Nil *Desperandum*

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club

ISSUE 33 December 2022 Never Alone

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Nil *Desperandum*

ISSUE 33 *December 2022* *Never Alone*

It's a Long Story

This selection is from page(s): 18-20 of the book "It's a Long Story" by Willie Nelson, published by Back Bay Books / Little Brown and Company. © Copyright 2015 by Willie Nelson

A school-aged Texan named Willie Nelson became enamoured of becoming a cowboy and a singer:

"My first foray out of the tiny world of Abbott into the larger world of Texas was a six-mile bike ride to west, where there was a large community of Czechs. They spoke in different accents, attended the Catholic Church, and had nothing against drinking beer. I was fascinated by the presence of these people who had crossed a great ocean and somehow wound up in Hill County.

"I was fascinated by the very fact of being alive – that my heart beat to the rhythm of life under the sun of the huge Texas sky, that my eyes took in the amazing sights of cotton gins and horse-drawn plows [ploughs] and far-off fields scorched brown under the summer heat or blooming green grass in the early days of spring.

"My eyes were even more amazed by what I saw on the screen of the Best Movie Theater in West – an even wider world whose heroes were more than mere men in white hats who shot straight and caught the bad guys. They were men who cradled guitars in their arms and sang the stars down from the heavens. They moved through the world, serenading away the sinister side of life.

"Even though they were macho men who feared no rustler, they sang sweetly, effortlessly, and proudly. I saw that a cowboy hero is a romantic lover of life with a song on his lips, a funny sidekick close by, and a beloved horse on whose back he rides the trails of life.

"First viewed in the small movie theaters of West and Hillsboro, Texas, the Western became an early and beautiful obsession. The Western was all about daring and danger. Up on the big screen, these fearless cowboys were my first heroes. Their moral lessons, like the lessons of the Methodist church, were clear. You live life based on loyalty. You stay on the right side. You protect your own. And when the going gets rough and the day grows dark, you pick up your guitar and soothe your soul by singing the pain away.

"Their songs -- eternal anthems like 'Happy Trails to You' and 'Back in the Saddle Again' -- weren't sung in Church, but they entered my soul and informed my heart with the impact of the holy hymns taught by [the grandmother who raised me] Mama Nelson. They were all about the great adventure. Early on, I yearned for a great adventure of my own.

"Years later I learned that these songs, whether written by Gene Autry or tunesmiths out in Hollywood, signaled the start of a category called country western music.

"Like most every little boy in the America of the late thirties, I wanted to be a cowboy, whether Wild Bill Elliott, Lash LaRue, Eddie Dean, Whip Wilson, or Hopalong Cassidy. But how can you be a cowboy without a horse? And living in a one-horse town like Abbott, that can be a problem. Fact is, Abbott was a no-horse town 'cause the only steed belonged to Mr Harvel, who lived two miles outside town.

"On a sunny day in summer, I'd walk out to his place and ask if I could take a little ride. "'Sure thing, little Willie,' he'd say. 'Just don't go too far.' Sitting on top of that old nag, I pretended to be Tex Ritter riding the plains of Wyoming until a friend spotted me and called out, 'Hey, Willie. You look like you 'bout to fall off that thing.'

"'Not gonna happen,' I said. And it never did. Been a comfortable rider all my life. From an early age, I was also comfortable writing poems. I liked stringing words together and telling little stories. I liked the fun of rhyming, the easy flow of expressing my feelings.

"Mama and Daddy Nelson were big on proper speech. In addition to giving us music lessons, they taught us elocution. And though Bobbie and I were essentially shy country kids, they encouraged us to perform before the public, especially when the appearance was part of a religious event.

"The seminal event happened when I was four or five. My grandparents had given me a poem to read in front of a gala outdoor tabernacle meeting in Brooking, Texas. The day was part-revival, part-picnic. You'd eat, you'd pray, you'd hear some preaching, you'd do some singing.

"This went on all afternoon. Mama Nelson had dressed me up in an all-white sailor suit. The outfit brought me pride, but the idea of reciting a poem in front of this huge audience gave me jitters. Just before I was set to go on, I started picking my nose. I was nervous and didn't realise how deeply I had dug into my skin. When I hit the stage, red blood was pouring all over my white suit. Right then and there, I ditched the poem and improvised a new one on the spot.

What are you looking at me for?
I got nothing to say
If you don't like the looks of me
You can look another way

"That's how I got the nickname Booger Red."

Comment from Martin Pollins

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Suffolk - a great place to visit

On my wife's 40th birthday, we journeyed to the Suffolk coast as it was a place neither of us had visited before, and her family had roots there, going back to the mid-1600s. For those who are not familiar with the area, Suffolk is an East Anglian county of ancient origin. It borders Norfolk in the North, Essex to the south and Cambridgeshire to the west. To the east, there is the North Sea.

In my younger days, I had been to the Norfolk Broads, but never to Suffolk.

About Suffolk

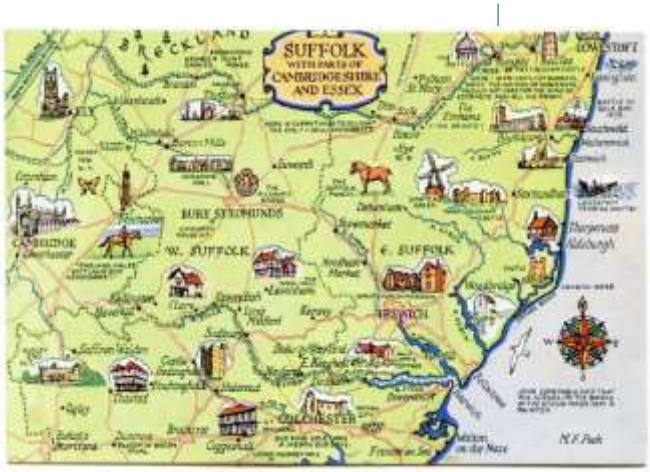
The county town is Ipswich. Other important towns include Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, and Felixstowe:

