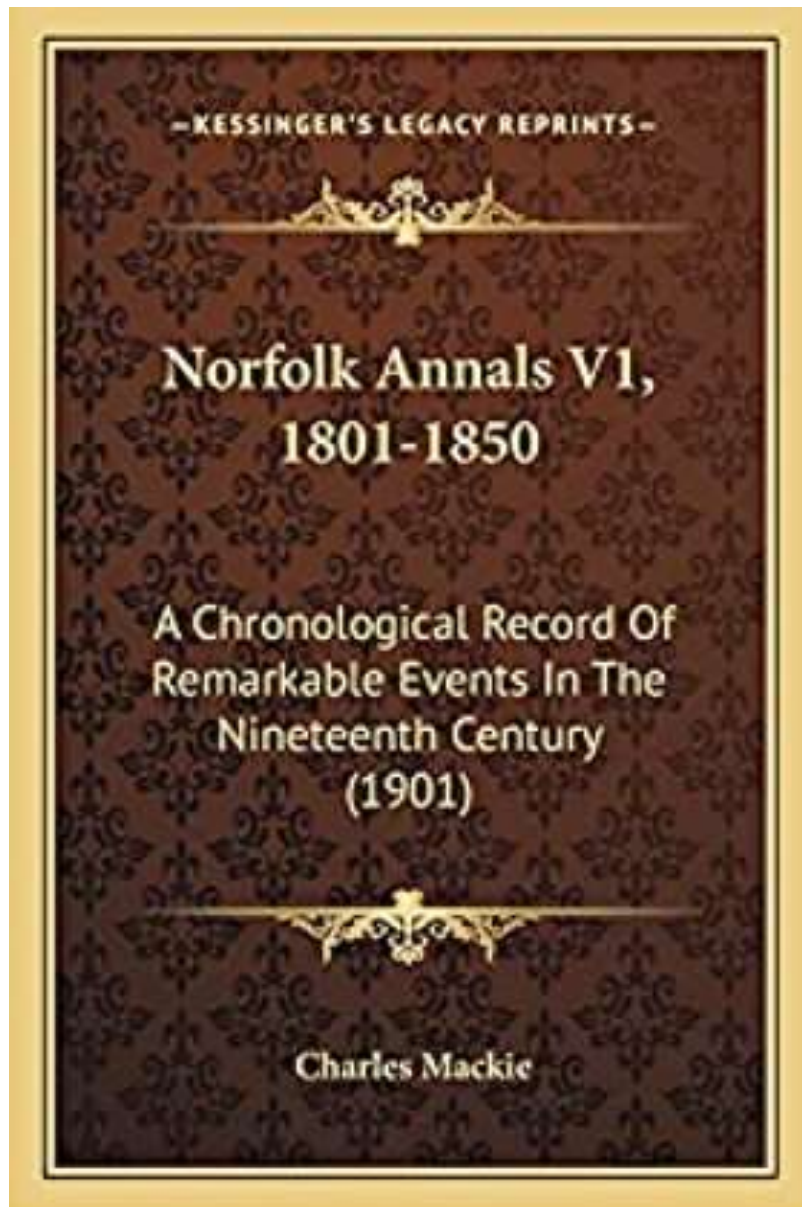


**Extracts from .....**



**..... transcriptions of entries relating to  
The town of Diss and villages nearby.**



## Contents

Introduction .....	1
Notes:.....	2
BRESSINGHAM.....	3
BURSTON.....	4
DISS .....	6
DICKLEBURGH.....	21
EAST HARLING .....	23
FERSFIELD .....	26
NORTH LOPHAM .....	27
ROYDON.....	28
SCOLE .....	31
SHELFANGER.....	33
SOUTH LOPHAM.....	35
THORPE ABBOTTS .....	36
WINFARTHING .....	37

## Norfolk Annals

## Introduction

*“It is beyond the capacity of the human intellect to discriminate beforehand between what is valuable and what is valueless in the pursuit of historical research. What would we give now for newspapers and trade circulars illustrating the social habits of many bygone times and peoples?  
The Times, May 4, 1900.*

Charles Mackie published 2 books entitled “Norfolk Annals - A Chronological Record Of Remarkable Events In the Nineteenth Century” They chronologically quoted sections from the Norfolk Chronicle newspaper that were deemed worthy of note; volume 1, 1801-1850, and volume 2, 1851-1900. These books were reprinted several times. The cover picture is of a reprint from 1901.

Mackie’s work was started as an index to the 19<sup>th</sup> century files of articles in the Norfolk Chronicle, which not originally planned for publication. Mackie was advised to enhance his work which would become a continuation of a chronology begun by a Mr. Jonathan Matchett, senior proprietor of the Norfolk Chronicle who published “The Norfolk and Norwich Remembrancer and Vade-Mecum”. He was encouraged to supply a book of reference upon a variety of subjects relating to Norfolk and Norwich. Some of the facts he recorded may not in themselves be considered of great note, but when viewed as a whole they illustrate the many manners and customs, wisdoms and follies, labours, and amusements of Norfolk people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The “Norfolk Annals” appears less pretentious than Matchett’s earlier “Norfolk and Norwich Remembrancer” work, and it gives no topographical and statistical information.

Copies of Mackie’s two documents can be found in the [Project Gutenberg](#) library.

Some of the sections relating to places around Diss in Norfolk are transcribed within, which may provide snippets of information for genealogists and local historians.

## Notes:

- If you can provide any background information around the contents of any of the articles, please make contact and we'll add them in.
- Some dates have a note after them, e.g.: **11.11.1809 (Reported on...)**. This indicates that the date is not when the event happened but the date the notice was published.

## BRESSINGHAM



Nothing found .....

## BURSTON



**04.11.1817**

Married at Gissing, W. Newby, of **Burston**, to Susanna Fleet, of the former place, widow. "Their united ages amounted to upwards of 140 years. Nearly 40 years ago she married John Fleet, her first husband, who, after living with her several years, set out on his travels and visited the most distant parts of the world. The only report that ever reached her was the news of his death, when, having given what she considered a decent time to his memory and his loss, she again entered into the state of matrimony. After living several years with her second husband the first returned and claimed her, and his death which lately happened gave her the second opportunity of being legally united to the man of her heart, which actually took place, and she was a second time married to the same person."

