

I would like to show my Respect and Acknowledge the Dharug people - the Traditional Custodians of the Land - of Elders past and present - on which this Meeting takes place.

Greetings to you all - my KABLE kin - near and distant cousins and otherwise connected by friendship and by marriage.

My name is James Stewart KABLE - but known generally as Jim - and the paternal grand-parents of my father's grand-father were Henry and Susannah - who married 230 years ago to-day. The connection is that close. I am a teacher - of English and History and of other things.

My father was Stewart Clarence KABLE (1927-1951 born in St Peters in Sydney). His father was Cyril Prosper KABLE (1890-1967 born in Parkes NSW). His father was Prosper Joshua KABLE (1853-1926 - born at Carwell, Rylstone in NSW). His father was John KABLE (1802-1859 born in Sydney - and later in the Windsor district being noted for being the first bare-knuckle boxing champion of the colony - buried in the family vault in the grounds of the historic Macquarie/Greenway Church of St Matthews where most if not all of you have visited earlier to-day - along with **his** mother and father - the East Anglian couple Henry KABLE (born in 1764 - of Laxfield in northern Suffolk) and Susannah née HOLMES (born in 1764 - of Surlingham in Norfolk - on the edge of Norwich). You will notice that my father died early - I was just two at the time he was killed as a passenger in a car accident - and not growing up with him has been the most significant impetus to my search of family history - as I am sure you will appreciate.

History not only lies in the past - and that is not always as distant a past as we might suppose - but is happening to-day - and will of course be made to-morrow.

And further to that - what we think we know from stories often vaguely passed down - is not necessarily always nor exactly supported by the documentary evidence - but whatever that verification or clarification - there is definitely something human and touching in the handing down of those stories - whether of the great and powerful - or of those whose deeds have been recorded for other reasons. At this point I want to pay tribute to June WHITTAKER for her scrupulous and rigorous historical questioning and research and writing - as well as to Paul KABLE, too - whom I have consulted on a number of occasions. Others in various ways - Dr Brian KABLE, Patricia KABLE Wendy CHAMPION, Dr Hilda McLEAN - all of Queensland - and Merle THOMAS, Roslyn ROBINSON and yet others - have all guided and in other ways stimulated me to delve further into our shared family history.

I have been invited to prepare a brief presentation should other more prestigious guests be unavoidably prevented from being here - and for this I thank Jane Van WOERKOM for the opportunity. Like me - she was a teacher - and we like to be prepared for all eventualities. So here I am.

And what I wish to speak about is an outline of my explorations of East Anglia - and the connections which have been made - and indeed continue - therefrom. A point of Geography. Historical East Anglia is the name given to that big south-eastern bubble of England - pushing furthest to the east out into the North Sea. It is made up of Norfolk (meaning the North Folk) and Suffolk (meaning the South Folk) - the inhabitants coming with the withdrawal of Imperial Rome in the early fifth century - and originally from that part of 5th, 6th century Angeln (or Anglia in its Latin form) of to-day's north eastern Germany - hence its general regional name in Britain of East Anglia - which in turn has led to the name England and to the name of the language - English. And by the 6th century East Anglia also included Cambridgeshire and Ely. If any of you know the great Cathedral of Ely you will know too that the general region of which I am speaking including its north-western feature of Sandringham - the Queen's Christmas residence.

In 1988 there was a general KABLE Family reunion held at the Regent Hotel (nowadays The Four Seasons) just above Circular Quay - within the footprint of which both residences lived in by Henry & Susannah and family lay - until their remove to Windsor around 1810. Having found attendance at that event impossible - and having suffered the kind of personal tragedy of which we are assuredly not alone - my wife and I pressed on with shelved plans for our Long Long Service leave - a kind of sabbatical - for three months to Europe - including a month in the UK.