- ***Lowestoft*** lies on the edge of *The Broads*. It is the most easterly UK settlement, 110 miles northeast of London, 38 miles northeast of Ipswich and 22 miles southeast of Norwich. The port town developed out of the fishing industry and as a seaside resort with wide sandy beaches. As its fisheries declined, oil and gas exploitation in the southern North Sea in the 1960s added to its development. These roles have been reduced, but Lowestoft is developing as a regional centre of the renewable energy industry.
- ***Bury St Edmonds*** (commonly referred to locally as Bury) is a historic market and cathedral town. The town (formerly called *Beodericsworth*) was built by Abbot Baldwin around 1080 and is known for brewing, malting and sugar processing. It is the cultural and retail centre for West Suffolk, with tourism being a significant part of its economy.
- ***Newmarket*** is famous in the equine world with the headquarters of British horseracing, home to the country's largest cluster of horse training yards and many key horse racing organisations, including the National Stud and Newmarket Racecourse. Tattersalls bloodstock auctioneers and the National Horseracing Museum are also in the town.
- ***Felixstowe*** is the only seaside resort in East Anglia to face southwards with the largest container port in the UK. It is named after *Felix of Burgundy*, a saint and the first bishop of the East Angles in the 7th century. Before the 13th century, the resort was called Walton. Felixstowe played an important role in both world wars – see Imperial War Museum, HERE.

The Anglo-Saxon settlement of Suffolk and East Anglia happened on a large scale - it may have followed a period of depopulation by the descendants of the Iceni* who had, by the 5th century, established control of the region. The Anglo-Saxon inhabitants later became the "north folk" and the "south folk", from which developed the names "Norfolk" and "Suffolk". Suffolk and several adjacent areas became the kingdom of East Anglia, which later merged with Mercia and then Wessex.

* The Iceni were a tribe of British Celts living in today's modern Norfolk and northwest Suffolk. After the Roman invasion, they retained their territory as a client kingdom. In 47 AD, the Iceni rose in revolt after the Romans tried to enforce a law forbidding the carrying of weapons.

Our destination was the Suffolk Coast, designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The coast is the nearest one to London and has remained largely undisturbed.



Picture Credit: "Postcard map of Suffolk with parts of Cambridgeshire and Essex" by Alwyn Ladell is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Famed for its food and wholesome fresh produce, it is hardly surprising that it is a popular destination for holidaymakers. Below, I share details of some of the tourist spots. Apologies for those not shown.

Tourist Spots and the Coast

- ***Aldeburgh:*** the town, which lies North of the River Alde, was home to Benjamin Britten. The centre of the International Festival of Arts at nearby Snape Maltings since 1948, it remains an art and literary centre, with an annual poetry festival and several food festivals and other events. As a Tudor port, *Aldeburgh* gained borough status in 1529 under *King Henry VIII*. Its historic buildings include a 16th-century moot hall and a Napoleonic-era Martello Tower.

  Visitors are attracted to *Aldeburgh's* Blue Flag shingle beach and fisherman huts, where fresh fish are sold daily. In the 16th century, *Aldeburgh* was a leading port with a thriving shipbuilding industry. Its importance as a port declined as the River Alde silted up, as larger ships could no longer berth there, and it survived mainly on fishing until the 19th century when it also became a seaside resort. A unique quatrefoil Martello Tower stands at the isthmus leading to the *Orford Ness* shingle spit.

- ***Cavendish Village:*** this is one of the prettiest villages in Suffolk. It is famous for its thatched cottages and picturesque green, set against a backdrop of the historic Saint Mary's Church and the Five Bells free house. It was home to Sir John Cavendish, the ancestor of the Dukes of Devonshire, who helped suppress the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

  Leonard Lord Cheshire and his wife, Sue Ryder, are buried in *Cavendish* Cemetery, and there is a memorial to them within St Mary's Church. As *Cavendish* was begun as a home for concentration camp survivors, Sue Ryder's charity has records of some people rescued by her.

- ***Clare:*** *Clare* is a market town on the north bank of the River Stour. It lies in the "South and Heart of Suffolk". Clare won Village of the Year in 2010 and the 2011 Anglia in Bloom award for Best Large Village for its floral displays. In March 2015, *The Sunday Times* and *Zoopla* placed *Clare* amongst the top 50 UK rural locations.

  Clare and its vicinity reveal evidence of man's long habitation throughout prehistory. The historical record demonstrates a community that changed yet persisted across centuries, from the Norman Conquest through religious differences, agricultural upheaval and the industrial revolution to the present day.

- ***Haverhill:*** *Haverhill* is a market town and civil parish in Suffolk, next to the borders of Essex and Cambridgeshire. It dates back to at least Anglo-Saxon times, and the town's market is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. Whilst most of its historical buildings were lost to the great fire on 14th June 1667, one notable Tudor-era House remains (reportedly given to Anne of Cleves as part of her divorce from Henry VIII) and many other interesting buildings.

- ***Lavenham:*** The village of *Lavenham* was once one of the wealthiest settlements in England. Today, it is a popular day-trip destination for people from far and wide. It prospered from the wool trade in the 15th and 16th centuries, with the town's blue broadcloth being an export of note.

  In 1487, Henry VII fined several *Lavenham* families for displaying too much wealth. The town's prosperity at this time can be seen in the lavishly constructed wool church of *St Peter* and *St Paul,* completed in 1525, which is disproportionately large for the size of the village. Other buildings also show off the town's medieval wealth, such as the 1529 Guildhall of the catholic guild of Corpus Christi overlooking the market square. Cheap imports from Europe contributed to the decline of the wool trade in *Lavenham*, and by 1600 it had lost its reputation as a notable trading town.

  During the reign of Henry VIII, *Lavenham* was the scene of serious resistance against taxes to pay for the war with France. In the late 18th century, the village was home to poet *Jane Taylor*, who wrote the poem The Star, from which the lyrics for the nursery rhyme Twinkle Twinkle Little Star are taken.

- ***Long Melford:*** the large village of *Long Melford* (aka *Melford*) lies on Suffolk's border with Essex by the River Stour. It is one of Suffolk's "wool towns" and is a former market town. Its name is derived from the nature of the village's layout (concentrated initially along a 3-mile stretch of a single road) and the Mill ford crossing the Chad Brook (a tributary of the River Stour).

  Melford Hall has been home to the Hyde Parker family for almost 300 years, and the family still live in the South Wing of the Hall. Beatrix Potter stayed there on visits.

  Prehistoric finds have shown that an early settlement of what is now known as *Long Melford* dates back to the Mesolithic period, up to 8300 BC. The Romans constructed two roads through Long Melford, the main one running from Chelmsford to Pakenham. Roman remains were discovered in a gravel pit in 1828. In 1997 further finds were uncovered. By the end of the 17th century, cloth production became important as many new entrepreneurs started to produce a new range of materials.

