

The Filby Association

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



No.9 Chronicle 2011



Some of our overseas visitors to the Filby Reunion
on 4th July, 2010.

From left Adam Barker and Emma Battell Lowman
from Ontario, Canada,
with Diane and Ed Filby from Ottawa, Canada.

(More from Ed inside)

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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To Be Advertised

See IRC after Page 32

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Hello to all Members,

Well here we are with another edition of the Chronicle including lots of interesting articles, news from members, and introductions from our most recent volunteers. Thanks to everyone.

If you have anything that you would like printing next year please do send it to me as soon as possible. There will be an In Touch newsletter in August and then the Chronicle in January, 2012.

Send to me at the address shown on this page or email marion@filby.org closing date 31st October 2010.

Enjoy! Best wishes, Marion Filby (Editor)

News from our Manager - Jim Filby

Yet another successful year has passed and as reported in the 2010 In Touch, we had a successful and enjoyable Triennial Reunion and AGM in July, with two new people volunteering to help us, which is good news.

They are Sue Reynolds from Great Massingham, near Kings Lynn, who is now our new Secretary, and Alan Starkey from Meltham, West Yorkshire, who is now looking after our large number of Trees as our Tree Manager, a job previously carried out by me. They will both be introducing themselves within this Journal so I will say no more about them, except thank you and welcome to the team.

Ruth Smith, who was our longest serving officer, has now finally decided that she would like to fully retire as an officer of the Association. The executive officers had persuaded her last year to stay on the Executive Committee in the position of U.K Correspondent. Ruth will remain a member of the Association and we hope we will see her at our future reunions. Ruth, enjoy your retirement from us.

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 more true, the more volunteers we have can only make what we have to do a lot easier. Please do consider helping.

We have had 17 enquiries from people through our website, and out of those 17, 9 have become members of the Association; some of them we are either helping with their own research or will help when a researcher becomes available. One of the perks of my job is that I was able to meet two of the couples in Filby village during the year: Mike & Marilyn Filby from Australia and Jim & Lois Filby from America, a very enjoyable experience in both cases. In addition to this, new members Glennis & Darryl Philby from Australia, came to our triennial reunion.

Mark Filby is doing an excellent job as Webmaster on our new website www.filby.org. I will leave Mark to explain what he is doing; suffice it to say he is working hard trying to add two new items to our website in time for the issue of this Chronicle. If Mark does not manage it in time, please keep an eye on our website for their introduction.

Our DNA project is at a standstill at the moment, the costs of tests at about £100 per person is prohibitive, and we feel that we should not use members donation towards this, except in exceptional circumstances, that is why we ask members to volunteer to pay for their own. Of the five we have had tested the Association has only paid a part of the cost of one test. The results from these tests have given us areas of research that are still continuing. You can review all our past results if you visit



www.familytreedna.com/public/filby.

I always say this at the end of my small introduction, however I do mean it; I hope you 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 a monetary donation, family information and trees, articles for our editor, attending our next Reunion and A.G.M., or even just words of support. I thank you all.

Email jim@filby.org

Mark Filby - Webmaster's Report

Firstly, thank you for everyone's support since I took over as webmaster. I have been very lucky to inherit some great material from Jim and of course a site already holding a 2009 FFHS commended award.

The site has been re-formatted to give us some more space for adding more material such as the DNA project. I have tried to retain the 'traditional feel' of Jim's site but also make it feel fresh and bright. I still feel I have some work to do in this area and in particular on the home page where a little less text may give us space for adding new features.

Jim and I have relocated the site to a new service provider and a new domain name that is shorter and easier to remember – **www.filby.org**. This has provided a reliable location for the website. Overall, there is more reliability, lower overall cost and more expansion potential.

I am working on a number of areas for future development:

Online donations/fund-raising – I am researching the various options that are available and that could be implemented via the website. The objectives as I see them (in no particular order): low or no cost to the donor and the Association, ease of use, flexibility with currencies, automatic gift aid collection where possible, easy access to the monies. A report will be made to the Association officers in the near future.

Membership application online – I would like to see how realistic it would be to implement membership application via the website, this could be combined with a voluntary donation etc. - I will report to Association officers on options to consider.

Executive Officer profiles – It would be nice to have a profile for each executive officer, description of role etc. I need some co-operation for this one, it would be nice if each officer could write their own profiles.

Association Merchandise – It is possible to have a shop, but an order form could be a simple starting point and very easy to administer. I will report to Association officers on options to consider.

The Filby Association Forum – has been under test by the Association officers for some time, with direct connection to the website and a phased introduction to the entire membership seems the prudent method of making sure that it is reliable and most of all manageable.

We are now pleased to announce the launch of The Filby Association forum.

A place where you can meet fellow members, discuss research or just 'pass the time of day'. The use of the forum is for members only and all members need to follow the registration process in order to make 'postings'. Please follow the instructions below to register. You will receive a message confirming your registration within a few days (hopefully much sooner).

- 1) Visit <http://www.filby.org>. Double click on the link in the top left corner of your screen. A new window will open and load the forum.
- 2) In the top right hand corner of the forum you will see the link 'Register'. Click this link
- 3) You will be now asked to agree to the terms of using the Forum - click this box
- 4) You will now be asked to enter a username - it will be easier for everyone if you could enter your membership number followed by your real name ie. "C02 Jim Filby" as this will be displayed in your future postings on the forum. If you do not know your Membership number contact mark@filby.org Enter your email address and your chosen password. Please leave the language at British Language. You can set your time zone as appropriate to your normal location.
- 5) Press 'Submit' once you are happy with your details. I recommend that you make a note of your username and password.
- 6) An automated e-mail will be sent to your e-mail address confirming that you have applied for access to the forum.
- 7) Within a few days you will receive confirmation of successful activation of your details and you will be free to participate on the forum.

We look forward to meeting you on the forum!

The internet and our website give us the opportunity to reach out to more and more people but we need to 'market' the site. I will over time, try to carefully introduce our website to search engines to make us easier to find. This will be done in a 'selective' way as we don't have any real commercial objectives (it's not like we charge for help and assistance).

Could I take this opportunity to request more information that we can publish? Any interesting articles that can be published will be 'groomed' by the executive officers and relevant permissions sought. We can only publish material that respects confidentiality. We will all be delighted to hear from anyone that has something they think is suitable



material that respects confidentiality. We will all be delighted to hear from anyone that has something they think is suitable for putting onto the 'web'.

As I am writing this report my Inbox has just received a message from Jim, Marion and Alan to let me know that the website has just won a **FFHS 2010 Commendation** – so time to start work on a higher award for next year. It is an award that reflects the fact that we are 'current' and 'happening', The Filby Association will once again have its name associated with the highly respected FFHS and many other very successful genealogical societies – and we can all be very proud.

Email mark@filby.org

Recent Website Search Updates:

[Welsh Registers to be Released](#)

FindMyPast, in collaboration with the Church in Wales, Welsh Archive Services and FamilySearch International to bring 8,000,000 parish records dating back to the 1500s to the web. The project is expected to be completed in two years.

FindMyPast have released a **Second Boer War** database including; *Official Casualty Rolls, A Gazetteer of the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, Medal Rolls, Anglo-Boer War Memorials Project, Winifred Scott's Anglo-Boer War Index* and Kevin Asplin's rolls for the British cavalry, Imperial Yeomanry, Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, and the Lovat's Scouts and Scottish Horse records. They have also released the 1787 Army List.

[State Papers Online](#)

This website provides access to State Papers Domestic and Foreign, Registers of the Privy Council and State Papers in the British Library amongst others, described as 'an enormous advance in historical research'. Three-quarters complete and covering 1519 -1714, it available for purchase by institutions and not by individuals - but check your local library's subscriptions. One of many useful essays about the papers can be found [here](#) (pdf).

[Parish Register Transcription Society](#) records now online

This non-profit organization has now begun to place its records online- previously they were only available on CD. Credits must be purchased, but surplus money will go to [Rethink](#). These records may include our own Phillimore and Hackman collections that they had previously [made available](#) on disk.

[Library and Archives Canada](#) update

They have launched a new version of their [Canadian Naturalization Database](#) for use in finding original naturalization records, with scans where possible.

UKBMD update

A [Cumbrian Registration](#) website is now open, and although the indexes aren't complete, a breakdown of coverage is available.

Ancestry.com update

There is an update to 'London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1812, Index'. Also the 1910 US Federal Census and the US penitentiary records.

Be Careful when Posting Information Online

Always be very careful about what information you post on the Internet - even though most people researching their family tree are honest, some of them are far less experienced than many of you, which means you run the risk that your information may be misappropriated and misused.

