsible for the well-being of widows, paupers and orphans. A poor rate being levied on the better off, being collected and distributed by the Overseer of the Poor as he saw fit. As the population gradually increased so did poverty, and thus the financial burden on the parish itself, especially the smaller, poorer parishes. Under the 1834 Poor Law Act, parishes were encouraged to combine into unions to provide workhouses, leading to the forming of the Billericay Union Workhouse, encompassing not only the four parishes in question, but also 22 others. The office of Overseer of the Poor was abolished, no longer being
needed; the ‘Workhouse’ would now be
taking care of the ‘aged widows’! From
The History of Downham by Major
Prebble.
A new building was completed in 1840,
on a site off the Norsey Road and still
exists today (2012). Above its imposing
entrance is an equally imposing stone
plaque with the following wording in
raised capital letters,

BILLERICAY UNION HOUSE
ERECTED A.D. 1840
JOHN BREWITT OF BRIDGE
HOUSE WICKFORD ESQUIRE
CHAIRMAN’.

The financial upkeep of the Workhouse,
of course, still rested on the participat-
ing parishes, but the control had passed
from the Overseers of the Poor to the
Guardians and its Chairman, John
Brewitt Esquire. Whether this change
was the excuse for the elimination of the
Lady Caesar Charity or not, it certainly
happens to be in the right time frame. It
could, of course, be that the income from
the charity was still being paid directly
into the common Workhouse Treasury;
but this would surely deny the very
purpose of the charity, which was for the
particular benefit of the four specifically
named parishes. After all, Lady Caesar’s
Charity was not meant to take the place
of the poor laws; it was in addition to!
Whatever the reasoning of the time, it is
clear that direct payment to these four
parishes ceased around the middle of the
19th Century and is now lost forever but
certainly not forgotten.

FRANK FISHER (ESFH526)  ●

A) From the register of St John the
Baptist, St Mary and St Laurence,
Thaxted.

Melchisedeck Sucklin buried Nov 10
1674.

We are accustomed today to parents
choosing outlandish names for their
children but obviously they were at it in
the 17th century as well. Melchisedeck
(or Melchizedek) was a King of Salem
and priest at the time of Abraham.

BEVERLIE DREWITT

Editor. As I understand it, until the
King James Bible appeared in English
at the start of the 17th century, people
often were given the names of Saints
from the Latin bible. When they, rather
than just priests, could read the book,
people chose names from that bible.
I myself have Melchisadeck Woon the
Church Warden of Saint Enoder in
Cornwall (Protestation Return of 1642)
and two Melchisadeck Woon payers of
Hearth Tax at Saint Enoder in 1664.

B) Witham, D/P 30/1/1 baptisms.
Peter WINGFIELD was born ye 23
of June 1661 and Baptised ye 17 of
August 1718 being 57 years old when
he was baptised.

[No wonder we can never find them!]

GLYNIS MORRIS (ESFH3533)
Email: essexresearch@btopenworld.com

· · ·
A Sad Story

Rosetta, are you (no) better.... As the song might be twisted to go!

I have been researching the Kitson family of Coggeshall and came across the marriage of Alfred Kitson to Rosella (Rosetta) Amelia Field at Witham in December 1859 (4a 591). In the 1871 census I found in Chelmsford Gaol (RG10/4666 Folio 81 Page 8 – Alfred Kitson Prisoner, Weaver Velvet born Great Coggeshall, and in Witham Union Workhouse (RG10/1695 ) Rose Kiston(sic) Married 31, Wool Weaver, Great Coggeshall, with Emily 13, Sarah 10 and Isaac 6, Maria 3. From local newspapers (some online) it was not too difficult to find out about Alfred’s low level criminal career. This led me to the Coggeshall Parish Records where in E.R.O. burials D/P 36/1/20 1912-1943 I found Alfred Kitson of the Braintree Union buried in February 1910 aged 87. He certainly out-lived his wife. Her story made me want to find out her origins. I could not find her birth but I found her in 1851. The Census of 1851 for Great Coggeshall (HO107/1783folios 449 Page 6 to 450 Page 8) is for Crouch End, Stoneham Street. These were all apprentices to Jno. Hall Junior - Silk Throwsters and were under the supervision of Superintendent of Factory Girls Sarah Port. All were shown as “Silk Winder” It occurred that these might mostly be missing from Middlesex families and more could be done to identify their origins. (See table on next page).

John Bayliss (ESFH1298)

A Life Of Minor Crime

27th May 1864 – Essex Chronicle - Alfred and Isaac Kitson with William Nichols of Great Coggeshall summoned for using a net to take fish on the land of Mr Catchpool at Feering Bury. Seen by Mr Threadkell, an employee, at 3.45am 1st May 1864. Fined 9s-2d each- Paid


31st August 1877 – Essex Standard - Alfred charged with using a horse that was unfit. Sergeant Peagram saw it in Chelmsford, lame with spavined foreleg. Fined 5s-0d with 9s-0d costs or 7 days imprisonment.

14th June 1889 – Found a body in River Cam and reported it to PC Smith. Living in New Writtle Street. Labourer. There are two men named Alfred Kitson. Is this the same one?

31st July 1906 – Essex Chronicle – Inmate of Braintree workhouse. Witness in assault case where John Algar had an inch of his lip bitten off by Walter Rogers. Doctor said wound was consistent with human bite.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Port</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Domestic Staffs</td>
<td>Superintendent of Factory Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>Port</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Silk winder</td>
<td>Blackfriars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Port</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Webb</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>Deacon</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia</td>
<td>Parsons</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Marry</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Mary Ann</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Bone</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>Neal</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Surrey St. Saviour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bowler</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Cripps</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Silk winder</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Harford</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Berry</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Elwood</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rice</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Welsh</td>
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<td>Hayden</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Silk winder</td>
<td>M.Tey (Marks?)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Balls</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Silk winder</td>
<td>Middlesex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What the Papers Say!

Ipswich Journal 13 June 1730
London June 18:

On Tuesday last was an Insurrection of the weavers at Braintree in Essex, on account, as it is said of Mr Brown of that place having imported a quantity of Irish yarn: from thence they proceeded to Coggeshall, where they heard that Mr Brown had sent it to Mr Mite’s, where they seized it and burnt it, and were going to destroy his house; but some soldiers being quartered there, they got together and fired upon them, and three of the weavers were killed, and several wounded, before the tumult there was appeased. After this they got together again at Braintree, whence Mr Brown escaped at night privately with his family: What happened afterwards we have not learnt.

Derby Mercury 27 February 1734

They write from Deben (Debden), near Saffron Walden in Essex, that on Sunday last in the afternoon, Samuel Gregory the blacksmith, one of the rogues advertised in the Gazette, remarkable for the scar on his right cheek, with another pale fellow, supposed to be Herbert Haines, came into a little Alehouse in that parish, drank plentifully, and ordered a shoulder of mutton to be roasted for their supper. In the meantime one Palmer, an Innkeeper from Thaxted, happening to call at the said alehouse, and seeing the rogues knew them to be the same that were at his house lately, at the same time that several robberies were committed in the neighbourhood; and another perceiving they had pistols about them, the Constable was acquainted with it, and prevailed upon him to go, in order to apprehend them. About seven at night he charged several to his assistance, all as wise as himself; who entering the room where the rogues were, without any weapon in their hands, very innocently acquainted the rogues with their errand. Upon which Gregory rising, drew a pistol and cocked it, but it missing fire was beat out of his hand, and he thrust down. He soon rose and drew a dagger, with which he wounded two slightly, and two more, as is supposed, mortally. They then both made their escape through a crowd of people, leaving behind them a bundle, in which some shirts and stockings, powder and ball, and a pistol loaded with bullet and a slug.

Derby Mercury 9 March 1737

Ipswich, Nov 19.

On Friday last at night a clergyman was attacked on the road between Kelvedon and Stanway in Essex, by a highwayman who met with such a reception, as obliged him to desist from his purpose; but going on further he met with another, whom he robbed of his watch and half a guinea. They thought they knew the person, and therefore went on Monday to Colonel Pryce of Colchester, a Justice of the Peace, to whom they declared the
matter, requesting him to send for Dr. Davies, a physician and man-midwife of that town. The Justice sent for him under some feigned pretence, and when he came the other gentlemen having quitted the room, the Justice told him what he was charged with. He blustered very much and pleaded his reputation, &c. He was suffered to go away when the gentlemen came in and said they could now positively swear he was the person. He was fetched back immediately and the watch was found in one place, and the chain in another, of which the owner had before given, and now repeated the exact description. Then he could no longer deny the fact, but said that they should not have their will of him for he would destroy himself, and having sent his son, a lad, he whispered him to fetch some arsenic, but that was prevented, and in short he was sent to Chelmsford in a chaise and a pair of horses. It is not doubted but it was he that lately robbed the Ipswich coach twice, between this place and Colchester.

Stamford Mercury 6 July 1738
Colchester June 30.

Last week two highwaymen were apprehended at a public house at Ongar, and being carried before one of his Majesty’s Justices of the Peace for the said County and examined they were committed to Chelmsford gaol; but in their passage thither one of them found means to escape from the officers who had him in custody, by flinging himself over a gate and running down a field, at the end of which was a river, which he jumped into and swam to the other side, notwithstanding his hands were pinioned, and got clear off. The other was carried to gaol, and has since impeached his companions and given an account of the robberies committed by them; so that ‘tis hoped they will soon be brought to justice.

Ipswich Journal 24 November 1739
Colchester Nov 16:

On Sunday a gentleman’s coach was robbed between Witham and Chelmsford by two highwaymen. The gentleman in the coach was attended by six servants on horseback, with firearms, who were quiet spectators of the robbery committed upon their master.

Martyn Lockwood (ESFH3130)
One of my happier wartime memories is the “Dickensian” Christmas we spent in the City of Oxford. Apart from the merriment, crackers, presents, et al, this included my mother, brother and me singing “Good King Wenceslas” - all five verses - in parts. Mum narrator, brother Allen King and me Page. Written in 1853 by John Mason Neale and set to music first published in 1582, I always thought it was a Christmas fable. However, a passing reference to the assassination of Wenceslas, in a Christmas compendium, brought me up full stop and chasing, hell for leather, for my reference books. To be assassinated he must have been alive and it was all true! He was, and he was - and it was all in the family!!!

This inspiring tale of Family History starts in the ninth century with the birth in 860 of Ludmilla. She was married to Borivus, the first Christian Czech Prince. He encouraged the development of Christianity in Bohemia. They had a son, Wjirlisaw by name, who became a duke and who followed his parents into the Christian faith, marrying however, a pagan called Dragomira. In turn, they had two sons. Wenceslas and Boleslaw. Wenceslas was brought up by his grandmother, Ludmilla, becoming a staunch Christian and, when his father died in 924, becoming Duke in succession. Dragomira had, presumably in anticipation, arranged for her mother-in-law, Ludmilla, to be assassinated in 921 and so was ideally placed to act as Wenceslas’s Regent. Despite her best efforts, Wenceslas continued to be Christian in all aspects and quite quickly “shook her off.” Being only a partially Christianised country, Wenceslas faced some considerable opposition (not least from his mother) and when he pragmatically welcomed the German invaders in 929, she arranged for his younger brother, Boleslaw (now known as “The Cruel”) to kill him. This Boleslaw did with great gusto, with Wenceslas hacked to pieces at the door of the church he had gone to hear mass at - he didn’t subscribe to the more austere Germanic rites. This was on 28th September 935.

Some years later, Otto the first, (Otto the Great) King of the Germans, created Wenceslas “King”. Although Otto was king from 936, he did this in his role as the first Holy Roman Emperor which he didn’t become until 962! This didn’t go down well with King Wenceslas the First then reigning over Bohemia! However, although posthumous, it was a good move as “Good Duke Wenceslas Looked Out” doesn’t seem to have the same ring to it!!!

As a footnote to history, Wenceslas was the subject of one of the first pair of Christmas stamps issued by the Post Office in December, 1966. Designed by six year old Tasaveer Shemza, a Blue Peter prize winner, it cost 3d - that is 1p! That, together with the three domestic, daily deliveries (AND one on Christmas Day!) is an unfortunate comment on our present letter service.

M.W. Back (ESFH6769) •
Inside Cover, Inside Rear Cover And Back Cover – All From The Church of St. Mary, Theydon Bois with the Heraldry of King James 1st and The Secret Portrait within. Photos by Evelyne Raphael.


Page 24). This is a copy of Speed’s Atlas of the county, dated 1627, which was inherited by Dr A. Robinson and supplied to us by her.


We present two pictures from the imagination of artist Lewis C. Bennett (1908-1995). They are limited edition prints (850 copies) signed/numbered by the artist the father of one of our advertisers.

Pages 22-23). “Awayday” Image size 49 x 32 cm or 19¼ x 12½ inches. This print shows a cross-section of life portrayed in a crowded railway station. For instance, look at the lad running towards his grandparents or the little girl crying. She has dropped her ball on the track and Mr. Porter won’t get it for her because he’s frightened of the rat hidden in the recess under the platform. There is something new to see every time you look at the picture.

Pages 62-63). “The Fairground” Image size 55 x 34.5 cm 21½ x 13½ inches. Like all Lewis Bennett’s work it is entirely from his imagination. Most of the names shown represent people important in his life. He always liked to include animals in his paintings and had a great eye for detail, even to rubbish left behind outside the fence. This is a real treasure for all those who knew and loved old-fashioned fairgrounds.

Page 64). On a visit to the West Essex August meeting at Harlow, these mysterious wooden crosses were spotted in the churchyard of St. John, Harlow and captured by our staff photographer Erica. This church is now an Arts Centre so they may have been moved there from elsewhere in the town.
Essex, by the Normans, Essex, and by the vulgar Essex, is a County large in compass, very populous, and nothing inferior to the best of the Land.

(1) The Form thereof is somewhat circular, excepting the East part, which shou'd be with many Promontories into the Sea, and from Norsey Island to Shadwell in the West, the broadest part of the Shore are they by measure forty miles, and the length from East Aylsham upon Thames in the South, to Norsey upon the River Stour in the North, are thirty five miles, the whole in circumference one hundred forty six miles.

