



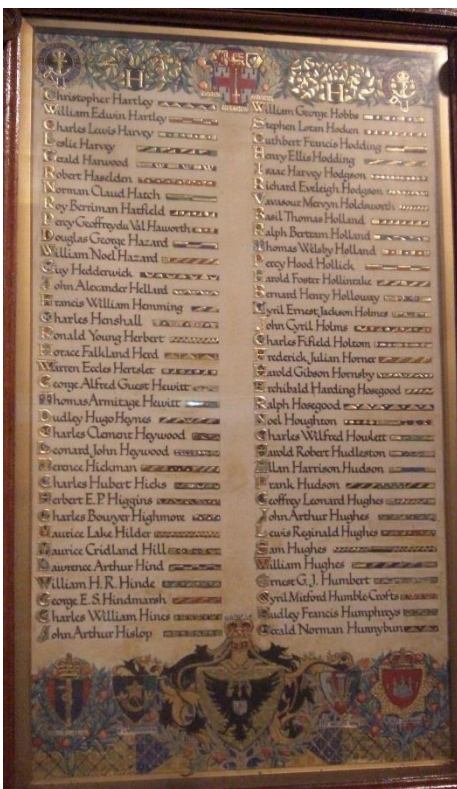
William Noel Hazard

Second Lieutenant, 14th Battalion Welsh Regiment

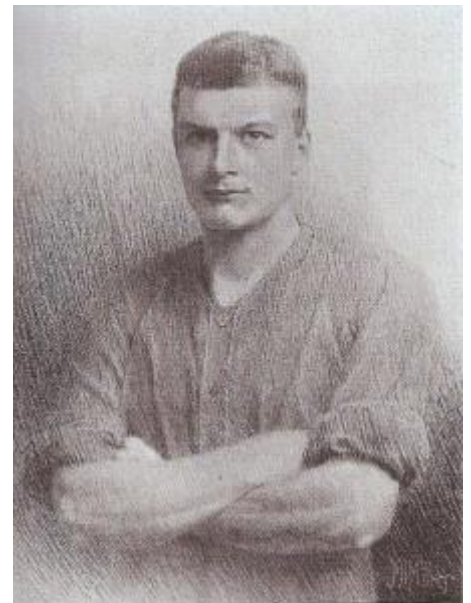
Formerly 13340 Private, 6th Battalion Dragoon Guards

He was killed in action on 26th August 1918 in France, aged 25

William is buried at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France



William Noel Hazard was the oldest son of William Henry Hazard and Marguerite nee Tooth, a lady born in Australia. At the time of William Noel's birth, they had recently moved from London to Harrolds, Pulham Mary. William Noel was privately educated at Southwold then went onto Lancing College where an impressive academic career was balanced by his activities in the OTC. On leaving school he was articled to his father's firm, to become the fourth generation of Hazards, mostly Williams to practice in Harleston.



He is also commemorated on the Chancery Lane Memorial;

1914 1918 "Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out." "They Died That We Might Live." Hic Manus Ob Patriam Pugnando Vulnera

Passi. Quique Sui Memores Aliquos Fecere Merendo. In Memory of 1016 Solicitors and 716 Articled Clerks Who Laid Down Their Lives For Their Country and In Defence of the Rule of Law Which They Held Sacred. 1914-1918.

For decades the Hazards were associated with Caltofts, the grandest house in Harleston. Caltofts' status, above that of other substantial properties in the town, was partially due to the extensive grounds that surrounded it and partially due to the distance it was set back from the bustle and noise of the Market Place. When I say Market Place, it is important to recognise that originally this was a large triangular area, bounded by Broad St leading into the Old Market Place, Exchange Street on the short side and the Thoroughfare on the other long side.

To be SOLD,
 And entered at MICHAELMAS next.
A Very commodious HOUSE, pleasantly situated in HARLESTON, in Norfolk, heretofore the Residence of Daniel Sayer, Gentleman, deceased, consisting of a very good Kitchen, three Parlours in Front, ten Chambers with convenient Closets, Garrets, Cellar, Stable, Backhouse, and every other Office suitable to a Gentleman's House, extensive Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens in Perfection, Fish Ponds, and upwards of forty Acres of excellent Land contiguous; the Land is under a Lease, which will expire at Michaelmas 1786.
 The Premises are calculated for the Residence of a genteel Family, and are entirely Freehold.
 Harleston is a very pleasant small Market Town on the Confines of Norfolk; within eighteen Miles of Norwich, ten of Diss, seven of Bungay, and about twenty Miles of Lowestoft, a Place much resorted to for Sea-bathing; a Coach passes through Harleston every Day to and from London and Yarmouth.
 Further Particulars may be had by applying to Mr. Donne, Norwich; Messrs. Schuldhams, Mellish, or Mitchell, Attornies, Saxmundham, Suffolk; Mr. Turrell, Attorney, Harleston; or to Mr. Robins, of Furnival's Inn, London.