I'm sure you've come across family trees on the Internet which intersect with yours, but have obvious errors - at least, obvious to someone experienced who has carried out their research with care, and documented it meticulously.

Personally, I wouldn't want my careful research to be bolted onto someone else's tree unless I had confidence that they knew what they were doing - but the danger is that when you're posting information online you're making it available to all and sundry, and 9 out of 10 people who take your data don't get in touch to thank you. Ironically it's often the people with the largest trees who are the worst offenders - or perhaps we shouldn't be surprised because, let's face it, one way of ending up with a large tree is to be a name collector rather than researcher.

Protecting living relatives

Did you know that it is a breach of the Data Protection Act to publish personal information about a living person without their permission?

Can You Help??

**The computer swallowed Granddad - yes, honestly it's true;
He pressed 'control' and 'enter' and disappeared from view.**

It's devoured him completely;

The thought just makes me squirm,

Maybe he's caught a virus or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin and files of every kind,

I've even used the Internet - but nothing I can find.

I asked Jeeves in desperation - my searches to refine,

The reply I got was negative, not a thing was found on-line,

So if some day my granddad - in your 'inbox' you should see

Please press 'scan & copy' and 'paste' him back to me.

anon

Introducing our Secretary—Sue Reynolds

I can't really remember when my obsession/addiction to genealogy started but what I do remember is enjoying listening to my mother and her brothers and sisters. (Mum was one of 9) at family get-togethers reminiscing about their childhood, particularly the time when they tied the youngest son to a tree in the garden and cut all his hair off – apparently, they felt that he was being spoilt by my grandmother because she had bought



him some new shoes as opposed to wearing hand-me-downs like the rest of them! Luckily I still have one elderly uncle on my mother's side (the original skinhead) and my dad's much younger sister to talk to, and thankfully they both have excellent memories about their childhood. I actually started seriously researching our family histories about three or four years ago and now that we are retired it sometimes seems to be taking over our lives. My families are from Staffordshire and Leicestershire, but my husband Clive's father, and his ancestors are from Norfolk, which is where we live. Ironically, Clive's family moved from Norfolk to the Midlands for work in the early 1900s and we moved from the Midlands back to Norfolk for Clive's work in the early 1970s – back to his "roots" as it were. Clive is the grandson of Lilly Filby (1873-1947), the daughter of Edward Filby (1840-1911) and Ann Buck (1844-1921) both of Lyng in Norfolk, and I first came into contact with the Filby Association a couple of years ago whilst "hacking about" on the internet, seeking inspiration.

My background is secretarial, and the last ten years of my working life (I retired in May, 2009) were spent within the NHS, originally working for a couple of psychologists working with adults with learning difficulties, but latterly working as the Co-ordinator for the Macmillan Nursing Service at our local hospital in King's Lynn. I have recently taken over from Ruth as Secretary to the Association and hope, therefore, that in due course I will be able to play a useful and pro-active role on the Executive Committee and look forward to interacting with as many of you as possible. Please contact me on sue@filby.org or at the address shown on the inside front cover.

Secretary's Report – Sue Reynolds

I have recently taken over as secretary to the Association as Ruth has now fully retired after 22 years service, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her well for the future. I only hope that in time I will be able to “fill her shoes” and give our members the support that Ruth was able to give them.

This year's Triennial Reunion was very successful with nearly 30 members attending, including couples from Canada and America. The church service was very well attended by both members and locals who support the Association and as ever, a super buffet was provided by the Ladies of the Church. Everyone was delighted that Mary Filby, the Association's President, was well enough to attend this year, particularly as she was able to witness the handing over of two cheques for £260 and £1,500 from the Association to the church, which we hope will be used towards financing the modernisation of the kitchen area and toilet facilities at All Saints Church in the village.

Keith Johnson, the webmaster for Filby Village has confirmed that a calendar for 2011 is now available and the price has been held for the third year at £7.00 plus postage and packing. Copies can be obtained by accessing www.filbyvillage.org.uk and following the links to 'calendar', or Keith is happy for you to write to him at Homeward, Main Road, Filby, Great Yarmouth, NR29 3HN, England, or to ring him on 01493 369536.

The village was awarded 'Gold' again this year in 'Anglia in Bloom' but, as last year, were second in their class by just one point! At the time of writing they are still awaiting the results for Great Yarmouth in Bloom and the EDP's Best of Norfolk Competition.

We have welcomed 12 new Members to the Association this year:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Glennis & Darryl Philby, Cecil Plains, Australia. | Delia Dyer, Aberdeenshire. |
| Jennifer Filby Dickinson, Pittsburg, USA. | Jim & Lois Filby, Florida, USA |
| Connee Parks, Tampa, Florida. USA. | James Filby, Oakham, Leics. |
| Mike and Marilyn Filby, Victoria, Australia. | Brian A Philbey, Florida, USA. |
| Madeline Filby, Lake Spivey, USA. | Mark A Filbey, Penn., USA. |
| Jonathan P Voorhees, Washington, USA. | Francis R Filbee, Spain. |

Alan & Christine Starkey, Holmfirth, West Yorks. (Alan is our Tree Manager)
Apologies if I have missed anyone!

One of my responsibilities as secretary is to keep the Register of Members up to date so please let me know if you move home or change your e-mail address so that we can keep in contact and continue to send you the 'In Touch' newsletter and Chronicle. Also, could you let Marion know about any births, marriages or deaths please so that the family trees can be updated, and also any anniversaries or anything else of interest that you would like to share with other members.

If I can be of any help to any of you please do not hesitate to get in touch.
sue@filby.org

Introducing our Tree Manager—Alan Starkey.



My, and Christine's interest in family trees started with a Premium Bond win. We were walking through the Merrion Centre in Leeds and saw some display boards of family coats of arms. As I am the seventh of nine children, it has always been a family joke that our coat of arms should be a stork. So we looked at these coats of arms and lo and behold there was

one for Starkey and it contained storks! We burst out laughing at that and the man in charge wanted to know what we found so amusing. We explained and he delved into his books to show us the various coats of arms, also those for Filby, Christine's maiden name. We bought a plaque with both coats of arms with the money from the Premium Bond win.

This made me wonder if there was a connection on my side. Maybe even to the Starkeys who were sheriffs of Lancashire and had their coats of arms on the wall in Lancaster Castle. No such luck! I've found two very rich Starkey families, but my earliest ones were on 'poor relief' in Wigan!

Some time later, Christine's Dad inherited some money and to prove his entitlement, the solicitors had drawn up a family tree and sent it to him. That triggered Christine's interest and provided a basis for learning how to research family history as she checked the details on that family tree (she did find some errors but they didn't affect the inheritance and by then it was too late anyway).

We joined the Huddersfield and District Family History Society in 1987 when it was formed and quickly became involved in the organisation. Christine became the book seller and later the librarian when the society had its own premises. I did various jobs at different times - chairman, treasurer, editor of the journal, project organiser, web master, etc. After 19 years, we decided to retire from our posts and start doing our own research again.

In doing our research, we traced our maternal lines back to Yorkshire and there is a faint possibility of a connection back in the 1700s in and around Snaith (just off the M62 near Goole) where a Britton, my mother's maiden name, married an Austwick, Christine's mother's maiden name.

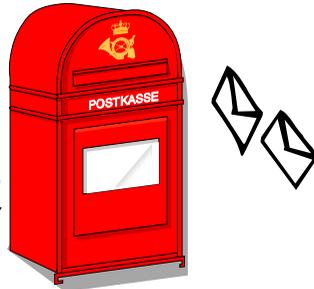
I retired in 2010 after working in IT since 1966, with only a short 18-month spell in Human Resources helping to install a new HR/Payroll

system. My main background in IT is programming and databases. I was involved in producing the databases used by the LearnDirect in its early days including quality assuring the data, hence my offer to help with the Association's trees. I still enjoy programming and I am currently trying to automate the production of GEDCOM files from census databases - it will help me sort out some families that may be related to mine, I hope.

adam@filby.org

Keeping up with Family News! – by *Janet R Filby, Felbrigg, Norwich.*

I was pleased to receive this letter from Janet Informing me about her family, because as well as searching for our 'ancestors' we also want to keep The Filby Association Family Trees up to date for those who will follow in our foot steps. We must not forget that today is tomorrow's history. I will be pleased to send an updated family tree to any member who would like one.



Marion Filby – Researcher.

Janet says:

I am writing to keep you up to date with our side of the 'Filbys'.

Mrs Roselin Gladys Filby, wife of the Late Eric William Filby, died, aged 89 years, on 17th December, 2007.

