

THE DEREHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER.

VOLUME 11. ISSUE 2.

AUTUMN 2014.

Notes from the Chairwoman.

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Firstly thanks to all of you who have volunteered at the museum and given up your time to help with the work of the society over the summer.

WW1 at the Museum.

We have had some very good feedback on our WW1 exhibition 'Dereham in War and Peace 1914' and the local press coverage has been a great help. During the summer pupils from the Holkham Class, Dereham St Nicholas Junior School visited the museum. The aim was to get inspiration to produce artwork and creative writing on the theme of WW1 in Dereham. The visit was followed up with an afternoon working with the children producing artwork. Their work was first exhibited at Dereham Windmill and then the parish church to coincide with the start of WW1 on 4th August. It was a good example of different groups in the community working together.

We kept the museum open free of charge as a mark of respect to commemorate the start of WW1 on 4th August. It is a shame we will be closing the exhibition and museum earlier than usual this year on 30th August.

Re-thatching of Bishop Bonner's Cottage.

The good news is we are closing early because the museum is going to be rethatched. The care of the building is in the hands of Dereham Town Council and they will be financing the work. They have appointed a historic buildings consultant Anna High and a thatching firm from Wymondham work should start in September. The town council is also helping us to move and store the exhibits until the museum is back in a fit state to house them again ready for reopening in May next year. We must also thank the Norfolk Museum Service for giving us over 50 archive quality storage boxes that we can recycle for use in the move. It will be the first time for some fifty years that the whole of the roof timbers will be exposed, giving us a good view of the structure of the cottage. A record will be made of the features they uncover as the work progresses. We are hoping to organize a viewing day with talks while the work is underway.

Campaign to Save Listed Building in Church St.

This good example of how to care for a grade 2 listed building, set by the town council, and is in contrast to the proposal by Wetherspoon the owner of the Romany Rye in Church St. They wanted to demolish the, 400 year old, listed building they own next to the pub to make a beer garden. The Dereham Antiquarian Society championed the cause to protect the building, with coverage in the local press, and on social media. On our website we provided links to Breckland Council's planning dept. to make it easier for people to formally oppose the planning application. There was an overwhelming Council and public rejection of the plans and I am pleased to say Wetherspoon's planning application was refused. However the fight is not over, the neglect of the building since it has been in their

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ownership from 2008 continues, so we need to keep the welfare of the building in the public eye. It is an important part of our Dereham heritage and local landscape we cannot afford to lose any more of our historic buildings.

The Society's Town Archive - Help Needed!

The plans to relocate the society's town archive in the Assembly Rooms of the Town Council are progressing well. The society has a wonderful collection of hundreds of objects and documents built up over the last 60 years. The new central location combined with the digitization of the archive will make it far more accessible and searchable, giving society members and the public a much better local study resource. We need volunteers to help us in all stages of the operation; moving, packing, cataloguing and data entry. It is a great way to discover more about your town's history. If you are interested in helping there is a role for everyone, from removing rubbish, moving furniture to packing delicate objects and computer input etc. please contact Sue Walker White on 01362 695652

sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk

Reaching New People

The Dereham Antiquarian Society and Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum now have not only a website www.derehamhistory.com which has been visited by 3732 people since it was launched last year. We are also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DerehamHistory> where we have 91 followers, and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/BonnorsMuseum> where we have 451 followers. On all these sites you will find update on the activity of DAS and Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum.

Sue Walker White 01362 – 695652 sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk

Notes from the Secretary.

Museum.

The main news here is that the thatch on the cottage is to be replaced this autumn. As a consequence the museum will close early, and most of the artefacts will have to be moved. The good news, apart from the new roof, is that Dereham Town Council is going to help us, and the items will be stored at the Assembly Rooms, which will be much easier than re-organising the archive to accommodate them. The Committee met recently to organise the removal of the artefacts from the museum, which will take place on 1st and 2nd September, with the items being moved on 4th September.

The Archive on Rashes Green is ready to move to the Assembly Rooms, when the terms are agreed and money is found to cover the cost. There is a mass of plain rubbish that is waiting to be 'skipped'. The artefacts we want to dispose of have been advertised for the required period, and other means of disposal can now be followed, i.e. local groups, schools etc. So if you have a contact who might like to utilise these items, do put them in touch. At present this would be purely for a group use, not personal use. The items are perhaps mostly Victorian, and could be interesting to other groups.

Sue organised a schools visit to the Museum, which was successful, and a useful link has been established with the Church Schools in town. Not only is this good from an educational point of view, and it attracts different people to the Museum, it also would support a Lottery Bid as this kind of link with children/schools is part of the requirement.

