

THORPE HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter - Spring 2021

This edition

Coronavirus update

Although great strides are being made in vaccinating those most at risk from Covid there is no indication when normal activities will be permitted to resume. We hope to organise some walks later this year and will keep you informed via the newsletter or by email and Facebook once this is possible.

'Thorpe People'

Our recently published book 'Thorpe People', containing biographies of men and women who made a contribution to the history of the town, is still available, priced £8.50 from Nick Williams who will deliver in Thorpe.

Struggle and Suffrage in Norwich

There is a review of Gill Blanchard's most recent book which recounts the struggles of women to achieve parity with males and highlights some of the women who played an important part.

Philip Haldinsein

Dr Phillip Kirby has kindly written on the Haldinsein family who once occupied Thorpe Lodge and whose business was one of the largest shoe manufacturers in Norwich during the industry's heyday.

Beech Hill

An update on the sad state of Beech Hill, one of Thorpe's grandest houses, which has suffered a possible arson attack.

Getting in contact

If you would like to know more about the Thorpe History Group or have something interesting on the history of Thorpe you would like to share please contact Nick Williams on 01603 438766 or email him at Spinney72@aol.com

You can also find the Thorpe History Group on Facebook - Google Thorpe History Group to find information and photographs.

We have a website at <http://www.thorpe-history-group.org/> so do take a look.

Book Review – Struggle and Suffrage in Norwich

Subtitled 'Women's lives and the fight for equality', local historian Gill Blanchard's latest book, 'Struggle and Suffrage in Norwich', provides a graphic insight into the struggle of women during the century following 1850 to achieve parity with men in every aspect of life. In great detail it covers education, work, marriage and relationships, maternity and health, poverty and housing, and the efforts of Norwich women to get the vote.

The thread running through the book, which acts as a baseline from which women's progress may be judged, is the life experiences of a group of women who were living in Globe Place, off Heigham Street, during the early 1900s. Globe Place was one of the city's notorious yards with overcrowded housing and poor sanitation. Gill skilfully interweaves their experiences into the narrative to demonstrate the changes that affected their lives as they lived, worked, bore children and suffered premature aging and the early deaths of their children. She also highlights women such as Harriett Martineau and Elizabeth Fry, who achieved prominence by their work, and those who have hitherto remained obscure such as Margaret Pillow and Esther Gee. Pillow was the first qualified female sanitary inspector in the country and an ardent advocate for education for girls, while Gee campaigned to expand educational opportunities for women and for improved housing conditions in Norwich.

The underlying theme is the exclusion of women from the decisions which affected their lives – particularly in health, property rights and suffrage. The lack of adequate maternity care in the nineteenth century and the resultant high mortality rate was appalling. Parallel with this was the lack of property rights for women – until 1882 women were effectively treated as chattels of their fathers, and their husbands upon marriage. Gill also recounts in some detail the slow progress of female suffrage in Norwich by recording the work of Lucy Bignold and Mary Ann Birkbeck, who became the first elected female representatives on the Norwich School Board, Mabel Clarkson, the city's first female councillor, and Dorothy Jewson who became the city's first female Member of Parliament in 1923.

'Struggle and Suffrage in Norwich' is a record of achievement by women who were determined, and in some cases driven, to make things better for their sex. Some are long forgotten, such as Annie Reeves, who refused to pay the poor rate because she objected to its use to pay for church schools and religious education, and campaigned for decent homes and for women's suffrage, but others remain in the public mind. In the introduction Gill says she has tried to give the women of Norwich a voice – something she has certainly done. Anybody wanting to understand more of their struggle would benefit from reading Gill's book.