Helen Rosalind (nee Filby) and Robert Pooler and children, Harry and Oliver, emigrated to New Zealand in 2003, Near Methven, South Island. **Daniel Pooler** was born in New Zealand.

James Brian Filby, born 8th March, 1975, emigrated to Currabubula, NSW, Australia, in May, 2003 and is now running 3,000 acres.

He married **Veronica Martin** on 15th March, 2008, in Mulallee, NSW.

Hamish Brian Filby was born in Tamworth, NSW, on 8th March, 2008.

Elizabeth Rose Filby, born 15th January, 1981, married **Nigel Ward** in Felbrigg Church, Norfolk, on 13th September, 2008.

James has settled well in Australia. The area around Tamworth is lovely, the farm sits below hills, one of which is named 'Terrible Billy', it has a story all of its own, too long to tell but involves the first settlers. Currabubula next to the farm is a fairly small village with a pub and a garage/shop, plus a riding school. Tamworth is famous for its Annual Music Festival (country style) an international affair. It also boasts a brand new equine centre, it's massive, holding both horse and cattle events.

Brian and I visit the family each year – our second summer! With one daughter and family in New Zealand, one son in Australia, and a son and daughter in the U.K., we are torn between one side of the world and home! If only the ‘Star Trek’ transporters were real – in our dreams!

When Hamish was born his name had already been decided before Hurricane Hamish had made an appearance and caused massive flooding and damage in Queensland. What a coincidence!

That’s all our news for this year,
Best wishes to all,
Janet R. Filby.

Thank you for keeping us informed Janet.
(Editor)

.....and here’s a letter from Glennis and Darryl Philbey at Cecil Plains, Australia, who came to our Reunion on 4th July to ‘meet the Filby family’.

Dear Extended Family Members,



Darryl and I returned safely to Australia after attending the Filby Association Triennial Reunion in the village of Filby, Norfolk, England.

We would like to extend to the Association a very warm thank you for the heart felt welcome we received. The village of Filby was very picturesque in the preparation for the forthcoming competitions: ‘Anglia in Bloom’ and ‘Pride of Norfolk’. We were really taken by the sharpness of colour, especially red, which every corner displayed.

It was pleasing to meet face to face with Jim and Ruth. Emailing is great but the personal contact is greater. The photos Darryl took during the choral evening have left us with lasting memories. The church service on Sunday was very moving especially to hear the ‘Filby Hymn.’ We will have to practice this hymn for our next reunion.

A special thank you must go to Marion, through her perseverance she has extended our family back to 1552, when Richard Filbye was born in Upton. How exciting for the family to be able to add a further five generations to the Australian family tree.

A reunion will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, in 2012. This Philbey reunion will be organised by a resident branch of the Philbey tree. By then I hope to have the 2nd edition of our Philbey book completed.

We are so very glad to have had the opportunity to have been a part of the Triennial Reunion 2010, and we are looking forward to the next reunion in 2013.

All the best to all Filby members, no matter what the spelling of our surname.

Regards,
Darryl and Glennis Philbey
*Cecil Plains Homestead,
Cecil Plains, Queensland, Australia. 4407*

John D. Filby PhD., who is one of our researchers, has put together four articles from his family history for us again this year.

The Will of Edward Filby - Farmer of Elsing. 30th July, 1780, proven 4th March, 1783.

“Archdeaconry Court of Norfolk. Norwich. - Book 1782/3 - 26/28/83
L.W. & T. Soul to God, such part of freehold of charterhold messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances in Yaxham, Westfield, Whinburgh with rights and priveleges to Thomas Smyth of East Dereham, gent. On trust to sell with copyhold portions, and he to sell such part and so much copyhold and customary tenure of messuages, lands and tenements putting all money together. Money first to payment of mortgages, than an annuity to wife for life of £200 in Government or other good security, she to accept this in lieu of dower or thirds in one month at the request of Thomas Smyth or my son Thomas Filby. At the decease of my wife the £200 to my son Thomas Filby. To my daughter Susanna wife of Benjamin Collins of Elsing, yeoman, £50. Both in two months after sale of property out of the remainder of the money. To son Thomas F. all messuages, lands, tenements, copyhold or freehold in Elsing now in my own occupation with all rights and appurtenances charged with £5 yearly for my daughter Sarah for life. She can enter if unpaid. To wife Mary all brewing kettle hers before marriage, bed we now lie on and all furniture belonging in parlour of house where I live in one month of my decease. To said Thomas Smyth £20. All stock, goods, chattels after debt, funeral, probate paid to my son Thomas Filby. Son Thomas F. sole executor. The annuity to be paid in south porch of Elsing church.
A.C.Smyth, John Lulman, John Brooke, witnesses and clerks to Mr. Smyth. Pr.by ex.4 Mch 1783.”

From Archdeaconry Court of Norfolk: Bundle of Administration Bonds 1764 -70 File No. 52 (Abstract)

“Bound etc. Edward Filby of Elsing in Norfolk, Farmer, and Edward Vincent of Yaxham in Norfolk, Farmer, in the sum of £200 on the 5th November, 1768.

The condition of this obligation is that the above found Edward Filby the Natural and Lawful Brother and Administrator of the goods etc. of **William Filby late of Reymerstone in Norfolk, deceased, intestate**, on the Remuneration of Ann Filby, widow and relict of the said deceased intestate, causes and inventory of all the good etc of the said William Filby deceased intestate to be exhibited into this Court on or before the last day of May next ensuing and make a full Account of his Administration on or before the last day of November, 1769. Remuneration of the said Ann Filby annexed and dated the 3rd November, 1768.”

WILLS – A Key Source for Determining the Pedigree of JOHN FILBY of SPARHAM

The previous two issues of The Filby Association Chronicle contained articles on the descendents of MILES and EDWARD FFILBY two of the sons of JOHN and ELIZABETH FFILBY of Honingham, Norfolk. Unfortunately, much of the Honingham Parish Register covering the mid-1600s is missing and only EDWARD's baptism in March, 1662/3 remains. The fact that EDWARD had four brothers and a sister therefore relies on family Wills.

In his Will of March, 1691, JOHN FFILBY of Honingham, yeoman, bequests “unto JOHN FFILBY my son the sum of five and twenty pounds” payable within a year. A further bequest is made to “WILLIAM FFILBY my son the sum of ten pounds” to be paid within two years. Also a bequest to “ELIZABETH CAPPS my daughter the sum of twenty pounds” to be paid within three years, and finally a bequest “unto THOMAS FFILBY my son, twenty and five pounds” to be paid within four years. He also appointed “EDWARD FFILBY my son, sole executor”. ELIZABETH had married THOMAS CAPPS in April, 1685, and MILES had died in January 1691/2 (see 2009 Chronicle for details)

JOHN's Will therefore establishes that the names of his four of sons were JOHN, WILLIAM, THOMAS and EDWARD. These names however, were in fairly common usage and therefore it was not possible from JOHN's Will to determine the exact person or their location among the numerous possibilities. However this can be achieved by examining the Wills of individuals with the brother's names. Hence the Will of JOHN of Sparham clearly establishes that he is the brother of a WILLIAM and a THOMAS. In his Will, dated 27th June, 1709, JOHN states “that Wm Filby of Mattishall Burgh my Brother shall act as Guardian for the aforesaid Wm

Filby my Son & Elizabeth my Daughter". He also "bequeaths unto Thomas Filby my Brother the sum of Twenty Shillings". Much later, the 1759 Will of MILES PHILBY of Wymondham establishes that his father, MILES, who died at Honingham in January, 1691/2, was WILLIAM of Mattishall Burgh's brother. It is therefore confirmed that JOHN FILBY of Sparham was JOHN of Honningham's son.

JOHN married three times and had a total of eight children, three sons and five daughters all baptised at Sparham. Since his marriage to his first wife, ANNE, has not been found it is possible that the couple had children before JOHN was born at Sparham in April, 1693. However such children must have died before their father since his Will refers to JOHN as his eldest son. A second son, WILLIAM, the subject of the above clause in JOHN's Will, was born in June, 1694, and was therefore 13 years old when his father died. ANNE died in November, 1697, and was buried at Sparham in sheeps wool, a requirement introduced by the 'Burial in Woollen acts of 1666-80' to help sustain the declining woollen industry, which was particularly important in Norfolk. JOHN married ELIZABETH WELLHAM on 12th August, 1699, at East Tuddenham, Norfolk, and their first child, ELIZABETH, referred to above, was born in September, 1700. A son, THOMAS, was born in September, 1703, but died shortly afterwards. ELIZABETH, JOHN's wife, died in August, 1704, and was buried at Sparham. According to Ellsworth Filby's notes JOHN married his third wife, HANNAH OCHES, at Sparham, approximately 2 months later in October, 1704. However, the date and place of this marriage has not been found in the Sparham Register or Bishop's Transcripts but may have been obtained from another source. According to the Sparham Register their first child, HANNAH, was born on 9th September, 1705, with the mother recorded as HANNAH FILBIE late OCHES. JOHN and HANNAH had three more children, all girls, with the last ESTER being born on 26th January, 1709/10, six months after her father died.