BBC journalist Roger MAYNARD was in Australia in early 1988 to make a brief report on the KABLE Family reunion for airing back in East Anglia - and contacted me. I explained about my inability to attend - but mentioned plans for visiting East Anglia and he provided us with some interesting detail (especially to a visit to Walberswick on the north Suffolk coast just below the estuary mouth from Southwold - and where he had lived for 10 years) which aided our visit there a little later in that year. Roger is still in Australia - writing some important histories of the Australian involvement in the Pacific theatre of WWII - as PoWs mistreated and worse by the Imperial Japanese Forces - on Ambon - and in Naoetsu in northern Japan's Niigata-ken - and as victims of general Australian Army military leader incompetence, sad to say - and not only re Ambon but with the Sandakan Death Marches tragedy, too - though mostly this incompetence largely kept from the Australian people.

Looking back at the diary I wrote up following my visit in early-mid 1988 to East Anglia I find in my introduction that I have written the following as both instruction to myself and a rider to those many Kable relatives to whom I sent copies:

“As a practising historian I understand that it is impossible to be certain of most things. I tender my initial discoveries to you confident that you will find inaccuracies and inconsistencies and misunderstandings on my part. Unless I write it down, however, and share it with you I can never uncover the truth. Please do not hesitate to offer corrections or further insights or extra information. It is important to share our knowledge and our stories otherwise we may lose the truth. It is also imperative that we acknowledge all sources of information (as I have informally endeavoured to do in this journal) so that we may have a provenance for our histories and they do not become romanticised and trite.”

We stay in a B&B on the coast of Suffolk in Aldeburgh (famous for The Maltings at Snape - the music centre established by Sir Benjamin Britten and Peter PEARS) and the older woman managing it for her daughter has me in touch with Mark CABLE of the Royal National Life Boat service who calls around within 20 minutes of our checking in. Mark's father and paternal line back to his great x 3 grand-father Thomas CABLE - have all served with the RNLB - this common ancestor also father to the most famous RNLB man on this coastline - James CABLE (1867-1917 he served - the last 30 years as coxwain) - and back in 1988 the then current RNLB was known as the “James Cable” - (This man James CABLE had some years in Australia during the gold rush days, interestingly). Hold this history in mind because other CABLEs we meet who seemingly have a connection to us mention a connection to this James CABLE.

Mark's only son is James Matthew CABLE - then a lad of about seven - now in his late 30s - and like his paternal line - also an RNLB man! Mark has a tale of the district on the edge of Aldeburgh where he lives with his family of a huge black dog with a single burning red eye in its head which pads around in the dark. We smiled - clearly a tale to get the kids inside once dark. No, he explained - more to “put the frighteners on the customs and excise men - to keep them off the marshes” back in the smuggling past. Mark has memories of meeting Roger MAYNARD with his Red Porsche in Yoxford - which is the place where our Henry was picked up following the robbery - no doubt hiding out with CABLE relatives - of which more later. Yoxford lies more-or-less equi-distant between Alburgh/Mendham and Aldeburgh.

In 1988 it was believed that Henry CABLE senior and family lived in Mendham - but there must have been some kind of link for the robbery of Mistress Abigail HAMBLING in her Norfolk village of Alburgh (pron Arbrow) and almost visible - northwards - across the village of Mendham - just a couple of miles (if that) across the county border - maybe they *were* resident and/or stayed for a time in Godbold's Cottage (known also as Robbers Cottage - in Foxes Lane) though definitely they were from Laxfield - where Henry was born and in the Poor House (the old Guild Hall - now a little museum) in which his widowed mother Dinah CABLE was living when he sent back a letter from Sydney Cove in 1788. The distance from Mendham to Laxfield in any event is not even eight or nine kms as the crow flies - just to put things into some kind of perspective for you.

We drive to Laxfield - wander inside and outside in the churchyard of All Saints Church - noting the beautiful old Guild Hall across the road (1520) in which our Henry's mother - the now widowed Dinah CABLE - stayed - Back in her rightful Parish. Sighting nothing with the name CABLE or any of its cognates - KEABLE, CABELL, etc) in the church graveyard I head into the neighbouring Royal Oak

