
NO(R)STER NEWS

December 2003

Issue 5

If you have any suggestions for other subjects you would like covered, I'd be pleased to hear from you.

Examples could be a section for notification of Births and Marriages, or perhaps a list of contact points – whatever you want, I will try to incorporate.

If any of you are on the net, I can send this newsletter via e-mail. If you wish this, please let me have your e-mail address.

Previous copies are available to anyone who would like one.

As for me, my details remain the same:-



6 White Broom
Lymm
Cheshire
WA13 9JA

+44 (0)7941344858



e-mail family@norster.freemove.co.uk, or norster@one-name.org

I am beginning to think again of a Reunion or Family Gathering, similar to the one held in 1998. Venue and date to be decided on, and dependant on the number interested. The last one was on Portland in Dorset, so a different venue may be required this time, perhaps further north, to accommodate more people. Let me know your views, either positive or negative, so that I can begin to make arrangements. This is up to you – no responses – no meeting.

The Continuing Story... .

I was watching a program on the Travel channel called Convict Australia, which was a tour program of the convict arrears, and history of transportation.

At the end of the program, the expert in Australia was asked for his favourite convict escape story, and he replied that his favourite was a group of convicts who took over a schooner and sailed her to Japan where they sank her and arrived on shore as shipwrecked British sailors. They were repatriated, and one of them was recognized in Pall Mall by the ex Chief Constable of his home county who recognised his tattoos. He was arrested and re-transported.

I do not know how often this happened, but it is remarkably similar to Samuel who recounted his story as :-

"Transported and came out on the Bardaster. I was coxswain of the York Boat, George Town, stowed away on a schooner at the night, do not know her name, was 9 days stowed away arriving the cattle, and went to South Australia and landed in the night, no one knew I was on board, remained there about a week and shipped on board the Royal Admiral as a seaman and went to Valperiso, and then shipped on board the Visper. I was identified by a Countryman and was taken by the London Police!

Now I have more to research - just when you thought that line had finished, something else turns up - oh well.. ..

A Word of Warning..

Do not jump to conclusions. I did, and wasted a lot of time.

I am talking of Abraham Noster (1833-1874, not the transported one), who I found on the General Record Office index as dying in the registration district of Tavistock. I spent a day in Devon record office in Exeter looking for various records, and amongst them found the burial of Abraham. His address at the time was given as Dartmoor Prison.

Ok, next step, to find out why he was in the prison, what crime had he committed.

I spent a day at the National Archives at Kew, again looking up various things including John Norster (more later). Whilst ordering documents, I looked through the Assizes records for the southwest to find if he had been tried, and what for. No luck unfortunately.

I had purchased copies of 2 books about the history of Dartmoor Prison, written by a retired warder, and was reading these before my journey to London.

On my return from London, somewhat deflated as no record of Abraham had been found, I carried on reading these books.

2 days later, I found a comment that, in December 1874 a Warder by the name of Noster died and his funeral cortege passed through the village, preceded by the prison band. He must have been popular.

So, the warning is - don't assume that, just because his address is Dartmoor Prison that he was a prisoner. Time was wasted looking for a crime he didn't commit.

How did I get started, or How a Monster was Created.

Back in 1995 when I was working in Wiltshire, for 1 week, I was working mornings only. I had the thought of tracing my own family tree, but London was a long way off for an afternoon, so Sara suggested we try Dorset Records Office and try to trace her Mother's maiden name. She came up with the now famous quote - 'We all come from Portland, and there aren't many of us anyway'. We went for an afternoon. We tried to find some members of her Mother's maternal line, and failed until we hit the Census, which put them in quite a different parish.

This spurred me on, and I decided to take her at her word, and trace the Nosters. I had some success tracing back until I hit Abraham, born in 1833, son of Abraham Noster. I could not find his parents marriage anywhere. That was when I decided to start at the beginning and come forward. I started in the 1600's - records on Portland are quite sketchy then - and found no one with the name Noster. I did find, however, Nosciter and thought that sounded similar, so followed that line through. This was again quite successful until I hit the children of Francis Nossiter and Jane Byatt. They appeared to be either Norster or Noster as they felt.

I then found a link to show Abraham Nossiter was Abraham Noster - the missing link. The rest as they say is history...

John Norster (Bapt 2nd Apr 1790)

According to Portland Museum's Smuggling Role of Honour,
John Norster, seaman. Put on board H M Ship Queen Charlotte in Portsmouth
Harbour, 1822 age 32.

I traced his transfer to H M S Beaver on 3rd July 1822, prior to her sailing to the
South America Station'. I have also traced his naval career, as on 28th October
1822, he was discharged from his sentence and became an AB (basic seaman).

His naval career then consists of the following :-

1 May 1823 promoted to Gunnery Crew.

5 August 1823 - H M S Doris.

2 October 1823 - H M S Eclair.

21 October 1823 Boatswain's Mate

30 May 1825 AB

1 October 1825 Boatswain's Mate

8 June 1827 H M S Ganges.

31 October 1827 Discharged from Service - Border.

Run Samarang July 31 - this usually means that he deserted, but as he had been
discharged, why jump ship? Also, did he run to H M S Samarang, or did he jump ship in
Samarang in the Far East. I have yet to find out.

For those of you who have access to the Internet and e-mail, you can contact me
on:

Family@norster.freemove.co.uk



Or, please visit our (your) website at:

www.norster.freemove.co.uk

which has recently been updated. This newsletter will be on the website by the time
you read it. It will now give you the opportunity to see your ancestors in a normal
tree format. Please e-mail me, or write, or phone and let me know what you think of
it.