For many years Caltofts, whose very magnitude could prove to be a bit of white elephant, and may have been the downfall of at least one of its inhabitants, was the home of the most important solicitor in town, houses tended to travel with occupation so, for instance, for decades, Candler was associated with Doctors, the corner of Swan Lane with chemists and Caltofts with solicitors.

Norfolk Chronicle
 3 Sep 1785

Way back in 1729, local solicitor Daniel Say was working in Harleston; whilst I have no documents linking him to Caltofts, his son, also a solicitor by the name of Daniel Say had lived in Caltofts until his death in 1785 whereupon the house was up for sale.

The Says were followed in turn by the Carthews; although he came from a well to do background, (his father had inherited Benacre Hall in Suffolk) by the time George Carthew (of Carthew and Webb according to the sale particulars of the Starston Gate in 1813) was practicing in Harleston, finances were tight. This led to his son, George Alfred Carthew spending more time working as an apprentice in his father's office than going to school. George Alfred Carthew's two younger brothers died young; 15-year-old Charles Carthew's ship, sloop H.M.S. Redwing, went down with all hands off the coast of Sierra Leone in 1827. When young Carthew joined Redwing, she was involved in chasing pirates and slavers off the West African Coast. Redwing sailed from Sierra Leone in June 1827 and was never seen again. Wreckage washed ashore in November near Mataceney suggested that lightning had started a fire that destroyed her. The other brother, Robert Isaac, died in Hampstead in 1821, aged 21.

George Carthew unfortunately went bankrupt in 1837 but managed to carry on in the town. Carthew's wife's death in 1858 is marked on the family tomb in Redenhall – the stonemason having made rather a botched effort to change a mistaken 'S' in the middle of Elizabeth's name to a 'Z'! As late as 1856, a George Carthew was listed as a 'perpetual commissioner for taking acknowledgements of married women'. Carthew finally died in 1861, having survived a tangle with the Victorian equivalent of boy racers three years earlier.

The Halesworth Times and East Suffolk Advertiser
 27 Jul 1858

HARLESTON.
ACCIDENT.—An accident occurred on Friday last, to Mr. Carthew, an elderly gentleman, and highly respected inhabitant of this town. It appears two boys, noted for their furious driving, and who had been frequently warned, were proceeding through the streets at a very rapid pace, the driver of the first vehicle looking back in order to ascertain what progress the second was making, when the poor gentleman was knocked down and both vehicles passed over him. Although no bones are believed to be broken, some very severe contusions were sustained.

His only surviving son George Alfred Carthew, after a period working with his father launched his independent Solicitor's career in Dereham. By 1881, 73 years old George Alfred Carthew had been both married and widowed of his wife, who was also his cousin, and was living at Mill Field House in Dereham, joined by a 43-year-old unmarried niece (a companion perhaps), and a live-in housekeeper, cook and housemaid. Over his coach house he also had a gardener with wife. 'Mill

Field House' was quite a substantial establishment! We can assume that part of his wealth came from his lands, a tithe list has him owning 6 Acres and 20 pole of land with an annual rental income of £93 7s¹ However, much as his father at Caltofts, he too may have been living slightly beyond his means, several sources cite his lack of funds as impeding his antiquarian pursuits and it is for his antiquarian publications that this small-town solicitor is remembered today. George Arthur choose to have his body returned from Dereham for internment in the family vault alongside his wife and parents.

As Carthew Snr's powers faded, the Hazards came into greater prominence. The founder of the Harleston Hazards, William Snr, was a Nottingham born attorney at law, who appeared some-where in Church Street in 1841. His wife, Elizabeth nee Parslee had died in town in 1835, aged only 35 and was buried by the Rev. Oldershaw, not his curate, indicating the family already had some status. William Snr's motherless sons, William Martin and Thomas were being boarded at Mr Bucks Harleston School whilst his daughters, Elizabeth and Anne were boarding at a clergyman's home in Weybread. There was a fifth, oldest child, Charles, born on 22nd of December 1826 but I can only find him in one census, the one from 1871.

