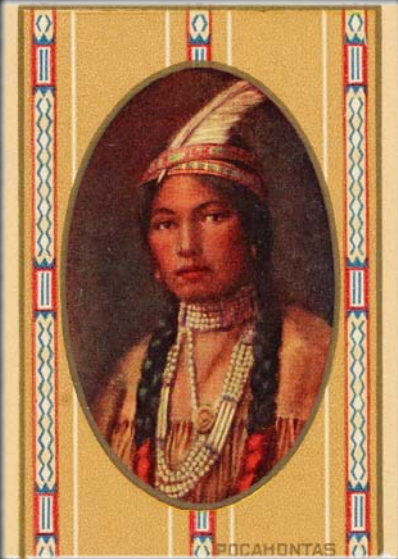


Norfolk's American Connections



Admission Free



**An Exhibition at the
Norfolk Record Office
7 July – 29 September 2012**

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The 'Romance' of Pocahontas

Recreating the legend,
Norfolk Record Office, MC 2761/3



Miss Ingleby M^r Charles Rolfe Miss Hardy

The Native American princess known to the world as Pocahontas was born in Virginia in about 1595. She married tobacco-planter, John Rolfe, in America in 1614: he was a member of the Rolfe family of Heacham Norfolk. The couple had a son, Thomas, in 1615. The family came back to England in 1617.

They spent most of their time in London,

but strong local tradition says that, while in England, they visited Heacham Hall, the Rolfe family home.

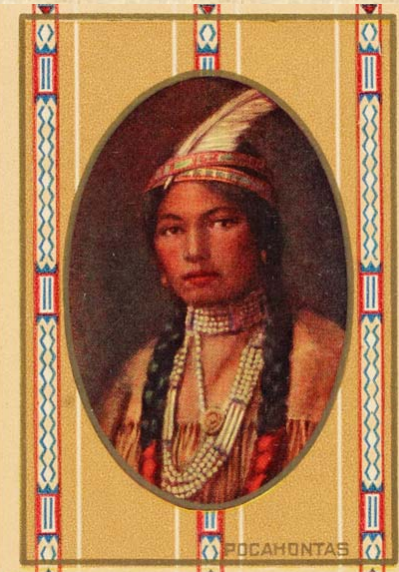
Pocahontas died at Gravesend in March 1617, on her way back to her homeland.

Rolfe returned to Virginia alone, where he married again. He died in 1622.

Their son, Thomas, was brought up at Heacham by his uncle. He went to America as an adult and married there. Many Americans now trace their ancestry back to him, including Nancy Reagan.

Pocahontas is remembered in Heacham by the village sign and a plaque in the church, based on an engraving of her made in 1617.

Norfolk Record Office, GUN 188



'The World is my country, all mankind are my Brethren'

Morristown statue, Norfolk Record Office, T/C uncat.



Tom Paine was born in Thetford, Norfolk, in 1737. He left for America in 1774. His book, *Common Sense*, was one of America's best-selling books, and its advocacy of independence for the American colonies won over many people. John Adams said:

'Without the pen of the author of *Common Sense*, the sword of Washington would have been raised in vain.'

He was also a man of action, taking up a gun in the cause of independence, as the statue shown here, in Morristown, New Jersey, portrays. In later life, Paine also played a part in the French Revolution, before returning to the United States. He died in New York City in 1807.

Paine is remembered by many statues across the world, including in his home town of Thetford, shown here. During the last war, American airmen went on pilgrimage to see his place of birth, erecting a plaque there in his honour. Another Norfolk man played a key role in the foundation of the United States - even though he had been dead over 150 years! Edward Coke was born in Mileham, Norfolk, in 1552, and became perhaps Britain's greatest lawyer. His books were at the heart of the legal system of the new country. John Rutledge, second Chief Justice of the American Supreme Court, wrote:



'Coke's *Institutes* seem to be almost the foundations of our law.'

An Exchange of Ideas

Technological change has always been carried across the Atlantic. Some examples relate to two of

Norfolk's greatest wealth-producers, weaving and farming. The Spinning Jenny, a device for spinning thread from fibre (fiber if you are American), was patented in England by James Hargreaves in 1770. Within five years, two were built in Philadelphia. Machines for 'carding' cotton and wool – passing them through thin wire teeth to remove dirt and arrange the fibres/fibers in parallel lines, were also much prized – one was smuggled into Philadelphia in 1783!

Other inventions went the other way. There were attempts at building mechanical reapers in England from the 1810s onwards, but it was American Cyrus H. McCormick who, in 1831, first demonstrated one which actually worked.



He built the machines in Chicago from the 1840s and McCormick's reaper soon became the mainstay of many a Norfolk corn-growing farm. Cyrus himself came to Norfolk in 1861 to demonstrate his latest piece of kit on a farm in Little Plumstead. As a Norfolk farmer says in one of the novels of Henry Rider Haggard:

'I see in the Chronicle I du, that there's a wunnerful show of these new-fangled self-tying and delivering reapers, sich as they foreigners use over sea in America.'

A century later, the first combine harvester in England was put into operation in Norfolk, again adapting American technology, originally designed for large-scale farming practices, to the smaller-scale arable farms of East Anglia.



Norfolk Record Office, C/ED 19/40

The Lincoln Connection: 'Lincoln Freed me today'

The 4x great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln was Samuel Lincoln of Hingham, who left for America from Yarmouth in 1637, sailing in the *John and Dorothy*. The family are associated with both Hingham and Swanton Morley. The large house which Samuel's grandfather, Richard, built for himself in Swanton Morley is now *The Angel*, the village inn.

Marriage of Richarde Lyncolne, Norfolk Record Office, PD 91/1

Marriages 1597.
Richard Lyncolne and Anne Small were
married 9. August.