Pub and ask if anyone knows of CABLES in the village. We are told of Pam and Denis CABLE of nearby Owls Green. There is no one at home. The neighbour points out Denis on his tractor some fields over. He also mentions that Pam has been delving into the CABLE family tree and has established a link to Coxwain James CABLE. I write to them from Australia - and until Pam's death two or three years ago we enjoyed a constant back-and-forth exchange of letters, insights into village life and references to family history - and meet up on three further occasions through the latter 1990s/early 2000s. Their son Jonathan was a county-wide noted speaker of Suffolkesse - appearing regularly as Fred - on Lesley DOLPHIN's Friday afternoon slot on Radio BBC Suffolk - and at functions for the elderly - who appreciated his rural yokel patter. During my many years in Japan - Pam had him tape some of his routines for me - and very interesting it was to hear the accent in which our ancestors would have spoken! The humour in any event no different to that at which we smile here in Australia either - a lot of the "Dad joke" variety.

We drive on to Mendham. There is a working bee of women in the All Saints church - one of the women on her way to it recalls the television being here earlier in the year trying unsuccessfully to find headstones with the name Cable - but she is able to point out to me the then ruined cottage where the CABLE Family apparently lived at the time of the crime - a cutting from Pam CABLE later that year shows it has sold for 92 thousand pounds. Other information we come by over the years has it named as Godbolds and Robbers Cottage - in fact during World War II it housed Italian PoWs used as farm labourers. In the period since 1988 it has been beautifully restored or renovated into a single residence by a young couple Tim MOLLOY (now Head of Design at London's Science Museum, I believe) and wife Emma THOMPSON - both with interests/professional work in Museums and exhibitions - in fact around 20 years ago now my wife and I stayed a night in the house as their guests. Just before departure on this trip I had a letter from G. Paul KABLE with some information on the wisdom that our Henry had been born in Mendham:

"I think the story about Henry coming from Mendham came from a contemporary newspaper report, but you know from modern times how reporters get things wrong. Quite clearly from the Parish register he was baptised in Laxfield, his parents were married in Laxfield, they took the loot to Laxfield, his father and Abel (Abraham) CARMAN were captured in Laxfield, Henry escaped from Laxfield to be subsequently captured in Yoxford, his father was buried in Laxfield after being hanged and Henry wrote the 1788 letter to his mother Dinah addressed to Laxfield. In 1764 a baby was baptised very quickly after being born lest he/she die in a state of sin. So I am sure that he was born at Laxfield and that his parents would not have taken him on a 15-km (road) journey for baptism if they happened to be in Mendham at the time..." Paul added more to his letter: ***I really recommend a visit to Laxfield. Much of it dates from the 1780s and before....Note in the church aisle the tomb of Robert SETTLE, the curate who married Dinah and Henry senior. We stayed there and walked the lanes including the short walk to the church at Ubbeston (now a private house) where James KEABLE (All Saints Laxfield Church Clerk 1702-1728) and Elizabeth RUDD were married. I think I told you before that all four generations were spelt KEABLE at each stage of their lives. Also when the baby Henry and Susannah were transferred between transports at Cape Town, the spelling KEABLE was used, curious."***

During this later 1999 visit - my wife and I wander back down into Mendham from Godbold's or Robbers Cottage in Foxes Lane - 11 years after our first visit - noting in the church a monument to William GODBOLD - inscribed in Latin - who died in 1613 - and presumably with some connection to the Cottage in which we are staying.

Our next port of call is Alburgh - where I hope to find the scene of the crime - and at the one shop/petrol station in the hamlet Mrs Edwards is delighted. It's only a few days since Mr CAPPS of nearby Harleston has told her that one of the first sent to Australia had robbed a woman in Alburgh! But there aren't any people with the name HAMBLING in the place now. Nevertheless it is because the robbery took place here that Henry ends up in Norwich Castle Gaol - the County Gaol - as opposed to those incarcerated in Norwich City Gaol. And it is that fact, too, which means that Susannah - more than a half-year later - was also put into the Castle Gaol - and so their fate together and - via various adventures - to Botany Bay!

From this point we drive on to Thurlton - which is where we believe Susannah was working for well-to-do butcher Jabez TAYLOR. However recent contact with just recently retired Drama Teacher

Joc(elyn) MACK whose Drama class wrote and performed "The Surlingham Lass" about our Susannah - a final performance in St Mary's in Surlingham where Susannah was baptised - suggests that it was probably not Thurlton at all but a far closer village within walking distance called Thurton. It makes sense. And clearly requires some further - on the ground - research, I think.

