News Volume 7 Issue 2



Letter Spring 2014

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at: Trinity N	FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS Methodist Church Hall, Theatre Street, Trinity	Close,
	ereham NR19 2EP Starting 7.30 pm	
19 February	Norfolk in World War I by Neil Storey	
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A few words from your Editor ...

Hello again and a Happy New Year to everyone.

2014 is the First World War Centenary year and to mark the occasion I will be printing extracts from the Dereham War Memorial Book in each issue, if any of the soldiers mentioned was in your family, please write in.

If your WWI ancestor isn't from Dereham, please write a few lines about him or her, I will include some in each issue, you might even find some lost cousins! Of course, I'll be pleased to receive other articles for publication, your research, queries, anything in fact that would interest other readers.

Kate (Editor)

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

- email the file to me at kate.easdown@btinternet.com or
- post handwritten copy/CD/floppy disk, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter

Please contact Sheila Moulton, the Membership Secretary if you change your address or email address (contact details on back cover).

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter - 16 April 2014

LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH No.73 – St.Peter, Easton



Easton, St. Peter is a church without a tower as it was blown down in a terrible storm in 1778 or 1786, depending on which account one believes and has never been rebuilt. The remains of the tower have not yet been cleared away being still heaped up to the west of the main building - things take a little time in Norfolk - so the church may look a bit odd but this small, compact building it is not without its charm. The missing bell tower in fact seems to have been a replacement for an even earlier one so perhaps the cash-strapped church authorities decided that God was trying to tell them something and called it a day at two, replacing the missing structure with a bellcote on the western gable which is now also gone. The problem with bells has unfortunately continued to the present day for in July 2012, the current bell, a large brass one worth £1,500, was, after two attempts due to its weight, stolen by thieves but was luckily recovered by the police soon afterwards. Easton, a small village recorded in the Domesday Book, lies on the very edge of Norwich, to the west of the city and close to the Royal Norfolk Showground.

Not a great deal happened during the village's thousand years of recorded history apart from the exploits of one local boy made good who is probably the figure in monkish garb depicted reading from a book on the village sign. Born here to a family of Norfolk peasants was one Adam of Easton who, though little heard of today, was once the most powerful Englishman in the Church, second only to the pope. Adam first joined the Benedictines at Norwich then moved to Oxford becoming one of the most outstanding students of his generation. He made his name attacking the theology of the heretic John Wycliff and in a significant career move got the job of arranging Richard II and Anne of Bohemia's coronation before, by then a cardinal, going on to join the papal court or Curia in Rome. Things now began to go pear shaped when Adam was implicated in a conspiracy to limit the power of the increasingly paranoid pontiff, Urban VI, and he was only spared execution through the intervention of the English king. Adam was later rehabilitated and may have been the spiritual director of Saint Julian of Norwich before ending his days peacefully in Rome. St. Peter's church is a grade I listed building mainly of flint with some mellow pink brick rendered in part with stone dressings. A sun dial dated 1694 is set in the gable end. Restored in the 1880s, the church dates from the late 12th century and had additions to the fabric in the 13th and 15th centuries. The door still has some of the original medieval ironwork. A major by-pass road runs nearby and St. Peter's has benefited by this as it now occupies a quiet country lane rather than a main highway with thundering traffic. The inside of the building is plain but pleasing. The simple font is made of Purbeck marble and at least eight hundred years old and the east window is clear glass but ornamented with two interesting roundels of 17th century continental origin. A large hanging crucifix was once in St. Gregory's in Norwich and the fine 16th century octagonal pulpit is from another redundant church, coming comparatively recently from St. Mary, Coslany, also in Norwich. It is good to see so much recycling of unwanted church furniture and fittings. It is interesting to note that St. Peter's is not the only church within the parish of Easton for at nearby Marlingford, in

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a former Bowls club pavilion, is St. Athanasius, the sole church in East Anglia serving the Coptic Orthodox faith.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD176) and comprise Baptisms 1679-1997, Marriages 1682-1834 and 1837-2000, Burials 1678-2001 and Banns 1754-1979. Microform copies all have the same starting dates but Baptisms and Marriages end in 1901, Burials in 1903 and Banns in 1902. Archdeacon's and Bishop's transcripts all start in 1698 but Baptisms and Burials end in 1882 and Marriages in 1837. The only items in the parish chest dating from the 18th century are the Overseers Accounts 1775-1839. Nineteenth century material comprises a copy of the tithe apportionment and map 1843, Glebe exchange with map 1882 and Clerical Society Minutes 1871-1936. The remainder is twentieth century.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

LONDON IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

- Closed until July but.....