During his lifetime JOHN had become a relatively wealthy man with widespread assets in addition to those in Sparham. According to the March, 1699, records for the Manor of Elsing, JOHN FEILBY of Sparham received messuages and lands in the manor from ANTHONY BUXTON, and subsequently in October, 1700, JOHN FEILBY was admitted into the manor records. In his Will he "bequeath unto John Filby my Eldest Son all & every those my Messuages Houses Lands & Tenements which are lying & being in Elsing, Beloe [Bylaugh] & Lyng" To collect this bequest JOHN had, according to the Will, to "pay unto Wm Filby my son the sum of Twenty Pounds that is to say Tenn pounds within four years after my decease and the other Tenn pounds all of current English money within six years after my decease." JOHN appears to have been a very precise and cautious man who was determined that his wishes would be correctly implemented so he inserted a clause that stated that "if it shall happen

that John my Son shall make default in paying of the said sume of twenty pounds or any part thereof unto Wm my Son as aforesaid that then my will and mind is that the said Wm my Sonn shall enter upon all & every those my Messuages Lands & Tenements and the same to have hold occupy & enjoy until he be fully satisfied contented & paid the aforesaid Legacy with all cash & charges which He shall be put unto concerning the same ." Like many Wills of the time JOHN wished to ensure that his assets were fully apportioned as he wished even down to the detail. For instance he gave "unto John Filby my Son a Black mare with a Bald Face and one white foot and also one of the best Silver Spoons". Similarly he gave to WILLIAM, his son, "one Brown Horse Colt and one of my best Silver Spoons" and to his daughter, ELIZABETH, "my best bedd with all the furnature as it stands and my best Cow and one Silver Cupp and one Silver Spoon & one Silver Bodkin".

JOHN's Will also confirmed that during his lifetime he had sufficient ready money to be able to lend significant sums under Bonds to his friends and neighbours. In his Will he left "four score pounds" each to WILLIAM, his son, and ELIZABETH, his daughter. The "said Eight score pounds is in the hands of Mrs Harrison of Repham wid and Francis Clerk of Mattishal Butcher and Wm Bayly of Elsing Fishmonger and John Gabbm of North Tuddenham yeoman & Thomas King of Elsing Farmer." Finally he left the rest of his estate, which presumably included his assets at Sparham, to his wife HANNAH who he appointed as his sole executor. This must still have been a significant estate since he requested that HANNAH should divide anything she could spare between her three children. He obviously was unaware of the fourth child that was born nearly seven months after the Will was written. JOHN died three weeks after writing his Will and was buried at Sparham on 19th July, 1709.

HANNAH lived a further twenty two years and was buried at Sparham, 3rd October, 1731, with a note in the register that she was the wife of JOHN FILBIE. She did not leave a Will and the subsequent lives of her four daughters, HANNAH, ANN, MARY and ESTER have not been researched although a HANNAH FILBY was buried at ELSING in April, 1753. It is possible that the ELIZABETH FILBY who married THOMAS DALLY at Reymerston on 6th November, 1722, was the daughter of JOHN's second marriage but there is no conclusive proof.

Little has been found concerning the sons JOHN and WILLIAM. The Elsing Manor records confirm that following JOHN FEILBY's death his properties of were transferred on 18th October, 1709, to his son JOHN. In 1714 a JOHN FILBY of Elsing voted in the Parliamentary elections on the strength of being a freeholder of property in Lyng. The records of Elsing Title Deeds held in the Norfolk Record Office contain the following entry for 30th October 1762 - "Messuage and 25 acres, freehold, and two messuages and 17 acres held of the manor of Elsing" were mortgaged by JOHN FILBY to HENRY HALL, miller and flour merchant of

North Elmham, for the loan of £250 at 5% interest per annum. By this time JOHN was nearing 70, and in 1763 EDWARD FILBY, the youngest son of WILLIAM and ELIZABETH of MATTISHALL BURGH, paid JOHN £130 for these manor holdings and settled the interest due to HENRY HALL. These transactions suggest that JOHN had no children.

JOHN was buried at Elsing in May, 1768, but there is no record of WILLIAM in the Elsing Parish Register. There is an entry for the burial in May, 1785, of a MARY FILBY, widow, who could have been JOHN's wife but there is no record of any children either in the Elsing register or those of nearby parishes. Unfortunately, neither JOHN nor WILLIAM left Wills and unless there are untraced children there are no further FILBY descendents of JOHN of SPARHAM.

WHERE ARE JEREMIAH'S CHILDREN?

Jeremiah Filby was baptised at Reymerston, Norfolk, in May, 1814, the fifth son of Richard Filby, an agricultural labourer, and his wife, Mary. At the time of the 1841 Census he was a Man Servant in the Reymerston home of William Staines, a farmer, and his wife, Mary. Also living in the house as a Servant was Mary Thompson, aged 22, from Ellingham. Jeremiah and Mary were married at Reymerston church on 5th July, 1841, and by the 1851 Census had moved to Garveston, Norfolk, where Jeremiah was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. At the time of the 1861 Census Jeremiah had become a butcher to which in 1871 and 1881 he added "Letter Receiver and Post". His Garveston business is listed in the 1883 Edition of Whites Norfolk Directory as "Pork Butcher and Post Master". Finally, in the 1891 Census he became the "Grocer, Butcher and Post" of the village shop. In all the foregoing Census returns Jeremiah and Mary are recorded as living on their own.

Yet when Jeremiah died in December 1893, aged 79, his wife had a memorial stone erected, which states that he was "Interred near his 10 children"! A search of the Garveston Parish Register and other local parishes has only revealed one son, Rufus, who was baptised at Garveston on 27th September, 1845, and buried there the following 2nd October. So where are the other 9 children? Were they all stillborn or died as unbaptised infants? Jeremiah was a relatively wealthy business man leaving £41 in his Will, so poverty, which could be the cause of many infant deaths, would not have applied. Maybe there was a significant medical problem since even Rufus, the only known child, lived only a few days. But how could Jeremiah be buried near his children? A possible explanation could be in the location of Jeremiah's gravestone, which is not very far from the boundary wall of the graveyard and it is known that stillborn or unbaptised infants were sometimes buried just outside the consecrated ground.



**Whilst researching a family in Pennsylvania, USA, I uncovered a tragic story about the granddaughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Filby.
by Marion Filby, (Researcher)**



Jennie Wade - A Tragic Story

In July of 1863 Mary Virginia "Jennie" Wade was a 20-year-old resident of Gettysburg, York County, Pennsylvania, US., and engaged to be married to Corp. Johnston H. Skelly of the 87th Pennsylvania. She worked as a seamstress with her mother, Mary Ann (Filby) Wade, in their home on Breckenridge Street. Her father, James Wade, was in a mental institute so to make ends meet they also took care of a 6-year-old boarder named Isaac.

The historic Battle of Gettysburg was about to begin.

For safety during the first day's battle, Jennie and her family moved to the home of Jennie's sister, Georgia Wade McClellan on Baltimore Street. Her sister had given birth with great difficulty around 2:15pm one hour before the Confederates rode into Gettysburg, and Jennie was caring for her. The McClellan side of the house on Baltimore Street, less than 50 yards north of Cemetery Hill, thus housed Mrs. Wade, Jennie, her brother, Harry, her young boarder, Isaac, her sister, Georgia, and the newborn son.

There was no heavy fighting in the area but a Federal picket line did run behind the little brick house, there was intermittent skirmishing between it and Confederate outposts in the Town proper. Protected by the sturdy brick walls of the house, they lived for three days in the midst of the greatest battle ever seen in this hemisphere.

Jennie spent most of July 1st distributing bread to Union soldiers and filling their canteens with water. By late afternoon on July 2nd, the diminishing supply of bread made it apparent that more bread would be needed the next day. Jennie and her mother left the yeast to rise until the morning of the 3rd.

At about 7.00am on the morning of July 3rd, the Confederate sharpshooters began firing at the north windows of the house. The prep work to bake biscuits was begun at 8.00am. At about 8.30am while Jennie stood in the kitchen kneading dough, a Confederate musket ball smashed through a door on the north side of the house, pierced another into the kitchen, and struck Jennie in the back beneath her left shoulder blade embedding itself in her corset, killing her instantly. The cries of her sister and mother attracted Federal soldiers who carried her body to the cellar.

