

The Filby Association

Honorary President - Mary E. Filby
Downham Market, Norfolk, England.



No.8

Chronicle

2010



On the left of this picture, Wally Filby, our Treasurer, is parading his British Legion standard for Croydon alongside Dame Vera Lynn at the War and Peace Show on 25th July, 2009.

An organisation of people the world over with the surname of FILBY or its variants, FILBEY, FILBEE, PHILBY or PHILBEY devoted to furthering the study of the name derived from the village of FILBY, Norfolk in England—the genealogy of the various families with this name and the support of the Parish Church at Filby. There are no annual dues or assessments but anyone desiring to help the Association through donations should Contact the Treasurer. Family data will be welcome as research is encouraged on a hobby basis.

The Association is fully constituted and is a not-for-profit charitable organisation.

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Do You Know This Family?

Our member, **Wilfredo Filby**, of Kidapawan City in the Philippines, is trying to trace his family tree in the U.S.A and we are hoping that someone may recognise the family names.

If you do - please contact either Jim Filby or Ruth Smith and they will pass on your information to Wilfredo and our U.S.A. correspondents so that we can help him.

His grandfather was	William Filby born 19th February, 1918 (USA)
Occupation	Pilot in the American Army.
He married	Consuelo N (?) in Kidapawan.

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**For Chronicle and
'In Touch' newsletter**

Write to your editor
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Dear Friends,
Firstly, may I welcome
our new members to the
Filby Association and
also this edition of our annual Chronicle.

I do hope you enjoy reading our articles
because this is much more than just an update on
the workings of The Filby Association. It is a way of
bringing all our 'family' together and sharing
information.

It is through this contact that we are able to
help members from all over the world when they
ask us to find their past, and sometimes present
relatives.

In this edition there are stories about our
members' own holidays, their family history, our
Association research and accounts, All Saints
Church at Filby village in Norfolk, and my
goodness, have you tried the Filby cocktail yet?

We try to offer you a mix of interesting
articles so there is something for everyone, and
that is why I am once again asking you to consider
sending something to me for our next issue.

It can be about anything that is important to
you, and we do add your Birth, Marriage and
Death information to our Trees on file. You may
have had an exciting holiday or have an interesting
story about an ancestor, or an item from a
newspaper that will amuse. Whatever it is, we
would like you to share it with us all. If you can't
put your story together—I will write it, given
enough information!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed
to this year's Chronicle, and I look forward to
editing the next—with your help.

I do hope to see you at the Triennial Reunion on
Sunday, 4th July.

My best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Marion Filby (Editor / Researcher)



News from our Manager ~ Jim Filby

I am pleased to tell you that our Association is going from strength to strength thanks to the efforts of all our officers and helpers. Last year, in 2008, we gained ten new members. This year we have gained a further fourteen, most of whom we have either helped, are helping, or will be helping with their research as soon as a researcher becomes available.

I am pleased to announce that two members have volunteered their help this year. The first is John D Filby, PhD., from Leighton Buzzard, who was helping me with some U.S.A. trees and has now offered to become one of our researchers. The second is Mark Steven Filby, from Felixstowe, who has now taken over from me as our Web Master for www.filby.org.uk. I will not be writing anything this year about our website; I will leave this for Mark next year.

In this photograph I am holding the certificate that was presented to me when our website was commended in the F.F.H.S. Website Awards - 2009. Perhaps Mark can win the award for us in the future - we all wish him luck.



Our secretary, Ruth Smith, who is our longest serving officer, has now decided that the responsibilities are too much for her and she would like to reduce her workload. The executive officers decided that we would still like her to serve on the executive, but taking the new position of U.K Correspondent. We are therefore advertising for a new secretary who will, we hope, eventually become an executive officer. In the meantime three of us have taken most of the secretary's responsibilities.

We are of course always looking for new officers and helpers who will eventually replace us. The old saying that many hands make light work could not be truer - more volunteers will make our work easier. Unfortunately, Geoff Clark has decided to take a break from researching for us, but we thank him most sincerely for all he has done to help.

As I said last year, a lot of work is continually going on behind the scenes such as: helping new members with research, putting new data onto computer, keeping our website up-to-date, keeping our Master Trees up-to-date, and last but not least, putting all our old handwritten and typed data onto the latest storage medium.

Our DNA project is continuing. We have had one volunteer pay for his test, and a second volunteer pay for part of his test when we decided that we needed further information. These people have to remain anonymous for the time being until they decide that we can release their names. You can review all our results if you visit www.familyreedna.com/public/filby.

Finally, I hope you will all enjoy reading the articles in this Chronicle, and that you will continue to support the Filby Association and all our officers in whatever way you can; be it monetary, family information and trees, articles for our editor, attending our next Reunion and A.G.M., **(please remember to return the attendance form)** or even just words of support.

I thank you all.

jim@filby.org.uk

Introducing our new Web Master—Mark Steven Filby

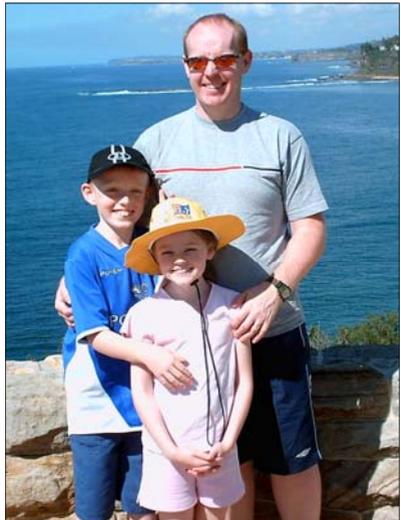
I was born in Ipswich in 1968, and have lived around Ipswich for most of my life. I am married to Lorna and we have two great children, Thomas (12 years) and Jessica (10 years).

What skills can I bring to the Association? I work for a specialist print machine manufacturer as an Operations Manager. I travel overseas regularly in the course of my occupation. I have spent many years developing Internet based marketing of my current employers' business as well as a role as a Technical Director for a small management consultancy practice where we developed Intranets some years ago. But I am slightly 'rusty' with regard to website design, so this is a great opportunity to 'refresh' my old skills for a good cause!

As well as spending time with my family, I spend much of my free time riding my motorcycle. I am also a member of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) and regularly attend beer festivals. So, when I am not riding and drinking (not together of course!) I have an allotment, and love to be out walking or cycling in the countryside.

Mark S. Filby (Web Master)
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*We are delighted to welcome Mark to our team of volunteers and wish him all the best in his position as Web Master.
(Editor)*



TELL US ABOUT YOUR VACATION.

Our members find reading about your expeditions very interesting, and tell me that they remind them of places they have been to or want to visit.

We have two in this edition, one from Australia and one from Canada.

I also got the Chronicle out early this year because Alan and I are going on another world cruise starting from Fort Lauderdale on 5th January, and ending in Athens on 28th April. If you would like to follow my blog it will be available on **www.alanandmarion.blogspot.com**

I will still be picking up my emails en route.

(Editor)

Searching for the Philbeys of Alford, South Australia.

by Paul and Margaret Wilkins of Valley View, South Australia.

In April, 2005, my cousin, Carole Bernard, and her husband, Richard, came to Australia for a holiday. While they were staying with us in Adelaide, South Australia, Carole made mention they would like to visit where the Philbeys of Alford, South Australia, had lived, and still live. This family came to Australia in 1852, This guy was George Frederick Philbey.

Carole and I are grandchildren of Lilian Mary Philbey of Oxford, England. Off we set for Alford, a small farming town 100 miles north of Adelaide, with the Philbey farms around the town.

First stop was at Kadina a fairly large town some 10 miles from Alford. Here we visited a local museum called The Matta House. Whilst talking to the staff the name Philbey came up in conversation, and there were some Philbey relations working behind the counter. I asked about Philbeys of Alford, so a phone call was made and another Philbey relation turned up, a Jean Hutchings of Kadina.

I had met her previously a number of years earlier at a small Philbey reunion. Jean drew a "mud map" for me of where to find Philbey farms, so off we went. Her map was exact. Here we visited farms at places called 'Belvidere and Bews', and saw the school room at Pine Forest where the Philbey children went to school. We visited another Philbey farm called 'Strathneath'.

Whilst visiting these different farms our thoughts went back to the original Philbeys clearing the land of scrub, and early farming. Most of the farming now is wheat growing and sheep. Carole's husband, Richard, had his video camera going most of the time, recording the scenes of farm buildings and conversations we had with different Philbey wives, but the men were away working.

When we arrived home late at night we reflected on what we had seen and with whom we had conversed during the day. It was great to reflect on our association with the Philbey Clan.

The South American Trip - Our Best Adventure Yet.

by Ed and Diane Filby of Ottawa, Canada.

GAP (Comfort class) was a great company to travel with, but we were among the oldest participants on both the Peru and Ecuador tours.

In Peru we stayed at an Eco-Lodge in the Amazon Basin Rainforest, before we headed to Cusco (the Inca capital).

Part of our group (including us) hiked the three-day Lares Trek instead of the Inca Trail. All reports seem to indicate that the Lares Trek is the better experience, since the altitudes are much higher, surrounded by glaciers and snow-capped Andes and virtually no other hikers. Our Lares Trek group consisted of 10 hikers, 2 guides, 2 cooks, and 4 porters, who carried all the camping supplies (tents/food etc.) on the llamas and ponies. We passed by several isolated farms and communities, with the children, often with the family herds of alpacas, llamas and /or sheep, anxious to greet us.

When we crossed the highest pass at 4600m, several people in our group had nose-bleeds, headaches, fatigue etc. from the exertion at altitude.

We then visited Machu Picchu (the Inca town built on top of an Andes mountain, so isolated that the Spaniards never discovered/destroyed it,) which certainly should be one of the Wonders of the World. We finished the Peru segment with a two day visit to Lake Titicaca, with its floating Uros Islands and the isolated culture on the island of Taquile.

In Ecuador, we spent some time in Quito, where we visited the equatorial line (and did all the kinky experiments) before flying to the Galapagos Islands. Our 100ft. Galapagos yacht had eighteen passengers with two naturalist guides and a crew of seven. The first night had a 70km, twelve hour sail (in quite rough seas) to the furthest southern island of Espanola, but after that the seas were somewhat calmer. Most passengers ate most meals.

