# Herrick Family Association

Founded in 2001

***Richard L. Herrick, Founder and President Emeritus***
***Kenneth Herrick, Vice President Emeritus***
***Joann Nichols, Editor Emeritus***
***Virgil Herrick, Counselor Emeritus***

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**Check our Web Page: www.Herrickfamilyassociation.org or find us on Facebook!**

## Message from the President:

**Dale E. Yoe, HFA #062**

Hello to all! Like many, I am ready to travel again and looking forward to the England trip in April. Due to the pandemic, we have postponed this trip several times and what was once @ 21-25 people going, we have dwindled down to 11, but looks like we will have lots of great things to see and do.

Our trip will allow us to enjoy speakers knowledgeable in Viking history as well as those knowing more about our English Herricks. We will visit the Yorkshire Museum and the Lincoln Castle and hope to see a copy of the Magna Carta. The Collection Museum, Viking sites, and many Herrick sites should be seen along the journey. I am looking forward also to visiting with several "Herrick cousins" in the UK that wish to join us at our dinners.

So much still to learn. We will try to get those who come along to write about their experience in upcoming newsletters. As we go forward in the HFA, we need to start thinking of our future endeavors- Where to go, what to explore and what our future goals should be.

One thing for me is to try to get those in the next generation interested in our work. Having new ideas and with our newest technology- what we can learn about our history and how can we help others learn about their history. I'm excited to see the release of the 1950 US Federal census coming out April 1st and seeing my name and others in my family on the census for the first time.

Our next meeting together will probably be in 2024- start thinking of a good place to go and what you can do for the association in the future.

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## Membership report

**Jim Hilton HFA # 168**

Following is an update to the report that appeared in the September 2020 newsletter.

Since our beginning in 2001 the Herrick Family Association has had 234 people join. As of this report we have still 170 active members including 3 new members who joined in 2021. Welcome! We were also notified of 2 members who unfortunately died this past year. The balance have previously passed away, resigned, or we have lost touch and have been unsuccessful contacting them. Please continue to update me with any information that will help us keep in touch.

We are honored to have had five life members (included above) since we were founded. We are grateful for their additional support. They are:

HFA 001 - Richard Leon Herrick (deceased)
HFA 020 - Stephen Herrick
HFA 062 - Dale Yoe
HFA 078 - Susan Fogg Eisdorfer
HFA 174 - Mary Joy Stead

Any member 50 years of age and over can become a life member for a one-time contribution of $400.

Soon I will be sending out the 2022 notice for dues. Again, we are more interested in your participation than in your money, but your dues help support all the efforts to fulfill the mission of the Herrick Family Association.

Jim Hilton, Membership Chair
mailto:jhiltonjr@frontiernet.net

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## Leicester Cathedral Revealed

### From Irene Turlington HFA Honorary Member and Friend

Here are some photos of the work going on at the Cathedral showing the demolition of the Old Song School. Archaeologists Mathew Morris and Dr. John Thomas will be leading the excavations. All eyes will be on Leicester Cathedral when the excavations begins.

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Also please see a presentation here;

https://youtu.be/f8YENNuM1T4

## More on Leicester Cathedral Revealed

### From Alice Renolds HFA #003

The video link above shows the work being done in preparation for building the new Heritage Center that will be attached to the Cathedral in Leicester. The archeology is fascinating and there is already one Herrick connection: one of the graves excavated was of Ann Barret whose family was wealthy and in the hosiery business. She inherited Rob Heyrickes house from her father who had purchased it at some point. Toward the end of the talk, there is a great sketch of the house, and it is linked to Robert Heyricke and the link to Richard III is made as well.

Well worth watching!!

## Want to do some reading about Vikings?

Here are several very good books and other sources about the Viking period .

### Books

Roderick Dale, **Viking Leicestershire**, Five Leaves Publication, www.fiveleaves.co.uk, 2020.

Dawn M. Hadley and Julian D. Richiards, **The Viking Great Army and the Making of England**, Thames and Hudson, 2021.

Matthew Morris, Richard Buckley and Mike Codd, **Visions of Ancient Leicester, Reconstructing life in the Roman and medieval town from the archaeology of Highcross Leicester excavations**, University of Leicester Archaeological Services, 2011.

Ann Williams, **The English and the Norman Conquest**, The Boydell Press, 1995.

George Redmonds, Turi King and David Hey. Oxford Univ **Surnames, DNA and Family History**, University Press. September, 2011. Selected by Michael Wood as his “History Book of the Year” for BBC History magazine, Christmas edition, 2011.

Stephen Harding, Mark Jobling and Turi King. **Viking DNA: The Wirral and West Lancashire Project** Countyvise and Nottingham University Press. 2010.

### Podcasts

Turi King, **DNA Family Secrets: What is my Ethnicity?** YouTube. In these short presentations, Dr. King helps people find their biological families.

Turi King also has several podcasts where she presents her work on the identification of Richard III’s heritage.

### Articles

Paul Courtney, **Saxon and Medieval Leicester: The Making of an Urban Landscape**

Matthew Sibson, **THE VIKING INVASION OF LEICESTERSHIRE**, This Was Leicestershie.co.uk

Online Resources

Check the BBC for special programs on the Vikings.

Wikipedia has a good overview.

# From the raid on Lindisfarne to Harald Hardrada’s defeat: 8 Viking dates you need to know

The Viking era is thought to have lasted from the ninth century to 1066, when the Norwegian king Harald Hardrada was defeated at the battle of Stamford Bridge. But what are some other key moments in the history of the Vikings? From the infamous Lindisfarne raid in 793 to the year the Vikings arrived in North America, we bring you eight dates from Viking history you need to know…

## The raid on Lindisfarne

On 8 June 793, the terrified inhabitants of the small Northumbrian Island of Lindisfarne found themselves under attack. Norse longboats landed on the holy island with the intention of plundering its monastery’s riches. Treasures were stolen, religious relics destroyed, and monks murdered, in a brutal and shocking start to centuries of Viking activity in Britain.

Anglo-Saxon monasteries made rich pickings for Viking raiders. The British Isles’ religious communities could offer little resistance to the plundering of their treasures. Furthermore, as pagans, the Viking attackers had no religious qualms about desecrating sacred sites.

