



IN TIME

Ely U3A History Group Members'
Newsletter



Edition 10

4 June 2020

Week 10 of the U3A History Newsletter and still going strong thanks to the efforts of our members in particular those who have contributed a number of articles – thank you.

This week we consider canaries, take a look at war medals, go back to the days of the plague in the 1660s, look at another item to go to the disrepair shop and are amazed by mazes. We still need articles so please do not stop writing and if you haven't yet sent anything in to the newsletter please consider 'having a go'. Send your pieces to Maggie Haverson (email address supplied in the email containing the newsletter)

The Canaries. – Heather Carruth



So how did a small yellow and green bird manage to fly all the way from its native Macaronesian Islands across the Atlantic to end up on the badge of Norwich F.C.? The answer, it came via the 17th century with the help of "Strangers".

The Elizabethan Strangers, often referred to as just the Strangers, were Dutch, Walloon and Flemish weavers who fled the low countries in the 16th century because of the persecution of Dutch Calvinists by their Spanish (Catholic) rulers. (At that time stranger meant anyone who was not native to a location, spoke another language or wore different looking clothes.)

In 1565, they first sought asylum in Sandwich, Kent. However, Thomas Sotherton, Mayor of Norwich was keen to encourage these skilled workers to settle in Norwich. He could see the immense economic boost their innovative skills in weaving would bring to the flagging local textiles industry. It would also prevent competition starting up away from the town. The Strangers came willingly, bringing their weaving companions, the canaries, with them. These lively little birds would sing away to the clacking of the looms brightening the weavers' long lonely days. The strangers were welcomed creating prosperity for the region and quickly integrating into local life; the birds were here to stay.

The breeding of canaries became a popular pastime in Norwich, so much so that by the early 20th century, the local football team had, following a chance remark by the chairman, (a canary breeder) adopted the nickname "The Canaries"; though they played in light blue and white halved shirts. In 1907, playing from a home ground called "The Nest" and inspired by the nickname or possibly as an acknowledgement to the history of the town the club played for the first time in its distinctive Canary livery.

A detective story inspired by a medal – Cassandra Rogers

This story is a mixture of WW1 and the wonderful way we can trace our relations from the past even with very few details to go on. To set the scene; my dear father-in-law was one of twin boys, with an elder brother, Harold. Frank and Edgar William (Bill) were the twins. Their father was a pharmacist with his own premises in Stamford.

This year, just before Lockdown, we had an e-mail from a nephew of mine, who is very "into" the heredity of our family, saying he had heard from a lady that she had in her possession a medal dating from WW1 and belonging to Frank Rogers of the 16th London Regiment - the owner's name is printed on the edge of these medals. Luckily she was interested in finding out more and knew a man who knew a lot about this subject, and exactly how to investigate further. The lady, who we now know as Jacqui, searched the Ancestry Site and found my nephew Peter Brodnax Moore in Gosport,

Hampshire who long ago placed his and our family tree on this site. I can only imagine the Jacqui saw the connection between Peter Moore, his mother and myself (a Rogers by marriage I married John Rogers, whose father was Brigadier Edgar William Rogers of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment).

Harold and Frank were in the Territorials (voluntary in peacetime) whose detachments at the outbreak of war were moved immediately into the 16th London Regiment, and then sent over to France early - sadly neither survived the war. Bill, my dear papa-in-law, spent most of his career in the British Army in India, and thankfully did survive. And just as well as his mother was left with two of her three sons gone, and just after the end of the war, her husband was taken with Spanish Flu.

So now, after this remarkable detective story and a large piece of luck that the medal belonging to Frank Rogers fell into such good hands, we have all the medals together.



On the left is the British War Medal awarded to Cpl. Frank Austin Rogers (1890-1916) and to the right of it, the British War Medal awarded to his brother, Edgar William Rogers (1893-1973), whose medals from 1935 and 1937 and British War Medal 1839-55 are also pictured.

[The Disrepair shop – cherished memories](#)

My Grandmother's Dish - Kate Cann



This dish belonged to my father's mother I only ever met her once when I was 5 years old. It has two chips in the base and it is supposed to have a gold rim around the edging. My grandmother died in West Norwood London in 1950 and my parents rescued the dish, along with a few other items of Japanese and Chinese origins. I think my father collected these items on his travels.

The dish is dated Gauldon, England estab 1774. The company often dated their pottery with 1774 but were actually established in Hanley, Stoke on Trent in 1802. No

one seems to know why they dated their china with an earlier date, but there are dates when particular patterns were established, maybe someone in the group might know more.

I have no idea of its value but as it is the only thing I have from my grandmother. I love it and often wonder if it was part of a dinner set and what it would have been used for. It is kept in my china cabinet but usually has silly items like keys and pens dropped in it. It would be lovely to see the chips repaired and the gold rim repainted and one day passed on to another member of the family, who would cherish it as I have.