Did you know that while the major work is being carried out for the WW1 Centenary commemoration transformation, the Research Room is still open?

Access to documents, sound archive, published items, digital recourses and War Artists archive is still possible. They are open Mon – Fri 10 -5: however, you will need to pre-book and give three working days notice.

More information at www.iwm.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Submissions and changes must be made before April 1st for inclusion in the directory.

WW1 WAR DIARIES

It's been on the news, it's been in the papers so everyone by now, must be aware that the first batch of First World War Diaries, relating to France and Flanders, are on line. Already over 300,000 pages are available and it is planned to publish the rest of the diaries that have already been digitised, around 1.5 million pages, by the end of THIS year. At our society meeting in January, Graham reproduced a newspaper article from Eastern Daily Press, which included sample extracts from the diaries. for 118 all to http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/ - put 'war diaries' in the search box

But why not go straight to The National Archive (TNA) 'Discovery'?

From google, go to **www.nationalarchives.gov.uk** (this is the home page

Now just click through the boxes ie:

Find Guidance – W – war diaries – British Army War Diaries 1914-1922

You arrive at 'Explore First World War 100

You can then read the TNAs version of, What the records are, What information the records contain and How to search the records and on the same page:

If you put a regiment in the 'SEARCH BOX', you immediately discover what war diaries are currently available e.g.

Put in 'NORFOLK'-8 results including:

1st Battn. Nfk Regt Oct 1914 – Nov 1917

9th Battn Nfk Regt Aug 1915 – Dec 1916

Put in 'EAST SURREY' – 2 results:

1st Batt. East Surrey Regt Jan 1916 – Dec 1917

1st Batt. East Surrey Regt Apr 1918 – Mar 1919

You can download the files to browse on your computer in pdf format

The news media gave the impression that it was free – it isn't but it is only £3.36 (or there about). The early East Surrey one above appears to have 503 pages, the latter only 123, either way a lot cheaper than making a personal visit to the TNA at Kew.

However, you will have to scroll through to find the part that may interest you but as part of the 100 Anniversary project we are all being asked to assist in further indexing the diaries by 'tagging' places, named people etc. This will eventually make this a truly fantastic world war one resource. For more details go to

www.operationwardiary.org

THE DEREHAM WAR MEMORIAL BOOK

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the First World War Armistice, members of the Society began researching the individual men whose names are recorded on Dereham's War Memorials. As much information as possible was gathered on each soldier using the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the publication 'Soldiers Died in the Great War', the Medal Rolls and surviving Army Service Papers, Parish and Census Records. In some (few) cases we were able to contact family members.

Much time was spent trawling through the Dereham & Fakenham Times for photographs, obituaries and other information. For some soldiers there was a great deal whilst for others surprisingly little and sometimes nothing at all.

Visits were made to France and Belgium to photograph many of the graves and memorials. later on the War Graves Photographic Project and British War Graves were able to help with photographs of others. When we began, graves and memorials in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Gaza could not be reached and regrettably the situation is still the same today.

The (then) completed book was presented to the Parish Church at the Remembrance Service in 2008 and we were pleased to welcome Mr Sidney Blanch, a surviving son, who was less than a year old when his father was killed in 1917.

In 2012, with the help of a local historian, we produced an updated version which included details from the 1911 census, pictures and information from family members and others who had got in touch, and further photographs from the Photographic Project.

Copies are now in the Parish Church, the Dereham library, the Dereham Museum archive, and (shortly to be) in the Norfolk Heritage Collection in Norwich.

LEST WE FORGET

August 2014 will mark the centenary of the commencement of the 1st World War. The effect of the conflict was devastating to numerous families throughout the country. Here in Dereham the War Memorials in the Market Place, St. Nicholas Church and the Memorial Hall are a lasting testimony to the 150+ men from Dereham who lost their lives.



Private William John Abbot who served with the Norfolk Regiment 1st Battalion was born in Suffolk in 1880. He was killed in action on 27th July 1916 aged 36 and his name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial His battalion took part in the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, Marne, Aisne, 1st Ypres, 2nd Ypres and the Somme. It is probable that he was killed at Delville Wood on the Somme, an action which took place at

the end of July 1916. From the 1911 census we know that William Abbot was a married man living at Etling Green with his wife Beatrice and son William Charles age 5 born in Dereham. He worked as a nursery gardener. A year prior to his death William had been wounded and spent time in hospital. In a letter to his wife at that time he says that his spell in hospital was like being in heaven after the trenches.

