



## Peterborough and District Family History

### Society Newsletter

August 2021



#### From the Chair...

Pauline and I recently spent five days in Yorkshire, based near Scarborough and visiting places in the Rydale area as well as some of the seaside towns. We enjoyed a Glass Museum, a National Trust 'stately home', a Folk Museum to name a few. Passing through Pickering, where I watched a steam locomotive backing round its train of carriages on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, Pauline noticed an unusual pub sign which was most relevant to our current times – 'The Vaccinated Arms'. Obviously, this was a temporary name to a pub whose real name I have forgotten, but we had a good laugh. However, it made me think. Public Houses have played an important **part/ role** in local towns and villages and their names are associated with many aspects of our country's history. The Royal Oak' (hiding place of King Charles); 'The Black Boy and Trumpet' (name now changed); 'The Windmill' (was there one nearby?); The Men of march' (associated with railways); these and many more may have fascinating information for us. Do you have connections with a pub? Was one of your ancestors a licensee? Have you a story to tell? If so, let Sadie know for a future edition of our Newsletter or Journal. Best wishes for your research.

Michael

#### From the editor...

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that the title of the July newsletter was May! Despite both myself, and a proof reader, checking the newsletter through several times the error slipped through.

But how many times do we make the same kind of mistakes in our family history research. We make assumptions, read what we would like to read, make false connections and disappear off rabbit holes to return many hours later disillusioned and cross with ourselves. We vow never to be so hasty again, well not until the next time. But in making these mistakes we become better researchers and that is an excellent skill to have.

In this strange summer of heatwave and deluge I am sure that we will all be putting our research skills to good use. I hope that the recommendations in this newsletter will assist you in some small way. Not only to find your ancestors but to put the flesh on the bones of your ancestors.

Remember to send me your successes, brickwalls and errors so we can all share and learn from your family history journey.

Sadie

## All in the Census

I think you will all agree that the census is a vital data collection tool. But after completing the 2021 census I must admit the procedure was both a time consuming and tedious one, especially if you have a large family.

I am sure the Victorian enumerators found the forms equally as tedious. Here are three census entries which perhaps lightened their day.

Mr Herbert Adnair Adnams, aged 30, from Southwold in Suffolk, wanted to offer some light relief to the enumerator's employment. In response to 'particulars as to marriage' he commented 'single-thank goodness'. For 'nationality' he completed 'British subject by parentage' and for 'infirmity - totally deaf, or deaf and dumb, totally blind, lunatic, imbecile or feeble-minded' he blithely wrote 'have been told I am most of the above at various times'. I wonder if the enumerator was amused?

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
1	Herbert Adnair Adnams		30	Single (Thank goodness!!)					Auctioneer + Estate agent 49b			Non-resent	Southwold, Suffolk	British subject by parentage	Have been told I am most of the above at various times.

In 1901 my gt gt grandmother Alice Newell was living in Yaxley Fen with her father and mother, William and Mary Newell and her younger sister Ada. Unusually also living with them was Albert Maldock described as a 'stranger'. I wonder why they decided not to list the relationship to head of household as 'visitor, lodger, boarder etc'?

30.	Yaxley Fen	1.		Arthur J. Newell	Head	M	26		Farmer	Labourer	Worker	Cambro Whittlesea	/
				Mary A. D.	Wife	M	26					Hunts Yaxley	/
				George S. D.	Brother	L	13					Cambro Coates	/
31.	D.	1		William Newell	Head	M	49		Farmer		Employer	Cambro Whittlesea	/
				Mary D.	Wife	M	50					D. Coates	/
				Alice St. D.	Daughter	L	19					D. D.	/
				Ada D.	Daughter	L	17					D. D.	/
				Albert Maldock	Stranger	M	64		Worked as a	Labourer	Worker	Hunts, Ashwell.	/

Meanwhile in Monk Wearmouth, Sunderland it would appear that the neighbours helped to complete the census entry for this family. Although they were able to give the ages of the various family members: Head 60, Wife 55, Son 30, Son 25, Dau 20 and Dau 15, they understandably did not know the places of birth NK. They did however know they had 'left...to live near Durham'. I wonder why they felt the need to complete an entry for a family who no longer lived there!