**05.03.1877**

The Norfolk Staghounds had an extraordinary run. The meet was at Hempnall House, and fifty horsemen were present. The stag ran to Shelton and Alburgh, and then made to the right for Redenhall, through Stanton, Pulham St. Mary, and Pulham Market, crossing the turnpike by Carpenter's Walk, on through Wacton and Moulton, to Tivetshall station, where the first check of two minutes occurred - time, 1 hour 3 minutes; distance, 14 miles. The hounds again upon the line, went through Gissing to Dickleburgh, **Burston**, and Diss, made for the right to Shelfanger, when another slight check occurred. The field by this time had dwindled down to twelve. On again through Winfarthing to Kenninghall, to the left to Bridgham and East Harling, and back to Kenninghall, where the deer was recaptured and placed in a stable belonging to Messrs. Murton and Turner. The distance was supposed to be 45 miles, and the run occupied 3 hours 5 minutes. "Among those who rode straightest to the end of this wonderful run were Hickman, the huntsman, who went like a



## Norfolk Annals

bird, and handled his horse well; Mr. E. Fellowes, Mr. T. N. Ward, Mr. James Limmer, Mr. Cross, and two officers of the Royal Dragoons, from Norwich.”

## DISS



### 22.12.1803

The Dereham and Swaffham troops of Yeomanry Cavalry (Capts. Crisp and Johnson) marched through Norwich to Yarmouth, to relieve the Lynn and Freebridge troops. The **Diss** (Capt. Woodward), Wells (Capt. Bloom), and Old Buckenham (Capt. Powell) companies of infantry marched into Yarmouth for a fortnight's garrison duty.

### 31.01.1804

The several companies of Norfolk Volunteer Infantry were this month formed into battalions as follow:--1st (Lynn), Lieut.-Col. E. Everard; 2nd (Wells, &c.), Lieut.-Col. Francis Bedingfeld; 3rd (not then appointed); 4th (Cromer, &c.), Lieut.-Col. the Right Hon. Wm. Windham; 5th (Aylsham, &c.), Lieut.-Col. Thomas Hutton (afterwards Sir Thomas Preston, Bart.); 6th (Yarmouth), Lieut.-Col. Wm Gould; 7th (Norwich), Lieut.-Col. Harvey; 8th (Loddon, &c.), Lieut.-Col. John Kerrich; 9th (**Diss**, &c.), Lieut.-Col. T. J. Woodward; 10th (Swaffham, &c.), Lieut.-Col. R. W. Ottley; 11th (Freebridge Lynn, &c.), Lieut.-Col. A. Hamond.

### 27.07.1805 (Reported on...)

"At **Diss**, a number of labourers in husbandry refused to work for the customary wages, and being out of employment applied to the magistrates, who advised the parish officers to put them to work, which they accordingly did. Their business was to carry bricks in a hod from Palgrave to **Diss**, a distance of two miles. This medicine had the desired effect, for after two days they returned to their former employment."

### 11.11.1809 (Reported on...)

"The pleasant town of **Diss** has lately undergone so much improvement as is scarcely to be conceived, the streets having been entirely new paved, the roads much improved, and all obstructions by the projection of houses and shops removed. It will also be shortly lighted in such a manner as to render it as complete a town as any in the county."

**22.05.1816**

At a meeting of owners and occupiers of land, at **Diss**, a series of resolutions was proposed by the Rev. Mr. Manning, rector, in favour of the commutation of the tithes. It was decided to petition the House of Commons on the subject. Similar meetings were held in other parishes in the district.

**19.01.1818**

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Yarmouth, held at the New Hall, upwards of 6,000 pounds was subscribed for aiding a plan to extend the navigation of the river Waveney from Bungay to **Diss**. The sum of 5,000 pounds was raised in the latter town. At a meeting held at Bungay on February 5th the scheme was opposed by the landowners through whose property the projected canal was to pass. On February 13th the inhabitants of Thetford met to oppose the undertaking, as it was likely to be injurious to the tolls of the Lesser Ouse. It was announced on February 28th that 20,000 pounds had been subscribed, and that the expense of carrying the scheme into execution would be 36,931 pounds. A meeting was held at Yarmouth on March 10th, at which it was decided "out of respect to Mr. Adair and the rest of the proprietors to defer application to Parliament until the ensuing Session." Ultimately the scheme was abandoned. In the course of the discussions on the project, "it was thrown out in a highly respectable quarter that the end in view might be answered and all objections obviated by the substitution of an iron railway for a canal." (This is the first instance in which a "railway" is mentioned in the NORFOLK CHRONICLE.)

**10.04.1819**

Died, Mr. George Cobb, of **Diss**, aged 100.

**26.09.1821**

The foundation-stone of the Unitarian Chapel in Park Field, **Diss**, was laid by Mr. Meadows Taylor and Mr. Thomas Dyson

**11.01.1823**

At a fire which occurred at Blackthorn Farm, **Diss**, in the occupation of Mr. John Eley, a chimney fell and killed John Gardiner and William Tipple. Two other persons were severely injured.

**16.12.1825**

Messrs. T. H. and W. Day, of the Norwich and Swaffham Bank, announced that they were compelled to suspend their payments. On the 17th it was made known that a docket had been struck preparatory to a commission of bankruptcy being issued against the firm.--Messrs. Fincham's Bank at **Diss** stopped payment at about the same date owing to the sudden death of Mr. Benjamin Fincham on November 19th, but was re-opened on January 9th, 1826.

**20.02.1827**

A cricket match was played on the ice at **Diss** Mere. It commenced at 10 a.m., and was well contested until dusk, in the presence of about 1,500 spectators.

**22.03.1829**

Died at **Diss**, aged 105 years 6 months, Mrs. Philip Bacon.

**14.05.1829**

The body of a woman named Gooderham was found murdered in Broome Lane, **Diss**. After an inquiry lasting six days, during which 41 witnesses were examined, the Coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

**02.04.1832**

A steeplechase took place from a field near Wheatacre White House to Thurlton Church (distance between four and five miles), between a bay mare, the property of Mr. Charles Duppa, of Kent (owner up), and a chestnut horse

belonging to Mr. John Carr, of Beales (ridden by his whipper-in, R. Warner). The mare won easily. Protest entered. On the same day another steeplechase was ridden from Gissing Church to Thurlton Church, between "the celebrated little grey horse," the property of Mr. Charles Ellis, of Shelfanger Hall, and a "grey mare of hunting celebrity," belonging to Mr. Williams, of **Diss**. The horse won.

