

News

Volume 7 Issue 5



Letter

Winter 2014

In this issue

LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH	4
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014	6
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT	8
FEEDBACK TIME	9
NEVER GIVE UP HOPE	10
MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE IRCR	12
WW1 POW ARCHIVE WEBSITE	12
NEW PUBLICATIONS	14
FOOD FOR THOUGHT - We've been here before	15
DESIGN-A-COVER COMPETITION	16
MAHER-SHALAL-HASH-HAZ TUCK	17
RAF RECORDS NOW ON-LINE AT FINDMYPAST	18
THE DEREHAM WAR MEMORIAL BOOK	19
MID-NORFOLK FHS NBI SEARCHES - NOW FREE TO MEMBERS IF RESULTS ACCEPTED BY EMAIL	20
NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS	21
WW1 NURSES RECORDS ON LINE	21

*We wish all our Members a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

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

**21 January Digging Deeper into Family History - Part 1
Workshop evening
By Gill Blanchard**

18 February NO MEETING as the Hall is unavailable

**18 March Silks, Half-Silks & Synthetics
400 Years of Silk Weaving in Norwich
by Cathy Terry**

A few words from your Editor ...

Hello again and thank you for all your contributions to the Newsletter.

You will see in this issue that there is a competition, we will be grateful for all entries as we need your help in designing a new cover for the Members' Interests Booklet. All your ideas are welcome and you will find further details on page 16.

We would also like to hear your feedback on the Society, speakers, newsletter, and anything else you would like to tell us about. Please don't be shy, tell us what you want from your Society, because that helps the committee make

improvements. We really do want to hear from you.

The Committee wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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 - 15th January 2015

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ...

The Big Family History Fair

Saturday May 2nd 2015

The Burgess Hall

St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6WU

10am to 4pm

hosted by HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

See website for full details of stall holders and talks

www.huntsfhs.org.uk

LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH

No.76 – St Peter, Yaxham



We went on a day trip to Ely earlier in the year and one of the highlights of the visit was the Stained Glass Museum set within the city's magnificent cathedral. Well worth a visit for anyone interested in old churches, the museum tells the story of British stained glass from the earliest times to the present day and includes a lovely example of a Norfolk feathered angel from the Norwich School of Glasspainters, a creature we met last year when looking at Great Witchingham, St. Mary. The church we shall be looking at today, Yaxham, St. Peter, is not particularly noted for its glass although the Victorian windows here are quite respectable. The small village of Yaxham is only about two miles south of Dereham and the church lies near the charmingly named Cutthroat Lane – an unfortunate young woman once had her throat slit here so *The Journal* of 15th October 1932 records. As we approach St. Peter's we pause to admire the fine memorial to the Great War in a corner of the churchyard which is in the form of a tall cross on a three stepped plinth and nearer the entrance door a recently restored ornately shaped tomb-chest belonging to Mary Marsham a relative of poet William Cowper. The church is quite small and compact with a simple clerestory and a round tower of mainly Saxon origin containing a peal of six bells, its lower section a mixture of flints and conglomerate. Inside St Peter's, there is a feeling of serenity and the interior somehow seems larger than it actually is. The 13th century pillars are

alternately quatrefoil and octagonal in shape and the 14th century font is, as Mortlock & Roberts maintain, ‘a great treasure’ intricately carved and of such quality in fact that a copy was made by a member of the Herring family for use in Cromer Parish Church. We live in Cromer and Cromer folk aren’t daft so it must be good. A final treat lies in the south aisle where the bench ends provide us with a veritable zoo of exotic creatures - lions, unicorns, griffins, antelopes an elephant and castle, a tiger and even a carved pelican just like the one depicted in a nearby window – a real tribute to the woodcarver’s art. Wow! It is perhaps for William Cowper that Yaxham is most famous and his figure rightly appears along with the church on the village sign. He came to Yaxham near the end of his life perhaps seeking the company and support of his cousin who was rector here and ended his days in 1800 a victim of dropsy. Cowper, whose memorial is to be found in Dereham St. Nicholas, was one of the greatest poets of his day giving us the immortal lines: God moves in a mysterious way/ His wonders to perform, and he suffered greatly for much of his life from bipolar disorder, a condition then little understood and tragically was for a few years institutionalised for insanity. Little was known about the nature of mental illness in Cowper’s day let alone its treatment but the poet has left us in his writings, a sensitive description of the course of his affliction. As we leave the quiet rural haven of Yaxham, we hope that this troubled bard finally found some peace here in his last years.

