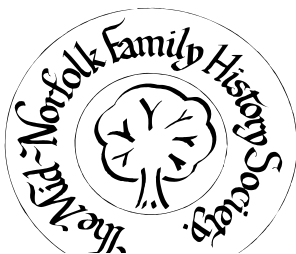


# News

Volume 6 Issue 7



# Letter

Summer 2012

## *In this issue .....*

LETS LOOK AT A CHURCH .....	3
BISHOP'S (BT's) & ARCHDEACON'S (AT's) TRANSCRIPTS .....	7
NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS .....	9
FOOD FOR THOUGHT .....	10
YOUR LETTERS .....	11
NEW POSTAGE RATES .....	14
QUEEN VICTORIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE .....	15
PRICE INCREASE FOR BMD CERTIFICATES .....	17
NATIONAL ARCHIVES - WORKHOUSE RECORDS PROJECT .....	18
NEW PUBLICATIONS .....	20
IDENTITY THEFT! DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM! .....	22

## **FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS**

**at: Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Theatre Street, Trinity Close,  
Dereham NR19 2EP ..... Starting 7.30 pm**

20 <sup>th</sup> June	The Friendly Invasion - December 1941 by Libby Morgan
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Rebels, Rogues, Crime and Punishment by Brian Jones
15 <sup>th</sup> August	How to Avoid Mistakes in Genealogy by Peter Bailey

## **A few words from the Editor ...**

First of all a big thank you to all of you who have contributed to this Newsletter, I get more letters each time and it is very much appreciated.

It would be lovely to hear from some of our overseas members, tell us about your research activities and what problems, if any, you have researching at a distance.

Postage rates have increased this month (April) and I have included the new rates in this issue. I have suggested that if you want to purchase four or more books you email or write to me for a price for the postage, this means I can charge postage on our books as accurately as possible. I suggest overseas members email me for a price for any purchase, as prices vary according to destination and air or surface mail.

This year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year and we have an article in this issue about Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, we are told it was a very happy day. Please write in (not more than 100 words) and let me know about your Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, I will publish as many as possible.

**Format for Newsletter Contributions ....** Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, or handwritten, then please either:

- email the file to me at [Familyhis@aol.com](mailto:Familyhis@aol.com) or
- post handwritten copy/CD/floppy disk, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter

**Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter - 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

*Kate (Editor)*

## LETS LOOK AT A CHURCH

### No.66 – St Mary, Reepham



As Mortlock and Roberts point out in their ever useful book *The Guide to Norfolk Churches* it is not unknown for two churches to stand in one churchyard - there are thirteen shared churchyards in Norfolk alone. Reepham is unique however in playing host, at least in part, to three. St Mary's, to the right in the photograph, is the only one now regularly used for worship but standing right next to it however, and indeed rather more prominent overlooking as it does the market place, is St Michael's, which serves as a parish hall and for occasional services. Beyond that under some ancient yews lie the remains of All Saints which was destroyed by fire in 1543 and finally demolished two hundred and fifty years later. The reason for this surfeit of churches is the confluence of three parish boundaries, Reepham, Hackford and Whitwell at this one spot near the centre of Reepham town. It must be remembered that most medieval churches were built to serve a given parish and while they were usually located in the settlement associated with that parish this was not always the case. The main factor probably influencing the location of Hackford and Whitwell parish churches next to that of Reepham is that prior to the Reformation, St Mary's housed the shrine of Our