We hiked/explored on eight different Galapagos islands: (albatross, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, penguins etc.) and went on six skin-diving excursions. Some of the skin-diving started from the beaches but most of the excursions were a 'jump-over ' from the dinghy into the ocean (not a favourite for Diane.) We swam/snorkelled with giant sea turtles, sea lions, marine iguanas and the white-tipped reef shark. We were also fortunate enough to have manta rays (three meter span) swim with the dinghy and one evening we had a fantastic display from humpback whales.

P.S. Veteran travellers may be impressed to learn that, after eleven flights through three countries in one month, all our luggage arrived home with us!

GRAND PRIX DE PARIS 1978



The May Fair Hotel is proud to announce that Head Bartender, Peter Brennan, took first prize with this cocktail in the International Mixed Drinks Competition held in Paris in December

'THE FILBY'

5/10 Gordons Gin
2/10 Amaretto di Saronno
2/10 Martini Dry
1/10 Campari
Zest of Orange



Why not take this opportunity of sampling this drink which we are offering at the special price of £1.00.

The original 'Filby Cocktail' was named after one of our members, Robert Gordon Filby, better known as 'Bob', who, over a period of forty-one years with Gordon's Gin Company, worked his way through the ranks within the export department to become Managing Director and eventually Chairman.

I asked Bob how this cocktail came about.

In 1978 the United Kingdom Bartenders Guild were entering various cocktails for an international competition held in Paris, and Peter Brennan at the Mayfair Hotel in London was instructed to make up a short drink. When asked by the committee what name he was giving, he thought for a moment and said it contained 5/10th Gordon's so why not call it 'The Filby' as Bob Filby was a great supporter of bartender's guilds. It won first prize and is still featured in the International Guide for Drinks. The photo above is of the original 'tent card' used for its promotion.

Bob's advice is to drink it slowly!

Jessica Gill, our U.S. correspondent, found the Filby Cocktail when working in a bar and brought it to our attention on her Facebook page. This recipe however, has slightly changed over a period of thirty years and Bob said that he personally would not have made it more bitter by increasing the Campari.

Resulting from Jessica's enquiry about the origin of the cocktail, it has come to light that Bob Filby did not just have a cocktail named after him, but has also had an interesting life in many ways, all of which he attributes to a lot of luck and help from others, both in the army and his working life. Five years ago a profile of his life appeared in The Eagle - Journal of the Essex Regiment Association, which I found most interesting and would like to share with you. Here is a brief biography of 'our' man behind the 'Filby' cocktail.

Bob was born 26th November, 1923, the youngest of seven children, four brothers and two sisters. One of his brothers was Fred

Filby, a founder member of The Filby Association, whom I am sure many of you will not only remember, but will have met.

His parents were Licensed Victuallers and had some very successful pubs until tragedy struck, and his father died after a long illness when Bob was just nine years of age. His mother was left with terrible financial difficulties, because the business had been left in the hands of managers with unfortunate consequences.

Fortunately, as his father had been a Mason, Bob was sent to the Royal Masonic School, but life in the junior boarding school was tough. However, although discipline by today's standards was very strict, even at so tender an age the 'stiff upper lip' seemed to prevail, and he considers those formative years greatly contributed to his ability to cope with the harsh realities of life that were to come later during the war.

On entering senior school life became entirely different and opportunities for sport and other activities outside of school were made possible. Bob was in a production of 'Goodbye Mr. Chips' at Denham Studios. He was in the Cadet Corps and became proficient with simple military weapons. He loved rugby, hockey and water polo. He considers he was very fortunate to be sent as a boarder to a very fine school at no cost to his dear mother. Being at a school in which all the pupils had lost either one or both parents, sympathy was a cardinal virtue and perhaps a natural development to the charity work Bob did in the twilight years of his life.

Bob left school in 1939 and joined a company based in the heart of London, but when the heavy wartime bombing started, the company relocated to Pinner, Middlesex. During the course of his work he visited the local post office and met and courted his future wife Joyce, who was the officer supervisor.

On reaching the age for military service Bob decided to volunteer to join the Essex Regiment, and soon found himself a very young recruit at Warley Barracks where his military training in the Cadet Corps at school stood him in good stead. He was soon promoted to the rank of Lance-Corporal, and soon after selected to go to OCTU. He passed through the hands of the renowned Regimental Sergeant Major Britton who terrified everyone! Following his tough training he returned to Warley Barracks as a young 2nd Lieutenant, but was soon to be posted to the 2nd Essex and was eventually to lead a platoon of men in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day.

There were many fierce battles and in just one action Bob lost seventeen of his twenty-eight men killed or wounded. Historians have recorded the terrible casualties suffered by the 2nd Essex between 6th June 1944 and 8th May 1945. Bob was very lucky to survive and was a Major before he was twenty-one, having been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and leadership. King George VI sent him a letter of congratulations, and on another occasion The Secretary of State for War conveyed His Majesty's high appreciation for Bob's distinguished

service. It didn't end there as the French Government also honoured him with a Croix de Guerre. Bob merely states that it was a great privilege to command very brave soldiers, and today he is still deeply saddened by the heavy loss of life of men who were his friends as well as his comrades.

When the war in Germany ended, Bob was posted to the Far East for the intended invasion of Japan, but fortunately for him and all the invasion forces, the Americans dropped the Atom bombs and the Japanese capitulated. However, he then found himself in India commanding a Company in the 1st Battalion of The Essex Regiment that had the difficult task of quelling riots between religious sects prior to India gaining independence.

Although being asked to stay on in the army, Bob had married Joyce on 22nd February 1945, before he left the U.K. and didn't think she would enjoy life as a soldier's wife, so he decided to take demob when it was available. It meant starting again in Civvy Street and he joined the Gordon's Gin Company as junior shipping clerk, thinking that it would be a temporary job until he could find something better.



Bob and Joyce on their Wedding Day:

On the left, his brother and best man, Fred Filby, one of the founder members of our Filby Association.

However, he then decided to attend night school to qualify as a member of The Institute of Export and was promoted to Senior Shipping Clerk. After this there was no stopping him and Senior Shipping Clerk was followed by Assistant Export Manager, Export Manager, Export Director, Senior Export Director, Managing Director, and finally, after forty years he was to become Chairman of this multinational company.

Being on the international side of Gordon's business for many years, Bob had to travel abroad for long periods and this was hard on Joyce who was left on her own to bring up three children. However, in due course the Distillers Company Ltd. then introduced a rule that if an executive travelled a lot, he could occasionally take his wife subject to the cost not exceeding a certain sum. So when the family were old enough to look after themselves, Joyce did, from time to time, accompany Bob, thus easing the pressure for both of them.

One of the highlights of Bob's career was when Gordon's Gin sponsored the Lawrence Olivier Awards Ceremony at the Victoria Palace Theatre, and as Chairman he had to play host to H.R.H. The Prince Edward, and a galaxy of stage and screen stars. He was called upon to make a speech which was televised at prime viewing time – he said it was more nerve-racking than landing on the Normandy beaches on D-Day! However, it went well and after the Awards' Ceremony he hosted a dinner for all the guests at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Bob's involvement in charity work came from a decision by Diageo to provide the President of the largest trade charity, namely the Licensed Victuallers' National Homes, established in 1842 to provide retirement homes for elderly and distressed people in the licensed trade, their spouses, widows and widowers. He was following in the footsteps of HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh and also HRH The Duke of Kent, as well as renowned sporting personalities. Supported by a wonderful team and above all, his wife Joyce, who was a tower of strength throughout, they raised £1.46 million, which was, and still is a record sum. He was host to HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh at the charity's HQ at Denham, and he and Joyce were subsequently invited to Buckingham Palace. He describes this as the icing on the cake to a wonderful career.

When he retired, Bob was asked to help form the Diageo Retirement Association and took the chair of the London & Home Counties' committee looking after 5,000 pensioners. He subsequently set up five branches, each with their own committee answering to him, and this proved to be extremely successful. After twenty years Bob has finally taken a back seat, and at the age of eighty-six is enjoying retirement to the full with Joyce and their very supportive family. He reiterates that he has had more than his fair share of luck in life and enjoyed a fabulous career, having met some marvellous people and been treated with great kindness and respect.

His final words to me were "I am proud to be a member of the Filby Association which my brother, Fred, and Mary Filby, formed with Ellsworth Filby from Kansas City, in 1968. We all greatly appreciate the hard work of the present conscientious Officers who have given the Association a truly international status".

He has retained a very old newspaper dated 4th July, 1977, in which there is a headline 'Filbys of the world unite' and he hopes there will be similar headlines in years to come! Bob is currently attending Kensington Palace for his portrait to be painted – what an honour!

We thank him for sharing his life story with us.

There is a photograph on the back cover of Bob and Joyce with their family during a recent celebration.

Marion Filby (Editor)

I Have Met Both WW1 & WW2 Forces Sweethearts

by Wally Filby (Treasurer)

I have had the pleasure of meeting the 'forces sweethearts' of both world wars; Gracie Fields in 1957, and this year I met Vera Lynn, both of whom were made Dames.

After the Suez crisis in 1956, the frigate I was serving on returned to Malta for repairs early in January 1957. After our refit and some exercises we visited Naples in Italy on a courtesy visit. The day after we arrived, my three friends and I wearing our best uniforms, decided to catch the ferry over to the Isle of Capri (which is about 1½ miles south of Naples) for a bit of sightseeing. We arrived just after midday and walked around for a while before passing a magnificent mansion where we were called back by a gentleman in black trousers, white shirt and white bow tie. He said that the Lady who owned the mansion was English and would like to talk to us - we accepted his invitation.

On entering the mansion we were completely surprised to find that it was the home of Gracie Fields, who was about sixty and had retired to Capri. After our initial meeting she gave us refreshments and we chatted informally for about an hour before she instructed her chauffeur to take us on a tour of the island. When we arrived back at about 7.30pm she had prepared a salad buffet for us with all the food and drink that we wanted. After a splendid evening of eating, drinking and talking, she then had us taken back to Naples in her own motor boat, arriving back on board just after midnight. What a fantastic day and what a wonderful hostess she had been.

The next day we told our shipmates what had happened and most of them went to Capri hoping for the same treatment, but were disappointed.

This year, my Legion in Croydon and the Legion in New Addington, just outside Croydon, were asked if we would parade our Royal British Legion standards on the last day of the War & Peace Show being held at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood in Kent, on Saturday, 25th July. We took four standards, Croydon & New Addington Legion standards, and the two Legion Women's Section standards, and I was to carry our standard. We arrived at the show ground at about 10.30am and were quite surprised to hear that Vera Lynn, now aged ninety-two, would be guest of honour at the concert being held in the large marquee, starting at 2.30pm and finishing at 5.30pm.