(2) It lyeth bounded upon the North, with Suffolk and Cambridge-Shire, upon the West with Norfolk and Suffolk, and upon the South by Thames in parted from Kent, and the East-side thereof is altogether washed with the German Sea.

(3) The Air is temperate and pleasant, only towards the waters somewhat colder; the soil is rich and fruitful, though in some places sand and heyme, yet so that it never suffereth the Husband-man hopeless, or falls not the hands of her Harrell-Labours, but in some part so fertile, that above three years gibe of Suffolk, the Land for eighteen moor, will yield plenty of Barley, without either dung or other furmous-cured.

(4) Her ancient inhabitants known to the Romans, were by Caesar called the Bedulians, of whom in the former Chapter we have spoken, and in our History shall speak more at large. But this name primed with the age of the Empire, the Savages presently framed a new, and with Norfolk and Suffolk made it their Half-Saxon Kingdom, until that visible bought this and the whole into an entire and absolute Monarchy.
My first year as chairman has been somewhat eventful and also at times challenging. Both previous chairmen, Eric Probert and John Young with current Vice Chairman, Fred Feather have been helpful with advice and encouragement throughout the year. The hard working Executive Committee has also been very supportive. It should be mentioned that two members of our executive committee have suffered serious illness in the last year and we are pleased to see them both back in action. I have managed to visit all but one of the branches for a meeting (with apologies to Saffron Walden) throughout the year and I was made very welcome by all.

The biggest challenge has been the long running, frustrating saga of the relocation of our research centre to the first floor. The Essex Record Office was presented with the task of moving the County Registrar Service into the building and we were asked move upstairs to the main ERO research room at very short notice. Considerable help was offered to make the move run smoothly. Unfortunately, the first scheduled date had to be postponed at very short notice as the new shelving had not been delivered. The revised date in August arrived and the research team volunteers and others worked very hard to make the physical aspect of the move successful. The ERO and ourselves were let down badly by third parties. Consequently, we were cast adrift without a telephone or broadband connection, effectively closing us down for about 3 weeks. On a positive note, the venue is an improvement with more space, natural light and a better link with ERO visiting researchers and we are at last back online. Do come and visit.

Another major step forward is the development of our new website where Colin Smith our webmaster has been working tirelessly with our commercial web designers to develop a greatly enhanced site. We are now seeking someone to take over the baton from Colin who has done a sterling job for the Society.

We are 40 years old next year and they say life begins at 40. To mark this occasion, and also the 40th anniversary of the Federation of Family History Societies, we are organising, on behalf of the East Anglian Group of Family History Societies, a family history weekend conference. It will take place on the last weekend of August (29th to 31st) 2014 at the Holiday Inn, Basildon. A project group has been meeting monthly over the last year and Fred Feather has been leaving no stone unturned in his search for speakers and it looks as though we will be running a very interesting conference.

Next year we are keeping up with the times and introducing an electronic version of the journal. Our membership subscription structure will be changed and I will give details of how this will work.

There will be three tiers of membership with one completely new and cheaper tier.
Chairman’s Annual Report continued......

Electronic Membership £8

‘e-members’ will be given access to a downloadable version of the ‘Historian’. The annual membership of £8 will reflect the considerable saving in postage costs. This will apply to any member who wishes to have an electronic version only, wherever they are in the world.

Ordinary Membership £12

No change. Members will continue to receive 4 ‘Historians a year by post as now

Overseas Membership or Family membership or Institutions £14

These categories of membership will continue to receive 4 ‘Historians a year by post as now
All members will still be able to attend meetings and use the Research Centre, as now.

Our intrepid MI research teams have continued to work in varying weather conditions over the year and the society’s MI resources are really impressive. Throughout the year there has been:

- 4 Essex Family Historians published
- 45 branch meetings
- 33 Chelmsford talks
- About 111 research room sessions.
- We have over 230 sites where MI’s have been transcribed
- At least 45 parish register transcriptions on 12 CD’s
- In addition we have attended various venues, including the WDYTYA live event at Olympia and helped researchers.
- We have agreed to support an Essex University student Susan MacDonald with a project entitled, The Cost of Lunacy 1845-1884. An exploration of lunacy provision based on Essex County Lunatic Asylum.
- Represented the Society on regional and national organisations for Family History

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the society volunteers, branch officials and executive committee members throughout the year and Vice-President Ann Turner for standing in for Lord Petre and chairing this meeting.

David Eniffer
To avoid disappointment, always check before visiting an archive or library as many have implemented changes or temporary closures. Some have limited spaces available.

FAIRS & OPEN DAYS
Winter months are quiet, so time to get on with research online at home, check out Podcasts, YouTube, Facebook and link with like-minded people universally.

Feb 20-22 WDYTYA Show at Olympia, LONDON 3 day event
www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com
Note the move in days - now Thursday, Friday & Saturday.

TALKS
Tues Dec 10 8pm Workshop for beginners and
Tues Feb 11 8pm Workshop on RAF Records with Waltham Forest FHS
http://www.wffhs.org.uk

CONFERENCE
Feb 28 Experiences of World War One: strangers, differences and locality
http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/
Venue: The Court Room, University of London Senate House, Malet Street. London WC1E 7HU

August Friday 29th to Sunday 31st - ESFH on behalf of FFHS and East Anglia Group of FHS celebrating both 40th anniversaries, to be held at Holiday Inn, Basildon, Essex. Bookings now being taken. Check website for latest details www.esfh.org.uk

NEWS
Society News
New! Society for One Place Studies
www.one-place-studies.org

ANCESTRY www.ancestry.co.uk have purchased FindAGrave.com website
New online – Birmingham BMD’s
Announced price increases

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
Constantly adding to its 7 million pages online. Colindale Library was due to close 8 Nov.

BRITISH ORIGINS www.origins.net
added many Devon Wills

FAMILY SEARCH www.familysearch.org
PAF to be discontinued; British and worldwide records constantly updated
For those with Sussex ancestors, over 500,000 BMD records, 1538 to 1910, have been added

FIND MY PAST www.findmypast.co.uk
New Royal Household Staff Records
Victoria Passenger Lists 1846-1899
Irish newspapers

Free Reg www.FreeReg.org.uk
Over 25 million records
Seeking volunteers

The GENEALOGIST
www.thegenealogist.co.uk
Many Kelly’s directories added
Worcestershire parish records
Apprenticeship records

The NATIONAL ARCHIVES
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
New look to webpages, and launched a new online bookshop
New education resources for teachers and students

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS
www.Sog.org.uk
Working hard to preserve and make available many unique family history records
Publish many guide books, and hold many helpful half day courses in specific topics.

REGIONAL NEWS
Essex Records Office recently celebrated its 75th birthday with a very successful open day.
The Essex Sound and Video Archive has been awarded £53,700 by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the You Are Hear: sound and a sense of place project.
The Frederick Roberts Collection (local industrial heritage) has been transferred from Anglia Ruskin University to ERO. Frederick Roberts (1910-1993) was an early pioneer in the recording of our industrial past.

SEAX online catalogue progressing with excellent images available to view by subscription
www.essex.gov.uk/Libraries-Archives/Record-Office

Birmingham City Council recently opened its new £189million Library building.
www.libraryofbirmingham.co.uk

Durham online
www.durhamrecordsonline.com
Free to search, but pay to view

Hertfordshire Archives offer talks
www.hertsdirect@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Manchester City Council announced changes to their library services
www.bit.ly/1clDHYV

West Essex branch members recently attended the Open Day at Valence House, home to archives covering Barking and Dagenham. They have a regular programme of talks www.lbbd.gov.uk/archives.

Valence House have monthly free Family History helpdesks, run by the East of London Family History Society on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dates are as follows:

- Saturday 18th January
- Saturday 15th February
- Saturday 29th March

We met up with lots of local society members including: Friends of Valence House, Barking Photographic Society, Barking & Dagenham HS, Chadwell Heath HS, Creekmouth Preservation Society, Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection, History of Wapping including www.eastlondonpostcard.co.uk, Ilford HS, Upminster Chapel & Windmill and Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Waltham Forest FHS and Essex branch of Western Front.

German Mine Layer UC5

The U boat UC5 was commissioned to the German Imperial Navy on June 19th 1915. It is believed to have made 20 trips across the North Sea and laid 240 mines causing 29 ships to be sunk. On August 21st 1915 she was the first mine layer to penetrate the English Channel laying 12 mines off Boulogne. She ran aground while on patrol on April 27th 1916 and was scuttled. A British Destroyer captured her when she had just laid 2 mines. A brave lieutenant in a diving suit made the mines safe by destroying the detonators. The crew was captured and the submarine was displayed at Temple Pier in the Thames and later in New York for propaganda purposes. The arrival at Temple Pier was filmed by British Pathe.

The inscription on this pipe rack reads “Souvenir from captured German Mine Laying Submarine UC5”

Barbara Harpin

Maureen Lennard-Brown (ESFH7798)
In Tulip’s Time – A Bulmer Craftsman’s Memories, Volume 1

This A4 sized ring bound 72 page illustrated booklet comprises the writings of Bulmer resident Philip Rowe (1871-1955), known as “Tulip”, compiled and edited by a descendant, Robin Rowe. What a wonderful nickname for the writer of these narratives, memoirs, anecdotes and tales which contribute to local and social history of the area in which he was born, lived and died. Tulip suffered periodically from nervous breakdowns and it was during his time at Severalls Hospital that his exercise books were filled, probably as part of his treatment.

Firstly the domestic scene is considered when, breadmaking, brewing and bacon curing are described and the importance of these three B’s to Tulip is revealed. There follows a chapter on Poachers and Keepers in which the writer leaves us in no doubt that he was in awe of the poacher, even describing his great grandfather as a “poacher of the highest class”. No writings of countryfolk are complete without a discussion of the weather and Tulip is no exception. So we learn of blizzards, snow in houses, overturned carriages, severe frosts, thick ice, hungry birds, frozen rivers, floods, uprooted trees and a severe downpour on Tulip’s wedding day. Tulip worked the woodlands and so we learn of hedging, coppicing, bark peeling and walking sticks and the tools he used. He dwells too on many aspects of farming including horses, sowing by hand and harvesting with scythes, sickles and reapers and haystacking.

Almost every one of us had forebears who were agricultural labourers. At £15 this real readable gem for understanding the lives they led in a rural community in the early 20th century Published by the Philip Rowe Archive and available from the author at 13 Lime Avenue, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4PJ and also from Beckham Books Ltd, Sudbury CO 10 2RS (Tel: 01787 373683).

Web: www.alibris.co.uk/stores/beckhambooks.

German P.O.W. Camp 266, Langdon Hills

In this illustrated 258 page paperback, authors Ken Porter and Stephen Wynn, local historians living in the Basildon area, have written this historical account of the life of German POWs held in this Essex camp in the second World War. It opened in April 1945, housed over 800 prisoners, mainly in wooden huts, and closed in June 1948 before becoming a hostel for workers at Shell Haven. The authors have drawn on sources such as the International Commission of the Red Cross and have even
interviewed some of the internees. They have managed to include a remarkable number of interesting contemporary photographs, including an aerial view of an “institution” of which there is virtually no trace today, nearly 70 years later. Initially the scene is set with a brief history of Langdon Hills, a chronology of the war and a description of the military incidents such as aircraft crashes that occurred in the area. This is followed by a discussion of the camp design and structure, a description of camp life and POWs at work with extracts from letters written by POWs, memories of local residents, recollections of the camp interpreter and paymaster and Red Cross reports. There is brief mention of the satellite camps at Tillingham and Purfleet. Over a third of the book’s content is devoted to its history culled from local newspapers and the illustrated accounts of former internees. A fascinating authoritative account of this WW2 institution which had a lasting influence on this area of S.E. Essex. Published by UK Unpublished (www.ukunpublished.co.uk), priced at £9.99 and available from good book stores.

My Ancestor was a …Gentleman

Prolific family history author, Stuart A. Raymond, is the writer of this latest A5 sized illustrated guide in the series published by the Society of Genealogists which runs to 160 pages. In the author’s words the book focuses upon “the upper crust of society” and so the first chapter places the landed gentry of England & Wales in their historical context whilst subsequent chapters concentrate on the methods and sources used to trace them. But before this, Stuart Raymond poses the question “Has it been done before?” and as, from the 16th to the early 20th century genealogy was primarily a pursuit of the gentry, the answer is probably “yes”. And so pedigree collections, heraldic visitations and heraldry are explored together with bibliographies, obituaries and monumental inscriptions. A gentleman would normally possess landed property and so settlements are described together with deeds, manorial records, estate records, wills and inventories and various court records. The gentry wrote letters and frequently kept diaries, journals and written personal recollections and consequently these sources are considered. The government was in the main financed and supported by the gentry hence the records of taxation, loyalty oaths and polls are an important source of information. Many gentlemen became Sheriffs, Members of Parliament, Justices of the Peace, Lord Lieutenants and Commanders of militia regiments and so sources associated with these too are explored. The sons of gentlemen invariably were educated at public schools and universities before entering the professions of the church, medicine, the military and the law so naturally sources for these are examined. A well presented practical guide in which the authors highlight useful publications and websites throughout the book. A really useful reference work for anyone interested in tracing lives of the upper classes priced at only £9.99 and available from the Society
Through Two Reigns Howe Street in Gt Waltham, 1910 to 1936

This book is the third and last in a trilogy of the story of this hamlet in the 100 years from 1837 to 1936. It details life in this hamlet whilst George V and Edward VII were on the throne. It is told by Alan Maddock, who has drawn on a variety of sources including census returns, parish registers, registers of electors, the Essex Chronicle newspaper, Petty sessions, school records, directories and council minutes. The author initially examines the entries in the 1911 Census and summarises the entries in terms of migration and occupations. He reproduces the 2½ inch O.S. Map of 1921 for Howe Street and describes the hamlet and looks at interesting births, marriages and deaths, including those of the Tufnell family of Langleys and more humble folk such as Emily Mary Crowe who married Harry Knight 17 years her junior. The electoral registers are analyzed and the history of Howe Street Primitive Methodist chapel is explored in detail. Those who transgressed the law are revealed from the Chelmsford Petty Sessions reports and a host of people, places and events such as the Coronation and Silver Jubilee celebrations are recalled from the parish council minutes. On the other hand the rural district minutes provided evidence of flooding, absence of water supplies and lack of scavenging as well as council houses and the building firm of G. Milbank & Son. There are tales from the School too and its headmaster, Henry Franklin, of the cricket club, the life of George Thomas Gowers MM plus a miscellany of other news of the hamlet. The author continues with an overview of the scene nationally and concludes with a summary of life in the hamlet. There is a useful bibliography and indexes of places and people.

