## News

Issue 15 -1/4



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	e held at: Trinity Methodist Church Hall, The ity Close, Dereham NR19 2EP Starting 7.30	
18 March	Silks, Half-Silks & Synthetics. 400 Year Weaving in Norwich by Cathy Terry	s of Silk
15 April	The Norwich Boot and Shoe Trade by Frances & Michael Holmes	
20 May	Researching Your Great War Ancestors by Steve Manning	

#### A few words from your Editor ...

Hello again and thank you very much for your contributions to the Newsletter, I have not been able to fit them all in to this issue so please don't be offended if you don't see yours there, I will keep them for next time.

Its New Year Resolution time again, unfortunately one of my resolutions for 2015 is the same as for 2014, to write up my family history, it's just making a start that seems to be the problem, Tom's Book Review on page 13 looks helpful. Have you written up your family history? If so, have you got any tips you would like to share?

I look forward to hearing from you.

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 April 2015

#### LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH No.77 – All Saints, Mattishall



The church of All Saints Mattishall is, as a guide leaflet proudly boasts, 'large and grand' and like so many Norfolk churches is a product of the considerable local wealth accrued from the medieval wool trade, a fact hinted at by one of the brasses, dating from 1507, which commemorates a local wool stapler Robert Foster and his wife. The village of Matishall too is both impressive and ancient, 'Mateshala' is found in Domesday, a hoard of Roman coins were discovered here in 1968 and Arthur Mee's somewhat fanciful word picture painted just before the War - 'houses old and new, all comely, surround the church like a congregation' still holds true. We gained access to the church using a key obtained from a nearby shop and were at once struck by the fine hammer beam roof with arch braces which is adorned with carved angels with folded wings. Possibly of even greater interest is the rood screen of which there are many impressive examples in our county. This screen, is in fact only the surviving half of the original and was painted in 1453to depict the twelve Apostles, two to a panel, who bear scrolls inscribed with sentences from the Creed. These figures were painted over with brown paint at the Reformation when such images were frowned upon and only rediscovered in 1856 by Thomas Jennings Cooper the curate of nearby Mattishall Burgh who on impulse licked his finger and rubbed off some of the paint. Don't ask me how

he thought of that! The curious curate, no doubt dizzy with success, went on to restore the fine Jacobean pulpit the same year. The Lady Chapel, next to the rood screen was built with wool money donated by the previously mentioned Robert Foster and has an even older screen which predates it, possibly originating in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with tiny, finely carved, faces and flowers. The 15<sup>th</sup> century font is also worth an examination, being somewhat unusual with its concave sides and trefoil headed arches. The Royal Arms above the south door are those of George II and were painted in 1745, the year of the second Jacobite Rebellion when the fate of the House of Hanover hung in the balance. If you look carefully as you leave this imposing church, you will notice on the south porch a gable cross and pair of tiny minarets somewhat reminiscent of those we saw at Booton. These were added in 1887 when the porch was restored by same Revd. Thomas Jennings Cooper who saved the rood screen. Cooper was a great enthusiast for church architecture, and judging by these disneyfications must also have had a great sense of fun. All Saints is associated with Matthew Parker, the noted Elizabethan Archbishop and Norwich worthy who is remembered here yearly having married a local girl. Parker led an eventful life which included an unsuccessful attempt on Mousehold Heath to persuade the rebel Robert Kett to lay down his arms and a period of hiding in fear of his life at the time of Bloody Mary after possibly unwisely championing the ill-fated Lady Jane Gray. Parker finally came back into favour under Elizabeth but his conciliatory doctrine which steered a middle path between Protestantism and Catholicism was not popular with some of the Puritans who after his death dug up his bones and reburied them under a dunghill. It just shows you can't please everybody.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD 703.) and comprise Baptisms 1656 - 1983, Marriages 1662 – 1975, Burials 1661 – 1960 and Banns 1754 – 1924. Microform copies cover the same dates and there is a modern unpublished transcript for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials ending in 1703. Archdeacon's and Bishop's Transcripts start in 1689 but end in 1885 for Baptisms and Burials and 1837 for Marriages. The Parish Chest is very extensive and includes Terriers 1729 – 1967, Faculties 1723 – 1958, Churchwarden Accounts and Vouchers 1554 – 1967, Overseers' of the Poor records 1696 – 1929, Removal Orders 1696 – 1849, Bastardy records 1709 – 1834, Apprenticeship Indentures 1699 – 1811, Surveyors of Highways Accounts 1790 – 1863, Poor Rate Books 1830 – 1866, an 1821 Census and records of various Charities covering the years 1466 – 1969.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