The standards were paraded around the show ground in old army vehicles, the two legion standards in two army ferrets with us sitting on top of the turret with our legs dangling inside. The two ladies standards were carried in an army jeep just behind us. We received applause from the crowd on the way round and finished at the large marquee just after mid-day.

Tables had been laid out for our buffet meal and next to us a buffet for about fifty second world-war veterans who were being brought along to see the show by the London Taxi Drivers Association. At the back of the marquee was a bar. We had two hours before we had to be back for the start of the show at 2.30pm where we would be carrying our standards twice. There were various acts including a jive band and a lady duo dressed in war-time R.A.F. uniforms. There was also a war time fashion show and a parade of actors dressed as war generals and other notables, including Monty & Churchill (two that got booed were Hitler and Goering) plus other supporting acts.

Dame Vera Lynn arrived just before the show began and walked among the veterans whilst talking and greeting us all, she then sat at a table next to us to watch the show. The lady duo had three spots during the show singing all war time favourites. We paraded our standards first during their second spot and were applauded when we marched on - and again as we marched off. We were then invited to have our photos taken with Vera Lynn.

During their last spot the lady duo sang all Vera Lynn songs, starting with "White Cliffs of Dover" and finishing with "We'll meet again". We marched on during the first song and after the last song both Legion Chairmen were invited onto the floor. My chairman asked those present to remember all those that had died in both world wars and in conflicts since, and especially those that had died in the present conflict. He then asked the ladies and gentlemen to please be upstanding and recited the exhortation "*they shall grow not old as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them – we will remember them*" during which we dipped our standards. After two minutes silence the Kohima Epitaph was recited "*When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today*" and we raised our standards. My Chairman then thanked everyone and asked the ladies and gentlemen to be seated.

The lady duo then sang "Rule Britannia", and finished off with all three verses of "God Save the Queen", during which we again dipped our standards. We were then marched off to the tune of "Land of Hope and Glory" where the reaction of the audience was amazing; they all stood up clapping and cheering, so much so that we were asked to march back on and off again.

I can only describe it as very moving and I felt very proud to have been part of it. The atmosphere was sensational - it was, to put it mildly, a perfect end to a very enjoyable day and one I will never forget.

There is one of the photographs of Wally Filby carrying the Legion standard by the side of Dame Vera Lynn on the front cover.
(Editor)

74 Years Ago - Mr Philby's New Record

Sent to me by Patrick King of Holbeach, who found this in The Daily Telegraph dated 23rd September, 1936

"Only a few months ago Mr St. John Philby, the Arabian explorer, was informed that his exploring days were over owing to his advanced age. Mr Philby is 51, and has replied to the warnings by completing one of his longest desert journeys.

I hear that he left King Ibn Saud's camp at Ashaira, between Mecca and Riyadh, on May 21, and reached the Indian Ocean at Shihr on August 29. As Mr Philby last winter motored from London to Riyadh via North Africa, Jerusalem and Damascus, he is probably the first man ever to cross Arabia from north to south.

He is certainly the first European to have seen Abha, capital of Najran, and the first to reach the Hadhramaut from the north.

Except for ten miles the whole journey was done by car. The chief obstacles were a barrier, 30 miles wide, of billowing sand dunes and a series of sand storms which assailed the party.

During the journey, Mr Philby reached Shabwa, capital of the ancient kingdom of the Himyarites and Pliny's 'city of 60 temples.'

The first European to reach Shabwa was the German photographer, Herr Helfritz, who, however, was forcibly expelled after only an hour or two. Mr Philby found that the inhabitants' notorious xenophobia melted on arrival of travellers moving under the aegis of King Ibn Saud.

He therefore had ample time for thorough examination of the ruins, including the great temple of Astarte.

His investigations into the size of the old city show, I am told, that there can never have been 60 temples, or anything like that number, within its ancient walls.

The ruins at Shabwa have not stood the test of time. This Mr Philby believes to indicate that most of the buildings were constructed of rock salt from the neighbouring mines."

For information:

Harry St. John Bridger Philby's muslim name was: Haji Abdullah. He explored Arabia at the time Lawrence of Arabia was active in the region. See the book "Treason in the Blood" by Brown to read of his exploits. Also "Philby of Arabia" by Elizabeth Munroe.

He died in Lebanon in 1960 having had two wives. His English first wife gave him four children, one of whom was the notorious spy 'Kim' Philby—Harold Adrian Russell Philby. He became a Muslim in August 1930, and then in 1947 he married a Muslim princess with whom he had four children in Saudi Arabia.

I have been researching this tree purely out of interest for a number of years.

Marion Filby (editor/researcher)

Greetings from Our USA Correspondents,

Kirk Filbey afd@jps.net and Jessica Gill jessicafgill@gmail.com

We are pleased to announce that the Filby Association is now a "group" on Facebook! To date we have 90 members. These members all have the surname of Filbey, Filby and there are a couple of Filbee's in the bunch as well.

The more important thing that we have established is a connection with the younger generation of Filbeys. We feel that this has gotten a group of people interested in genealogy and more eager to learn about their surname. Hopefully this will encourage them to do some research on their own family trees. If you are interested in joining our on line group you have to be a Facebook member. It's free and all you have to do is create an account at www.facebook.com. You can do a search on groups, or you can add me as a friend (Jessica Filbey Gill) and I'll make sure you get in on the discussions.

In other news Kirk has really made some research breakthroughs in regard to our branch of the family tree. Working with Marion and Jim Filby, he thinks he's been able to get past our current senior ancestor, Joseph Filbey (or Filby). As always, the various spellings of our last name cause many research challenges.

In fact Kirk has run across an example of a relative who spelt his name two different ways during the course of his life! Joseph Filbey was born around 1781 in Weston Turville, England. Based on some collaborative research, we think we've been able to link him into another tree with the last name of Philbey. This was very exciting news and dramatically expands our tree.

In other research news, Kirk was able to help Marion track down some information on Filbys in Michigan and Canada. The information helped another member fill in some gaps in his family tree. Kirk thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and this is just a reminder that we are more than happy to help others in researching their roots in the US and Canada or at least helping point them in the right direction.

Are you interested in conducting research on your relative's service in World War II? We wanted to highlight an incredible source of information: The National Personnel Records Center. This archive is located in St. Louis, MO and here is the center's website: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/> Researchers can order copies of their relatives' service records straight from the Center. The process is very straightforward and the website walks a researcher through the process. In some cases direct relatives of a veteran can have the veteran's medals reissued. Additionally this archive has copies of unit morning reports. These reports will not provide much information on specific unit actions, but they are an excellent tool for tracking where and when a person was assigned to a military unit. Specific unit morning reports can be ordered from the archive or you can conduct research yourself, either in person at the archive or through a third party researcher. Kirk has had great luck at the archive while researching his grandfather, and he can provide additional information on the process.

More research to follow!

Ruth Smith's SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have had new members this year from the UK, USA and France. We have had other enquiries as well as those detailed below, but they have not wished to join.

We had an interesting reunion in July 2009, including a reasonable attendance at the AGM. Please do make an effort to attend the AGM as well as the reunion in 2010, because we need your input. It will be the big Triennial Reunion this year.

Mary Filby, our President, was unable to attend the 2009 Reunion, but her health is improving. She has had cataracts removed and is able to see much better now so will be able to resume contact with members.

As of July, 2010, I will definitely be unable to continue as your secretary. I would like to thank Marion, Alan, Jim and Wally for helping me this year. I find that I do not have time for my own family research, and am not getting any younger, being the senior member of the committee.

I have Mary Filby's original, and my correspondence files, so I can still answer any queries that come along as my new position will be that of UK Correspondent and I will communicate with members. We have a Book of Remembrance, so if you would like to have an entry in that, I can send you details and a sample layout, and put you in touch with Enid Filby who writes it. It is still £5.00 for an A4 handwritten entry.

Please contact Jim Filby if you move, or change your email address, so that we can keep in touch, and you continue to receive the newsletter, Chronicle and any other correspondence.

Please send us your Births / Marriages / Deaths / Anniversaries or anything else of interest.

Filby in Bloom

Filby Village received a Gold award in Anglia and Silver gilt in Britain. If you have a look at www.filby-in-bloom.org.uk/home.html you will find the details you can download. Filby village always looks well cared for whatever time of year you visit.

We have a pear and an apple tree in the orchard in Filby, but there is no fruit on them yet, as they are new trees, but they are doing well. The Parish Council has allotted some more land doubling the area of the orchard. There was an article by Marion in the 2009 'In Touch' with more information.

If you would like to find out more about the village of Filby, you can access the web site www.filbyvillage.co.uk The name of the diary on it has been changed to 'Village Voice,' and this includes information about The Filby Association.

There is a 2010 Filby Village calendar containing photographs of our 2009 Reunion and it costs £7.00 plus £1.00 for UK post and packing. Overseas prices would have to be worked out. Contact Keith Johnson on either: webmaster@filbyvillage.org.uk; phone 01493 369536; or Keith's address – Homeward, Main Road, Filby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. NR29 3HN.

All Saints Day, 1st November, 2009

All Saints Church Filby have a Service of Remembrance on that date, and I asked Rev. Graham Steel to include:

Our Founder from the U.S.A. and his wife, Ellsworth and Marion Filby.

Our U.K. Coordinator and Founder member and his wife, Fred and Elsie Filby, whose ashes are in Filby churchyard.

Leonard Filby, our late President. (His widow, Mary, is now our President.)

Our previous late President and his wife, P W (Bill) and Vera Filby.

And all those members who have supported All Saints Church through The Filby Association.

New Members

David Holman, Cornwall

Christine Victory, Middlesex,

Darlene Boblooch, USA,

Jane Filby, West Yorkshire,

Lisa O'Sullivan, USA,

Margaret Harding, Hull,

Jim Harvey, Dublin.

Serena Taylor, Northumberland.

Mr. & Mrs A Filby, Norwich,

Clive & Sue Reynolds, Kings Lynn,

Eddy Tarrant, Eastbourne,

Jean-Jacques Filby, France,

Lorraine Ivers, Thetford,

Megan Kerlake, Surrey,

Justin Filby, Bedford.

I do apologise if I have missed anyone out.

Ruth@filby.org.uk

Can You Help?

A vacancy has arisen for our Association Secretary:

Working from home with use of a computer is essential as our Association relies on communication between officers. However, all work is on a voluntary basis and at his/her convenience with the exception that;-

The secretary will be responsible for taking Minutes at the A.G.M on the first Sunday in July every year as this important meeting precedes the Annual Reunion at Filby village in Norfolk.