An interesting well researched historical account of a community lies within the 150 pages of this A4 sized page illustrated book. It will appeal to anyone with ancestors who lived in the Great Waltham area or with an interest in Essex rural history in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Available at £10 by collection from Woodmans Cottage, Main Road, Howe Street, Chelmsford CM3 1BA (Tel: 01245 360538, Email: alanjohnmaddock@gmail.com). Otherwise by post at £16 to UK addresses, £18 to Europe and £20 to the rest of the world. £sterling cheques payable to “Alan John Maddock”.

New Cousins

The second edition of this booklet by Karen Bali is subtitled “How to Trace Living Descendants of Your Ancestors” and is indeed a guide to searching for living relatives. Although only 30 A5 pages in length, it is a succinct, practical aid for family historians who already have basic knowledge of family history research and access to the Internet. The booklet is based on records for England and Wales. The first two thirds of the booklet considers the records, sources and methods for tracing lives forward. The author offers hints and tips for finding missing events and the importance of the use of directories, registers of electors and local newspapers for 20th century research.
is stressed. The use of mailing lists, message boards, Genes Reunited, Missing-You, CuriousFox, CousinConnect (but curiously not Peter Calver’s LostCousins), Rootsweb and Facebook are all explored. In the final part of the booklet, the author explains how best to contact, visit and keep in touch with a living relative once you have the details. A useful inexpensive (£4.95) guide available from The Family History Partnership, 57 Bury New Rd, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire BL0 0BZ (Tel: 01706 825557). Email: sales@thefamilyhistorypartnership.com Web: www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com

The Joy of Essex
Here are stories of travels through God’s County. Essex Man and journalist, Peter May, decided to write this anthology of stories from journeys along the Thames Estuary and into the heart of Essex. So we find tales from Dagenham, Grays, Basildon, Canvey Island and Southend as well as Chigwell, Romford, Brentwood, Billericay, Chelmsford, Tiptree, Tendring and Colchester. Along the way you will discover Essex humour, the Bonds of Basildon, the largest Essex mirror at Chigwell, bluebells in Billericay, sculpture in Harlow, Sissies in Chelmsford and Pier Pressure in Southend. The author, in a light-hearted way, sets out to prove that Essex Man and Essex Girl have evolved in the last 20 plus years from being targets of ridicule and nationwide mockery to now living in the most iconic county. This through TV personalities such as Jamie Oliver and TV series such as “Gavin and Stacey” and “The Only Way is Essex”. An enjoyable read if you want to learn of possibly lesser known gems in our county. Obtainable at £9.99 from the Robson Press, Westminster Tower, 3 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SP (Tel: 0207 091 1260). Email: info@bitebackpublishing.com Web: www.therobsonpress.com

Four books from Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church St, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS (Tel: 01226 734555, Email: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk, Web: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk).

Tracing Your Servant Ancestors
This A5 sized 178 page illustrated paperback is an introduction to the history of servants and domestic service from the 18th century to the second world war. The author, social historian Michelle Higgs, traces the history of service of the many employed by the gentry in stately homes, those working in lodging houses, hotels, farms, schools and hospitals to the single “the maid of all work” employed by shopkeepers and tradesmen. In Part 1 there is an overview of the role and places of work of servants where the author discusses who became servants and how they found work.
include children from working class parents, poor law institutions, charities and widows. Part 2 explores the life of a servant including working conditions, wages, food and drink, accommodation, clothing and healthcare and old age. Part 3 examines the roles of fourteen different male servants from the butler, valet and footman to groom, chauffeur and gamekeeper and the same number of female servants from the housekeeper to kitchen maid, housemaid, dairymaid and under-nurse. Part 4 describes the general sources for family history but more importantly provides details of sources specific to servants including records of estates, household accounts, taxes, charities, government training schemes, trade unions and servant’s registry offices as well as diaries, memoirs and household management manuals. There are lists of useful contacts including websites, places to visit depicting servant life, a bibliography and index. Throughout the book there are case studies of the lives of a variety of servants. Most of us have servant ancestors, especially in the early years of the 20th century, so this authoritative guide is essential reading if you want to learn a whole lot more about how your servant ancestor found employment, worked, lived and spent their leisure time. Priced at £12.99.

**Tracing Your Canal Ancestors**

Sue Wilkes, an expert on Industrial Heritage and contributor of articles to popular family history magazines, is the author of this 200 plus page illustrated paperback which is a comprehensive introduction to the history of canals and the lives of boat people and canal workers. The first chapter discusses the development of inland waterways and the pioneering engineers who used their ingenuity to design and build the canals, locks, aqueducts, tunnels, bridges and boat lifts that made up the water transportation network. Subsequent chapters describe the working of the canals, the vessels used by the canal companies, the lives of the working men, women and children, and the reformers such as George Smith and John Brydone who campaigned for better working conditions and sanitation and registration of vessels. The second half of the book concentrates on the research from basic family history sources to specialist registers and company records. The author highlights records available at the TNA, county record offices, local study centres, libraries, museums and inland waterway archives and other specialist collections. Specific useful UK archives, canal and transport societies and their websites are listed as are surviving registers of vessels, museums and canal heritage centres to visit. The book is complemented with a select bibliography and an index. Throughout, the text is punctuated by a series of interesting and informative case studies from canals around the country. A very readable book, costing £14.99, on the history of Britain’s inland waterways and a practical down to earth guide to researching the lives of boat people, lock-keepers, toll collectors and company clerks who worked them.

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Birth, Marriage and Death Records
An 185 page paperback in which experienced family historians, David Annal and Audrey Collins, both of whom have been employed by The National Archives, guide researchers through the use of these primary source parish and civil register records of vital life events. The chapters are illustrated with examples and the book commences with three chapters devoted to the evolution of recording vital events over nearly 500 years and the legislation which shaped the format of the entries. The following three chapters explore the development of civil registration from its inception in England and Wales in 1837 to the present day. It is not generally realised that in the early 1800s a quarter of the population were non-conformists so a chapter explains the differences in register entries for Quakers, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists and Roman Catholics. Events occurring at sea and overseas were dealt with differently as were those of the armed forces so these are considered in detail and of course, Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have different systems which are described in some depth. The following chapters explore divorce and adoption and the use of alternative sources such as newspapers as substitutes or supplements to vital events. The book is rounded off with an assessment of available records, especially those online, a bibliography and an index.
All you need to know about birth, marriage and death for tracing family history between the two covers at £12.99.

Tracing Your Prisoner of War Ancestors The First World War
Sarah Paterson, the experienced family history librarian at the Imperial War Museum (IWM), London, is the author of this 234 A5 sized page illustrated book which is a guide for research. The book is aimed at those with little knowledge of the subject, concentrates on areas of research which are not covered in other books and deals mainly with the experiences of British POWs and internees held by the Germans and Turks. In the absence of official records, Sarah Paterson draws on the personal experiences found in collections at the IWM. Initially the author explains the roles of The International Committee of the Red Cross, the British Red Cross Society and the Central Prisoners of War Committee. The experiences of British POWs and civilians interred in Germany and Turkey are explored including burial records and repatriation and, throughout the text, online and archived resources are referred to. There is discussion of the lives of German POWs and Civilian Internees in the UK. Almost half the book comprises useful Appendices including a detailed listing of key resources, a select bibliography arranged by country, an alphabetical list of prison camp locations in Germany, Austria and Turkey and a listing of camps and places of internment in the UK.
An invaluable handbook. If you want to find out more about the lives of boredom, deprivation and daily struggle for survival as well as escape and capture of the nearly 200,000 British servicemen who became POWs and survived or died in captivity then, at £14.99, this book is for you.

Short Stories or Books in Brief

British Soldiers – American War
In this 356 page hardback, the lives and concerns of nine ordinary soldiers of Regiments of Foot who served in the American Revolution with the British army in America in the 1770s and 1780s is told. The author, Dan Hagist, has compiled this picture from autobiographical first hand accounts in previously published memoirs. Most of the estimated 50,000 British Infantrymen who served were volunteers. Thus we find amongst the subjects, John Robert Shaw; volunteer of the 33rd Regt of Foot formerly a weaver and ultimately a deserter, William Crawford; from Ireland volunteer of the 20th Regt of Foot who originally enlisted in order to wear the dazzling uniform of a dragoon, Ebenzer Fox; unwilling volunteer and criminal of the 88th Regiment of Foot and George Fox, a potter by trade who volunteered for the 7th Regiment of Foot and, after long and dutiful service, became an army pensioner. As well as the soldiers’ narratives, the author provides accompanying background information on the soldier’s life and his military service.

If you had an ancestor who served during the revolutionary war of 1775-1783 or want to learn more of the personal experience of British soldiers in this conflict then the book is compulsive reading. Published by Westholme Publishing (www.westholme-publishing.com of Pennsylvania, USA but available in the UK from Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church St, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS (Tel: 01226 734555, Email: enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk Web: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk) at about £25.

Family History on the Net
This 165 page paperback is the fourth expanded edition, 2013/14, written by Colin Waters with over 700 extra entries from the previous edition published in 2011. The book comprises a listing of web sites arranged alphabetically by 52 topic headings and complemented by an index of some 500 subjects. Each topic has a brief introduction and there is also a guide to family history tutorials and courses as well as to comprehensive genealogy sites (gateways) and search engines. The topics range from Adoption, Copyright, Genealogy Magazines, to Maps and Magazines, Photography and Strays to Taxation and finally Wills, Administration and Probate. Within the subject index are such diverse entries as Anabaptists, Borstals, Close Rolls, Dockyards, Essex, Friendly Societies, Gas Workers, Horse Racing, Industrial Schools, Jews, Knight’s Hospitalers and so on. As an example within the topic of Land and Property you will find the subjects of Exchequer Records, Feet of Fines, Registry of Deeds, Returns of Owners of Land, Tithes and Enclosures, Field Names and Valuation Records.
A useful easy to use reference guide to Internet research but bear in mind the current rapid advance of additional family history resources on the Internet with this book being published in March 2013. Available at £9.95 from Countryside Books, Highfield House, 2 Highfield Avenue, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5DS (Tel: 01635 43816, Email: info@countrysidebooks.co.uk, Web: www.countrysidebooks.co.uk).

CDs & DVDs

The Great Eastern Railway Magazine, 1911-1926

This two DVD set is just one of several featuring staff magazines released by the The Great Eastern Railway (GER) Society. The GER published a monthly illustrated magazine or house journal for these years. The pages have been digitised and presented as 16 annual volumes each as a word searchable .pdf file with indexes of contributor’s names, names featured in Staff Notes and subjects. The wide variety of subjects covered is illustrated by this random selection of titles for the year 1912. “Easter Thursday at Liverpool St”, “Southend Railway Travellers Association”, “Sugar beet in East Anglia”, “Musical Society”, “Seven Kings Passengers Dinner” and “Gardening Notes”. In the same volume we learn that 15 members of three generations of the Paige family have given 349 years service to the GER including duty at Harlow and Saffron Walden. The volumes have an average of 500 pages each and a remarkable rapid search facility has been incorporated into the system to search over all the volumes on one disc. I have an interest in a Gutteridge family and a search on this surname revealed 6 entries including one J.G. Gutteridge, foreman platelayer who received a commendation for platelaying on the line between Stow and Kings Lynn.

Like the house journals of other organisations there is a mine of family history information within the pages. Staff frequently feature in news of appointments, promotions, retirements, sporting and recreational achievements and other activities. You will find too, feature articles on the operation of the railway and all manner of advertisements. It is particularly useful as it covers the years of the Great War and there are lists of those from the GER joining up, those awarded medals and biographies of those killed in action. For instance, I found a W. Gutteridge, of the Superintendents Office enlisting in the 3rd Battalion of the Cambridgeshire Regiment in 1914.

A “must” for anyone with ancestors employed by the GER or who frequently used the railway in the first part of the twentieth century and useful too for railway and social history. Available at £10 from The Great Eastern Railway Society. (Email: sales@gersociety.org.uk).

Two CDs available from Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd, 5 Whitefriars Aungier St, Dublin 2, Ireland (Tel: 353 1 6710338, Email: enquiries@archivecdbooks.ie, Web: www.archivecdbooks.ie).
Essex, A Dictionary of the County

The CD comprises the scanned pages of a 210 page book of the title by G. Worley published in 1915. It is an A-Z of places with a description and history of each stated as being “mainly ecclesiological” which is defined as concerned with church architecture and ornamentation and it is just this. The images are viewed within the versatile Adobe Acrobat Reader software in which you can search, browse, zoom and print etc. The contents and Introduction pages as well as Part 1 – Archdeaconry of Chelmsford parishes and Part 2 - Archdeaconry of Colchester are bookmarked. Within each part the parishes are arranged alphabetically. Part 1 commences with Aldborough Hatch, a chapelry of Barking and ends with Writtle. On the way we learn that All Saints Church, Hutton is “a small building...... with a wooden turret containing five bells”. Abberton is the first parish in Part 2 and the last is Little Yeldham where the Rev. Thomas Probert was the incumbent in the late 18th century. For the church of St Andrew, Hatfield Peverel you are asked to “note the old bench ends curiously carved with human faces”.

An interesting portrayal of the churches of Essex county costing Euros 15.53 including VAT plus postage & packing which can provide background information to the families that used them.