  During World War II, *Long Melford* was a location for American and Allied service personnel who flew bomber aircraft from RAF Lavenham and RAF Sudbury. Glenn Miller and his orchestra briefly visited *Long Melford* and played for injured airmen at the 136th hospital in 1944.

- ***Mildenhall:*** the market town of *Mildenhall* is near the A11 and is located 37 miles northwest of Ipswich. RAF stations Mildenhall and Lakenheath are located north of the town. >>>>

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Humans have settled in the area around *Mildenhall* since at least the Bronze Age. Following the Roman Empire's invasion of Britain, *Mildenhall* was the site of a Roman settlement. It contained the Mildenhall Treasure, a large hoard of 34 masterpieces of Roman silver tableware from the 4th century AD, discovered in 1942. Following its acquisition in 1946, the collection was placed on show at the British Museum, although some replicas are displayed in Mildenhall.

The name of the town was first recorded in 1050 as *Mildenhale*. In 1086, the Domesday Book recorded that the town was the property of the Abbot of St Edmunds and had a population of 64 families. With the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, ownership of the town was transferred to Edward North, 1st Baron North, whose son, Roger North, became a resident in *Mildenhall* for a time.

❖ ***Orford Ness:*** *Orford Ness* is a cuspate foreland shingle spit on the coast, linked to the mainland at Aldeburgh. It stretches along the coast to Orford and down to North Weir Point, opposite Shingle Street. It is divided from the mainland by the River Alde and was formed by long-shore drift along the coast. The material of the spit comes from places further north. Near the middle point of its length - at the foreland point or 'Ness' – once stood *Orfordness* Lighthouse, which was demolished in summer of 2020 due to the encroaching sea.

Orford Ness is an internationally important site for nature conservation, containing a significant portion of the European reserve of vegetated shingle habitat, which is internationally scarce, highly fragile and very easily damaged. Together with Havergate Island, the site is a designated National Nature Reserve and forms part of the Alde-Ore Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is also listed as being of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review (GC) as a grade 1 site in the Nature Conservation Review. (NCR).

The Ministry of Defence formerly administered the peninsula and conducted secret military tests during both world wars and the Cold War. The site was selected as the location for the *Orfordness Beacon*, one of the earliest experiments in long-range radio navigation. The Beacon was set up in 1929 and used in the WW2 pre-war era. In the 1930s, *Orford Ness* was the site of the first purpose-built experiments on the defence system that would later be known as radar.

Orford Ness is the largest vegetated shingle spit in Europe. It is approximately 10 miles long and covers over 2,200 acres, of which 40 per cent is shingle, 25 per cent is tidal rivers, mud flats, sand flats, and lagoons, 18 per cent is grassland, and 15 per cent is salt marsh. The spit itself is formed almost entirely of flint deposited by waves through the process of long-shore drift. The size and shape of the spit fluctuate over time. Its dynamically changing nature means the true age of the spit's formation is unknown. But before about 1200, *Orford* is thought to have been a port facing the open sea.

❖ ***Snape:*** *Snape* is a small village on the River Alde close to *Aldeburgh,* now best known for Snape Maltings, no longer in commercial use but converted into a tourist centre with a concert hall that hosts the major part of the annual *Aldeburgh* Festival.

Picture Credit: "Snape Maltings, on River Alde" by velodenz is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

There has been human habitation at Snape for 2,000 years, although the original village stood on higher ground - around the present Church. The Romans established a settlement centred on salt production. In Anglo-Saxon times the *Wuffingas* (who ruled East Anglia from Rendlesham) used Snape as a burial site, and archaeological investigations have revealed ship burials and other graves.

The Domesday Book mentioned a church with eight acres. The present Church, originally thatched, was built in the 13th century, with a porch and tower added in the 15th century. *Snape* Priory was founded in the mid-12th century, down river from the village. It survived until 1525, when it was closed and stripped of its wealth by Thomas Wolsey, Archbishop of York. The monks also built a watermill and probably also constructed the first bridge across the Alde.

As a result of fertiliser, sugar beet, and malted barley, Snape became a busy inland port by the end of the 19th century. The famous Aldeburgh Festival is now held in the Maltings, emphasising the area's links with Benjamin Britten.

❖ ***Saxmundham:*** the market town of *Saxmundham* is set in the valley of the River Fromus 18 miles northeast of Ipswich and 5 miles west of the coast at Sizewell. The town is bypassed by the main A12 road between London and Lowestoft.

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist dates back to the 11th century. Some features remain from the medieval period, but its present appearance owes most to the 19th century. Much of the Church's official architectural guide, with accounts of its medieval remnants, can be read on the Town Council site. It has had a market charter since at least 1272, and a market is held every Wednesday.

Brother Eadulf has become Saxmundham's most famous international fictional character through the best-selling Sister Fidelma mysteries by Peter Tremayne.

❖ ***Sudbury:*** *Sudbury* was an Anglo-Saxon settlement from the end of the 8th century, and its market was established in 1009. It retains its status as a market town with a twice-weekly market.

Sudbury stands on the River Stour near the Essex border, 60 northeast of London. Its textile industry prospered in the Late Middle Ages, the wealth of which funded many of its buildings and churches. The town was noted for its art in the 18th century as the birthplace of *Thomas Gainsborough.* His landscapes inspired *John Constable*, another Suffolk painter of the surrounding Stour Valley area.

The history of this market town dates back to the age of the Saxons - the town's earliest mention is circa 799 AD, when *Ælfhun, Bishop of Dunwich*, died there. *Sudbury* is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The *Church of All Saints, St Bartholemew's Benedictine Priory* and the *Chapel of Holy Sepulchre* were established in the 12th century, and the Dominicans established *Sudbury Priory* in the mid-13th century.

The town was formerly a port: from 1705, horse-drawn lighters transported grain to the numerous watermills, locally made bricks, coal and even coconuts used for mat-making in *Sudbury* and *Long Melford.*

During World War II, an American squadron of B-24 Liberator bombers of the 834th Squadron (H), 486th Bomb Group (H), and 8th Air Force was based at RAF Sudbury.

Children's author *Dodie Smith* lived nearby, and a part of her famous novel *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*, which inspired the Disney film of that name, takes place in the town.