At various stages down through the years I have been asked for information from my research - and having equally been the recipient of similar largesse from others I am always happy to assist. Nearly 20 years ago one such person was Patricia KABLE from Brisbane (her brother Dr Brian KABLE - mentioned above) planning a visit to East Anglia. She sent me a thank-you with some of her impressions in early 2000:

"I did the conducted tour of the castle (Museum) in Norwich in which Henry KABLE featured - along with a life-sized model of him. During my tour, a young boy - about eight - asked his father, 'When are going to see Henry Kable?'"

Surlingham is indeed the birthplace of Susannah HOLMES (b. 1764). When I visited there - just five miles out of Norwich - the local people gave me a very warm welcome once her name was mentioned. The Church of St Mary the Virgin is the centre of interest and information. The folk are very proud of Susannah HOLMES to the extent that one historian of the village (Jack POINTS) included a separate chapter (in his book) on Susannah. Unfortunately he did not date his publication. Her parents - Enoch Joshua HOLMES (widower) and Eunice BROOKS (spinster) were married there 14 December 1761 and she was baptised there 3 June 1764. Notice two of Henry and Susannah's children were named Eunice and Enoch. (My own great grand-father was Prosper Joshua... I note! Jim). ... I drove to Laxfield to visit Pam and Denis CABLE (thank you again). Before I left home I was given a photograph of a house in Laxfield with the claim that it was the house of Dinah CABLE (née FULLER) after Henry left England. Pam told me that it was the Laxfield Guild Hall; that it had never been a private residence, and before it was the Guild Hall it was the Poorhouse.

I took a drive through Thurlton looking for what might have been the house of Jabez TAYLOR. Since he was a butcher and reasonably well-to-do... On the way back from Laxfield I called on the MOLLOYs in Mendham... I had lunch with Saira CABLE in the Castle Mall... She showed me all the work (family history) she had done..."

Our next stop is Norwich city. This was the biggest city after London in England - from the Middle Ages through to the time of the Industrial Revolution. (Most regions and major cities of England have had their moments in the sun, to be fair.) Roger MAYNARD had suggested I call in on a friend of his at the BBC office in Norwich - Brian McNIRNEY. Never having driven in Norwich in my life - our car takes us nonetheless directly to the office carpark! Unfortunately, I am informed, Brian has recently been transferred to Newcastle-on-Tyne. I walk around the corner to the Eastern Daily Press building to see if I can find the President of the Australia-Norfolk Society as suggested to me by June WHITTAKER - she'd spoken with him on his visit to Australia in early 1987. Charles on the desk can't locate him - but tells me where to find Broadlands House (part of the huge Norwich Union Insurance company) - again in front of the place where my car is parked and I get to meet Michael DRAKE - a regional BBC newsreader among other positions - and the brother of a woman we have just recently spent some time with in Kalamata over Greek Easter - while visiting another friend there. Everything is falling into place.

We decide to leave visiting the Castle (now a Museum) and the beautiful Cathedral till the next day - and instead drive the few kms to Surlingham. The Church of St Mary the Virgin - with its unique round bell tower - is locked. A quick scan of headstones turns up nothing bearing the HOLMES name - and then via Aldeburgh and a brief chat with Mark CABLE and a plan to meet up next evening for a special launch of the RNLB James Cable - accompanied by him - we head for dinner to the Bell Pub in Walberswick recommended by Roger MAYNARD. Mark STANSELL - mine host - puts us much in mind of the actor Robert HARDY in his role as Siegfried FARNON - head of the Veterinary Clinic in that marvellous series set in the Yorkshire Dales - "***All Creatures Great and Small***" - starring Christopher TIMOTHY as James HERRIOTT. Mark reminds me that the previous afternoon when we had called in seeking accommodation that he had mentioned a Tim CABLE, picture-framer of Halesworth. Have I contacted him yet - he asks. No, but that is the plan I tell him.