I do hereby give and bequeath unto my loving son
Richard Lyncolne and his heirs forever all that
my last will and testament, to comfort and assist my
said son with some best advice and counsel, and
do give unto him for some years to be taken
twenty shillings of lawfull money of England In witness whereof
to his last will and testament, written in four sheets of paper
I give to every leaf of the said and said given to him
and your first above written
Richard Lyncolne

Will of Richard Lincoln, Norfolk Record Office, NCC Wills, 1620, 26 Williams

These are the Norfolk origins of the sixteenth President of the United States, who served from 1861 to his assassination in 1865. He preserved the Union and ended slavery.



Many Norfolk people also played important roles in the campaign to abolish slavery, including Elizabeth Fry, Thomas Fowell Buxton and Harriet Martineau.

Everyone in this photograph is wearing a uniform

Have a look at this photograph,
taken in Philadelphia, USA in
April 1891.

There are three Americans and
three Englishmen present.
What do their clothes tell us
about each of the people in the
photograph?

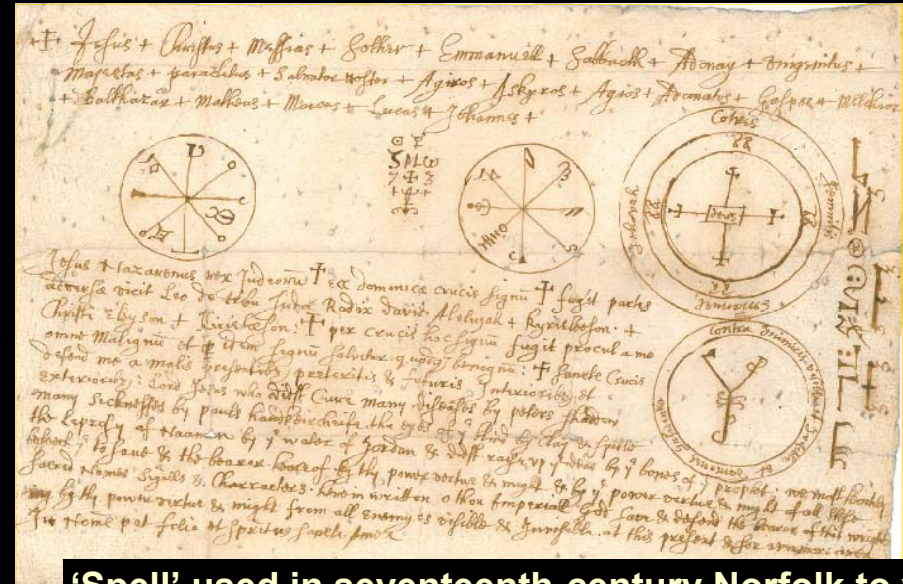
The 'names' of four of the men
are Father Ignatius; Father
Michael; Chief Black Bear;
Chief Hoop Hawk: the other two
are unknown.



Norfolk Record Office, MC 2133/6

Witchcraft

Many early emigrants to America went because of their Puritan faith, a form of belief shared with many East Anglians who remained in England. Popular religion between the two communities also had much in common, for example, a belief in the power of witchcraft, as reflected in the Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, witchcraft trials of 1645 and those at Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. There is a direct connexion between these trials, as two of the women hanged at Salem were born in Great Yarmouth. Rebecca Nurse and Mary Esty were sisters: their maiden name was Towne and they had emigrated with their parents to America in about 1637. They were hanged at Salem Village on 19 July 1692. Rebecca had been baptized in Great Yarmouth in 1622, so she was over seventy years old when she was executed. Mary was about thirteen years her junior. A third sister, Sarah, who was born after the family had moved to America, was also accused, but escaped execution.



‘Spell’ used in seventeenth-century Norfolk to ward off a witch’s curse. It was pinned above the heart: the pin-holes show that it has been used many times.