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Peter Bradbury is taking over running the newsletter again, as Susan Keeler has left the Committee. I would very much like to thank Susan for all her work in the archive, she was an absolute Trojan! And also for all her other work on the Committee.

Accreditation falls due in October, and it is hoped the Arts Council have not altered the procedure again, and all the previous work will be utilisable.

Other News.

The committee is growing more concerned with the low attendance at the monthly speaker meetings. Posters are put up, and we always inform the paper, but somehow we don't get large audiences. This should be self-financing but presently the costs outweigh the takings. The membership has fallen to about 48 but it has always been hoped that non-members would find the talks of interest and attend. As always it would be good to have input from the membership with regard to these meetings, and what might increase attendance.

Steffi Spooner. 01362 – 693969

Events Listing 2013 – 2014.

WED. 17TH SEPTEMBER. VISIT TO TRUE'S YARD MUSEUM KINGS LYNN - CAR SHARE
10.00AM CHERRY TREE CAR PARK.

WED. 8TH OCTOBER. ANNUAL SOCIETY DINNER (SEE BOOKING FORM)

WED. 12TH NOVEMBER. EVENING TALK – “HOBBIES OF DEREHAM”
SPEAKER: ADRIAN VAUGHAN.

WED. 10TH DECEMBER. PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENING TALK (WITH REFRESHMENTS
AND RAFFLE.) - “ANTI-CLOCKWISE AROUND THE ISLAND”,
A LIGHT HEARTED TALK - SPEAKER: GEOFF WORTON.

2015.

WED. 14TH JANUARY. EVENING TALK - “NORFOLK IN WW1.”
SPEAKER: NEIL STOREY.

WED. 11TH FEBRUARY. THE SOCIETY AGM.

WED. 11TH MARCH. EVENING TALK - “THE REMARKABLE MR FENN OF HILL HOUSE”
SPEAKER: LUCY CARE.

FOR OUTINGS CONTACT: MRS. SHEILA JONES 01362 - 820580

Outings photos.

Oxburgh Hall.



Mannington Hall Gardens.