Essex: Highways, Byways and Waterways

Again a digitised version of a 254 page book viewed in Adobe Acrobat Reader format first published in 1893 in which the author, C.R.B. Barrett, is seen travelling round the smaller villages and hamlets of Essex commenting on the Manor houses and stately homes to be found then in the county. The author incorporates 114 of his own pen and ink drawings and other illustrations throughout the text. Each of the 12 chapters, together with the Contents and Index, are bookmarked. Two chapters feature one place (Dedham and St Osyth) whereas the others feature several places such as the three Rs of Chapter IX – Rochford, Rayleigh and Rettenden. The author describes each place and its significant buildings and people as well as some of the history of the place. The index of people, places and subjects is comprehensive – there are 15 references for Bocking for instance. A Rolfe family is indexed and we learn that in Gosfield Church there is a corbel on the chancel arch which bears the Rolfe arms including Cornish choughs. Referred to also in the index is Samuel Harknett an Essex worthy who, as Archbishop of York, founded the Grammar School at Chigwell in 1629. A book of words and pictures that will appeal to students of Essex history or architecture and family historians seeking background information on the places where their ancestors lived. Euros 13.11 including VAT plus postage and packing.

ERIC PROBERT

Essex Family Historian 37 December 2013
GILL BLANCHARD

AUTHOR OF “TRACING YOUR EAST ANGLIAN ANCESTORS: A GUIDE FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS” and also “TRACING YOUR HOUSE HISTORY”


Suite 14, Meadow View House, 191 Queens Road, Norwich, NR1 3PP
Telephone: 01603 610619

E-mail: gblanchard@pastsearch.co.uk  ●  www.pastsearch.co.uk

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All other areas considered
TIME spent with old books and newspapers has, in my opinion, great advantages over the printed works of some modern historians. They tell it how it was, not how we would like it to have been. Their political correctness was not ours, so, if you choose to leave off here and go off to search your local second-hand bookshop, I will understand.

From Haydn’s 1881 “Dictionary of Dates” 17th edition – (Containing the History of the World).” (sic)

_H.M.S. Fairy_ – captain Hewitt; sailed from Harwich on a surveying cruise, and was lost next day, in a violent gale, off the coast of Norfolk. 13 Nov 1840

_Hamilton_, on the Gunfleet sands, near Harwich, 11 of the crew perished 15 Nov 1842.

_Bruiser_, steamer, sunk by collision with Haswell, off Aldborough; about 15 lives lost. 19 Aug 1866.

_Mistletoe_, Mr Heywood’s pleasure yacht: sunk by collision with H. M’s steamer _Alberta_ (The Queen on board): in the Solent near the Isle of Wight: Miss Annie Peel and two others drowned 18 Aug 1873. (Coroner’s inquest on Nathaniel Turner; verdict, accidental death, with a note alleging error of navigation officers. 10 Sept: another inquest closed; without verdict, 7 Dec 1875. captain Welch, of the _Alberta_, was reprimanded; £3000 paid to Mr Heywood, and others compensated; announced Apr 1876.

_Goliath_, old man of war, fitted up as a training ship for poor boys, burnt through a lamp falling on the dirty floor of the lamp room, about a dozen boys lost out of 500; the boys were highly commended for their courage and discipline under the command of captain Bourchier 22 December 1875. Off Purfleet.

_Warspite_, old training ship of the Marine Society’s boys, on the Thames between Woolwich and Charlton, burnt, no loss of life, good discipline shown. 3 January 1876. The Marine Society (for the maintenance and instruction of boys for the navy) had been founded by Jonas Hanway, 1756. The boys rescued from the fire were transferred to the nearby _Conqueror_.

_Wreck Commission_ – a new court established to inquire into the cause of shipwrecks; first sat, 30 Oct 1876, Mr H. C. Rothery, president. (Mr Rothery also gave evidence at the Board of
Trade Enquiry into the Tay Bridge Disaster 1879).

City of London, Aberdeen steamer: run down and sunk by the Vesta, in the Thames near Barking Reach; no lives lost. 13 August 1879

This tome also tells us much of slavery and emigration and dramatically it reveals the movements of those seeking a new life. It emphasises that, initially, emigration from this country was mostly to the North American continent, in connection with which, it must be remembered that emigrants were included from the whole of Ireland.

★ We thank Mr. Barre-Nichole for his contribution to our Journal. Although not a member of our Society, he is very well-known in nautical circles ●

From Good Easter Parish Register - (Essex Record Office reference D/P 57/1/2 - page 91 - Seax 47):-

“April ye 1st 1770

John Stevens was buried (A? 83) this person was lost between three and four Months and then found by Accident in the River a little beyond Newarke's hung upon a Stub or Root of a tree with all his Money in his Pocket”

With the “all” being underlined, I wonder if the incumbent or parish clerk making the entry was somewhat surprised as to the honesty of his flock.

MICK LOXDALE (ESFH 4908)

★ ★ ★

The Comedian

President; steamer from New York to Liverpool; with many passengers on board. Sailed on 11 March 1841 encountered a terrific storm two days afterwards, and has never been heard of since. In this vessel were, Mr Tyrone Power, the comedian; also a son of the Duke of Richmond &c.

Dangerous Driving

Essex Quarter Sessions, July 15, 1777
Benjamin Goodey and Geo. Bloomfield having, at the general quarter session of the peace held this day at Chelmsford in and for the said county, been convicted on an indictment for wilfully driving a post chaise with four horses against the single horse chaise of Robert Tindal, gent, whereby the same was overturned, and Mrs Tindall, the wife of the said Mr. Tindall much hurt, were adjudged and ordered by the court to be committed to the house of correction at Chelmsford, and kept to hard labour for one month, and until they pay a fine of £5 each, and enter into a recognisance, with good sureties, to keep the peace to all the King’s subjects for twelve months, of which this notice is inserted as a caution to all drivers of post chaises and other carriages, and in hopes of deterring them from being guilty of the like nature.

Ipswich Journal 19 July 1777

MARTYN LOCKWOOD (ESFH 3130)
WE SHALL BE HOLDING A WEEKEND CONFERENCE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BASILDON, IN AUGUST 2014. (NOT BANK HOLIDAY) IT IS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY, ALSO OF THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES. IT WILL THEN BE 100 YEARS SINCE THE GREAT WAR BEGAN.

WE SHALL SUPPLY A STREAM OF EMINENT SPEAKERS, SOME STALLS AND SOME TRADERS. IT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO MIX WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE, FELLOW FAMILY HISTORIANS IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE AT A PLEASANT LAKESIDE HOTEL.

IF YOU WOULD CARE TO EXPRESS AN INTEREST CONTACT THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS: 

events@esfh.org.uk OR TELEPHONE HEATHER AT 01-702-522992

DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED. WE CAN TAKE ABOUT 200 GUESTS, BUT 130 HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST.

SPEAKERS FROM THE ESSEX POLICE MUSEUM AND THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS MUSEUM WILL ALSO BE RETAINED.

DIG FOR THE PAST – LOOK TO THE FUTURE.
A VIDEO LINK WITH
THE LIBRARY IN SALT LAKE CITY
IN UTAH, AND A PRESENTATION BY
THEIR TOP SPEAKER
DAN POFFENBERGER

THE FRIDAY AFTER DINNER
SPEAKER, THE RENOWNED
MICHAEL GANDY ON
WHATEVER SUBJECT HE
CHOSES!

ANDY ROBERTSHAW IS FROM
THE ROYAL LOGISTICAL CORPS MUSEUM. HE IS OFTEN INVOLVED
WITH THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” SERIES. HE BECAME NATIONAL NEWS WHEN IT WAS REPORTED HE HAD BUILT REPLICA GREAT WAR TRENCHES IN HIS BACK GARDEN.

SIMON FOWLER IS THE FORMER EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE AND A FORMIDABLE SPEAKER ON MANY SUBJECTS.

DOCTOR COLIN CHAPMAN IS THE AUTHOR OF A NEW BOOK ABOUT PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS.

WE HAVE NOT YET FINALISED THE EXACT TITLES OF MANY OF THE TALKS IN ORDER THAT WE CAN INTRODUCE A FULLY CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMME NEARER THE EVENT.
MARY TEVIOT WILL DISCUSS “HEIR HUNTERS.” LADY TEVIOT IS THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES AND IS ONE OF THE RESEARCHERS FOR THIS INTERESTING DAYTIME T.V. PROGRAMME.

DEBBIE KENNET SPECIALISES IN THE DIFFICULT SCIENCE OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND D.N.A.

BACKGROUND MUSIC DURING EVENING MEALS BY THE SUPER TALENTED DAVID STANLEY, MUSICAL DIRECTOR OF MENCAP.

WE HAVE NOT YET FINALISED THE EXACT TITLE OF MANY OF THE TALKS IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE A FULLY CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMME NEARER THE EVENT.
MATTHEW PRIDHAM WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE WONDERFUL ARCHITECTURE OF HIGHGATE CEMETERY.

DAVID HOLMAN IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION AND WILL TELL US ABOUT THE WAY MEDALS CAN HELP US WITH FAMILY HISTORY.

WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE HERALDRY SOCIETY TO PROVIDE AN EMINENT SPEAKER ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT AND RELATED SUBJECT.

BOB MARRION, THE MILITARY ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EDITOR OF “REGIMENT” MAGAZINE WILL BE ON HAND TO IDENTIFY, WITHOUT CHARGE, PHOTOGRAPHS AND UNIFORMS.

PETER TOWEY REPRESENTS THE ANGLO-GERMAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AND WILL HELP US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT NATION THOUGHT ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE GREAT WAR.

STEFAN DICKER COMES FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE BISHOPSGATE INSTITUTE, WHICH HAS A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION RELATING TO TRADE UNIONISM, THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND LONDON.

DAVID HOLMAN IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION AND WILL TELL US ABOUT THE WAY MEDALS CAN HELP US WITH FAMILY HISTORY.
IN THE LAST JOURNAL, I wrote that our research room would be relocated upstairs in the Essex Record Office. I am relieved to be able to say that we finally managed to make the move. It is only with a lot of hard work and patience that we have finally opened our research centre to the public again. The efforts of our research room team are vital to our aims as a society as they supply a service to visitors and members from far afield. There is a wealth of resources within the centre and it is a great advantage to be co-located with the ERO research room. There have been some great talks and sessions at our Chelmsford meetings and they are a credit to Meryl Rawlings who has identified some new and interesting speakers. Those of you who have been able to attend all three meetings on a Saturday will know there is not much time for networking between sessions and we do seem to have to keep our afternoon speakers to a very tight schedule to fit in a tea break. We are now looking at the best format for Saturdays from October 2014, so any suggestions are more than welcome.

I once heard Cecil Humphery-Smith, a legend in the Family History world, make the comment ‘give a little, take a little’. This is quite relevant to the present situation with our society. Some people give a lot and we are all grateful for their massive input. There are also many opportunities for members to give just a little of their time to add to our increasing research resources. A longer term aim is to open our research centre to the public more often than we do at present. This may be some time off at the moment but if you are interested in going on a rota to help at a session in the future, please let us know. If you do not live close to Chelmsford, new technology and digital images mean that the parish register transcription project can be progressed almost anywhere in the world. It is a great way of sharpening up your palaeography skills. If you, however, fancy some fresh air and a challenge our MI (Monumental Inscription) teams are out and about during the warmer weather. The recent stories about graveyards and reusing graves make this activity even more important. If you have the right IT skills, please do not forget (at the time of writing) we also need a new webmaster.

Finally, if you visit the Chelmsford meetings, you will notice that there is a larger table in the centre of the room. We cannot take food and drink into the lecture room so this serves as the unofficial ‘ESFH picnic area’ or ‘bumping zone’. If you are visiting for the first time, please do not be shy, grab a tea or coffee from the machine and join the others. You never know the person sitting next to you may just have the answer for that long standing brick wall dilemma. They may even be a 2nd, 3rd or 4th cousin!
TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir . . .

**Bling?**

David Medcraft remarks in his article Another Brick in the Wall (HISTORIAN 149) that Charles Medcraft was a Watch Jeweller Journeyman, “who moved to Warwickshire.” I suggest that a Watch Jeweller was not a watchmaker as such, but a person who made and/or fitted jewels into watches. A journeyman was - and still is really - one who has finished his apprenticeship and is able to work for any employer, and be paid by the day, or *Joure* as the French have it. My father was a Journeyman Painter and Decorator, having been an apprentice. He was never a Commercial Traveller! A Journeyman, having shown competence and experience for a period with a Master could himself become a Master.

Birmingham in Warwickshire, was famous for being “home to a thousand trades”. Birmingham’s Jewellery Quarter reckons it still produces about 40% of UK jewellery. So a skilled watch jeweller would be at home there nowadays and even more so in the past, when the jewellery trade was much larger.

**NEVILLE HAMMOND (ESFH 8650)**

**From a Long Time Member**

I refer to the article by John Sly, The Mead Burial Ground, in the June 2013 issue of the HISTORIAN. John describes what appears to be a private burial ground at Hornets Farm, Beauchamp Roding where Isaac Mead and his wife Susan are buried. He said that he could discover no issue from this marriage. The name Mead rang a bell with me and I had a look through my collection of books on Essex (where my ancestral Hawkes hail from). In *Victorian and Edwardian Essex from Old Photographs*, by Stan Jarvis (published by B. T. Batsford, 1973) I came across five photos and information about Isaac Mead. He was born the son of a farm labourer in 1859 and “conquered all kinds of adversity to rent his own farm,” Waples Mill Farm (Hornets Farm?), Beauchamp Roding, in 1882. There is evidence in the photo captions that he had at least two sons and was a Non-Conformist. “Such was his love for the place that he had a piece of one of the fields consecrated, that he and his family might rest in peace in the very land which had succoured them.
in life”.
It would be interesting to know whether family members besides himself and his wife were buried there. Mention is made of a book by Isaac Mead, Life Story of an Essex Lad, 1923. If this could be tracked down, perhaps a lot more could be learnt about Isaac, his family and their farming life. Isaac and his book are mentioned on the Mead-Family.Net Genealogy Pages website at http://www.mead-family.net/histories/feature4.php

ALLAN D HAWKES (ESFH384)
New Zealand

Waltham Abbey

A friend showed me a copy of the June 2013, Number 148, issue of the Essex Family Historian. On page 71 there was a report of a talk which included a few comments about Waltham Abbey. We did not recognise it as the place we know. A bridge and a dock are all that fits being built on a raft of logs. Certainly the Abbey Church was not so built. Also nothing wonderfully illustrates the Perpendicular Gothic Style. The speaker takes the present Norman nave as part of the Abbey, which it never was, although it is loosely so called, by people who know no better. Oh dear!