❖ ***Thorpeness Beach:*** just north of Aldeburgh lies *Thorpeness Beach*, a quirky little seaside village. Originally, it was a small fishing hamlet originating in the late 19th century, with folk tales that it was a route for smugglers into East Anglia.

The beach is an expanse of shingle that leads to some sand at low tide. It is dominated by the *Mere* (an artificial lake covering 60,000 acres). In 1910, Scottish barrister Glencairn Stuart Ogilvie bought the hamlet. He transformed it into a private fantasy holiday village, with pretty mock Tudor houses and the fairytale *'House in the Clouds'* (an unusual water tower with a boarded house on top, appearing to float up into the sky – see below). The Mere has many small islands, all named by J.M Barrie, author of Peter Pan.

Sophie Lascelles, who was born in the village in 1973, is a professional photographer of note. She is a great-great-granddaughter of King George V.

Picture Credit: "House in the Clouds" by M W Pinsent is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

❖ ***Woodbridge:*** this historic market town lies about 8 miles up the River Deben from the sea and 7 miles northeast of Ipswich. The town is close to several archaeological sites of the Anglo-Saxon period, including the *Sutton Hoo* burial ship. It is well known for its boating harbour and tide mill, on the edge of the Suffolk Coast and Heath Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. One of the first in England, the mill, still used to this day, spans over 800 years of production. As a "gem in Suffolk's crown", it has been named the best place to live in the East of England.

Archaeological finds point to habitation from the Neolithic Age (2500–1700 BC). The Romans occupied the area for 300 years after *Queen Boudica's* failed rebellion in 59 CE, but little evidence of their presence remains. After the Roman forces returned to Rome in 410 AD, substantial Anglo-Saxon settlement ensued.

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

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A Brief History of Insurance

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:
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The history of insurance can trace the development of the modern business of insurance back to ancient times - against risks of loss or damage of goods in transit, property, death, vehicle accidents, and medical treatment. The UK is regarded by many to be the birthplace of modern insurance. It was here that privately owned, technically advanced and international insurance companies first emerged, quickly dominating the world's growing insurance markets and remaining leaders for most of the 19th century. The first fire, accident and life insurance companies were established in the UK during the 1700s, and how they developed became the blueprint for insurance companies worldwide.

You could say modern insurance started with the Great Fire of London in 1666. After the fire had destroyed more than 30,000 homes, an enterprising Nicholas Barbon started a buildings insurance business. He later introduced London's first fire insurance company. But the truth is that insurance existed long before that time.

Insurance is the oldest method of transferring risk and was developed to mitigate trade, business and other exposures. It provides an essential source of financial security for both the public and private sectors. Since ancient times, merchants have sought methods to minimise risks, as can be seen below.

KEY DATES

1601 First insurance legislation in the UK. was enacted. Modern insurance has its roots in this law which concerned coverage for merchandise and ships.
1666 The Great Fire of London showed the destructive power of fire in an urban environment. Entrepreneur Nicholas Barbon formed a business to repair houses damaged by fire.
1684 Participants in the Friendly Society in England formed a Mutual Insurance Company to cover fire losses.
1688 Edward Lloyd's coffee house, the precursor of Lloyd's of London, became the central meeting place for shipowners seeking insurance for a voyage.
1710 Charles Povey formed the Sun, the oldest insurer that continues to conduct business in its own name.
1762 Equitable Life Assurance Society was formed in England.
1779 Lloyd's of London introduced the first uniform ocean marine policy.

Ancient Times

In the ancient world, the first forms of insurance were recorded by the Babylonian and Chinese traders. So-called *Bottomry contracts* were known to merchants of Babylon as early as 4000–3000 BCE. *Bottomry* was also practised by the Hindus in 600 BCE and was well understood in ancient Greece as early as the 4th century BCE.

Picture Credit: "The Great Fire of London" by oooOOC is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Bottomry was recognised in ancient Roman law and became a highly developed industry from the 15th century as world trade opened up further. To limit the loss of goods, merchants would divide their items among various ships that navigated treacherous waters.

The Romans also operated prototype funeral plans, with members paying monthly subscriptions to a fund covering the cost of their burial on their death.

Code of Hammurabi: Persia (approx. 1771 BC)
In late 1901 and early 1902, archaeologists found a 2.25-metre tall basalt or diorite stele in three pieces inscribed with 4,130 lines of cuneiform law dictated by *Hammurabi* (c. 1792–1750 BC) of the First Babylonian Empire in Persia. The *Code of Hammurabi* is a collection of 282 rules. It established standards for commercial interactions and set fines and punishments to meet justice requirements. The code includes many harsh penalties - sometimes demanding the removal of the guilty party's tongue, hands, breasts, eye or ear. But it is also one of the earliest examples of an accused person being considered innocent until proven guilty. All 282 rules are written in the '*if then*' format – such as, if a man steals an ox, then he must pay back 30 times its value.

- *Codex Hammurabi Law 100* stipulated repayment by a debtor of a loan to a creditor on a schedule with a maturity date in written contractual terms.
- *Laws 101 and 102* stipulated that a shipping agent, factor, or ship charterer was only required to repay the principal of a loan to their creditor in the event of a net income loss or a total loss due to an Act of God.
- *Law 103* stipulated that an agent, factor, or charterer was by *force majeure* relieved of their liability for an entire loan if the agent, factor, or charterer was the victim of theft during the term of their charter party upon provision of an affidavit of the theft to their creditor.
- *Law 104* stipulated that a carrier (agents, factors, or charterers) issue a waybill and invoice for a contract of carriage to a consignee outlining contractual terms for sales, commissions, and laytime and receive a bill of parcel and lien authorising consignment from the consignee.
- *Law 105* stipulated that claims for losses filed by agents, factors, and charterers without receipts were without standing.
- *Law 126* stipulated that filing a false claim of a loss was punishable by law.
- *Law 235* stipulated that a shipbuilder was liable within one year of construction to replace an unseaworthy vessel to the shipowner if it were lost during the term of a charter party.
- *Laws 236 and 237* stipulated that a sea captain, ship-manager, or charterer was liable for replacing a lost vessel and cargo to the shipowner and consignees respectively, that was negligently operated during the term of a charter party.
- *Law 238* stipulated that a captain, manager, or charterer that saved a ship from total loss was only required to pay one-half the value of the ship to the shipowner. See below for the law of *general average*.
- *Law 240* stipulated that the owner of a cargo ship that destroyed a passenger ship in a collision was liable for replacing the passenger ship and any cargo it held upon the provision of an affidavit about the collision by the owner of the passenger ship.