In the early afternoon of July 4th, Jennie's mother baked 15 loaves of bread from the dough that Jennie had kneaded.

Jennie Wade was the only civilian casualty of the Battle of Gettysburg. Nor was the tragedy complete, for unbeknown to Jennie, her fiancé, Corp. Johnston Hastings 'Jack' Skelly Jnr., had been wounded and taken prisoner at Winchester on May 13th. After being transferred to Virginia, he died in a hospital on July 12th. News that he had died in Confederate hands came several days after the Southern Army had withdrawn from Gettysburg.

Jenny was later buried near to Jack Skelly in Evergreen Cemetery, in a coffin some Confederate soldiers had earlier fashioned for an officer.

From the book "The Jennie Wade Story" by Cindy L. Small.

News from our USA Correspondent, Kirk Filbey.

Greetings from North America! This article is going to be a bit short because Jessica and I have had a rather interesting year. Jessica recently started work with a new company in Chicago and has been extremely busy. She continues to maintain and monitor the Filby Facebook page as well as answer questions submitted through the site.

The Air Force threw me a curve ball this year with an unexpected deployment to Afghanistan. As a result I've been out of the country for most of the year; I just returned mid-October. As Lieutenant Colonel my deployment was very interesting because I had the opportunity to work in the US Embassy in Kabul in the military liaison office. I specifically worked on Afghanistan border issues, which proved to be a complex mix of both military and economic development challenges.

I travelled quite a bit around Kabul as part of my job and even had the opportunity to make a trip up north to Afghanistan's border with Uzbekistan. **Here's a picture of me on the Uzbek border.** The bridge at this crossing point is the famous Friendship Bridge that the last Russian troops crossed as they departed Afghanistan back in 1989. While in Kabul I also



had the opportunity to visit Darul Aman and Tajbeg palaces, which were built in the 1920s by the Afghan king, Unfortunately, the constant wars in this country have not treated these buildings well.

My opportunities to conduct family research were close to non-existent in Afghanistan, however, in the course of discussion with one of my embassy colleagues, Filby family history did come up. The name tag on my uniform sparked a conversation about different ways to spell Filby

and soon discovered my co-worker had a Filby connection in his family tree. Now that I am back home I can conduct some more thorough research based on information he provided and see how our families are linked. You just never know when you might stumble across some interesting family history and these opportunities can occur in the most unusual places!

I don't know of any other Filby connections to Afghanistan but if anyone has some information on this I would certainly be interested to hear about it. For now I'm enjoying my time with my family and I look forward to continuing to work with Jessica on Filby Association research.

rkfilbey@gmail.com

Greetings to Filby Association members across the world with best wishes for 2011 from All Saints, Filby.

From the Rector of Filby – Reverend Graham Steel

We have witnessed massive shifts in society over the past 20 years, and one result has been that for all sorts of reasons it is quite difficult for families to come to church on a Sunday morning. In response to this, a new initiative - "Messy Church" - has been taking place at Filby Church. Once a month, after school, 40/50 adults and children have been meeting for a short act of worship, games, craft activities and a simple meal together. Rather different to the traditional worship we continue to offer on Sunday morning, but a new expression of church for those who come (though I am not sure they always see it as 'church' because they enjoy it so much.)

As I have mentioned in the past couple of Chronicles, we are looking at re-ordering the church because it was not built for this sort of worship or other activities we may want put on to engage with our community. The PCC has been looking at the ways other local churches in Norfolk have been adapted and hopefully in 2011, we will have some proposals to put out for consultation to improve our kitchen / toilet facilities and make more space for a range of differing activities that will meet the needs of the 21st Century. I do not expect you will see much difference by the time we meet again next July, but perhaps we will be in a position to share some more detail with you then.

One thing that will have changed is an upgrade to our heating. We are installing under-pew convectors and overhead radiant heaters this autumn. Our existing heating has been impossibly expensive and ineffective, resulting in some people being unable to come to church when it is really cold (and, for example, forcing us to suspend 'Messy Church' as the cold weather approaches.) Hopefully, though, we will not need to use them when we meet together in the summer!

We are always grateful for the support of the Filby Association and particularly for the generous donation of £1,500 made at the 2010 Reunion, which will go toward our re-ordering fund. This photo shows your President, Mary Filby, presenting me with the cheque in the church on 4th July, with members looking on.



I look forward to welcoming you to the next meeting of the Filby Association at All Saints Church in 2011.

With every best wish,
Revd. Graham Steel

Our next Filby Reunion.....

**will be held on Sunday, 3rd July, 2011,
at 2.30pm in All Saints Church, Filby, Norfolk, England.**

**The A.G.M. will commence at 11.00am
probably in the church, but will be confirmed later.
We welcome all who would join us in making decisions
on the future of our Association.**

**We look forward to greeting everyone and hope that you
will put this date in your diary so that you can join us
and mingle with your 'Filby family' once again.**

Our Village War Memorials *by Jim Filby (Manager)*

When I first moved to Blidworth in Nottinghamshire I decided that I would get involved in village life. One of the things I found was that a committee was being set up to build a war memorial in the village, so I offered my services. Blidworth has since had a memorial for quite a few years.

Whilst on the memorial committee I also found the Rainworth, Blidworth and District branch of the British Legion, so I transferred my membership and eventually became branch treasurer.

Rainworth, like Blidworth, did not have a war memorial although it did have a Book of Remembrance in St Simon and St Jude, the village church. It was locked in a glass case where pages were turned on a regular basis during the year to show names in rotation.

A few of us in our branch of the legion decided that it would be a good idea to have a war memorial in Rainworth, so we formed a committee to look at the feasibility in building, where to build, and the form it should take. From decisions made it would be in the form of a granite obelisk and would be cited in the church yard, and because there was a book of remembrance in the church it would not contain names. On one side there would be a plaque on which was written the Legion's Homage, and on the other three sides the Army flag and the Navy & R. A. F. ensigns.

There followed five years of intensive work by a large number of people, some of whom were members of our branch, others were members of our local councils and members of the church, local villagers, shops and local businesses. Being branch treasurer I was elected as 'project' treasurer to ensure that enough money was collected and banked to pay for the obelisk and building of the memorial. We estimated that we would need to raise £12,000 for this, but in fact the total cost was nearer £14,000.

We initially thought that raising all this money would reduce the amount we collected from the Legion's poppy appeal. However, we were happy that this was not the case, in fact during the last three years we have increased the amount collected by the branch year on year.

Like our Legion branch, the church benefice includes Blidworth (St. Mary of the Purification & St. Andrews Mission Hall) and Rainworth (St. Simon and St. Jude), so because we are intertwined in two planes we have been able to persuade the Rev. Hazel Robinson, vicar of the benefice, to be the chaplain of our legion branch.

The culmination of all our hard work saw the completion of the war memorial in August, 2010, and the dedication of the Rainworth Memorial on Sunday, 5th September, 2010. Sir Andrew Buchanan, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, unveiled the memorial, The Ven. Dr. Nigel Peyton Archdeacon of Newark read the Homily and the Dedication of the Memorial, and our chairman read the Address.

I am not sure if it was because I was the treasurer of the memorial committee or because I am on the Parochial Church Council for St. Mary's at Blidworth, however the Rev. Hazel Robinson persuaded me to do the reading, which was from Romans, Chapter 8, verses 31 to 39.

To see the memorial lit up at night makes all our work during the last four years completely worthwhile, but the icing on the cake was to be asked to do the reading at the dedication ceremony.

For information: The three medals on my right hand side (left on the photo) are: My uncles First World War medals: Military Medal, War Medal, Victory Medal. The four on my left hand side are: Cold War Victory Medal, Cold War Medal, (both foreign medals). The other two are: British Forces Germany, Queens Medal, (both commemorative medals) On my beret are two cap badges, on the left (my right) my R.A.F. badge, the other is my uncles 1917 Tank Corps badge.



jjm@filby.org

Dead Poets Corner

Here lies the noble warrior that
never blunted sword;
Here lies the noble Courtier that
never kept his word;
Here lies His Excellency that
governed all the state;
Here lies the Lord of Leicester that
all the world did hate.

***Epitaph for Robert Dudley,
Earl of Leicester, 1531-88***

In Memory of Mrs Lydia Barnett
Consort of
Noah Ripley Esq.,
by whom she had eight sons
and eleven daughters
seventeen of whom lived to
have families. Her descendants
at the time were ninety-seven
grandchildren & one hundred and
six great-grandchildren.
She died 17th June, 1816
aged 91

Our Filby Reunion 2010

by Ed & Diane Filby, Ottawa, Canada

My grandfather, Robert James Filby, immigrated to Canada as a teenager around 1891, reportedly travelling with an 'uncle'. However, there is no known record of the whereabouts of my grandfather until he eventually settled and homesteaded around 1905, in rural, remote, isolated Ochre River, Manitoba (western Canada).