It would be a pleasure to send you a copy of our latest Review of the sequence of the 5 churches, or to invite you or the Society to visit us for a guided tour of the place.

PETER HUGGINS
peterhuggins@talktalk.net

Editor – I only received Mr Huggins’ message in mid-September and straight away sent him an acknowledgement:

Dear Mr Huggins,
This was a report of a talk given last February and said what the writer thought the speaker had said. We would be delighted to receive and publish something about the subject from a local source. Perhaps you would let our readers know the details of such visits and who you represent.

Fred Feather -Editor Essex Family Historian.

P.S. “We have now received a copy of Mr Huggins’ 2012 booklet about the church and as a member of the Waltham Cross History Society he is well qualified to bring this information to our notice. We will forward the booklet to Eric Probert for review in our March issue and thank Mr Huggins for his comments on this matter.”
**Myland Riots**

I had got behind with reading the *Historian* and it was only when I retired [for the 3rd time!] at the end of June that I started to catch up and read Number 147. I would like to respond to a comment in the article by Bob Olley about one of the participants in the Myland Riot. Since 2002 I have been tracing the Jennings family and had got back to Diana Brown born in Myland in 1831. Her father was Daniel Brown but by 1841 he had ‘disappeared.’ Diana’s mother was living with a William Davies. By 2009 I had located Daniel’s criminal records at ERO and his transportation records at The National Archive. In 2011 I went to Tasmania in search of him, but realised on my return that I had traced the wrong Daniel Brown. I got the chance to go out again in March of this year and am now convinced that I have the right Daniel Brown. I had written up the findings of my research for Neil Wiffen to publish in the Essex Journal but he has graciously agreed to my producing a summary for the *Historian*.

**Christine E Jones (ESFH820)**

*Editor: See separate article in this issue ‘Daniel Brown Did Not Return’ on Page 9*

**Lost in Essex**

I was intrigued by an article in the latest Essex Family *Historian* with the title “Lost In Essex”. A quick skim through the list revealed many familiar names. My family having lived in the county for a little over 500 years means that I’ve spent a lot of time pouring over old maps and directories. So their familiarity may not be so surprising.

I’ve found the current “AA Street by Street Essex” road atlas to be a very useful source for locating hamlets, farms and other place names. Many of the 80 listed in the article can be found within the index to towns and villages at the back of this atlas.

Two points to bear in mind. Spellings can alter over time - eg Ounslow Green is now listed as Onslow Green. Place names are not always unique - there are at least three places within the county by the name of North End. Two of these are in the article, but as the list is not in strict alphabetic order (it’s been sorted by district which isn’t the most helpful) this fact could easily get overlooked.

Thanks for publishing my letter about Isaac Mead. It was interesting to see that the other writer lists my website (Mead-Family.Net) as one of his sources.

**Charlie Mead (ESFH9831)**

**Clacton wreck**

I was most interested to read Steve Bewer’s article ‘Dredging up the past’ in the September Journal. In my ‘Memories of WW 2’ which I wrote some years ago for my grandchildren, I recorded the attack on 20th April 1943, about midday, by two Spitfires on an enemy aircraft, which I had watched as a boy of 15 with my parents in their garden in Colchester.

The aircraft were flying at great height in
a clear blue sky making vapour trails. As we watched, the fighters gradually caught up the German aircraft and they were almost directly overhead when the attack took place and the German 'plane began to leave a trail of smoke. Afterwards we understood that the pilots of the Spitfires were Norwegian and the German plane had crashed into the sea about 12 miles off the coast at Clacton.

This incident is recorded on page 50 of a book edited by Hervey Benham entitled ‘Essex at War’ published in 1945.

TONY BLAXILL (ESFH 1058)

Dredging up the Past

Many thanks to all concerned for the Essex Family Historian No. 149 - keeping up the usual high standard of content and production.

The excellent article ‘Dredging up the past’ by Steve Bewers I found particularly fascinating. Although I am no expert on aeronautical matters, I have spent many interesting hours researching the history of my uncle Squadron Leader Arthur Vincent Gowers DFC (1913-1943). Vin was an Essex boy born and bred, having first seen the light of day in Chelmsford and from 1918 living with his family in Clacton-on-Sea. He joined the RAF in 1937, after trying his hand, not very enthusiastically, at all sorts of jobs (my mother said 23), including collecting the pennies from the slots in the ladies’ toilets in Clacton! The RAF proved to be his true vocation. Twice he was shot down, first flying his Hurricane V7343 over Oxted in the Battle of Britain (1st September 1940). He lost his life when leading his squadron in Typhoon IB JP396 under orders to go in at suicidal low level over the heavily defended harbour at Cherbourg, where a German ship full of material for the war effort had taken shelter (24th October 1943). We believe his body to have been washed ashore and to be buried in the Old Cemetery at Cherbourg, but the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will not accept our case without ‘100% proof’, and so he remains a nameless RAF casualty. ‘Gus’, as he was known to his pals (‘Vin’ to the family), was a happy-go-

Essex Wills Beneficiaries Index

Please note that it is with regret that for various reasons I am having to suspend access to this service with immediate effect. The index is essentially a single copy manual resource and I would not wish it to be lost in the longer term so investigations are under way to make it available online at some point in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many members who have used this service and for the numerous supportive comments that have been made over the 20+ years the index has been running. It would nice to imagine that it has contributed in a small way to help a few family trees grow.

THORA BROUGHTON

Essex Family Historian 49 December 2013
lucky chap, over six feet tall, always in scrapes, with a great big booming laugh. However, he had a serious side, and wrote a very sensitive, loving letter to his parents on the anniversary of his having gone back on duty after being patched up in 1940.

It was very interesting to hear that 332 (Norwegian) Squadron, of which Marius Eriksen was a member, was based at North Weald, as my grandfather related that in November 1939 Vin, then based at Lille in France, had made a forced landing at Bradwell due to the failure of his oxygen supplies when flying at great height on patrol. ‘He arrived with no hat, no footwear other than his flying boots and no English money, but fellow officers at North Weald filled the gap for him.’ This, though, was before the date of 332’s tenure of the base, as they did not move there until 1942. (RAF Bradwell Bay was not built until 1940, so North Weald would have been the nearest airfield.)

The other intriguing, though equally tenuous, connection in Steve’s article between Marius Eriksen and me is that I have a Norwegian friend and have produced many Norwegian garments in my knitting career. It is a very attractive form of design and I wonder if Marius is wearing his eponymous sweater in the photograph. I would love to get hold of the pattern!

SYLVIA M. BARNARD (ESFH 2339)

Josselyn Graves in Horkesley

The Josselin Journal carried articles and photos of the June 2003 meeting held at Great and Little Horkesley, listing 23 graves in the Little Horkesley churchyard relating to Josselyn and related families, namely Lay and Waylen. The period covered by those
memorials is approximately 100 years from about 1770 to 1880, although records show the family present there from the start of the 1600s, or earlier; *Marye ye wife of Thomas Joslyne* was buried the 20 day of June, 1609 and *Thomas Joslyn* was buried 14 May 1610. Their daughter Elizabeth had already been buried there in 1605, and other of their issue followed. Their eldest son Thomas, through whom the major line continued, was buried in London at the south side of the choir at St Bartholomew the Great. The manor where he dwelt at Little Horkesley passed to his wife and on her death in 1671 to his only son Thomas. Thomas Josselyn was baptised in 1631 at St Bartholomew the Great, as were the other children. Thomas married twice; by his first marriage in c1652 he had two sons, namely Thomas (who died without issue) and James, and by the second marriage a further son William and four daughters. He was buried at Little Horkesley in 1681.

The senior Horkesley line continued through James who was married circa 1687 to Rose Rice of Mount Bures. They had a family of five sons and three daughters, born between 1687 and 1703, from whom further lines descended. James and Rose were both buried at Little Horkesley in 1713 and 1709 respectively. Lines have been traced down to the present time through the eldest son, James (senior line) and the youngest son, John (through whom the line to my grandmother Henrietta Josselyn descended.). James Josselyn, born in 1688, married Sarah Lay in 1714, uniting the Josselyn and the local Lay family for a second time, and initiating a period of intermarriage between the families and the association with the graves which have been identified.

It is possible that some of the early gravestones have been lost when the church was destroyed by a landmine during the Second World War. I would be pleased to correspond with anyone who has an interest in these families. I have plans of the graveyard and where they may be located.

**John Hallum**

John.hallum@talktalk.net

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**Boys Brigade**

Regarding the photograph on page 34 of the September Historian; I am contacting you regarding the identification of the “Boys Brigade. It is certainly a unit of The Church Lads’ Brigade as identified by the cap badge etc. If it was Plaistow then it was probably Company number 734 based at St Mary’s Parish Church. The Senior Corps was formed on 22.02.1896 and in 1902 the drill night was Thursday at 8.30 in St Mary’s Parish Hall. There was also Company Number 1015 at St Mary’s and Number 1106 at St Matthias Plaistow, but as these were both short lived and had disbanded in 1901/1902, it is unlikely to be these.

The incumbent of St Mary’s was Reverend T. Given-Wilson, who was chaplain of the company from its formation in 1896 until at least 1910 (maybe longer). On the photograph you can see the Captain (behind the shield) and a Lieutenant.
to his right. The Captain could be a clergyman? Some of the members are wearing the 1902 review medal. I would date the photograph as 1903 - 1911? The Company formed a Junior Section on 25.04.1912. The Company was disbanded 02.04.1914 but was re-enrolled from 28.10.1940 until 01.04.1948. A quick check through our archive records shows the Commanding Officer in 1904 as Reverend T. V. Morley and in 1905 to 1909 as Reverend H. Johnson. Various Lieutenants are also listed during this period but cannot find any reference to a WAY family member. I hope that this is of some help, but I am not too sure if you have any more clues from the person who donated it. We are assuming that it is Plaistow!!

NEVILLE GRAY (ESFH 2455)
Member of the Church Lads Brigade Historical Society

From a former Archivist of the Boy’s Brigade.

No! The picture on page 34 of the September Historian is not The Boys’ Brigade. I am 99% sure that it is of the Church Lads’ Brigade. Following the successful start of the BB in Glasgow on the 4th October 1883, there were several very similar organisations started - The Boys’ Life Brigade (non-conformist), the Jewish Lad’s Brigade, Catholic Boys’ Brigade etc etc, all wearing slightly different cap, belt and haversack. The Anglican Church Lads’ Brigade was established at St Andrew’s Church, Fulham in 1891. To quote from ‘Sure and Steadfast’ A History of The Boys’ Brigade 1883-1983: “The founder of the CLB was Walter Mallock Gee, an ex-Volunteer officer and Secretary of the Junior Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society. Gee’s enthusiasm for the temperance ideal and the need to teach lads of the Church on distinctly Church lines led him to form a separate but similar organisation, against the advice of [Sir William] Smith and his colleagues. Despite the interdenominational nature of the BB and the successful Church of England Companies in membership, a second organisation was thus formed and, regardless of occasional friction, progressed in cooperation with the original Brigade.”

MRS. MURIEL D. GIBBS (ESFH3691)

Well Done

It is many years since we last corresponded (2003) and I did join the Society. I wanted you to know how greatly I enjoy the magazine. As a result of reading Eric’s “Bookcase” I have bought all the Amberley booklets on Essex and also the ones on Canterbury and Edinburgh. I think they are fascinating and increase my high regard for Essex as a county. I rather wish I could have lived in Essex.

MAJOR J. K.C. SCOTT, (ESFH8260)
Edinburgh

Editor – please forgive me for publishing what might seem to some as self-congratulatory, but I do not do it very often and it shows Ian and Eric that I do get letters congratulating them on their work.
READING the Historian’s report from the Colchester Branch talk on ‘The Importance of Fieldwork’ reminded me of an instance which proved its importance to me. Although the report takes a broad view of fieldwork, including a wide search for documentary evidence, which I have found both revealing and intriguing in the case of my own ancestors, my thoughts went to ‘feet, or tyres, on the ground’ fieldwork. It happens that only one of my grandparents was of Essex stock but visiting the places where the family lived or their churches and chapels gave me some real contact with them. In one case it resolved vital doubts.

My maternal grandmother was Florence Metson born in 1877 at Stebbing, Essex and previous researchers had produced genealogies of her ancestors through two Johns, two Roberts and two Thomass living successively at Stoke by Clare, Suffolk, Toppesfield, Essex and Wethersfield and Stebbing, Essex. There were some contradictions between the various on-line trees, complications with the use of Midson, Mitson and Metson as a surname and confusion, at least for me, with other like-named families in north Essex. Generally the trees did not give sources and whilst it transpired that my own ancestors were originally known as Midson, in some records they are named as Mitson and Medson until Metson became their established usage in the mid-19th century: some researchers had chosen to use one variant throughout their trees – something I now also find it convenient to do. Furthermore the family reused forenames extensively particularly for cousins born around the same time. I decided to go back to the original registers or microfiche, census records and other documents and follow all the descendants of the Stoke by Clare Midsons at least until the mid-19th century and disentangle the Bumpstead Midsons, Halstead Midsons, Dunmow Medsons and Yeldham Mitsons from my own ancestors. As a result I got drawn into the broader family history, via Land Tax records, voter lists, parish records, newspaper reports and more obscure documents such as chapel meeting records and accounts which together showed changes of religious persuasion, occupations, family fortunes and misfortunes, extramarital relationships and brushes with the courts. After 1841 the census showed, more or less, where people lived but earlier registers and records often only gave the parish or, with luck, the hamlet or manor in which they dwelt. Living fairly locally it was a short step to go to their abodes once a clear location was established or visit their churches and chapels or just explore the countryside in which they lived.

