



BAHS Digital Newsletter

Issue 10

1st June 2023

www.bahs.uk

Welcome

Welcome to this issue of the Blakeney Area Historical Society digital newsletter. This newsletter is sent to all current and past members plus individuals who have signed up to our information emails.

In this newsletter, along with much else, we have the following articles:

- *Morris Arthur & Mary Ferroussat remembered* by John Wright
- *Coronations* by Richard Daley
- *New booklet Georgian Holt at Work and Play* by Margaret Bird
- *Cley Heritage Walk & Blakeney Walking Trail*
- *1939-1945 War - Cley next the Sea Roll of Honour* by Richard Jefferson
- *Treasure trove of documents from the Cozens-Hardy private archive lodged in NRO* by Margaret Bird
- *Terns* from Sylvia Claxton's Scrapbooks by Michael Archer

The editor would like to thank all those who have provided contributions.

Contributions are always welcome and may be emailed to info@bahs.uk at any time and we will endeavour to publish in an upcoming issue.

Printing: If you like a printed copy it is best to print the copy placed on the Society website a few days after the newsletter is published.

Before you settle down to read the newsletter, please note that information contained in the newsletter is copyright of the author and is published as provided and with their permission. Despite best efforts, the occasional mistake may slip through. If so, please blame the editor not the contributors.

Richard Daley, Editor

Lecture Programme

For the start of the 2023/24 membership year the following lectures have been arranged:

- Tuesday 26th September
Sculthorpe Airfield & Heritage Centre (working title) by Ian Brown
- Tuesday 31st October
Religion and the Iceni: New excavations at the Roman Temple of Caistor by Norwich by Professor Will Bowden
- Tuesday 28th November
To be arranged

All lectures will be at Cley Village Hall. Time to be confirmed.

Please visit www.bahs.uk/activities/events/planned-events for further details and updates.

Recorded Lectures

Lectures that have been recorded may be viewed by visiting www.bahs.uk/activities/events/lecture-recordings.

Donations

Thanks to all who have made donations at meetings or online.

The Society currently doesn't charge for lectures but incurs costs for putting them on. Those who attend meetings in person have the opportunity to make a donation. If you watch online or view recordings at a later date, please consider making a donation to TSB, bank account Blakeney Area Historical Society, account number 18327968, sort code 30-94-34.

Richard Daley

MARY FERROUSSAT 16 August 1927 – 8 February 2023

MORRIS ARTHUR 18 January 1937 – 28 December 2022

Death always brings sadness but with it comes the opportunity to remember the lives and achievements of those no longer with us. Mary and Morris had long lives filled with very different activities but they had one particular thing in common: they were the two people whose vision brought into being the Blakeney History Group (BHG) and ultimately this Society.

It was Morris who first proposed that Blakeney should have a 'village archive' and as a parish councillor he formed the Archival Subcommittee consisting initially of himself, Mary Ferroussat and Sheila Russell. They set out their ideas in a report produced in February 1988 with sections covering the need for a village archive, its possible form and content, who should prepare it and how it might be started.

Progress came just a few months later with Mary's organisation of the 'Blakeney Archive Exhibition' in the Chapel between the 3rd and 6th July 1988. Mary's family members, including Stratton Long and Margaret Loose, produced a variety of maritime exhibits and Janet Harcourt displayed a large selection of hats from schoolboy caps to feathered extravaganzas. There were occupational tools and other objects as well as written records, photographs and paintings, and fossils were available for children to handle. These exhibits had come from many different sources, a tribute to Mary's knowledge of village people and what they might be able to contribute. Mary recorded that visitors to the area passed through fairly quickly but many local people stayed awhile and brought with them memories of former days, ingredients of local history rarely written down.

Mary's next project was a village map portraying those features which were distinctive and valued by local people. The production of village heritage maps was a national initiative at the time and many were prepared in schools. Blakeney school had made a contribution but the final version was envisaged by Mary with Terry Bestwick undertaking the actual preparation. Eventually (in 1994) 1,000 copies were printed and the BHG, and later the BAHS, received money from the sales.

Meanwhile, Morris and Mary continued to discuss how the archive idea might be moved on and they made contact with Chris Barringer, then the Norfolk tutor for the Cambridge University Extra-Mural Board. He came to Blakeney in May 1989 and suggested that a course of lectures be put on for people who would be prepared to research the history of the village. In December a letter was sent to him asking for such a course and setting out the aim of the Archival Subcommittee: to prepare publications popular in style but based on a serious study of the available evidence. This intention remained central to the activities of the BHG and subsequently the BAHS.

In October 1990 the course began with 22 people meeting in the White Horse to study copies of documents from the Norfolk Record Office brought in by Chris. There were to be two more such courses beginning in 1991 and 1992. With the aid of a loan from the parish council course members published in 1991 the small booklet 'Blakeney in the Eighteenth Century', which included maps and drawings by Mary. Publication had required the invention of the name 'Blakeney History Group' and with the booklet's success and other activities in train the Group was soon privatised. Morris and the Archival Subcommittee had found a way forward and in March 1994 the BHG became formally independent of the parish council. Mary was a member of the group calling itself the BHG and when it was succeeded by the BAHS in 1997 she became a member of its Committee.