**01.09.1832** (Reported on...)

"At a meeting of the inhabitants of **Diss**, held last week, it was resolved that the present peal of eight bells should be recast, with an additional weight of metal. A subscription was opened which, in three days, amounted to all the money needful, without any charge upon the church rate of the parish." The work was done at the Downham Market Foundry. The bells were met on their way to Diss by a large concourse of the inhabitants, who assembled at Roydon White Hart, and, forming in procession with the Diss band and the handbell ringers at their head, escorted the trucks to the town. The treble, sixth, seventh, and tenor were "maiden"; the others needed but slight alteration. The tenor weighed 23 cwt., and the total weight of the peal was 98 cwt. 2 qrs. 10 lbs.--more than 40 cwt. heavier than the former peal. The bells were "opened" on January 7th, 1833, by the St. Peter Mancroft Company, Norwich, and by other companies; public dinners were held at the different inns, in celebration of the event, and a silver-mounted snuff-box, made out of the polished oak of the old frame, was presented to the rector, the Rev. William Manning.

**22.02.1833**

Died at Winfarthing, Sarah Jessup, aged 101 years, "the last 30 of which, till a year and a half ago, she was employed as walking post from the Post Office at **Diss** to Winfarthing, a distance of four miles, which she constantly performed in all weathers, and is computed to have travelled more than 13,400 miles. She was married in the reign of George II. She had 16 children, who multiplied to the fourth generation, so that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at the time of her decease amounted to 444. Besides these, great-great-grandchildren, some of every degree and age, to the number of 200 and upwards, followed her to the grave, to which she was carried by her four sons."

**30.04.1834**

The Bishop of Rochester, officiating for the Bishop of Norwich (who was then in his 90th year), confirmed 1,700 persons at North Walsham. On subsequent days 1,000 were confirmed at Holt, and 1,050 at **Diss**.

**06.09.1834**

Died, aged 85, Mrs. Bray, wife of Mr. Thomas Bray, "proprietor of the **Diss** and Norwich waggons to Ipswich, which have regularly travelled from the Star in the Market Place, **Diss**, to the Star in the Market Place, Norwich, under the name of Bray, for more than a century and a half."

**24.12.1835**

The new Octagon chapel at Diss was opened. Sermons were preached by the Revs. J. Alexander and J. B. Innes, of Norwich.

**30.03.1837**

At a meeting held at the King's Head Inn, **Diss**, the Rev. William Manning, rector of the parish, made a voluntary commutation of the tithes.

**30.12.1837** (Reported on...)

"The town of **Diss** has been lighted with gas, which produces a splendid effect, and reflects great credit on Messrs. J. and T. Whaite, ironfounders, by whom it is supplied."

**17.03.1838**

Died at **Diss**, in his 83rd year, Mr. Meadows Taylor. "It is a singular fact that Mr. Taylor and his uncle, the late Mr. Meadows, had carried on business as solicitors in the same town and the same house for the long period of 97 years."

**19.03.1838**

Died, Mr. Thomas Bray, farmer, of **Diss**, aged 79. "He was the sole proprietor of Bray's **Diss** waggon, which has travelled over the road under the same name

for upwards of a century. He was interred on the 26th, when the hearse was followed by his children and descendants in eight gigs."

**31.03.1838** (Reported on...)

"Last week was buried, at **Diss** church, Susanna Baldry, widow, in the 104th year of her age. She was born in the year 1734, in the seventh of George II., and was a subject of four Kings and a Queen."

**25.05.1839** (Reported on...)

"A tomb of novel construction has lately been erected in **Diss** churchyard. It is constructed entirely of cast-iron, and for neatness, security, and durability excels anything of the kind we have ever noticed."

**15.06.1839** (Reported on...)

"A full length portrait of the rector, the Rev. William Manning, by Mr. Thomas Ronds, of London, formerly of **Diss**, has been placed in the committee room of the **Diss** Hospital, the result of a subscription set on foot by the inhabitants."

**28.01.1840**

Steeplechases took place at Long Stratton. Among the other meetings this season were the military steeplechases by the officers of the 9th Royal Lancers at Shimpling Hall on March 3rd; the Fakenham Steeplechases on March 13th, over a four-mile course, with the winning-post on Hempton Green, where, in the heavy weight race, the silver cup, value 100 pounds, with 50 sovs. added, was won by Mr. Skelton's ch.h. Colonel, ridden by Wright (sixty-five years of age), and Mr. J. Elmere's br.h. Lottery (winner of the Liverpool stakes) was unplaced; the Norfolk and Suffolk Steeplechases, at **Diss**, on March 17th; the Loddon Steeplechases, on March 27th; and the Yarmouth Steeplechases, on March 31st.

**03.05.1840**

Died at Bath, Mr. Thomas Manning, of Orange Grove, Dartford, and formerly of **Diss**. "An eminent linguist, he accompanied Lord Amherst's embassy to China, and was considered the best Siamese scholar in Europe, Dr. Morrison and Mr. St. Julien being his only rivals. He was able to speak fluently fifteen languages,

and maintained a correspondence with the literati of the world. For months he resided at H'lassa, in the kingdom of Thibet, and was the only Englishman who had ever penetrated to the metropolis of the Lama. There he spoke during his sojourn only Latin, and on his departure received the benediction of the Lama."

**02.09.1840**

At the King's Head Inn, **Diss**, the brewery, public-houses, mansion, farm, and other property of Mr. Robert Sheriffe, of Diss, were sold by auction by Mr. W. W. Simpson, of London. The brewery and public-houses were purchased by Mr. Samuel Farrow, and the amount realised by the three days' sale was 50,000 pounds. "The great increase in the value of country public-houses apparent from the enormous prices which have lately been realised for this description of property leads us to believe that the shock which the trade suffered on the passing of the Beer Bill some years since has been entirely recovered, and that country public-houses are now even of greater value than they were antecedent to the passing of that measure."

**05.05.1841**

The Bishop of Norwich confirmed 500 persons at **Diss**. His lordship, in the course of this visitation, confirmed 10,464 young persons.

**15.01.1842**

"Died last week, in the 85th year of his age, Mr. Thos. Leech, hosier, one of the oldest inhabitants of **Diss**. He was the representative of the venerable Bishop Blaize in the last procession of the wool-combers held at Diss at about the same time the like pageant was exhibited at Norwich, **Diss** having been esteemed a great manufactory of hosiery, and one of the chief in Norfolk and Suffolk."

**04.03.1848** (Reported on...)

"Freehold building land is now freely selling on what is called **Diss** Common, for building purposes, at the rate of 700 pounds per acre, which before the railway was barely worth the tillage."