Lindisfarne was not the first time Scandinavians had visited on the British Isles. While they had largely come to trade peacefully, there had been sporadic violence. In 789 three ships of Norsemen had landed on the coast of the kingdom of Wessex and murdered one of the king’s officials. Yet the merciless raid on Lindisfarne’s monastery was different – it was an unprecedented brutal strike right at the heart of Anglo-Saxon Christianity.

The shocking event spread fear and panic across Christian Europe. The scholar Alcuin argued that God, as vengeance on the immoral people of the kingdom of Northumbria, had sent the raiders. The attack was not easily forgotten. In the ninth century, Lindisfarne’s Anglo-Saxon residents memorialised the violence by carving the scenes of bloodshed onto a stone grave marker. The stone, now kept in Lindisfarne’s Museum, is known as the ‘Viking Domesday Stone’.

Just as Christian communities had feared, Lindisfarne heralded the beginning of further death and destruction, as Viking raids on Britain escalated over the following years.

## 865 – The Great Heathen Army lands in England

The formation of the Great Heathen Army in 865 marked a turning point in the Vikings’ relationship with Britain. Up until this point, Scandinavian expeditions to the British Isles had consisted of smaller raiding parties on ‘smash-and-grab’ missions. Their intention was to plunder the islands’ riches before returning to their homelands with the loot. The Great Heathen Army was different however – it was a calculated invasion force.

The army was a coalition consisting of soldiers from Norway and Denmark, and possibly also Sweden. According to legend, various bands of Norsemen came together under the leadership of the three sons of legendary Viking warlord Ragnar Lodbrok – Halfdan Ragnarsson, Ivar the Boneless and Ubba. The number of troops in the army is unclear – estimates range from less than 1,000 men to several thousands.

The Great Heathen Army landed on the coast of East Anglia in the autumn of 865, picking up horses before going on to capture Northumbria and York. For several years, frequent fighting plagued the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, as rulers proved unable to subdue the spread of the Viking invaders. By 874, Wessex was the only Anglo-Saxon kingdom not under effective Viking control.

## 866 – York is conquered by Viking forces

As a thriving Anglo-Saxon metropolis and prosperous economic hub, York was a clear target for the Vikings. Led by Ivar the Boneless and Halfdan, Scandinavian forces attacked the town on All Saints’ Day. Launching the assault on a holy day proved an effective tactical move – most of York’s leaders were in the cathedral, leaving the town vulnerable to attack and unprepared for battle.

After it was conquered, the city was renamed from the Saxon Eoforwic to Jorvik. It became the capital of Viking territory in Britain, and at its peak boasted more than 10,000 inhabitants. This was a population second only to London within Great Britain.

Jorvik proved an important economic and trade centre for the Vikings. Norse coinage was created at the Jorvik mint, while archaeologists have found evidence of a variety of craft workshops around the town's central Coppergate area. These demonstrate that textile production, metalwork, carving, glasswork and jewellery-making were all practised in Jorvik. Materials from as far afield as the Arabian gulf have also been discovered, suggesting that the town was part of an international trading network.

According to Dr Soren Sindbaek, urban living in the tightly packed streets of Jorvik was unusual for Viking settlers, whose traditional lifestyle was agricultural. Sindbaek argues that for a Viking, "the commonest path is to farm the land… If you end up in towns, something's almost always gone wrong."

Jorvik's last Viking king was Eric Bloodaxe. Depicted in Norse sagas as a bloody tyrant, Bloodaxe was expelled from York in 954, after which the town returned to Anglo-Saxon rule.886 – The Danelaw is formally agreed

By the 870s, the Great Heathen Army had conquered huge swathes of north-east England. However, Viking forces had failed to conquer Wessex, under the rule of Alfred the Great. After two unsuccessful invasion attempts, in 878 the army launched a third attack on Alfred's kingdom. At the ensuing battle of Edington, they met with a crushing defeat at the hands of the Anglo-Saxons and Viking leader Guthrum met with Alfred to negotiate terms.

A peace treaty was established. Guthrum agreed to baptism and assumed the Anglo-Saxon name Aethelstan. In return, Alfred formally recognised the Viking leader as king of East Anglia.

As part of this peace treaty, a political boundary was drawn up, dividing Aethelstan's Norse territory in the north-east and Alfred's Anglo-Saxon lands in the south-west. The Viking region, known as the Danelaw, was to be dominated by Norse customs and law-codes, different to those of the surrounding Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

The first article of the treaty formally drawn up between Alfred and Guthrum has been taken to mark out the boundaries of the Danelaw. It reads – "First concerning our boundaries: up on the Thames, and then up on the Lea, and along the Lea unto its source, then straight to Bedford, then up on the Ouse to Watling Street." The treaty also laid down laws to establish peaceful co-existence between the two kingdoms. Its fifth article banned attacks by raiding bands, set down rules for the exchange of hostages and slaves and made allowances for safe trading between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.

Although the Danelaw was never extensively settled by Vikings and had dissolved by c954, the impact of Norse rule on England's north-east was significant and long lasting. Echoes of the Danelaw could be traced forward in the social customs and law codes (such as severe fines for breach of the peace) of the region for many centuries. Norse influence can still be seen in the area's place names, especially in the central Viking hub of Yorkshire. Here, you can still find many town names ending in 'thorpe', the Norse term for an outlying farmstead, and 'by', which meant a farmstead or village.

### 10th century – The Second Viking Age

In the mid-tenth century Denmark began to emerge as a major power, heralding in what is known as the Second Viking Age. As the Danish kingdom became increasingly powerful, Viking raiders began to target the British Isles with a renewed ferocity.

In 991 Danish king Swein Forkbeard landed in Kent with more than 90 longboats, before exacting a cruel victory over Anglo-Saxon forces at the battle of Maldon. Over the following two decades, Swein led several more destructive campaigns in England.

While Norse raids had been targeting the Britain Isles since the eighth century, it was unprecedented for these raids to be led by the king himself. Raids were on a larger scale than ever before, and Swein's Danish forces proved unstoppable as they ravaged England's major towns and extorted money from their leaders.

By 1012, the Anglo-Saxons' situation had reached breaking point. Payments to the Danes, known as Danegeld, had proved crippling. Anglo-Saxon leaders were forced to raise 22,000kg of silver, largely levied through tax. The same year, Viking raiders led by Thorkell the Tall (it is debated whether Thorkell was an agent of Swein or not) plundered Canterbury and held the archbishop Aelfheah hostage for seven months. When he refused to let anyone pay his ransom they pelted him to death with bones and struck him over the head with an axe.