Next morning we drive up to Halesworth and find the picture-framing business. The new owner tells us that we will now find Tim CABLE in Harleston - so on we go and there we find him. Tim, born some six months after me - is fascinated by the amount of material I have with me re the KABLE story and asks if he might make photo copies. Assuredly! So we follow him to the photocopy place. His eldest of three is Saira - then 11 - working on a school family-history project. He mentions that he, too, is connected by descent to Aldeburgh RNLB Coxwain James KABLE. Tim lived then at Turkey Hall in Metfield - more-or-less midway between Laxfield and Mendham. He knows the cottage we've visited in its ruined state in Mendham we've been led to believe was where Henry was born - or more likely at least - resided. It's been a good visit and the connection with Tim and his daughter Saira (now 40) - and living about two kms from St Mary's Church in Surlingham) and Tim's older brother Barrington - have continued ever since. In fact their CABLE ancestor lived in Yoxford (which means, by the way, where a yoke of oxen can ford a stream - as opposed to Oxford - a single ox) where it seems likely that our Henry hid out before his capture. In fact years later after a variety of visits to Yoxford and a number connected to the Second-hand bookshop run for a number of years by one of Tim's partners, Tim's big brother Barrington - or Barry - seems to have made the connection - a connection at any rate which seems highly likely. It goes as follows:

Barry and Tim's paternal ancestor had a coach-building business in Yoxford - which was where Henry Jr had apparently hidden out - and been captured - following the robbery in Alburgh. **Robert KEABLE - great grandfather to Barrington & Tim - was born in Yoxford in 1821 - and from there went off to London from his former coach-building to work on the beautiful Regent Street shop-fronts - the first purpose-built shopping street in London just then being developed - and dying in Worthing in Sussex. Barry believes his line goes back to Cratfield and a Robert KEABEL Jr - an overseer and churchwarden) born in 1587 - probably passed away in latter 1646 (trained as a soldier in 1644 and serving two years as an auxiliary - at the time of the First Civil War - Charles I and the Royalists versus the Roundheads led by Oliver Cromwell. The noted iconoclast William "Basher" DOWSING (1596-1668) who caused destruction to churches throughout Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 1643-1644, including that of his birthplace, Laxfield, was operating around that time.) Robert had two sons: Robert and William. Barry's line is clearly from Robert - and he strongly suspects our Australian line therefore comes from the William - one of whose grandsons therefore would have to be Laxfield All Saints church clerk Henry KEABLE (1671?-1728) the great grand-father of our Henry (1764-1846).** Maybe it's not so - but who can say either way for sure - and given that there is no other coherent narrative here - I would be happy to imagine it as highly likely.

I mentioned above that Saira was during that 1988 visit preparing a school report on her family tree. We began a kind of pen-friendship from that time - and during further visits in 1996, 1997, 1999 and in 2002 - met up with her and her husband Richard - I met her two siblings, brother Jess and younger sister Rosie - and just recently had a Christmas card and letter from Saira. And her father Tim who could probably have been something of a dead ringer for our Henry - a little taller than Henry's six-foot frame - though is more to the height of Henry's pugilist son Jack - and with soft reddish-brown hair I am sure Gladys BUSCH - Dollmaker - whom I met quite by chance many years ago in Japan where she was on a cultural tour with her work - and present here this evening - would have remarked on those similarities.

Leaving Tim in Harleston we drive back across to Surlingham - the church still locked up - but in the graveyard we find a headstone by the church doorway, though badly weathered, commemorating a Mary Cable passed away in the 1850s - and elsewhere in the churchyard another headstone to a John Cable died June 22, 1886 in the 77th year of his life.