The original registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Ref. Cat. No. PD 388) and comprise Baptisms 1688-2000, Marriages 1695 – 1984, Burials 1686 – 1993 and Banns 1763 – 1952. Microform copies of the registers all start on the same dates but end in 1900 and the Archdeacon’s and Bishop’s transcripts start in 1698 with Baptisms and Burials finishing in 1912 and Marriages in 1837. The parish chest consists mainly of nineteenth and twentieth century items with only an inventory of goods for one John Sparshall dating back to 1755. There are Churchwarden’s bills 1840 – 1843 and account books 1888 – 1956, a Tithe Apportionment dated 1838 and a map from 1839 with a list of tithe rents for the 19th century. Also to be found here is a list of Rectors 1286 – 1938 and communicants 1892 – 1929 with a record of persons receiving dole from a fund called Herring’s Charity 1887 – 1892 and a list of houses and recipients of Charity doles 1895 – 1900. Finally, the records also contain the Higham Deanery magazines from 1890 – 1958.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014

Twenty years ago, when we started the MNFHS, I think it is fair to say, few of us would have imagined that we would still be going strong in 2014. Nevertheless, there is certainly no room for complacency, for despite our outward appearance of well-being, our membership continues to fall and currently stands at 181.

However, our average monthly meeting attendance, this past year, has been 35, only marginally down on last year, but again, the statistics cover a worrying trend. Back in 2010, visitors made up 10% of the audience, this has risen year by year, this year it was almost a quarter. Obviously, Graham has managed to hire the right speakers and our meeting advertising is working well. I might add, that our average was boosted by the appearance of our most appreciated speaker – Neil Storey, when we had an audience of 49 but again half were visitors.

On a more positive side Kate, continues to provide us with an interesting magazine and I would like to add my thanks to all those budding authors, who send her pieces for the newsletter and make my annual plea on her behalf. She can only print what she is sent, so if you have a family history experience, or find something of interest, send it in and let her judge as to its suitability. A few overseas members have chosen to receive our Newsletter by e-mail, thereby saving postal charges and qualifying for a reduced 'overseas' membership subscription

It is several years since Joan Allson retired and we had to suspend her on-line information service. As we have not been able to find a volunteer to take it on, perhaps it is time to remove it completely from our list of services offered.

Surprisingly, in this digital age, our hard copy memorial inscription booklets continue to sell well with 68 sales this year. We are currently recording Hingham, our 90th churchyard, which hopefully

will be completed by the time the newsletter goes to press. One of the advantages of the booklets, is that you can see at a glance, who else shares the churchyard with your ancestor however, another 10 books have been converted to a format suitable for digitisation. We now have 25 churches around 9000 “names found on MIs” on-line at Findmypast, which together with the Burial Index from our area provides us with a useful Royalty income (administered by the FFHS). There is no further news of the publication of a new National Burial Index but Barry, our NBI co-ordinator, continues to slowly add to our database. Only 7 members took advantage of Kate’s offer, agreed at the last AGM, to provide surname ‘print-outs to members on-line, free of charge.

Pat’s statement of account (see page 8) shows that, we have £4869 in the bank but had an operating deficit of £212.15. However, this is an income/expenditure account and does not record assets, which include £230 in postage stamps (purchased to beat the price rise) which basically means we broke even. To sum up, thanks to the efforts of all of our Committee (not just the few mentioned above), who all play a vital role in the efficient running of the society, together with the support of the membership, we can claim another successful year.