### c1000 – The Vikings reach North America

The British Isles were not the only destination of seafaring Norse traders, raiders and adventurers. Paris, Iceland, Italy and even the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco were also visited by the Vikings.

Remarkable archaeological discoveries have revealed that Norse longboats even travelled huge distances to North America, making the Vikings the first Europeans to land on the continent. In 1960, evidence of Norse settlement was uncovered at L’Anse aux Meadows, a site on the northernmost tip of the island of Newfoundland, off the east coast of Canada.

Investigation into the site began after archaeologists found a small cloak pin that appeared to be of Scandinavian origin. Further archaeological work revealed timber-framed buildings identical to ones in Viking settlements discovered in Greenland and Iceland. After extensive work on the sites, experts have suggested that there were in fact Norse settlers in Newfoundland, but they stayed close to the coast and abandoned the site just a few years after it was founded.

According to Norse sagas, the first Viking explorer to reach North America was Leif Erikson, a fearless seafaring adventurer who discovered ‘Vinland’. The description of ‘Vinland’ in the sagas has been seen by some to match the site in Newfoundland.

In 2015, a potential new site of Viking settlement was found at Point Rosee, on Newfoundl ’s south-west coast. Identified using infrared satellite images and aerial photographs, the site contains promising evidence of iron-smelting, and turf walls which match Norse construction styles. Further investigation into the site is planned for later this year.

### 1013 – Swein Forkbeard becomes the first Viking king of England

By 1013, after years of raiding England, Danish king Swein Forkbeard set his sights on conquering the country entirely.

Although Swein had been campaigning in Britain from 991 onwards, fighting had been piecemeal. His troops were repeatedly forced back to Scandinavia – in 999 by an attempted coup in his homeland and in 1005 by famine in Britain. However, after decades of patchy campaigning, in 1013 Swein’s attempts to conquer the entirety of Anglo-Saxon England finally came to fruition.

By 1013, Oxford, Bath, Winchester and many other major towns had capitulated to Swein’s forces. After fierce resistance, London also finally submitted, its residents afraid of what the Viking forces might inflict on them. Following these victories, the Anglo-Saxon king Aethelred the Unready was forced into exile in Normandy and Swein was finally accepted as king of England.

However, after battling for so long to add England to his great Scandinavian empire, Swein’s reign was short-lived. Only five weeks after he was pronounced king of England, Forkbeard died on 3 February 1014. It took two more years of intensive fighting before the country was returned to Viking rule, under Swein’s son Cnut. Cnut reigned over England for 19 years, finally bringing a period of relative peace and stability to the kingdom and uniting his Anglo-Saxon and Danish subjects.

### 1066 – The end of the Viking age

The death of Anglo-Saxon king Edward the Confessor (of the House of Wessex) in 1( ed to a power-struggle for the English crown. The Viking contender for the throne was Harald Hardrada, king of Norway. Descended from the line of the kings of Norway ousted by Cnut a generation earlier, Hardrada claimed a right to the throne based on an agreement between his father and Hardicanute, Cnut’s son and successor.

In an effort to reclaim England for the Scandinavians, in 1066 Hardrada sailed to England with 300 ships stuffed full of 11,000 warriors. His intention was to seize the throne from the vulnerable Anglo-Saxon king Harold Godwinson, who was also expecting a Norman invasion from the south.

After sailing up the river Ouse and seizing York, Hardrada's forces were taken by surprise by the Anglo-Saxon troops at Stamford Bridge. Harold Godwinson's men had travelled north with remarkable speed, meaning that the Scandinavian forces were unprepared to take them on. Not expecting Harold Godwinson to leave the south under the threat of Norman invasion, Hardrada had left both men and armour behind with his anchored fleet at Riccall. The Viking army was smashed and Hardrada killed by an arrow through the neck. It was reported that of the 300 longboats that landed in England, only 24 returned to their homeland carrying the survivors.

Despite proving a failure, the Viking invasion of 1066 nonetheless had a significant impact on British history. Taking on the Vikings at Stamford Bridge had weakened Harold Godwinson's forces, making the path easier for the successful invasion of William of Normandy. William defeated Godwinson at the battle of Hastings just three weeks later, going on to launch a conquest more successful and long lasting than any Viking invasion.

Hardrada's crushing defeat at Stamford Bridge is generally seen as the end of Viking influence in Britain. Centuries of raiding, extortion, trading and bloodshed had finally come to a close.

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## A TIMELINE OF LEICESTER, ENGLAND

**By Tim Lambert HFA Helpful Contributer**

### Roman Leicester

43 The Romans invade Britain

47 The Romans capture what is now Leicestershire

49 The Romans build a fort and a town grows up nearby

80 The Roman army moves on but the town flourishes

100 The town of Ratae (Leicester) is rebuilt

c 250 Suburbs grow outside the walls of Ratae (Leicester)

407 The Roman army leaves Britain. Afterwards Roman civilization breaks down and Roman towns are abandoned.

### Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Leicester

c. 800 Town life revives in England. The old Roman town at Leicester is revived by the Anglo-Saxons.

877 The Danes capture Leicester

911 The English recapture Leicester

1086 Leicester has a population of about 1,500

1143 Leicester Abbey is built

1173 An earl rules Leicester. He rebels against the king but the king's men capture Leicester and burn part of it.

1231 The Earl, Simon de Montfort expels all Jews from Leicester

1464 Leicester is given a corporation and a mayor

## Leicester in the 16th Century

1500 The population of Leicester is about 3,000

1545 A grammar school is built in Leicester

1564 The plague strikes Leicester

1583 The plague returns to Leicester

## Leicester in the 17th Century

1604 and 1606 The plague is back in Leicester

1610 The plague returns to Leicester

1612 A conduit is built to bring water into Leicester

1625 The plague strikes Leicester again

1636 and 1638 The plague strikes but fortunately the 1638 epidemic is the last one

1645 During the Civil War the Royalists briefly capture Leicester

1670 The population of Leicester is about 5,000

1681 Leicester gains a fire engine

686 A scavenger is appointed to clean the main streets of Leicester

## Leicester in the 18th Century

1730 The population of Leicester is about 8,000

1737 New Road is built

1759 Pumps are installed by public wells

1771 The Royal infirmary is built

1774 The town walls are demolished

1794 The Soar Canal is finished

## 19th Century Leicester

1801 Leicester has a population of about 17,000

1821 Leicester gains gas light

1836 Leicester gains a police force

1849 Cholera strikes Leicester

1853 Leicester gains a piped water supply

1855 Leicester gains a sewage works

1871 The first public library in Leicester opens

1881 A telephone exchange opens in Leicester

1882 Victoria Park and Abbey Park open

1894 Electric street lights are switched on in Leicester for the first time

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

### ROMAN LEICESTER

Leicester probably started as a Celtic settlement. It was the capital of the local Celtic tribe, the Corieltauvi. The Romans invaded Britain in 43 CE and they captured Leicestershire by 47 CE. The Romans built a fort at Leicester in 48 CE. The Celtic settlement nearby prospered as the Roman soldiers provided a market for goods made in the town. About 80 CE the Roman army moved on but the nearby town thrived.