#### YOUR LETTERS

Millie Vander Hoeven has written from USA asking if we can help ...

I am searching for proof of my Edward Outlaw's parents. Edward came to Norfolk Co, Virginia c 1665-1667 as a teenager with his older brother John. It is believed he was the son of Robert Outlaw, son of Ralph Outlaw (1595-1671) and Elizabeth Kempe of Little Witchingham. Ralph Outlaw was the son of Thomas Outlaw (1590-1633) and Margaret Cory of Little Witchingham. Thomas was the son of Ralph (1545) and Amy Bevis, who was the son of Thomas (1520) Little Witchingham. These men were referred to as Gent as was my Edward. These Outaws are mentioned in the Visitation of Norfolk. I would like to get in touch with anyone who is researching Outlaws.

If you can help you can email Millie at <a href="mvanh@sbcglobal.net">mvanh@sbcglobal.net</a> or contact me (Kate – Ed) and I will forward any information.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day Saturday 25th July 2015, 10am to 4pm

The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

Free admission and free parking

Further information, including a full list of organisations attending, can be found at <a href="https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk">www.bucksfhs.org.uk</a>.

West Surrey Family History Society
FAMILY HISTORY FAIR AND OPEN DAY
Saturday, 31st October 2015 10am – 4.30pm
at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA
Free admission – plenty of parking (there is a charge for parking)

#### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

**HACKFORD Nr Hingham** 140 memorials Presented on 18 A4 pages Cost £2 plus £1.10 p&p

**CARLETON FOREHOE** 129 memorials Presented on 17 A4 pages Cost £2 plus £1.10 p&p



See our website for full publication list (rear cover) All my be purchased via Kate (Editor)



#### **NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Submissions and changes must be made before April  $1^{\rm st}$  for inclusion in the directory.

Member 780 – Mr email: <u></u>	A Wxxx,,,, - <u>@</u>	
BARBROLLI Johr FILMS	Life & Times & Halle Orchestra	All 20 <sup>th</sup> C
Member 781 – Mr France Email:@	M Rxxx,,,	
RIPLEY William 1600	Wramplingham NFK	1500 –
	Wramplingham NFK	1500 -

#### RECENT SPEAKERS

At the January meeting of the Society the speaker was Gill Blanchard, her topic was 'Digging Deeper into Family History – Part 1,

Gill left handout sheets noting points of interest from her talk. Graham will be happy to email a copy to anyone who wants one please contact him on Graham.Rudd@talktalk.net

#### LIVES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

#### KITCHENER NEEDED THEM -THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NOW NEEDS US TO HELP PERPETUATE THEIR **MEMORY**



At last October's meeting, Mel Donnelly, from the Imperial War Museums (IWM), gave a presentation on their plan to build a permanent digital memorial, to those who were involved in ww1. This database is now, very



much, up and running. To give us a start, medal index card information has been inputted for army, RFC and

RAF personal. The IWM are asking us to expand on this basic information, add further facts and insert images of our own family mementoes of both service and civilian personnel.

You can log onto the website at www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org. Obviously, this is a massive undertaking, potentially over 8 million men and women from across Britain and the Commonwealth, played their part in this global conflict. My first foray into the website has been less than successful and I would be interested in other members experiences in using the site, especially from anyone, who has actually added to the database.