We drive on into central Norwich and park just across from the Castle Museum - now occupying the space of what was formerly the County Gaol of Henry and Susannah's era. While paying our entry fee I casually mention to the chap on the desk that that I understand there might be some display with mention of my ancestor Henry CABLE/KABLE. He asks us to wait and makes a 'phone call to an Officer of the Museum - Nick ARBER - the then Assistant Display Officer and an expert on the castle when it was the Gaol - with some special attention to Henry CABLE and Susannah HOLMES. Extremely generous with his time - he spends an-hour-and-a-half with us - taking us down into the dungeon - a feature of school visits apparently - gruesome instruments of bondage - and a cell with the figure of our Henry in chains inside. Nick had prepared in June 1987 - not quite a year earlier - a four-page pamphlet on **The CABELLS AND THE COUNTY GAOL**. Let me read the first two paragraphs:

Norwich Mercury - 8th February 1783: Last week some villains broke into the house of Mrs Hambling of Alburgh near Harleston, in this county and during the absence of the family, who were in the city, stripped it of every moveable, took the hangings from the bedsteads, and even the meat out of the pickle cases: it is supposed they also regaled themselves with wine, having left several empty bottles behind them. The marks of the feet of horses being seen in the orchard by a neighbour, was what first led to a discovery of the burglary.

Henry CABELL and his father Henry from Mendham in Suffolk, and Abraham CARMAN from Laxfield, were arrested for the break-in and committed to the Castle in Norwich. The following month they were conveyed from Norwich to the Assize at Thetford to stand trial. All three were found guilty and condemned to be hanged on the scaffold on the Castle Hill in Norwich. However Henry CABELL Junior was reprieved and sentenced instead to transportation to America. After the Assize was over they were taken back to Norwich to await their fate. A fortnight later on 31st March, Henry's father and Abraham CARMAN were executed outside the Castle according to their sentence. ... In the November of 1783 Susannah HOLMES was committed to the Castle for burglary..."

Nick explains to us that the Spring or Lenten Assizes for County charges were always held in Thetford - whilst the late Summer Assizes were held in Norwich. The Castle Prison held only about 50 prisoners, he added - a fact which comes as a surprise to me - fed stories from my school days about overcrowded prisons and prison hulks. But what is most impressive about Nick is his concern for truth. The decency he stresses of characters such as the Gaoler, George GYNNE, of the Turnkey John SIMPSON, the actions of Lord Sydney as well - and of the prison reformer of that era - John HOWARD - need to be seen as representative of a current of humanity in late eighteenth-century society which is not normally given much emphasis - and was certainly not much foregrounded in the almost voyeuristically recountings of Robert HUGHES in his 1986 book: **The Fatal Shore**. In essence there is little to separate the kinds of people we are to-day from the kinds of people who existed back then (with the issue of class aside) merely technological changes I believe. Human nature remains the same - kindness and generosity, fairness and equality versus their opposites selfishness and assumptions of privilege-of-birth or wealth and so forth.

From our farewell to Nick - a friendship continuing till to-day - we cross to the square to the offices of the Eastern Daily Press. Charles on the desk - despite it being already 4.30 pm - telephones the library and with a security pass issued we enter to find Frances PEARCE - who will make copies for me of all the articles they have on file relating to Henry and Susannah. She tells us that she acted in the Folk Opera/musical "**The Transports**" written by UK folk singer-songwriter legend Peter BELLAMY - the story of Henry & Susannah when it was produced in Norwich some years earlier. Also in the production was her brother, Roger GAMBLE, his wife Christine and their daughter Jenny - as well as her fiancé Ray LEWIS. There are some 16 articles in the KABLE File going back to 1937 and up until April of the previous year, 1987. There are several by Jonathan MARDLE - the pseudonym of Eric FOWLER. Let me read my notes on the one from January 31 1968 - just 50 years ago - written by noted SMH journalist Helen FRIZELL - and within these files:

Titled: "The Kable Who Was First Ashore" - says that Henry came from Thetford, "an English village"/that there had just been a KABLE Family Reunion Dinner; among those present: Frank KABLE of Ormiston Qld; Mr Arthur MYERS of Toowoomba, Qld; Heather DORAHY of West Pennant Hills, NSW; Walter KABLE and son William of Coogee, NSW; Muriel KABLE of Balgowlah Heights, NSW; and June WHITTAKER of Dee Why, NSW.