Sergeant Edward Gilman Abel, who served with the 1st Royal Dragoons was born in Norwich in 1871. He was an old soldier having previously served with the 12th Lancers and in receipt of a pension after 21 years service. He volunteered for active service at the outbreak of war but was not accepted immediately. He worked for several months as a rural postman based at Dereham He had been in France for just a year when his wife Georgina was informed that her husband had fallen from his bike and died of suspected heart failure on 18th December 1916 aged 44. He is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Mrs Abel was living at Kings Road Dereham with her four children at the time of her husband's death.



Private Charles Frederick George Adcock who served with the 9th Battalion Essex Regiment was born in Dereham in 1882. He was killed in action on 4th April 1918 age 36. His name is recorded on the Pozieres Memorial in Belgium. It commemorates the 14,000 casualties who died on the Somme between 21st March and 7th August 1918. On the

1911 census Charles is shown to be living with his wife and two children at 38 London Road Dereham. He had worked as a grocer's assistant at Messrs. Kingston and Hearn for 19 years.



Rifleman Lionel Herbert Adcock served with the Rifle Brigade Prince Consorts Own. He was born in Dereham in 1890. He was killed in action on 25th May 1915 aged 24 just a few days after landing in France. His name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial. Lionel was the son of Charlotte and Herbert Adcock who was innkeeper at the Jolly Farmers, Yaxham Road. Two brothers of Lionel were also in the

Army. We were unable to find Lionel on the 1911 census but his family continued to live at the Jolly Farmers.



Sergeant Geoffrey Frank Addison served with the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was born in Norwich in 1894. He died aged 24 on 17th November 1918 in Palestine and is buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery Israel. Cause of death: Pneumonia. From the 1911 census we know Geoffrey lived in Dereham with his parents and three brothers and sisters. He worked at Hobbies.

Sergeant William Addison served with the Norfolk Regiment lst Battalion. He was born in Norwich in 1864. He lived in Commercial Road, Dereham and for many years was a school attendance officer in the Dereham area. On the 1911 census he is living with his wife Esther, three daughters and four sons. Having previously served in the Old Volunteers he soon qualified for the rank of sergeant and was engaged in training drafts and escorting them to France. He died age 54 on 14th November 1919 and is buried in Norwich Cemetery. The funeral was conducted with full military honours, the band of the Norfolks and a firing party being present. His eldest son Geoffrey died in Palestine in 1918. (see previous entry)

Private Robert Campbell Allan served with Prince of Wales Civil Service Rifles. He was born in Edinburgh in 1898. He died of wounds on 17th September 1917 age 19 and is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium. Robert had been exempted from military service by the nature of his employment by the Inland Revenue but in

February 1917 he was granted permission to join H.M Forces. At the time he was living in Elvin Road Dereham.

Private Alfred Back served with the Middlesex Regiment. He was born in Dereham in 1879 and from the 1911 census we know he was a house painter and lived with his wife Hannah at 105 South End Dereham. He died on 11th August 1917 aged 37 at Leatherhead and is buried in East Dereham Cemetery.



Private Ernest Walter Bacon served with the Norfolk Regiment. He was born in Dereham in 1893. He was killed in action on 19th April 1917 age 25 in Palestine and is buried in Gaza War Cemetery. On the 1911 census Ernest was employed as a shop errand boy and living at 20 Becclesgate Dereham with his parents Walter and Ann Bacon.

Private Joseph C Baldwin served with the Norfolk Regiment . He was born in Spitalfields London.in 1896. He was killed in action at Gallipoli age 19 on 8th September 1915 and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. On both the 1901 census and the 1911 census he is living with his uncle and aunt Charles and Mildred Baldwin at Quebec Lodge. His uncle's occupation is given as a domestic coachman. This casualty has not been identified with complete certainty as he is recorded with differing Christian names, ie there is a Joseph C Baldwin on the Oddfellows local Roll of Honour, the Dereham Roll of Honour has a J C Baldwin in the 4th Norfolk kia 1915 Dardanelles, and the War Graves Commission has a Charles Baldwin in the 4th Norfolk killed 1915 at Gallipoli. The Dereham census of 1901 has a Joseph Charles Baldwin and the 1911 census a Joseph C Baldwin.



Company Sergeant Major Albert Edward Barker served with the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment. Albert was born in Hoe, Norfolk. He served in the South Africa Campaign. He died of wounds age 40 on 26th June 1918 and is buried at Tannay British Cemetery, Thiennes, France. On the 1911 census Albert Barker is a Corporal in the Norfolk Regiment,

stationed at Oudenarde Barracks Aldershot. Initials on the War Memorial are given as A.C. but on his headstone the Commonwealth War Graves gives his Christian names as Albert Edward.