Lady of Reepham and was for hundreds of years a significant pilgrimage destination making the site one of some spiritual significance and thus very prestigious. Reepham, which is mentioned in Domesday, is a small settlement of about two and a half thousand souls and has had market town status since 1277. An impressive carved wooden town sign designed by the local high school and installed in 1992 shows the three parish churches as they once stood and also three ladies in medieval dress, a reference to the legend that three sisters were each responsible for building one of the churches. Sadly this charming story is unlikely to be true as the period over which the buildings were constructed would have covered several lifetimes. The church of St Mary the Virgin, Reepham with Kerdiston, to give it its full title is actually joined on to St Michael's and there is a connecting door which enters St Mary's near a point in the wall displaying a carved relief of Royal Arms dated GR 1745 i.e. George II. As they are actually the arms of the Stuart James I they were probably made earlier than the given date and adapted to fit changed circumstances rather like the Vicar of Bray. The Church is of course much older, being founded some time before 1385, a catastrophic period in Norfolk history when half the population were wiped out by the Black Death and, as Kelly (1883) has it, is an 'ancient flint structure in the Decorated style'. Kelly picks out as the church's most noteworthy feature the large brass in the chancel (now covered by a carpet) to Sir William de Kerdiston who died in 1391 and lady Cecilia who is 'represented in the reticulated head-dress of the period'. Her husband, who lies beside her, though finely depicted, has lost one and a half of his legs over the years and is rather the worse for wear but impressive none the less. The Kerdistons were a local family of long standing who fought at Agincourt and other battles of the Hundred Year's War and gave the name to their ancestral home parish of Kerdistone. The Kerdiston tomb, found in the north east corner of the church is even more impressive than the brass. Under a tall elaborate canopy is an imposing knightly figure long said to be William's grandfather, Sir Roger de Kerdiston who died in 1337. Dressed in full armour he lies

somewhat uncomfortably on a bed of huge pebbles (they were tough in those days) with a large well fed lion, symbol of power and courage, at his feet. The figure is quite lifelike with one hand ready on his sword and we tiptoe past so as not to disturb his centuries of slumber. Ten tiny ‘weepers’ along the tomb’s base lament the good knight’s last journey into eternity. These all seem to be characters in their own right and repay close examination. If only they could speak, what tales they might tell! Before we move on, it must be pointed out however that it is possible the figure on the tomb is not Sir Roger after all as a revisionist pamphlet put out by the Reepham Society in 1998 argues quite convincingly that its occupant is in fact his son, another Sir William, who fought at Crécy in 1346. Then again, Francis Blomfield writing in 1808 thought the knight was ‘probably Sir Thomas Kerdiston, who died in 1270’. You pays your money and takes your choice. Controversy apart, despite the sometimes heavy handed Victorian restorers, there are other interesting features to seek out in this pleasant church such as the sturdy five pillared Norman font crafted from Purbeck marble. Near the font is an interesting fragment of a churchyard cross with the figures of the various saints associated with the three churches set beneath its arms. It is thought to have once stood outside as a marker at the point where the parishes met. Look also at the 15<sup>th</sup> century decorative ironwork scrolling on the tower door, a tiny feature but like the brass indicative of the fine workmanship to be found in this building. The pews as well are particularly noteworthy with a number of amusing animal designs on the arm-rests and among them you will find an entertaining carving of the Devil complete with forked tail and baleful glare. On the whole we felt as we left through the churchyard that, despite the slight air of claustrophobia resulting from so much ecclesiastical architecture being shoehorned into such a relatively small site, St Mary’s does the town of Reepham proud.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office

(Cat. Ref. PD 440, Reepham with Kerdiston, PD 441 Hackford with Whitwell and PD442 Whitwell).

PD 440 Baptisms 1538-1957, Marriages 1539-1642 & 1653-1968, Burials 1539-1863, 1900-1931 & 1946-1992 (includes P441 from 1946) and Banns 1754-1901. Microform copies start at the same dates but end in 1902 for Baptisms, 1901 for Marriages & 1863 for Burials. Archdeacons and Bishop's transcripts start in 1600 but end in 1907 for Baptism & Burials and 1837 for Marriages.

PD 441 Baptisms 1584-1935, Marriages 1559-1647, 1660-1771 & 1813-1935, Burials 1559-1928 and Banns 1754-1771 & 1823-1960. Microform copies cover the same dates but end in 1900 for Baptisms, Marriages & Burials and 1923 for Banns. Archdeacon's and Bishop's transcripts start at 1600 but end in 1874 for Baptisms & Burials and only run until 1837 for Marriages.