THE LAW OF 'GENERAL AVERAGE'

The law of *general average* is a fundamental principle of maritime (and other) insurance that emanates from *Hammurabi Law 238*. It works like this: all stakeholders in a sea venture proportionally share any losses resulting from a voluntary sacrifice of part of the ship or cargo to save the whole in an emergency. For instance, if the crew were to jettison some cargo overboard to lighten their ship in a storm, the loss would be shared pro-rata by both the carrier and all the cargo owners.

Burial Society Collegium and Friendly Societies*
In 1816, an archaeological excavation in Minya, Egypt, unearthed a *Nerva–Antonine* dynasty-era tablet from the ruins of the Temple of Antinous in Antinoöpolis, Aegyptus. The tablet set out the rules and membership dues of a burial society established in Lanuvium, Italia, in approximately 133 AD during the reign of Roman Emperor Hadrian.
* Any association in ancient Rome which acted as a legal entity (a society) was called a Collegium.

The Greeks and Romans, circa 600 BC, set up guilds called "benevolent societies", which cared for the families of deceased members and paid the funeral expenses of members. Guilds in the Middle Ages had similar practices.

Middle Ages

Before modern-style insurance became established in the late 17th century, *Friendly Societies* proliferated in England. People donated amounts of money to a general sum that could be used for emergencies.

Sea loans or *foenus nauticum* were commonplace before traditional marine insurance in medieval times. An investor lent his money to a travelling merchant, and the merchant would be liable to pay it back if the ship returned safely. In this way, credit and sea insurance were provided at the same time. The interest rate for sea loans was high to compensate for the high risks involved. Sea loans involved paying for the risks involved, and Pope Gregory IX condemned the practice as usury in his *decretal Naviganti* of 1236.

In the 14th century, Italian merchants introduced *cambium contracts* (meaning *change* or *exchange*), where borrowers had to buy bills of exchange from lenders (merchant bankers). >>>>

<<<< Since the bills of exchange were payable no matter what, they did not cover any sea risk at all. To hedge against the sea risks they now bore, merchants invented insurance loans - analogous to today's marine insurance.

In 1293, D. Dinis, King of Portugal, advanced the interests of the Portuguese merchants when he set up a fund called the *Bolsa de Comércio*, the first documented form of marine insurance in Europe. The traders sent (exported) their goods to the agents who sold them on behalf of traders.

Sending goods to the agents by road or sea involves different risks, such as sea storms, pirate attacks, damage to goods through poor handling while loading and unloading, etc. Traders exploited various measures to hedge the risk involved in exporting, such as sending goods on several vessels to avoid a total loss if a ship met with problems.

Separate insurance contracts (i.e., insurance policies not bundled with loans or other kinds of contracts) were invented in Genoa in the 14th century. Insurance pools were backed by pledges of landed property. The first known insurance contract dates from Genoa in 1347, and in the next century, maritime insurance developed widely, and premiums were intuitively varied and matched with risks. These new contracts allowed insurance to be separated from investment, which was particularly useful in the case of marine insurance. The first printed book on insurance was the legal treatise *On Insurance and Merchants' Bets* by Pedro de Santarém (Santerna), published in 1552.

The risk hedging instruments used to mitigate risk in medieval times were sea/marine (*Mutuum*) loans, commenda contracts, and bills of exchange - almost the closest substitute for marine insurance. In the 15th century, word policy for insurance contracts became standardised.

By the 16th century, insurance was common among Britain, France, and the Netherlands. Lloyd's Coffeehouse was the prominent marine insurance marketplace in London during the 18th century, and European and American traders used this marketplace to insure their shipments. A coffeehouse owned by Edward Lloyd, later of Lloyd's of London, was the primary meeting place for merchants, ship owners, and others seeking insurance.

By the mid-1600s, London had become a hub of global trade, with merchants, bankers and underwriters gathering in coffee shops to arrange ship and cargo insurance - as well as to gamble and gossip. The term 'underwriter' comes from their contracts, with the insurer signing his name underneath the document wording. Edward Lloyd became a successful marine insurer, and Lloyd's of London remains an industry world leader even to this day.

Modern Insurance

Insurance became more sophisticated in Enlightenment-era Europe, and specialised varieties developed. Some forms of insurance developed in London in the early decades of the 17th century. For example, the will of the English colonist Robert Hayman mentioned two *policies of insurance* taken out with the diocesan Chancellor of London, Dr Arthur Duck. Of the value of £100 each, one related to the safe arrival of Hayman's ship in Guyana and the other was stated by Hayman to be "*one hundred pounds assured by the said Doctor Arthur Ducke on my life*".

Life insurance became widespread and affordable after the invention of mortality tables, which helped predict longevity. Two Fellows of the Royal Society (John Graunt and Edmond Halley) are reputed to have 'invented' the life table or table of mortality in the late 1600s. The first life insurance companies were established in the UK during the 1700s, although the earliest life insurance policy is dated much earlier (1583) and covers the life of someone called William Gibbons. Life policies were typically taken out to cover loans and were subscribed to by individual underwriters.

As technology developed during the industrial revolution and into the 20th century, the insurance industry moved with the times and specialist companies were formed to meet the needs arising from the development of the railways, motor vehicles and the aeroplane.

The UK has the largest insurance market in Europe. Insurance in the UK works much the same as in other parts of the world, with customers paying monthly or annual premiums in addition to a contribution (called an 'excess') towards any claim they make.

Two bodies perform regulatory oversight of the UK insurance industry:

- The ***Prudential Regulatory Authority*** (PRA), an arm of the Bank of England, ensures that insurers are financially sound.
- The ***Financial Conduct Authority*** (FCA) regulates the behaviour and practice of insurance firms.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) is the leading representative body of the UK insurance sector, with over 250 members.

What insurance is compulsory in the UK?