The streets of Roman Leicester were changed to a grid pattern with a space left in the center for a marketplace called a Forum. The Forum was lined with shops and had a kind of town hall called a basilica. Many of the townspeople rebuilt their houses in stone with tiled roofs. The Romans also dug drains under the streets of Leicester (or Ratae as they called it). They also built public baths on the site of the Jewry Wall Museum.

There were several temples in Roman Leicester. One, which stood in St Nicholas Circle, was dedicated to the Persian god Mithras. Roman Leicester continued to grow and prosper in the 3rd century and suburbs grew up outside the walls. Roman Leicester reached a peak in the early 4th century then began to decline. Roman civilization slowly broke down. The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 407. Afterward, Roman towns like Leicester fell into ruins.

### SAXON LEICESTER

After the Romans left Leicester was probably abandoned. There may have been some people living within the walls and farming the land outside but it ceased to be a town. However, in the late 7th century town life began to revive in England. Leicester was given a bishop. By the 9th century, Leicester was a thriving town again. However, Saxon Leicester was crude compared with the Roman town. There were no fine stone buildings only wood huts with thatched roofs. In Leicester, women wove cloth while there were craftsmen such as potters, blacksmiths, and carpenters. There were also men who made things like combs from bone.

In the 9th century the Danes invaded England and by 877 they captured Leicester. In 918 the English recaptured the town but the short period of Danish rule left the area with many Danish place names. In the 10th century, Leicester had a mint so it was quite an important town.

### LEICESTER IN THE MIDDLE AGES

At the time of the Domesday Book (1086) Leicester probably had a population of around 1,500. It would seem tiny to us but towns were very small in those days. The Normans built a wooden castle within the town walls. In the early 12th century it was rebuilt in stone.

Leicester was ruled by an Earl. However, the Earl appointed a steward to run the town day to day. By law all grain had to be ground to flour in mills owned by the Earl and all bakers had to bake their bread in his ovens. The Earl also took fines for minor offenses such as baking underweight loaves. He also took the tolls from stallholders in the market.

The Earl caused the people of Leicester much suffering in 1173 when he rebelled against the king. The king's men captured the town and burned part of it down. But Leicester soon recovered from this disaster.

n 1231 the Earl, Simon de Montfort (c. 1208-1265) banished all Jews from Leicester. He was killed at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

The main industry in Medieval Leicester was making wool. First, the wool was woven into cloth. Then it was fulled. That means it was cleaned and thickened by being pounded in a mixture of water and clay. The wool was pounded by wooden hammers, which were worked by watermills. After the wool dried it was dyed.

Leather was also an important industry in Medieval Leicester and there were many tanners in the town.

Furthermore, in Leicester, there was a weekly market and an annual fair. In the Middle Ages, a fair was like a market but it was held only once a year for a period of a few days. Leicester fair would attract buyers and sellers from all over the Midlands.

In the Middle Ages the merchants in Leicester formed an organisation called a guild to safeguard their interests. Eventually, the Earl's hold on the town weakened and the merchants began to run things. From 1464 Leicester had a corporation with a mayor.

Leicester Abbey was built in 1143. Furthermore, in the Middle Ages, the only hospitals were run by the church. In them, monks cared for the poor and the sick as best they could. In the Middle Ages, there were several hospitals in Leicester.

From the 13th century there were also friars in Leicester. Friars were like monks but instead of withdrawing from the world they went out to preach. Franciscan friars were called grey friars because of the color of their costumes. Their name lives on in the street name.

In the Middle Ages a few people in Leicester had private wells but most took their water from public wells. (Cank Street is named after the Cank, a well which once existed there).

## LEICESTER IN THE 16th CENTURY AND 17th CENTURY

In 1500 Leicester probably had a population of about 3,000. However, like all Tudor towns, Leicester suffered from outbreaks of the plague. It struck in 1564, 1579, 1583 and 1593. Nevertheless, Leicester continued to grow despite periodic outbreaks of plague.

Henry VIII closed Leicester Abbey, the friaries and the hospitals of St Leonard and St John. His son closed the merchant’s guild (The Tudors dislike guilds as they felt they restricted trade) and confiscated their property, including the Guildhall. In 1563 it was sold to the town council.

In 1545 a grammar school was founded in Leicester.

There were more outbreaks of plague in Leicester in 1604, 1606, 1610, 1625, 1636 and 1638. But the outbreak in 1638 was the last.

Then in 1642 came civil war between king and parliament. The king's army laid siege to Leicester in 1645. The royal army was made up of 5,500 men. Inside Leicester, there were only 2,000 defenders. Traitors left the town at night and revealed where there were weak spots in the walls. The royalists aimed their cannons at these spots and made breaches. The defenders tried to plug the gaps with sacks of wool, but the royalist infantry attacked. They attempted to reach a breach in the wall near Newark 4 times but each time they were repulsed. The royalists then attacked a breach by the Eastgate. They caused the defenders to withdraw by throwing hand grenades among them. Then they swarmed through the breach. Soon Leicester was captured. The royalists then sacked the town killing many people.

However their triumph was short-lived. The royalists were routed at the Battle of Naseby. The parliamentary army then laid siege to Leicester. The royalists had not had time to repair the breaches in the walls and they were soon forced to surrender. However, they were allowed to leave provided they left behind all their weapons. Afterward, the castle was destroyed to make sure it never fell into royalist's hands again.

Leicester soon recovered from the effects of the civil war and by 1670 it probably had a population of about 5,000.