I will finish by asking for your help, falling membership is a problem being faced by all Family History Societies, I feel that for our society to last another 20 years we will need to do something but what? We need your ideas.

Tom Garland (Chairman MNFHS)

DNA TESTS - TALK BY GEOFF SWINFIELD

In August, Geoff Swinfield gave a talk about DNA Tests – he left some notes (2 pages of A4). If anyone would like a copy please email me (Kate) and I will email a copy to you, or send me an sae for a printed copy.

Kate(Ed)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

MID NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2014

EXPENDITURE	2013/14	2012/13	INCOME	2013/14	2012/13
Newspapers (printing, postage)	£ 1,070.25	£ 677.50	Subscriptions	£ 1,524.50	£ 1,546.00
Less advertising revenue	£ 40.00	£ 677.50	Publication Sales	£ 354.53	
Meetings and Events	£ 1,140.48		Less printing postage & refund	£ 176.20	£ 137.22
Less door takings	£ 299.40	£ 706.45			
General Admin. (post, stationery etc)	£ 56.07	£ 141.17	Miscellaneous Sales	£ 1.00	£ 30.70
FFHS Subscription and Insurance	£ 129.33	£ 129.84	FFHS On-Line Commission	£ 228.91	£ 224.20
Publicity	£ 22.85	£ 54.52	Donations	£ 47.11	£ 73.00
Projects	£ 19.41	£ 25.31	Bank Interest	£ 2.96	£ 3.02
Library Purchases	£ 25.84	£ 107.17			
Equipment	£ 55.00	£ 29.99			
Sundries	£ 21.00				
Less unpaid cheque (subscription)	£ 8.00	£ 13.00			
Excess income over expenditure	£ 1,871.95	£ 1,871.95	Excess expenditure over income	£ 212.15	
TOTAL	£ 2,192.83	£ 2,014.14	TOTAL	£ 2,192.83	£ 2,014.14
BALANCE AS AT 31st JULY 2014					
LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
Accumulated Fund			Cash at HSBC Bank		
Balance as at 31.7.13	£ 4,932.65	£ 4,790.46	Community Account	£ 623.01	£ 754.21
Less excess exp. over inc.	£ 212.15	£ 142.19	Business Money Manager Account	£ 4,266.23	£ 4,243.27
Plus excess inc. over exp.	£ 4,720.50	£ 4,932.65			
Balance as at 31.7.14	£ 148.74	£ 64.83			
Uncleared cheques	£ 4,869.24	£ 4,997.49			

I report that the above Income and Expenditure Account is in accordance with the books and records supplied to me

Signed

By hand

Date 1st Sept 2014

FEEDBACK TIME

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR SERVICE TO YOU?

Whether because we are doing such a fine job, or because nobody else wants to do it, we have ALL been re-elected as your Committee, Either way, I feel that the society is in a rut. We need some new ideas – how can we improve our service to you. I know that is not an easy question. We, as a committee, do our best to run the society as we THINK it should be run. Rarely do we receive comments as to whether we have it right or not– we need some feedback

If you think that what we offer is about right, let us know. On the other hand, if you think it is ‘rubbish’, we need to know that as well. Equally important though, have you any ideas how we could improve the society for you.?

For example: If you live locally and don’t attend our monthly meetings, why not? What might entice you to come along?

Or, if you think our Newsletter could be improved tell us how. Do you find Roderic and Denise’s regular feature “Lets look at Churches” interesting or, my “Food for Thoughts” expendable? Is there anything you would like to see included or perhaps excluded.

We are canvassing ideas from local members who attend meetings separately. However, most of our members live away from the area and it is these that we would like to hear from. I am asking you to break away from the normal polite response of “if you cant find something nice to say – say nothing”

Honest answers please [positive or negative] by e-mail to me at:
tomfgarland@btinternet.com

Tom Garland on behalf of your committee

NEVER GIVE UP HOPE

My grandfather fought in WW1. That's all I really knew about his time during the war. My mother was able to tell me that he was in the Lancashire Fusiliers and that he was injured while fighting in the Somme but no more.