Mary was a meticulous recorder of the history of this area, with an appreciation of the landscape derived from walking and observing, and from talking to people with knowledge of how things used to be. As a teacher of natural history her botanical knowledge was considerable and she put it to good use, being listed as a major

contributor to the encyclopaedic 'A Flora of Norfolk' (1999). She also compiled 'The Flora of Blakeney' (2004), having identified close to 500 species of trees, plants and bryophytes growing wild in the parish.

In her fieldwork in Blakeney and neighbouring parishes Mary recorded, in her neat artistic style, various historical features including archaeological sites, former roadways and old hedges. She was happy to pass on the results of her work, and in their NARG News the Norfolk Archaeological Research Group published Mary's reports on 'Weybourne Beach bone deposits' (1986) and 'Ship graffiti in Blakeney Haven churches' (1987). A note on the Salthouse Heath barrows is in the History Centre.

At home, Mary maintained diaries recording local events and observations on a variety of subjects, as well as explorations into her own family history. Diaries were supplemented by scrapbooks and newspaper cuttings, and 15 volumes of these, with another two from elsewhere, were donated to the History Centre. A total of 70 items there have Mary's name as the donor, including 43 books and some Chapel records. Mary was a prominent member of the Chapel and the editor of a booklet on its history, 'Blakeney Methodist Church 1812-1997', published by the BHG in 1997. When NARG organised a county-wide survey of chapels past and present, Mary was one of the two people who surveyed all such buildings in Holt Hundred.

Mary's interests extended into war memorials and churchyards. In the Glaven Historian No. 1 (1998) she introduced the county's Norfolk Memorials Project and for the following issue produced an annotated list of all those killed in the First World War who are commemorated in Blakeney and neighbouring villages. A plan of Wiveton churchyard with a list of all those named on the gravestones appeared in the 3rd issue.

Mary was born into the Long family, a prominent one locally especially during the Inter-War years. George Long, senior, had 12 children: four daughters married and moved out of the village, while the six sons who survived the 1914-18 war all stayed and prospered from the sea in various ways. All were crew members of the Blakeney lifeboat until the station closed in 1935, and one was Mary's father. Her married name, French in origin, was brought to London around 1875 by a silk agent.

John Wright

Editor's note: *Thank you John for a fine tribute to Morris and Mary.*

Mary's booklet 'Blakeney in the Eighteenth Century' mentioned above is still sold in local shops and by the Society so her legacy continues to introduce readers to Blakeney as it was.

Coronations

It is interesting to reflect on how the involvement of the community and the importance of Coronations has changed over time. The link below is to information held in the History Centre on Coronations since Queen Victoria's in 1838 to Queen Elizabeth II's in 1953.

Victoria's Coronation involved 600 villagers (three quarters of the parish) in Cley sitting down to an excellent dinner of plum pudding and roast beef. For George VI in 1937 Blakeney old folk had tea with presents in the British Legion hall and the children had tea in the School room. In 1953 for Elizabeth II's Coronation 200 children sat down for tea in Blakeney Legion hall. At 6pm tea was provided to all those over 65 which was followed by a concert.

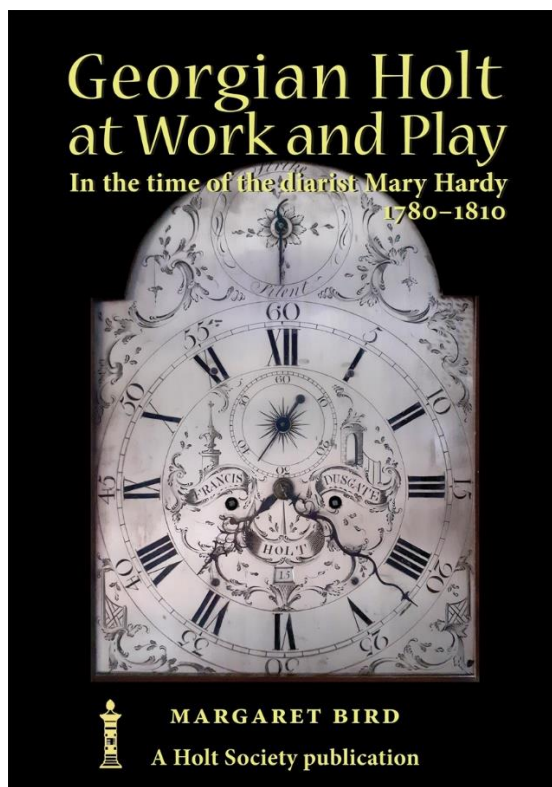
For further insights please visit www.bahs.uk/publications/online-publications/coronations/

Richard Daley

New booklet *Georgian Holt at Work and Play*

Anyone interested in the eighteenth-century history of the Blakeney area may like to hear details of a new booklet. Ostensibly about life and work in Holt, the 32-page study *Georgian Holt at Work and Play* has wider application. Written by BAHS member Margaret Bird, it was published by the Holt Society on 3 April 2023.

Holt served as the focus for much of the social and economic activity in north Norfolk, including all the Glaven Valley villages. Copiously illustrated, the new work sheds light on the many problems facing the men and women of the commercial class in the late eighteenth century and describes the forces shaping local society.



The front cover shows a clock made by Francis Dugate of Holt.

The full title reflects the principal source for the work: *Georgian Holt at Work and Play: In the time of the diarist Mary Hardy 1780–1810*. Mary Hardy lived at Letheringsett Hall from 1781 until her death in 1809. As the wife and mother of Letheringsett farmers, maltsters and brewers and as an active participant in the family business she knew about working life from the inside.