Norfolk Record Office, C/S 3/41a



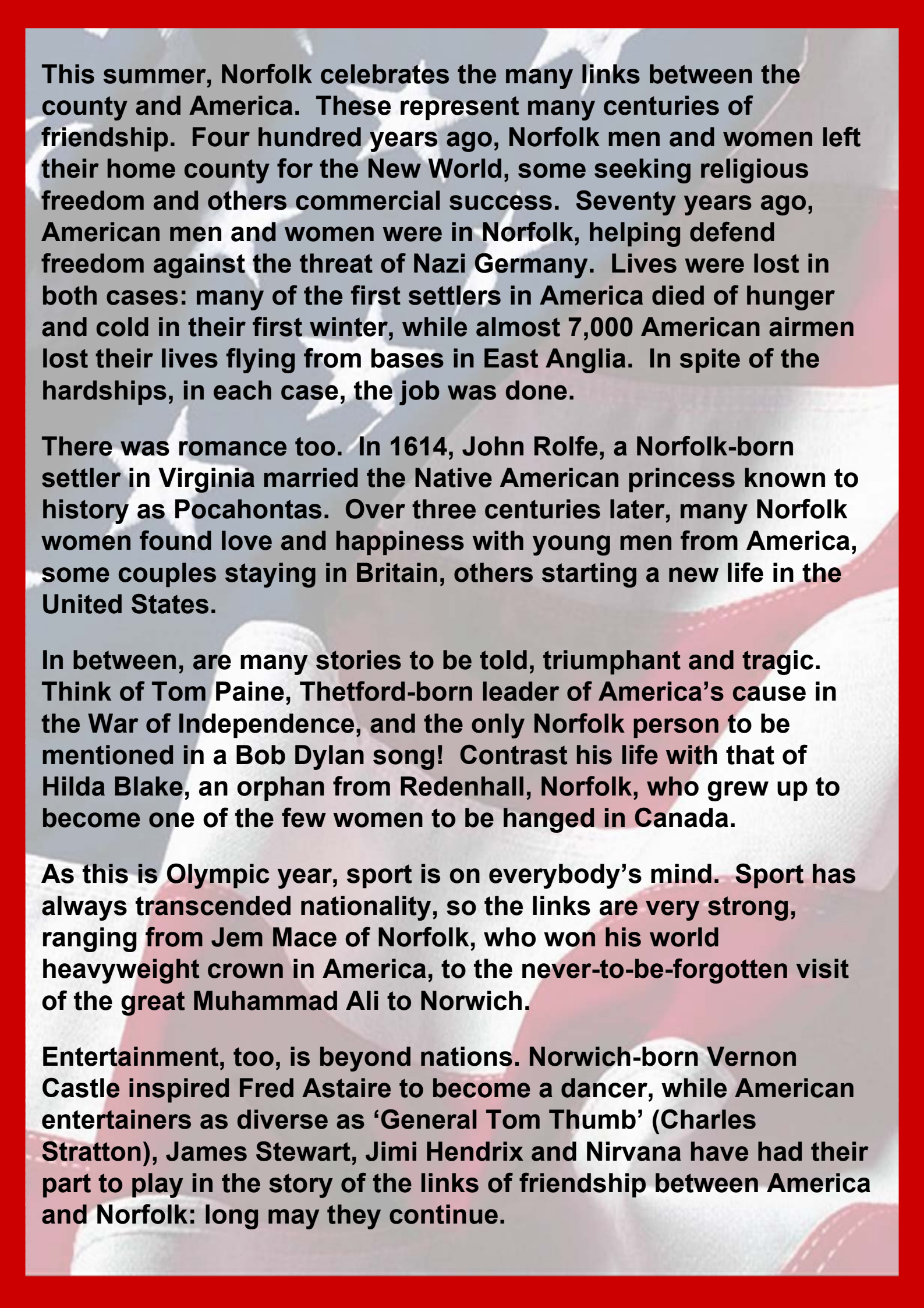
Three hundred years later, *Witchcraft* was the name of a B-24 bomber based at Rackheath, and famous for completing the most missions of any Second Air Division aircraft – 130. Not all its activities were military – on one occasion it was flown up to an altitude of 18,000 feet, in order to freeze ice cream made out of powdered milk – magic indeed!

B-24 *Witchcraft* and crew, Norfolk Record Office, MC 376/656



States with communities named after Norfolk and/or Norwich





This summer, Norfolk celebrates the many links between the county and America. These represent many centuries of friendship. Four hundred years ago, Norfolk men and women left their home county for the New World, some seeking religious freedom and others commercial success. Seventy years ago, American men and women were in Norfolk, helping defend freedom against the threat of Nazi Germany. Lives were lost in both cases: many of the first settlers in America died of hunger and cold in their first winter, while almost 7,000 American airmen lost their lives flying from bases in East Anglia. In spite of the hardships, in each case, the job was done.

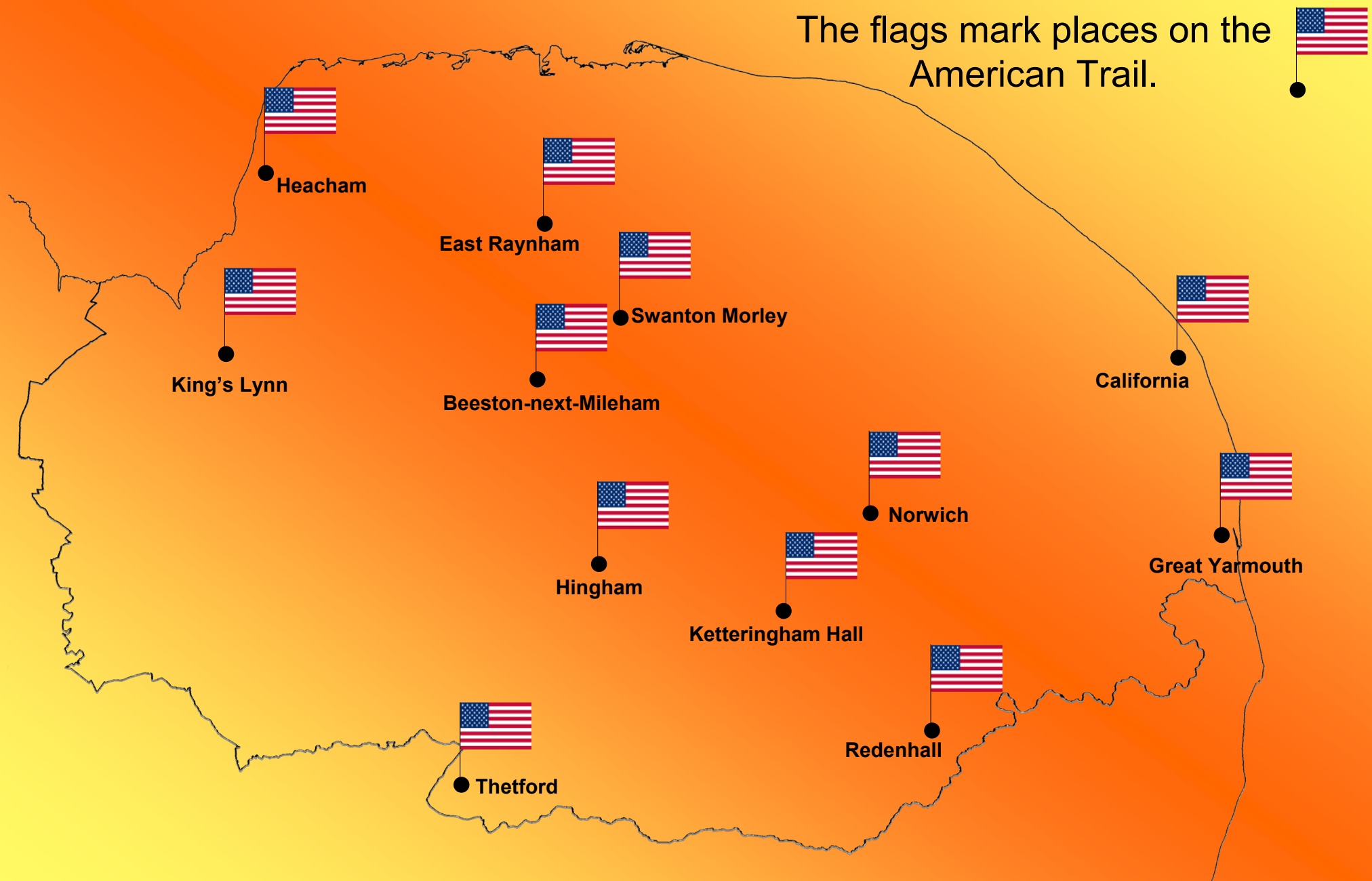
There was romance too. In 1614, John Rolfe, a Norfolk-born settler in Virginia married the Native American princess known to history as Pocahontas. Over three centuries later, many Norfolk women found love and happiness with young men from America, some couples staying in Britain, others starting a new life in the United States.