The secretary will be invited to hold a position on the Executive Committee following a mutual trial period.

The secretary will be invited to attend any meetings of Societies of which the Association is a member, but this is not essential.

Although this position is of great importance to the Association all officers are willing to help in whatever way they can. Equally, if the applicant has secretarial experience the Association is always willing to listen to new ideas.

If anyone would like to know more about the secretary's responsibilities please contact Jim Filby at jim@filby.org.uk. We sincerely hope that this position can be filled in the near future.

Treasurers Report 2009

I have pleasure in presenting my eighth report as treasurer to cover the year from 1st October, 2008, to 30th September, 2009. At the bottom of our accounts you will notice an independent examiner's report; this in accordance with our new constitution and because we are now recognised as a charity for tax purposes.

Also our donations and expenditure have risen, which is partly due to the fact that we now have to pay for the web site that was originally sponsored by Calverton Control that has now closed.

Also, as we are able to claim gift aid it is now policy that all officers can claim their expenses, and if they then wish to return any amount as a donation it is eligible for gift aid. I will be claiming just over £600 this year because the donations returned by officers, plus gift aid claimed, totals more than the expenses claimed. Without this the Association would have been operating at a loss last year, so I hope that this trend will continue.

As you can see by the accounts we received £781.78p on last year's claim, which was for the previous six years donations.

If you are a U.K. taxpayer and wish us to claim gift aid on your donation, and have not yet signed a Gift Aid Form, please let us know and we will send you one.

As we now have Internet banking, if anyone would like to make a donation directly into our bank account the details are as follows:-
Bank: Barclays. Sort Code: 20-24-64. Account Name: The Filby Association. Account No: 93616762. **Please let me know if you do.**

We rely on your generous donations and I would like to thank all of you who have sent donations during the year. Below I name all those who have contributed but have not included the names of officers or those who wished to remain anonymous:-

R. G. Filby, Thames Ditton Surrey.
Barbara Ralph, Mere, Wiltshire.
Mavis Evans, Camberley, Surrey.
Angela Philbey - Ashley, Canada.
Ron & Kath Filby, Doncaster.
Francis G. Filbee, Herts.
May Gregory, Gloucestershire.
Kathleen & Ray Boast, Norfolk.
Chris & Linda Filby, West Sussex.
Lois Filbey, Florida, U.S.A.
Eileen & Chris Sefton, Suffolk.
Daphne Nichols, Norfolk.
Mark S. Filby, Felixstowe, Suffolk.
Jo-Ann Buck, Faversham, Kent.

Violet Irving, Brixton, London
Peter M. R. Filby, Henleaze, Bristol
Mary Filby, Downham Market, Norfolk.
Nevin & Mary Filby, Australia.
John D. Filbey, Sanderstead, Surrey
Katrina Filby, Oxfordshire
Russell & Erica Filby, Norfolk
Barbara Hayward, Hertfordshire
Josephine Chipchase, Tyne & Wear
Patrick King, Holbeach, Lincolnshire
Kim & Bob Blecke, Illinois, U.S.A.
Marilyn Filby, Norwich, Norfolk
Olive Filby, Wymondham, Norfolk

If any names have been left off the above list in error, I give my apologies.

Wally Filby, (Treasurer)

Filby Association Accounts 2009**HMRC Charity Reference No XT10887****Current & Premium Business Accounts (with Barclays)****Balance as at 23rd October, 2009 (Transferred from Nat West) £1,894.27**

Income	Donations for Association	£ 2,378.73
	Donations for Joint Fund	£ 215.00
	Gift Aid from HMRC	£ 781.78
	Interest on Premium A/C	£ 1.43
	Goods Ties etc Sold & Book	£ 133.00
	Total Income	£ 3,509.94

Expenditure

2009 Chronicle (Includes Postage)	£ 470.37
2009 In Touch (Includes Postage)	£ 100.16
Subscriptions (Goons & FFHS)	£ 156.66
Website Costs	£ 120.75
To Filby Village (Apple Trees)	£ 36.00
Research Costs	£ 129.53
Association Running Costs	£ 1,764.52
To Joint Fund (Includes 2007/8)	£ 310.00

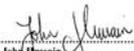
Total Expenditure £ 3,087.99**Excess of Income over Expenditure £ 421.95****Total in Both Accounts as at 30th September 2009 £ 2,316.22****Balance sheet as at 30th September, 2009**

Premium Account	£ 1,946.43
Current Account	£ 369.79

Accumulated fund at 30th September, 2009 £ 2,316.22**Wally Filby (Honorary Treasurer)****Examiner's Report**

I have examined the above accounts for the financial year 1st October 2008 to 30th September 2009.

The examination of the invoices & receipts and explanation given of expenditure, and the records of donations & moneys received, together with bank statements, make the above a true record of the Income & Expenditure of the Filby Association, and in my opinion are in line with the Aims & Objectives of the Filby Association as stated in their Constitution.

Signed 
 John Henslin
 Crediton Youth Service
 Accounts Manager

Date: 02/11/2009

Stop Press: HMRC have just deposited £735.97 into our account for our latest Gift Aid claim.

The Life and Times of HERBERT FILBEE – 1894-1964

By Christine Williams, (Researcher)



Bert Filbee was as strong as an ox. For 46 years he shovelled coal and coke to keep up steam in huge boilers. His hands were as tough as leather; he could pick up red hot coals with his fingers and throw them back into the furnace.

For seven years he 'kept up steam' on some of the most powerful battleships in the British fleet whilst serving in the Royal Navy and, for 39 years, he played a key role in delivering gas to a large area of north London, including throughout World War II when the gas works where he was employed became a time bomb as Luftwaffe bombers nightly dropped their deadly payload, bringing death and destruction to the surrounding streets.

However, life for Herbert John Filbee could have been so different. On leaving Lancasterian School in Tottenham at the age of 14 and after being orphaned at the age of 13, the son of a former Metropolitan Police inspector used his lightness of foot and good singing voice to carve out a career on the stage.

He became a tap dancer and singer with the Dennis Drew & Co. Juvenile Dancing Group, performing in the famous Moss Empires theatre chain in London and the provinces.

He sang and danced in the chorus line and would rub shoulders with such famous stars of the music hall as Marie Lloyd, Rob Wilton, Harry Lauder, Vesta Tilley, Hetty King and George Formby. Indeed, it was the father of the rising young ukulele-playing star George Formby, who presented Bert with a shiny silver sixpence for learning to swim a length of Ardwick Green Baths in Manchester, while the company was performing at the local theatre.

Music Hall was popular with the 'not-so-well-off' as it was cheap, entertaining, and there was plenty to drink. The Moss Empire chain of theatres was very successful with 33 music halls, and by 1905 almost every large town would have an *Empire* or *Coliseum*. However, it was a frantic life of travelling, rehearsing and performing with scant reward for the entertainers. Conditions did improve after a strike in 1907 (known as the Music Hall War), which saw the Variety Artistes' Federation calling its members out on strike.

Gradually Bert began to outgrow the 'juvenile' tag and it was time to look for a new career. He was still too young to join the Metropolitan Police (his father and two brothers had been serving members) and so, after one unsuccessful attempt to join up because he was under age, he finally enlisted in the Royal Navy on 8th July, 1913, although still adding a year to his birth date.

After basic training, he joined HMS St. George as a stoker. He then served on HMS Orion (seen here) and the ship joined the Grand Fleet along with the 2nd battle squadron, later taking part in the Battle of Jutland as the flagship of Rear Admiral A. C. Leveson. This would be the greatest



naval battle of the First World War and the greatest of all time in regards to numbers of gun armed battleships and battlecruisers engaged, and was fought off Jutland in the North Sea

Keeping steam and 'making smoke' as battles waged, was a tough task for stokers who carried out their duties in forbidding temperatures. However, there were some small rewards, which Bert discovered on 11th March, 1918, when, as a member of the crew of HMS Onslow, the ship's company each received seven shillings for sinking the German 'U' Boat no. 7 off the French coast.

Whilst in the Navy Bert obviously found time to socialise because he met Nellie Sawyer, and the couple were married on 19th May, 1918, in All Hallows Parish Church of Tottenham, with the Banns being published on HMS Apollo.

November that year saw peace declared, but Bert, as a regular, had to continue in the Royal Navy until 1920 when he received a free discharge but remained on the Royal Naval Reserves list.

By now the father of a daughter, Helen Rose, Bert had once again to seek a new career, and as he was old enough, and the son of a former policeman, he tried to join the Metropolitan Police. He thought it would be just a formality as two of his brothers were also serving officers, and he had grown up in a police environment. His father, William, had joined the Metropolitan Police on 30th November, 1874, and rose through the ranks to become an Inspector by the time he resigned in 1899.

William and his wife, Sarah, and their 13 children (Bert was the second youngest) had moved between the police stations in London for many years. In 1878 William was based in Hackney; in 1892 he moved to Wood Green when he had been promoted to Sergeant, and by 1891, the family were at Uxbridge. When Herbert was born on 16th December, 1894, they were back at Wood Green.

After William left the police on 4th December, 1899, with a pension of £103 3s 5d (£4,714.91 in today's value), he took his family to Leverstock Green, near St Albans in Hertfordshire, to become a beerhouse keeper at The Three Horse Shoes public house.

At last a settled life for the family in the countryside but it was to end tragically just a few years later. William's wife, Sarah, died, aged just 47 in 1906, and William himself died just two years later, aged 50.

It was thought that the youngest children would have to go into the Metropolitan Police Orphanage as Bert was 13 and his younger sister, Ethel, was just 10, but because William had a pension, Bert's older sister Lilian, by this time aged 26, was able to claim a compassionate allowance of three shillings per week per child. By this time they were back in London.

But for Bert the strong police background counted for nothing, as although he passed the entrance test and medical with flying colours, he was just a fraction under the regulation height of 5ft 10ins – and, in those days, there were no compromises!

What now? At least his time in the Royal Navy would stand him in good stead. He took a job as a stoker with the Southgate Gas Company at its works in Bounds Green. The work was hard with eight-hour shifts round the clock, 365 days a year, but the money was regular. It meant Bert had to cycle eight miles to work from his Tottenham home in all weathers to his shifts, which alternated between 6am-2pm, 2pm-10pm and 10pm-6am.