When I started my family history research I searched for my grandfather's medal card, hoping that I was going to ascertain his battalion. But this was not shown on the card. Then I heard about Dereham council finding a very large chart listing all Dereham men who served in WW1. I visited the library where it was temporarily on display. This indicated that my grandfather was in the 11th Battalion and that he was wounded at the Somme in 1916.

I was unable to find service or pension records and the battalion war diary had not been scanned by The National Archives so I put my research to one side until a short while ago when I read that more battalion war diaries had been scanned by TNA. I searched for my grandfather's battalion and this time it was there available to download. I immediately requested a download. I did not intend to read through the diary until the winter when I would be doing more family history but just scrolled through the pages to ensure that the documents had downloaded fully. On several occasions I have read that it is not common to see individuals' names in these diaries unless they were officers so I was not expecting much. Although the diary would show what my grandfather's battalion was doing on a daily basis, and in some cases on an hourly basis, I would not know whether my grandfather was there as I didn't know when he left the battlefield because of his injuries. However while scrolling through the pages I noticed my grandfather's name. As his surname was Claxton I had to ensure that it was him, but luckily his initials and army number were shown beside his name. He was in a list of 63 wounded in action, 12 missing, 11 killed in action and one suffering from shellshock for the date 28 September 1916. I was also able to

ascertain where he was fighting and even which trench he had been in before the battle in which he was injured. I can now work backwards to see what he did in the weeks leading up to his terrible injuries.

Speaking to my mother's cousin he advised me that he had a lot of my great aunts photos and postcards. Amongst them were postcards from Netley Hospital, a large military hospital near Southampton. As nobody else on this side of the family was injured during the war it seems very likely that it was here that my grandfather was taken when he was brought back from France injured. This triggered me to read about the nurses and doctors who worked in the atrocious conditions in France and saw so many horrific sights, giving me a better understanding of how my grandfather got from the trenches of the Somme back to England. An arduous journey for anyone, but horrific for the men so badly injured. The medical system relied on trains to move large numbers of wounded across France and back to England. These journeys could last for days. Shockingly I discovered that hospital trains had the lowest priority on the rails, after troop, ammunition and supply trains. Sometimes the men might lie on stretchers, and even die, on railway station platforms overnight waiting for the next stage of their journey. I just hope that my grandfather did not have too arduous a journey and hopefully he had the morphine needed to deaden the pain of his injuries. There were many extremely kind and sympathetic nurses who helped these men, I hope there was someone to show my grandfather such kindness and comfort.

Using Google I was able to ascertain that the Lancashire Fusiliers have a museum. I wrote to them and although they were unable to give me any personal information about my grandfather they informed me that the museum had a book on the history of the 11th battalion during WW1 which was not available elsewhere. Within days I was reading through the book.

I had known for some time that J R R Tolkien (author of Lord of the Rings) was in the same battalion as my grandfather so I got two biographies of Tolkien from the library and by reading these was able to read a less 'official' account of the battalions experiences in the Somme.

I have now written to the Western Front Association requesting them to look up my grandfather's record. The WFA holds over 6 million WW1 soldiers pension record cards which they obtained from the Ministry of Defence a few years ago. My grandfather received 25 shrapnel wounds all over his body, including his face, and lost a finger and an eye while fighting in the Somme. Some of the shrapnel remained in his body. He was discharged from the army in 1917 after many months in hospital and I am hoping that he may have received a pension of some kind and that the WFA may hold additional information to that I've already collected. Fingers crossed. In the meantime I have lots of information to sift through to reconstruct my grandfather's war experiences. Not bad considering the extremely limited data I started with. So never give up your search. Keep chipping away as more and more information becomes available and search everything that might possibly give you snippets of information. I'm still hoping to find a published diary of someone in my grandfather's battalion so that I can acquire more information.