- *Vehicle insurance: If you're driving a vehicle, insurance is compulsory. The minimum cover is known as Third Party Insurance*
- *Home insurance: Homeowners are not required by law to have building insurance. However, it's often a condition of a lender in the UK that, as a borrower, you must have building insurance.*
- *Employers' liability insurance: Under the Employers' Liability Act 1969, employers' liability insurance is a legal requirement for all employers. It protects employees if they get injured or become ill from working for your business.*

'Insurance is a means of protection from financial loss. It is a form of risk management primarily used to hedge against the risk of a contingent or uncertain loss. An entity which provides insurance is known as an insurer, an insurance company, an insurance carrier or an underwriter.'

Source: Wikipedia

Glossary of Insurance Terms

Somewhile ago, I published a Glossary of Insurance Terms – you can download it from HERE.

The oddest things people insure

"*There's none so queer as folk*", goes a Northern saying. Well, if you want to be really picky, the expression is: "*There's nowt so queer as folk.*"

Nowt means nought, or naught or nothing, but it is pronounced *nowt* in this sentence. I don't know who first said it, but we probably all know that some people do some strange things, some of the time – such as taking out insurance against the loss or damage of something that may be valuable to them. Did you know that you can insure yourself against being abducted by aliens? Or, if you are planning to get married and your intended gets cold feet, there's an insurance policy that will cover your disappointment?

By the way, *Getting Kidnapped by Aliens Insurance* will only pay out if you can prove being within an alien vicinity, such as a spaceship or another planet - no successful claims so far. Here are some other unusual examples of insurance:

- ***Betty Grable*** (the Hollywood star) had her legs insured. ***Jennifer Lopez*** has her derriere insured, and ***Julia Roberts*** has insured her smile for about $30 million.
- ***David Beckham*** insured his entire body, the feared Australian cricketer, ***Merv Hughes***, insured his facial hair (moustache) for $3.7 million, and ***Tom Jones*** is said to have insured his chest hairs for $7 million.
- Getting kidnapped worries some people so much that they take out insurance against it – presumably to provide money to pay a ransom demand.
- 1920s Silent film comedian ***Ben Turpin*** famously bought an insurance policy with Lloyd's, payable if his trademark crossed eyes ever uncrossed.
- Food critic ***Egon Ronay*** had his taste buds insured.
- Comedians ***Abbott and Costello*** took out an insurance policy to cover them if an argument split their team.
- Lloyd's has been asked to insure some strange things (the latest being to insure spaceflights for *Virgin Galactic*). Earlier examples are:
  - → According to novelist Arthur C Clarke, film director Stanley Kubrick wanted to take out insurance with Lloyd's to protect himself against losses if extra-terrestrial intelligence was discovered before his movie, *'2001: A Space Odyssey'*, was released. Lloyd's refused.
  - → A Householder's Comprehensive policy from 1914 covered damage caused by aeroplanes, airships, riots, strikes – and suffragists.
  - → Forty members of a *Derbyshire Whiskers Club* insured their beards against (of all things) fire and theft.

King Henry VIII and the Act of Supremacy

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:
• https://www.britain-magazine.com/features/king-henry-viii-and-the-act-of-supremacy/
• https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/private-lives/religion/collections/common-prayer/act-of-supremacy/
• https://www.britannica.com/topic/Act-of-Supremacy-England-1534 • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Supremacy

The *Acts of Supremacy* are two acts passed by the Parliament of England in the 16th century. They established the English monarchs as the head of the Church of England:

- The 1534 Act declared King Henry VIII and his successors as the *Supreme* ***Head*** *of the Church*, replacing the Pope. (The Act was repealed during the reign of the Catholic Queen Mary I.)
- The 1558 Act declared Queen Elizabeth I and her successors' *the Supreme* ***Governor*** *of the Church'* - a title that the British monarch still holds.

On 15th January 1535, King Henry VIII was proclaimed supreme head of the Church of England due to his controversial Act of Supremacy.

This event itself marked the beginning of the English Reformation. It was to be followed soon after by the *Dissolution of the Monasteries*, between 1536 and 1541, by which King Henry disbanded monasteries, priories, convents and friaries in England, Wales and Ireland. The reasons for the Act – and the subsequent execution of those who opposed him – were both personal and overtly political:

- Foremost was King Henry's desire to abandon Rome and reject the Catholic Church's opposition to his proposed divorce from Catherine of Aragon.
- The Act of Supremacy came into being following Pope Clement VII's refusal to grant Henry VIII an annulment.
- The Pope was fearful of the reaction of Catherine's nephew, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who sacked Rome in 1527, and the pope wanted to avoid clashing with him.
- King Henry seized his chance to wrest power away from Rome and into his own hands, taking the property of the monasteries and exploiting his right to rule the Church of England, which saw him excommunicated by the Catholic Church.

Royal Supremacy

First Act of Supremacy 1534

The first Act of Supremacy was passed on 3rd November 1534 and granted King Henry VIII of England (and subsequent monarchs) *Royal Supremacy*, such that he was declared the Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Royal Supremacy is specifically used to describe the legal sovereignty of the civil laws over the laws of the Church in England.

The Act declared that the King was "*the only supreme head on Earth of the Church of England*" and that the Crown shall: *enjoy "all honours, dignities, preeminences, jurisdictions, privileges, authorities, immunities, profits, and commodities to the said dignity.*"

Picture Credit: "PA 1534 Act of Supremacy" by UK Parliament is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Act's wording made it clear that Parliament was not granting the King the title (thereby suggesting that they had the right to withdraw it later) but was acknowledging a fact. In the Act of Supremacy, King Henry abandoned Rome completely. He thereby asserted the independence of the *Ecclesia Anglicana*. He appointed himself and his successors as the supreme rulers of the English Church. Earlier, Henry had been declared "*Defender of the Faith*" (*Fidei defensor*) in 1521 by Pope Leo X for his pamphlet accusing *Martin Luther* of heresy. Parliament later conferred this title upon Henry in 1544.

The 1534 Act marks the beginning of the English Reformation. There were several reasons for this Act, but it was primarily about the need for a male heir to the throne. Henry tried for years to obtain an annulment of his marriage to *Catherine of Aragon* and had convinced himself that God was punishing him for marrying his brother's widow. Pope Clement VII refused to grant the annulment because, according to Roman Catholic teaching, a validly contracted marriage is indivisible until death and one the Pope cannot annul simply because of a canonical impediment previously dispensed.

The *Treasons Act* was later passed: it provided that disavowing the Act of Supremacy and depriving the King of his "dignity, title, or name" was considered treason. The most notable public figure to resist the *Treasons Act* was *Sir Thomas More,* King Henry's Lord Chancellor, who paid for his refusal to outwardly support the King's marriage to Anne Boleyn with his life in 1535.