In 1851 the family, with the exception of Charles, were reunited and the boys were being trained to follow in their widowed father's footsteps - the two daughters of course would not be expecting a career! Documents of the time show that Hazard was working on Carthew's staff since at least the 1820' and I suspect by the 1850's at least one of his son's was casting envious eyes at Caltofts.

William Snr died in 1856, aged only 57, by 1861 his elder son William Martin Hazard was at the Gurneys Bank, combining his legal skills with that of Bank Agent. William Martin was married, to Mary, but also had his sister Annie, a visitor and several servants in the household. His brother, Thomas, like his father had been widowed early and in his case was left with a boy and a girl to raise. Thomas was practicing in London, Finsbury to be precise and had three servants to help look after himself, his son, William Henry (William Noel's father) and his daughter Anna, named for her aunt. Whilst his children had both been born in Stoke Newington, Thomas had imported his staff from South Norfolk: Rushall, Mendham and Harleston to be precise.

Thomas stayed on in London, the 1871 census reveals, the oldest, unmarried, brother, Charles, who had overcome the handicaps of being deaf and dumb since birth, to become a Senior Clerk at Somerset House, the national registry of births, deaths and marriages. Thomas' staff had changed in the last 10 years but still came from East Anglia, a pattern that recurred in 1881. Thomas may have remained up in London but he kept his fingers in Harleston property pies, his name appearing on various property deeds at the time

Meanwhile William Martin Hazard was working hard in Harleston and had achieved his ambition of moving into Caltofts, possibly immediately after Carthew's death. I suspect he had been eyeing the house enviously since he was a lad learning his trade with his father on the opposite side of the street. He had truly 'arrived' by the 1860's, this being the decade he purchased the title, and associated incomes, of Lord of the Manor from the Duke of Norfolk.

Sadly, William Martin and his wife were to remain childless, instead Hazard was heavily involved in the church and protecting his territory. Many years ago, there was pond in Broad Street which, by the 1860's, tended to dry out in the summer, and had been largely if not entirely filled in. Up in Caltofts, William Henry Hazard, who had bought the title and associated incomes of Lord of the Manor from the Duke of Norfolk, decided that the soil forming the base of the pond was his as the

¹ 1871 - Norfolk Tithe and Land owners



pond abutted his garden wall; as the law stood at the time he seems to have had some grounds for making such a case and he had in fact 'taken in' as his right, about a foot of the pond when said garden wall was built.

In this 1839 map, the pond can be seen just north of the opening into Union Street, hard against the boundary of Caltofts, Caltofts itself can be seen on the extreme right disappearing into the fold of the map

So, in 1868, when a local publican, Charles Pearce, attempting, as was his customary practise, to cash in on the opportunities offered by a fair buy putting up a beer tent, clashed with the desires of this local bigwig, William Hazard, to raise the tone of the area. Hazard, failing to peacefully negotiate the removal of the beer tent he felt impinged on his territory, namely the dry pond in Broad Street, ordered some of his men to forcibly remove the booth. This was in spite of the market manager confirming the booth had been put in the appropriate place; when asked to intervene on behalf of Hazard, the local policeman refused to do so. The upshot of all this was that Hazard then called in some of his servants to destroy the booth.

This high-handed attitude did not go down well with the local magistrates, they decided Hazard was in the wrong, Hazard decided to pursue his case in the district court and unfortunately Pearce turned up late, ill prepared and without his solicitor – Hazard won.

In 1873 the Old Chapel of Ease, which had stood in Harleston since 1402 was being demolished whilst the 'new and handsome structure on the east side of the town adjoining the grounds of W.M.Hazard Esq' had been completed in June 1872. This new chapel, St John's church as it now is, had a clear and unobstructed view to the open country to the east! Many locals rather resented the demolishing of their shabby but much-loved chapel, and I must confess I am less than a fan of Mr William Martin Hazard who seems to have been awfully keen over the years on sanitising and standardising this lively town into a state of Victorian rectitude. His part in the demolition of the ancient chapel is particularly galling and I would tend to think was as much about his personal glory as the benefit of the town!

William Martin died in 1883, aged only 55, much the same age as his father, his death provoked his brother Thomas's return to Harleston from London to take over the business, but not yet Caltofts. William Martin's estate was substantial, over £76,000. As well as a number of properties in town he also had 43 acres, 9 dwellings, general shop, blacksmiths shop and orchard in Needham, Weybread, Denton and Alburgh.

PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT.