Some years Christmas dinner had to be early – and rushed – so that he would arrive for his 2pm Christmas Day shift, and as a lifelong Tottenham Hotspur supporter, he would often race home on his bike to make the 3pm kick-off time at White Hart Lane, if he was on the early shift. It was legendary that after finishing at 10pm on a Friday or Saturday night, he would race home, put his cycle in the back garden, run to his local pub, where two pints would be waiting for him. He'd sink the first straight down before saying "Hello," and then take his time over the second.

Unlike many companies, Southgate Gas gave its employees two weeks paid holiday, but, being a member of the RNVR, Bert had to spend one of these, every September, training at Chatham. This meant that the second week would be set aside for the family holiday when Bert and Nellie, together with children, Rose, and Bert junior, would enjoy a week at Great Yarmouth. Because Bert was already at Chatham, his family would join him in Kent and travel to Norfolk by coastal steamer from Margate Pier.



Apparently, they are looking a bit glum in this photograph, as Rose objected to having to carry the bucket and spade after her brother had dragged them along the pavement.

Bert left the RNVR in 1931, and through the austerity of the 1930s he continued to work hard at the gas works. It was hard graft with unsocial hours, but at least, unlike many at the time, he had a regular pay packet coming in. During World War II he would continue to keep the boilers at the gas works operating at full power, while being as economical as possible with the precious coal supplies.

The post-war Labour Government brought about the nationalisation of the gas industry and Bert found himself no longer employed by the Southgate Gas Company but the new Eastern Gas Board. Conditions improved – although Bert always confessed that he missed the ‘personal touch’ of his former bosses as management became more remote. This gave rise to one particular incident where, during a night shift, Bert was asked to fire the boilers with some sub-standard coke. As he struggled to keep the boiler going at full tilt, an area manager arrived from head office and demanded: “*Why is pressure falling? Who’s slacking?*”

Normally a placid man, Bert threw his shovel at the manager’s feet and said: “*You can’t keep steam by boiling rubbish (or a word to that effect!).*” He then stormed off, passing his foreman on the way. The foreman then turned to the manager and asked: “*What’s up with Bert?*” “*I told him off for not keeping steam and he blamed the coke,*” came the reply. “*You shouldn’t have done that,*” said the foreman. “*Why not?*” asked the manager. “*Because Bert has been here 30 years and did seven years as a stoker in the Navy and, if he says he can’t keep steam because the coke is bad, then he’s right,*” said the foreman. “*Why didn’t he tell me all this?*” inquired the manager. “*Because he’s not like that. He just gets on with his work.*” replied the foreman.

Bert worked at the gasworks for 37 years, and when asked what he would want when he retired he asked for his favourite Cochran boiler. However, this had already been pensioned off when Bert retired in 1957, and he received instead a wristwatch (which, unfortunately, was stolen when his house in Tottenham was burgled a few years before he died).

Unfortunately, working as a stoker brought problems with Bert’s health during his retirement. His legs, which had been constantly exposed to the heat of the boilers, were always inflamed, but it was the continuous breathing in of coal dust and fumes that finally resulted in Bert’s death from lung disease, at the age of 70, in October, 1964.

Permission has been given by individuals to publish all articles used. Whilst every precaution has been taken to ensure accuracy of contents of this Chronicle during compilation, we apologise for any unintentional offence caused. Genealogy is not a precise art depending on old records etc. some of which are almost illegible. Members have given information to the association over the years some of which still has to be verified by our team of researchers. Mistakes will be rectified should you bring them to our attention. We thank you for your understanding.

An Australian Filby Odyssey

by Don Barry, Brisbane, (Australia Correspondent)

My wife Jill's mother was a Filby – mother's father was christened Franswa Boswell Filby, but changed his name to his mother's maiden name, Blanche, when in about 1903 he moved to the Rockhampton district in Queensland from Grenfell, NSW. So Jill's mother was christened Jessie Myrise Blanche, not Filby, the youngest daughter in a family of ten. Some of her older siblings had been born in NSW and christened Filby. It was all a bit confusing!

Initially, my interest in the Filbys was aroused by my mother-in-law who had received a letter from her cousin, Nevin Filby, in which he talked a little about family history and asked her some questions. She asked me to respond to Nevin's letter. Some time in 1988 I did so.

Nevin sent me a lot of useful information, including several family trees from Molly Kuttner which were most helpful. Molly's family trees included the family tree of one John Filby, and his wife, Ann Boswell, of Easton, Norfolk, who, given the common Boswell middle name in many of Jill's Filbys were the most likely ancestors of Jill's Filby family in Australia. Nevin's own middle name was Boswell. So the working hypothesis was that Thomas Boswell Filby was somehow connected to John Filby/Ann Boswell of Easton Norfolk. But a close examination of Molly's family trees and further investigation of other links to this tree failed to disclose this connection.

We knew of Thomas Boswell Filby, because he is the father on the birth certificate of his only son William Boswell Filby, Jill's great grandfather. It appeared that Thomas was a sailor who came briefly to Oz and fathered William in 1842. But no-one had been able to find him or his marriage. Searches of various sources in the U.K. such as the then St. Catherine's BDM records, failed to find him. Neither could any further record of him be found in Australia.

A first stroke of good luck was to find him in Sydney under the name Felby – he married a Mary Ann Tree in 1842, in a Presbyterian church in Sydney, NSW. After he had fathered William Boswell, he, to use a good old Aussie colloquialism, shot through like a Bondi tram.

We know little about William's early life and we can only surmise the difficulty Mary had in raising him. We know in fact that she remarried Frederick Bayes in 1876 and died, aged 61, in 1881. William would have been about 34 years of age when she remarried.

We next find William Boswell, when he turns up in about 1866 at a goldrush in mid-western NSW at Emu Creek, which later became known as Grenfell. Marie Blanche, she of enigmatic French origins, was already with him and they already had several children, although they weren't married until 1869. They settled down in Grenfell and became stalwart citizens thereof, William eventually becoming Mayor in 1898. This was where Jill's grandfather, Franswa/Frank was born.

But what was the connection of Thomas and the Oz Filbys to John Filby and Ann Boswell of Easton, Norfolk?

First, the first big clue came from the certificate of Thomas Boswell Filby's (bigamous) marriage to Martha Mottley at Bethnal Green in 1857—the certificate was kindly provided by Molly Kuttner - from which we learnt that Thomas was born in Norfolk and his father was John Filby, who was a farmer. (Also it later transpires that Thomas understated his age by about 6 years).

Second, the most likely John Filby who could be Thomas' father and who was a farmer and a descendant of John & Ann (Boswell) Filby of Easton was John Filby b. Oct. 1774 (oldest child of John & Ann Filby), who married Mary Hooke in 1802 when he was 27 or so. Mary died and John remarried to Lydia Lake in 1807 - their children as recorded on the IGI were: Edward b.1811, d.1811 followed by Edward Havers 1812, Mary 1814, Susan 1821 and Robert Harpley 1829 - all but Robert were baptized in Burnham Overy; Robert Harpley was baptized in Cley-next-Sea. But no Thomas was found!

Third, as related above, we know Thomas came to Oz, married Mary Ann Tree in 1842 and fathered William Boswell Filby (and Thomas must have ensured that the Boswell name was bestowed on his only Oz offspring even though he "shot through" shortly afterwards).

Fourth, after Thomas' bigamous marriage to Martha Mottley, we find Martha living alone as a lodger in the 1861 census at 6, Ann St., Stepney. Where is Thomas? Probably off overseas again? Martha died in 1864, in Stepney,

Fifth, Thomas "reappears" and marries Susan Bigg (née Cooper) in 1866, in West Ham. In the 1871 census they are living at 19, Victoria St, West Ham in the ward of Stratford and he has two children by Susan, Lydia, 3 years (named after his mother?) and Eliza, 1 month. Thomas' birthplace is given as Burnham Overy in Norfolk!

Sixth, in the GRO Death Index we find an entry for Thomas Filby, died aged 61, in June Quarter of 1878, in West Ham.

Seventh, by the 1881 census, Susan has married Stephen Brown and had one child, Phoebe Brown, by him in addition to Lydia Filby, 13yr, Thomas Filby, 8yr, and William Filby, 2 yr, all obviously fathered by the late Thomas Filby, and of course, she still has from her first marriage, Matilda and George Bigg. Sadly, Eliza must have died.

Eighth, the clincher is the list of baptismal records, which was provided by Christine Williams at the request of Marion Filby, from the Norfolk RO for Burnham Overy: and which Marion sent on to me on 10th April, 2008. These records showed that John & Lydia (Lake) Filby had their third surviving child, Thomas, in 1816, and he was baptised in Burnham Overy. Thus Thomas Boswell was the grandson of John and Ann (Boswell) Filby of Easton Norfolk.

John and Lydia lived all their lives in Norfolk and were recorded in

the 1851 census still living in Holt, Norfolk, which is not far from Burnham Overy, and even closer to Cley-next-Sea.

So, finally, we had the link from Thomas Boswell Filby, the serial bigamist and patriarch of Jill's Oz Filbys, to John and Ann (Boswell) Filby of Easton, Norfolk.

A few remaining questions come to mind – why was the Boswell name continued? (Not only in Oz but also in the UK) – was Dr Johnson's biographer, arguably the most famous Boswell, somehow involved, or was there some other reason?

N.B. After researching the ancestors of our member, Sue Cotterrill's late husband, Keith, who was adopted by Daisy May (Filby) granddaughter of the infamous Thomas Boswell Filby, I was able to link the tree to that of the family in Australia. Sue's story about Daisy May Filby is in the 2006 Chronicle, pages 26 and 27.

Editor/researcher—Marion Filby

TRAGEDY AND MYSTERY INVOLVING MILES FILBY OF WYMONDHAM, 1691-1771 – AN UPDATE

by Marion Filby and John Filby, Filby Association Researchers

The original article of the above title by John Filby, which was published in the 2009 Chronicle, raised a number of questions which it was agreed would be jointly researched during 2009. In particular, the original documents, loaned to the Filby Association by the descendants of SAMUEL FILBEY, would be re-examined by Marion Filby to see whether they could answer the outstanding issues. Principally, whether the SUSAN FILBY, buried in Wymondham Abbey, was the daughter of WILLIAM FILBY of Mattishall Burgh, who had married her cousin MILES FILBY of Honingham, or was she the daughter of RICHARD FILBY of Great Mattishall Burgh, who married MILES FABLAIN FILBY and acquired the FILBY properties that descended from her Great Aunt ELIZABETH CLERE (FILBY)? Also was the ELIZABETH FILBY, who successfully contested WILLIAM FILBY of Heston's claim to the FILBY property, her sister?