At the end of the 17th century a writer said that: Leicester has four gates. The streets are fairly large and well made. There are 5 parishes. The marketplace is a large space, very handsome with a good market cross and town hall. The town's buildings are of timber except one or two of brick.

In 1612 a conduit was built to carry water from springs into Leicester. The name survives in Conduit Street. In 1681 Leicester purchased its first fire engine and in 1686 a scavenger was appointed to clean the main streets. Also in the late 17th century, a hosiery industry flourished in Leicester.

## LEICESTER IN THE 18th CENTURY

By 1700 there were about 6,000 people in Leicester. The population rose to about 8,000 by 1730. Growth then stabilized till 1760 when it again began to grow rapidly, reaching 17,000 by 1800.

Meanwhile in 1711 the land that had once belonged to the Grey friars was sold for building and by 1720 it was built up. New Road was built in 1737 and the Corn Exchange (where grain was bought and sold) in 1748.

In 1759 pumps were installed by public wells and Leicester Royal Infirmary opened in 1771. The town walls were removed in 1774 as improvements in artillery had made them obsolete. Then in 1785 the town council created a public walk, the New Walk.

In the late 18th century Leicester was transformed by the industrial revolution. The Soar Canal was completed in 1794 and it allowed an engineering industry to grow up by providing a cheap way of transporting coal and iron into Leicester. The shirt trade in Leicester began in 1796.

## LEICESTER IN THE 19th CENTURY

In 1801 at the time of the first census Leicester had a population of around 17,000. The town continued to grow rapidly. Houses were built outside Belgrave Gate in the 1820s. At the same time houses were built south of the town. Northampton Street, Conduit Street and Prebend Street were built around 1830. Between 1835 and 1860 St Margaret's parish became built up. Houses were also built along the roads leading to the villages of Belgrave and Humberstone. Meanwhile in 1835 the boundary of Leicester was extended to the West Bank of the Soar.

The population of Leicester rose to about 40,000 in 1841 and to 68,000 in 1861.

Amenities in Leicester improved during the 19th century. In 1821 Leicester obtained gas street lighting. Furthermore, by 1830 most of the streets were paved. Then in 1836 Leicester got its own police force.

In 1849 Leicester suffered an epidemic of cholera. Afterwards a Board of Health was formed. The Board built proper drains and sewers. In 1855 Leicester gained its first sewerage works. In 1853 it gained a piped water supply (although it was a long time before all houses were connected).

In 1882 Victoria Park opened. Abbey Park also opened in 1882 and Spinney Park followed in 1886.

The first public library in Leicester opened in 1871 and a new Town Hall was built in 1876. In 1881 the first telephone exchange opened in Granby Street and in 1894 some streets were lit by electricity for the first time. Silver Arcade was built in 1899.

New industries grew up in Leicester during the 19th century. Engineering flourished after the Britannia ironworks was opened in 1804. A much larger works, the Vulcan works opened in Welford Road in 1878. The Boot and shoemaking industry boomed. In 1831 there were only 425 boot and shoemakers in Leicester. By 1861 there were 2,741. The elastic web industry began in 1839 when a factory opened in Southgate.

In 1832 a railway was built from Leicester to Swannington. In 1840 another was built from Leicester to Rugby. In 1849 another line, to Burton opened. In 1857 a railway through Market Harborough to London was opened.

Leicester continued to spread rapidly into the surrounding countryside. From the mid 19th century onward houses were built east of the town in the area called Highfields. In the late 18th century, a house called Stoneygate was built. By the mid-19th century a hamlet had grown up around it. By the 1880s the area had become a suburb of Leicester.

South Knighton also became built up in the 1880s. Meanwhile, in 1885 an architect called Arthur Wakerley bought land at North Evington and then built houses and factories there. As Leicester grew it also absorbed other areas. In 1874 Belgrave was still separate but in that year a horse drawn tram connected the two. As both Leicester and Belgrave grew the land separating them became built up. In 1879 Aylestone was connected to Leicester by horse drawn trams and it too soon became built up.

## LEICESTER IN THE 20th CENTURY

Leicester was described in a magazine in 1909: it is difficult to think of Leicester as a town of considerable industrial importance. The impression remains with one of a clear and sunny atmosphere with wide streets, clean brick buildings and a constant background of green trees. The boot and hosiery factories appear to give out little or no smoke.

Leicester continued to grow rapidly during the 20th century. It was made a city in 1919. In 1927 Leicester was given a cathedral and a bishop and the boundaries of the city were extended in 1935.

Palace Theatre opened in 1901 and Leicester General Hospital opened in 1905. The first cinema in Leicester opened in 1910 in High Street. In 1926 the Guildhall was opened as a museum. Belgrave Hall opened in 1937 and in 1940 Newarke Houses were opened as a museum.

Meanwhile in 1901-4 the horse drawn trams in Leicester were converted to electricity and in 1924 the first corporation buses began running.

The engineering industry in Leicester continued to grow rapidly in the 20th century and in 1908 the Imperial Typewriter Co. came to Leicester. In 1900 only 6,000 people were employed in engineering in Leicester. By 1939 the figure had risen to 13,500 and by the 1950s 29,000.

Leicester Council began building houses in 1914 when they built an estate in North Evington. Council house building continued in the 1920s and 1930s. Many new council houses were built at Braunstone in the 1930s. At the same time slum clearance began and many slums were demolished in St Margarets parish.

Leicester escaped heavy bombing during the Second World War but on 19 November 1940 bombs were dropped on Highfield Street and Saxby Street killing 40 people.

After 1945 slum clearance continued and large areas of Leicester were redeveloped. Existing council estates like Braunstone were also enlarged. In the 1970s a new development of mixed council housing and private houses was built at Beaumont Leys. This estate was built with a popular shopping centre. Meanwhile the last trams ran in Leicester in 1949.

In the early 20th century, a Jewish community grew up in the Highfields area and after 1945 Polish and Latvian refugees moved into this area. In the 1950s West Indians moved into the area. In the 1960s some Asians came to Leicester and their numbers were swelled in the 1970s when Indians were forced to leave Uganda. Leicester is now a multicultural city.

The old industries like hosiery remained important in the late 20th century. However new industries such as metal fabrication, electrical and precision engineering, printing, pharmaceuticals and food processing came to Leicester.