Tom Garland

#### DEAFNESS IN THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

During the early 1800s the Codling family were in the small Norfolk parish of Hindolveston for several generations. They were poor, very poor. Their names are mentioned frequently in the Poor Law records but unfortunately usually only by surname so I am unable to match the entries to those of my family. However, it would seem that the family didn't have permanent jobs but worked on a daily basis depending on what casual work was available. This included bird catching, cleaning the church, hoeing, weeding, harvesting, threshing, hedging, ditching and road building. The women would tend to the old and infirm and lay out the dead for a small pittance. But often in the winter there was no work to be had and the families had to survive on the parish hand-outs.

Some joined the army in an attempt to improve their lot and have a permanent wage. This did seem to work and their children learnt to read and write and eventually found permanent employment.

William Codling my great x 2 grandfather was born in Hindolveston in 1837. Things seem to have improved in this generation as he had permanent employment working as a groom and gardener in the tiny parish of Pensthorpe. Family stories tell of how he would drive his employer to the 'big houses' around the county of Norfolk seeing all the grand families dressed in their finery. When not required to deal with the horses or take his employer to other houses he worked in the gardens. During 1874/5 additional buildings were planned and built at 'Home Farm'. These included a gig house, hay house, harness room and two horse stables. No doubt William Codling had some say and involvement in these new buildings.

William and his wife Lucy had 12 children in total, the first born 1861 and the last in 1885. Their first child died at the age of 11 months but the rest lived through childhood and many lived into their eighties perhaps suggesting that they had an easier life than their forefathers.

However, all was not well. Four of the children were born deaf. Unfortunately at that time many people believed that if a child could not speak then they were stupid, incapable of comprehension or language. It was thought deafness was due to' the sins of the parents' and a terrible sign

from God of the evil within the child. Historically the 'deaf and dumb', as my ancestors were labelled on the census forms, were categorised with idiots, imbeciles and lunatics. Many would end up in workhouses or mental asylums. However by the time the Codling siblings were born progress was slowly being made by teachers to help and educate the deaf. These four Codling children were luckier than most, and as a result saved from a life of misery.

John, born 1863, was the first child in the family to be born deaf. No doubt it caused much worry for his parents. They would not have known how to deal with his disability. He would not have been able to go to school. He would have been isolated and no doubt frustrated at not being able to communicate with his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings. He probably had no playmates. Did subsequent siblings born approximately every two years after his birth feel protective towards him or did they ignore him when they played? He would have felt different when his siblings went to school and he remained at home. However things were to change.

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1873, at the age of ten John attended 'The Asylum for Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor' in Old Kent Road, London, the first of its kind in England. Here he was trained to be a shoemaker, an occupation he continued throughout his life. His father and father's employer acted as securities witnessed by the local vicar. After an examination 3 weeks after joining the school his intellect was assessed as 'only poor' and his voice was 'nasal'. At this time education methods in the Old Kent Road were little different from those in use when the school had opened in 1792. There was no oral training. Pupils were taught to sign and lip read. John finally left the school on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1878 at the age of 15. His reading and writing skills were still poor. The story handed down in the family is that John would walk from house to house asking for work but many people didn't understand his attempts to talk. He would walk from Fakenham across the fields to Rougham to visit his sisters. By avoiding the roads and paths John avoided meeting the local people who would make fun of him. John couldn't have had much of a life. I just hope he found some happiness within his large family.

William and Lucy must have thought John's disability was a one off but then deafness was to return after several unaffected births. Rose Anna was born in 1877 and it soon became apparent that she was also deaf. Between 13 February 1885 and 5 April 1892 Rose Ann attended the same school as her brother. However by now the school had relocated to Margate where it was thought that the sea air would benefit the children. The new school was a large gothic building which must have been very daunting for young children removed from their family and homes. The building had spacious dormitories and classrooms with extensive grounds in which to play. They had occasional walks down to the sea which very few if any children had ever seen before. The school was filled with new furniture. The children would rise at 6.30am then attend prayers and schooling until breakfast at 8am. Schooling would then continue for the rest of the day.

