



SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SUDBURY & DISTRICT GROUP

Update

April 2026

TODAY'S SPEAKER

This afternoon we welcome Kim Smith with her talk entitled Lawrence of Arabia...and Felixstowe

BONNEY

We have a request from Australia:

I'm writing to request assistance with finding a contract researcher to help with a Sudbury-related task on commission. In the past Mrs Fiona Wheeler has been of great help. I was also involved many years ago with Mr Ken Bonney who communicated with Ms Edith Freeman from the late 1970s.

With the help of your group and the Suffolk County Archives, we have compiled quite a comprehensive understanding of our ancestor Joseph Bonney (1776-1827) but there are some questions that have been raised within our little group here that need to be resolved:

1. There was another Joseph Bonney who joined the regular army and ended up criminally insane in the Bury St Edmunds Gaol in the custody of John Orridge. He served from 1799 onwards in the regular army and so could possibly have been the same one listed in Allan Berry's book on the West Suffolk Militia from 1793-96. At this point, we have been of the view that our Joseph Bonney was in the Militia NOT the one who went insane. It's important that we can distinguish between the two.
2. The other main research area we are seeking help with is that of the family tree for Frances Bonney nee Atkins. She married Joseph Bonney in St Saviours, Southwark, London 27th October 1795. We have been unable to find anything about her family, even using two London-based researchers.

Resolving these two issues would really make our family history complete.

The first question is, it appears to us, much easier to resolve if someone can get into the records of the West Suffolk Militia on our behalf.

It would be very much appreciated if you could help us find someone, either within your group or an external researcher.

Regards

Laurie Bonney

PO Box 143, Lindisfarne, Tasmania, AUSTRALIA 7015

M: +61 (0) 417 404 303

E: lobo.vci@protonmail.com

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

DO YOU HAVE SUFFOLK ANCESTORS?

FreeReg have recently added nearly 50k new baptism, burial, and marriage records to their database.

www.freereg.org.uk

Ancestry have added 2 million Prerogative Court of York records which include wills for the north of England.

NEXT MEETINGS:

26 May	Arsenic's Toxic Legacy: People, Places, Pests and Peppermints Group AGM	<i>Neil Dickinson</i>
30 Jun	QUIZ – General questions ALL WELCOME	
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?

Sheila Piper: 01787 248260

Helen Richardson: 01787 376287

Sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk

helenfh1924@gmail.com