**22.10.1849**



A public meeting was held at the Independent chapel, **Diss**, for the purpose of hearing statements from Mr. James Everett respecting the expulsion of himself and Messrs. Dunn and Griffith from the Wesleyan Conference. On the 24th a similar meeting was held at St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, when resolutions were passed condemnatory of the action of the Conference and expressive of sympathy with the expelled ministers. The agitation was continued until June 22nd, 1850, on the 19th of which month another meeting took place at St. Andrew's Hall, at which the Wesleyan Reformers uttered "violent tirades against the Conference, the Missionary Committee, and other ruling bodies of Wesleyanism." In December, 1850, a series of disturbances occurred at Lenwade, where the services of the chapel were stopped and the preacher, the Rev. C. Povah, assaulted with stones and burnt in effigy. Magisterial proceedings at Reepham were followed by an application in the Court of Chancery for an injunction to restrain certain persons from interrupting Mr. Povah and other ministers in the performance of religious worship at the Wesleyan chapel, Cawston. The affidavits read disclosed a number of gross outrages upon the ministers, extending over the period of six months. Issue of the injunction was stayed upon the defendants entering into an undertaking not to disturb or molest the plaintiffs in the exercise of their duties.

#### **05.04.1850**

At the Norfolk Assizes, before Lord Chief Baron Pollock, Blofield John Rix and Henry Senior were charged with stealing, embezzling, and misappropriating various sums of money, to the amount of 10,589 pounds 18s., the property of their employers. Both prisoners were employed at the **Diss** Bank. The proprietor, Mr. Dyson, was taken seriously ill in the month of December, 1848, and an arrangement was made that Mr. Thomas Lombe Taylor, son of Mr. Meadows Taylor, a former partner with Mr. Dyson, should be taken into partnership, and the partnership commenced in 1849. On January 19th Mr. Dyson died, and Mr. Taylor intended to dispose of the business to the firm of Messrs. Harveys and Hudson. It became necessary to go through the accounts, and then the frauds were discovered. The prisoners were tried on a charge of simple larceny, whereupon they pleaded guilty, and were sentenced, Rix to 18 months' and Senior to 12 months' imprisonment.

#### **09.12.1854**

A description was published of the new Corn Hall at **Diss**, erected by a public-spirited resident, Mr. T. L. Taylor. The building was designed by Mr. George Atkins, jun. "Mr. Taylor intends vesting it in trustees for the purposes of a corn market at a nominal rental, and he further intends appropriating a spacious apartment for a reading-room and library."

**16.11.1856**

The Earl of Albemarle addressed a large meeting of the industrial class at the Corn Hall, **Diss**, upon the subject of "Benefit Clubs." In the course of his remarks, he asserted "the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows is humbug from beginning to end." The action of his lordship evoked a large amount of newspaper correspondence, and on November 6th Mr. Samuel Daynes, a former "Grand Master" of the Unity, introduced at **Diss** a Mr. Reeve, who delivered an address to rebut the assertions of Lord Albemarle.

**28.09.1858**

A public testimonial, consisting of a piece of plate and a portrait of himself, painted by Mr. Boxall, of London, was presented by the inhabitants of **Diss** to Mr. Thomas Lombe Taylor, in recognition of his munificence in building, at his own expense, a Corn Hall for the use of the town, at the cost of £7,000. The presentation took place at the Corn Hall, where dinner was served, under the presidency of the Earl of Albemarle.

**07.07.1859**

Died at Roydon Rectory, the Rev. Temple Frere, canon of Westminster and rector of Roydon, aged 78. He was son of Mr. John Frere, for some years member of Parliament for Norwich, and took his B.A. degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1802, as eighth junior optime, migrating afterwards to Downing College. Ordained deacon in 1804 and priest in 1805, he was presented, in 1820, to the family living of Roydon (valued at £400), which he held until his death. He owned the greater part of **Diss**, and was an active magistrate in that division of the county. Having served some time as chaplain of the House of Commons, he was gazetted to a canonry in Westminster Abbey in 1838. Canon Frere was remarkable for his businesslike habits, and is said to have considerably improved in value the Abbey estates.

**20.06.1861**

Mr. and Mrs. Ringer, of Walcot Green, near **Diss**, left their house in charge of a servant, named Susan Garrod, and on their return in the evening found her suffering from several gunshot wounds in the head and face, inflicted by a man named Charles Shel Drake, a returned convict, employed as a groom and gardener by Mr. Ringer. Shel Drake, after committing the deed, secreted himself in a wood. On being called on by the police to surrender, he placed the muzzle of a double-barrelled gun to his mouth and blew out his brains. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of *\_felo de se\_*, and the Coroner gave a warrant for the interment of the body between the hours of nine and twelve o'clock. "The body was accordingly buried at ten o'clock at night, under one of the paths in the churchyard."

#### **10.12.1866**

The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived, by rail, at **Diss**, whence the Prince and Princess proceeded to Oakley Park, on a visit to Sir E. C. Kerrison, Bart., M.P., and Lady Caroline Kerrison; and the Duke to Thornham Hall, on a visit to Baron and Lady Hartismere. Their Royal Highnesses returned to Sandringham on the 13th.

#### **14.10.1867**

A huge female elephant, weighing five tons, and belonging to Edmonds' (late Wombwell's) Menagerie, started from **Diss** with the show, but had not gone far when she fell in Denmark Street. Poles and tackle had to be procured, and after four hours' labour the ponderous animal was raised, put in the caravan, and taken back to the fair green, where she was placed in slings. Cordials and other restoratives were administered, but the animal died on the following day. She was valued at between £800 and £900, and had been fifteen years in the collection.

#### **08.08.1868** (Reported on...)

"The death, of Mr. George Cattermole, the well-known artist, is announced. He was born at Dickleburgh, near **Diss**, in 1800. At an early age he acquired proficiency as a draughtsman, and some of the most elaborate drawings in Britton's 'Cathedrals' emanate from him."

#### **18.01.1869**

The new Cemetery at **Diss** was consecrated by the Bishop of Norwich. The total cost of the chapels, lodge, &c., was about £1,750, but this sum was exclusive of the price of the land.

**06.10.1871**

Great excitement was caused at **Diss** by the closing of the doors of Messrs. Fincham and Co.'s Bank. In a circular issued shortly afterwards, Mr. Simpson stated that he was compelled to adopt this course owing to the continued strain upon his resources. On the 7th it was announced that arrangements were being made by which it was hoped the business of the Bank would be carried on; and on the same day Messrs. Gurneys intimated that they would afford banking facilities to the customers of Messrs. Fincham and Simpson during the temporary suspension of business. A meeting of the creditors was held on the 10th, and a committee appointed; and representatives of the London and Provincial Bank carried out negotiations which resulted in the Bank being re-opened on the 11th. Another meeting was held on November 2nd, for the purpose of proving debts and of realising the estate. Payment to the creditors of 10s. in the pound was arranged, it being understood that further dividends would be paid as the estate was realised. The liabilities were reported to be £87,305 5s. 6d., and the assets £54,491 18s. 2d.