Private Arthur Charles Barnard served with the 7th Battalion Norfolk Regiment. He was born in Dereham in 1894. He died on 30th November 1917 in the latter stage of the Battle of Cambrai. He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial at Louverval, France. On the 1911 census we find Arthur Barnard living with his parents and two brothers at Webster Cottages Dereham. Arthur is a printer's apprentice.



Corporal Percy Harman Barnard served with the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment. Percy was born in Battersea. He was 21 when he died of his wounds on 17th August 1916 in Cambridge Hospital. He is buried in Dereham Cemetery. A report on his funeral is in the Dereham and Fakenham Times. The service was held at the United Methodist Free Church

where Percy had been an active member.



Private Herbert Walter Barnes served with the 16th Battalion, Royal Scots (Lothian) Regiment. He was born in Watton. He was killed in action on 12th September 1917 aged 34 and is buried at Hargicourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France. Herbert was married to Gertrude and had been in the services for 13 years, but had only been in France for five

weeks. On all military records the given christian names are Herbert Walter but on his birth record and an obituary the names are transposed to Walter Herbert. Tragically his younger brother Horace had died only a few days earlier on 7th September 1917.

If any of the soldiers mentioned above was your ancestor we'd love to hear from you.

Kate (Ed)

REGISTERS OF NORFOLK ELECTORS on line

Did you know that FamilySearch have added Norfolk Registers of Voters 1844-1952 to their free access material.

However, not all areas are covered for all these dates. For example, most of our area is in the Mid-Division which is only covered from 1885-1915

Go to https://familysearh.org - Search - Scroll down to 'Browse by Location' -UK & Ireland - Scroll down to 'England, Norfolk Register of Electors, 1844-1952'

BRITISH NEWSPAPER LIBRARY ON THE MOVE

We have received the following information from the FFHS Archives Liaison Officer.

For 82 years the British Newspaper Library has had its home at Colindale in north London. On November 8 the Colindale repository was closed and a six month project is now underway to relocate 750 million pages of print to the Library's new state of the art home in Boston Spa, Yorkshire. The new home of the Library will consist of a low temperature and low oxygen environment to prevent fire and preserve the life of the increasingly fragile newsprint. Currently, some 15% of the collection is in too poor a condition to be viewed by the public.

Once the library has been fully relocated, the public will be able to order newspapers from Boston Spa to be delivered to a new reading room in St Pancras. The retrieval process will be undertaken by robotic cranes which will obtain the newspapers from the shelves and these will then be delivered to St Pancras within 48 hours. A short video about the changes including the new robotic cranes can be viewed on the BBC website.

HISTORY COURSES AT CAMBRIDGE

A series of courses is available at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education at Madingley Hall Cambridge.

These courses are suitable for people within travelling distance of Cambridge; if you are outside this range, then there are many weekend courses, including a number covering historical topics. Accommodation is available at Madingley Hall for the duration of the course weekends.

Some of the courses are:

- Enslaved! A history of slavery through the ages, beginning 25 February
- Humps and bumps, houses and hedges, beginning 26 February and 30 April
- Magic: in history and culture, beginning 25 February
- Poverty, disease and medicine, beginning 30 April

All courses are taught by leading Cambridge academics, who share their knowledge and passion for their subjects through their teaching. Students of previous weekly courses have described the teaching as "exceptional; one couldn't have a more knowledgeable and enthusiastic tutor", and as having "a great deal of useful information and insights".

For more information, and the many other history courses offered at the Institute of Continuing Education, visit www.ice.cam.ac.uk, email enquiries@ice.cam.ac.uk or call 01223 746262.

MID-NORFOLK FHS NBI SEARCHES –FREE TO MEMBERS

Mid-Norfolk FHS National Burial Index Project

- (1) The society's Mid Norfolk Burial Index is a database of entries taken from burial registers within an approximate 10 mile radius of Dereham. The society provides a reduced version to the National Burial Index at the Federation of Family History Societies. All Parishes are included for the period of 1813-1837, but the project is ongoing and most are covered more extensively. It currently holds in excess of 136,000 entries.
- (2) This search lists the forename/s of all deceased persons with that surname within the database, together with their date and place of burial along with further information (if included in the original entry) such as age, marital status, relationship and occupation. A list of all parishes and dates included is provided with the search results.

Mid-Norfolk Family History Society National Burial Index (NBI) searches, as detailed above, will be free to Society Members under the following conditions:

- Applications will be accepted by post or email but the results WILL BE SENT TO YOU BY EMAIL.
- You may request searches of any number of names.
- If you want the results by letter then the normal charges will apply (£1 per name for members).

Search requests to me please ... <u>kate.easdown@btinternet.com</u> or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Kate (Ed)

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR WWI ANCESTOR?