In between, are many stories to be told, triumphant and tragic. Think of Tom Paine, Thetford-born leader of America's cause in the War of Independence, and the only Norfolk person to be mentioned in a Bob Dylan song! Contrast his life with that of Hilda Blake, an orphan from Redenhall, Norfolk, who grew up to become one of the few women to be hanged in Canada.

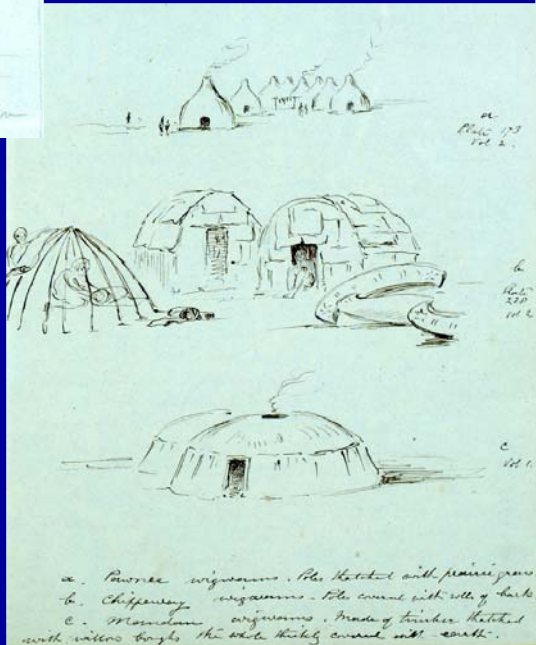
As this is Olympic year, sport is on everybody's mind. Sport has always transcended nationality, so the links are very strong, ranging from Jem Mace of Norfolk, who won his world heavyweight crown in America, to the never-to-be-forgotten visit of the great Muhammad Ali to Norwich.

Entertainment, too, is beyond nations. Norwich-born Vernon Castle inspired Fred Astaire to become a dancer, while American entertainers as diverse as 'General Tom Thumb' (Charles Stratton), James Stewart, Jimi Hendrix and Nirvana have had their part to play in the story of the links of friendship between America and Norfolk: long may they continue.

The Norfolk American Trail 2012: follow in the footsteps of the New World settlers



'A thousand miles from my home'



In an age before television, or even the camera, how did people know what it was like in another part of the globe? Visitors provided verbal and visual sketches, such as images of native American life, made in America in the 1840s, which were the basis of these sketches made by members of the Eaton family in Norwich. The Eatons may have well seen a native American in real life: Maungwudaua, chief of the Ojibwa Indians and his family, visited John Joseph Gurney in Norwich in 1846. He stayed as a guest in their family home, which was Earlham Hall: in a public speech, he described the Hall as 'Gurney's wigwam'!



'Discovering' America



Norfolk men played their part in discovering and naming the 'new' land of America. The famous seafarer, **Captain George Vancouver** (1757-98) was born at 23 Conduit Street, King's Lynn and baptised at St Margaret's Church.

Norfolk Record Office, PD 39/4

March 8 Elizabeth D of John & Mary Burch
13 William S of William & Senor Hall
15 Ann D of Vincent & Ann Fenowles
16 George D of Jasper & Bridget Vancouver
Born 22 Day of June 1757

He served under Captain Cook, later gaining promotion to Commander in the Royal Navy. Between 1792 and 1794, he surveyed the Pacific coast of America, from California to Vancouver Island. The city of Vancouver, British Columbia, is named after him. A statue of Vancouver stands near the Custom House in King's Lynn, and a plaque marks the site of his now demolished birthplace.

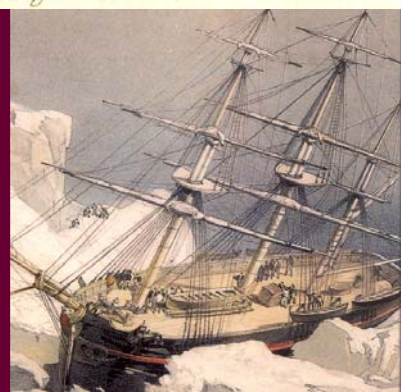
Captain Samuel Gurney Cresswell (1827-67), born in King's Lynn, was the first naval officer to traverse the North-West Passage.

we arrived, after she was launched and rigged, we sailed up Potomack, and entered Wiccomoco River in Maryland; where we loaded with Tobacco, Walnut tree and pipe staves; we sailed in the fall for England, and arrived at Liverpool about the beginning of the month call'd December 1734, in the new Ship

Norfolk Record Office, RYE 71

After an agreeable passage of between eight & nine weekes we arriv'd safe at Virginia, Capt. Sweteton being an old Commander, and one that had often experienced the advantage of keeping to the South ward till he got into the Trade wind way, when he sail'd from England

Long before the coasts of the north and west parts of the 'new' continent were charted, there was regular trade between the eastern seaboard of the United States and England, with professional sailors like Norfolk-born **John Secker** (1716-95) learning from experience how to use the winds to speed the voyage.