**12.02.1876**

Died at his residence, the Depperhaugh, **Diss**, Admiral Sir John Baldwin Wake Walker, Bart., K.C.B. Born in 1803, he entered the Navy in 1812, and saw much service. In 1847 he was appointed Surveyor to the Navy; in 1861 he assumed command of the Cape of Good Hope station, and attained the rank of Admiral in 1870. He was created a baronet in 1856.

**15.03.1877**

The Norfolk Staghounds had an extraordinary run. The meet was at Hempnall House, and fifty horsemen were present. The stag ran to Shelton and Alburgh, and then made to the right for Redenhall, through Stanton, Pulham St. Mary, and Pulham Market, crossing the turnpike by Carpenter's Walk, on through Wacton and Moulton, to Tivetshall station, where the first check of two minutes occurred—time, 1 hour 3 minutes; distance, 14 miles. The hounds again upon the line, went through Gissing to Dickleburgh, Burston, and **Diss**,

made for the right to Shelfanger, when another slight check occurred. The field by this time had dwindled down to twelve. On again through Winfarthing to Kenninghall, to the left to Bridgham and East Harling, and back to Kenninghall, where the deer was recaptured and placed in a stable belonging to Messrs. Murton and Turner. The distance was supposed to be 45 miles, and the run occupied 3 hours 5 minutes. "Among those who rode straightest to the end of this wonderful run were Hickman, the huntsman, who went like a bird, and handled his horse well; Mr. E. Fellowes, Mr. T. N. Ward, Mr. James Limmer, Mr. Cross, and two officers of the Royal Dragoons, from Norwich."

**20.06.1877**

The two days' show of the Norfolk Agricultural Association was opened in the grounds of Walcot Hall, **Diss**. Sir Edward C. Kerrison, Bart., presided at the luncheon.

**01.11.1877**

The restored chancel and newly-erected organ of **Diss** church were opened. The instrument was built by Messrs. J. Rayson and Sons, of Ipswich, at the cost of £360.

**15.04.1879**

A new oratorio, "Nehemiah," by Dr. Hill, of Norwich, was performed for the first time. It was produced at the Corn Hall, **Diss**, by the members of the Diss Choral Society.

**24.06.1881**

Died, suddenly, at Hawick, N.B., where he was fulfilling an engagement, Mr. Charles Dillon, the well-known actor. Mr. Dillon, who was in his 62nd year, was a native of **Diss**, and first appeared upon the provincial stage, where he acquired considerable reputation as an elocutionist and exponent of legitimate drama. He made his first appearance on the London stage at Sadler's Wells Theatre, and subsequently became lessee and manager of the Lyceum Theatre. Mr. Dillon's last appearance in London was in September, 1878, and in Norwich on April 10th, 1880.

**24.11.1885**

For South Norfolk Sir Robert Jacob Buxton, Bart. (C), and Mr. Francis Taylor, of **Diss** (L.), were nominated. The polling took place on the 27th, and the result was declared at the Shirehall, Norwich, on the 28th as follows:—Taylor, 4,580; Buxton, 3,588.

**21.04.1888** (Reported on...)

“A party of emigrants, numbering sixty, from parishes in the neighbourhood of **Diss**, have left this week for Canada.”

**10.01.1891**

An “ice carnival” took place on **Diss** Mere. The performers and spectators numbered five thousand.

**05.07.1892**

The nomination of candidates for South Norfolk was held at the Shirehall, Norwich. Mr. Francis Taylor, of **Diss**, was the Liberal-Unionist, and Mr. Albert George Kitching, Chase Court, Enfield, the Gladstonian nominee. The polling took place on the 11th, and the declaration on the 12th: Taylor 4,288; Kitching, 3,535.

**01.01.1895**

Severe weather was experienced throughout the county. The snowfall was heavy, and deep drifts everywhere impeded traffic, especially in West Norfolk. On the 23rd the Yare overflowed its banks, and during a fearful storm at Yarmouth the water rose to an alarming height. Elaborate precautions were taken to prevent a recurrence of the catastrophe of the previous month, and although the Hall Quay was flooded the water was kept out of the dwellings and store-houses. The Beach Gardens narrowly escaped destruction. On the same day Eccles tower, which had been a landmark for generations, fell through the force of wind and waves. In the last week of the month the frost was more intense than it had been at any time during the winter, and in Norwich pedestrian and vehicular traffic was rendered difficult by the snow. Observations taken at Blofield on February 6th showed that the thermometer in screen, four feet above ground, fell to four degrees Fahrenheit, and the exposed thermometer on the grass to three and a half degrees below zero.

This was said to have been three degrees colder than on any night during the severe frost of 1890–91, and it was the coldest night since January 26th, 1881. On the 9th the frost was more severe in certain districts than had hitherto been recorded in the century, and remarkably low readings were received from various parts of the county. Skating was everywhere general. At **Diss** an ice carnival held on the Mere was attended by between 2,000 and 3,000 people attired in fancy costumes, and similar displays of a minor character took place in other localities. On the 17th the frost showed unmistakable signs of breaking up. For twenty-eight successive nights, from January 20th to February 17th, the mercury had fallen below freezing point, a longer period of continuous frost in the opening months of the year than had probably been recorded for half a century.

### **13.07.1895**

The nomination of candidates for South Norfolk took place at the Shirehall, Norwich. Mr. Thomas Hamer Dolbey, Stratford House, Sutton, Surrey, barrister-at-law, was proposed by the Liberals, and Mr. Francis Taylor, of **Diss**, brewer, by the Unionists. Polling on the 17th: Taylor, 4,281; Dolbey, 3,445.

### **15.12.1895**

Died at **Diss**, Mr. Thomas Edward Amyot, F.R.C.S., eldest son of Mr. Thomas Amyot, F.R.S., F.S.A., aged 78. Of geology Mr. Amyot had much practical knowledge, was one of the first to write about the famed Hoxne pits, and he also assisted Canon Greenwell in his examination of the Grimes' graves. With his pencil he was very clever, rather after the style of Caldicott, and quite as original. His facility in writing verse was well known. His "Legend of Cologne" was criticised as being not inferior to "Ingoldsby"; and his "Oleum Jecoris Aselli," after the rhythm of "Hiawatha," was pronounced by Bishop Goodwin as being one of the cleverest things of the kind he had ever read. Astronomy was also one of Mr. Amyot's favourite studies.

### **12.08.1897**

A fire occurred on premises in Denmark Street, **Diss**, and caused damage estimated at £6,000.