The methods of teaching the deaf had improved since John's days and the school was a generally more relaxed and happier atmosphere for the children. Rose Anna did well at school and was able to lip read, her language being satisfactory as were most of her academic subjects. Unfortunately Rose Anna was to develop tuberculosis. She returned home where, 13 months later, she was to die.

Chrisanna was born in 1879. She was admitted to the school for the deaf 10 January 1887 until 18 July 1894. She did reasonably well at her subjects at school and was able to lip read well.

Mary Ann, also deaf from birth, was born 1884. She attended the same school for the deaf as her siblings. She remained there from 9 February 1894 until 19 December 1899. She made good progress at school and left able to lip read. Her speech was good.

I contacted the school which is still running as a school for the deaf. I was lucky enough to obtain copies of the school reports for all four children. Both Rose Anna and Chrisanna had learnt needlecraft at school. Their embroidery was excellent and they both did beautiful delicate embroidery and dressmaking for one of the large upmarket stores in London. When the shop moved from hand machines to powered sewing machines the two sisters had to leave for health and safety reasons. They then did private work from home.

Rose Anna did not marry but stayed close to her younger sister Mary Ann

who married in 1906 and had five children, all of which had good hearing. Subsequent generations of the Codling family were always anxious when another baby was born but to the best of my knowledge there were no more deaf children born to William and Lucy's family or their descendants. It is not known what caused the deafness. William and Lucy were not related in any way – tracing their families back has proved that. And the deaf children were not born consecutively; they were the second, ninth, tenth and twelfth children. How or why the Codling children were given the opportunity to attend the school for the deaf I don't know, and probably never shall know. But their lives would have been very different had they not.

Sue Harris

#### 'PAYBOOK' WILLS OF WW1 SOLDIERS

At long last, the World War One soldiers' wills for England and Wales, are now available on-line.

The following information was taken from The Western Front Association website, who have been engaged in providing advice to the Ministry of Justice, in preparation for their release. They estimate that there are wills for about 60% of the soldiers who were killed. Apparently, on joining the army, soldiers were issued with a pay book which they had to keep with them at all times. This book also contained a form on which soldiers could write a simple will, which was legally acceptable. Should the soldier be killed on active service, his will would be retrieved and sent to the War Office. Obviously, if the body was not recovered, the paybook would have been lost. It would appear that, 229,481 World War One soldiers' wills have survived and may be downloaded from: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance">www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance</a>

Refer to 'Latest on Wills Post 1858' article on page 12 and at para 2 select c. 'Soldiers Wills' Insert your soldiers 'SURNAME' and 'YEAR of death' in the appropriate box This produces a list of soldiers' wills that have survived for that surname for that year .To identify your man, you MUST know his Service number. The procedure is thereafter as per the page 12 article and, although some reports of this facility, written before it started, suggest the cost would be £6, the website clearly states £10 per soldiers

Note 1: The 'paybook' wills only relate to ARMY Privates and NCOs. Wills completed by army officers and Royal Navy personnel are NOT part of this project. Note 2. The wills are not comprehensive and contain very little information. May be little more than: 'I leave £25 to my girlfriend Mary Rose and the rest to my mother'. That said, it might contain that missing piece of your genealogy jig saw.