What made Holt special?

The first chapter identifies five key features which raised Holt to prominence among Norfolk's 27 market towns. Four of these had an impact on north Norfolk as a whole:

- ◆ Holt's public houses hosted one of the leading sample markets in grain in Britain. Farmers, merchants, maltsters, brewers and millers came every Saturday from miles around to bargain into the small hours.
- ◆ It was one of only four towns to host the county quarter sessions by adjournment, drawing large numbers of litigants from across the quadrant of north-east and north central Norfolk.
- ◆ The authorities in London decreed that Holt, as 'the most central place', should serve as a military hub across the whole of north Norfolk for the defence of the coast from invasion by the French.
- ◆ Holt's large fair held every April and November eclipsed all the others in the immediate area, including the more modest affairs at Cley and Weybourne.

The six other chapters are entitled The town at work, The town at prayer, Women to the fore, Children's schooldays, The town in wartime and The town at play.

'Rich and fascinating details'

A review in the April 2023 issue of the Norfolk Magazine refers to the value of Mary Hardy as a source: '[Margaret Bird] gleans rich and fascinating details from Mary's tales of courtrooms and markets, pubs and places of worship':

Margaret tours the town, revealing what life was like in Holt between 1780 and 1810. She introduces Holt's handsome buildings and delves into the town's trades and industry, its schools, the impact of foreign wars on the economy and what people did for fun in Georgian times.

One such detail relates to the Blakeney merchant Henry Smith as he rode home at 2 am after a long day and evening at Holt's sample market. The booklet quotes the inquest findings into his accidental death: 'His dog, which lay by him when found, had torn his hat in pieces in endeavouring to pull him out of the water.' The dramatic nature of Henry Smith's end in Cley Watering, the stream which crosses the Holt–Cley road, is recorded on his deeply incised headstone. His posthumous son James is buried with him.



Blakeney churchyard: the grave of Henry Smith (d.1794 aged 32), the young merchant who drowned in Cley Watering on his way home from Holt market. The inscription records that he 'fell from his Horse into a Rivulet of Time' [photo Margaret Bird 2000]

Designed for a wide readership

While founded on thorough research and scholarship, the booklet is designed for a popular readership. All editorial notes and citations appear on the page and not as endnotes. Priced competitively at £5.00 (plus post and packing if required) it makes an attractive gift.

The author Margaret Bird, a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, was an honorary research fellow in the History department at Royal Holloway, University of London 2006–21. She has published nine volumes on the diarist Mary Hardy: five volumes of diary text and four of commentary and analysis. See www.burnham-press.co.uk.

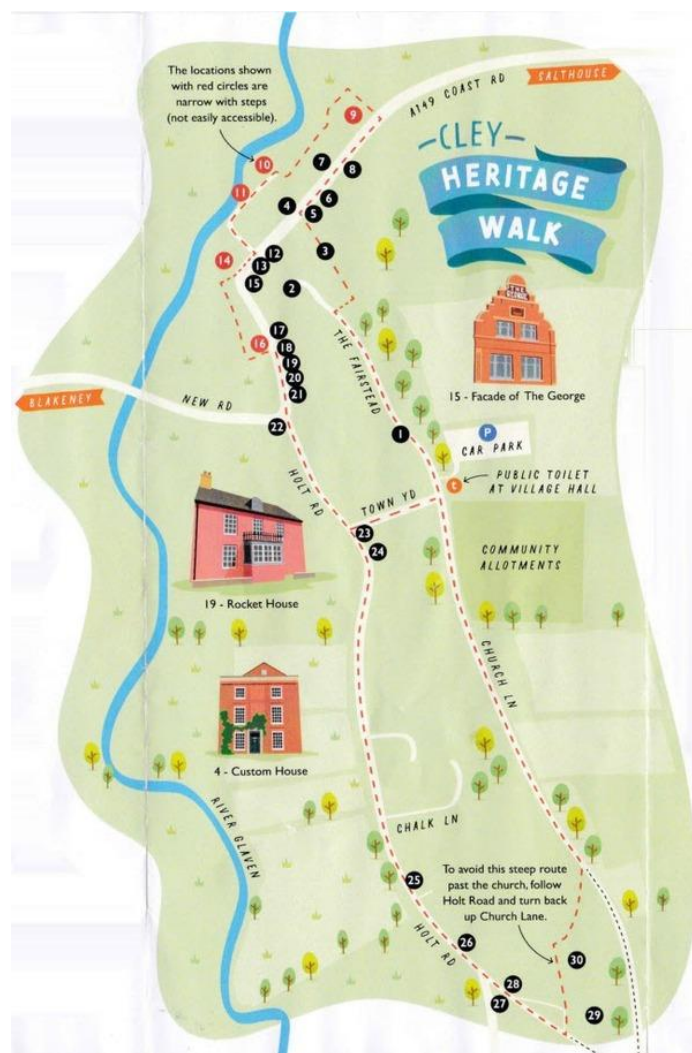
Georgian Holt at Work and Play has 46 illustrations, mostly in full colour. It is available in local and regional bookshops and direct from the Holt Society.

One last 'fascinating detail'. Francis Dugate of Holt (d.1801 aged 77), whose clock is seen on the front cover, was prized for his skill with his hands. He pulled out a troublesome tooth for the diarist's husband William Hardy in 1787.

Margaret Bird

Editor's note: The booklet is based on Margaret's Holt Festival walking tours of July 2022 which were oversubscribed; hence the publication of this booklet as a more permanent record.