During the depression in Canada, in the 1930s his family of eight children spread out across Canada in order to find work. My father, Murray Elgin Filby, joined the Canadian Army and was sent to England during WWII where he met and married my mother. I was born post-war in the UK (Ipswich.) I never met my Filby grandfather as he died in Canada about the time I was born in England. My father returned to Canada after WWII where I have since resided.

The above information was almost the extent of my knowledge about my family history until I contacted the Filby Association after my father's death in 2003. While in the UK in 2005, I visited the village of Filby and called Marion Filby as the Association contact person. Marion and I worked together over the next few years (Marion and her husband, Alan, even visited us in Canada) and were able to piece together some pre-Canada family history.

I decided to attend the 2010 Filby reunion as part of a vacation to the UK & Iceland. That was a great decision.

Our summer holiday this year was a marvellous experience crammed with a whole list of 'firsts'. Although we have stopped, and even travelled in England several times in the past, this was the first trip when my wife, Diane, and I successfully managed to connect and have a visit with all of our English first cousins - no mean feat I can tell you. Won't bore you with details since all of my Filby first cousins live in Canada, but both of us have English families through our English mothers who were both war brides.

For the first time ever, we visited the beautiful and historic city of York (many, many thanks to our very kind and generous hosts, Marion and Alan Filby). The weather was perfect and we were able to spend pleasurable hours rambling over the Yorkshire Dales and Moors (Hole of Horcum anyone?)

After puzzling the mysteries and following the lives of the *Heart Beat* characters over many TV seasons, we couldn't be this close to 'Aidensfield' and not see it. So Marion and Alan indulged us and drove to where it was filmed, at Goathland on the North Yorkshire Moors, braved the tourist throngs, took our photos on the railway station platform, outside **Scripp's Garage, Aidensfield Stores**, and even wandered into the Arms with us for a drink. It was just like on TV - we kept expecting to see 'David' amble through the door!



Here I am at Scripps Garage.

We finished up with a tour of Whitby (another *Heart Beat* locale) and a fine dinner of fresh fish and chips with mushy peas. (They were a surprise - not at all what we expected, bright green with a flavour that Canadian readers would recognise as being reminiscent of very

thick, salty, French Canadian pea soup, except green of course!)

Here I am with my wife, Diane, and Alan Filby.

However, most significantly from the 'Filby Family' perspective, 2010 was the year when, finally, we attended our first Filby Reunion. Summer is short in our part of Canada, so we generally like to stay during those few months and enjoy our lakeside cottage. But we had long promised to be in Filby when the Association gathers. So, while the Queen and Prince Philip toured our home city of Ottawa on Canada Day (July 1st), we were touring Filby and environs in royal style, and we were meeting Filbys from all over the world! Not something that happens too often to me.



There are currently only three Filby addresses listed in the Ottawa (Canada) area telephone book (my stepmother, my son, and me) so it is a real novelty to meet another Filby anywhere, anytime. It started off when we were introduced to Australians, Jill (nee Filby) and David Yates at Marion and Alan's home the previous week, who were also visiting the UK. We calculated that Jill was my 7th cousin twice removed and we are all the Filby Association Tree numbered '103.'

Then, having enjoyed Marion & Alan's hospitality in York, it was a great pleasure to meet his brother and sister-in-law, Ron & Kath Filby when we arrived in Rollesby (close to Filby) where we stayed in a rented house for the week enabling us to visit our relatives in Ipswich. The numbers were balanced when Canadians, Emma Battell and her husband Adam (Emma is related to Alan; we met her mother through Marion & Alan in Canada) arrived on Friday for the reunion weekend.

The weekend, with the concert, Annual General Meeting, church service and reception was a whirlwind of Filbys, Philbeys, Philbys, et al that I won't long forget. It was great!

For me, a highlight was meeting Mark Filby (our Association's new webmaster) and his lovely family (wife Lorna, and children, Tom and Jess) face to face. We had corresponded via e-mail following my phone call to his father when trying to trace relatives in Ipswich during a previous trip. Turns out that we are indeed related and we have begun to piece together some of the more recent history of our part of the family.

As an interesting twist, among my father's small photo collection that I inherited was a photo of Mark's great-grandmother and another of her children. I was delighted to be able to scan and send him a copy - the marvels of technology!

As I am sure you will gather from reading other reports in the Chronicle, the AGM and the reunion service were great successes overall. It was interesting to hear the reports and to learn of the progress being made to renovate All Saints Church at Filby. We have also come away with a far better understanding and appreciation of the immense amount of work that goes into establishing and linking the complicated family branches of the Filby tree.

A great thanks to the Filby Association for jobs well done.

Ed Filby

Ottawa, Canada

Our Pilgrimage to Kohima and Imphal *by Ruth Smith.*

There were 19 of us including the Leader, John, the Doctor, Andrew, and Royal British Legion Representative and Standard Bearer, David and Eddie, on our way to the NE India Pilgrimage arranged by Poppy Travel. There were 3 veterans amongst us and some widows and families of those who had died or been in the battles. Also a Captain who was in most parts of India, and Dorothy, who was born in India and served in the Indian Forces. My friend, Roy Welland, had been in the two battles of Kohima and Imphal, as well as others in the Burma Campaign of World War 2. Both places are in Nagaland in NE India on the border with Burma. Roy wore an original bush hat with the 2nd Division cross keys insignia on it lent by my stepson, Bill Smith. When we went anywhere it was "Follow the Hat!!"

We landed in Calcutta and left from Delhi with their luxury hotels, but in between we had a small glimpse of what conditions had been like in 1944. After tours of Calcutta we flew to Dimapur Airport in a twin engine plane instead of a jet. The coach/bus journey from there had to be experienced – it leaked inside, and navigated up and down the hills through narrow hairpin bends with steep cliffs on one side. I have no idea how the coach managed to keep intact and on the road, and did not break

its axle. Our two hour journey took considerably longer as we had to retrace our steps at one point and go on another road due to a landslide. We had a comfort stop at the home of one of our Naga guides, a lovely young lady.

Kohima, our first village, which had just been a tiny place in 1944, had grown a lot, with winding steep narrow up and down roads. We could see what the conditions had been like during the battles on the mountainous hills. It had a basic hotel but comfortable, friendly and helpful, as had Imphal. The Naga had been head-hunters in 1944, but were of great help to our troops then.

We visited the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery there, and held a service and laid poppy wreaths. Roy had been in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and was able to see the graves of his comrades and friends who did not come home. A sad occasion, but Roy found it helpful and was so pleased that he went. I was surprised how much he was able to do, although he was tired at the end of each day. He was determined to make the most of the pilgrimage.

We also visited the tank that is still on the top of one of the hills because it had to be left there as they could not get it back down again. One of our late Burma Star Association members had been involved in trying to get it down, so we took photographs to show his son.

In order to get to Imphal, not that far from Kohima, we had to return to Dimapur to catch the plane. Apparently, the terrain between the two places is far worse than our journey to Kohima. Imphal has an airport as it is in a large flat valley surrounded by mountains, rather like a bowl. The Army built one in 1944. We went to the CWGC cemetery for a service in which the colourful Assam Rifles took part and provided refreshments afterwards.

We had a trip from Delhi on the train, a two hour journey, to visit Agra and the Taj Mahal. Our return from the actual site was horrendous. The police had stopped the motorised electric vehicles from there to the coach park. Roy and I eventually took a ride on a bicycle rickshaw. The hill was so steep that the man had to get off and push it up the hill. Because of all this we did not have time to visit the Red Fort. Then the coach journey back took five and a half hours. We found this far worse than the coach to Kohima. Roy and I were too tired to go down to dinner.

All our days were busy, and we were often up very early. Roy and I occasionally had to bow out of an afternoon visit somewhere. The younger members on the trip still had the energy to keep going, although they did get tired too. We had armed Indian troops in their own vehicles accompany us throughout the trip. The weather was always very hot and the only air conditioning was in the hotels and coaches in Calcutta and Delhi. We all still enjoyed ourselves, but decided that we would not eat curry again for a long time. We did have some time for sightseeing as a group.