Last year my niece went on a WWI school trip to Belgium, she phoned me when she returned home, she had to write an essay about the trip and anything she knew about her WWI ancestors. On one of the memorials in Belgium she had found a soldier with the surname PREECE – my maiden name and her surname – was he one of our ancestors? she asked. I had to tell her No, as far as I could tell he was not linked to our PREECE family. But there was still the essay to write! So I did some research.

My father, born 1911, was one of a family of 13 children. I knew from what my father had said when he was alive that one of his older brothers, Samuel, had fought in WWI and suffered mustard gas poisoning.

First I looked at the 1911 census, Samuel was born in 1896 and by 1911, aged 14, was working as a domestic house boy. The family lived at Sandhurst, Samuel's father, Tom, had been in the Army and was working for the Army as a civilian employee. I looked for Samuel's Army Record on the internet, but it wasn't there. I checked the CWGC website and found a picture of his grave and the information that Samuel was a Driver in the Royal Engineers, I found no details about his wartime service. He died on 10th January 1920 at the age of 24, and was buried at the Royal Military College Chapel Sandhurst Cemetery. I would love to know more about him and his war experience in France – maybe I'll find out one day.

Kate (Ed)

What do you know about your WWI ancestors?

RELOCATION OF THE LONDON PROBATE SEARCH ROOM

We have been advised by the FFHS that the London Probate search room has moved.

With effect from Monday 21 October 2013 the London Probate search facility currently at High Holborn will be moving to Court 38, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL

The opening hours will be 9am to 4pm although please note the search facility will be unavailable between the hours of 1-2pm.

The fee payable for this service should be paid at the Fees Office, Royal Courts of Justice, which is signposted within the building. Maps will also be available prior to the opening of the search facility at the new location.

The search facility will consist of the same search facilities as now, there will still be no Level One Service, copies ordered for collection will be ready after 48 Hours, if you have requested the postal option, and the copies will be posted within 14 working days.

If you have any enquiries please contact a member of the London Probate team on 020 7947 6043

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Yorkshire Family History Fair 10 am to 4.30 pm Saturday 28th June 2014 York Racecourse Knavesmire Exhibition Centre York

Admission - Adults £4.50: children under 14 free

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Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day Saturday 26th July 2014, 10am to 4pm The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

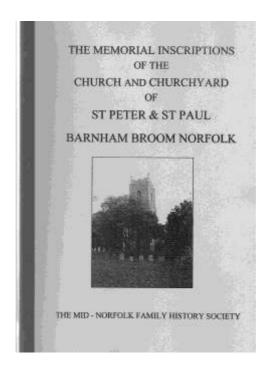
Research facilities will include our names database (over five million entries), and Parish Register, People, and Places libraries. Parish Register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. Expert advice will be on hand, with guest societies from around the country, local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

Admission is free, with free parking at the venue.

#### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

the latest publication to join our Memorial Inscriptions booklet collection is ....

Barnham Broom – St Peter and St Paul 36 A4 pages £4.20 (£3.10 plus £1.10 p&p)



A list of all of the Mid-Norfolk Family History Society publications is on the Society website : <a href="https://www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs/">www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs/</a>



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#### NORFOLK RESEARCH

Parish Records, Census Searches
Certificates
£5 per hour
Send SAE or IRC for details to:

W Hepburn, 11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9JE Or contact by email: Willie.h.1945@virgin.net

#### Visiting Norfolk to do some research?

Why not stay at Albert's Cottage in the village of Ashill? Over 200 years old, the character cottage overlooks the village pond. Fully furnished, the cottage has two bedrooms, one with a four

poster bed and the choice of storage heaters or a log

burning stove.

The inside of the cottage is complimented with a delightful garden and private parking.

Contact Mary or Dennis for details

tel: 01760 723884 or 078796 22458

Email mary@breckfield.freeserve.co.uk

#### **IDENTITY THEFT! DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM!**

Identity theft is a real threat nowadays, and it is up to us all to make every effort to keep personal information belonging to ourselves and fellow Society members safe.

The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society takes every care to ensure that any personal details you have submitted are kept confidential. Your details are published in the Members' Interests Directory for the sole purpose of providing means of contact to aid family history research and are intended for use by Society Members only and not for general distribution.

We are therefore asking you take care when destroying last or previous years Members' Interests Booklet. Please would you *shred or burn* the booklet when you have finished with it.

If you have any queries or problems please contact Kate (Editor).

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Members' Interests Denise and Roderic Woodhouse, -----, 01263 Secretary ---- 000000

your address or email address

Please contact the Membership Secretary if you change

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