Cley Heritage Walk



The subject for our April lecture was the new Cley Heritage Walk. It was presented by Richard Jefferson who also offered to guide a few of us around the route. This was arranged for Tuesday, 9th May. There were nine of us, plus Richard, and we set off from Cley Village Hall at 11am. Thankfully the weather was mild and the rain held off until later that afternoon. The walk can be completed in under an hour but we took nearly two hours, as we chatted and asked questions at most of the 30 locations! Each of these sites contributed to the overall history of the village - once a flourishing medieval port, reconfigured in the 17thC by a bank which blocked the estuary, through to its decline in the 19th century and up to the present day as a tourist destination with a renowned bird reserve.



Further information is available at www.bahs.uk/activities/cley-heritage-walk/

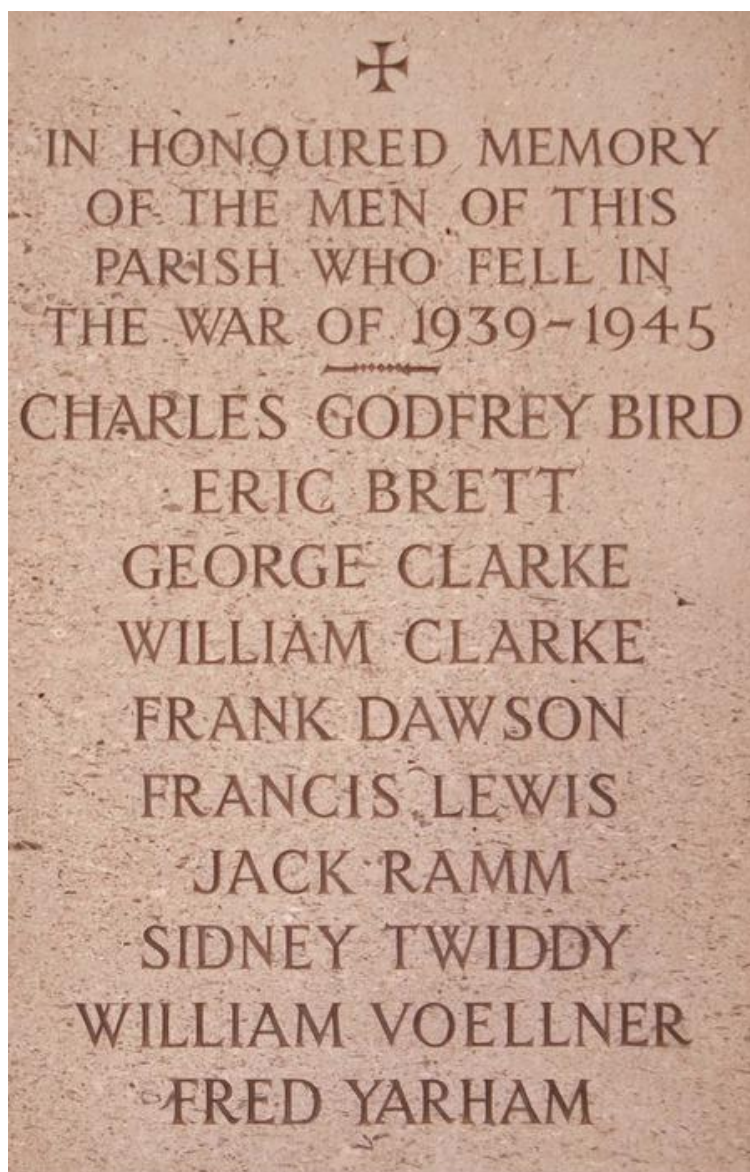
Diana Cooke

Blakeney Walking Trail

Not one but three walks appear in this issue of the newsletter! The Arts Society Glaven Valley has with the assistance of the BAHS published a Blakeney village walking trail. See www.bahs.uk/activities/blakeney-village-walk.



1939-1945 War - Cley next the Sea Roll of Honour



BIRD Charles Godfrey

Lieutenant Charles Godfrey Bird

HMS Exeter, R.N.V.R. Died 1s March 1942. Aged 30 Son of Capt. F.G. Bird CMG DSO Royal Navy. No known grave. Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial.

BRETT Eric

Private Eric Victor Brett 5772703

5th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment. Taken prisoner Singapore 15th February 1942. To Mainland 19th March 1943 (i.e. to work on the construction of the Burma-Siam railway). Died 21st May 1943 of cholera (PoW record shows malaria) at Takanun. aged 27 Buried in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. Wife: Mrs Brett, High Street, Cley next the Sea.

CLARKE George

Private George William Ernest Clarke 5773311

6th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Died 18th January 1942 Aged 23 Son of John William and Susannah Clarke, and husband of Edith Annie Clarke of Neaverham, Cheshire. Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial (in Kranji War Cemetery).

CLARKE William

Private William Nesbitt Clarke 5774157

5th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Taken prisoner Singapore 15th February 1942 by the Japanese. To Burma/Siam railway construction. Died Force 'H' 21.9.1943 at Hospital Chungkai. (diagnosis: A Vitaminosis) Buried Chungkai War Cemetery.

DAWSON Frank

Private Frank Howard Dawson 14444733

7th Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). Wounded 12th April 1945. Died of wounds on 19th April. Aged 19 Son of Robert Charles and Mabel Jessie Dawson, of Cley next the Sea, Norfolk. Buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein, Germany.

