



**Peterborough and District Family History
Society Newsletter
April 2022**



From the Chairman...

Oh, woe! For the past two years I have taken all precautions, kept my distance, worn a mask even when others did not, and have felt well. Now, this morning, I have tested positive for Covid. And I still feel well – no symptoms. However, isolation calls. I have checked my diary: only one meeting this week that I was supposed to lead – I have phoned up about that. So, with a clear conscience, I can work on my railway in the garage; spend some time overseeing my stamp collection; and making sure that all those ancestors (and descendants) are in the right place. “It’s an ill wind ...” so the proverb says.

One family history task that I have decided to do is to fit appropriate photographs into my autobiography. Quite a bit is already done and the sections are outlined. There are manilla wallets labelled with each section heading for photos to be slipped into. At least, that is the theory. It will be good to leave some memories for my family to enjoy.

Best wishes.

Michael

From the Editor...

It is time for a confession!

Despite promises to myself, and sharing with you all in the January newsletter, that my New Year’s Resolution was to create a spreadsheet and to gradually list all the information that I have on each of my ancestors, I am ashamed to say that I have completed very little. Michael very kindly gave me a sample format I could follow and I have boldly titled the excel workbook ‘My Ancestors’. I have even set up individual pages for the various ancestors. But I have not entered any information.

Why not? I hear you cry!

Well, life I suppose. Life has a habit of getting in the way. But sometimes we shouldn’t let it.

How many times have you cried, I should have asked gt aunt so and so about this or that? And now it is too late. Or I wish I had kept a diary for my children or grand children to read, recording the fascinating details of life, and I didn’t. Or we should have written on the back of that photo and we forgot.

But it is never too late. Just 10 or 15 minutes here or there will make all the difference.

Now where is that excel workbook!!!

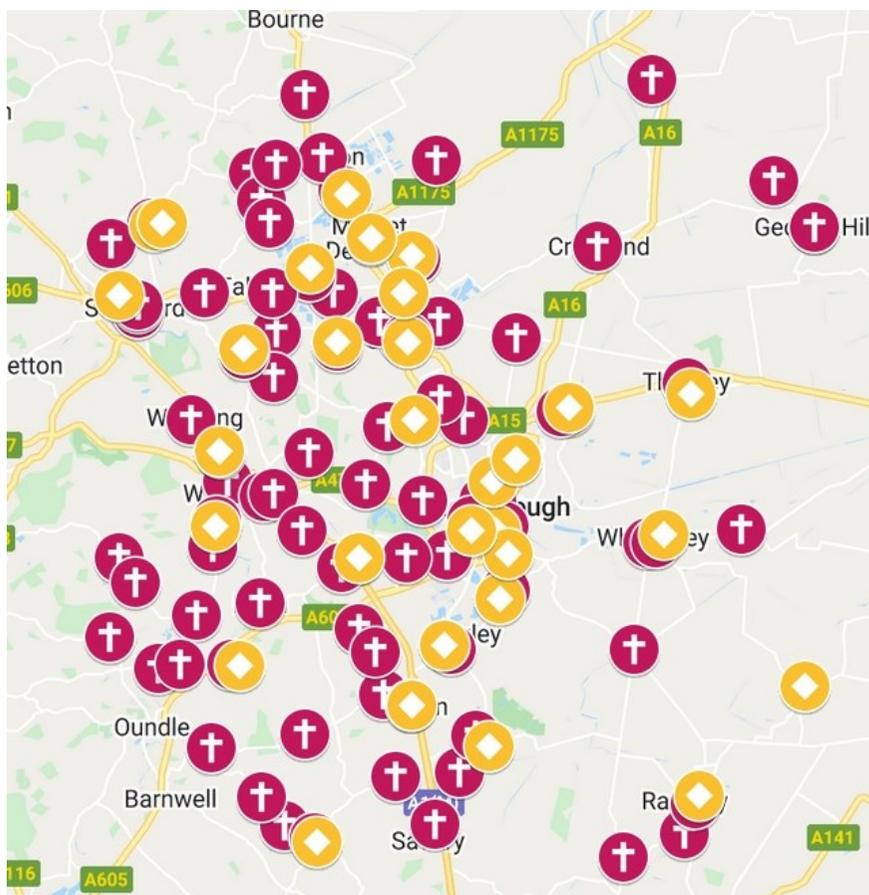
Sadie

Burials around Peterborough by Colin Ashworth

Where is your nearest cemetery or churchyard? I expect you know. Although I was brought up in Peterborough and went to primary school in Woodston, I did not realise (i.e. I failed to do 'joined-up thinking') that there is a cemetery in Woodston. (It opened in 1882 and is now closed for new burials.) After all, St. Augustine's churchyard is quite small. I assumed the departed of Woodston were buried somewhere in Peterborough.