Personally I am fortunate in having only one ancestor actually killed in World War 1. As is my luck, his name doesn't appear on the list of surviving wills. According to a Daily Telegraph article, about 5% of the wills also have letters to loved ones attached, which were never posted. If you have more success than me, please write to Kate and share the results of your discoveries

Tom Garland

#### LATEST ON WILLS POST 1858

Most of the Autumn Newsletter Article is Superseded

In the Autumn Newsletter (page 10) we included a rather extensive piece about how to obtain wills post 1858. Unfortunately, just two Newsletters later much of the information has been superseded. The main changes are:

- 1. THERE IS A NEW WEBSITE FOR ORDERING WILLS
- 2. POST 1858 WILLS CAN BE ORDERED ON-LINE
- 3. FREE ACCESS TO PROBATE CALENDARS (INDEXES) IS NOW ON-

LINE

- 4. THE LONDON PROBATE SEARCHROOM IS NOW CLOSED
- 5. THE COST HAS RISEN FROM £6 TO £10 PER WILL
- 1. In an attempt to simplify the procedure for obtaining copies of wills a new website has been introduced

www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance

This is a BETA site, so it could all be different by the time you read this.

2. At the moment you go to Section 8 'Search for Probate Records' Then 'search on line'

This takes you to 'Find will or probate' (England and Wales)
Note: there is a different system for Scotland & Northern Ireland
Click on the green START NOW button
You are now into 'Find a will' (The BETA bit)

You have three options a. 1996 to present b. 1858 – 1996 c. Soldiers wills

Select a or b and insert 'SURNAME' and 'YEAR of death'

- 3. You are now presented with the relevant page in the probate calendar for that year (in our Autumn Newsletter article we suggested you obtained this detail from *Ancesory*). It is easy to select the next year or next page
- 4. Using the information from the calendar complete the application grid Then 'add to basket' 'Return to search' or 'proceed to check out' .The cost is £10 per will, payable by credit or debit card. It is NOT instant you may have to wait up to 10 days for the results to appear on your computer. You will then be able to access the will for 31 days.
- 5. You can also use the website, to just consult the index, or to download the postal application form (PA1S). Postal applications are still available but now also now cost £10 per will and 'you should get a response within 28 days'.
- 6. The introduction of on-line ordering and on-line access to the probate calendars (indexes) means that the London Probate Searchroom which relocated to The Royal Courts last year, is now deemed, 'no longer required' and closed to the public.
- 7. I have yet to discover how the massive rise from £6 to £10 can be justified, but remember, referring back to my Autumn article, if the calendar says 'Administration' there is no will and if you order, expecting one, you will forfeit not £6 but £10.

Tom Garland

# BOOK REVIEW WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY A Guide for Family Historians by Gill Blanchard

Undoubtedly the ultimate aim of us all should be to write up our years of research for the benefit of our families, other researchers and posterity. But

where to start, how to present it in an interesting way that might make someone else want to read it, then decide on how to publish it, to most of us is a daunting venture. Much easier to carry on researching and leave the writing bit for another day.

Gill's book, could be what we are all looking for. It is rather like a correspondence course. Not quite beginning at the beginning, it assumes we can put a sentence together, but by 'tips' and suggesting simple 'exercises' she sets out in an easy common sense manner how to say the same thing in a more interesting way. Then how to 'pad out' the family tree, family stories, and the basic facts of birth, marriage and death, by introducing local and world events that help put that 'flesh on the bones'. She suggests 'don'ts' as well as 'dos' and advises on what to include and what maybe to leave out

The last part of the book gives an insight into publishing our work. Books – commercial and self-publishing, publishing to Kindle, websites and blogs are all covered not in minute detail but a sensible overview of the possibilities.

Gill has written from experience. Within the text she advises that we review, remove unwanted features, edit and encourage someone else to read our work before going into print. She has obviously applied her own advice when writing this book.

I would suggest, it can be picked up and put it down, it is well laid out and easy to read. We probably won't need to read every word but I can almost guarantee that whether we want to write a whole book or just articles for our Newsletter we can all find useful, helpful guidance within its covers.

Writing your Family History ISBN 978 1 78159 3721 Published by Pen & Sword cost £12.99

Gill advertises her services regularly in our Newsletter and local members, who are able to attend our meetings, will recognise Gill as one of our popular speakers and the author of *Tracing your House History* and *Tracing your East Anglian Ancestors* also published by *Pen & Sword*.