The University of Leicester was established in 1957. Then in 1969 Leicester Polytechnic was formed from the old College of Art and Technology. It became De Montfort University in 1992. Meanwhile in 1971 the Haymarket Centre opened and in 1973 Haymarket Theatre opened.

In 1984 St Martins Shopping Centre opened. The Phoenix Arts Centre opened in 1988 and The Shire Shopping Centre opened in 1992.

In 1997 Leicester was made a unitary authority.

## LEICESTER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In 2011 Sir Peter Soulsby became the first directly elected mayor of Leicester. Today the population of Leicester is 348,000.

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## In Search of Ericke of East Anglia from The Viking Great Army and the Making of England by Dawn Hadley and Julian Richards

### By Michael Herrick HFA #118

"It was an autumnal morning in the year AD 872. The longships cut through the water and were carried upriver on the incoming tide. . . . The oarsmen were tired; they had been travelling for weeks. They had already sailed all the way from London to York earlier that year and now they were heading back south, crossing the Humber estuary and continuing up the River Trent. They were in hostile territory deep within the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, heading for a safe place where they could camp for the winter, where they could rest, melt down the gold and silver they had plundered from Northumbrian monasteries and sell the slaves they had acquired. . . . At last they had reached their home for winter months – Turc's Island or, as we know it today, Torksey."

Thus begins the accounts of Viking settlements in England from the exhaustive, yet fascinating research and archaeological work of Dawn Hadley and Julian Richards, professors of archaeology at the University of York. I read their new book, The Viking Great Army and the Making of England with an eye towards information about our Ericke of East Anglia. The Herrick Family Association has long been interested in Ericke since the first Herrick Genealogical Register (HGR I) was published in 1846 and documented the following:

The traditions of this very ancient family claim their descent from Ericke, a Danish Chief who invaded Britain during the reign of Alfred, and having been vanquished by that Prince, was compelled, with his followers, to repeople the wasted districts of East Anglia; the government of which he held as a fief of the English crown. He is recognized in history as 'Erick, King of those Danes who hold the Countrie of East Angle (HGR I, p. 5)

We also know that one of the leaders of the Viking Great Army was a Viking warrior named Guthrum, who was King of East Anglia during the time of King Alfred. So it appears that Guthrum and Ericke were contemporaries and fellow Viking leaders. It made sense to me to read Hadley and Richards book, following the travels of Guthrum for clues to Ericke. When Guthrum died in battle against the English in 890, Ericke ultimately became King of East Anglia. Hadley and Richards, however, do not mention Ericke in their book but do provide multiple accounts of Guthrum, since he was a central Viking leader of the Great Army. Since Ericke was a follower and ultimate successor to Guthrum as King of East Anglia, following accounts of Guthrum could provide insights and informed assumptions about our Ericke of East Anglia.

The Viking Great Army arrived in East Anglia for the purpose of settlement in AD 865 and swept through England for the next 13 years, fighting resistance from the Anglo-Saxons whenever they encountered them. As they settled, these Vikings became immersed in their new communities and formed a hybrid Anglo-Scandinavian culture. The Viking army was here to stay. In the words of Michael Wood, a well-known English historian and film maker, "The story of the Viking Great Army and its campaigns changed the political landscape of the British Isles forever." For us Herricks, that story is personal.

Hadley and Richards recount Icelandic sagas that claim that the Great Army was orchestrated by the sons of Ragnar Lodbrok, a legendary Viking warrior, in revenge against King Aella of Northumbria for the killing of Ragnar. These sons of Ragnor, referred to as "kings" in contemporary sources, are Halfdan, Ivar the Boneless, Oscetel, Bagsecg, Anwend, Ubba, and Guthrum (p. 60). These Viking invaders and their Great Army landed in East Anglia and traveled to York and then back tracked to Torksey to seek their winter settlement. Soon after that in 873, they traveled up the River Trent in their longships deep into Mercia and again wintered. This time the settlement was in Repton. It is here in Repton, the next year in 874, that the Great Army broke up for unknown reasons. Half of the army went north from Repton and half went south. Halfdan and his followers went north back into Northumbria. Guthrum, Anwend and Oscetel headed southeast back to East Anglia, spending the winter in Cambridge. Guthrum, and presumably along with Ericke, continued to fight King Alfred across Wessex (p. 69). The purpose of the southern army lead by Guthrum was to colonize the five boroughs of Nottinghamshire Lincolnshire Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

Interestingly, archeological digs in Repton in the 1970s and 1980s have revealed graves of Viking warriors who met violent deaths. The remains of 264 other individuals, including women and children, were also discovered. Near Repton at Heath Wood, archeologists have found 59 burial mounds which was the site of a Viking cremation cemetery. Little was known about this Viking encampment until these recent excavations, since these Repton fortifications were the only archaeologically excavated Viking fortifications in Britain up to that time. Clearly, during the short wintering camp at Repton many Vikings from the Great Army met their death. One of the Viking warriors found in the excavations is the remains of a large man with high status, since he was buried in a royal sarcophagus. Archeologists claim that there is evidence that this man was Ivar the Boneless, one of the brothers leading the Great Army (pp. 146-177). Could the violent deaths incurred by the Great Army and the death of Ivar been a factor in the split of the Great Army? Could these events have caused rivalries between the Viking leaders? All we know for sure is that the army did split and Guthrum went southeast to East Anglia. The role of Ericke at this time is unknown and until further research is done, it is left to conjecture.

As archeologists, Hadley and Richards conduct their Viking research not through documents or historical records, but through the search for Viking artifacts left at settlements and camps. The Repton excavations revealed a medieval axe of an identical type found in Fyrkart, Denmark and 5 silver coins struck in 872. Hadley and Richards also site a small hoard (collection of buried artifacts) discovered in Suffolk dating back to 875. They indicate that the evidence is inconclusive, but it could be speculated that this hoard is from Guthrum's half of the Great Army since the army was there in 874-875 (p. 81). Also, Scandinavian gaming pieces were found in a dig near Cambridge that date past the winter camp in Torksey, which would coincide with Guthrum's army in East Anglia (p. 135).