LEWIS Francis

Leading Seaman Francis Albert Lewis C/JX 142189

HMS Exmoor Royal Navy Died 25th February 1941. Aged 22. Son of Francis James and Elizabeth Lewis of Cley next the Sea, Norfolk. No known grave. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

RAMM Jack

Corporal Jack Pashley Ramm 5774919 2nd Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment. Died 4th May 1944. Aged 24 Son of Edward Harry and Beatrice Minnie Ramm of Cley next the Sea. He was killed during Operation 'Key', the capture of GPT Ridge overlooking Kohima. Buried in Kohima War Cemetery.

TWIDDY Sidney

Leading Seaman Sidney George Twiddy C/JX 145272

H.M. Submarine *Usk* Royal Navy. Died 3rd May 1941. Aged 22. Son of George C. and Florence E Twiddy. Husband of Gwendoline Glenny Twiddy of Blyth, Northumberland. No known grave. Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial.

VOELLNER William

Sergeant (Air Gunner) William Voellner 906410

103 Squadron RAFVR Died 26th August 1943. Aged 23. Born 21st June 1921. 1939 Register: resident with parents William and Hannah Voellner at Sunny Nest, Newgate, Cley. Husband of Elsie Voellner, of Newton Heath, Manchester. Buried in Littlehampton Cemetery, Sussex

YARHAM Fred

Sergeant Frederick Yarham 5875680

5th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment. Died 1st March 1943. Aged 41 Escaped

from Singapore February 1942. Captured on Java 8th March 1942. .On 'hell ship' to Japan October 1942. . No known grave. Commemorated on Yokohama Cremation Memorial, Japan. He is also commemorated on the memorial in Sharrington Church, Norfolk where his rank is given as C.S.M.

Richard Jefferson

Editor's note: Further articles will be published in the newsletter or the Glaven Historian in due course.

Treasure trove of documents from the Cozens-Hardy private archive lodged in NRO

In October 2022 a highly significant body of manuscripts, photographs and maps from the Cozens-Hardy Collection was lodged in the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) by Caroline Holland, née Cozens-Hardy. Caroline is a BAHS member and is descended from the Letheringsett diarist Mary Hardy. This newsletter item appears with her permission.

A wealth of information on the Glaven Valley villages

The documents shine a spotlight on working and family life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Those researching the history of the Glaven Valley villages and Holt will find the deposit a treasure trove. I used it extensively for 32 years while working on my published volumes on Mary Hardy. With the consent of the extended Cozens-Hardy family I quoted at length from these extremely valuable papers and used them for hundreds of illustrations.

Many of the papers date from the eighteenth century; the photographs date from 1880 onwards. I am extremely grateful to the family for access over the years and for keeping the collection in their possession until my work was complete.

Caroline inherited the care of them from her father Jeremy, the son of the distinguished lawyer and local historian Basil Cozens-Hardy (1885-1976). Their provenance is known as they were passed down in the family from the time of Mary Hardy (1733-1809).

Holding reference ACC 2022/106

In January 2023 the archivists at the NRO gave the deposit the holding reference ACC 2022/106. It is not known when they will be able to catalogue them individually. It is a huge task: there are dozens of albums, dozens of boxes of papers and correspondence, probates and also the original manuscript diaries of the Letheringsett brewery apprentice Henry Raven, written daily 1793-97, and of the owner of the Letheringsett estate 1842-95 William Hardy Cozens-Hardy, written 1833-95.

The three images accompanying this news item give some insight into the importance of this vast collection. The first shows the south front of Letheringsett Hall in 1880. We know the date of the Greek Doric portico through one of the manuscripts now lodged in the NRO: the surgeon and artist Edmund Bartell junior's 1809 commentary on the Hall is the sole source pointing to its construction in the spring of 1809.



*Letheringsett Hall's south front, showing the Greek Doric portico of 1809 designed by the local architect William Mindham.
[photograph A.E. Coe of Norwich 1880]*

Some of the Cozens-Hardy family from Cley Hall

The second photograph shows a Cozens-Hardy family gathering in front of Letheringsett Hall on 21 July 1880 to celebrate William H. and Sarah Cozens-Hardy's Golden Wedding. Many prominent local figures are seen here. A little over seventy years after Mary Hardy's death a dynasty had been created.



Many of the family of William Hardy Cozens-Hardy and his wife Sarah (seated centre) on their Golden Wedding. Seven of the Cozens-Hardys from Cley Hall are seen here. [photograph A.E. Coe of Norwich, 21 July 1880]

The photograph is taken against the south wall of the drawing room at Letheringsett Hall. William Hardy Cozens-Hardy (1806–95), with a white beard and his hands in his pockets, was William and Mary Hardy's only surviving grandchild. His wife Sarah (1808–91), née Theobald, sits on his left wearing an ornate white cap. They lived to celebrate their Diamond Wedding, as recorded by A.E. Coe's photography.

With them are the surviving seven of the couple's nine children, nineteen of their twenty grandchildren (one being absent) and other close family, named below. Their daughter Laura had died aged three; also their married daughter Cecilia Willans aged 39. Sarah Cozens-Hardy's only surviving sister Emma Wrigley (1817–99) forms part of the group.