Where ever we went in India and Nagaland we could see the great contrast in living conditions. Sumptuous hotels and houses, down to hovels pitched beside the roads in towns and villages. Some walls made of cane latticework, with corrugated roofs and some homes were just tarpaulins pitched beside the road. In Kohima the coach would occasionally stop and one of the local guides would ascend to the roof of the bus to push the electricity and telephone lines etc up so that we could pass beneath. The potholes were numerous and the roads unmade, but our transport never faltered. There were many modes of transport; motorcycles, scooters, most without crash helmets and up to 4 people on them. Cycles with or without carts behind them, push carts, old and modern cars for their own use, rickshaws and old type electric/motorised taxis, old buses/coaches for passengers, often windowless.

The Veterans and Assam Rifles.

(Roy is second from left.)

If any of our readers would like photographs or information of any part of our pilgrimage who were in the battles, or whose grandfathers were, do contact me and I will see if I have what you would like.

ruth@filby.org. Telephone 01206 864936.



New address: 54 The Dell, Colchester, Essex. SO1 2YH. England.

Deaths

Edith Naomi Filby Christiansen

14th June, 1927—28th September, 2010

Edith was born in Youngstown, Ohio, USA, to Thomas and Besse Filby and was the youngest of three girls. In 1948 she married Army Sergeant Harry Willis Christiansen, Jr. They had two children, H. Wayne and Ruth Ann. Widowed in 1959, Edith learned to drive and fell in love with travel. Edith made many trips to all parts of the country to spend time with her close-knit family and friends.

Jill and Alan Irving informed us that sadly, their mother, **Violet Irving (nee Filby)** had died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, 31st October, 2010, and has now got her wish to be with her dearly beloved, the late **Harry Irving**.

Francis George Filbee passed away in his sleep after an emergency operation on 20th September, 2010. He was aged 97 and had shared his family photo with us all in last years In Touch. He will be sadly missed by his son, **Francis**, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who all reside in Spain.

Henry James Filby (known to all as Harry)

23rd December, 1926 - 16th March, 2010. *by his son, James Filby*

Harry was born in Bedford, to Albert and Eleanor Filby. Albert had met Eleanor in Belgium whilst serving there during WW1. Harry had 2 siblings born in Belgium before they returned to Bedford. After that Albert and Eleanor produced 12 more siblings but unfortunately one died shortly after birth. Harry was educated in Bedford, and attended night school during WW2 as he was helping his father with the motor business, and obviously Harry was too young to be called up for military service.

Harry enlisted into the Auxiliary Fire Service between 1943 - 1946 and was based just behind the family business. Dad told me he had to carry a suitcase-like device around with him and this had to be plugged into the mains - and that was his "pager" to alert him to fire calls. Nowadays the fire service pager isn't much bigger than a matchbox! I have been carrying one for 15 years. He told me stories of driving the fire appliances of those days. One particular story of driving to Luton on a call and nearly crashing as there were two RAF pilots driving on the wrong side of the road. Dad said they probably had been drinking! Also using a turntable ladder, that would swing and sway in the wind and one had to hang on for dear life. Nowadays it's all health and safety and we have to wear harnesses.

In 1946 Dad was called up for his military service. He originally was signed up for the Royal Artillery but when they heard about his motor mechanic background he was transferred into the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Harry served mostly in Africa and the Middle East. He was discharged in 1948.

Harry met his wife, Patricia, through a mutual friend, a chap called Alan Powell. They married in Southampton in 1950, and settled in Bedford where Harry had taken over the running of the family business with some of the other brothers.

Their first house was purchased in 1952, a lovely bungalow over looking Putnoe Park in Bedford, where my sister, Kate, and I were brought up. Dad bought a boat in 1972. He changed it again in 1976 and it was in this boat we had many happy years as a family cruising up and down the River Ouse.

Tragedy struck our family in 1990 with Pat's sudden and untimely death. Dad continued to work until his retirement in 1991 when he reached 65.

Then his luck changed again, when he met Julia. They met on the river, Julia had her small speed boat stolen and Dad offered his motor cruiser to a local bobby and Julia had her boat returned.

Harry moved in with Julia in St Ives in Cambridgeshire. They were married in 1997. Once again tragedy struck our family in 2000 when Dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Julia did a fantastic job of looking after Dad during the remaining years of his life, getting harder by the day as Dad's condition deteriorated. Although Dad had good and bad days he still had a sharp wit about him, sometimes having us in stitches with his one-liners. One memorable occasion was when we were out in the small electric boat Dad and Julia bought for an electric boat weekend, and the weather wasn't being too kind, with scattered showers and a bit of a chill in the air, and Dad turned to Nicky, my wife, and said "all I want is a cheese sandwich."

We arranged a lovely surprise 80th birthday for him, with all his surviving brothers. He has two surviving sisters and they live in Australia. It was quite hard to keep it a secret but we managed, and we actually do think he cottoned on when he pulled into the car park, we reckon he recognised some of the cars.

Dad progressively got worse and he lost his battle at Addenbrookes Hospital on the evening of the 16th March, 2010. He is survived by Albert, Roy, Paul, Maurice, Alan, Sonia and Gloria, wife Julia, Kathryn and me, James Filby, and his grandchildren, Olnni, Liam, Kieran Lorna and Matthew.

Donald Sinclair Laurenson 18th June, 1936 – 26th December, 2009

A descendant of Edward Filby 1575 – Ann Filby married Robert BROWN in 1768 and that year he boarded the 'Endeavour' with Captain Cook. Robert Brown's sea chest, carved with the name 'Robert Brown, Kingston 1768' was taken to New Zealand 100 years later by his great granddaughter, Ann Filby Brown, and her husband, John Joseph Pickett. The chest has been back to England several times since.



Don was the eldest of the four children of Sadie (nee Pickett) and Laurence Sinclair Laurenson, Don was born in Hamilton then grew up on farms at Rukuhia and Ngarua. Many of the practical skills he learned as a farmer's son are evident in his and Phillippa's lovely home and garden in Hamilton. Don's academic abilities won him dux of Matamata College in 1954. He found work in Auckland and continued his accountancy studies part-time at Auckland University, gaining membership at the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1958.

In 1959, while studying cost accounting through Hemingways, he was awarded a bronze medallion by the New Zealand Institute of Coast Accountants for achieving top marks in his class for that year.

Don joined the Hamilton Group of the NZSG in 1975 after attending and 'open night' held by the group as part of the National 'Come Alive' Campaign. His accountancy skills, meticulous attention to detail, and a true researcher's inquiring mind, led him to be elected chairperson in 1976 and 1977, then treasurer in 1978 followed by auditor from 1982-1986. The vision and energy of the Hamilton group at this time saw it break new ground in February, 1976, when it initiated and housed a three-day workshop at the Narrow's near Hamilton, which included the first AGM of the NZSG to be held in Auckland. The Hamilton West School admission registers were indexed (by hand on paper slips), cemeteries transcribed and further workshops held with the emphasis on good research principles and practices.

As the expanding membership looked for more resources, Don suggested the group set an annual membership fee so that books could be purchased. He was an integral part of all that the group achieved in those heady days.

In 1977, Don was elected to the national committee, as it was called then, of the NZSG, and the following year became NZSG treasurer, a position held for three years. In 1980 he was also NZSG membership officer. These years were a time of enthusiastic expansion, seven new branches or groups were established and at each inaugural meeting, a

national committee person would attend. Don was pleased to be at the founding meeting of the group in Matamata, where he had attended secondary school. As the structure of the NZSG changed, new accounting practices were needed and implemented by Don. He received the NZSG Service Award in 1995.

While all this was happening, Don still found time for his own research, and for his home and family. Wednesday and Friday evenings (if he wasn't taking the family to the beach at Waihi Beach), he could be found at the genealogical library at Templeview Family History Centre, developing a strong right arm as he wound his way through film after film, or helping others with their research if it was his turn as duty librarian. (I think he and Phillippa were some of the first non-church members to work as volunteer librarians in an LDS FHC).

His ancestry quests took him in mind, spirit and person to England, France, Ireland and Scotland, especially to the Shetland Islands, the birthplace of his father, which he visited on three occasions. In more recent years, although not as active in genealogy circles and at times quite unwell, his energies went instead into organising support groups and counselling for those who also suffered from blood disorders and in chairing the local board of the YMCA.

In his study there are many books, carefully recorded family histories (stored in a chest dated 1768, which belonged to his ancestor Robert BROWN of Kingston, England,) family photographs, a computer in the corner, certificates of achievement on the wall, and through the window, a glorious garden, a testament to a lifetime of living what he believed in, that home and family, past and present, matter, and that people's lives are worthy of being remembered and recorded as accurately as possible.

It is timely to reflect on the contribution made by Don and others like him by whose efforts the NZSG went from strength to strength amidst abundant goodwill.