After wintering in Cambridge, Guthrum and his faction of the Great Army battled with King Alfred throughout Wessex. In 878 another Viking army landed in Devon to support Guthrum in his battles in Wessex against Alfred. Could our Ericke have been part of that Devon invasion or was he with Guthrum from the initial invasion? Regardless, Alfred's Anglo-Saxon forces defeated the Great Army at Edington and Guthrum and Alfred made peace. Guthrum's main concession was his conversion to Christianity, but Alfred lost much of his kingdom by naming Guthrum King of East Anglia where he ruled from 880 to 890. The treaty between Guthrum and Alfred resulted in creating the boundary line between Guthrum's East Anglia and Alfred's England. This boundary line ultimately defined what became known as Danelaw (pp. 233-235). The area east of the line included all of East Anglia and the borough of Leicestershire; resulting in hundreds of Scandinavian place names recorded in the 1086 Doomsday Book. After converting to Christianity, Guthrum adopted a Christian name, Aethelstan. Coins have been found through various archeological digs minted with Guthrum's baptismal name of Aetheistan (pp 236-237).

During the 10 year reign of Guthrum, the Viking Army and Alfred's English army continued to battle. When Alfred died in 899, his son Edward the Elder succeeded him. However, Edward's cousin Aethelwold challenged Edward's reign and convinced the Vikings in East Anglia to break the peace established between Guthrum and Alfred. Consequently, in 903 a battle between the King Edward of Wessex and the Scandinavians of East Anglia ensued and both Aethelwold and Eohric, son of Guthrum and the new East Anglian king, were killed (p. 242). At this point, two possible scenarios play out. One, with Gunthrum and Eohric now dead, Ericke was now King of the Danes in East Anglia, as expressed in Polydore Vergil's Anglica Historia, which was based on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles and repeated in HGR I. Or secondly, according to Wikipedia, Eohric is the Old English form of Eiriki or Ericke, so Eohric could have been the Ericke of East Anglia documented in HGR I. Could this mean that our Ericke of East Anglia was the son of Guthrum? This second scenario, however, is confounded by documents that indicate that Ericke was defeated in successive battles with King Edward, including Tettenhall in 911; and thus began to govern more harshly, provoking the anger of his own people who rose up and murdered him (HGR I, p.64)

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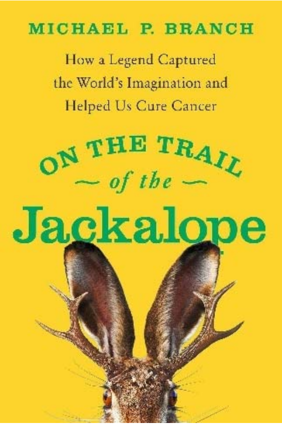

## On the Trail of the Jackalope: How a Legend Captured the World's Imagination and Helped Us Cure Cancer

### Review: Hopping Madness

**Shared by Alert Member Curt Herrick HFA #100**

Original article by Dave Shiflett for The WSJ Feb. 24, 2022

Hybrids are popular these days: cars that run on electricity and gas, people who run on pig hearts and other animal entrails, journalists who blend fact, fiction and malevolence. The most captivating hybrids, however, are the more exotic blends: the centaur (half-man, half-horse), the mermaid (half-woman, half-fish) and of course the jackalope, a rabbit sporting a set of antlers.

Those who know little about the jackalope will be happy that Michael Branch has come hopping along. Mr. Branch, a professor of literature whose books include “How to Cuss in Western,” knows at least as much about jackalopes as Einstein knew about physics. He also speaks with amusing authority on Bat Boy, religious visages seen in diner food, and other odd sightings.

Mr. Branch traces the jackalope’s origins to Wyoming brothers **Ralph** and **Doug Herrick**, who dropped a recently shot rabbit beside a set of antlers, precipitating an entrepreneurial brainstorm: “Let’s mount that thing!” This happened around 1932, when Ralph and Doug were 10 and 12 years old, respectively. They sold their first jackalope to a local hotelier for 10 bucks.

In stereotypical fashion, the beast multiplied mightily: Mr. Branch estimates that there are at least a million jackalopes in existence today. He visits jackalope magnate Frank English, of Rapid City, S.D., “the most prolific jackalope maker ever to stick antlers on a bunny.” Over the course of 35 years, Mr. English estimates, he’s made at least 200,000 “warrior rabbits,” as they are sometimes known.

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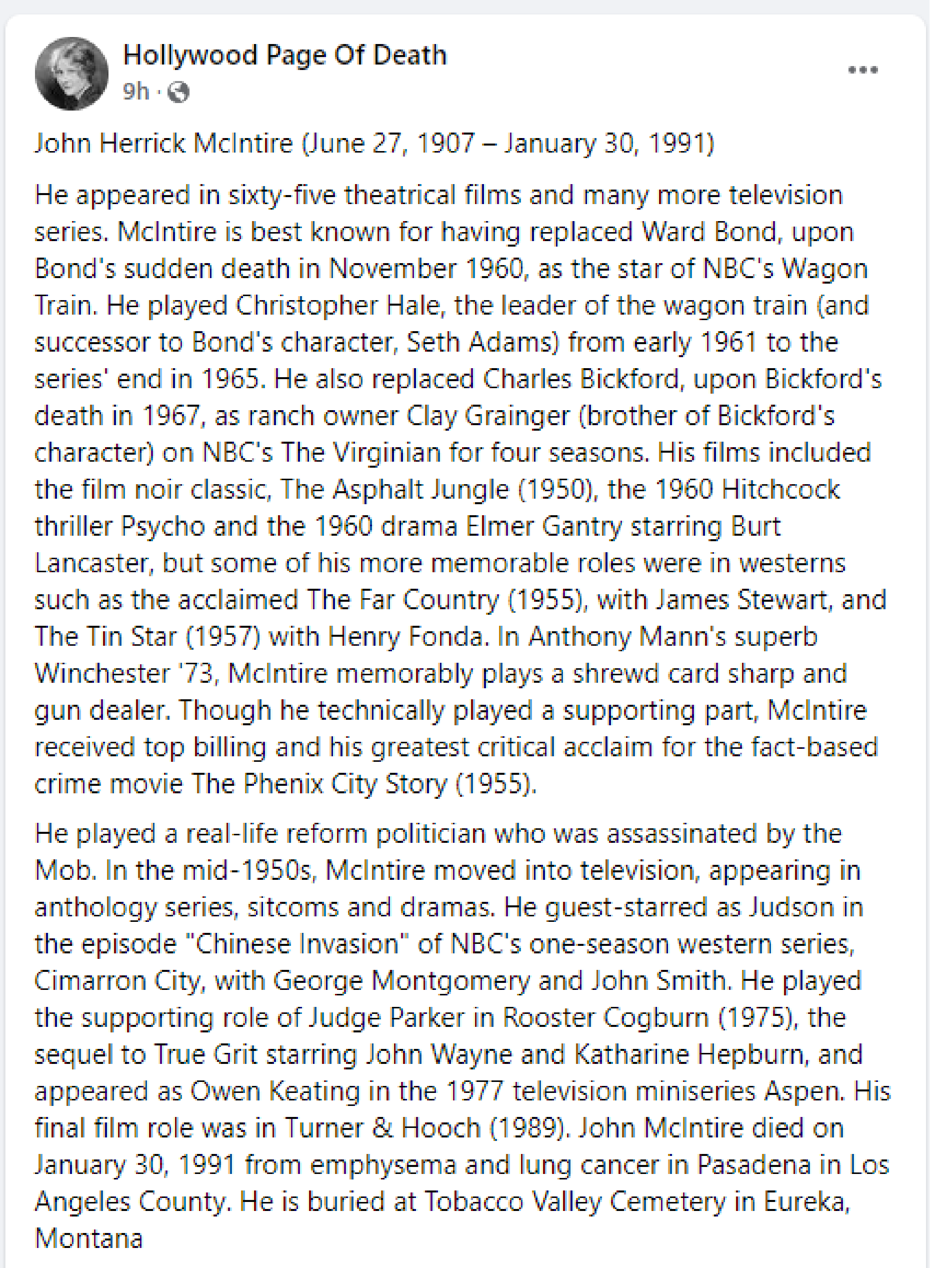
**Found by Alert Member Richard Herrick HFA #132**