The Cozens-Hardy contingent from Cley Hall (named in red) is well represented. They are led by the celebration couple's eldest son **Clement William Hardy Cozens-Hardy (1833–1906)**. Clement inherited Letheringsett Hall on his father's death, but chose to remain at Cley Hall, his marital home; his brother Herbert, the future Lord Cozens-Hardy, became his tenant at Letheringsett Hall. Clement had been a partner with his father in the Letheringsett maltings and brewery from 1877.

Clement's son **Arthur Wrigley Cozens-Hardy (1857–1925)** trained as a brewer at Burton-on-Trent before moving to Kendal in the Lake District, where he met his wife Mary while working at Evershed's Brewery. By the time he could have hoped to return to north Norfolk to take over the Letheringsett concern his father had sold the maltings, brewery and tied houses to Morgans of Norwich.

A Cozens-Hardy family tree can be found in the Epilogue in volume 4 of *Mary Hardy and her World* (2020), where the nineteenth-century family is described.

Those appearing in the photograph:

Back row, standing, from left:

Herbert (son; 1st Lord Cozens-Hardy), James Willans (husband of William H. Cozens-Hardy's deceased daughter Cecilia and of Cecilia's younger sister Kathleen), Helen Colman (Caroline's daughter), Sydney (son), Maria (Herbert's wife), **Mary (Arthur's wife), Arthur Wrigley (Clement's son), Edith (Clement's daughter)**, Russell James Colman (Caroline's son, the future Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk), Ethel Colman (Caroline's daughter), Theobald (son), **Alice (Clement's daughter)**, Archie (Theobald's son), Clement (son), Laura Colman (Caroline's daughter), Alan Colman (Caroline's son), the Revd J.C. Harrison of London (family friend)

Middle row, seated on chairs, from left:

Sarah Anna (*Theobald's wife*) with their daughter Mary, Jeremiah James Colman (*husband of Caroline*), Gerald Willans (*standing by pillar, Cecilia's son*), **Helen (Clement's wife)**, Caroline Colman (*daughter*), William Hardy Cozens-Hardy, Sarah Cozens-Hardy, Kathleen Willans (*daughter*) with her stepdaughter and niece Mabel, **Emma Wrigley (sister-in-law; Clement's stepmother-in-law)**, Agnes Cozens-Hardy (*daughter*)

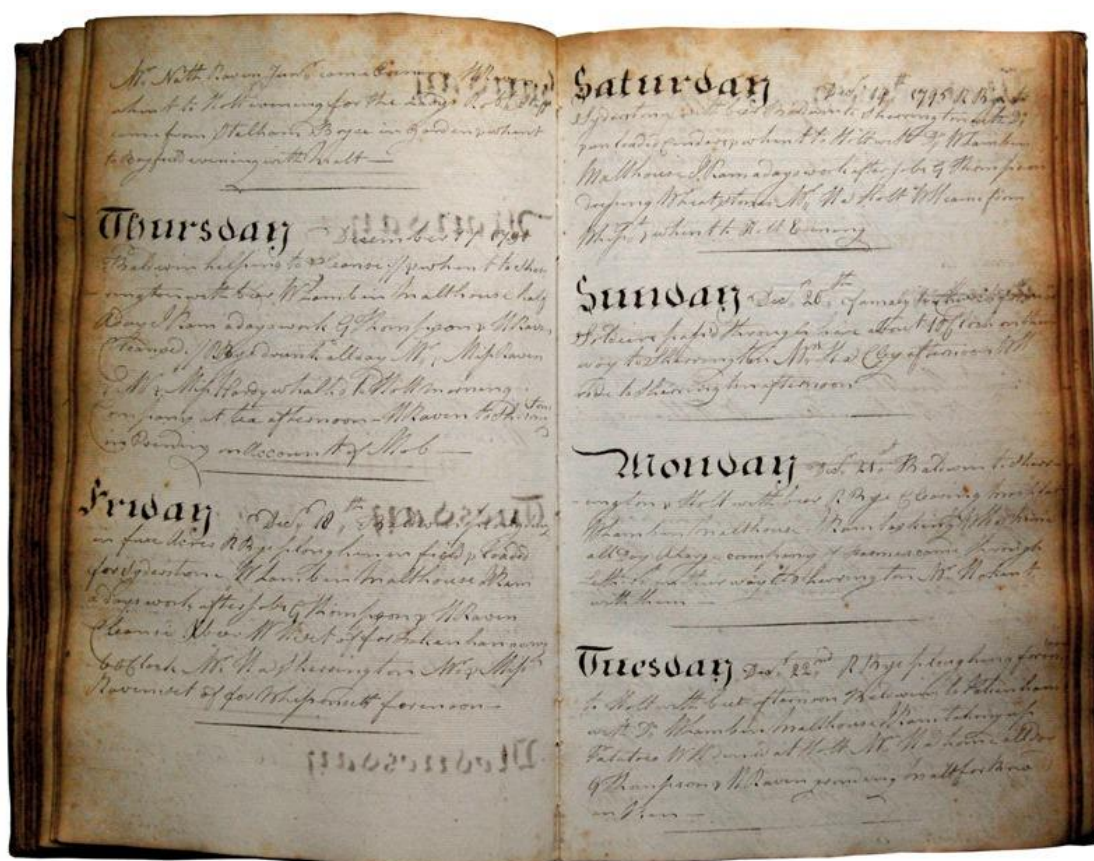
Front row, seated on ground, from left:

Edward (*Herbert's son; 3rd Lord Cozens-Hardy*), Willie (*Herbert's son; 2nd Lord Cozens-Hardy*), Hope (*Herbert's daughter*), Florence Colman (*Caroline's daughter*), Edgar (*Theobald's son*), Katharine (*Herbert's daughter*), Harry (*Theobald's son*).