One of the puzzles I found was the variation in fortunes between the various Metson families in the early 19th century.
The first Robert Midson’s baptism and first marriage was clearly recorded at Stoke by Clare and a fortunate piece of thorough indexing by the Essex Record Office allowed me to find a deed that mentioned him occupying land there around 1760 administered by the Farrant family. This suggests he was a yeoman farmer and the Farrants were educated enough to administer property. Robert married a Martha Farrant in 1760 and they baptized their first child, who died, less than a month later. By 1764 Robert, Martha and their second child, Robert junior, had moved to Toppesfield but the only early records yet found there are the burial of Martha, Robert’s second marriage and baptisms of further children. In the very simple censuses of 1801 and 1811 all the family members are recorded as labourers. Of Robert senior’s five sons, two remained labourers and their children ‘working’ people, one, John, is only known from his baptism whilst the fifth died at about age 40 and his family descended into poverty. However the family of Robert junior prospered as small farmers and independent tradesmen in later generations.

This second Robert and his wife Elizabeth died in 1838 within a few days of each other and although his will does not indicate his possessions it shows he had lent a total of £135 to his children presumably to set up on their own as tenant farmers: his estate was to be divided equally amongst them after due allowance for money he had lent to them. The £135 equates to around £10,000 at today’s prices but I think it more relevant to use wage inflation which strips out the

Upper Wright’s Farm in 2011, the home of Robert and Elizabeth Midson from the 1820’s. The chimneys suggest a building of considerable age.
increase in living standards over the years: roughly speaking it equals 5 or more year’s wages for an agricultural labourer of the time. Records showed that Robert rented Wright’s Farm at Wethersfield from the local manor by the 1820’s but there were two such farms named in Wethersfield; the 1832 Reform Act gave Robert the vote and the register clearly identified him at Upper Wright’s Farm right at the parish edge where Wethersfield meets both Toppesfield and Sible Hedingham.

Between his status as a Toppesfield labourer in 1811 and records of renting lands in the 1820’s nothing has been found. So how did he gain his small prosperity? Parish registers confirmed that Robert married Elizabeth Steward in 1788 at Toppesfield and their first child was baptized less than 4 months later. In the earlier fragile register available via ‘Essex Ancestors’, the baptism of an Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Steward can just about be seen when guided by a later transcript. A search of local registers showed that there were two or more local Thomas Steward’s at this time. Parish records show that one was of some standing in Toppesfield and that his sons were later people of consequence in Wethersfield. A Thomas Steward had indeed tenanted farms all around the area where Wethersfield, Toppesfield and Sible Hedingham joined. There were, however, some lingering doubts about the identification of Elizabeth and her father.

Parish registers showed several Thomas Steward marriages in local parishes in the second half of the 18th century and although a very likely burial for Thomas, with his age, was found at Toppesfield, extensive searches revealed no matching baptism. Unfortunately I could not find a Will for Thomas Steward, which I had hoped would explain everything; parish registers seem to suggest that his sons took over his holdings prior to his death. I knew from previous researchers that Robert Midson and Elizabeth were buried together at Toppesfield and had been sent a photo of the headstone by William (Bill) Metson who had researched the Metsons for many years. However by 1838 when they died all of the Metsons I had traced were non-conformists worshipping at Wethersfield chapel; although burial in parish graveyards was still usual for dissenters, would a stone be erected? And why if Robert and Elizabeth, daughter of a man of means were married in 1788, was he still recorded as a labourer in 1811, not holding land until the 1820’s and his father Robert senior receiving Poor Law support in his last years? Despite Bill Metson’s impeccable research, I had to be sure I had the right Robert Midson and Thomas Steward – these were my direct ancestors.

A visit to Toppesfield parish church confirmed everything. There, set in stone, prestigiously placed just outside the south door, was the headstone of Robert and Elizabeth Midson flanked by those of Thomas Steward and the rather grander monuments to Thomas’s sons and their families. No doubt I could have relied on the records or carefully examined the ESFH MI’s to find the layout and description of the stones but seeing the family history set out before me was both touching and convincing.
I think that Robert had married into money and that as a consequence of his precocious premarital actions had laboured for his father-in-law until the latter died! Consequently he does not appear in Land Tax or parish records prior to that date. The fact that his father (and his brothers) received parish relief despite Robert’s better circumstances may not be odd: the lists of those receiving benefit at Toppesfield in the early 1800’s looks like half the village and farmers, like Thomas Steward, might well say ‘that’s what we pay our parish rates for’. As for the marked burial at Toppesfield, part of Wright’s Farm seems to be in that parish and that is where Robert and Elizabeth married and baptized their children, no burial ground at Wethersfield chapel is known at that time and if the Stewards were people of consequence who would argue? The moral of this little story is that visiting the places where our ancestors lived can reveal new information or allay doubts. It sometimes gives insights into their lives and circumstances. Despite conservation, churches and chapels are being de-consecrated and the grave stones removed, inscriptions are weathering away, old houses are being demolished or extensively renovated. Trace your family places and visit and record them whilst you still can. Above all, just being where your ancestors dwelt can provide a real connection with their lives.

Steve Gratze (ESFH20123)
steve.gratze@btinternet.com

Robert and Elizabeth Metson’s headstone surrounded by those of the Stewards taken in 2012, the inscriptions now barely visible.

The grave of Robert and Elizabeth Metson at Toppesfield,
a photograph taken some years ago by Bill Metson.
It is not often that excited children’s voices are heard in a cemetery, but if you were anywhere near North Road in Westcliff-on-Sea in the last few weeks, you might have wondered what was going on. As part of the Dead Respect Project, 120 pupils from the nearby Westborough School aged between 9 and 11, were learning how to save an important part of their local history. Not always quietly!

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and run by the Friends of North Road Burial Ground this project aims to help local children to understand the importance of the heritage contained within local burial grounds and cemeteries. We also think it is important that they were part of the team that is saving this history by recording the Memorial Inscriptions (MI’s) for future generations.

Starting with an all important safety briefing, Westborough School pupils began the project with a visit to the North Road Burial Ground (NRBG) where they were asked to find and try to record a memorial that interested them. At first some of the children were confused at how or why they should learn to read the MIs, but with help and guidance from the project team they began to see what they could find out about the people buried there, from the gravestones.

There are 8020 people buried at the NRBG at last count, but only around 500 memorials. This is due to a number of factors including the deterioration of the monuments over the 132 years the site has been active, the relative poverty of the area meaning that many graves had no markers beyond a simple wooden cross and the loss of memorials in the past due to accidents.

The Friends of North Road Burial Ground and our partners wanted the children taking part in Dead Respect to understand why they are visiting a cemetery and why they should be interested in people from the past. When you are working outside and with the actual evidence this is easier too for the children to get involved with. It also helps that we have many fascinating stories to tell the children about those buried there, including the bravery of J.E.R. Young who flew his plane into two enemy fighters in the Great War or the terrible accident that lead to the death of Stanley Alfred Chiverton who fell off the roof of a garage while cleaning windows. The group thinks it is vital to help the children understand the reason why it is important to record
these MIs so that future generations can learn about the history of people from our town before the elements make them impossible to read.

The second set of sessions was all about accuracy and encouraging the children taking part to record the inscriptions they had chosen and also to draw the memorial as carefully as they could. Each child was given a clipboard with worksheets explaining the tasks and asked to work independently in small groups. The Dead Respect team and the Westborough School staff moved between the groups to offer help and guidance. There was also some long overdue flower bed gardening that took place which the children really enjoyed!

As well as holding education sessions with the children of the Westborough School, the Dead Respect Project is recording all of the memorial inscriptions that are still readable in the NRBG in both written and photographic form. With the help of the South East Essex Branch of the Essex Society for Family History, the MIs will be photographed, written and transcribed into a digital format and then attached to the appropriate entries in the North Road Burial Ground Database that is available to all and is accessible via the Friends of North Road website: -

www.northroadburialground.org.uk

We are especially grateful to Linda Medcalf for sharing her knowledge and experience to make sure that the finished project will be as worthwhile as possible. She has been ably supported by Jack Gardner, Fred and Heather Feather who have also been mentoring this project so that the end results are accurate for all future historians. We are, as ever, very grateful.

The Dead Respect Project is run by the Friends of the North Road Burial Ground in partnership with the Westborough School and the Burial Services Department of Southend Borough Council and we would like to thank all of the members of the Essex Society for Family History who have given their time and skills and to the SAVS and Turning Tides teams for their help and support. If anyone would like to learn more or join in with the project please get in touch at:

friends@northroadburialground.org.uk

we are always delighted to hear from you.

Beth Hooper (ESFH 11065) •

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Eric Probert’s Useful Web Sites

Langley, Essex - Family History
www.langleyessex.net/
Are you researching folk in this Essex village, 8½ miles south west of Saffron Walden and adjacent to Clavering? If so visit this website. You will need to register but can then explore the complete site by searching on a surname for information compiled from sources including census returns, parish registers and memorials.

Children’s Society Records & Archives Centre
www.hiddenlives.org.uk/including_the_excluded/files/Case%20files%20of%20disabled%20children.pdf
Thanks to Heather Feather for this gem. You can download a .pdf file of nearly 2000 pages of case files on children admitted into the Society’s care from 1882, arranged in order of admission date. Unfortunately not indexed but an incredible resource including date of birth, parent(s), work placements, health & education and correspondence with relatives.

Hertfordshire Names Online
www.hertsdirect.org/services/leisculture/heritage1/hals/indexes/indexes
Did your ancestor stray across the Hertfordshire border? Just enter a name and search for free thousands of name indexed records for apprentices, crime and punishment, marriages and marriage licences, newspapers and magazines, poor law settlements etc, tithe awards and wills. A great resource!

The Great War Centenary Podcasts
www.1914.org/podcasts
At the time of compiling this there were 32 informative talks available to listen to, each between 10 and 15 minutes long, on topics as diverse as Womens’ war services, War in the air, Tanks on the Somme, Sport in war, Gas attack at Ypres and Zepplins over Britain. They are personal reminiscences from the Imperial War Museum’s “Voices of the First World War”.

Womens Royal Voluntary Service
www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/about-us/our-history
Was your ancestor in the WRVS? The organization is celebrating 75 years this year and you will find information on it’s history at these pages. There are links to twelve Factsheets including the 2nd World War Roll of Honour and a bibliography of printed sources together with a searchable catalogue of the historical material deposited in the Archive and Heritage Collection.

The Science Museum, Wroughton library & Archives
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/wroughton/
The Museum at South Kensington is well known but perhaps the Museum’s best kept secret is the library and archives on a former airfield near Swindon, Wiltshire. There are over a half million items in the collections. Follow the catalogue links to discover the archives of famous individuals, biographies, books, journals, patents, directories and maps in the fields of science, engineering, medicine and industry.
British Fishermen and Merchant Seamen imprisoned in the Great War
http://spw-surrey.com/MT9/?page_id=26
Might an ancestor be amongst the 3000 plus names in the database at this website? Take a look. You can search on surname and forenames or initials and the index includes occupation, address, year of birth or age in 1918 and the name of the ship.

Distribution of Surnames in Britain
http://gbnames.publicprofiler.org/
Do you want to learn more about the distribution of a surname from the 1881 census data and the 1998 Register of Electors? Then simply enter the surname and view the distribution on maps. I was not surprised to learn that my (originally) Welsh surname Probert was prevalent in Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and Radnorshire in 1881 but it was a revelation to find significant numbers in Southend-on-Sea by 1998!

Culture24 – History & Heritage
www.culture24.org.uk/history-and-heritage
This web site enables you to search in depth for history and museum events, exhibitions, collections and news under the categories of archeology, war & conflict, transport, work & daily life (including family history) and historic buildings. There are listings from thousands of museums, archives and heritage sites plus feature articles such as the Cockney Heritage Festival and The Family in British Art at the Millenium Gallery.

Dr Barnado’s Homes
www.goldonian.org/
Courtesy of the Lost Cousins Newsletter comes news of this website which is mainly about Goldings, the William Baker Memorial Technical School for Boys in Hertford but which has a wealth of information and links to the homes generally. There are many other links including one to Parkestone Sea Training School in Essex.

Royal College of Surgeons of England
http://wellcomelibrary.org/search-the-catalogues/
Was your ancestor a Fellow of this College? A search in the catalogue may find references to them in the British Medical Journal and Lancet obituaries and other biographical information. I found reference to a book on Charles William Buck (an ancestor and Member) and his friendship to Sir Edward Elgar.

Chelmsford Great War Memorials
www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk
Here are the biographical details of the 359 men of Chelmsford, Essex, who fell in the Great War and are recorded on the Chelmsford Civic Centre Memorial in Duke St. together with men ‘missing’ from the memorial plus others commemorated on the memorials at Moulsham, Springfield and Widford.

Windows Secrets
https://windowssecrets.com/
Do you want to master the Windows operating system on your computer? If so then subscribe to the free newsletter at these pages to bring you tips and techniques, how to’s and updates for Windows 8, Windows 7. Windows XP, Internet Explorer, Google and more. Described as “Everything Microsoft forgot to mention”!

ERIC PROBERT
Masonic Heraldry of the Grand Lodge of Essex
Mysterious Wooden Crosses at Old Harlow

E. Schuss
**Snippets From The Past**

Over the years there has been a build-up of small items, which the Editorial staff found interesting, but we did not always have the space or opportunity to use them. We also found a store of line drawing by the late and much missed Robert Vickers. Our Production Manager Ian has woven them into a miscellany that I hope you, Dear Reader will find interesting, or perhaps even instructive.

**Tollesbury**

**Burials**

December 28th 1786

John Jubb captain of a coal ship from Sunderland who died suddenly in his cabin.

Mary Berriman

**Saffron Walden**

22nd January 1778.

Stamford Mercury Page 1 Column 4.

On December 30th died at Saffron Walden, in Essex, the Wife of Mr. Day, Surgeon and man midwife, of that place; and on the Tuesday following Mr. Day dropped down dead as he was giving orders to his servants in the Stable.

Maureen Sibborn

**Just Passing Through**

“Passes” were issued to travellers, usually soldiers and sailors and/or their wives, who were travelling from their home towns to ports, or vice versa. Parish Constables often relieved such pass-holders with small sums, usually 6d or 1/-, sufficient to obtain a meal, or perhaps lodging for a night, on their way through the particular parish. The Overseers’ Accounts for Ardleigh reveal one unusual entry concerning such relief. On 14th July 1802 the Overseer, one Jonathan Bull, “Releiv’d (sic) 2 passes Hungarians” for the sum of 1/-. These foreign travellers were probably on their way to or from the port of Harwich, but I wonder what their business was and how they came to require passes - and why they were so poor as to require assistance from the parishioners of Ardleigh?

