



SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SUDBURY & DISTRICT GROUP

Update

March 2026

TODAY'S SPEAKER

This afternoon we welcome back our friend Ashley Cooper with his talk entitled Sudbury in the Sixties - While London was Swinging

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION, REALLY USEFUL SHOW

The Suffolk Family History Society are at this Fair in Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU on Saturday 18th April. This is huge, with something like 36 exhibitors (Family History Societies, Maps, Medals, Postcards and more) not just from East Anglia, but also from as far afield as East Yorkshire and Devon. Entry is free, the talk by Donna Rutherford is only £2 and the research advice panel is also free. There is much more information on Facebook: Really Useful Show Facebook

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/fhf-really-useful-family-history-show-live-2585>

Andy Kerridge

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Once the weather has settled down we will return to Acton church to continue recording the monumental inscriptions. If you are interested in helping with this fascinating and worthwhile project please talk to Helen for more details. If you can only spare 2 hours a month it all helps. Equipment supplied. Folders with all the previous recordings are upstairs in Sudbury Library

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FAIR

Saturday 9 May 10.00 – 4.00 Free Entry

The Hold 131 Fore St Ipswich IP4 1LN

Maritime theme this year

For more details look on our website

TRIP TO SUFFOLK REGIMENT MUSEUM

Following the talk last year by Claire Wallace of the Suffolk Regiment Museum in Bury we thought a Group visit might be a good idea. We can car pool. If anyone is interested please let Helen know and we can compile a list of people interested, then try and get some dates organised

The History and Genealogy of a family of Yeoman Farmers in Suffolk

Brian Lott has written a book about the the story of the Lott families and their descendants.

Names include Durrants; Girlings; Bentalls; Ansell; Veseys; Greens; Taylors, Giblins; Chickalls; Pratta Rayners & Freemans

If you would like copy contact Brian:
lottb@imcgroup.co.uk

FAMILY AT LOGGERHEADS A Sunday Morning Incident

Extracts from Suffolk and Essex News May 14th 1910.

Joseph Hempstead, a painter, charged John Cross, matmaker, with assaulting him on May 1st. Isabella Cross, wife of the defendant was also charged with having assaulted the complainant's daughter Ethel Hempstead, aged 15, on the same day. There was a counter summons brought by Cross against Hempstead for having assaulted him.

Joseph Hempstead said that on Sunday morning, about 10.o'clock, he was going down Suffolk yard, where he lived, when John Cross struck him 5 or 6 times, and his wife and several neighbours had to get witness indoors out of the way of the defendant. Asked if he wished to question the witness, defendant interrogated him as to whether he did not use abusive language towards defendant's wife and the rest of the family to which prosecutor replied "No".

Mrs Mary Edwards, who said she was the wife of William Edwards, and lived at No 6 Suffolk Square, deposed that on Sunday morning, she was standing in her doorway when she saw the defendant go up to Mr Hempstead's door and threaten him. She heard prosecutor say he did not want to have anything to do with defendant, and "he would not have a row on Sunday morning". Defendant followed complainant down the yard and she saw him strike him in the face. Mrs Hempstead came up and parted them. Witness was sure that Cross hit the prosecutor first. She only saw one blow struck.

Elsina Hart said she was a widow. She was standing against her door, and saw Mr Hempstead going up the yard carrying a jug of water accompanied by his wife. Defendant and his wife rushed after them. Hempstead said he "did not want any rows on Sunday morning and he would leave it until some future time". Defendant struck Hempstead in the face the first time, and afterwards struck him twice, besides threatening him. Mrs Anna Carrington also corroborated the evidence of the previous witnesses and deposed to seeing the assault committed.

In the second charge, Ethel Hempstead said she was standing at the door of her mother's house when she saw the defendant Cross run after her father. Cross was barefooted. Witness screamed and ran down the yard. Defendant ran after witness and struck her in the face with a cup and pulled her hair. Defendant also got witness down, threatened to strangle her, and threw dirt in her face. Asked if she wished to put any questions to witness, she commenced a long statement to the effect that witness first assaulted her; pulling her hair. Mrs Mary Edwards, the witness in the previous case deposed to seeing defendant strike Ethel Hempstead in the face with a tea-cup. In the counter charge, Cross entered the box and said the case began on the Saturday night when Hempstead came to his house and 'dared' he and his wife to 'come out'. Mrs Cross made a statement to the effect that all the parties concerned, including the witnesses, were related to one another.