### **07.02.1899**

Died at **Diss** rectory, the Rev. Charles Robertson Manning, M.A., F.S.A., honorary canon of Norwich Cathedral, rural dean of Redenhall, and for 42 years rector of Diss, aged 73. Canon Manning was a magistrate for the county, and a member of the **Diss** School Board, but he was best known for his labours in archaeology. He published "A List of Monumental Brasses remaining in England," and shortly before his death compiled "A List of Monumental Brasses omitted by Blomefield." Canon Manning was a well-known authority on church plate, and among other subjects upon which he wrote were church architecture, lecterns, fonts, heraldry, seals, coins, mediaeval patens, and antiquarians objects of almost every kind.

**28.06.1899**

The Summer Show of the Norfolk Agricultural Association was opened at **Diss**. Mr. Edward Mann presided at the luncheon. The exhibition closed on the 29th.



## DICKLEBURGH



**20.04.1813** (Reported on...)

“The second cousins of Mr. Henry Kett, late of Norwich, have generously presented the sum of £500 towards the establishment of a Lancasterian school at **Dickleburgh**, the native place of the deceased.”

**09.08.1843**

Norwich and many parts of the county were visited by one of the severest thunderstorms that had occurred for many years. It was accompanied by a hailstorm which did immense damage—in the city windows and conservatories were smashed, in the county garden and field crops were destroyed. The first floors and cellars in Surrey Street, St. Stephen’s Street, Rampant Horse Street, the Market Place, and London Street were flooded, and in places morsels of ice lay from four to five inches deep. The storm lasted half an hour. The performance at the Theatre was stopped, and the terrified audience in the gallery rushed down the stairs and found the passage filled with water, which prevented their escape. The river at Bishop Bridge rose one foot in five minutes. At two o’clock on the morning of the 10th, the rain and hail again descended with great violence, and “a surface of flame spread across the heavens, followed by a clap of thunder which seemed to rend the welkin.” Another storm occurred on the 15th, and on the 18th waterspouts were observed at Rushall and **Dickleburgh**. At a meeting at the Bishop’s Palace on the 19th, steps were taken for the relief of the sufferers, a public subscription organized, and surveyors appointed to assess the damage. In September the Committee reported that the total losses amounted to £30,770 2s. 3d. In some p. 431parishes a voluntary rate of threepence in the pound was paid to assist the relief fund. The contributions from the parishes amounted to £5,622, and individual subscriptions to £4,391.

**08.08.1868** (Reported on ...)

“The death, of Mr. George Cattermole, the well-known artist, is announced. He was born at **Dickleburgh**, near Diss, in 1800. At an early age he acquired proficiency as a draughtsman, and some of the most elaborate drawings in Britton’s ‘Cathedrals’ emanate from him.”

**15.03.1877**

The Norfolk Staghounds had an extraordinary run. The meet was at Hempnall House, and fifty horsemen were present. The stag ran to Shelton and Alburgh, and then made to the right for Redenhall, through Stanton, Pulham St. Mary, and Pulham Market, crossing the turnpike by Carpenter’s Walk, on through Wacton and Moulton, to Tivetshall station, where the first check of two minutes occurred - time, 1 hour 3 minutes; distance, 14 miles. The hounds again upon the line, went through Gissing to **Dickleburgh**, Burston, and Diss, made for the right to Shelfanger, when another slight check occurred. The field by this time had dwindled down to twelve. On again through Winfarthing to Kenninghall, to the left to Bridgham and East Harling, and back to Kenninghall, where the deer was recaptured and placed in a stable belonging to Messrs. Murton and Turner. The distance was supposed to be 45 miles, and the run occupied 3 hours 5 minutes. “Among those who rode straightest to the end of this wonderful run were Hickman, the huntsman, who went like a bird, and handled his horse well; Mr. E. Fellowes, Mr. T. N. Ward, Mr. James Limmer, Mr. Cross, and two officers of the Royal Dragoons, from Norwich.”

## EAST HARLING



**05.07.1804**

The **East Harling** magistrates fined a farmer 20s., for refusing to send his waggon to assist in taking the baggage of the East Suffolk Militia from Thetford to Downham, after having been summoned for that purpose.

**04.11.1815** (Reported on...)

“Died lately, aged 101, Mrs. Stockings, of **East Harling**.”

**15.07.1817**

A meeting of the gentry, clergy, and yeomen of the Hundreds of Guiltcross and Shropham was held at **East Harling**, under the presidency of the Earl of Albemarle, when an address was voted to Mr. Coke, M.P., and presented to him at Thetford Wool Fair on July 26th.

**27.02.1822**

The machine breaking riots commenced in Norfolk. Upwards of a hundred labourers assembled at Kenninghall, and seized the threshing machine of Mr. Bailey, a farmer. The Rev. J. Surtees, of Banham, a county justice, at once proceeded to a neighbouring farm where an auction was being held, and, in the King's name, requested the auctioneer and the farmers present to assist him in quelling the disturbance. The whole party rode over to Kenninghall, and after p. 206 the Riot Act had been read the mob dispersed. On March 4th there were further riotous assemblies at Attleborough, Shropham, Buckenham, Banham, &c. The Eye troop of Yeomanry Cavalry were called out, and of the 30 rioters secured eight who were regarded as ringleaders, and they were sent to Norwich Castle under cavalry escort. The Yeomanry after lodging the prisoners in gaol were assailed by a Norwich mob, who stoned them in the

streets, and attacked the Trowel and Hammer public-house, St. Stephen's, where they had halted to bait their horses. The troopers returned to headquarters at **East Harling** after a march of eighty miles in twenty hours. Many prisoners were also committed to the Castle from other districts, and several cases of incendiarism were reported. At the adjourned Quarter Sessions for the county, held at Norwich on the 6th, the rioters were tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment in the Bridewells and houses of correction in the county. A guard of the West Norfolk Militia was stationed at the Castle, and a squadron of the Norwich Light Horse Volunteers did duty at the Cavalry Barracks until relieved by the 16th Lancers. The Lancers and Light Horse afterwards acted as escorts to the vans by which the prisoners were conveyed to the different prisons. On the march the military were repeatedly stoned by the mobs. Detachments of the 7th Dragoon Guards were stationed at Hingham and Attleborough, and remained at those places until the lawless disposition manifested by the rural population had subsided.

#### **14.04.1837**

Sir James Flower closed his hunting season by entertaining his sporting friend's at the Swan Inn, **East Harling**. The dinner was of the most sumptuous character, and "a band of fourteen men in scarlet played numerous airs and concerted pieces."

#### **09.05.1863** (Reported on...)

"Challenge: Thomas Jessup, of **East Harling**, now in his 102nd year, is willing to walk against 'Father Time' or any other man of the same age as himself now living in England or elsewhere, a fair toe and heel match, without the aid of stick, crutch, or other auxiliary. The one doing the greatest distance in one day (or in a month, if preferred) to be entitled to the stakes, which can be made for any sum not exceeding £50 a side."