Sue Harris

MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE IRCR (International Committee of the Red Cross) WW1 POW ARCHIVE WEBSITE

My grandfather Frank Garland never spoke of his WW1 military experience and we don't really know in which unit he served. Neither his service records nor his medal index card appear to have survived.

I do remember as a teenager, that in *his* cupboard he kept a piece of “black bread”, as a sobering reminder of his days in captivity as a POW in German hands. The family know nothing of his service ordeal except that he was forced to work in the mines on a starvation diet and when he eventually returned home he had to be spoon-fed on bread soaked in milk.

Consequently I couldn't wait for the promised ICRC Archive to be put on line; this was to be my start into finding out about my grandfather's army experience at last.

Apparently early in the war the Red Cross International POW agency was formed in Geneva. The organisation kept a name index card (held alphabetically) for interned persons, civilian and service, which was annotated with a reference to any correspondence appertaining to that person. It is these index cards and the correspondence including movement between internment camps that are now searchable on line, currently free of charge. In addition there are maps showing where the camps were and a postcard collection showing scenes in them and probably a lot more, once you get the hang of the site.

To be honest I found it a little temperamental and if I have to give any tip I would say – the ‘back space’ button on the keyboard sometimes returned me back to where I was. Disappointingly, although there are 38 Garlands on the database, my Frank is not there, I am back to square one.

If you have a WW1 POW ancestor the ICRC Archive is at:

grandeguerre.icrc.org

Do let our Editor know if you have more success than me.

TFG

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Gallantry Awards in World War One to Men of Dereham and District by B Scholes Printed in colour – price £7.10 includes p&p

Names included in book (from Dereham unless otherwise stated)

Aldiss , A/Sgt. Stanley, M. I. Despatches	
Bennett , Staff Serjeant Frederick H., M.S.M.	
Bowles , Sjt Frederick A., M.M.	
Bradley , 2nd Lieut. Horace A., M.C.	Bradenham
Brown , Sgt. Stanley, M.M.	Scarning
Burch , A/Captain Frederick Leonard, M.I. Despatches	
Craske , A/Sjt. Clifford W., M.M.	
Daniel , Lt.-Col. Thomas William, D.S.O., M.C., O.B.E.	Gressenhall
Dew , Sergeant James, M.M.	
Dye , Private Cyril Raymond, M.M.	Beetley
Eke , Pte. Charles, M.M.	Shipdham
Elliston , Cpl. Frederick T., D.C.M.	
Etheridge , Driver George, M.M., Silver War Badge	Shipdham
Fox , Pte. Herbert V., M.M.	
Gay , Pte. Alfred John Noel, M.M.	Mattishall Burgh
Gillett , Cpl. W., M.M.	
Guymer , Sjt. Bertie James, D.C.M., M.M. and Bar	
Hewitt , Pte. William, M.M.	Gressenhall
Hunter , Bombardier Bertie, M.M.	Shipdham
Jarvis , Driver Edward, M.M., Silver War Badge	
Johnson , L/Sgt. Sidney S., M.M.	Elsing
Juby , C.S.M. Herbert James, M.M.	
Lewton Brain , 1st Assistant Edwin, M.B.E. (civil)	
Mason , Lieut. George Boustead., M.C.	
Mayes , Sergeant Robert W., M.M.	
Milk , Lieut. Archie Payne, M.M.	
Parker , Corporal Thomas Alexander, D.C.M.	
Precious , Lieut. Alan Montagu, M.M.	
Savage , Acting Corporal Frederick R., M.M.	Elmham
Secker , Sgt. Charles Herbert	
Shearing , Bmbr. William H., M.M.	
Symonds , Serjeant Matthew, D.C.M.	Beetley
Tennant , Corporal William George, M.M.	Shipdham
Thompson , Sapper Bertie Clement, M.M.	
Ward , Pte. Richard, M.M.	
Ward , Sgt. Harry, M.M.	
Watkins , Pte. Alfred, M.M.	Shipdham
Wormald , Major John (Jack), M.C.	Hoc
Wray , Pte. Edward G., M.M.	
Wright , Gunner Herbert, M.M.	