I also wanted to locate the burials of some relatives from Elton, and I began to think that a list of cemeteries and churchyards would be useful. I have now created one and **this is where I need your help.**

The directory can be accessed from my website <https://findthatmi.wordpress.com/peterborough/> and consists of two parts: the map and the spreadsheet. Both can be reached by clicking on the appropriate link, each of which is in a white box. The map has two layers which can be viewed separately or together; churchyards and cemeteries.



The spreadsheet – which I populated mostly by using Genuki – gives the following information, but I should like help to fill in some of the blanks: type, place, county, postcode, location of memorial inscriptions (if any), location of burial registers (online), the website or contact details for the place and also the Find a Grave URL. **If members could alert me to any errors or omissions they find or give additional information, I should be grateful.**

I have restricted myself to the area covered by the P&DFHS although a few places of interest to me are also shown. You will note that locations to the East of Peterborough are lacking. Also, just because a place has a Peterborough Postcode, it does not mean it is nearby.

If you can assist please contact Colin via his website <https://findthatmi.wordpress.com/contact/>

Helpful Tip for Roots Magic

When using Roots Magic and you need to cite an existing source, there is an alternative to scrolling down a long dropdown list. If you have a Miscellaneous Fact set up, having clicked the source box and then 'Cite Existing Source', just start to type M I (S) and by the 2nd letter you should be there. This also works when you want to enter a fact. If it is about a Will, for example, it can be annoying to scroll down to Will, so just type W, then I, and you'll be there.

Mystery Object



The mystery object in the last newsletter was a challenge. The most common guess was an item to do with washing. Either to hold the wet washing or as a place to rest washing after it had been ironed. The object is in fact a wooden table or stand on which a bobbin pillow could be placed for lace making.

The new mystery object can be seen on the right. What would this object be used for?

I can't wait to hear your thoughts.



Thirteen Commandments for Names

The article in the last newsletter about the challenges we face as family historians where names are concerned struck a chord. Ewan Cappitt shares his experiences.

In my father's family John Walter, was always Walt; William Ewart always Ewart, Alice Muriel always Muriel; his father was John Joseph, always known as Joe!

My father was one of a continuous line of 9 generations of John Cappitt, (generally of one progenitor male only - very lucky the surname didn't die out!) prior to his father's generation as having one given name only.

My mother had a brother Harold Fredrick always known as Freddie, and another named Redvers George, always known as Billy!

Your Society Needs You...

We like to have a report of each talk in our journal. This ensures that those members who are unable to listen do not miss out on valuable information and they also act as a reminder which we can all re-visit.

Could you write a report for the journal?

It would be good to share this task out amongst members. The reports need not be long. They are just a summary of the highlights. Many speakers produce handouts which you can work from.

If you would like to give it a go please contact Sadie.

Would you like to join our committee?

Speak to Michael or Sadie for more information.

Book Review



The Girl in the Painting by Steve Robinson

If you enjoy the Jefferson Tayte Genealogical Mysteries then this stand alone novella, *The Girl in the Painting*, needs to be on your reading list.

Whats more you can start reading it for free: <https://amzn.eu/8O17jsa>

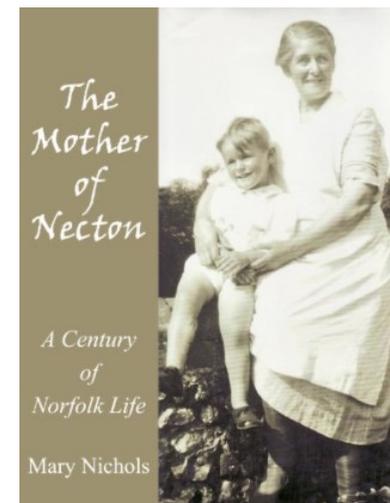
ISBN-13 : 979-8595334068

The Mother of Necton by Mary Nichols

This is a fascinating account of life in a Norfolk village and of Eliza Ong, village nurse and midwife.

Sadly the book is not always available in physical form but currently it is available through kindle.

[The Mother of Necton | marynichols.co.uk](http://marynichols.co.uk)



Zoom Talks

All meetings are currently being held by zoom. Joining instructions will be set in the week prior to the meeting.

Wed 6th April	7.30pm	'A Fenland History - A Saver Shares All'	Mike Perry
Wed 4th May	7.30pm	AGM followed by 'Exploring the Archives'	Alan Johnson
Wed 1st June	7.30pm	'Using British Newspaper Archives'	Steve Manning



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Do you have a story to tell, a tip to share, a book to recommend, a brick-wall you need help with?

Please get in touch with the Editor.

Don't be shy!

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Please keep us up to date with any address change, e.mail or snail mail.