The re-examination of the SAMUEL FILBEY documents have made it clear that the name "FABLAIN" was not the middle name of the MILES FILBY, who married SUSAN in the notes, but that it was his original surname which he changed by "sign manual". He would therefore have been baptised as MILES FABLAIN and could not have been MILES FILBY, the son of MILES FILBY of Honingham and his wife ELIZABETH (WHARTON) who was baptised 10 May, 1691. The name "FABLAIN" has been entered in several web genealogy sites but has drawn a blank, although there is much information in Parish Registers and Record Offices that has not yet been uploaded. We did find a FABIAN family living in Norwich around the late 1500s, which leads to the next possibility - misspelling?

The most significant gap in the case for SUSAN FILBY being the daughter of WILLIAM and ELIZABETH of Mattishall Burgh was the absence of her baptism from any of the Parish Registers examined to date. However, a re-examination of the Honingham Parish Registers at the Norfolk Record Office located the following out of sequence entry "April 6th. 1714. Then MILES FILBY was married to WILLIAM FILBY's daughter of Mattishall Burgh; her name is SUSAN". The marriage is also recorded on the same date in the Mattishall Burgh Parish Register as between MICHAEL FILBY of Honingham and SUSAN FILBY of Mattishall Burgh.

Having established the details of the marriage the question still remained as to whether this was the SUSAN buried with her three children in Wymondham Abbey.

Relevant	Parish	Records	have	the	following	baptisms:-
		Child	Father	Mother		
Honingham	16/09/1715	ANN	MILES	Not recorded		
Hardingham	12/04/1720	WILLIAM	MICHAEL	SUSAN		
Hardingham	22/05/1725	MILES	MILES	SUSANNA.		

The dates and names agree with the ages given on the memorial in Wymondham Abbey. The date of the first child is reasonably in line with the date of the above marriage. The children's names appear to be family names - ANN, named after MILES' sister to whom he eventually left much of his estate; WILLIAM, after SUSAN's father, and MILES after his paternal grandfather and his father. That the family moved to Hardingham, as confirmed by the children's baptisms, is in agreement with the bequest to MILES of Hardingham, made in his father-in-law WILLIAM's Will of 1723. While the evidence is largely circumstantial there can be little doubt that the parents of this family were MILES FILBY and his cousin SUSAN, whose marriage took place on April 6th 1714.

However SAMUEL in his notebook writes of SUSAN, the wife of MILES FILBY (FABLAIN) that "Susan and her three children died in 1737 and he (MILES) lived as a widower". This is in agreement with the year on SUSAN's memorial in Wymondham Abbey but unfortunately SAMUEL provides no supporting evidence. If SAMUEL's view is accepted then there should be another marriage of a MILES FILBY (FABLAIN) to SUSAN FILBY, daughter of RICHARD of Great Mattishall Burgh, and the baptism of their three children on similar dates to the above family. The only possible evidence of any of these events that has been found to date is a marriage in the IGI of a MICHAEL FILBY and SUSAN FILBY at Mattishall Burgh on 6th April, 1713. Unfortunately the date of this marriage has been erroneously recorded by the IGI. The error arises because the marriage entry for the 6th April in the Mattishall Parish Register is the last before the next year's heading, 1714. The IGI recorder has therefore assumed that the date of the marriage refers to the previous year, 1713.

Further evidence that the marriage did not take place in 1713 is provided by the Bishop's Transcripts for Mattishall Burgh for the period Easter, 1713, to Easter, 1714. These do not record the marriage on 6th April, 1713 and an accidental omission is unlikely to have occurred since the document is signed by Susan's father, WILLIAM FILBY, in his role as churchwarden.

From their Wills there is no doubt that the plaque on the wall of Wymondham Abbey refers to MILES FILBY, the son of MILES FILBY of Honingham who was baptised on 10 May, 1691, and his wife ELIZABETH (DICKS) who he married on 14 February, 1737/8. The plaque records MILES' death in September 1771, the same year as the MILES FILBY whose name has been added to the memorial to SUSAN and her children. If the added MILES is the widower MILES FILBY (FABLAIN), as claimed by SAMUEL's notes, then there should be a record of two MILES FILBYS in burials register of the Abbey and there is only one, buried September, aged 81 years, which agrees with the wall plaque.

As a result of this further research it has been agreed that the family buried in Wymondham Abbey is that of the married cousins MILES and SUSAN FILBY and that the family researched in SAMUEL FILBY's notebook are a separate line.

In the other FILBY family, which inherited the FILBY property descended from the CLERES of Norfolk, SAMUEL is quite definite that ELIZABETH FILBY, born 1693, was SUSAN's sister by ROBERT FILBY of Great Mattishall Burgh's second wife. However, elsewhere in SAMUEL's notes he records that this ELIZABETH, who married JOHN MOSS and contested the Will of MILES FILBY (FABLAIN), was from Palgrave, Suffolk. Subsequently this has been amended to suggest that she was from Diss, Norfolk. Could her father ROBERT, after his second marriage, have moved to the Diss area which is a well established focus for an early branch of the FILBY family?

The marriage of JOHN MOSS and ELIZABETH FILBY has not been found, but one or more JOHN MOSS' did have 7 children baptised at Thelnetham between 1705 and 1724. While some of these had the mother ELIZABETH named, the register contains the marriage of a JOHN MOSS and ELIZABETH ISAAC; several had no named mother so could have been the children of a JOHN MOSS and ELIZABETH FILBY. Amongst those without a named mother is a daughter ELIZABETH MOSS baptised on 1st April, 1714. According to SAMUEL, JOHN MOSS and ELIZABETH (FILBY) had a daughter ELIZABETH who married ROBERT FILBY, possibly the son of EDMUND FILBY of Thelnetham, on 4 January, 1734/5. They had children in Palgrave and Market Weston, Suffolk, and it is this family who inherited the "Filby Plate" and founded the Snailwell Filbys.

Research is a never ending story—Editor.

MID NORFOLK MEMORIALS TO 18th CENTURY FILBYS

by John Filby PhD (Researcher)

This present article concerns memorials to Miles' youngest brother, Edward, and some of his 18th Century descendants.

Often in the 18th Century youngest sons inherited little from their parents and were likely to remain relatively poor, often dying as paupers. Edward however did not suffer this fate and became a wealthy Central Norfolk farmer and landowner. He was still single at the time of his father's death in March, 1694, and was appointed as sole executor in John's Will. Since all the bequests in the Will involved money, it is probable that Edward inherited his father's remaining property and lands, his mother having died some 20 years earlier. Edward appears to be the family member most involved with legal matters, since he was also called upon to sign the inventory of his brother Miles' listed Goods and Chatels dated 2nd November, 1695.

Shortly after his father's death Edward married Bridget Starke (or Clark) on 26th June, 1694, at Honingham. They had four children, the first, John, was baptised at Honingham on 3rd June, 1695, followed by Bridgette on 31st March, 1696/7. Before the next child, Martha, was baptised, it appears that the family moved to Reymerston where she was baptised on 6th June, 1703, and finally, Edward, on 17th October, 1705.

On 2nd April, 1727, Edward wrote his Will in which he refers to the fact that he had transferred properties and lands by deed to his eldest son, John, possibly as a wedding present. Since John and his wife, Mary, had all their children baptised in the parish of Cranworth and Letton it is likely that this was the location of the transferred properties. Edward's Will makes no mention of his wife Bridget, so it is reasonable to assume that she was already dead. There is no record of her burial at Reymerston but a Bridget Filby "of Reymerston" was, according to Ellsworth Filby's notes, buried at Castle Acre on 20th January, 1720. Unfortunately, the relevant entry has not been found in the Castle Acre Parish Register.

In his Will, Edward, yeoman, left five shillings each to Bridget and Martha his married daughters. He also instructed his executor to pay to Bridget the sum of money covered by a Bond executed by himself to her deceased first husband Hammond Rudd. With the exception of the properties and lands already given by deed to John, his eldest son, Edward left everything else to his youngest son, Edward, who he appointed as his sole executor.

Having written his Will when he was 64 years old, Edward lived for nearly 30 more years and was buried at Reymerston on 1st October, 1755. By this time he was a wealthy landowner who is listed as being a resident and Freeholder of Reymerston in T. Howes' Historical Aid "Freeholders of County of Norfolk who voted for Member of Parliament in 1734". His status is reflected by the fact that he was buried inside Reymerston Church, **Figure 1**.



Figure 1—Reymerston Church

Edward Fillbe, the chief beneficiary of his father Edward's Will, never married and his own Will of 22nd March, 1762, accords him the status of Gentleman of Reymerston. The Reymerston Calverley Hall Manor Court Book records that on 23 July, 1754, Edward Filby paid the Lord two pence for a Relief for certain properties in Reymerston afore late of Edward Filby. At this time his father, Edward, was still alive and must have agreed to the transfer. In his Will Edward's principal bequest was to give his properties, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Reymerston and Thuxton, both freehold and copyhold, to his nephew, Edward Fillbe, the eldest surviving son of his brother, John Fillbe, Yeoman of Letton. He also left to his brother John's other surviving son, William, the sum of one hundred pounds. To his other nephews and nieces John Clarke, Francis Clarke, Myris Clarke, William Clarke, Mary the wife of Alexander Pain, Martha Clarke, John Grimmer, Robert Grimmer, Bridget Raynor widow, and Jane Pain, his housekeeper, (provided that she still lives with him at the time of his death) he left ten pounds each all to be paid within twelve calendar months. These were not insignificant sums in the mid 1700s.

Edward also stipulated that he was "to be buried in the parish church of Reymerston, as near to the remains of my deceased father as can possibly be and to have a large and handsome black marble stone laid over with a proper Inscription thereon to perpetuate our memories and two angels engraved or cut thereon at the top thereof and as I when in health used to take much pleasure in keeping and looking after my little flock of sheep which have been very profitable to me I desire that one couple and an half of ewes with their lambs may be cut or engraved at the bottom of the said gravestone, which stone shall not cost less than the sum of twenty guineas, and shall be purchased by the said Edward fillbe my nephew or his heirs and laid down within the space of twelve calendar months after my decease". The Will then states that if Edward fails to carry out the foregoing request he will lose his inheritance and it would pass to his brother, William, provided he fulfilled the request in the next six months. In the event of William also failing to satisfy the request Edward's properties, lands and tenements were to pass to his good friend Thomas Grigson Esquire. Edward was obviously used to giving precise orders and having them obeyed in a correct and timely manner. The Will names Edward, the nephew, as the sole executor.