4/3	4	1	Thomas Left & gone to live near Durham	Head	Mar	60			
				Wife	"	55			
				Son		30			
				Son		25			
				Dau		20			
				Dau		15			
4/4			Thomas						

*If you come across an unusual or amusing census entry please let the editor know for inclusion in a future newsletter or journal.*

## Mystery Object



I am sure that many of you were able to identify last months mystery object, pictured on the left.

It is of course a brick mould, without which the uniformity of house bricks would be difficult to achieve.

Brick making was a hard and labour intensive occupation. A brick gang of 6 men could produce an amazing 900 bricks per hour by hand.

The mystery object this week, pictured on the right, takes us into the domestic domain.

But what is it?



*If anyone has a mystery object they would like to share please get in touch.*

## Websites and blogs

### The BALH - British Association for Local History

The [website](#) of the British Association for Local History offers both members and non-members a lot of content, so I invite you to have a browse.

For example:

There is a series of 10 minute talks which covers diverse topics such as 'The Farmer's Stocking Needle: How Vaccination Began' and 'Migration from Swaledale during the collapse of the nineteenth century lead mines'.

There is a blog with topics including 'Adam of Newmarket and the Jews' and 'Repatriation of a Motor Company Heir'.

### Ancestorian - Burial on Norfolk Island Australia

Many of us may find that we have Australian ancestry resulting from the time when certain parts of Australia were used by the British as a Penal Colony. A group 'my-ancestor-where-did-[they](#)-go-reinternments' on the website [ancestorian.com](#) looks at the Norfolk Island Cemetery. The burials are mainly of people from England, Scotland and Ireland and cover a broad time span. A lady, Judy Brodie, has photographed the grave-stones and they are available to be freely used. Remember not just convicts died, but soldiers, their families and their descendants as well.

The website, as a whole, is a fascinating one as many Australians discuss searching for their English ancestors.

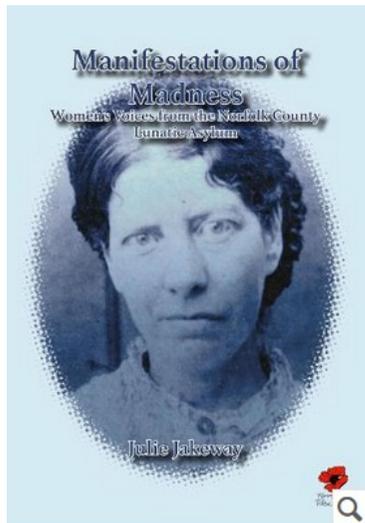


### Histories

[Histories](#) is a free subscription service run by the editor of *Discover Your Ancestors* Andrew Chapman. When you subscribe you will be sent a weekly e-mail with an article exploring first hand accounts from the corners of history. Recent articles have included 'The Oddballs of Oxford, 1710', 'A drive in a steam train, 1830' and 'Advice for travellers, 1671'.

Something for everyone !!!

## Book Reviews



*Manifestations of Madness: Women's Voices from the Norfolk County Lunatic Asylum* By Julie Jakeway

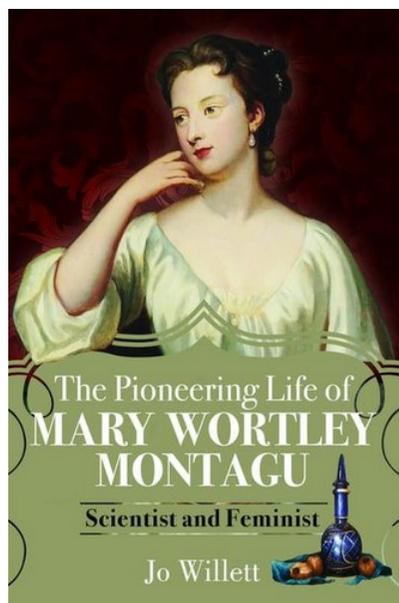
Although this book concentrates on The Norfolk County Lunatic Asylum it reflects the experiences of women nationwide and so is a valuable insight into medical opinion with regard to women's illnesses in the Victorian era.