Published by Pen and Sword Books, signed copies are available at Jarrolds or from the publishers at <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Struggle-and-Suffrage-in-Norwich-Paperback/p/18001>

Beech Hill fire and possible demolition

Sadly, there has been another fire at one of the areas historic buildings. As many of you will know by now, on Saturday 21st November 2020 fire crews were called to Beech Hill, a house in the grounds of the former Langley Preparatory School, off Yarmouth Road. Beech Hill had been the home of Hugh Gurney and later Samuel John James Jarrold before passing into the ownership of Sir George Morse, the brewer. After the death of Lady Morse in 1946 it passed into the ownership of the school but has stood empty for about 10 years.

Crews from Carrow, Earlham, Sprowston and Hethersett were all in attendance and fire fighters remained at the scene until 5.30am on the Sunday. Access was difficult because of the derelict condition of the building and it proved difficult for the fire fighters to gain control of the fire and parts were allowed to burn due to the dangerous conditions.

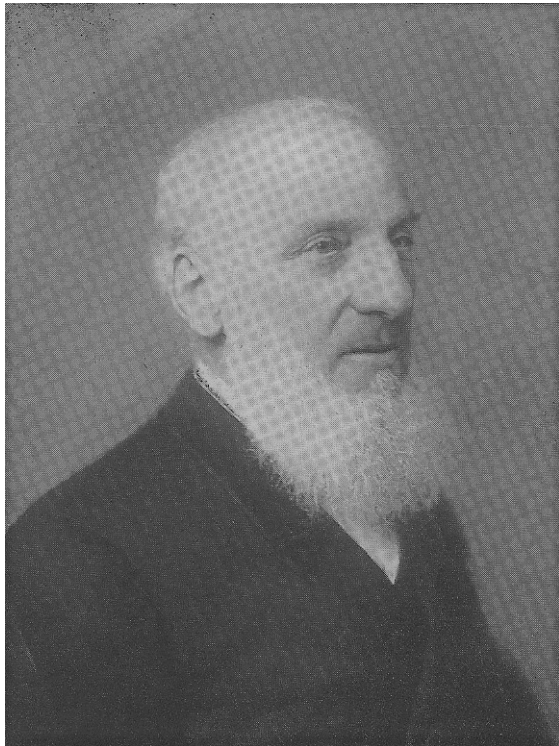
Recently there have been security guards on the site to protect it from further damage but the future for the building is uncertain. Development of the site and that of the adjoining Pinebanks site have been under consideration for over a decade but without much visible progress.



Beech Hill pictured after the fire.

Philip Haldinstein of Thorpe Lodge

This article looks at Philip Haldinstein (1819-1901) (below) and his family who settled in Norwich and lived at Thorpe Lodge for a period of time. The research is part of a larger paper I have written on the various families they married into including the Caro, Soman, and Samuel. These were Jewish families who settled in Norwich and had a major role in the development of the city and Jewish community. My interest in the Haldenstein family originated from a family tree passed to me by a distant cousin which included Philip Haldinstein and his line.



The Haldinstein family origins

Jews did not have surnames mostly until the mid to late 18th Century and from very early times adopted patronymic, tribal or religious names. This continued largely until Napoleonic times when various decrees in different parts of Europe forced the adoption of surnames. The surname Haldinstein is probably adopted from a place name and includes spelling variations. Some members of the family changed their surname to Haldin and others settled in South Africa, New Zealand, South America and Holland.

The Haldinstein family played a significant role in the development of the Norwich shoe manufacturing

trade becoming major employers. However, the 1st and 2nd World War brought death to members of the Haldinstein family.

The family roots of Philip Haldinstein were referred to in the death notice for his mother Rachel. "Death 19.1.1871 at her residence Nicholas strasse Breslau, relict of the late Mr W Haldinstein of Lissa and beloved mother of Philip Haldinstein of Norwich, in her 71st year" (Jewish Chronicle, 1871). Philip Haldinstein's father was a linen manufacturer. Philip learned about the fur trade for the Leipzig market. He originally came to London but returned home because of his mother's wishes but seeing few prospects settled in Norwich. The 1852 Naturalisation papers for Philip Haldinstein record that he arrived in the UK pre 1851. He married Rachel Soman in 1848. She was born in Great Yarmouth daughter of David Soman. (The Norfolk Ancestor Dec 2018 edition has a short article entitled David Soman-Norwich Shoe Pioneer and Remarkable Man written by a great great grandson of David Soman).