Edward was buried on 28th May, 1762, in Reymerston Church, and the splendid memorial, **Figure 2**, designed precisely as he had specified can be seen on the floor of the front box pew of the right hand nave.

Figure 2—Filby Memorial Reymerston

Be warned, however, that to fully see it you may have to remove some folding tables and chairs that are stored in this pew.

John, Edward's older brother, and his wife, Mary, had five children baptised at Cranworth, but only Edward and William, the beneficiaries of the Will of their Uncle Edward, Gentleman, of Reymerston, survived infancy. John, Yeoman of Letton, died at the age of 58 years before either his father or his brother. He was buried at Cranworth on 20th October, 1753. There is a memorial tablet to him on the outside of the east wall of the church, **Figure 3**. The words suggest that he had suffered from a painful long term illness or physical disability:-

**Figure 3—Filby Memorials Cranworth**

*To the Memory
of
JOHN FILBY
who died Oct 17, 1753
Age 58
Affliction sore long time I bore
Physicians were in vain
Till God did please to give me ease
To free me from my paine*

In his Will written 4th December, 1752, John left his Reymerston assets to his wife for her lifetime and then to his son, Edward, who subsequently inherited properties, lands etc. both at Reymerston and Thuxton from his Uncle Edward. To his youngest son, William, John left his East Tuddenham and Welbourne assets. He also made a bequest of £200 to his wife, Mary, as well as £30 worth of furniture, and £200 to his son, William. The remainder of his goods and chattels he left to Edward.

Edward Filby, yeoman and farmer of Letton, married Mary High of East Tuddenham at East Tuddenham on 5th October, 1756. This was after his father's death, but before he inherited the properties, lands etc at Reymerston and Thuxton from his uncle Edward. Although Edward and his father are both recorded as "Yeoman of Letton", there is no specific evidence of them owning freehold in Letton. The 1768 and 1783 Norfolk Poll Books have Edward Filby of Letton owning freehold in Reymerston.

Edward and Mary had seven children, five girls and two boys, all baptised at Cranworth between February, 1760, and May, 1772. The first four girls married during the 1780s and early 1790s, when they were between the ages of twenty two and twenty four.

The fifth and youngest daughter, Higha Filby, unfortunately, died in May, 1795, when she was 23 years old, and was buried at Cranworth. A memorial in the east wall suggests that she, like her grandfather, John, suffered from some long term painful ailment.

*To the memory of Higha
HIGHA FILBY
who departed this life
May 19th 1795
In the 24th Year of her age
With pain and sickness wasted to the bone
Long time for Heaven I have made my mourn
Till God at length to my complaint gave ear
And sent kind Death to ease my grief of care
Here my poor withered Body must remain
Till God thro' Christ shall make it bloom again*

During his lifetime Edward appears to have disposed of the Thuxton assets he inherited from his Uncle Edward and acquired assets in Southburgh, Cranworth and Garveston. In his Will dated 22nd September, 1774, Edward left the Southburgh and Cranworth assets to his wife, Mary, for her lifetime to be passed to his second son, John, on her death. To his eldest son, Edward, he left his assets in Garveston and Reymerston and, in a codicil, newly purchased assets in Thuxton. From 1780-1785 Edward was a churchwarden at Cranworth. He died 11 years after making his Will and was buried at Cranworth on 24th September, 1785, aged 54 years. He also has a memorial on the east wall erected by his wife:-

*To the memory of
EDWARD FILBY
who lieth here hoping for
A joyful Resurrection
He departed this life
September the 21st 1785
Aged 54 years
An affectionate husband
A tender parent
Hard is their state, the affliction great
To them he have left behind
But hope in Christ that he is gone
Eternal joy to find*

His widow, Mary, outlived him by 25 years and was buried at Cranworth on 21st February, 1810, aged 78 years.

Edward of Letton's eldest son, Edward Filby, who inherited his father's assets in Reymerston and Garveston in 1785, never married and died in 1800 at the relatively young age of 35 years. The transfer to him of the assets in Reymerston is covered by the following minute from the 20th June, 1786, meeting of the Reymerston Calverley Hall Manorial Court:-

“To this Court comes Edward Filby, Eldest Son and Heir of Edward Filby late freehold Tenant of the Manor deceased and acknowledges to hold of the Lord of This Manor free and Common Socage and by Fealty Suit of Court and the annual Rent of Two Pence certain Lands and Tenements with their Appurtenances late of the said Edward Filby his father deceased. And he gives to the Lord for a Relief two pence and his Fealty is respited until and so forth”.

Edward, Gentleman of Reymerston, was buried at Cranworth, the parish of his birth, on 25th June, 1800. His was the last memorial to be placed into the east wall of the church:-

In memory of
EDWARD FILBY
who died June 22nd 1800
Age 35 years

To speak his praise what language can I find
The man, the Christian and the friend, combined
Whil'st here on Earth, esteem'd, belov'd, admir'd
His Liberal Hand to many did extend
The kindest Brother and truest Friend

The 4 memorials can be seen on the outside of the east wall of Cranworth Church but the words are now difficult to decipher and the above wording has been taken from Ellsworth Filby's notes.

There are quite a few of our members who are descendents of the above family. I am sure they will be delighted that John has taken the time to put this information into an interesting and informative article. Perhaps encouraging a visit to Norfolk? (Editor)

Did You Know...

.....that a dead loved one could be financially rewarding? Burial clubs were supposed to prevent the indignity of a pauper's funeral in times of fashionable mourning rituals, but not only was it possible to sign a person (perhaps your child) up to more than one society so as to gain much more than the price of a funeral, but also for many descendants to register one grandparent (you did not have to be the person responsible for paying for the funeral), enabling many to benefit from one death. Deaths were also welcomed by surgeons advancing medical science, who would pay resurrection-men more for fresher bodies (tip-offs were not uncommon and Burke and Hare famously suffocated victims for the purpose). After 1832 (a result of Burke and Hare's crimes) cadavers could be taken directly from workhouses and hospitals if a funeral could not be afforded so it was as well to pay a subscription to prevent it. Your ancestor may not have a burial record for this reason.

**Our Triennial Reunion
will be at All Saints Church, Filby, Norfolk, England,
on Sunday, 4th July, 2010.**

**Commencing with The Annual General Meeting
At 11.00am in the Church Hall**

(We need your support in attendance if possible please)

2.30pm Church Service

**We are expecting some overseas members and hope
that you too will make the pilgrimage to support us.
After the service the ladies of Filby village will serve
refreshments and you will be able to mingle with friends.
All our files, 'Trees', and of course, Officers will be
available to assist with any research queries.**

**Please complete and return the enclosed attendance
form if you will be joining us.**

From the Rector of Filby....

Greetings to you all from All Saints, Filby.

All Saints Church has a very special place in many people's hearts. Apart from those who worship regularly week by week, it is associated with very special events for many people in the community – baptisms, weddings and funerals. And of course it is a special place for the Filby Association.

I mentioned in the last Chronicle that we were looking at ways of re-ordering the church to make it more suitable for the 21st century.

Our Church Hall is now in all practical terms unusable. Our Insurers have told us that we must disconnect the electricity unless we can get it upgraded and a proper safety certificate issued. We would then have to spend a lot more money upgrading other facilities. At the same time the village is trying to raise money to build a new hall on the playing field and we do not want to compete with this, so there is a new urgency to improve facilities at the church itself, and the Parochial Church Council has been working on this.

Inevitably it is slow work as we seek advice from others who have already been through this process and those who have specific expertise in mediaeval buildings. And we will want to talk about any proposals widely. We need to maintain and enhance the beauty of our mediaeval church at the same time as bringing it up-to-date. It will be a difficult balance to achieve and something we want to do with great sensitivity.

Once we have come to a consensus about what needs to be done, there will be the practicalities of raising money and getting the work in hand.

I look forward to keeping you in touch with developments, but I don't expect much will have changed by the time we meet next year for the special International Filby Association meeting. I look forward to welcoming you to that event.

Greetings for 2010 - **Revd. Graham Steel**

Missing Early Parish Registers.

Because the original parish registers were paper books, which were, however, deemed to be perishable and unsuitable for permanent records; in 1597 the Convocation of Canterbury made a Constitution which stated that:

In euery Parish Church and Chappel within this realm, shalbe provided one parchment booke at the charge of the parish, wherein shalbe written the daie and yere of euery Christenyng, Weddyng and Buryall, which haue been in that parish since the tyme that the law was first made in that behalf, so far as the auncient bookes thereof can be procured, but especially since the begininge of the raigne of the late Quene

Unfortunately, parchment registers were not as permanent as had been supposed, P.H. Ditchfield tells us in his *Vanishing England*:-

An old parchment register was said to be so old and "out of date" and so difficult to read by the parson and his neighbours, that it had been tossed about the church and finally carried off by children and torn to pieces. The leaves of another old parchment register were discovered sewn together as a covering for the tester of a bedstead, and the daughters of a parish clerk, who were lace-makers, cut up the pages of yet another register for a supply of parchment to make patterns for their lace manufacture.

The following extract from *Notes and Queries* tells of the sad fate of other books:-

"On visiting the village school of Colton it was discovered that the 'Psalters' of the children were covered with the leaves of the Parish Register; some of them were recovered, and replaced in the parish chest, but many were totally obliterated and cut away. This discovery led to further investigation, which brought to light a practice of the Parish Clerk and Schoolmaster of the day, who to certain 'goodies' of the village, gave the parchment leaves for hutkins for their knitting pins."

Still greater desecration has taken place. The registers of South Otterington, containing several entries of the great families of Talbot, Herbert, and Falconer, were kept in the cottage of the parish clerk, who used all those preceding the eighteenth century for waste paper, and devoted not a few to the utilitarian employment of singeing a goose. At Appledore the books were lost through having been kept in a public-house for the delectation of its frequenters.'

Laura Ellen Filby celebrated her 100th birthday with a card from the Queen.

Born 10.08.1909 to Frederick Walter and Elizabeth Maria Green (née Buck) at Fish Hill Holt, Norfolk. She is the eldest of nine children, seven boys and ending with another girl. Fred, almost 99, Billy 89, and Joyce 84, are the other three surviving siblings.

She remembers her father coming home injured from France in the 1914-18 war and after three months he was sent back again, but returned safely. She left Holt to go to Guestwick when she was ten. Her father had gone to work on the railway and her mother looked after the level crossing at The Gatehouse.