GEORGE DURRANT has received instructions from the Trustees for Sale under the Will of the late W. M. HAZARD, Esq., to Sell by Auction at the Swan Hotel, Harleston, on Thursday, 12th June, 1884, the undermentioned portion of the Real Estates of the Deceased, viz.:-

IN HARLESTON, NORFOLK.

In 1 or 5 Lots.—The RESIDENCE known as "Caltofts," with Pleasure Grounds, Conservatory, Vineria, Gardens, Stables, Yards and Premises, late in the occupation of the Deceased, together with the Lodge and Meadows adjoining, containing together about 11 Acres.

Lot 6.—The Little Camping Close MEADOW adjoining, containing 5A. 2R. 17P.

Lot 7.—The Kitchen GARDEN, containing 32 Perches, adjoining premises of Mr. Charlish and others and Lot 8.

Lot 8.—The SHEDS, YARD, and DRYING-GROUND, in the Old Crown Yard, adjoining Lot 7.

Lot 9.—The STABLES, SLAUGHTER-HOUSE and PREMISES in the same Yard, partly occupied by Mrs. Bryenton.

Lot 10.—COTTAGE and GARDEN, adjoining Lot 9, occupied by Mr. Robert Moore.

Lot 11.—The BAKE-OFFICE and Premises adjoining the Cottage Hospital.

Lot 12.—The DWELLING-HOUSE and Premises used as the reading-room, and occupied by Mr. Owles.

Henry Lombard Hudson, from the steam mill at the far end of the town bought Caltoft's and the land immediately around it for the sum of £2,250 – a princely sum. I do not expect he had any intention of living in the house but probably purchased the property with a mind to letting it out. Whether the Hazards later re-purchased the house or merely rented I cannot tell at the moment.

Norfolk Chronicle
3 May 1884

Shortly after his return to Harleston, William Noel's grandfather Thomas, having been widowed for a quarter of a century or so, gained himself a second, locally born wife in 1889. Tragically

like both his brother and father he died in middle age, only 59, in 1890 a year after his marriage. It was during this short period between the death of his brother and his own death that the gates to Caltofts were thrown open to events such as the Harleston Horticultural Show, special trains laid on from Diss for the event which also included sports and other delights and side shows. Slightly confusingly it appears he did not move straight into Caltofts, a Mrs R Carrs Youngs was resident during the late 1880's, probably until Thomas decided to bring his new bride to the house, which judging by staff recruitment notices would have been 1890, almost immediately before his death.

Theford & Watton Times and People's Weekly Journal
26 Apr 1890

In 1891 Thomas' slightly shell-shocked new wife, Margaret Elizabeth nee Allsop, was left in Caltofts with her new step-daughter, 32 years old Anna Mary Hazard, only 8 years younger than herself. Her step son, Thomas, would have been only 6 years her junior - I wonder what that dynamic was like!

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS HAZARD.—It is with much regret that we announce the death of Mr. Thomas Hazard, senior partner in the firm of Hazard and Pratt, solicitors, Harleston. It took place at about 6 a.m. on Saturday morning at his residence, "Caltofts, Harleston." The deceased gentleman had been ailing for some weeks from an attack of influenza. Although not wholly-laid up it has for some time been known that his condition was serious. He was of a very unassuming, quiet, and retiring disposition, and his death is sincerely regretted. Although a native of the parish Mr. Hazard had only resided in Harleston since the death of his brother in 1883, when he assumed the position of principal of the firm referred to. The deceased gentleman, who was twice married—the second time only a few months since—was in his 59th year.

Thomas's second wife may have been allowed to stay on at Caltofts, caring for her stepdaughter, until August 1896, when William Henry appears to be stripping the place of all contents from furniture and silver plate to chickens and a dog cart. Marguerite was certainly in the area in early August,

ON THURSDAY NEXT.

CALTOFTS, HARLESTON.

SEWELL & BARNES are favoured with instructions from W. H. Hazard, Esq., to Sell by Auction, on THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 1896, at Eleven o'clock, a portion of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and OUT-DOOR EFFECTS, comprising Steel and Brass Rail Fenders and Fireirons, Brass Fireguards, Brussels Carpets, Writing and Fancy Tables, Mahogany Telescope Dining Table, Spanish Mahogany Sideboard, Walnut Chesterfield Settee, Table and Reading Lamps, Oak and Gilt Chimney Glasses, Engravings,