PD 442 Baptisms 1559-1888, Marriages 1559-1968, Burials 1559-1638 & 1650-1935 and Banns 1754-1820 & 1830. Microform copies cover the same dates but Marriages end in 1902 and Burials in 1907. Archdeacon's and Bishop's transcripts start in 1600 and end in 1878 for Baptisms & Burials and 1837 for Marriages.

The parish chests for PD 441 and PD 442 are quite small and contain mainly nineteenth century items. That for PD 440 however, contains among other things Apprenticeship Indentures 1639-1800, Settlement Certificates 1712-1833, Bastardy bonds & orders 1735-1834, Removal Orders 1738-1834, Constables examinations 1740-1839, Records of the House of Industry 1787-1833 and Reepham Charity deeds 1775-1840.

*Roderic & Denise Woodhouse*

## BISHOP'S (BT's) & ARCHDEACON'S (AT's) TRANSCRIPTS ONLINE

While resting (due to adverse weather), from recording the memorial inscriptions at Garvestone, I thought I would expand our Burial Register Index. As readers will be aware (thanks to the Church of Latter Day Saints, via Familysearch.org) many of the Norfolk Parish Registers (prior to 1900) are now on line. What is more, in many cases, the images can be manipulated to be easier to decipher than using microfiche/film readers. However, the time comes when with the best will in the world they cannot be read and this is where the AT's and BT's (also on Familysearch.org) prove invaluable.

But, for those who haven't used the transcripts, life is never quite as simple as you may believe. I thought that, in Norfolk at least, prior to 1813, every year the Parish sent a copy of the years register entries to the Archdeacon and every fourth year, when the parish activities came under the scrutiny of the Bishop, they were passed to the Bishop's office instead. This is obviously not quite true. At Garvestone between 1725 and 1748 register transcriptions were sent to the Bishop nine out of the 23 years. ie 1728/1731, 1733/35, 1744/45, 1746/47 (all but 1739/40 have survived for this period as a BT or AT)

The transcript or 'bill' whether AT or BT, consists of a one or more pieces of paper listing all the events in the parish register for the year beginning and ending on Lady Day (or Easter) commencing with introductory words similar to this:

*"A Bill indented of all the marriages, burials and christenings in the parish of Garvestone between Lady Day 1725 and Lady Day 1726".*

Original ATs are easy to find at [www.Familysearch.org](http://www.Familysearch.org)

1. Lower down on the home page find **'Browse by Location**

2. Click on **British Isles**
3. Scroll down to '**England, Norfolk Archdeacon's Transcriptions**' click
4. '**Browse through 210.055 images**' click
- 5 '**Norfolk**' Click
6. Choose your **parish** click
7. Choose your **date range** click
8. **Type of Record** (the transcript usually carries all events for the year) click
9. They are in consecutive years so all you have to do now is find the appropriate year by elimination

Where a year is missing, it may not have survived or the transcription was passed to the Bishop instead (becoming a BT). The procedure for locating BTs on Familysearch.org is similar to the above, but clicking on Bishop's (instead of Archdeacon's) Transcriptions at item 3.

At item 5. instead of getting 'Norfolk'. we get 'Archdeaconry of Norfolk' or 'Archdeaconry of Norwich'. Click on the appropriate one

[Note: I would suggest that if you do not know which Archdeaconry your parish is in, Google '**GENUKI followed by the parish**' The Archdeaconry is usually near the top under '**Church Directories**']

The BTs are filed alphabetically by year, but this is for the whole of the Archdeaconry, you now have to move through the list until you



find the right place by elimination.

The system is not perfect – some Bills have no headings identifying the parish to which they refer. With a bit of luck something like this will have the parish added or it will need extra work to prove from whence it came:

*“A bill indented of all marriages, burials and christenings from Lady Day 1739 to Lady Day 1740, delivered at the Primary Visitation of the Right Reverend Father in God, Thomas Lord Bishop of Norwich held at Norwich 17 July 1740”*

It may take a little practice to master the system but hopefully, you are at home and time is not that important, rather than watching the clock for closing time or your next appointment.