Laura worked in service at various places including Heydon Hall. She met Derek William Filby whilst working for Mrs Gay at Wickmere. They married in 1935 and had five children. Their early married life was spent at Corner House Farm at Wickmere, the home of Derek's parents – Bessie and Walter Filby. At Michaelmas, 1937, they all moved to Rectory Farm, Aldborough. There were two houses so at last they had their own home.

Derek died on 01.12.1961 and left her with three teenagers at home.

Laura has eighteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren living on the edge of the village. She didn't make many friends but she had many relatives to compensate. She is still very alert and loves to talk of times past.

Her daughters, Daphne Nichols and Ann Brewster, held a party for her on 6th August, and another on her birthday when two evacuee brothers came from London to see her with their wives. This really made her day. They had another party at the farm with all her children present, she is very fortunate as they all live within seven miles of the farm. **Photo on back cover.**

Happy Birthday to:

Harold Owen, who celebrated his 95th birthday on 7th January, 2009.

Harold is one of our earliest members and we thank him for his support over the years.

Lois Filbey, another of our earliest members, turned 85 this year, she is grandmother to Jessica Gill and Kirk Filbey our USA Correspondents and also to our bride and groom, Adam and Hollie Filbey.

Photo on back cover

Congratulations

Adam Wesley Filbey, son of **Raymond and Colleen Filbey**, married **Hollie Ann Hall** on 1st August, 2009.

The reception was held in Roanoke, Virginia, U.S.A.

Hollie and Adam met while attending Lynchburg College and quickly formed a strong friendship. After Adam graduated a year later, they kept in touch and their friendship continued to grow until Hollie graduated. This then blossomed into romance and they have been happily dating for the past two years.

At their wedding on 1st August, a good time was had by all. Dancing and toasts to the happy couple went late into the night and early morning. They honeymooned in Mexico and now reside in Roanoke.

Adam works in the Business Development office for AECOM Water's, Roanoke office. Hollie is an Earth Science teacher at William Fleming High School. They have recently added a yellow Labrador, Cody, to their family. The day after their wedding Adam's parents, Raymond and Colleen Filbey, hosted a BBQ at their lake house. **Photo on back cover.**

Nevin Boswell Filby

By his daughter, Jill Yates.

31st January, 1919 – 9th October, 2009

My husband, David, and I helped Dad with his autobiography and I'd like to give you a snapshot of his life as he saw it.



Dad was born and educated in Grenfell, southern NSW, Henry Lawson's birth place. Dad's grandfather, William Boswell Filby, was a pioneer of the town arriving in 1866 with a pack horse, looking for gold but also working as a sawyer. Dad's father, Charles Alfred Boswell Filby was a hairdresser and tobacconist in the town. He and his wife, Eva, Dad's mother, continued in the family traditions and helped the Grenfell community during the Great Depression years by growing fruit and vegetables and giving them to needy members of the Grenfell community. The pioneering spirit of the family, who raised funds to develop the town and establish a hospital, a church and to help those in need, instilled in Dad a resilience and a perseverance that saw him survive through a war, an unfair court case, and several major health issues including heart attacks, the loss of a kidney and emphysema. Despite these very tough times, Dad insisted that each of his children receive a university education at a time when girls were not necessarily encouraged to continue with their education to this level. He also passed on to his family a love of the Australian bush, something which we each cherish to this day.

Dad's memories at Grenfell included running errands for his parents on his bike and delivering gifts of fruit and vegetables to the community, caring for the chooks, collecting sparrow eggs, riding car tyres down the streets of Grenfell at the age of about 10, collecting horse manure to fertilise the vegetable garden, as well as emptying chamber pots and cleaning them, cleaning out the ash and whitewashing the fireplace, etc. With the local children he used to play footy, ride his bike, shoot his shanghai and get into the typical sort of mischief that young boys still get into these days. His father taught him to shoot and from an early age Dad had a good eye and was able to subsidise the family rations by putting game on the table. Dad was also a voracious reader. His memories during his primary school years were happy as he learnt to work hard and be a contributing part of a family and community.

Holidays sometimes involved trips to Sydney to visit relatives or go to the beach. This 300 mile trip was done at night, with possum skin rugs over the passengers, and his father would make an arrangement with a petrol seller at Bathurst to be available in the middle of the night to fill up with petrol. They carried a large stone on the running boards of the car in case the brakes failed when they were going up some of the steep mountains.

Dad was a scout, played tennis, golf, cricket and rugby. He was a server at the Holy Trinity Church in Grenfell and he later became a Rector's Warden. He matriculated from the Henry Lawson High School and was articled as an accountant at a firm in Grenfell for 4 years, graduating in 1939 at age 20 years. At the end of his Articles there was a restraint of trade section typical at that time, prohibiting him from any professional practice within a 50 mile radius, and so he moved to Sydney where he was an accountant at Sydney Hospital. Bessie, his sister, who was 6 years older, had already left for the big smoke and was doing a secretarial course where she met and formed a close friendship with Mary McFarland. Mary had visited Grenfell and met Dad and a relationship began which lasted for 64 years. Eventually the whole family sold up in Grenfell and moved to Sydney to be closer to Nevin and Bessie.

Mum and Dad's relationship blossomed, but in 1941 Dad decided to join the Army and then the RAAF, and they put on hold any decisions to make the relationship a permanent one until he returned from the war. Mum went on to study Physiotherapy and Dad trained as a pilot at Narrandera, then Canada and finally in England. He crewed up on B25 Mitchell bombers with Aussies, Navigator Keith Herman and Top Turret Gunner Sergeant Joe Carey. They were posted to RAF No. 98 Squadron flying out of Dunsfold, Surrey in December 1943. He flew 52 operations on pre- and post-D-Day missions against targets in Europe, and on some of these was accompanied by Peter Gladwin, an Australian war correspondent with the Telegraph (UK). At one stage he was asked to lecture American pilots on night flying.

While on leave, Dad would go down to Netherhay Farm, in Somerset, England, where the Hedditch family cared for him and helped him to forget the atrocities of war. From September, 1944, to March, 1945, he completed another 109 sorties with No. 2 Tactical Air Force Communications Squadron flying a variety of light unarmed aircraft in France, Belgium and Holland.

In 1944, he was awarded the Golden Jubilee Normandy Medal, commemorating D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. This was given by the grateful Province of Normandy, France.

When he returned to Australia in May, 1945, he was married to Mary on 24th September, 1945. He flew aircraft at Ferry Flight, Richmond, prior to discharge. Then on demobilisation in June, 1946, he returned to hospital and health administration, eventually becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Hospital Administrators (Australia) and CEO of Parramatta District Hospital for 10 years (1946 – 1956). During his working career Dad was very active as secretary, chairman, treasurer, auditor of a variety of organisations, including Breeders and Hatcherymen's Association of NSW, Parramatta Branch Kindergarten, Rotary, Rostrum, etc.

Dad was always an astute business man and he and his parents had bought two semi-detached houses in Chatswood on the North Shore of Sydney before he left for the war. Dad sent home money to pay it off while he was away at the war. When he returned, Mum and Dad first flatbed in Parramatta, and then bought a lovely rambling home, called Longdown, suitable to raise a family, in Kissing Point Road, Parramatta. We children have probably our earliest memories of times at that home. It was during this time that Dad was the main instigator in building the Parramatta Kindergarten of which Sue was one of the first group to attend. Pete was born and then I, and lastly Mike.

After Longdown, Mum and Dad bought a 33 acre orchard, Pine Ridge at Glenorie, a satellite city of Sydney. We had chooks, ducks, orange and lemon trees and some soft fruit trees, and of course a kelpie, called Rusty. Dogs always figured in Dad's life. He had had fox terriers in Grenfell while growing up. We have happy memories of days growing up on the farm. There was a creek with yabbies, a cubby house, chooks to feed and fruit trees to raid.

Dad then became Director (Administration) of Public Health in Papua New Guinea so he sold the farm and we moved to Port Moresby where he reorganised some of the health laws and set up a responsible budget, visiting each hospital in the outlying areas, as well as reporting to the United Nations and the Australian Government.

After 2 years in PNG the work lost its challenge and they decided to return to Australia for the sake of their children's education. They returned to the Chatswood home which he had bought during the war years.

On return to Sydney, he retrained in selling and marketing superannuation and became part of the AMP team in Parramatta. He did well but did not like it, so applied for a job in Melbourne as Group General Manager and company Secretary with the Victorian Hospitals' Association. Again, he became very active in a variety of related and other organisations including wages boards, training schemes, hospital advisory committees, etc. They sold the Sydney home and bought the current home in Melbourne which they still retain. It is from this home that we children received our secondary and tertiary educations and from where we were married.

Since retirement he continued to be active in the community and held positions of Honorary Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates; lectured and adjudicated in various public speaking organisations; was appointed as a Firearms Instructor and Examiner and trained school and Ventura groups in responsible use of firearms. Dad has always been interested in politics and had an opinion, which has been expressed in writing to his local member or to the relevant Member of Parliament.

He has always been a good provider for his family and his desire to have a farm again was never realised due to circumstances beyond his control. He was proud of his family and their achievements. He took an interest in what everyone was doing and he never stopped learning. He will be missed by us all.

Death Notices

Joseph Henry (Harry) Philbey, OAM.

of Reynella, Australia, died on 17th May, 2009, at the age of 85 years.

His burial was conducted at the Edwardstown Baptist Church
on Friday, 22nd May, 2009.

Dennis A. Filby informed us that sadly, his mother, **Hilda Filby**, aged 95, died on 3rd December, 2009, in Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Lincolnshire, from a stroke following a fall at her home.

Pamela Gladys Filbey of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, passed away on 1st January, 2009. Dearly loved wife of **Derek**, mother to **John** and **Jane**, and a family who will miss all the love she has brought into their lives.



Nevin Filby celebrating his 90th birthday with his wife, Mary, aged 91, with daughter, Jill, and her husband, David Yates, behind them. Grandson, Daniel Yates, is holding great-grandson, Alexander, brother to William standing with Nevin. Sadly, Nevin died 9th October, 2009.

Bob Filby, of 'Filby cocktail fame' is seen seated with a glass in his hand. His wife, Joyce, is by his side at a family celebration this year.



Lois Filbey, seated wearing pink, celebrating her 85th birthday. She is surrounded by her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren



Laura Filby on her 100th Birthday, 10th August 2009. Holding her card from The Queen



Adam and Hollie Filbey after their marriage at Roanoke, Virginia, on 1st August, 2009.