210 OZS. PLATE,

300 vols. Books, Glass, China, Kitchen and Culinary Utensils, the Appointments from Six Bedrooms, Green's Lawn Mower, Iron Balance Roll, Garden Chairs, Two Hand Watercarts, Tools, Turner's Oat Crusher, 1/2-Load Tumbrel, Set of Brass Mounted Harness, Fourteen Fowls, Dog Cart by Feaviour, Wagonette by Botwood, and Bay Hackney Mare 16hh. lin.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneers, Queen Street, Norwich.

attending the funeral of a brother in law (on her side of the family) in Bungay. However, in September 1896, Anna Mary at the mature age of 37 married a Reverend Gentleman, even though she had to go all the way to Winnepeg, Manitouba to do so. I suspect at this point poor old Margaret was out on her ear, it was not unusual for a second wife (until she produced her own children) to be granted certain rights until the youngest child was adult, in the case of sons, or married, in the case of daughters.

Eastern Daily Press Norfolk, 8th Aug 1896

Meanwhile, in the manner of this family, following the death of his father, Thomas's son, William Henry Hazard, followed in his father's footsteps and also returned to the district, in his case to Pulham Mary, (a 5 minute train journey from Harleston) bringing his somewhat younger Australian born wife Marguerite (not to be confused with his stepmother Margaret) with him, presumably to pick up the reins of his father's business after his untimely death. Wisely, both Thomas and his son, William Henry, kept continuity in the business by employing William Martin's former Clerk, Thomas Pratt who went on to become a solicitor in his own right. Pratt became a partner in the business in or before 1896 until his retirement in 1908. Another chap, Walter Cordwell, joined William M Hazard when only 14 back in 1871 and continued until he retired with ill health 50 years later! Sadly, he then promptly died but at least the Hazards attended his funeral.

William Noel the oldest child of William Henry and Marguerite's marriage, was born in Pulham in 1893. Robert Valentine, Janet, Charles and Joyce followed in roughly 2-year intervals.

The family made the move from Harrolds in Pulham, to Caltofts, in 1901, almost immediately after the census, this move is remarked on when Pulham Church gave thanks for a stained-glass panel that William Henry had funded. Christopher Martin and Rosalind Anne appear at Caltofts in the 1911 census claiming Harleston birth.

Although William Noel appeared in London as a 17-year-old accountants clerk in the 1911 census, I think this was temporary blip and soon after he was articled to his father's firm, earning his place on the Chancery Memorial.

As did so many young Harleston men, William Noel joined the local territorial unit, gaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on the 16th of April 1914, although he was living in Putney at the outbreak of war. His unit became the 2/4th Battalion and unlike the 1/4th and 1/5th, which wound up being decimated in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign and also served in the tough Egyptian and Palestine Theatres, his was designated a second line Battalion. William Noel would have known all too well of the men from his town who died in these arenas.

His situation must have been even more galling in light of what his younger brother, Robert Valentine Hazard was up to. Robert was seconded to the Machine Gun Corps on the 19th of August 1916 and promptly sent to Egypt to guard positions on the Suez Canal. Lt Hazard took part in the First Battle

of Gaza on the 26th of March 1917. During this confrontation his pack animals, came under fire whilst Robert Valentine, acting on his own initiative, led his men to rescue these animals avoiding an almost certain stampede which would have led to loss of both men and animals. He was involved in the Second Battle of Gaza on the 19th April, and the mopping up after the Third Battle of Gaza (2nd of November to the 4th of November 1917). Seconded to the Machine Gun Corps from the 4th of November 1917 finally re-joined the 2nd Battalion Norfolk Regiment on the 1st April 1921 having made the army his career. He served with the Norfolks in Aden and in Nigeria where he was attached to the 3rd Battalion Nigerian Regiment. On the 12th of November 1924, he died, probably of yellow fever, at the Calabar European Hospital, Nigeria in 1925.

Meanwhile, William Noel's military career becomes most confusing as he determinedly attempted to get into the thick of war. Resigning from the Norfolk Regiment on the 25th of January 1916, he gave the reason "Resigned on finding I had no chance of foreign service with that unit." He re-enlisted 3 days later at Waterford as a private soldier, Trooper 14571 in the 12th Lancers when his height was given as an impressive 6ft 2". Posted to 3rd Reserve Cavalry in February 1916, promoted to L.Cpl on the 21st of July, he was finally transferred, as a private, to the 6th Dragoon Guards on the 31st August, embarking to France the same day. I suspect he found war as a private not quite what he was expecting as he applied to be re-commissioned in December of the same year. This led to him being sent back from France in March 1917 and winding up being trained in Rhyl, Wales in June of that same year. He got his commission, in the 14th Welch, on the 26th of September 1917. William Noel survived until almost the end of the war but was killed as his unit was pursuing retreating German troops. The exact date of his death is a little uncertain, although the CWGC states his death to be on the 27th of August, his mother, Marguerite Hazard, received a telegram on the 2nd of September 1918 stating



"Deeply regret 2/Lt. W.N. Hazard Welsh Regiment killed in action August twenty sixth. The Army Council express sympathy." This is the date held in the battalion history and his school records.