#### **15.03.1877**

The Norfolk Staghounds had an extraordinary run. The meet was at Hempnall House, and fifty horsemen were present. The stag ran to Shelton and Alburgh, and then made to the right for Redenhall, through Stanton, Pulham St. Mary, and Pulham Market, crossing the turnpike by Carpenter's Walk, on through Wacton and Moulton, to Tivetshall station, where the first check of two minutes occurred - time, 1 hour 3 minutes; distance, 14 miles. The hounds

again upon the line, went through Gissing to Dickleburgh, Burston, and Diss, made for the right to Shelfanger, when another slight check occurred. The field by this time had dwindled down to twelve. On again through Winfarthing to Kenninghall, to the left to Bridgham and **East Harling**, and back to Kenninghall, where the deer was recaptured and placed in a stable belonging to Messrs. Murton and Turner. The distance was supposed to be 45 miles, and the run occupied 3 hours 5 minutes. "Among those who rode straightest to the end of this wonderful run were Hickman, the huntsman, who went like a bird, and handled his horse well; Mr. E. Fellowes, Mr. T. N. Ward, Mr. James Limmer, Mr. Cross, and two officers of the Royal Dragoons, from Norwich."

## FERSFIELD



**01.01.1814**

A remarkable funeral took place at Shelfanger. The body of Mr. Smith, a farmer, was conveyed from **Fersfield** in a waggon drawn by his own team. The coffin was covered with a waggon tilt, and sacks of straw served as seats for his children and grandchildren. Behind the waggon walked his riding horse as chief mourner, and the singers of the congregation chanted a funeral dirge. "He was a person who in habits, manners, and opinions exhibited a singularity that was not easily paralleled."

## NORTH LOPHAM



Nothing found .....

## ROYDON



### 05.07.1802

Parliament having been dissolved on June 29th, the election of members for the city of Norwich took place on this day. The candidates were the Right Hon. Wm. Windham, of Felbrigg, and Mr. John Frere, of **Roydon**; Mr. Robert Fellowes, of Shottesham, and Mr. William Smith. At the close of the poll the numbers were:—Fellowes, 1,532; Smith, 1,439; Windham, 1,356; Frere, 1,328. There was great rioting. The chairing took place on the day following the declaration of the poll.

### 12.07.1802

Mr. John Hookham Frere, of **Roydon**, was this month appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Madrid.

### 08.07.1807

Died, at Lady Fenn's, East Dereham, aged 67, Mr. John Frere, of **Roydon**, Norfolk, and of Finningham, Suffolk. He was member for Norwich from 1799 to 1802.

### 01.09.1832 (Reported on...)

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Diss, held last week, it was resolved that the present peal of eight bells should be recast, with an additional weight of metal. A subscription was opened which, in three days, amounted to all the money needful, without any charge upon the church rate of the parish." The work was done at the Downham Market Foundry. The bells were met on their way to Diss by a large concourse of the inhabitants, who assembled at **Roydon** White Hart, and, forming in procession with the Diss band and the handbell ringers at their head, escorted the trucks to the town. The treble, sixth,



seventh, and tenor were “maiden”; the others needed but slight alteration. The tenor weighed 23 cwt., and the total weight of the peal was 98 cwt. 2 qrs. 10 lbs.—more than 40 cwt. heavier than the former peal. The bells were “opened” on January 7th, 1833, by the St. Peter Mancroft Company, Norwich, and by other companies; public dinners were held at the different inns, in celebration of the event, and a silver-mounted snuff-box, made out of the polished oak of the old frame, was presented to the rector, the Rev. William Manning.

#### **07.01.1846**

Died at Malta, aged 77, the Right Hon. John Hookham Frere, of **Roydon** Hall, eldest son of Mr. John Frere, formerly member for Norwich. Mr. Hookham Frere was educated at Eton, where he had Canning as a school companion. When very young he evinced a love for verse, and made, when only an Eton school boy, his clever translation of the Anglo-Saxon War Song on the victory of Athelstan, written when the Rowley controversy was at its height. George Ellis gave it a place in his historical essay before his “Specimens of the Poets,” and Scott invariably spoke of it as something more than a mere curiosity. Another of Mr. Frere’s works was a “prospectus and specimen” of his “Intended National Work by William and Robert Whistlecraft of Stowmarket in Suffolk, Hemp and Collar Makers, intended to comprise the most interesting particulars relating to King Arthur and his Round Table”—the precursor and original of Byron’s “Beppo” and “Don Juan.” “I have written,” says Byron, “a poem of 84 octave stanzas, in or after the excellent manner of Mr. Whistlecraft, whom I take to be Mr. Frere.”

#### **07.07.1859**

Died at **Roydon** Rectory, the Rev. Temple Frere, canon of Westminster and rector of Roydon, aged 78. He was son of Mr. John Frere, for some years member of Parliament for Norwich, and took his B.A. degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1802, as eighth junior optime, migrating afterwards to Downing College. Ordained deacon in 1804 and priest in 1805, he was presented, in 1820, to the family living of Roydon (valued at £400), which he held until his death. He owned the greater part of Diss, and was an active magistrate in that division of the county. Having served some time as chaplain of the House of Commons, he was gazetted to a canonry in Westminster Abbey in 1838. Canon Frere was remarkable for his businesslike habits, and is said to have considerably improved in value the Abbey estates.

**29.05.1884**

Died, at Wimbledon, the Right Hon. Sir Bartle Frere, G.C.B., G.C.S.I. He belonged to an ancient family established in Norfolk and Suffolk from the time of the Conquest, and was a younger brother of Mr. George Edward Frere, of **Roydon**, near Diss. Born on March 29th, 1815, he was educated at Bath Grammar School, and at the age of seventeen was nominated to Haileybury; in the entrance examination he came out last but one, but once admitted he set himself to work with such energy that at the end of 1833 he passed from the college as its foremost student into the ranks of the Company's Civil Service. His name will ever be associated with South African diplomacy.

## SCOLE



**24.10.1812** (Reported on...)

(Advert.) “Norwich and Ipswich New Post Coach through **Scole**, Eye, Debenham, and Helmingham, by W. Norbrook, sets off from the Greyhound, in Norwich, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings at eight o’clock, arrives at the Old White Hart Inn, Ipswich, the same evening, whence it sets off every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning at eight o’clock, and arrives at Norwich the same evening.”