TFG

## NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Member 746 – Mrs C Lxxx, ----, ----, ----,  
---- -- ----@----

Local Historian

Dereham NFK

Any period

Are you researching **British & Irish family history** ... you may find **British & Irish Genealogy blog** [www.bi-gen.blogspot.com](http://www.bi-gen.blogspot.com) useful.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **The Family Album (a personal experience)**

On 23 Jan 2012 my mother passed away. I know it was a sad time, but my mum was ninety four years old. A few weeks earlier, visiting her at home, she would be sitting in her chair looking ever so well and when asked how she was would reply, 'I'm fine, nothing wrong with me' But appearances can be deceiving for in truth – what with her angina, her diabetes, her inability to walk following a hip replacement that went wrong, almost permanent back-ache, difficulty in hearing and seeing (with her one good eye) and memory problems creeping up fast, she really was far from 'fine' and was dreading the inevitable next step – the nursing home.

Despite the ice and snow (it was the worst day of the winter) family and friends came to the funeral from all over the country and the wake was a wonderful gathering. Some, especially the younger ones had difficulty in working out who was who. Fortunately, my sisters had had the foresight to put on display an album of family photos, which I had done for my mother on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. This started on page one, with her mother and father, followed by her brothers and sisters from childhood to marriage, her nieces and nephews, then her marriage, her husband, their children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, all in some sort of chronological order, with a couple of family trees thrown in. I did this before the age when everyone had a digital camera and vaguely remember trawling around distant family members for contributions. Looking at it, it must have taken me ages to collect, re-photograph and mount. However, unlike the inevitable box of interesting, but many unidentified, photos which were discovered when we 'cleared' the house, these were all suitably labelled.

For once, it would appear that I had taken my own advice. I had made up the collection, quite a long time ago whilst many of the people featured were still with us, or at least, in living memory. Do you have something similar? Not necessarily for display at your demise but to provide illustrations and a prompt for your own family history, which you are probably still getting 'round to' doing.

TFG

## YOUR LETTERS

Andrea Skenner, a Member who lives in Australia, has generously offered to help other Members with their Australian research, she writes ...

*I am a member of the Society but live in Australia. As you probably know, undertaking research in a different country can be very difficult to know where to start, what organisations hold the records and costly to travel to locate things in person.*

*I would like to have a contribution listed in the next newsletter for anyone in the society who requires assistance in researching their family in Australia. Whether this be assistance in identifying what organisation holds the records they want, requesting certificates etc. I am happy to do this at no charge but rather just assisting others in the society.*

Thank you Andrea.

Please email Andrea on [bambisland@hotmail.com](mailto:bambisland@hotmail.com) if you need any help researching in Australia.

.....

And another letter from Australia, this time from Colleen Bramley, who writes ...

*I am trying to trace my family. My grandfather, William Anderson was born in Town Street Swanton Morley about 1867, my great grandfather, John Anderson born about 1839 Elsing and later lived at Swanton Morley, and my g/g/grandfather, George Anderson, born about 1792 East Dereham. If anyone has any information I would be delighted to hear from you. Colleen M Bramley, Western Australia*

Please contact Kate (Ed) if you can help and I will forward any information.

.....

A request for help from Bill Everhard ...

*I was born in Glasgow, Scotland and have lived in Norfolk for over 40 years. Since getting involved in my Family History I was surprised and delighted to find I have a Norfolk Connection.*

*My 2x Great Grandmother was born in Shipdham. Unfortunately I have not been able to find out very much about her or her parents. Her name was Susan(nah) Norton and various census years show her birth year around 1820/1821, Shipdham Norfolk. She married John Thurkettle on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1844 at Debenham, Suffolk and her father is shown as Thomas Norton. The information on her father's profession is difficult to read but appears to state 'dead'.*

*I have found a baptism in Shipdham All Saints for Susan daughter of Thomas and Mary Norton, farmer, on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1820. The National Burial Index has burial on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1822, Thomas Norton, age 39 at Shipdham All Saints but I am unable to confirm this is Susan's father. I have plenty of information on Susan after her marriage.*

*I am very keen to hear from any member who may have a connection with this branch of the Nortons.*

If you can help please email Bill on [everhard@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:everhard@tiscali.co.uk)

.....