And this - from a piece written by Arthur Ingham MYERS - I suspect in the 1970s - the year was missing from the clipping:

"Lovers in the First Fleet" The writer presents a light yet historically-based piece on the KABLE saga published in the Brisbane Courier-Mail. Though we may wish to quibble with the expression or interpretation of the points it makes - in broad strokes it's fine. It finishes with a paragraph on Effects! **"And so, on this Australia Day Anniversary, we can say of the lovers, Henry and Susannah that, if they had not got themselves into Norwich prison and had a**

jailer friend called John SIMPSON, John (Jack) KABLE would not have been heavyweight boxing champion of Australia, William Vandermeulen WILD would not have been elected to the first New South Wales Parliament at the early age of 23, Walter KABLE would not have been a Mayor of Bathurst; Tamworth might not have been the first town in the southern hemisphere to be lit by electricity, and thanks to another Walter KABLE, Donald HORNE would not have been around to write The Lucky Country and you would not now have to hurry for your bus through reading their story this morning.

All of the articles are instructive in one way or another - even when the story is garbled history - but when we know the significance of each of the places and the names of those involved we can sort out the assumptions from the historical truth and given the kinds of access we have nowadays to source materials and documents it all falls into place. Which is why we share our findings with each other - as I am doing with you now.

When the daylight and then the twilight goes on forever as it does in a northern European spring there is a lot one can pack into a day. Before leaving Norwich we sight the Memorial outside Norwich Cathedral to Great War Nurse Edith CAVELL - executed by the Germans during that conflict for alleged spying. I wonder to myself whether that name is also a cognate to CABELL. We return to Aldeburgh to join Mark CABLE for the special launching of the RNLB James Cable. They are scattering the ashes at sea of a former RNLB Treasurer as well as demonstrating the launching technique to a troupe of Sea Scouts. Later after dinner we are joined again by Mark who gives us what he calls a Bush Baptist maxim: "God helps those who help themselves AND God help those who get caught helping themselves"! We go with Mark to the local Club for more conversation. He mentions that it is in Laxfield that Stratford JOHNS of "**Z-Cars**" and "**Softly, Softly Taskforce**" TV fame drinks - at either the Royal Oak or at the King's Head - known as The Low House. "Mind how you go!" he farewells us.

The next morning we depart Aldeburgh - we are heading to The Scottish Borders. We drive through Yoxford - where our Henry was captured. And from there to Thetford - and the old Guildhall where the Spring Assizes for Norfolk County used to be held. Roger FRY - the Caretaker - shows us into the Small Court which is the one where the cases such as those of our ancestors would have been heard. I take my seat on the raised dais where their judges would have sat. In one of the other rooms is a bust to Thomas PAINE - the man with three citizenships (English, French and finally of the US) - the author of **The Rights of Man!**

As I am writing this comes a note from Joc(elyn) MACK - the Drama teacher I have referred to above. For the final performance by her students of "**The Surlingham Lass**" in early 2014 she had asked me to write a letter to her students - read aloud in the village church in Surlingham to the students and the assembled audience. I understand that Michael EGAN - another KABLE Descendant - a former esteemed Treasurer of NSW (1995-2005) and currently the Chancellor of Macquarie University - also wrote a note to those performers! Anyway to-day (January 14) she has sent me a link to a BBC3 studio performance - with commentary from Matthew CRAMPTON - of Peter BELLAMY's "**The Transports**" - the folk opera tale of Henry & Susannah. I have spent the morning listening to this latest version - online - thinking of Peter Bellamy - now long gone (he died at his own hand in 1991 - still only in his early 40s - depression) but of this magnificent testament to the story of how class and privilege affected ordinary folk in the latter 18th century - our ancestors - and then in so many ways of how that injustice became this adventure into the Great South Land. It is a continuing adventure. Matthew CRAMPTON links their voyage by ship - with others of the slave trade - earlier passages of convicts across to the American colonies - of those who left from the Scottish clearances - of colonisation by the English of Ireland - to seek better chances in North America - with contemporary refugees fleeing from conflicts in Syria and in northern and western Africa - and other parts, too (we know the names of Manus and Nauru - to our national shame) and their treatment by the nastier elements of political power and demonisation. As I mentioned towards the start of this - history is right now! Nothing is over and done with.

Thank-you for your attention (of listening - or perhaps of reading - should I not be giving this at The Dinner on February 10th).

Jim KABLE