Irish Act of Supremacy 1537

In 1537, the Irish Supremacy Act was passed by the Parliament of Ireland, establishing Henry VIII as the supreme head of the Church of Ireland, as had earlier been done in England.

Second Act of Supremacy 1558

Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy was repealed in 1554 during the reign of his staunchly Roman Catholic daughter, Queen Mary I. Upon her death in November 1558, her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth I succeeded to the throne. The first Elizabethan Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy 1558, which declared Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church of England and instituted an Oath of Supremacy, requiring anyone taking public or Church office to swear allegiance to the monarch head of the Church and State. Anyone refusing to take the oath could be charged with treason.

Supreme Governor

The term *Supreme Governor*, as opposed to *Supreme Head,* pacified some Roman Catholics and those Protestants concerned about a female leader of the Church of England. Elizabeth did not prosecute nonconformist laypeople or those who did not follow the established rules of the Church of England unless their actions directly undermined the authority of the English monarch.
Although the British monarch's authority over the Church of England is mainly ceremonial and is primarily observed in a symbolic capacity, the position is still very relevant to the Church. As the Supreme Governor, the monarch formally appoints high-ranking members of the Church on the advice of the prime minister of the United Kingdom, who is in turn advised by church leaders, such as the Lord's Spiritual.

The Church of Scotland

The British monarch vows to uphold the constitution of the Church of Scotland (a Presbyterian national church), but does not hold a leadership position in it. Nevertheless, the British monarch appoints the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as their personal representative, with a ceremonial role. On occasions, the Queen has filled the role personally, as when she opened the General Assembly in 1977 and 2002 (her Silver and Golden Jubilee years).

The Dissolution of the Monasteries

Even though the monasteries bowed to the Royal Supremacy, the government continued to view them with suspicion, arguing that they had obeyed only out of fear. Their destruction started early in 1536. In the name of fiscal reform and efficiency, financially poor monasteries were dissolved because they were considered too small to do their job effectively.

The destruction of the monasteries was carried out with surprisingly little opposition*, and by 1539, most were gone. Property constituting at least 13 per cent of the land of England and Wales was nationalised and incorporated into the crown lands. But for better or for worse, King Henry and his descendants had to sell the 'profits' of the Reformation, and by 1603, over 75 per cent of the monastic loot had passed into the hands of the landed gentry. The effect was that the most powerful and influential elements within Tudor society in Britain had a vested interest in protecting their property against papal Catholicism.

* Except for the 1536 *Pilgrimage of Grace*, a revolt in the northern counties of England against the Reformation legislation of King Henry VIII.

Marriage: How it began and why

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage
- https://theweek.com/articles/528746/origins-marriage
- https://www.incegd.com/en/news-insights/history-marriage
- https://www.livescience.com/37777-history-of-marriage.html
- https://www.raniandco.co.uk/blogs/feminist-blog/the-origin-of-marriage-why-women-change-their-surname-feminist-blog
- https://yesterday.uktv.co.uk/history/article/brief-history-marriage/ • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage
- https://www.factmonster.com/culture-entertainment/marriage-through-time
- https://www.sagu.edu/thoughthub/the-history-of-marriage
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17351133

Introduction

The best available evidence suggests that marriage is about 4,350 years old and became a popular institution across ancient Hebrews, Greeks and Romans. For thousands of years before that time, most anthropologists believe, families consisted of loosely organised groups of as many as 30 people, with several male leaders, multiple women shared by them, and children. As hunter-gatherers settled down into agricultural civilisations, society needed more stable arrangements. The first recorded evidence of marriage ceremonies uniting one woman and one man dates from about 2350 BC in Mesopotamia. Over the next several hundred years, marriage evolved into a widespread institution embraced by the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. But back then, it had little to do with love or with religion.

One wife or more?

It is widely agreed that the origin of marriage dates well before recorded history. The earliest documented evidence of marriage ceremonies - uniting one woman and one man - can be dated to about 2350 B.C. in the Far East. The Church prevailed, with monogamy becoming central to the notion of marriage by the ninth century. The ancient Hebrews were allowed to have several wives. Married Greeks and Romans were allowed to satisfy their sexual urges with prostitutes and teenage male lovers, leaving the wives to stay home and look after the household.

Some cultures viewed the institution as *endogamous* (men were required to marry within their separate social group, family, clan, or tribe), *exogamous* (marrying outside the geographical region or social group) or *polygamous* (allowing men to take more than one bride).

Polygamy was formally banned towards the end of the Roman Empire with laws against adultery, fornication and other relationships outside a monogamous lifelong covenant. The seeds of modern marriage were sowed here, and they extended into the modern Western world.

Early marriage was seen as a strategic alliance between families, with the youngsters often having little or no say in the matter. In some cultures, parents even married one child to the spirit of a deceased child to strengthen familial bonds. Ancient Hebrew law required a man to become the husband of a dead brother's widow.

Several ancient societies did much the same thing, although the blood connection might not always be as close. The patriarch *Abraham's* wife *Sarah*, for example, was his half-sister. Whether this was common among the early Hebrews is unclear, but *Isaac* and *Jacob* had wives (*Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah*) from their cousins.

Monogamy (one wife) may seem central to marriage now, but polygamy (multiple wives) was common throughout history. From *Jacob* to Kings *David* and *Solomon*, Biblical men often had more than one wife - anywhere from two to thousands of wives. Monogamy became the preferred status for Western marriages sometime between the sixth and ninth centuries.

In the beginning, marriage wasn't founded on love. Its purpose was for a man to 'own' a woman and guarantee that the union's children were his biological heirs. The woman's father would give his daughter away, saying: *'I pledge my daughter for producing legitimate offspring'*. If wives could not get pregnant, the men could give the wife back and marry someone else.

Divorce

Divorce has existed for about as long as marriage. The ancient Greeks allowed divorce, but only after the person requesting divorce had submitted the request to a magistrate, who would determine whether or not the reasons given were sufficient. In early Roman culture, divorce was rare, but as time went on and the empire grew in power and authority, civil law allowed either husband or wife to renounce their marriage at will.

Divorce was generally frowned upon throughout the last thousand years, with annulment granted by the Church being the only way to dissolve a marriage. When King Henry VIII decided to divorce *Catherine of Aragon* to marry *Anne Boleyn*, he needed to break ties with the Catholic Church to get his way.