The unique diary of an 18th-century brewing apprentice

The third illustration is an extract from the farm and brewery diary of Henry Raven for December 1795 referring to bread riots in the area during a wheat famine. His record, compiled as a teenager, is 73,000 words long. It is the only diary of a brewery apprentice known to survive from the eighteenth century. He worked for eight years 1792–1800 in the maltings and brewery on the A148 at Letheringsett, converted in 2013–15 to housing.

The full text of Henry's diary is transcribed, edited and indexed in the third volume of *The Diary of Mary Hardy* (2013).



Henry Raven's diary entries for 16-22 December 1795, written when he was eighteen. He goes over to the Hardys' outlet at Sharrington, the Swan (still standing in a layby on the A148), to view 'the mob' rioting over wheat prices.

From Henry's diary we can calculate that the members of the Hardys' workforce each laboured an astonishing 3617 hours a year. This is well over double modern working hours in the UK. The men had no holiday other than a day or two off for their local fair or home fair and even worked on Sundays.

Most of the documents and images lodged by Caroline Holland feature in my published volumes on Mary Hardy. These books contain 822 pages of index to enable readers to find what they are looking for very quickly.

Historians and researchers owe a great debt to the Cozens-Hardy family for having carefully preserved the collection for centuries and now for making the contents available to the public. Other parts of the collection, including Mary Hardy's manuscript diary, remain in private hands.

More details of the recent Cozens-Hardy deposits are given on the Burnham Press website:

www.burnham-press.co.uk/jan-2023-major-items-from-cozens-hardy-private-archive-lodged-at-norfolk-record-office/

Margaret Bird

Sylvia Claxton's Scrapbooks: Terns

Several of the earlier pages of Sylvia Claxton's first scrapbook are taken up with a dispute between inshore fishermen (who fished within the confines of Blakeney Harbour) and the National Trust. The record is handwritten by Sylvia's father, Ernest Claxton, who copied the entries out from newspaper articles.

A public meeting protesting against the protection of Terns at Blakeney point owing to the effect they were having on the inshore fishing was held in the Methodist Church on December 15th 1924...

Mr R. Johnson of Sheringham referred to correspondence he had had with Mr Noel Buxton on the subject when the latter was Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. He pointed out to the minister the disastrous effects the protection of wild birds was having on the fishing in the harbour, and that fishermen who at one time earned 10s a day were now very fortunate if they earned three, and he asked that immediate action might be taken in their interests. To this he received a formal acknowledgement; he wrote again on July 16th. On August 18th Mr Buxton replied that he had gone into the question, saying there appeared to be difficulty in accepting without further enquiry the views that the birds were entirely responsible.

Mr S.E. Baker said he had known the harbour for fifty years. For the past 20 the fish had been decreasing, believed to be due to Terns and seals. He was glad to see Professor Oliver present because he wanted to know of what use was the Tern. They were up against strong opposition in the local press. Current Topics in the E.D.P. doubted the fishermen when they blamed the terns, and went on to say that a tern had been dissected and examined and found to contain only seaweed. (Laughter)...

Professor Oliver, as honorary secretary to the local committee of the National Trust, said his being at that meeting was to help if he could in a satisfactory conclusion being reached.

A few years ago he was much interested to know the nature and amount of food consumed by the Terns at the Point, so he invited down a Mr T.G. Coward, the famous ornithologist. He asked him over in mid June and he stayed two or three weeks. He estimated that a tern took from 100 to 150 fish a day such as sand eels, white bait and weevers. This was queried by fishermen who said they did not get whitebait there in June, nor would the Tern touch a weever.

Professor Oliver said the weight of 100 fish was roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound, which, putting their number at 1,000, meant that the Terns ate 250 lbs per day. He suggested that the number of people which the Terns drove to Blakeney who otherwise would not come went a long way to reimburse the fishermen for the fish they lost. (Cries of dissent)

The Tern was one of the most beautiful birds in the world but the Trust did not desire to over preserve or increase indiscriminately the protection of fish eating birds. He agreed that while the birds at the Point were protected there should be no reason for it and that it should not be encouraged to become a nuisance to those whose livelihood was affected. He suggested that the major portion of the damage was done by the seals. If a tern weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ a lb ate $\frac{1}{4}$ [lb] of fish a day they might assume that a 500 [lb] seal ate fish to the same extent or 250 lbs a day.

Mr S.E. Baker—I weigh 14 stone and I am a good eater, but you must not suggest that I eat 7 stone of food a day. (Loud laughter)

Dr S.H.Long said he represented the people who subscribed towards the protection of birds in Norfolk. He considered the reason for the falling off in the amount of inshore fish had not been demonstrated. No doubt the terns at Blakeney had increased, as they were driven from other parts of the coast.

A fisherman—Why should we starve to let the birds do as they like?

Dr Long—They are a national asset.

A voice—Well take them to Norwich and let them breed there.

Mr Johnson claimed that Professor Oliver had admitted the truth of the fishermen's claims. If a tenth of the immature fish came to maturity, there would be 12,000 a day for the fishermen, which would be sufficient for their needs.

Dr Long mentioned that Mr Charles Hamond of Twyford Hall started the protection of wild

birds here 25 years ago. There was no doubt that while they had been decreasing to the westward they had increased here.