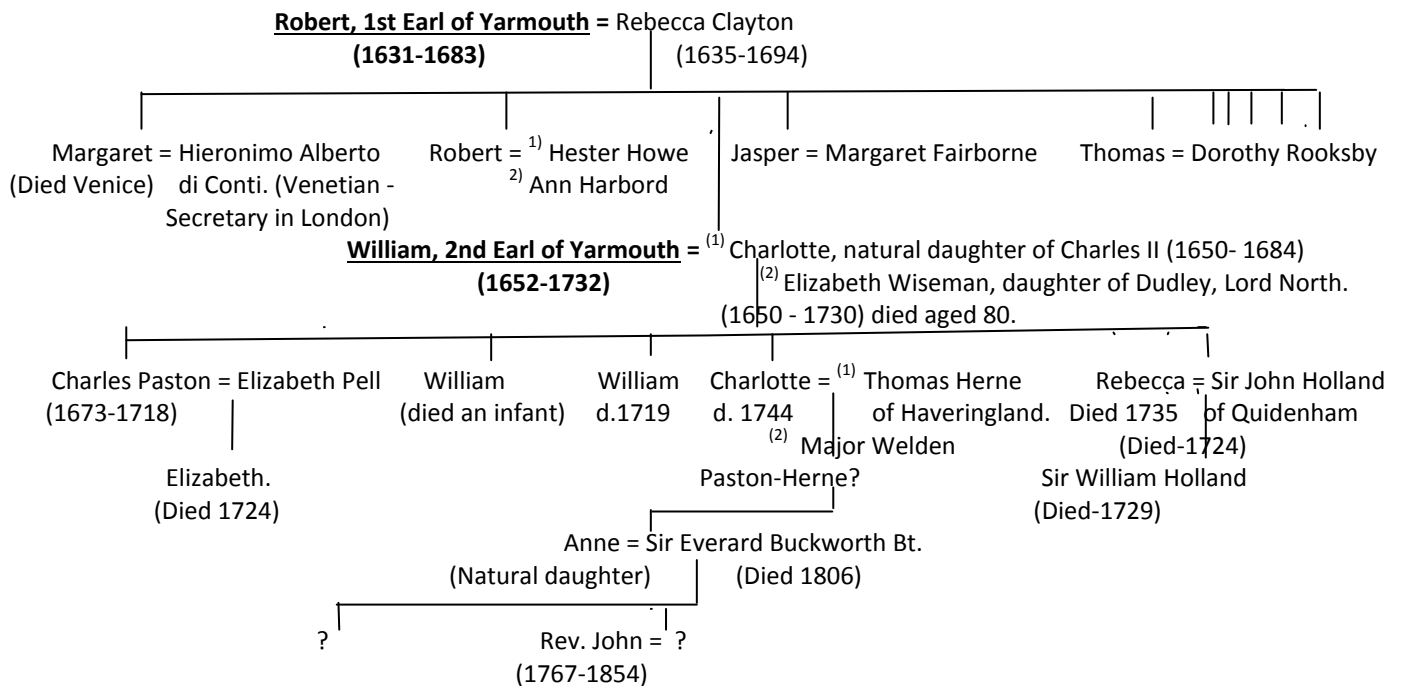


Silverton Farm.



THE RISE AND FALL OF THE PASTON FAMILY.

By Peter Bradbury ©



Part 5: Court of James II, Local Politics, William & Mary, Imprisoned in The Tower.

Viscount William Paston the eldest son of **Robert, 1st. Earl of Yarmouth** had been running his father's estates for a year or more, his father having retired from public life due to his failing health, until on the 8th of March 1683 his father died and William inherited his title, the estates, and all of his debts!

So **William** at the age of 31 became the **2nd Earl of Yarmouth** and his wife Charlotte became the Countess, which must have pleased her father Charles II. Sadly after being a Countess for less than a year Charlotte died suddenly at her house in London's Pall Mall, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. She left three sons and two daughters.

A few months later he married Elizabeth Wiseman a rich widow, the daughter of Lord North. She brought him a very welcome £20,000 and a great deal of influence at the court of the new monarch James II through two of his new brothers in law namely; Lord Guilford the Lord Keeper, and Sir Dudley North Commissioner of the Customs (later Chief Financial Expert to James II). One of the most important sources of income to the family was known as "the wood farm" which was the Custom Duties paid on wood and wooden wares, earth and earthen ware, glass and glass wear, stone and stone wear, oranges, lemons, citrons and pomegranates. These oddly assorted customs were granted (as a mark of favour) to William's father, the 1st Earl, by Charles II in 1666 valid for twenty one years! The money created by the "wood farm" was to provide an income for the 'old Countess' and her son William the 2nd Earl, with a trust declared upon it to pay off the Paston's outstanding debts. Also in 1679 the 1st Earl had managed to 'beg' from the King another concession this

time on the printing rights of: "all briefs, publications, mandates, indentures, bonds, and other like things", valid for thirty one years!

A severe blow to the finances of the 2nd Earl was struck in 1688 when at the renewal date for the "wood farm" it was decided to place it under the control of the Commission of Customs i.e. all duties go into the Royal Treasury. William and his mother "old Lady Yarmouth", having solicited Sir Dudley North (William's brother in law) and his fellow commissioner Sir Nicholas Butler, had considered it a foregone conclusion they would retain it! It is said that the farm had yielded over £100,000 during the twenty one years in their possession. However later on, by means unknown, William managed to obtain an annual pension from the Crown of £2,000 for life, though in later years the majority of the money would have been used in paying off the ever increasing family debts, leaving very little to live on!

William embarked on a series of wild speculations that were more foolish than those of his father. He tried to interest his brother in law Dudley North in a copper mine in America, assuring that experienced financier that, "it will certainly yield cent to cent immediately and afterwards not to be computed". He also bought a lead mine in Wales, which proved to be a disaster. William had inherited his father's interest in alchemy (turning metals into gold) and spent an enormous amount of time and money in carrying out endless experiments, all were of course failures!

Two years after James II came to the throne William was made Treasurer of the Household a position he held until the year of the "The Glorious Revolution" in 1688 caused by the fear that James II was going to reinstate the Holy Roman Church. In order to prevent this happening the leaders of the opposition to the King invited Prince William of Orange, a great upholder of the protestant faith, to replace James II as the monarch (William of Orange was married to James II's daughter Mary). William landed at Torbay with an army of 15,000 men and marched on London. The King's army deserted him and he fled to France where Louis XIV gave him asylum. After one attempt to regain his throne in 1690 which ended in his defeat in Ireland at the Battle of the Boyne, he returned to France where he eventually died in 1701. In the year 1689; Prince William and his wife Mary were proclaimed King William III and Mary II, the first ever joint sovereigns of England. The reaction of William Paston the 2nd Earl of Yarmouth was not a very good one, unfortunately for the Paston family!