The Pilgrim Fathers and Norfolk



In 1620, 102 Puritans in the *Mayflower* landed in America at what is now New Plymouth. Half of their number died in a devastatingly harsh winter, before Native Americans taught them how to survive in their new homeland. Some of the 'Pilgrim Fathers', as they have become known, were people from Norfolk, such as Edward and Samuel Fuller, who came from Redenhall near Diss.

The Fuller family in the United States descends from the Fullers of Redenhall and recently paid for a commemorative plaque to be put up in the church there.

his wife, was baptized the 19: day of July.
Samuel Fuller some of Thomas Fuller, and Anne his
wife was baptized the 26: day of July.
Margaret Fuller some of John Fuller

Other Norfolk people among the Pilgrim Fathers were not so fortunate. Elizabeth Winslow of Snettisham and William Hulbeck of Norwich were among those who died in the terrible winter of 1620, while Desire Minter of Norwich chose to return to England.

Joseph Gent some of William Gent was baptized
the 21st day of August.
Edward Fuller some of Robert Fuller was baptized
the fourth day of September
Thomas Prime some of John Prime was baptized
the eleventh day of September.

The Whirl of Life



Vernon Castle was born in Norwich in 1887. His father ran the *Great Eastern Hotel* at the bottom of the Prince of Wales Road. This can be seen in this early image. Vernon emigrated and he and his wife, Irene (born Irene Foot, New Rochelle, New York), became the leading dancers of their generation.

Their story was told in their own film, *The Whirl of Life*, made in New York in 1915. Vernon was killed while training pilots during the First World War. There is a monument to him at the site of his crash at Benbrook Field outside Fort Worth.



The couple inspired Fred Astaire to become a dancer and he and Ginger Rogers played the Castles in the film, *The Story of Vernon Castle* (1939). Is Vernon Castle the only Norwich-born figure to be the subject of a Hollywood biopic?



Other links from the world of entertainment include James Stewart, Walter Matthau and Glenn Miller, all part of the American Army Air Force. Other famous names came to entertain the troops, including James Cagney. More recently, several Hollywood films have used the old-world charm of Norfolk as a location for filming.

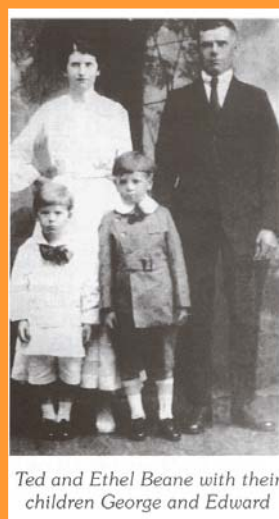


Cagney Entertains

Crossing the Pond: Migration

The journey across 'the Pond' could be an adventure in itself, even in the snazziest of liners. Ken Jones, one of the thousands of USAAF men, who came over to England on the *Queen Mary*, recalled: 'fresh water for drinking was limited to one canteen full a day. Washing and shaving was done with salt water and a special soap called 'sand soap'. Ordinary soap would not lather in salt water. I shaved only once. The pain of shaving wasn't worth the effort'.

An equally fashionable liner was used by a couple going the other way a generation earlier. A Norwich builder, Ted Beane and his wife Ethel, sought new opportunities in the New World in 1912. Ethel was born in Norwich as Ethel Clarke, and worked as a barmaid in the *Lord Nelson* on Dereham Road. Ted was a carpenter. They married in Norwich on 7 April 1912.



Ted and Ethel Beane with their children George and Edward

The only uncommon part of their experience was the ship they chose - the *Titanic*! When the ship struck an iceberg and slowly sank on the night of 14/15 April, Ethel was one of the ladies put into a lifeboat. Ted had to take his chance. Diving into the sea, he was

eventually picked up by one of the lifeboats, apparently pulled out of the water by his own wife! They both spent the rest of their lives in America, Ethel not dying until 1983.

Now is the time for your tears

Many thousands of poor children were sent to Canada from Norfolk in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most made a success of their new life, but not all. This is the story of Emily Hilda Blake, known as Hilda. She was born in Chedgrave, Norfolk, England on 14 January 1879, the youngest of the children of the local policeman, Henry Blake, and his wife, Sarah.

Vaccination register, Norfolk Record Office, C/GP 12/250

10/7/79	Pleasure	10/7/79	10/7/79
422	Chedgrave	Emily Hilda	23rd 1879
		Col	Blake
			Constable
			Saher

The children became orphans after their parents died. The oldest sister looked after them for a while, but when she got married there was nowhere for them to go but the local Workhouse, where they spent their Christmas in 1887.

Guardians' minutes, Norfolk Record Office, C/GP 123

308

16th April 1888.
Sir Reginald Beauchamp moved
and
Mr R. Riches seconded
That the Master be authorized to provide an outfit for
Thomas Arthur and Emily Hilda Blake now inmates of the Workhouse
suitable for their journey to Canada at a cost not to exceed £2
each.
Carried unanimously.

However, even there they were not wanted. Arrangements were made to

send the two youngest, Hilda and her brother, Thomas, to Canada to start a new life. The generosity of the Workhouse authorities was limited to spending on new clothes for each of them for the journey.

Hilda was nine years old and her brother two years older when they were put aboard an emigrant ship to Canada, where they worked in the household of a Mr Stewart in Elkhorn, Manitoba. Hilda was unhappy and ran away when she was old enough to look after herself, eventually finding work in the household of Robert and Mary Lane in Brandon, Manitoba. The couple had four children and Mary was again pregnant. Hilda helped look after the children.