Ardleigh Poor Law Records

Email: nhclark@ozemail.com.au

**A Long Imprisonment**

On Thursday week George Rigby who was tried at the Lent Assizes at Chelmsford on 9th March 1835, for the murder of John Spooner at West Bergholt, was discharged from Springfield Gaol, her Majesty’s (Queen Victoria) Pardon having been received by Mr. Neale the governor. Rigby was committed on August 7th 1834 and at the following assizes was tried, and acquitted, on the grounds of insanity, but ordered “to be kept in strict custody until His Majesty’s (King William IV) pleasure should be known” thus, after a lapse of twenty years, a few days only excepted, he had regained his liberty.

Illustrated London News of 12th August 1854.
Elizabeth to hang

November 23rd 1782 Chelmsford-
On this day November 22nd, Elizabeth Holmsted who was convicted of aiding and abetting Thomas Newman of Burnham, Essex, (but was respite during pregnancy) will be executed pursuant to her sentence. Application has been made for merciful interference of the executive power on her behalf of this unhappy woman but having been determined that every servant who betrays a trust and can be capitally convicted shall suffer the extremity of their sentence, we are assured the most powerful interest cannot save her life.

An unfinished Assize

On Monday began the Assizes for the county of Essex, before Mr Baron Carter, at which the following persons were capitally convicted, viz Andrew Brown, alias Peak alias Debden, for the murder of Edward Bishop, Benjamin Stains, for House-breaking; Jacob Shelley, for Horse-stealing, but the Assizes not being ended, must defer a farther Account ‘till our next.

Colchester Journal for 6th March 1784 - reported in Chelmsford Chronicle.

Her last words

November 23rd 1782
Elizabeth Holmstead who was executed at Chelmsford last Friday confessed a circumstance which ought to guard housekeepers against lurking people who attend their houses and too often corrupt the minds of servants, she most affectionately requires her mother in law who attended the execution to supply the loss of a parent and nurture her child with motherly affection.

Radwinter Emigrants

Baptised Radwinter 1825 Sep 4
John son of John and Isabel Livermore.
"Emigrated to Australia April 1850"
As did Robert Gipps bap May 28(?) 1826 son of William and Lydia and Joseph Wright bap May 24 1829 son of James and Sarah.
All three emigrated in April 1850.
Now why couldn’t all incumbents be that helpful?
D/P 22/1/2
Glynis Morris (ESFH3533)

Fell between the shafts

Great Chesterford T/R 6/1
In the year 1778 the son of John Mason a youth about twenty fell of (sic) the shafts of a wagon & it ran over his body & killed him. [not in the burial register]
Glynis Morris (ESFH3533)

Daughter of Gypsey

Oct 25 1768 Charlotte Gray buried an infant and Dr of George Grey a gypsy.
Wimbish Parish Records (D/P 313/1/3)
Essex Record Office.
Glynis Morris (ESFH3533)
Stake through his body

October 4th 1783 Inquest on Friday at Ballingdon, Essex on Mr Hurwood a millwright who on the day before poisoned himself by taking two ounces of arsenic, after remaining in agony for five hours he died. Self murder and on Sunday morning early he was buried in the cross roads there with a stake drove through his body near the pound on Ballingdon Hill.

Did You Know?

That there was an office of Admiral of Essex? During the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st a Vice Admiral was appointed to each of 20 maritime counties. Among the jobs they were given over the next 3 centuries were the pressing of men for naval service, the adjudication of the lawfulness of the way ships were taken by the navy as prizes and sometimes as a judge. The first Vice Admiral of the Coast for Essex was Richard Cornwallis in 1558; a total of 29 men held this office, the last was Henry Maynard, the 3rd Viscount Maynard who held the title until 1865.

Murder charge at Tolleshunt

On Sunday Henry Cheswick was committed to our gaol, by Golding Griggs esq. coroner, charged by the jury’s inquest, taken before him at Tolleshunt D’Arcy, with murdering Bramston Bowler.

Chelmsford Chronicle January 1784

George left his wife and ran away

To all Constables and others his Majesty’s Officers of the Peace for the County of Essex. Forasmuch as George Winterton one of the overseers of the poor of the Parish of Rochford in the said County of Essex hath this day made Information and Complaint upon Oath before me one of His Majesty’s Justices of the Peace in and for the said County that GEORGE Gray labourer late of Rochford hath run away and left his wife whereby she is become chargeable to the said Parish of Rochford and thereby committed an act of Vagrancy. THESE are therefore to commend you, in his said Majesty’s Name forthwith to apprehend and bring before me the Body of the said George Gray to answer unto the said Complaint and to be further dealt withal according to the Law. Herein fail you not. Given under my Hand and Seal the 8th day of August in the year of our Lord 1829. J Barrington

Essex Record Office D/P 129/10

GLYNIS MORRIS (ESFH3533)

Boy drowns as brother looks on

Thomas Twinn, aged eight, committed suicide at Chelmsford on Monday. He deliberately walked into the Chelmsford and Maldon Navigation River, while his brother, aged ten, stood quietly by and watched him drowning. The boys had been gleaning corn, and their mother had threatened to thrash them for laziness.

Illustrated London News

Saturday August 27th 1870 (p.215)

ANN CHURCH
This article began as a letter to the Editor from John Bayliss, a regular correspondent, who wrote:

Coggeshall Parish Records – Burials ERO D/P 34/1/13 1813-1865 “James Owers who barbarously slain with a knife by John Gooday having.............26th October 1826........Verdict on inquest .......daughter Gt Coggeshall Oct 27th; yrs 19.”

I went to my collection of photocopies of the Chelmsford Chronicle reports on Assizes in the 19th century. On Friday December 15th there was a column headed “Essex Gaol Delivery” Mr Justice Gaselee, having taken his seat and the Grand Jury sworn in, his Lordship addressed them;


......(an extract from the address). In the case of Gooday who has been committed for manslaughter, it is uncertain whether he will be indicted for manslaughter or for murder, probably the latter, and you will give the case your serious – there
were a great number of persons collected together upon the occasion, and there was fighting on both sides – your attention will be directed to the conduct of the party about to be indicted – it appears the offence was committed by means of an instrument which the prisoner had in his hand - whether this was procured maliciously, and with a previous determination of using it, or whether it was used only in the heat of the moment, is a question of great importance in the case and requires your patient attention. Gentlemen, any information you may require I shall be happy to give, which will be better than taking up your time by entering in detail on the different offences in the calendar.”

JOHN BAYLISS (ESFH1298)

This was intriguing, as the newspaper issue of 15th December 1826 featured many cases but not this one. I knew that there were two Assizes in Essex each year, the Lent and the Summer augmented by a “Gaol Delivery” each December to clear the gaols. Long experience told me to fast forward the Chronicle to Friday 16th March 1827 and there, at the Lent Assize, the whole story was revealed. There are three full length columns and they were page-long columns. Gooday was charged both with Murder and the alternative charge of Manslaughter, which is “the killing of a human being by a human being, without malice aforethought.” The prosecution job was to prove that Gooday had shown malice towards Owers. The volume of evidence was completely confusing but a long study of it brought me to the conclusion that the case arose from what would now be described as a riot in Coggeshall. This is how I read the story:

Near Coggeshall is a large country house known as “Holfield Grange” at that time the seat of Oswald Hanbury and his brother John. The name of the incumbent came from the estates of the Oswald and Hanbury families. This house was knocked down in the late 19th century. A party of their men, some 20 strong, were celebrating “Hanbury’s Largesse” which I took to mean that he had paid for them to all go down the pub, in this case the Chapel Coaching Inn in Coggeshall. The licensee at that time was Samuel Sprague. Also around was a large party of locals. About 11pm to midnight a fight broke out between John Evans a fisherman and Joseph Gooday. This lasted nearly an hour. John Gooday the pugilist’s father John was present, as was a large crowd.

The reason for the escalation may have centred on the large amount of game, for which the “largesse” was the reward. At the finish of this stage the action moved to Vicarage Field and involved James Owers, who was described as not being averse to indulging in a fight. It would not be possible to reproduce the varied and contradictory statements that were later made, but I can name some of those present, of whom some had come from the Greyhound Club:

Owers, Ripkin, John Shelley, a labourer of Pattiswick, Sean Finn a tailor, John French and Robert French silk weavers, George Amos, John Browning a carpenter, John Finch and W. Jennings of the Hanbury party, William Juniper,
Samuel Cowell, Zachariah Sharpe, Edward Hillman an ostler, Wm. Johnson from Hertfordshire. Some gave evidence for and some against John Gooday, the latter included Mr Henry Hanbury and the Hanbury Head Gamekeeper Jacob Plastow. John Hutley told the court that he knew Gooday and Gooday and Owers had worked together amicably. Among the witnesses were those who alleged that Gooday had shouted “Murder! Murder! I will pay all expenses! So what had happened in Vicarage Field? Did Owers still want to fight? But, the much older John Gooday in the scuffle had drawn his working knife. Owers received a deep cut in the arm, no one attended to it and he collapsed from loss of blood and subsequently died. Gooday would submit a written defence that he had been holding the knife to protect himself and in the dark Owers was pushed against him and onto the blade. Gooday, father and son, both ran for it but were chased and captured. Evans the aforementioned fisherman dragged Gooday over to the dying Owers and told him to look at what he had done. The incident was finally concluded by the arrival of the Parish Constable William King, who gathered evidence. This was 12 years before the county police was formed.

With some much conflicting evidence Judge Gaselee took two hours to sum up. For the Jury to consider was that he did not see that there was enough evidence to support the murder charge. But, the circumstances were not enough to consider justifiable homicide. The Jury also took that view and returned a verdict of Manslaughter. Gooday appeared for sentence the following morning and was said to be very deaf. Judge Gaselee sentenced him to 6 calendar months imprisonment, adding that the case must show the public that instruments are not to be used with impunity but noting that the Jury obviously took the view that a lenient sentence was apposite on account of his advanced age and that there was no evidence of animosity towards the deceased.

I also opined that the name Hanbury was on the visiting lists of many of the members of the Grand Jury. Cases such as this provide fascination, legally and genealogically! How did you get transported for 14 years for stealing food? Or sentenced to death over something now considered trivial? But get 6 months for killing someone! But then, where will you get such interesting lists of pre-1841 names and occupations, which may well have concerned the forebears of some of our members? It is a puzzlement!

Other cases at the Lent Assize.

The Crown Side of the Calendar contained 130 prisoners, of which 41 were either discharged by proclamation or acquitted on trial. The courts dealt mainly with offences classified as Treason or Felony, whilst Misdemeanours went to Quarter Sessions and Summary cases to the Magistrates courts.

Death Recorded – Major Luck, a 17 year old inmate of the poor house at Aythorpe Roding, for setting fire to a barn owned by the church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of that
parish. John Ackers and James Eldred for stealing a sheep from John Barnard at Great Baddow. William Bradford for stealing a loin of mutton and £11.12.6d from John Law at Broxted. Daniel Woodley and William Lamprell for stealing a lamb from George Holland at Stifford. John Wisbey for stealing a scythe from the cottage of Samuel Cant at Wormingford. William Petts for stealing two pigeons and nine rabbits from John Crush at Matching. William Juniper, (mentioned previously) Ambrose and Richard French were indicted for having broken into the warehouse of William Appleford of Great Coggeshall and stolen bread, a leg of pork, and sugar were convicted. They were sentenced to death, but reprieved.

14 years Transportation. - William Carter for stealing 4 trusses of hay from S. B. Martin at Romford and Thomas Hunt for receiving the same.

7 years Transportation - David McLeod, for stealing a quantity of linen, the property of Frances and Robert Cooke at Witham. The prisoner made no defence, but said he should leave his case to “the candid remarks of the Judge and the honest determination of the Jury.” There were three other indictments against him- one for uttering false and counterfeit money; another for breaking out of his Majesty’s Gaol at Cardiff; and the other for having escaped from the City Gaol at Bristol.

George Argent, William Crussall and William Green were indicted for a misdemeanour, under the 5 Geo 3 (a law of 1763) for having unlawfully entered the closed yard adjoining the dwelling house of Mr John Greenwood of Halstead, and stealing from a pond there, twenty brace of live tench, his property. Green was convicted and transported for seven years, the others were acquitted.

Thomas Allen was indicted for, on 4th August 1826, having killed and carried away a fallow deer in the Royal forest of Waltham, he having been convicted before for a like offence. This was an indictment under 42 Geo.3 (a law of 1802) which makes the second offence of killing a deer in the royal Forest a Felony. The first offence subjects the offender to a penalty of £50. Allen’s previous offence was on 16th August 1824. The keeper John Laver found the body of a deer concealed in the forest and lay in wait until Allen and another man named Harvey came there to recover it. They made great resistance but were taken by keepers. Both found guilty and Allen sentenced to seven years transportation. Harvey’s was a first offence and he was fined £50.

2 years House of Correction – John Cant for a burglary in the dwelling house of James Wm. Coleman at St. Mary at the Walls, Colchester and stealing £6-9s-6d in money.

12 months House of Correction – William Wicks, for an assault on Perry, an active officer in the parish of Chelmsford.

The character of David McLeod led us to a sneaking hope that our respected Antipodean correspondent would pick up on this “cheeky chappy” and perhaps discover if or how he made his way in that colony.
Branch Meeting

News and Reviews

Forthcoming events and reports from around the County

CHELMSFORD Headquarters

Postcode: CM2 6YD

Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford. Meetings are on a Saturday and start in the Lecture Theatre at: 10.30 a.m. (Computer Group), 12.30 p.m. (Tutorial) and 2.30 p.m. (Lecture).

What’s On .......

Tutorials - aimed particularly at beginners as well as the less experienced.

14th December Family History Quiz with Barbara Harpin
18th January Our Newspaper Heritage by Meryl Catty.
15th February History of Stained Glass by Chris Parkinson
15th March Marriage Law for Genealogists by Rebecca Probert

Lectures

14th December History of New Hall by Tony Tuckwell
18th January Stairway to Heaven - 1943 Bethnal Green Tube Shelter Disaster by Sandra Scotting.
15th February The Military Archive by Jonathan Murphy
15th March Terror in the Night The 1953 North Sea Surge by Michael Holland.