**19.08.1815**

The Norfolk, Suffolk, and London Accommodation Coach, owned by John Noller, was advertised to leave the Norfolk Hotel, p. 130 Norwich, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning at eight o’clock, and to travel through **Scole**, Eye, and Debenham. Fares: Insides, 18s.; outsides, 12s.

**15.02.1821**

By the careless driving of the coachman the Morning Star, Yarmouth coach, was overturned at **Scole** Inn, and of the three inside and nine outside passengers, one, Mr. Butterfield, of Leeds, was seriously injured, and died on April 14th. At the Norfolk Assizes in March, 1822, an action was brought by Butterfield’s employers against the owners of the coach for the recovery of damages sustained by them by the loss of their servant. The jury found for the plaintiffs, damages, £100; expenses, £258; and costs, 40s.

**07.04.1821**

A “new and elegant” light post coach, “The Times,” was announced to set out from the Angel Inn, Norwich, to the Swan-with-Two-Necks, Lad Lane, London, on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday morning at six o’clock, by way of **Scole**,

Bury, Sudbury, and Halstead. It returned on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The proprietors, W. Start, J. Thorogood and Co., regretted "the circumstance which rendered the dissolution of partnership between them and Mrs. Nelson indispensable, in consequence of which they had no connection with the Phenomena coach." Thorogood himself drove the coach both to and from London.

### **02.05.1832**

The funeral took place at **Scole** of Ann Chapman, aged 92. "Her head was placed contrary to the usual way, agreeably to her desire, which she had made known to the sexton. She was 47 years old when she married, and her husband only 17. She had 18 children, 13 sons and five daughters, all of whom arrived to the age of maturity. Five of the sons served in the Army. This remarkable woman seldom took more than two or three hours' sleep of the twenty-four. She could see to thread the finest needle, and she retained her faculties to the latest period of her existence."

## SHELFANGER



### 01.01.1814

A remarkable funeral took place at **Shelfanger**. The body of Mr. Smith, a farmer, was conveyed from Fersfield in a waggon drawn by his own team. The coffin was covered with a waggon tilt, and sacks of straw served as seats for his children and grandchildren. Behind the waggon walked his riding horse as chief mourner, and the singers of the congregation chanted a funeral dirge. "He was a person who in habits, manners, and opinions exhibited a singularity that was not easily paralleled."

### 26.03.1825 (Reported on...)

"Died lately, at **Shelfanger**, James Catchpole, labourer, in his 105th year. Within the last year of his life he was willing and able to do a day's work in husbandry."

### 02.04.1832

A steeplechase took place from a field near Wheatacre White House to Thurlton Church (distance between four and five miles), between a bay mare, the property of Mr. Charles Duppa, of Kent (owner up), and a chestnut horse belonging to Mr. John Carr, of Beales (ridden by his whipper-in, R. Warner). The mare won easily. Protest entered. On the same day another steeplechase was ridden from Gissing Church to Thurlton Church, between "the celebrated little grey horse," the property of Mr. Charles Ellis, of **Shelfanger** Hall, and a "grey mare of hunting celebrity," belonging to Mr. Williams, of Diss. The horse won.

### 15.03.1877

The Norfolk Staghounds had an extraordinary run. The meet was at Hempnall House, and fifty horsemen were present. The stag ran to Shelton and Alburgh, and then made to the right for Redenhall, through Stanton, Pulham St. Mary, and Pulham Market, crossing the turnpike by Carpenter's Walk, on through Wacton and Moulton, to Tivetshall station, where the first check of two minutes occurred—time, 1 hour 3 minutes; distance, 14 miles. The hounds again upon the line, went through Gissing to Dickleburgh, Burston, and Diss, made for the right to **Shelfanger**, when another slight check occurred. The field by this time had dwindled down to twelve. On again through Winfarthing to Kenninghall, to the left to Bridgham and East Harling, and back to Kenninghall, where the deer was recaptured and placed in a stable belonging to Messrs. Murton and Turner. The distance was supposed to be 45 miles, and the run occupied 3 hours 5 minutes. "Among those who rode straightest to the end of this wonderful run were Hickman, the huntsman, who went like a bird, and handled his horse well; Mr. E. Fellowes, Mr. T. N. Ward, Mr. James Limmer, Mr. Cross, and two officers of the Royal Dragoons, from Norwich."

## SOUTH LOPHAM



**03.04.1830** (Reported on...)

“Last month a number of persons left North and **South Lopham** in waggons, on their way to embark at Liverpool for the United States of America. Between 100 and 200 persons are emigrating from these parishes, a considerable sum of money having been borrowed on security of the rates to defray the expenses of their passage (about £6 10s. per head), and to furnish each family with the clear sum of £5 on their landing at New York.”—[Advt.] “Emigrants to North America. The Preston, A.I., Thomas Woodthorp master, burden 300 tons, being well fitted with berths between decks, and having excellent accommodation for cabin and steerage passengers, will sail from Yarmouth, on the 15th inst., for Quebec. For passage or freight apply at the Counting-house of Isaac Preston, Esq.”

## THORPE ABBOTTS



**02.04.1881** (Reported on ...)

Mr. Edward Ebenezer Kay, Q.C., of **Thorpe Abbots**, near Scole, has accepted the Judgeship vacant by the retirement of Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Malins. He does not become Vice-chancellor, but simply one of the Judges of the High Court of Justice.”



## WINFARTHING



**18.02.1814**

Died, at Walsham, Suffolk, aged 69, the Very Rev. Coombe Miller, Dean of Chichester and rector of **Winfarthing** and Snetterton. He was buried at Eccles, near Attleborough.

**02.06.1823**

A curious incident occurred at the Fighting Cocks Inn, **Winfarthing**. "A large cock, of the true fighting breed, attacked a beautiful child, of a year and a half old, belonging to the family of the landlord, and wounded him in several places in the head and face, and if timely assistance had not been at hand there is little doubt that he would have repeated his attacks till he had deprived him of his sight, if not his life. The cock was killed immediately."

**22.02.1833**

Died at **Winfarthing**, Sarah Jessup, aged 101 years, "the last 30 of which, till a year and a half ago, she was employed as walking post from the Post Office at Diss to Winfarthing, a distance of four miles, which she constantly performed in all weathers, and is computed to have travelled more than 13,400 miles. She was married in the reign of George II. She had 16 children, who multiplied to the fourth generation, so that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at the time of her decease amounted to 444. Besides these, great-great-grandchildren, some of every degree and age, to the number of 200 and upwards, followed her to the grave, to which she was carried by her four sons."

**01.04.1845**

Died at **Winfarthing**, aged 80, Mr. Philip G. Browne. "He was author of 'The History of Norwich,' &c., &c., and was parish clerk of Winfarthing for upwards of fifty years."

15.03.1877

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