On 5 July 1899, Mary Lane was found in the house, dying from a gunshot wound. Hilda at first claimed that a tramp had come to the house and had shot Mary. Eventually, she admitted that she had done the deed herself. She had bought a gun a few days before with the intention of killing herself, but had turned it instead turned on Mary. Why? 'Because she was jealous of the happy love between Mary and her children': something which Hilda had never known in her own short life.



Justice was harsh in the 1890s. Hilda was found guilty of murder. She spent one more Christmas in an institution, this time the local prison. She was hanged on 27 December 1899, just three weeks before her 21st birthday.

First Impressions

Americans in Norfolk:

Nothing over here is like it is back home.

Well I haven't complained about the weather so long I guess I'm getting used to it.

I am in England. It is a very pretty country. The weather is going to be very hard to get used to. It's very damp and you seldom see the sun.

Are we having a time with the English money. I wonder who in the world ever thought up such a complicated system. It is rather hard to get accustomed to thinking in pence, shillings, halfcrowns, crowns, pounds, etc.

English girls as a whole are dumber than American girls.

Once you go to England, you never come all the way back.

Norfolk people in America:

I have no wish to come back for the Yankees have two hot meals a day and I am getting quite stout.

I like the country well, shall see how the Muskitoes agree with me.

This is a pleasant place in the summer, but is cold in the winter, here is a great many get froze in the winter.

The money puzzle me: so many bad dollar notes altered from 1 to 10.

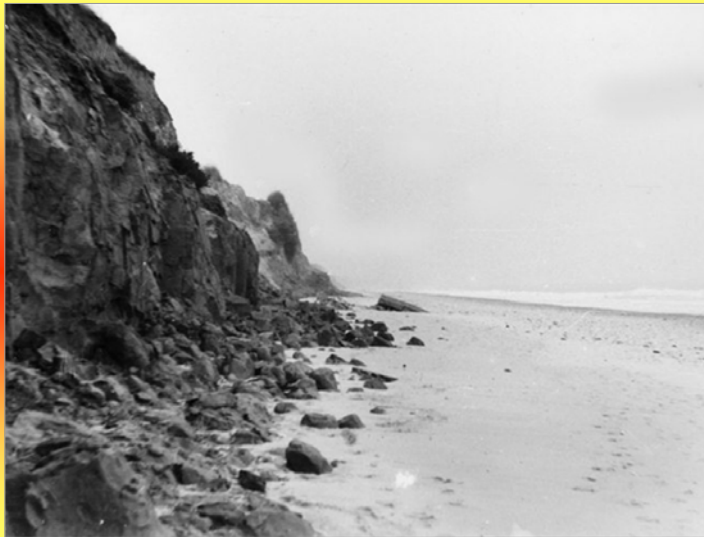
The ladies are all small and very few pretty.

This is a better place than England.

The Two Californias



Many places in America are named after towns in Norfolk, but the reverse is much less common. The most notable is **CALIFORNIA** on the east coast of Norfolk. The story is that some beachmen set up their huts here in about 1850. A few gold coins were found at the foot of the cliffs a couple of years earlier. As the Californian Gold Rush was at its height at the time, the group of huts was naturally named California in its honour.

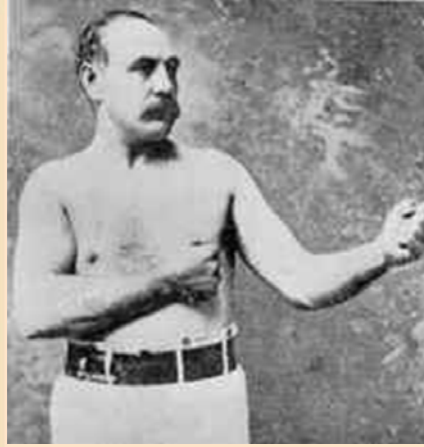


The Norfolk California has not developed in quite the same way as that in the States. It is probably best for its pub, known by locals as the *Cally* - not quite the *Hotel California* perhaps, but an equally warm welcome is assured!



Which of these images is of California in Norfolk and which of California in the States?

Boxing Clever: Champions of the World



Boxing links go both ways. Jem Mace, born in Beeston, Norfolk, and briefly landlord

of the *White Swan* in Norwich, became bare-knuckle champion of the world in a fight at Kenner, outside New Orleans in 1870.

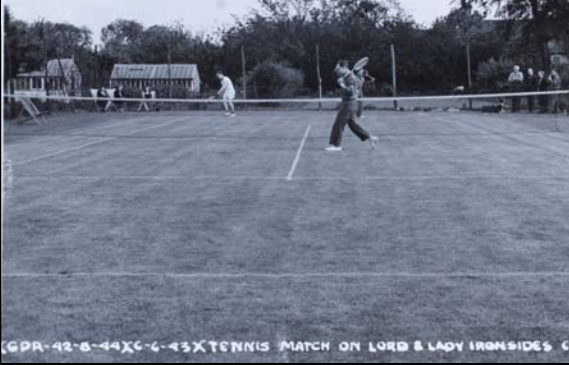
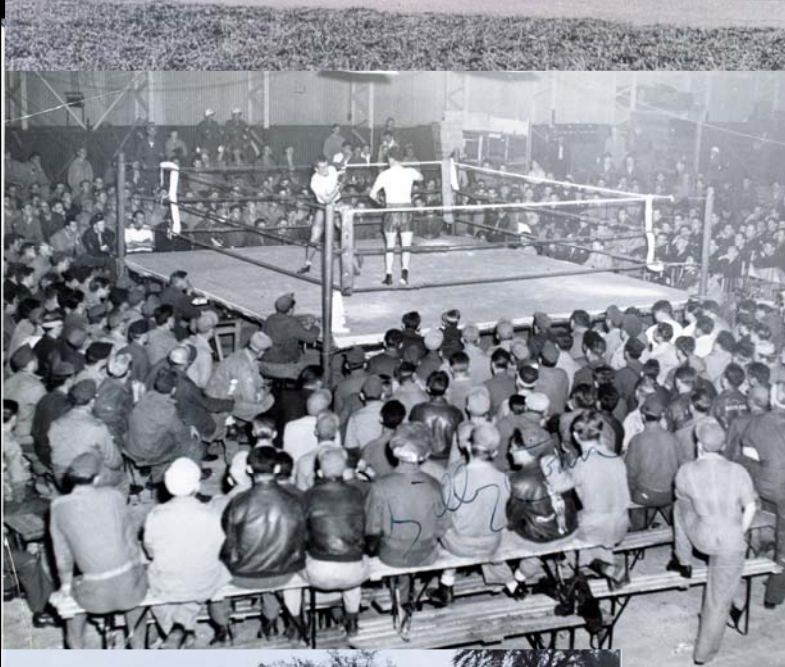
He later returned to America as a glove boxer.