For he carried on the family tradition of loyalty to the Stuart line and at the first Parliament of the new reign, he was one of the few peers who refused to take the oaths of allegiance to William and Mary. Because of this display of support for James II his conduct was closely watched, and in 1690 when James was fighting in Ireland and there were fears of an invasion from France, he was committed to the Tower.

His wife Lady Yarmouth petitioned the Queen to lodge with him and was allowed to enter the Tower, when the danger had passed he was released. Two years later in 1692 during another invasion scare he was again imprisoned, and later released.

Before the 'abdication' (as it was officially recorded) of James II, and throughout the reign of Charles II, the 2nd Earl's mother "old Lady Yarmouth" had become a figure of ridicule at court and an embarrassment to her son because of her constant petitions to the king for

financial gains. It would seem there was a rift between William's wife Elizabeth and her mother in law who finished up living in rented accommodation two miles away from Oxnead Hall. A letter written by Edward Prideaux, The Dean of Norwich, refers to this rather cruel treatment: "We have no other noble in this county but the Earl of Yarmouth, who at present lives very obscurely and yet increaseth his debts. His mother who made a great bussle in King Charles II's time, now boards in a thatched house; and although there she keeps up her pride to its height by suffering no one to sit at meat with her, and many other vain formalities, yet with difficulty enough finds money to pay for her board, and as made her landlord so weary of her as to make use of all the civil ways he can to get rid of her; but she will understand none of them, not knowing where next to go. Her son gives her no respects or holds any correspondence with her, though she lives not above two miles from him." Old Lady Yarmouth died very soon after this letter, in February 1694, and was buried beside her husband the 1st Earl in Oxnead church, there was no monument erected.

In November 1696, Yarmouth formally made his submission to King William; he kissed the king's hand, and took his seat in the House of Lords, and from this time onwards William Paston the 2nd Earl of Yarmouth disappears from history. His debts were continuing to mount and combined with other misfortunes began to affect his health, and he seems to have lost heart! Another letter from Prideaux written in 1708 gives us a glimpse of him, "The Earl of Yarmouth is as low as you can imagine; he has vast debts, and suffers every thing to run to extremity; so his goods have been seized in execution and his lands extended so that he has scarce a servant to attend him or a horse to ride abroad upon, and yet cannot be persuaded to take any method of putting his affairs into a better posture, which they are still capable of, if he would set about it". He never set about it!

Year after year, he drifted on, his estates mortgaged, his pension secured to pay some fraction of his debts and his business affairs in total confusion. His three sons all died before him and left no issue, except the eldest Charles who died in 1718 at Gravesend where he may have married Elizabeth Pell, the daughter of a porter and an apple-woman, by whom he had a daughter named Elizabeth. His daughter Lady Charlotte married twice, first to Thomas Herne of Haveringland Hall and then to Major Thomas Weldon of Throxtton House. His other daughter Lady Rebecca married Sir John Holland Bart. of Quidenham Hall.

Lord William Paston, 2nd Earl of Yarmouth, died on Christmas Day 1732, the last of his line, he was eighty years old! He had become a pathetic and forgotten nobleman in a Norfolk now dominated by the Whig families of Walpole and Townshend. All that was left of his estate he willed to be divided between his eldest daughter Lady Charlotte, and his kinsman Edward Paston of Barningham Hall (the junior branch). Twelve years later in 1744 Major Thomas Weldon the 2nd husband of Lady Charlotte, and the daughters of Lady Rebecca; Isabella-Diana and Charlotte Holland challenged in the Probate Court the right of Edward Paston to benefit from the will on the grounds "that since the death of Edward Paston it has been discovered that he had from his infancy been educated and brought up in the Popish Religion and at the time of his death professed the same and that he was by law disabled and utterly incapable of taking any estate or interest in or out of the real

estate of the Earl of Yarmouth” and that “the said devise or request . . . was absolutely null and void”.

Roman Catholics were not allowed by the Penal Acts, passed during James II and William III's reigns to hold any public office and various other exclusions including inheritance. This law was not repealed until The Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 passed during the reign of George IV. Previously families like the Bedingfelds of Oxburgh, Knyvetts of Ashwellthorpe, Heydons of Baconsthorpe, L'Estrange of Old Hunstanton, Astley of Melton Constable, and the Pastons of Barningham were subject to financial hardship and physical restrictions. Taxes were doubled for Catholics, travel was allowed only up to five miles from their homes, their children could not be educated in England, after 1700 they could not purchase or inherit land, and they were denied all public employment, military or civilian. The taxes alone caused most Catholic families into bankruptcy, although if you had friends in the right places the laws were not always enforced.

Most of the Paston estates were bought by Lord Anson who proceeded to auction off all the fittings and furniture at Oxnead before pulling it down, leaving only the kitchen wing standing (this is still lived in today!).