After a short consultation, the Chairman said as far as the Bench could make out it was simply a 'family row', and if the parties could not live near each other in peace they should do their best to move away from one another. The defendants in each case would have to enter into recognisances to keep the peace for 6 months and would have to pay their own costs. *Found by Liz Cole*

WHAT'S BEHIND A NAME?

Sorting through my late father's belongings I found a Reader's Digest book about household names that rose to fame and fortune, dated 1983.

OVALTINE

When Dr George Wander, a Swiss chemist, first marketed his food drink in Britain it went under the name of 'Ovomaltine'. The name came from the Latin for egg, *ovum*, with 'malt' and the suffix – 'ine' but it was difficult to get the name registered, so Dr Wander shortened it to Ovaltine, although on the continent, where it was first launched, the drink is still sold under its original name.

Dr Wander's drink first began to take shape in his laboratory in Berne, Switzerland, in the late 1860's when he was investigating the nutritional value of barley malt. As an assistant at the University of Berne, he had studied a report on a new soup for infants, a boiled down extract of malt. He realised that the extract's high nutritional value, plus its long storage life, could make it a convenient food for people of all ages. The doctor began to manufacture barley malt in concentrated form, producing at first a dark, tasty syrup which was tested successfully at the University Hospital in Berne. Successive products based on the use of malt extract culminated in the launching in 1904 of a powdered form, Ovaltine. It was prescribed by doctors as a health drink and quickly became popular in Switzerland and abroad.

The British company was formed in 1909 when the drink was shipped in bulk from Switzerland. Four years later, the company decided to manufacture Ovaltine in Britain and a small factory in King's Langley in Hertfordshire was opened with a staff of four girls in the packing room and a total of fewer than 20 employees. At the end of the first World War the company expanded dramatically, building the factory it still (1983) occupies on the banks of the Grand Union Canal at King's Langley.

In 1935 the company launched the Ovaltineys Club, sponsoring a regular club programme on Radio Luxembourg. The programme was broadcast on Sunday evenings between 5.30 and 6.00pm and the club's song 'We are the Ovaltineys' became one of the best known jingles of its time. By 1939 the club had 5 million members. The programme was suspended when Radio Luxembourg closed down at the beginning of the Second World War but in 1946 it was restarted and ran for several more years. In 1975 the company revived the Ovaltiney's song and used it in a campaign of television commercials.

In 1983 the company employed more than 600 people in Britain alone and around the world a staggering 2,150 million cups of Ovaltine were drunk each year – or about 4,100 cups a minute.

FREE TREE CHART BOOKLET

The Family History Federation offer a free download of a children's family tree booklet they can fill in.

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/family-tree-booklets>

CHAIRS

We really do appreciate your help in putting away the chairs at the end of the meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS:

28 Apr	Lawrence of Arabia...and Felixstowe	<i>Kim Smith</i>
26 May	Arsenic's Toxic Legacy: People, Places, Pests and Peppermints <i>Group AGM</i>	<i>Neil Dickinson</i>
30 Jun	QUIZ – General questions ALL WELCOME Refreshments teams up to 6 £2.50 member / £3 non-member	
28 Jul	Suffolk Smugglers	<i>Pip Wright</i>
Aug	No Meeting	
29 Sept	A Country Full of 'Notorious Witches' Witch-Trials of 16 th & 17 th Century Essex	<i>Alison Rowlands</i>
27 Oct	Suffolk Villages	<i>Peter Tatam</i>
24 Nov	The Most Secret Place on Earth	<i>Roger Pugh</i>
Dec	No Meeting	

If you have any contributions for Update please email me - Helen

If a meeting needs to be cancelled at short notice (ie due to bad weather) we will put it on our Group Website page.

suffolkfhs.co.uk - Sudbury Group

PLEASE TAKE A POSTER TO DISPLAY

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

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