Tom Garland

#### FREE CHURCH TOURS 2015

Every year the Norfolk Churches Trust and Round Tower Churches Society organise monthly tours of Norfolk churches. The tours are planned to help you discover the fascinating wealth of interesting history and architecture in



village churches. They are organised for Saturday and Sunday afternoons, starting at 2.30 pm. (Except 9 May – morning tour)\* Tea is provided and the tour ends with a service (optional) of evensong, at 6 or 6.30 pm. Essentially they are car trails using your own transport. Everyone is welcome; tours are free though donations are encouraged at each church.

#### ROUND TOWER CHURCH TOURS - Saturday afternoons\*

9 May	Meet at ECCLES to visit also Quidenham & Croxton (NB starts
	10am)*
6 June	Meet at HASSINGHAM, to visit also Acle & Fishley
4 July	Meet SOUTH ELMHAM All Saints, to visit also Ilkletshall St
	Margaret & Gisleham
1 Aug	Meet at HARDWICK, to visit also Morningthorpe & Forncett St
	Peter
5 Sep	Meet at HARDLEY, to visit also Hellington & Surlingham

#### **CHURCH TOURS –Sunday afternoons**

19 Apr	Meet at NORTH RUNCTON to visit also Middleton & West
	Winch
17 May	Meet at HAPTON to visit also Flordon, Newton Flotman &
	Tasburgh (R)
21 Jun	Meet at BARNEY to visit also Kettlestone, Guist & North
	Elmham
19 July	Meet at WELBORNE (R) to visit also Mattishall Burgh,
	Mattishall & Thuxton

#### THE GIDNEYS OF DEREHAM

#### W. T. Gidney:

Ostler & Gidney were General Ironmongers at the Golden Key in East Dereham Market Place until the death of Charles Henry Ostler in 1826. His son sold the family share to J.W. Gidney. The partnership was formally dissolved in 1837 (*Circular to Bankers 24/3/1837*).

J. W. Gidney had St. Nicholas Works (now Grade II listed) built in Cowper Road in 1846. His son, W. T. Gidney, later used the building as an iron and brass foundry. The company became famous for its church furniture.

W. T. Gidney (son of J. W. Gidney) supplied the gas fittings for the then new Swaffham Baptists' Church, and a decayed invoice survives in Norfolk Record Office (Swaffham Baptist Church Records FC100/42) He was still using the Golden Key address and symbol printed on the invoice.

Very shortly before Mr. Gidney's work at Swaffham, Rev. Benjamin zArmstrong recorded visiting Swaffham (presumably the Church of England) with Mr. Harvey on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1859 to see the gas-standards there. (Mr. Harvey was to pay for gas lighting of Dereham church.)

In 1869, W. T. Gidney organised a display by Norwich Velocipede Club in Dereham Corn Hall. He stood unsuccessfully for parish churchwarden in 1873. Kelly's Directory for 1883 records William Thomas Gidney (then living in Quebec Street, Dereham) as Quartermaster of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, also Secretary of the Corn Exchange and agent for Norwich Union Fire Insurance.

According to Charles Mackie's Norfolk Annals, J.W. Gidney's brother was killed in June 1840 by Malay pirates, in the Straits of Timor, with the crew of the Pilot Southseaman, of which he was a First Officer.

B Scholes



William Thomas Gidney was Quartermaster of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment c. 1867-1872. (Photo reproduced courtesy Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum).

THE ENGINEER. DECEMBER 12, 1856. Page 670

#### SMITHFIELD CLUB SHOW OF IMPLEMENTS.

In giving a condensed report of the implements and machinery exhibited during this, and the previous three days, in the Bazaar, King-street, Baker-street, we shall take the exhibitors in the numerical order of their stands, commencing with the seedsmen to the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Gidney and Son, East Dereham, exhibit hoes, barn shovels, stable ventilators, and a garden foot-scraper. This latter has considerable merit, and ought to be at every garden and house door.