ISBN: 9781909796850

With COVID 19 the important role of vaccination has taken on a new meaning for all of us. In this book we read about a pioneer, Mary Wortley Montagu. She inoculated her children against smallpox in a time when such a practice was unknown.

Peterborough has a connection to Mary as her son Edward built the workhouse, later rebuilt as the Wortley Almshouses, whilst he was MP for Peterborough in 1744.

ISBN: 9781526779380



## Please keep us informed

If you have changed your snail mail or e-mail address recently then please let us know.

We want to keep in contact with you!!

Contact: [secretarypdfhs@gmail.com](mailto:secretarypdfhs@gmail.com)

Visit [www.fhf-reallyuseful.com](http://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com) to purchase tickets.

PDFHS will be at the show, call by and say hello.

Friday 12th November 2021, 6:00pm - Saturday 13th November 2021, 6:00pm BST

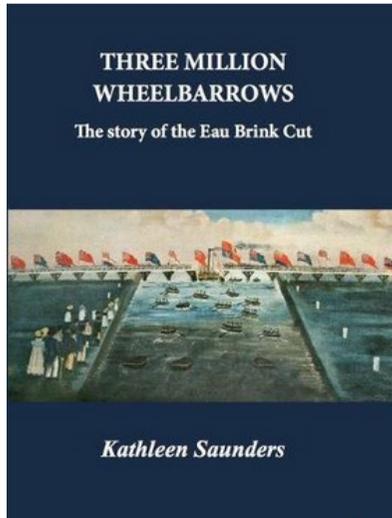
COVID-SAFE  
ONLINE EVENT

FHF REALLY USEFUL  
Family History Show



Next Event **Friday 12th + Saturday 13th November 2021**

## Book Reviews



*Three Million Wheelbarrows* - *The story of the Eau Brink Cut*, by Kathleen Saunders, has been published to coincide with the Bicentenary this summer of the Cut and the first bridge over the River Great Ouse at King's Lynn. Thousands of men from all over East Anglia worked on this project, so it is likely many were from the Peterborough area.

*Three Million Wheelbarrows* describes events leading up to the Eau Brink Cut from 1775 to 1821. Landowners wanted to straighten the River Great Ouse to improve drainage and protect their crops from flood. The merchants of Kings Lynn Corporation feared this would create such violent currents that the harbour and barge transport network would be destroyed. A massive feat of negotiation by elite local characters and Britain's legendary engineers was required to satisfy both factions, while the river tells of its resistance to human control and the impacts of our activities on the environment.

This book will interest local and family historians as many of the people involved will have descendants in the area. Those using the river for leisure, or historians of drainage, early steam engines, engineering, transport or Fenland's Napoleonic wartime activities may also find useful information.

ISBN: 9781874739920

## Have Your Say...

This is your journal and your newsletter.

What would you like to see in them?

Which articles do you enjoy reading?

What would you like to see more of?

What do you think of the layout?

Please get in touch with the editor and let me know your thoughts.

And remember all contributions are gratefully received.

So put fingers to keyboard and share your news.

Many of us are having staycations this year. If you are looking for something to do between the 10th and 19th September then check out the Heritage Open Days [website](#) for your area. Many properties open especially for the event and those that are usually open often hold additional talks, tours and activities. Take the opportunity to explore somewhere different. These sites need and value your support. For sites that are open in Peterborough visit this [link](#).