Don leaves his wife, Phillippa (nee Henry) their children, Christopher, Stephen, Clare, Richard and Philip and their families, many friends, and many from his wider family worldwide who know themselves and each other a little better for having been 'found' by Don.

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. (Editor)

In Memoriam

William Lee Filby born 29th July, 1915, in Norfolk, passed away on 16th August, 2008, after a short illness. He leaves behind Dorothy, his wife of 68 years: son, Ian (Barbara) and grandsons, Nathan and Adam.

Predeceased by all his siblings, Lee lived a full and complete life. Soldier, baker, farmer and avid lawn bowler, he was heart and soul of the Central Saanich Lawn Bowling Club. Lee loved his garden and was never shy about giving a tour. His humour and gregariousness will be missed by all.

The Venerable William Filby Archdeacon of Horsham between 1983 and 2002, died at his home on 31st December, 2009, aged 76.

William trained at Oakhill Theological College and served his Curacy at All Soul's Church, Eastbourne, from 1959 to 1962. He then served his second curacy at St John's Church, Woking, before being appointed as Vicar of Holy Trinity, Richmond. In 1971 William returned to the Diocese when he was appointed Vicar of Bishop Hannington Church, Hove. The rest of his ministry was to be spent in this Diocese. In 1979 he moved to St Mary's Broadwater, Worthing, and during his stay there also became Rural Dean of Worthing and Canon of the Cathedral. In 1983 he was appointed the Archdeacon of Horsham and spent the rest of his ministry in this post until his retirement in 2002. In his early years of ministry he and his wife, Erica, led the Youth Meetings at the Keswick Convention. For many years William had been a member of the Keswick Convention Council as well as serving on a number of evangelical missionary society boards, and was chairman of the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship. William and Erica had a private interest in breeding goats and could be seen at the south of England Agricultural Show exhibiting their goats and often winning many prizes. This interest in rural affairs meant he was eminently suited to be the Archdeacon responsible for Rural Ministry in the Diocese, which he supported enthusiastically. William also gave wise advice to a number of incumbents and evangelical parishes. His ministry will be missed in the diocese and we remember his wife and five children at this time.

We remember **Alan Reginald Filbey**,

born 7th February, 1941, who died 25th November, 2009, having played an active part in the running of the Filby Association for many years. The son of Leonard Henry Filbey who died in 1972 having worked closely with our Founder, Ellsworth Lincoln Filby. During his life he researched his own family history, spurred on by the documents he had inherited from his ancestor, Samuel Filby (1792) his first cousin four times removed.

Alan Filbey loaned these priceless records to the Association in 2004 so that all his father's work would survive him. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Enid, family and friends.

Please remember to send me your births, marriages and deaths because.....

We are interested in all our Filby 'family' and when you let us know about your 'events,' where possible we enter them on our trees so that future generations will have all this information at their finger tips. Please let me assure you that nothing about any living person is ever put on the Internet without first asking their permission.

If you would like information about your ancestors please email **marion@filby.org** and I will do my best to help. If you do not know what Association Tree 'number' you are on we can soon find this out for you. They can change as they are merged with other trees where we have found a 'common ancestor' linking them together.

Remember.....

...that today is tomorrows history.

Did you know..... why many of our ancestors were married on Christmas Day? Because couples took advantage of the fact that it was one of the few public holidays of the year, so all their family and friends would be able to attend. In addition, the cost of the wedding breakfast could be combined with that of the festivity.

Similarly, Sunday was also a popular day to get married because most people worked the other six days of the week. However, the Puritans did not approve of merrymaking on the Sabbath, so put a stop to it. During Lent, marriage was, in fact, prohibited because Lent was supposed to be a time of abstinence. It should therefore come as no surprise if you find a parish register packed with marriages in the weeks after Easter.

According to an old English rhyme, sweethearts should consider the following when deciding when to marry:

Married when the year is new, he'll be loving, kind and true.
When February birds do mate, you wed nor dread your fate.
If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you'll know.
Marry in April when you can, joy for Maiden and for Man.
Marry in the month of May, and you'll surely rue the day.
Marry when June roses grow, over land and sea you will go.
Those who in July do wed, must labour for their daily bread.
Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see.
Marry in September's shrine, your living will be rich and fine.
If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry.
If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember.
When December snows fall fast, marry and true love will last.

Treasurer's Report - 2009/2010

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth report as treasurer to cover the year from 1st October, 2009, to 30th September, 2010. At the bottom of our accounts you will notice an independent examiners report; this in accordance with our constitution and because we are now recognised as a charity for tax purposes.

As you can see by the accounts we received £735.97p on last year's Gift Aid claim from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs. 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 reported elsewhere we were able to present £1,500 to Filby Church this year because of your generous donations and partly because we are now able to claim Gift Aid.

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.

Or by post to Jim Filby, 72 Appleton Road, Blidworth, Notts, NG21 OSQ

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 those who wished to remain anonymous:-

Ian H Roberts, Rayleigh, Essex.

Bob & Joyce Filby, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

John D Filby, Sanderstead, Surrey.

Katrina Filby, Abingdon, Oxon.

Violet Irving, Clapham, London.

Ray Filby, Warwick, Warwickshire.

Jane Johnson, Cheltenham, Glos.

Molly & Henry Kuttner, Edgware, Middx.

Arthur Filby, Long Eaton, Notts.

Ed & Diane Filby, Ottawa, Canada.

Barbara Filby, Sherborne, Dorset.

Jill & David Yates, Queensland, Australia .

Peter M R Filby, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

Margaret Cox, Ilford, Essex.

Sheila Filby, Horley, Surrey.

Ron & Kath Filby, Doncaster, Yorks.

Patrick King, Holbeach, Lincs.

Robert A Filby, Cheshunt, Herts.

Russell Filby, Acle, Norfolk.

Delia Dyer, Turriff, Aberdeenshire.

Christine Starkey, Holmfirth, Yorks.

Kathleen Boast, Diss, Norfolk.

Jim & Lois Filby, Ontario, Canada.

Josephine Chipchase, Tyne & Wear.

Alan & Marion Filby, York, Yorks.

Jim Filby, Blidworth, Notts.

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

Wally Filby (Treasurer)

Filby Association Accounts 2010

HMRC Charity Reference No XT10887

Current & Premium Business Accounts (with Barclays)

Balance as at 1st October, 2009 (In both Accounts) **£2,316.22**

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Income | Donations for Association | £1,830.78 |
| | Donations for Joint Fund | £ 0.00 |
| | Gift Aid from HMRC | £ 735.97 |
| | Interest on Premium A/C | £ 0.72 |
| | Goods Sold & Book | £ 273.21 |
| | Total Income | £2,840.68 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Expenditure | 2010 Chronicle (Inc. Post) | £ 452.08 |
| | 2010 In Touch (Inc. Post) | £ 107.10 |
| | Subscription (Goons & FFHS) | £ 127.18 |
| | Website Costs | £ 483.77 |
| | To Filby Village | £1,500.00 |
| | Research Costs | £ 34.00 |
| | Association Running Costs | £2,210.70 |
| | Total Expenditure | £4,914.83 |

Excess of Expenditure over Income **£2,074.15**

Total in Both Accounts as at 30th September, 2010 **£242.07**

Balance sheet as at 30th September, 2010

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Premium Account | £100.15 |
| Current Account | £141.92 |

Accumulated fund at 30th September, 2010 **£242.07**

Wally Filby (Treasurer)

Examiners Report

I have examined the above accounts for the financial year 1st October, 2009, to 30th September, 2010. 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.

Apologies: The audit has been approved but the examiners signature was still in possession of the Treasurer at time of going to print. (Editor)

This year a vacancy has arisen for our Treasurer—if anyone would like further information on what these responsibilities involve please contact our manager, Jim Filby – email jim@filby.org It will be necessary to reside in the UK, have use of a computer, and be able to attend any Executive Meetings that are called, especially the AGM in Filby on the first Sunday in July each year.



SANDRINGHAM COUNTRY PARK, NORFOLK – AUGUST 2010

John Filby, Association Researcher, and his wife, Maureen, along with their three sons and their families. Martin on the left from Hertfordshire, whose wife, Paula, is standing on the far right with their two youngest children, Breanna and Devin. Their other two children, Caitlin and Aidan, are seated. Next to Martin is his twin brother, Alan, who lives near San Francisco with his wife, Annie, and daughter, Claire. Finally, there is Ian from Edinburgh, John and Maureen's eldest son.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, FILBY, NORFOLK—JULY, 2010

Members and guests who attended our Filby Sunday gathered together outside the church for this photograph after the service.