During WW1 the Hazard parents were also doing their bit having given up their home to be used as a hospital. It was during this time that a tablecloth

was signed by many of the staff, passing big-wigs and patients at the hospital. This tablecloth re-emerged in recent years having been tucked away by Miss Ellen de Jerzey Forrest, one of the nurses who also happened to live in the Hazards former home in Pulham. Some twenty years after the end of the war, she gave it to Mrs Adcock, a lady who had been helping her towards the end of her life. Her daughter Pauline recently transferred it to the care of Terry Pegg of the Harleston & District Branch of the Royal British Legion. See <http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/harleston/ww1-tablecloth> for both images and more information.

Perhaps if William Martin Hazard had had children, Hazards would still be at Caltofts, still sorting out the legal problems of the folks of Harleston. However, the baton passed to Thomas, who I suspect would have preferred to remain in London. One of his children married out in Canada, the other, William Henry, who carried on the Harleston tradition and wound up back in Caltofts where his father had died, married an Australian born girl. His oldest son, William Noel, itching to catch up with the activities of his younger brother, died out in France, this second son, Robert Valentine had no intention of returning to Harleston and remaining in the military, he died in Nigeria. The third son, Charles Gower Hazard, had followed his father and was working as the fourth generation of Harleston solicitors when he died in 1932. He actually died in St Andrews Norwich but was buried in Redenhall. I struggle to read the details on his death certificate, looks like pulmonary sturation – pneumonia, T.B?. The youngest brother, Christopher Martin Hazard, a school-teacher and the only one of the four boys still alive, having done his bit in WW2, then emigrated to Kenya in February 1946 to die in Nairobi in 1977 aged 74.

It seems not only to be the boys who scattered to the four winds: -

Joyce Winifred, born in 1901, set off solo to Australia in 1922, Janet Mary M, born 1899 did the same in 1924 and last but not least, Rosalind Ann, by then a teacher, had her go in December 1934 by which time her widowed mother's estate would have been tied up. Rosalind did return to East Anglia, dying in Ely in 1987, aged 81. Whether the other girls married, returned to England, remained single, stayed in Australia or not I do not know. However, with the death of Charles, that was the end of 100 years of Hazards in Harleston.

William Henry, father of all those gallant boys and girls seems to have died in Rye in 1927. William Henry's widow, Marguerite died in Reigate in 1934, by which time Christopher Martin was a teacher in Winchester and her daughter Rosalind Anne was living in Horley. Caltofts may have seemed the epitome of William Martins ambitions but, although he died a very wealthy man, he died early and childless, leaving his brother to continue the family business, Thomas died more or less immediately he moved into Caltofts, leaving his new bride to care for an adult step daughter not much younger than herself, until this lady married and her step mother was out on her ear.

A picture, judging by the ages of the children, that was taken not long before 1914 depicts a handsome mother and a slightly haggard looking father surrounded by their 7 children. Caltofts must

have seemed large and empty after the end of the war as the two boys who were destined to carry on the Harleston tradition had died prematurely, the other two could not shake the dust of the town from their feet fast enough. Like Carthew, a century earlier, William Henry lost one of his boys in conflict far from home and another was snatched from him, as a young man, by illness. The three girls struck out for Australia although the youngest waited until her mother had died.

The Hazards and 'Bingo' the dog.

Mary Hazard, wife of William Martin survived until the age of 98, when she too was returned, in 1931, to Redenhall to be buried having survived her husband William Martin, her brother in law Thomas, her nephew William Henry and at least 3 of his children.

Oddly, although the family had been in town for a century, unlike other families, such as the Drakes, the Hazards do not seem to have embedded themselves in town life. The children were sent away to school and I suspect the adults were too conscious of their dignity to immerse themselves in frivolities such as bowls and jumble sales. Their generosity was on a grander and more formal scale including donation of the land to the side of the chapel, which they had themselves donated almost half a century earlier and on which the Celtic cross marking Harleston and Wortwell's war dead was to be built.