Following the articles in the Spring newsletter about Prisoners of War, Bob Andrews has the following information ...

*I was in Thailand a few years ago and spent an hour or two taking pictures of every Norfolk Regiment marker stone (and a few Suffolks) in the Chunkai CWGC Cemetery at Kanchanaburi. It's the lesser known cemetery in the immediate area, most of the tourists etc ending up at the larger Kanchanburi cemetery. Should anyone be looking for a picture of a 'Norfolks' marker from Chuinkai (and I also have a few pics from Kanchaniburi) I may be able to help. I did supply a disc of the pictures to the Norfolk Regimental Museum, but I am not sure how easy it is to access any of their materials currently.*

*Whilst on the theme, there are various regimental, squadron and naval groups and associations that have projects to photograph every headstone or marker for their particular servicemen & women, so it is worth a trawl round the internet etc should your family member have served in a non local unit. In my experience a simple request may bring success. A prime example is the Great War Forum, where members who are visiting the western front and beyond will often be happy to take a picture for you if the site is located where they are going.*

*Bob Andrews*

.....

Are you researching the name BLAKER? If you are, Rod Blaker from Ottawa Canada would be pleased to hear from you - [rod.blaker@gmail.com](mailto:rod.blaker@gmail.com). – he writes ...

*My name is Rod Blaker, and I am co-president of The Blaker Society (TBS), a handful of Blaker people who are doing a One Name Study (ONS) in conjunction with the Guild Of One Name Studies (GOONS), the premier one name study group in the world, and which is headquartered in England.*

*The TBS website can be found at [www.blaker.org.uk/](http://www.blaker.org.uk/) and I invite you to visit; you will not be able to see living people, as we respect their privacy.*

*The GOONS site is [www.one-name.org/](http://www.one-name.org/) where if you enter the name Blaker you will see the opening remarks about the ONS we are doing.*

.....

## **WDYTYA HANDOUTS ON LINE**

Tony Mould from Chester has written in to say that The Society of Genealogists have put the handouts for presentations and workshops from the 2012 event on line - free to download at <http://www.sog.org.uk/events/2012show-handouts.shtml>

.....

I have had an email from Neil, the marketing co-ordinator at the True's Yard Museum, in King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Neil writes ...

*We're a small Museum that focuses on the cultural and social heritage of King's Lynn's North End - don't let the 'marketing co-ordinator' title put you off, we're a very small charity based organisation - but we're running a series of events that I thought might be of interest/relevance to your members.*

*We have an incredibly large archive of literally hundreds of thousands of photos, official documents, certificates, ledgers and all sorts of other things, and we are running a series of family history workshops in the coming months ...*

To find out more please call 01553-770-479 or email [info@truesyard.co.uk](mailto:info@truesyard.co.uk)

## NEW POSTAGE RATES

On 30<sup>th</sup> April the Royal Mail postage costs increased. This means that the cost of posting our publications to UK addresses will now be:

For one book :	£1.10p
For 2 books :	£1.90p
For 3 books :	£2.70p

If the books you are ordering are A5 size :

For one book :	50p
For 2 books :	70p
For 3 books :	£1.10p

any more than 3 books please email me, Kate, ([familyhis@aol.com](mailto:familyhis@aol.com)) and I will work out the price.

Overseas members – please email Kate for the price of postage.

*The following is an extract from Mathena Blomefield's book Nuts in the Rookery (based on her childhood in East Bradenham)*

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE  
CELEBRATION 1887  
BRADENHAM VILLAGE GREEN**

We all drove down to the church for the service of thanksgiving. Everyone who could go was there from all the farms and the village. It was a general holiday and the church was crowded. After the service the band came out of the church and all the people walked behind it. The children first, who all carried flags and wore medals, then all the grown up people, (except a few old and invalid folks who rode in the farmers gigs and pony carts), followed behind the procession down the village street to the Green. There were poles with flags on all round the Green and a huge bonfire was in one corner all prepared for lighting as soon as it was dark enough in the evening.