There were several children from the Philip and Rachel marriage:

1.1 Woolfe 1848-1896 married Ada Isabel Jonas 1859-1924

1.2 Alfred Isaac 1850-1919 married a) Emma Samuel 1849-1885 b) Edith Emmanuel 1864-1940

1.3 Rosetta 1852-1907 married Benjamin Samuel 1840-1890

1.4 Alice 1855-1924 married Jacob Caro 1845-1900

1.5 Caroline 1857-1915 married Henry Samuel 1841-1897

1.6 Eliza 1859- married Abraham Richard Davis 1850 -1921

1.7 Hyman Henry 1863-1931 married Mabel Julia Leon 1874-1970. He adopted Haldin as a surname.

Philip Haldinstein is best known in Norwich for his shoe and boot manufacturing business but this was not his original trade. The 1851 census record him age 27 cap maker and employer of 6, married with sons Woolf and Alfred living in Bridewell Alley Norwich. He developed his original business to become a cap and shoe manufacturer and from 1861-1871 he was living in Queen Street.

Thorpe Lodge on Thorpe Road

By 1881 Philip and Rachel had moved to Thorpe Road Norwich with their son Henry aka Hyman. Philip Haldinstein had retired by the 1891 Census and was still living in Thorpe Road, age 67, with his wife Rachel, and son Henry, a barrister. Rachel died in 1894.

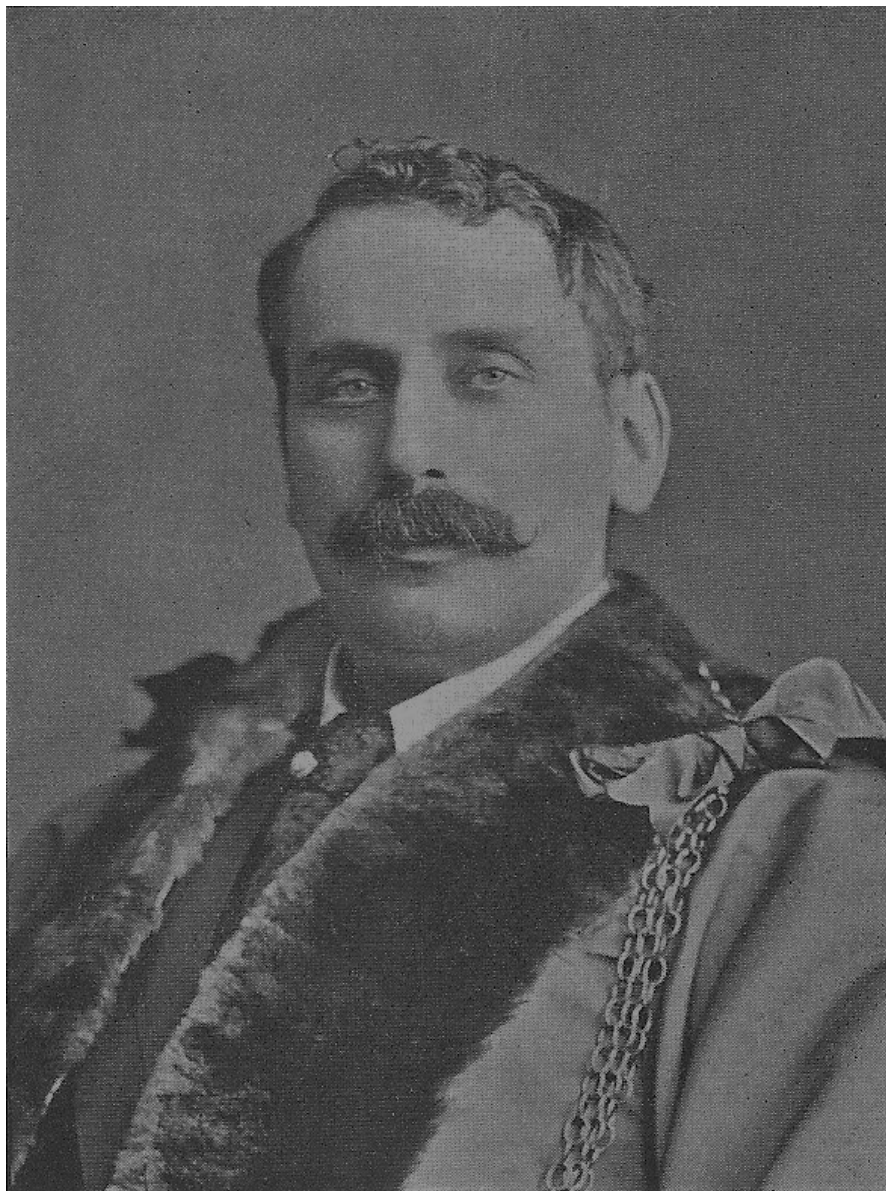
The Haldinstein Shoe manufacturing company