Key: D.S.O. – Distinguished Service Order; D.C.M. – Distinguished Conduct Medal; M.C. – Military Cross; M.M. – Military Medal; M.I. Despatches – Mentioned in Despatches; M.S.M. – Meritorious Service Medal.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – We’ve been here before

Sheila and I have been ‘knocking out’ our Memorial Inscription Booklets at quite a pace during the last year or so and the time was drawing near when we would have to tackle Hingham - a huge churchyard and even huger cemetery.

I would like to have done Carleton Forehoe, an interesting little church but only accessible through a field and it was the rainy season, ‘getting stuck up to my axles’ or even just up to my wheels is definitely not my idea of fun.

So it was Hingham next. I contacted the curate, who met us at the church along with his wife, who just happened to be the churchwarden. They brought along another lady who runs the local history society and she offered to put an article in the parish magazine asking for helpers (if I wrote it) but we had missed the deadline for that month. Permission to record the MIs was given – what could go wrong?

We started recording the memorials in the churchyard and had done about 200 (40%) before the parish magazine with my article requesting helpers was distributed around the town. This prompted a phone call from a local historian – “were we aware that the cemetery had been ‘done’? Apparently not just done, but all burials, since the cemetery opened in 1880, had been recorded, along with their cemetery plot numbers. The end product had also been lodged with Hingham library, the Norfolk Record Office and the Forum in Norwich

It was only by luck that we hadn’t started with the cemetery. We’ve been here before – how many times have I said that a lot of research time can be saved by asking “has it been done before”, the problem is to find the person who knows the answer.

TFG

HINGHAM, ST ANDREW MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

£5.10 (£4.00 plus £1.10 p&p)
(available from Kate (Ed))

DESIGN-A-COVER COMPETITION

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!

*Can you design a new cover for the
Members Interests Directory?*

It will need to:

- fit on A5 size paper
- have the following words –

MID-NORFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
MEMBERS' INTERESTS DIRECTORY
2015

- have the MNFHS logo on the top of the page
- have any other picture or pattern of your choice

THE PRIZE

Any book from our sales list including p&p

OR

A year's free subscription

ENTRIES TO

Please send your entry to Kate (Editor) either by email or a disk
Or drawn on a piece of A5 paper

CLOSING DATE

31st January 2015

MAHER-SHALAL-HASH-HAZ TUCK

We first discovered Mahershalalhashbaz Tuck a little over twenty years ago when we were recording the memorial inscriptions (MI) at Hoe. He appears on the MI for Emily who died in 1878 aged 42 and described as “the wife of Mahershalalhashbaz Tuck”. At the time we thought it unusual enough to warrant a photograph in the Hoe MI booklet. Later we discovered her husband Mahershalalhashbaz. He died in 1893 aged 54 and is buried in Dereham Cemetery, where too has a memorial, which we annotated in 1996, as being “readable” although, todays researchers would need to carry out, at least a little soft brush and water treatment, to reveal the inscription

We have Brent Scholes to thank for reminding us of the origin of this peculiar name, or at least for identifying the source of the legend. He sent me a letter which shows it comes from “A Norfolk Diary – passages from the diary of The Rev Benjamin John Armstrong MA (Cantab) vicar of East Dereham 1850–1888. Edited by his grandson Rev Herbert Armstrong who was vicar of St Margaret with St Nicholas, Kings Lynn, 1937–1948 and published by George Harrop and Co Ltd, London in 1949”.

The Diary entry for December 26, Christmas Day, 1866, reads:

*Married a young parishioner of the name **Mahershallalashbaz Tuck**. He accounted for the possession of so extraordinary a name thus: his father wishes to call him by the shortest name in the bible, and for that purpose selected Uz. But the clergyman making some demur, the father said in pique, “Well, if he cannot have the shortest he shall have the longest”*

The more observant reader will notice that in our transcription of the Diary entry above the name is spelt slightly differently. This is not a typing error, this is how it is printed. Either one of the Rev Armstrongs, or the Diary typesetter spelt it incorrectly. However, what is much worse is that if you start Googling you will discover that the mis-spelling, has been perpetuated across many articles.