What’s Gone ....

JULY TUTORIAL AND LECTURE
No Report was available at the time of going to press. Please refer to the Society website:

AUGUST
No Meeting this month

SEPTEMBER AGM
What’s On ........

14th December Google – Not just a Search Engine with Steve Cordery
18th January Workshop–bring your laptop or just come and see what others are doing
15th February To Be Advised
15th March To Be Advised

What’s Gone ....

JULY TALK - Paint.Net by Charlie Mead (last minute change)
Many thanks to Charlie for stepping in and presenting a very interesting demonstration and explanation of Paint.net and what this free photo/image editor can do. His handout was really useful.

AUGUST TALK - no meeting

ESFH Chelmsford Computer Group AGM 21 September 2013 - 31 members attended for the AGM.
Andrew Britter (Chairman) welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The previous minutes had been reported in the magazine and on-line. We had had some interesting sessions earlier in the year comparing Roots Magic 6 (by Charlie Mead) and Family Historian 5 (by Clive Spratt) which had proved very interesting. Thanks to Charlie for stepping in again at short notice after a recent cancelled session.
The Treasurer (Mike Farman) reported on our finances – copies of our accounts were passed around. We started the year with a balance of £89.98, total expenditure of £55 for speaker costs left us with a balance of £34.98. Mike mentioned our HSBC Bank account, called a community account, which offers free banking and a cheque book, providing our turnover does not exceed £100,000 a year. We will still get free banking, a cheque book and monthly statements. Andrew reported a satisfactory year. He then stood down for Ian Boreham to take the chair for election of officers and committee.

Proposal for Officers
Chair – Andrew Britter
Treasurer – Mike Farman
Secretary – Barbara Harpin

Proposals for Committee
Don Hewer
Joan Potts
Charlie Mead
Allan Broyd

The secretary holds the Nomination Form with all duly proposed and seconded. All re-elected.
Suggestions would be welcome for the programme for 2014 as to what topics the members would like, none forthcoming. A volunteer was requested to take over from Don on reporting the meetings for the website and the Historian – none forthcoming. Don was thanked for all his work keeping the group going. The business part of the meeting then closed. 4 other members joined the meeting. Andrew took questions from the floor and we had a general discussion on hints and tips. Use Dropbox to download photos from phone to PC. and Check Facebook for family members’ photos.

We then welcomed Paul Nixon, the Content Licensing Manager from Brightsolid Online Publishing to speak on What is so special about Findmypast? Paul gave an entertaining presentation comparing the various websites, exploring the differences between them and the information available. Apart from two counties (our own Essex and Durham) there is a split between Ancestry and FMP. FMP was generally more accurate in their transcriptions, do not allow searching by first name, but has census searching by address, and the advantage of the British Newspaper collection. It allows correction suggestions. Their cost is more or less the same. He was able to tell us of some new acquisitions to FMP arriving soon. He then took questions and comments from the floor, some of which he promised to look into. An interesting tour of the “league table”

BARBARA HARPIN

COLCHESTER  
North East Essex  
Postcode: CO1 2QB

Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street, Colchester. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month. Doors open 2.00 p.m. and meetings commence at 2.15 p.m.

What’s On .........

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th December</td>
<td>Christmas Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th January</td>
<td>Colchester’s Roman Wall with Jess Jephcott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th February</td>
<td>Family History through Register of Electors. by Eric Probert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>Promiscuous Letters by Meryl Catty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What’s Gone ....

JULY TALK - Genealogists Question Time
We were quite a small select gathering on this very hot afternoon. The hall was cool and we had some interesting and varied questions. They ranged from Red Cross records- where to find wills – where to find R.A.F. Pilots records to East Hill house in Colchester. Everyone joined in and some very lively and interesting discussion took place.
SEPTEMBER TALK - AGM

Today’s meeting was the A.G.M. We had rather a small attendance but the meeting progressed smoothly. The Committee were re-elected so Pauline Adlem remains chairman, Paul Stirland as Treasurer and Gill Peregrine as Secretary. David Spendlove, Roger Stirland, Juliette Malcolm and David Eniffer retain their positions on the committee.

After a cup of tea we continued with our project work.

JULY TALK - Who Do You Think You Were

There were short talks by members telling tales of their research: Pauline recounted two coincidences, her sister’s second husband’s name Brockman came from a family that had married into the family before, making them rather complicated cousins, and then his daughter (Brockman) married a 13th cousin Brockman. Jean spoke of two ladies, one was a pupil teacher and she had used school log books to trace. She also used Google books and found a report as Louisa Beanner became a schools inspector. The other, Beatrice Wright became a Catholic Nun. The archivist of the order she joined was a great help. Barbara told the story of finding Coroner’s records in Westminster Abbey, leading to lots of interesting information, only to find out later that there was a sting in the tale!. Jean – Artist tale – after inheriting a Hugh Collins painting she found out he was a relative and managed to search online and found the estimated value of £195 19s 6d. An interesting afternoon! We shared experiences and got ideas for our own research.

AUGUST TALK- Essex Family Historian with Fred Feather

We welcomed the return visit by Fred, accompanied by fellow colleagues from other branches, including our Chairman David Eniffer. Fred narrated the history of our own society magazine from the first issue in 1970’s through the years and different editors, bringing us up to date on how Fred, our current Editor, plans the magazine.
Explaining the stories behind many of the pictures, Fred entertained us for the afternoon.

SEPTEMBER TALK - Branch A.G.M. followed by Genealogists Question Time
After reporting on the last year and electing a committee (John Young having stepped down and Sue Spiller taking over as Secretary) we continued the afternoon, firstly with a presentation from Sue about Facebook- how to use, and what can be found, and we watched a film of Harlow in the 1960s. Then Elizabeth facilitated Question Time with a written question concerning the Green family in the workhouse in Northants, referring us to the workhouse website of Peter Higginbotham. Next a look at Nonconformist records on The Genealogist website and a look at records for the name Baissac in India and Mauritius.

BARBARA HARPIN

SAFFRON WALDEN North West Essex Postcode: CB11 3HD
Meetings are held in Saffron Walden Baptist Church Hall (Audley Road entrance) High Street, on the second Thursday, at 8.00 p.m.

What's On .......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th December</td>
<td>Members Christmas Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th January</td>
<td>Personal Assistant to a High Court judge by Roger Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th February</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>The work of a Pargetter by Bill Sargeant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What's Gone ....

JULY TALK -
Due to family illness our scheduled speaker could not attend our meeting. At very short notice Elizabeth Brown gave a talk on the well-known TV show “Dad’s Army” and related many stories and anecdotes about the cast and other people associated with it. Although the last episode was made in 1977 there is still much world-wide interest in the show and enthusiasts are supported by an appreciation society. Mrs Brown answered several questions from the audience of 15 members and guests.

AUGUST TALK - no meeting

SEPTEMBER TALK– Riot & Revolution in Essex by William Tyler
William explained that at the root of riot and revolution was the exploitation of the many by the few, particularly the agricultural labourers. Life for them and their
families was really tough. He reminded us that his namesake Wat Tyler of Peasants Revolt fame was an Essex man. The brains behind that Revolt were the clergy – the hedgerow priests - the best known being John Bull who was born at Peldon. In the Middle Ages famine was endemic – individuals and whole families died of hunger. In the early 1800s there were bread riots. In 1815 there were bread riots in Halstead and the Yeomanry (drawn from the middle class) were called out and the rioters saw them off resulting in the Regular troops being called out from Colchester. Villages in Essex that are now ‘chocolate box pretty’ were rural slums. He asked why there were not more riots and the answer was that the Protestant religion kept the rural population calm and obedient to their masters. The arrival of the County Police force also calmed things down. In the 19th century the gentry began to provide allotments on the basis that if a labourer is planting potatoes he is not in the pub plotting revolution. They also gave money to the Primitive Methodists to continue preaching obedience to the masters.

But the poverty and hunger got even worse with people eating moorhen and water rat soup!

However, the 1914-18 Great War put an end to the deference of earlier times.

Sometimes religion caused strife as at Great Bardfield when three Methodist preachers were attacked by a mob of 200. In the summer of 1914 serious trouble broke out centred on Ashdon near Saffron Walden as a result of low wages and appalling work conditions. The farm labourers joined the Union and the farmers locked them out. Mrs. Pankhurst even came to lend her support to the labourers. Money flowed in from as far away as Australia. In the end the farmers capitulated. Church tithes were collected into the 20th century and several farmers went bankrupt when they could not pay. Some farmers were expected to pay 75% of their profit to the church. The church was ruthless in pursing them for the debt even selling a baby’s blanket as part of a forced sale.

JANICE SHARPE

ESSEX RESEARCH

Glynis Morris,
56 Armond Road, Witham, Essex,
CM8 2HA
Telephone: 01376 516315

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Muriel and Heather acted as our panel of experts for an open house where members asked a variety of questions relating to family history. There was an equal amount of audience participation, which certainly gave the meeting an extra dimension. “This might be of interest to our members ….” Going by what our Chairman David Eniffer said in his report in the last quarter of the magazine, he and Paul Stirland really enjoyed themselves. David has not been to the South East Branch before so it is nice having positive feedback like this. Thanks David for the kind comments. Heather concluded the afternoon with a test: Sayings that are no longer in use. Try answering any of the following and no looking in the OED or searching on the web beforehand: 

*agnate, half baptism, part burial, partible inheritance.*

Answers are on the next page.

AUGUST TALK - No Meeting

SEPTEMBER TALK _ AGM

Our Editor-in-Chief Fred chaired the meeting. There were no changes to the number of candidates putting themselves forward, the same people wishing to serve on the committee as last year. Votes were then cast en bloc approving said candidates. Our Treasurer Jim Lamborn followed by giving a statement of accounts which was approved by a show of hands. Finally, our thanks must go to John Gardner for offering to continue as Chairman for another year.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY — We still need a Programme Secretary. Without someone offering to take up this position, we won’t have any speakers to give any talks. This will mean no meetings in future.

It was nice seeing our old friend Kevin Cole again. He was down from Nottingham for a few days, where he now lives. Many will remember Kevin as our resident computer expert, sorter of all things technical who would spend most of his spare...
time stripping them down ‘to get to the gremlins’, as he used to call them. He couldn’t stay for the meeting as he had to be somewhere else. Still he looked as handsome as ever and we all wished him well.

CEMETERIES
Those who weren’t at the AGM really missed out on the talk given by Stephen Taylor. You wouldn’t think the ins and outs of cemeteries could have much entertainment value. Believe me they really do when you hear someone like Stephen talking about them. So what’s to know about cemeteries and those who work there? For starters, there’s nothing 9 to 5 about the job. At any time of the day or night Stephen could be asked to deal with any number of problems which might have occurred, and that’s just in a single day on most occasions. “Sometimes the job can be very stressful, at other times you find yourself laughing when something unexpected happens” - quite routine for someone like Stephen. “You have to giggle or you’d go crazy otherwise”.

But then Stephen is in charge of all the cemeteries within Southend Borough which include Sutton Road (one of the largest outside London), North Road and London Road, Leigh. That’s quite a responsibility given the different types of burial there are now. “Peoples beliefs, whether religious or not, to them are sacrosanct. I share that philosophy and will always ensure their wishes are carried out at the time of burial.” So how are cemeteries run and what else might we learn about them? It all goes back to the Burial Act of 1857, rules that have remained the same since they were first drawn up. Powers are then given to each local authority to control their own budget. As regards burials themselves, no one owns their own grave, only the rites of interment over a set period; 50-75 years and not in perpetuity as it once was. Therefore, one’s relations have limited powers after your death. There continues to be a sharp decline in the number of burials though you wouldn’t think so when visiting somewhere like Sutton Road given its size and the fact that more and more space is being taken up. Those are the dry facts so perhaps that’s where we’ll make our exit other than to say if you have plans for ‘later on’, hopefully someone like Stephen will be around to assist. These are the people you’ll never see, the men and women who are the linchpins of our cemeteries. During questions, several members asked about green burials. That’s another story for another time. We must fix a date for more personal recollections from Stephen. I’m sure those who weren’t here last time will want to be there.

MARTIN HAYDN ROBERTS

Answers
Agnate – relatives descended from a common male ancestor
Half baptism – a private baptism, usually at home, when a child is dangerously unwell. A “full” baptism in church follows if the child survives.
Part burial – burial of a heart separate from the body (upper class practice)
Partible inheritance – a system whereby all children (or sometimes merely all the sons) received a share of a deceased’s estate.
SURNAME INTERESTS

THIS LIST shows new and changed entries to our Members’ Surname Interests up to and including 4th October 2013. For further details please check the Society’s web site at: www.esfh.org.uk. If you do not have access to the Web, please use the Surname Interests Response Service to make contact with the member identified by their number. Each line gives Interest Name, County Code, Parish, Date Range, & Member’s Number.

The service works as follows: A letter to a possible contact is written in the usual way except that it should be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed (in the top left corner) to “Member No..........” where the membership number is taken from the journal or web site. It is vital that this number is copied correctly otherwise the letter cannot be delivered.

The sealed letter must then be enclosed in a covering envelope and sent to Surname Interests Forwarding Service, ESFH Research Centre, c/o Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6YT. Your enquiry will then be forwarded to the relevant member who can reply and establish contact or not, as before.

ANGELL, DOR, Osmington, 1550-1799, 3224
ASHWELL, ALL, Walthamstow, 1880-1950, 11091
BARTRAM, NFK, Great Yarmouth, 1920-1928, 3729
BELLAMY, MDX, Poplar, 1750-1900, 11066
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CARTER, ESS, Fryerning, 1746-1822, 11041
CHAMBERS, BKM, Bow Brickhill, 1800-1900, 11066
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DIGBY, ESS, Finchingfield & Braintree, 1700-2000, 11084
DRAPER, KEN, Belevedere, 1898-1969, 11041
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ENGLISH, ESS, All, 1700-1785, 11061
GARDINER, MDX, All, 1800-1950, 11091
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HURRICKS, SFK, Ipswich, All Years, 11092
INGRAM, ESS, Southend, 1850-1953, 3729
KAIN, MDX, Hackney, 1700-1900, 11066
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