The lengthy handwritten entry ends at this point, but there must have been agreement to hold a further meeting, as reported the following February:

E.D.P. February 19th 1925

Agreement Between Fishermen and National Trust

Under the chairmanship of Mr J.A. Christie M.P. a conference was held at 31 Surrey Street Norwich between Blakeney Fisherman and the N.T. to consider what steps should be taken to settle the relationship (if any) between the Tern colony and the shortage of fish in the Harbour...

The lines of action resolved upon which the parties were unanimously agreed upon were-

1 That in the opinion of the conference it is desirable that an investigation be made during the breeding season of 1925 into the nature of the food taken by the Terns from the time of their arrival in the spring until their departure.

2 That with a view to arranging details a sub-committee of Professor Oliver and Mr W. Bishop be appointed, with power to co-opt a third member who would act as chairman of the sub-committee. It will also be the duty of the sub-committee to embody the data arising from the investigation, together with other relevant matter, in a draft report to be presented to a further meeting of the conference to be held before the end of the current year.

As this investigation will involve the shooting of a number of Terns for the purpose of having their stomachs analysed by an expert, the N.T. to make arrangements with the C.C. for their permission to shoot the birds.

The investigation took place and was reported the following November:

E.D.P. November 18th 1925

Result of Inquiry (by Dr S.M. Long)

The number of birds delivered to Dr Collings were forty eight Common Terns, six little Terns, nine Sandwich Tern.

The report shows Common Tern average for the season fish 25½ per cent, sand eels 15 per cent, crustacea 14 per cent, marine worms 15 per cent, mollusca 10 per cent, insects 15 per cent. In August the average of fish was as high as 90 per cent while in September it was as low as 6 per cent.

The Sandwich Terns generally contained 80-90 per cent fish except in July when 100 per cent marine worms were found.

Little Tern 4 per cent fish, 94 per cent crustacea.

An entire absence of flatfish.

Although we have the results of the investigation into the terns' dietary habits, the scrapbook provides no further information about how the issue was resolved, or if indeed there was any resolution. However, disputes between locals and the National Trust were far from over, as events of a few years later demonstrate. These will be the subject of further articles.

Michael Archer

Blakeney Bulldogs: Name the Team?

In issue 9 of the newsletter a photograph of the 1962 team of the Blakeney Bulldogs was included without any names and readers were asked if they could name any of the players. A few readers replied with names. Below is the named team. Did you get any right?



Richard Daley

Aerial Photography Website

Historic England has launched a new feature, Aerial Photography Explorer on its website. Users may search and explore an online map showing aerial photographs of the East of England over the past 100 years. It can reveal striking discoveries such as hidden archaeology through features that show up in the photographs.

Visit <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>

On This Day: 1st June

1957

'ERNIE' drew the first premium bond prizes in Britain. The top prize was £1000.

1946

Television licences were issued in Britain for the first time. The licence cost £2.

1939

HMS Thetis sank during sea trials in Liverpool Bay. It was the Royal Navy's worst ever submarine disaster and 99 men lost their lives.

1907

Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine, was born.

1831

The magnetic North Pole was located by Sir James Clark Ross on his Arctic exploration expedition with Admiral Parry.

1648

The Cavaliers were defeated by the Roundheads at the Battle of Maidstone in the Second English Civil War.

1533

Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's new queen, was crowned..

1495

First written record of Scotch Whisky appears in Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, Friar John Cor is the distiller.

Computer Tips & Tricks

This column of the newsletter, whilst not about historical matters, provides tips and tricks that may help in improving your use of computers and the Internet for historical research and in general.

Using Formulas in Spreadsheets

After covering formatting within spreadsheets in the last issue of the newsletter this issue covers the use of formulas within Microsoft Excel which is available at www.bahs.uk/website-and-computer-tips/using-formulas-in-microsoft-excel/

Richard Daley

The BAHS

Joining BAHS

If you are not a member and wish to join you may join online or download our membership form from the BAHS website.

[Click here](#) to join.

Information Emails

If you receive this newsletter then you are receiving information emails.

Members automatically receive information emails. Non-members may receive information emails by signing-up.

[Information Emails sign-up](#)

Subscriptions

The Society membership year starts on 1st September each year.

Membership rates are unchanged at:

- Individual £12
- Family £18
- Corporate £25

Renewals & Standing Orders

The majority of members renew their subscription using a standing order and others pay online using faster payments.

If you can pay this way it helps as it creates less work for the Committee.

If you are planning to renew, details may be found by [clicking here](#).

Helping the BAHS

The BAHS Committee has many things that it would like help with and you don't have to serve on the Committee!

Just email info@bahs.uk

Have Your Say

Have you:

- heard of a talk you think might be interesting?
- an idea for an outing?
- a suggestion for an article in the Glaven Historian or newsletter
- any other ideas to make the Society better?

Just email info@bahs.uk

History Centre

The History Centre is a small confined area. We are now open to individuals by appointment only. There is normally a charge to visitors. To book an appointment to visit the History Centre please view www.bahs.uk/history-centre/history-centre-openings.

History Centre Collection

The History Centre is always interested in items of historical relevance to the Blakeney Area. These may be old wills, deeds, postcards, Blakeney Regatta programmes, ... the list is endless.

Please **don't** bin it before checking if it is of interest to the History Centre.

BAHS Committee

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