Outside the school-house, on the far side of the Green, were six extra long tables, with very white cloths, and all decorated with flags, flowers, glasses mugs, stacks of plates, knives, forks and spoons, all lent by the farmers and the village people for this very special great occasion. Out of the school came a stream of young ladies carrying dishes with huge joints of salt beef, roast beef, hams, roast legs of pork, roast legs of mutton, great dishes of smoking-hot new potatoes, trays of pickles and chutneys and soon the company sat down to begin the feast.

After the feast was over and the band had played and they had sung grace, everyone sat about or lay on the grass and talked for about half an hour, when a bell rang and they all got up to go and look at the sports. There were all kinds of races – for the children first, then for the girls and boys, young men and women, then for the old ladies and the old men, and best of all a donkey race.

“And now it was time to go and watch the cricket match, and a really good match it was. The village lads were noted for their good cricket, for some of them had blossomed out as professionals. It was such a pretty picture-

the Green so smooth, skirted by the road on three sides of it, with the white and red houses on the other side of the road, a thick belt of leafy trees on the far side and the low, white school house on the other. While the match was in progress, the tables were set afresh for a substantial tea, -beef patties, sausage rolls, gooseberry, redcurrant, and raspberry tarts, rock buns, rice and almond cakes, currant and seed cakes, and piles of ham sandwiches, and gallons of tea and coffee. So the bell rang again and everyone, after singing grace, accompanied by the band sat down and had another hearty meal, after which the ladies cleared all the tables and then went to hear a very good concert and to see and join in the dancing. It was all very amusing.”

There was now a consultation between the Rector and his band of helpers, as to whether it was dark enough for the fireworks and bonfire. They decided it was and the boxes of fireworks were brought out and placed on one of the tables, then a bell rang and up went a rocket. None of the children had ever seen fireworks before and they were speechless with amazement and so excited, what with rockets and golden rain and the Prince of Wales feathers, and then a set portrait of Queen Victoria in her crown and lovely jewels, then more rockets and Roman candles and Catherine wheels and squibs. It was just too lovely for words. The last act was twelve rockets and twelve golden rains all started off together – a beautiful sight. While these were going up two men went and lighted the bonfire which, being very dry indeed, caught light quickly and roared and flamed. As the band played, the children danced round the fire, waving their flags and singing ‘Rule Britannia!’ and then as the fire died down the band struck up ‘God Save the Queen’, and all the people sang it quite through and then gave three cheers and shouted ‘Long Live the Queen’. Then came three cheers for all the kind people who had helped give them such a lovely day, and everyone went home tired out but very happy.

So ended Jubilee Day , 30<sup>th</sup> June 1887

*Margaret Bohn*



## PRICE INCREASE FOR BMD CERTIFICATES

It was reported in the press in March that the GRO were to increase their fee for BMD certificates to £10 from 1 April 2012. However, it appears that we have been reprieved for when I checked on the 12<sup>th</sup> the following note was on the GRO website:

**“The General Register Office certificate fees will not be changing on 1 April 2012. Certificate fees remain at £9.25 for the standard service and £23.40 for the priority service”.**

I had just about finished writing the above (the ink was barely dry) when the latest addition of Family Tree Magazine arrived, informing us that the good news is not all good. BMD certificates ordered from local register offices (as opposed to the GRO) **WILL now cost £10.**

## E-PETITION – RESEARCH COPIES OF BMD

By coincidence on the same day, I discovered this E Petition (1792): Under current legislation, the GRO can only "release this information by means of the issue of a paper certified copy Cert of the relevant entry, and payment of the relevant statutory fee for a certified copy." We request that this House enacts legislation to allow the General Register Office of England and Wales the ability to issue "uncertified" research copies of birth, marriage and death certs - with a notice on the copies that they are uncertified, and have no legal authority - and that these may be obtained at a much lower cost than the current £9.25 per cert (eg £2) when ordered on-line and the GRO Index Ref is Provided, and that these may be issued in a electronic (email) format or a plain paper **in the same way as The Rep of Ireland**; this would enable family historians to buy many certs for their research at a lower cost" In the Republic of Ireland you can ask for an uncertified copy from Roscommon (their version of GRO) for €4.