Of the homes of the Pastons in Norfolk only Barningham remained in the hands of the family. The Pastons of Barningham had lived there quietly and without any great ambitions, but their firm adherence to the Catholic faith had eventually impoverished them. Two letters written in 1736 describe Edward Paston as “leaving in his coach and four on Sunday last, and absconds ever since . . . they say if he were to pay all his debts honestly he would not have above one hundred a year left, so he is not likely to show his head anymore” and the second letter observed that he was “crying and saying he would not see Barningham any more”. He settled in France and died at St. Omer in 1745, and so with Edward Paston driving away in tears from Barningham the last of the Pastons disappeared from Norfolk, where they had lived for more than 300 years!

Barningham Hall.



Oxnead Hall.



Huntingfield Suffolk, its Norfolk Connections. Page.9

by Peter Bradbury©

I travelled down into Suffolk looking for the burial place of John Paston the second son of Sir William Paston and Bridget Heydon of Baconsthorpe Hall. I had come across a reference to his marriage to a widow named Anne Arrowsmith of Huntingfield Hall.

So with the help of an OS map I set out to find Huntingfield, which was not easy to find as the signposts did not bear its name until you are within the parish boundary. Finally I located the beautiful Church of St Mary and went inside to explore and hopefully find a monument to John Paston. What I didn't expect to find was the wonderful roof that is painted from end to end in brilliant colours, with carved angels holding banners and shields.

The roof was painted by Mildred Holland wife of the Rector. She painted the Chancel roof first, causing the church to be closed for eight months from Sept. 1859 to April 1860 and three years later she began work on the Nave, in 1866 her husband recorded '*scaffolding finally taken down, September 1st*'. Most of her work was carried out lying on her back and considering the Victorian Ladies form of dress with tight lace corsets and numerous petticoats it must have been very hard work to climb ladders, scaffolding, and painting from a prone position!

The chancel contained several wall monuments and one very large one displaying five armorial shields and on reading the dedication I found it had been erected by Lord Chief Justice Sir Edward Coke to the memory of his mother-in-law Anne Paston! Two of the shields contained the Paston arms (Argent, six fleurs de lis Azure, three, two, and one, a chief indented Ore.) so I knew there must be a monument to John Paston.

The table tomb of John Paston stands under an arched recess on the left hand side of the Altar, his memorial tablet and Achievement of Arms are set in bronze on the tomb. He died in 1575 aged 64, his only daughter Bridget married Edward Coke in the neighbouring village of Cookley on August 13th 1582 and they lived on and off with her widowed mother in the Hall for nearly fifteen years in which he practiced law and advanced in his profession. Bridget gave birth to eight children whilst residing at Huntingfield; she died in 1589 and is buried in Tittleshall Church, near Godwick their country home, under a magnificent monument.



The Annual Dinner Wednesday 8th October 2014

The Annual Dinner has been booked at Tall Orders (yes they do open for private parties in the evenings) on Wednesday 8th October 2014 – 6:30pm for 7:00pm. We have chosen a much smaller venue this year due to the vast reduction in numbers attending last year. As Tall Orders can only seat approximately 40 people, places will be on a first-come basis when the menu choices and a £5 per head deposit have been received. The cost of the meal is £20 for three courses, or £16 for two courses (which includes service). There is a licensed bar and all drinks, including tea and coffee are extra to the price quoted. Members will be given 14 days priority booking before any unsold places will be offered to non-member volunteers.

Please complete and return your menu choices together with deposit (cheques to be made payable to Dereham Antiquarian Society) as soon as possible to:
Rosemary Fraser, 1 Stilwell Drive, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2XQ.

DAS ANNUAL DINNER – 8TH OCTOBER 2014

<u>Starters</u>	Name 1	Name 2
Roasted red pepper and tomato soup		
Goats cheese, roast cherry tomato & basil tarts with rocket salad		
Homemade Cod and Prawn fishcakes served with a sweet chilli dip		
<u>Mains</u>		
Herb crusted rump of lamb with potato gratin, tender stem broccoli & a red wine sauce		
Roast chicken roulade with cherry tomatoes, cream cheese & mushrooms served with potato gratin		
Spinach and ricotta cannelloni served with green salad and garlic bread		
<u>Desserts</u>		
Blackberry and apple crumble served with custard or ice cream		
Raspberry Panna Cotta		
Lemon Tart		

Name:
 Address
 Phone No.

Cheque enclosed in the sum of £ for x 2 course meal(s)
 and/or £ for x 3 course meal(s)