The photo in our Hoe MI booklet clearly shows it spelt as Mahershalalhashbaz, which could of course be the family interpretation,

but go to the Isaiah chapter 8. verse 3 and you will find that the Lord definitely said “Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz”. You can’t have a better proof of correct spelling than that.

Tom Garland

RAF RECORDS NOW ON-LINE AT FINDMYPAST

Findmypast in partnership with The National Archives has released nearly 450,000 service records of men of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force, including 342,000 Airmen’s records never seen online before.



The records, comprising National Archives series AIR 76 (Officers’ service records) and AIR 79 (Airmen’s records) contain information about an individual’s peacetime and military career, as well as his physical description, religious denomination and family status. Next of kin are often mentioned, and these this too has been fully indexed and is easily searchable

The majority of records in this collection date from 1912 with the formation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), and include men who continued to serve in the RAF up until 1939. The earliest records date from 1899 with the Royal Engineers Balloon Service in the Boer War. This incredible collection demonstrates how World War One united all echelons of society, from those on the bread line to the mill owners themselves.

The records don’t appear to be available via the National Archive website but if you have RFC/RAF ancestors prior to 1939 (officers up to 1920) it could well be worth, at least a months subscription with findmypast.

TFG

THE DEREHAM WAR MEMORIAL BOOK

Following on from the Spring Newsletter the following soldiers are commemorated on Dereham's War Memorials:

Lest We Forget



Private Ernest George Bell served with the Norfolk Regiment 2nd Battalion. He was born, according to the CWGC, in Horsford but on census records his place of birth is given as Wormley Herts. Ernest died of wounds on 15th April 1915 aged 26 at Basra, Mesopotamia. He had been in the services for 4 years having spent 2 years in India with the 2nd Norfolks.

He is buried at Basra War Cemetery Iraq. On the 1911 census he was employed as a jobbing gardener living with his widowed father and siblings in Albion Terrace Dereham. His younger brother Amos who is also on Dereham War Memorial died in 1918. (see above entry)

Private George Robert Betts who served with the Norfolk Regiment 1st Battalion was born in Dereham. He died aged 29 in France on 9th December 1916 and is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. From the 1911 census we know he was a housepainter living with his parents Robert and Anna Betts at 45 Baxter Row. Also in the household was his cousin Maurice Theobald who is also commemorated on the Dereham War Memorial.



Private Herbert John Betts who served with the East Yorkshire Regiment 7th Battalion was born in Dereham. He had been in France for just one year when he was admitted to hospital having been gassed. He died three days later aged 28 on 24th September 1918 and is buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

He was married with two young children.

MID-NORFOLK FHS NBI SEARCHES – NOW FREE TO MEMBERS IF RESULTS ACCEPTED BY EMAIL

Mid-Norfolk FHS National Burial Index Project

- i) 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 150,000 entries.**
- ii) 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 ... kate.easdown@btinternet.com or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Kate Easdown

WW1 NURSES RECORDS ON LINE

Did you watch the BBC drama series The Crimson Field?



Unfortunately it is no longer available on BBC iPlayer but there are clips and interviews on the BBC website. A Useful fact sheet '[Looking for records of a British Army Nurse](#)' is available via The National Archives website. There are over 15,000 First World War service records for nurses, in series WO 399, who served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve) and the Territorial Force Nursing Service during the First World War. It is possible to search and download the [service records](#) (WO 399) at a cost of £3.50

(Thanks to FFHS May 2014 Enzine)

NORFOLK RESEARCH

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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

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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.freemove.co.uk

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*Printed by: Eastern Office Equipment, 2 Wellington Road, Dereham, Norfolk
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