Generally, I don't play these games BUT it seems a good idea. It's quite painless and all done on-line following instructions on screen. However, undoubtedly many thousands of petitioners will be required for it to be

considered. There were 7038 signatures when I signed (checking a few minutes later there were 7039) so it works. Why not sign? Go to (the deadline is August 12)

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/1792/>

*Tom Garland*

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES – WORKHOUSE RECORDS PROJECT**

The records of the Poor Law in England and Wales are an underutilised source of information on the poor members of society in the Nineteenth century. Housed at The National Archives (TNA) at Kew in London under the MH12 series are the correspondence between the local Poor Law Unions and the Poor Law Commission and later Poor Law Board in London. This correspondence is an invaluable source of information on the lives of our ancestors but to date has been difficult to use due to the lack of a catalogue.

In 2007 TNA placed an application before the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project to catalogue, digitise and promote their holdings of original Poor Law records. The proposal was that twenty teams of archivists, local and family historians and volunteers would carry out the work of cataloguing the records relevant to their local Poor Law Union. The twenty teams were set up in the summer of 2007 and cover England and Wales with examples from industrial and rural unions. In Norfolk the team was formed at the Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse museum, the former Mitford and Launditch Union workhouse.

Unfortunately the bid to the National lottery was unsuccessful however; TNA funded the project from their own resources to get it started. This has meant that we were able to catalogue the correspondence between Gressenhall and the Poor Law Commission

up until 1850. These catalogue entries are now on the TNA website and can be accessed under the MH12 series of records.

Amongst the records for the Mitford and Launditch Poor Law Union are details of parish property which was sold when the union was formed including the Dereham Workhouse on Norwich Road. Details of deaths in the Gressenhall workhouse, along with annual returns showing details of medical relief given to paupers in the area, tables of lunatics and wives and families of transported convicts for example are also to be found amongst the correspondence.

An example of the sort of detailed correspondence in these records concerns a man called Robert Wilson who in June 1844 the *Guardians* were writing about because he refused to go in the workhouse. Wilson was able bodied and work was available but chose to claim asylum by putting his family into the Church porch at Wendling.

The documents can be accessed by looking at the MH12 series of records at Kew where the results of the cataloguing by the twenty teams are now on line. For the Mitford and Launditch Union the Gressenhall Museum has copies of the digital images of the relevant documents and have produced a series of indexes of places and names to make it easier to find things.

*Steve Pope*

Undoubtedly, there are many ways of getting to the workhouse documents on line: Here is how I searched for a person:

1. Go to [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) (Home page)
2. Click on Records - Quick link – documents on line
3. Click on other records
4. Click on Poor Law and other records MH12

[Note if you wish, scjroll down to see the list of the 20 workhouses that were catalogued in the project]

5. In the Quick search box, insert “Mitford AND your person” “1800 – 1850” (when ready press GO”)

[Notes: A. putting in Mitford restricts your search to the Mitford and Launditch workhouse. This identifies 1347 entries whereas putting in Gressenhall only produces 190

B. Putting in Wright as the person produces 525 entries – Charles Wright was a Clerk to the Governors

C If you want to play, try “Rebecca Rudd” – she was the wife of a transported convict and you get 3 entries.

6. You now have a list of hits – If more than one, clicking on **more details** gives a detailed summary of the document (this can be searched if it is complex by using the ‘find’ function (CTRL+F)

7. If you want to download the original document simply “add to shopping” – “Checkout” - “Download”

[Because the data was inputted by volunteers **IT’S FREE**]

*Tom Garland*

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

The Memorial Inscriptions of **All Saints Church Weston Longville** at £3.70 + £1.10 p&p.

The Memorial Inscriptions of **St Peter’s Church Easton** at £2.60 + £1.10 p&p.

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