‘Billy’ Conn, known as ‘the Pittsburgh Kid’, was in Britain during the Second World War as part of the United States Army Air Force. He had been light-heavyweight champion of the world, but gave this up to challenge Joe Louis for the world heavyweight championship, in one of the great fights of all time. Conn took part in exhibition matches during his time in Britain. He is shown in action on the sports photos montage.



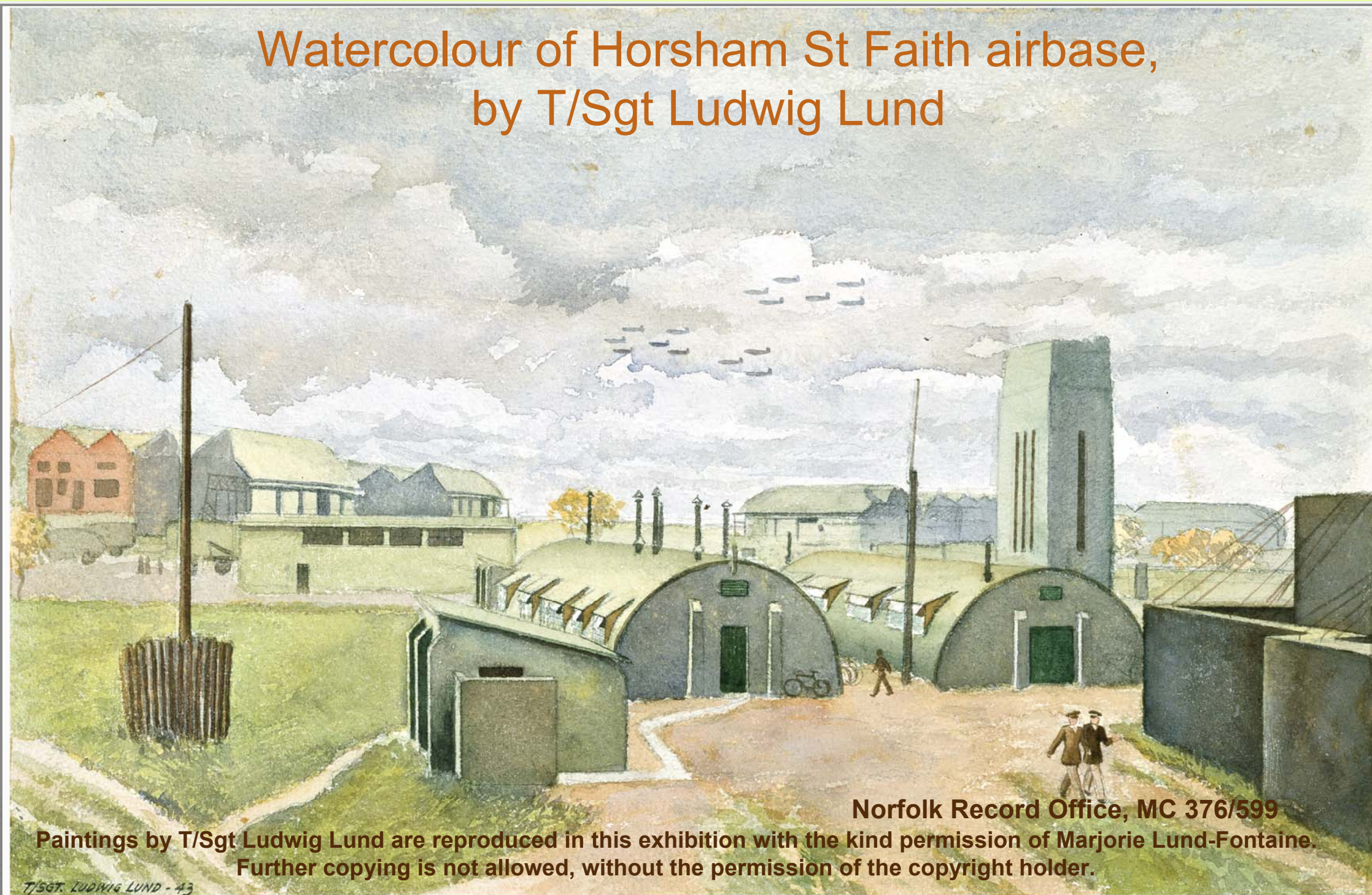
Joe Louis, the ‘Brown Bomber’, himself enlisted in the United States Army and served in Britain, making several visits to Norfolk.

The cleverest and most famous of all boxers, Muhammad Ali, visited Norwich on a tour in 1971. He took part in an advertising project at Sainsbury’s on St Stephen’s.