JOHN HERRICK
McINTIRE
JUNE 27 1907
JANUARY 30 1991



**Hollywood Page Of Death**

John Herrick McIntire (June 27, 1907 – January 30, 1991)

He appeared in sixty-five theatrical films and many more television series. McIntire is best known for having replaced Ward Bond, upon Bond's sudden death in November 1960, as the star of NBC's Wagon Train. He played Christopher Hale, the leader of the wagon train (and successor to Bond's character, Seth Adams) from early 1961 to the series' end in 1965. He also replaced Charles Bickford, upon Bickford's death in 1967, as ranch owner Clay Grainger (brother of Bickford's character) on NBC's The Virginian for four seasons. His films included the film noir classic, The Asphalt Jungle (1950), the 1960 Hitchcock thriller Psycho and the 1960 drama Elmer Gantry starring Burt Lancaster, but some of his more memorable roles were in westerns such as the acclaimed The Far Country (1955), with James Stewart, and The Tin Star (1957) with Henry Fonda. In Anthony Mann's superb Winchester '73, McIntire memorably plays a shrewd card sharp and gun dealer. Though he technically played a supporting part, McIntire received top billing and his greatest critical acclaim for the fact-based crime movie The Phenix City Story (1955).

He played a real-life reform politician who was assassinated by the Mob. In the mid-1950s, McIntire moved into television, appearing in anthology series, sitcoms and dramas. He guest-starred as Judson in the episode "Chinese Invasion" of NBC's one-season western series, Cimarron City, with George Montgomery and John Smith. He played the supporting role of Judge Parker in Rooster Cogburn (1975), the sequel to True Grit starring John Wayne and Katharine Hepburn, and appeared as Owen Keating in the 1977 television miniseries Aspen. His final film role was in Turner & Hooch (1989). John McIntire died on January 30, 1991 from emphysema and lung cancer in Pasadena in Los Angeles County. He is buried at Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka, Montana

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## Castles in Wales

**By Dorothy R. Herrick HFA #200**

This information is about two castles the family owned in Wales. One, I know, had been open to Herricks and would actually serve tea in Sophia's special room. It is fairly close to Devon...but remember this was some years ago, l0 or more years ago but I had forgotten to mention Wales to you... Dean Prior, which is the former home and church of Robert Herrick near by... actually, there are unique signposts in Great Britain. and one which says Devon will also give the name of Berry-Pomeroy, our other side of the family's castle...it was in barren condition but once it was taken over for partial restoration by some lord or lady, it is fun to go to...Jane Seymour, one of Henry the 8th's wives, had a home within the castle too. It is interesting and down the slope behind the castle the old mill house served as a most fascinating gift shop. Music from WWII plays constantly, and one cannot get away from that part of history. I think the house has now become some lucky person's home.

Back to Beaumanor itself, make sure you tour the tiny wooden church and burial ground. Many years ago, when my aunt and great aunt visited Beaumanor after the war had ended and the signal corps were no longer there, they were over anxious to see what damage may have been done and their visit included the church. The pastor was so thoughtful he gave one aunt a decoration from the side of a pew, and she gave it to me. I can't imagine the age but the carving is magnificent.

Now before I close, I should mention that the Wales castle is not only Wales oldest/lived castles in Penhow and is called Penhow castle. It had nothing attractive about it, but it looks sturdy enough to last another few thousand years.!!!!!

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## *** Correction to the DAR article in the December Newsletter***

By Ginny Mucciaccio HFA #171

For clarification; the DAR service took place in VERMONT.

I was raised in Milton, Massachusetts & belong to a DAR chapter for sixty-one years in the area, and nothing about the article was familiar to me or part of Milton, Mass. With the reference to Green Mountain Boys, it became apparent to me of the virtual location. I live in Dedham, Mass- a neighboring town to Mliton, and the President General of NSDAR is coming to Dedham in April to mark the grave of a REAL DAUGHTER, meaning she was the child of a Rev. War soldier. Mrs. Van Buren's 3-year administration has been filled with markings most likely to bring attention to the DAR throughout our quarantine.

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### Message from the Editor:

Nancy Johnson, HFA #212

Email NancyJohnson206@gmail.com

I would like to thank our members, Dale E. Yoe, HFA #62, Alice Herrick Reynolds HFA #03, Irene Turlington HFA's Leicester Friend and Honorary Member, Richard Herrick HFA #132, Curt Herrick HFA #100, Michael Herrick HFA #118, Jim Hilton HFA # 168, Ginny Mucciaccio HFA #171, Tim Lambert - Historian and Dorothy R. Herrick HFA #200 for contributing to this newsletter.

I'd like to remind everyone that I'm happy to accept articles and stories for the next newsletter at any time.

We're looking forward to seeing many of you in England this April!