Reproduced courtesy of Grace's Guide: <a href="http://www.gracesguide.co.uk">http://www.gracesguide.co.uk</a>

# Letter from Jeremiah William Gidney of Dereham to Col G.R.P. Jarvis Esq of Doddington Hall, Lincoln: JARVIS/5/A/10/68

Jeremiah William Gidney was the father of W.T. Gidney. This is a printed letter promoting his wire fencing, dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 1840, which J.W. Gidney sent from his East Dereham Iron Foundry business. He had St Nicholas Works built in Cowper Road in 1846.

Reproduced by permission of Lincolnshire Archives.

East Direham Son Francis;
and Werught Sien Manufactery,
apo 10. 110 Sorfolk
Len.
I beg de ûndmit de gew û Dhedek
and Gives of my Improved Steering Wise Fince; to stand
against buttle if all discriptions which for meatures strongthe
durability and chiapness excels all other kind of Tenang
It can be packed up in buildes for the convenience of
carriage, and experienced workmin sent with it it is
moderate charge
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Samt Sin
2 1111
Your most shedt Servant;
11 SHGidney
11 Medneye

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Straining Standard	thright		
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#### **INVOICE**

# East Dereham Bought of W. T. Gidney General Ironmongers & Ironfounders

Golden Key Market Place

bends

The Trustees of Swaffham Chapel

1859

Mar.26 To Gas Fittings & pipes fix'd complete as per estimate

Extra for alterations to Vestry with pipes & 10/-

30 2 3/8 Tees 1/6. 22ft Metal pipes 7/4 2 Ground Glasses

Times of 2 Men 1 day each & expenses per Train 4/6.

Fixing lights to platform & extra to contract

£24/18/10

2 Gothic pillars & Burners 16/6

£26/3/-

1859 July 19<sup>th</sup> Received with thanks W. T. Gidney

#### **THE MONOGRAM IHS** - Its all Greek (or Latin)



Primarily to assist churchyard visitors to locate memorials, most of the entries in our Memorial Inscription booklets begin with a description of the memorial which includes any decoration. Amongst these are the letters 'IHS' usually positioned centrally above the epitaph. This is found in both upper case, sometimes with the letters entwined, and in lower

case. To simplify recording and typing, whatever the format, in the later booklets we have standardised our description as 'ihs'

But quite by accident, I recently discovered, it isn't that simple and my interpretation maybe incorrect. I had always accepted that IHS represented the first three letters of the Greek word 'Jesus' (IH $\Sigma$ OY $\Sigma$ ) and I rarely gave it a second thought. However, perhaps this should only apply to upper case letters ie the Greek letters **IH** $\Sigma$  (iota-eta-sigma), when Latinised, iota (I) is sometimes written as a J (in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, I and J were interchangeable), eta is written as **H** and sigma as **S.** On headstones we often see 'ths' which doesn't seem quite right as Greek lower case letters look like ' $\eta \varsigma$ ' and when Latinised iota is written as an 'i,' without the dot and eta, converts to 'h', but one version of sigma is more like the letter 'c'. Perhaps **ths** should be **thc** .

Googling for an answer, I discovered that although in my experience, the is rare on headstones; this is in fact also frequently used as a monogram for 'Jesus'. Looking further, I discovered an alternative explanation for 'ths'. This could represent first letters of the Latin phrase [J]esus [h]ominum [s]alvator (Jesus, saviour of men).

What has this to do with family history? Probably nothing, although I expect our early, 'God fearing ancestors,' would all have known the meaning of the monogram.

It would be impractical to correct the booklets already written but in future, you can expect to see the appropriate 'IHS', 'ths' and maybe the occasional 'thc' when describing this common decoration.

**TFG** 

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