GPR-42-6-44XC-6-43XTENNIS MATCH ON LORD & LADY IRONSIDES CO

Watercolour of Horsham St Faith airbase, by T/Sgt Ludwig Lund



Norfolk Record Office, MC 376/599

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Over Here! The United States Army Air Force in Norfolk



During the Second World War, the United States Eighth Army Air Force dispatched 3,000 bomber and fighter aircraft on daily operations involving over 20,000 airmen, flying from airfields in East Anglia, the largest offensive air force in history.

Its first official bombing mission was on American Independence Day, 4 July 1942, when six American crews joined no. 226 Squadron, RAF, flying from RAF Swanton Morley in a low-level attack on *Luftwaffe* airfields in the Netherlands.

The Eighth Air Force was made up of three Air Divisions. Of these, the 2nd Air Division was based in Norfolk and North-East Suffolk. Its main rôle was to bomb the industries and communications which supported Germany's war effort. To achieve this, they mainly flew precision bombing missions in daylight, while RAF Bomber Command concentrated on night attacks.

The 2nd Air Division began arriving in Norfolk on 7 September 1942, flying its first mission from England on 7 November 1942 and its last on 25 April 1945. Targets attacked ranged from Norway in the north, and as far east as Poland and Romania, while several Mediterranean countries were reached from temporary bases in North Africa.

At any one time between 1942-5, there were about 50,000 American service personnel stationed within a 30-mile radius of Norwich. About 200 of these were women serving in the Women's Auxiliary Corps (WACS).

American occupied airbases covered about 100,000 acres of Norfolk.

For every man in the air there were another seven to ten on the ground, engaged in support work. These included cooks, clerks, mechanics, armourers and military policemen. Total personnel on a bomber station varied between two and three thousand.

Nearly 7,000 men serving with the 2nd Air Division lost their lives during the conflict. At one period, the chance of an individual airman's completing a tour of operations (25 missions, later 30-35) was as little as one in three.

After the war, a 'living memorial' in the form of an 'American Room' in Norwich Central Library, Bethel Street, opened in 1963. A new 2nd Air Division Memorial Library opened within the Norwich and Norfolk Millennium Library at the Forum in November 2001.



The 67th Squadron, 44th Bomb Group, Shipdham, on the wings of a B-24 aircraft.

American Impressions of England in Wartime



Photograph of Norwich Cathedral during the Second World War, taken from a B-24 aircraft.

Ludwig Lund was born 20 September 1908 in Odense, Denmark. In 1920, when Ludwig was 12 years old, his Danish family emigrated to the United States. From an early age, Ludwig showed a talent for drawing and was largely a self-taught artist.

During the Second World War, he served as a Technical Sergeant in the Intelligence Division, where he illustrated maps as part of his work.

Lund was made the Official Army Illustrator of the 2nd Air Division and was commissioned to paint a series of watercolours of the Division's activities. Some of the watercolours, including those shown here, were given to the Commander of the 2nd Air Division, General James Pratt Hodges, by his staff as a present in December, 1943.

Left and Right: Watercolours, *The Cathedral Spire*, and *The Rendezvous* by T/Sgt Ludwig Lund.

T/Sgt Ludwig Lund in uniform, 1942.



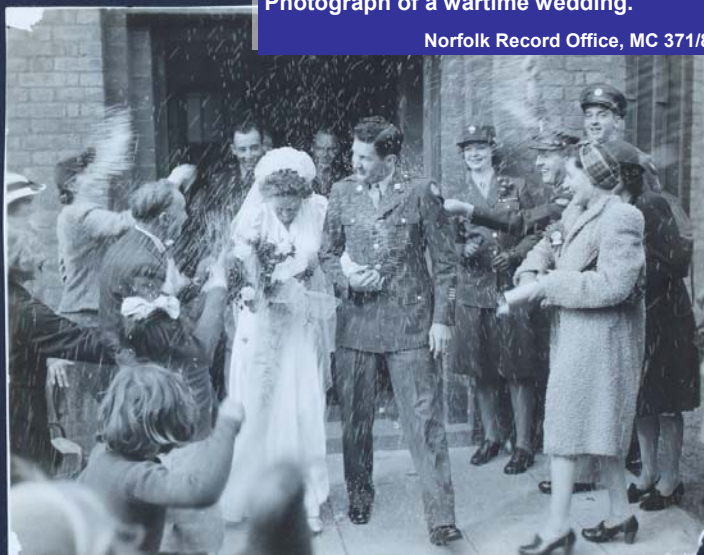
Photograph courtesy of Marjorie Lund-Fontaine.

She Married a Yank!

Over 70,000 British women went to the United States with their American husbands after the Second World War. One war bride was Sybil Neale from Norwich, who married Billy Billings, an American serving with the 56th Fighter Group, which was based at Horsham St Faith before it moved to Halesworth and then to Boxted.

Photograph of a wartime wedding.

Norfolk Record Office, MC 371/814



Sybil remembers...

*'The Radio was playing *The Yanks are Coming*. Mom said, Here comes trouble...Soon the city filled with trucks and men on leave. Best remembered as the Liberty Run.*

'In the middle of the dance [at The Lido, Aylsham Road, Norwich], the Air Raid sirens

sounded and I had to leave my blind date Billy Billings and run to my Depot.

'Billy and I were engaged Christmas 1943. Mom would not give her permission for us to marry. We had to wait till June 15, 1944 my 21st birthday.

'I remember saving nine months of clothing coupons to buy a wine coloured suit to be married in. Billy bought me a parachute thinking I could make a slip out of it. The material was woven on a 45° angle and no matter how you cut it the slip hung down in one side.

On Sybil's wedding day, 'Billy had no official pass. Bill Greieg his buddy in the Ordley Room made one up to look official. Lt Joseph Gelsinger drove Billy to the church in a jeep from Boxted Airdrome. He said Billy, you're on your own, good luck! That night we had Fish and Chips for dinner. A few weeks later the girls in the Red Cross Club at the base baked a Wedding cake for Billy and me.'

Norfolk's American Connections

Acknowledgements

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