David Soman passed his Norwich shoe making business to his son in law Philip Haldinstein in 1853. The business developed with premises in a large building between Queen's Street and Princes Street. When Wolf Haldinstein died in 1896, his son Alfred became the sole proprietor of the company which employed two thousand people in 1904. The company had extended its business to other parts of the country. The business was sold to Bally in 1946. (For a detailed history of the company and Norwich shoe trade see The Story of the Norwich Boot and Shoe Trade Published by Norwich Heritage Projects 2013) Philip Haldinstein died in 1901 at the Lawns, Norwich. His probate included several Norwich charities and family bequests revealing how the Samuel, Caro, Davis, Jacobs and Jonas lines married into the Haldinstein. The link to Thorpe Lodge continued when Alfred Isaac Haldinstein the second child of Philip and Rachel lived in the property with his second wife Edith Emanuel (see 1911 census). His first wife was Emma Samuel (1848-1885). She was the daughter of Michael Samuel and Emma Jacobs. Alfred died at Thorpe Lodge April 20, 1919

The Thorpe Green WW1 memorial recorded the death of Alfred and Edith's son Capt. Frank Woolf Haldinstein. He died 7th March 1917 at Bray sur Somme, aged 22. Buried Bray Military Cemetery. At a memorial service in Norwich synagogue there was reference to 'the pathetic circumstances in which Capt. Haldenstein's life was forfeited in his brave endeavour to render assistance to a brother officer who had been wounded': Jewish Chronicle, 30th March 1917

Further family links between Haldinstein and Samuel can be seen on the Blue Plaque in Norwich commemorating Sir Arthur Michael Samuel 1872-1942 "1st

Jewish Lord Mayor of Norwich 1st Baron Mancroft eldest son of Benjamin Samuel 1840-1890 and Rosetta Haldinstein died 1907 eldest daughter of Philip Haldinstein and Rachel Soman. His grandfather was Michael Samuel 1799-1857”



Alfred Haldinstein in his robes as Sheriff of Norwich 1897/98

Haldenstein – Saloman and the Holocaust(Shoah)

Constance aka Connie Emma Haldinstein 1879-1943 (daughter of Alfred Isaac Haldinstein and Emma) married Saloman Elias a doctor from the Netherlands where they lived with their children. Constance was murdered on her way to or in Sobibor. Saloman was murdered in Sobibor 1943. Their son Alfred died 28 Jan 1944 in Auschwitz. Joyce, Constance's sister escaped to Holland. (House of Memories: Uncovering the Past of a Dutch Jewish Family. Arnoud Jan Bijsterveld, 2016). Various members of the Haldinstein and related lines are buried in Earlham Jewish section Bowthorpe Road Cemetery (see Cemetery Scribes website for data and tombstone photographs on the lines).

Dr Phillip Kirby