Extract from the diary of Samuel Newton alderman of Cambridge 1662-1717 Clinton Tweed

Samuel was born in Cambridge in 1628 and died there in 1718 aged 90. He is buried in St Edward's Church with his wife Elizabeth. For those of you who are familiar with St Benet's Church in Cambridge you will recall the handsome tomb in the churchyard standing not far from the foot of the steps leading down from the street. It is adorned with the Newton family arms of crossed shin bones and is the tomb of Newton's only child Sarah who died aged two years.

Newton became a member of Cambridge Corporation in 1660 when he was made a Freeman of the town and seems to have been elected as an Alderman in 1662 in which capacity he served until just before his death. Although he was in Cambridge at the same time as Sir Issac Newton they were not related. He kept a diary from 1660 to 1717 although there were only a few entries during his later years, It was transcribed and published in 1890 and the following is an extract that is pertinent to our present predicament.

1st September, 1665

It pleased God at this Season, the Plague was very raging and greatly increased in London so that the bill of mortality of London from 15 August to the 22nd 1665 was thus.

Buryed within the walls 538 where of the Plague 336

Buryed in the 16 parishes without the walls of the Plague 2139

Buryed in 12 out parishes in Middlesex and Surrey of Plague 1244

Buryed in 5 parishes in the City and liberties of Westminster of Plague 483

Buryed this week Males 2777 Females 2791

In all 5568 Whereof of the Plague 4297

Increase in the Buryalls this week 249. Parishes cleere 27 infected 103.

The parish which in this weeke was most infected was St Giles Cripplegate where dyed this weeke 847 whereof of the Plague 572. And in the bill of mortality of London from 22 August to the 29th 1665 was thus

Buryed within the walls 993 whereof the Plague 700

Buryed in the 16 parishes without the walls of the Plague 3627

Buryed in 12 out parishes in Middlesex and Surrey of Plague 1759

Buryed in 5 parishes in the City and liberties of Westminster of Plague 715

Buryed in all 7596 Whereof of the Plague 6102

Increase in the Buryalls this week 1928. Parishes cleere 17 infected 113.

The parish wherein in this weeke the most dyed was St Giles Cripplegate there then dyed in toto 842 whereof of the Plague 605.

“Saturday was thyn posted up in Cambridge the Kings Proclamation that Sturbridge fayre should not this years be kept because of the great Plague at London thereby prohibiting all Londoners from comeing to the same, Great Danger was alsoe then here in Cambridge severall dyeing then here at the pesthouses of the sickness.



[Be Amazed - Maggie Haverson](#)



Mazes or as they are sometimes called labyrinths have been around for over 3000 years. The origins of mazes are lost in history, but their precursors are thought to be the cup and ring marks and spiral designs carved on stone by early man. We are all familiar with the hedge mazes seen at places such as Hampton Court, but turf mazes were a much earlier invention.

They are found mainly in central and southern Britain, but sadly only 8 out of the 60 known sites have survived. We have one of these in Cambridgeshire at Hilton – see picture, but the largest and one of the best, can be found at Saffron Walden. This 17 ringed medieval maze measures 132 feet across and a large ash tree is said to have grown in its central mound

Maze paths were typically of turf with gullies cut into the turf as barriers, in some areas exposing white chalk beneath. Turf mazes were designed to be walked or run along following the path from the outside to the centre. They were often found on village greens and may have been used for maze running on festive occasions such as Easter and May Day. As you can imagine a turf maze needs constant maintenance and can be lost entirely within a few years. Records of the Saffron Walden turf maze, shown in the picture, record that re-cutting was carried out in 1828, 1841, 1859 and 1887 and in 1911 bricks were laid in the gully to form a more permanent path. Further maintenance was also carried out in 1979



The Saffron Walden maze is definitely worth a visit so when all these restrictions are over, put it on your list of places to go.

Virginia Divall is offering 2 DNA kits free to anyone who would like them all you have to do is pay for the test when it is submitted.

Contact: Virginia Divall Virginia@virginiadivall.org.uk

Petty's Pick of the Week

Every day Mike Petty posts on his Facebook group "Fenland History on Facebook" a number of newspaper clips from his massive archive of local events reported "on this day" <https://www.facebook.com/groups//102684982076955>

No flush, we blush - Grantchester Past Snips May 31st 1957 This story appeared in a Cambridge newspaper on this date.

There are 33 council houses in Grantchester and 26 still have pail lavatories. One resident said: "Us people, we have a sense of decency, and when we have friends call we blush from head to foot. They have been used to flush lavatories". But private houses are in the same position, it is a national problem. Villagers called for some form of night soil collection and a small sewage disposal scheme.