Picture Credit/Attribution: Unknown Author, Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons URL: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Family_of_Henry_VIII_c_1545_detail.jpg

Left to Right: Prince Edward, Henry VIII, Jane

Before 1858, divorce was rare, although, in 1670, Parliament passed an Act allowing *John Manners, Lord Roos*, to divorce his wife, *Lady Anne Pierpon*. According to the National Archives, that divorce created a precedent for parliamentary divorces on the grounds of the wife's adultery,

Marriage in days gone by

- ***Ancient Egyptians:*** Ancient Egyptian women had rights and privileges on a par with their husbands. In those days, a person's legal rights had more to do with social class than gender. For two people to be considered married, all they had to do was move in with each other. There was no legal or religious ceremony to formalise the union.
- ***Ancient Greeks:*** All marriages were arranged by parents and approved by the gods. Women in their early teens were married to men in their mid-thirties. A husband then had to buy his new wife from her father. Many couples did not see each other until after the ceremony, when the bridal veil was removed. Greek wives were 'owned' by their husbands, who could lend or sell them to others. According to Plato's Laws, any man who was not married by age thirty-five could be punished with a loss of civil rights and financial consequences.
- ***Spartans:*** The Spartans believed that a person's athletic ability matched their fitness for marriage. Before marrying, a couple was required to wrestle in public to show their compatibility. Spartan women married in their twenties. The groom's father chose a bride for his son. Twelve months after the selection, the marriage took place. The marriage ceremony took place in the groom's tent, and the festivities lasted seven days.
- ***Romans:*** Roman brides wore white tunics with orange veils and orange slippers. After the ceremony, the groom carried his bride over the threshold of their new home to symbolise his ownership of her.
- ***Medieval Christians:*** Christian church marriages were thought to be made in heaven and, therefore, could never be broken. The father of the bride gave a dowry of land or money to the groom. If the marriage was unsuccessful, the wife and the dowry were returned to the father's home, but neither partner could remarry.

Famous Quotations on Marriage

"When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife."
– Prince Philip

"My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me." – Winston Churchill

"If I get married, I want to be very married." – Audrey Hepburn

"By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher." – Socrates

"An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets, the more interested he is in her."
– Agatha Christie

"If I had a flower for every time I thought of you... I could walk through my garden forever." – Alfred Lord Tennyson

"Who, being loved, is poor?" – Oscar Wilde

"There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage."
– Martin Luther

Big with Pointed Ears

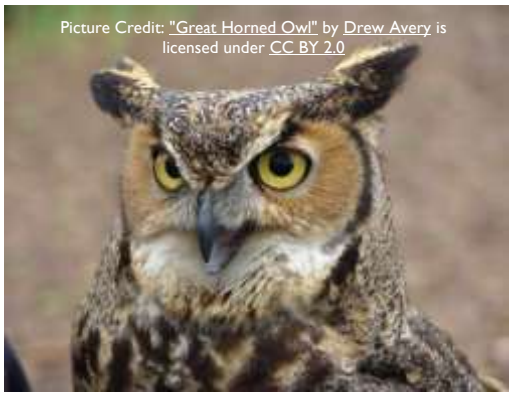
Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:
- https://www.owlpages.com/owls/
- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/id
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_horned_owl

Here's a question for you:

What is mainly found in South America, Central America and North America, lives for up to 15 years (sometimes more), eats rabbits, hares, small mammals, birds and reptiles, has a big head on a large, barrel-shaped body and (here's a clue) has broad wings, and it can fly with almost no noise? It has eyes that are nearly as large as ours and has twice as many neck bones as humans. Oh, and it has pointed ears.

The answer is the ***great horned owl*** (also known as the *tiger owl* or the *hoot owl*).

It is a very adaptable bird with a vast flying range and is the most widely distributed true owl in the Americas. Its scientific name is *Bubo virginianus.*



Picture Credit: "Great Horned Owl" by Drew Avery is licensed under CC BY 2.0

The great horned owl is one of the earliest nesting birds in North America, often laying eggs weeks or even months before other raptorial birds*.

* Raptotorial birds are birds of prey.

Native Myths

Many warrior-based tribes of Native Americans admired the great horned owl for its "strength, courage and beauty". The *Pima* of the southwest believed that owls were reincarnations of slain warriors who fly about by night. Some Indian nations regarded the great horned owl as a friendly spirit who could aid in love matters. Tribes in New Mexico were known to use owl wing feathers to produce arrows that could strike their enemies with a minimum of sound. The *Zuni* held owl feathers in their mouths, hoping to gain some of the silence that owls use in ambushes while striking their enemies from other tribes. The *Iroquois* felt the origin of the great horned owl was due to an unformed owl annoying *Raweno*, the almighty creator. At the same time, *Raweno* created the rabbit, causing *Raweno* to make the owl "covered with mud" (dark camouflage) and doomed to ceaselessly call "whoo whoo", which he used while harassing *Raweno*, by night because *Raweno* was active during the day.

An excellent place to visit if you are interested in owls is https://www.owlpages.com/owls/

Lewes Castle

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:
- https://sussexpast.co.uk/properties-to-discover/lewes-castle
- https://www.sussextopattractions.co.uk/attractions/historic-houses-castles
- https://great-castles.com/lewes.html
- https://www.exploring-castles.com/uk/england/lewes_castle/

Picture Credit: "Lewes Castle Barbican" by Maia C is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Originally named Bray Castle, Lewes Castle is now but a ruin. It occupies a commanding position guarding the gap in the South Downs cut by the River Ouse and occupied by the towns of Lewes and Cliffe.

If you climb to the top of the castle, you will have a stunning panoramic view across Sussex and Brack Mount. The adjoining Museum of Sussex Archaeology displays artefacts from prehistoric to medieval times in Sussex.

Lewes Castle, in Lewes - the county town of East Sussex - was one of the first castles in England following the Norman Conquest and Battle of Hastings in 1066. William de Warenne designed and built the castle between 1068 and 1070 in the *Norman motte and bailey style,* similar to most other castles of that era. Lewes Castle is different, though - it has two mottes, or hill-top keeps, much like Lincoln Castle in South Yorkshire.

After the Norman invasion, William I divided Sussex into five administrative zones (known as rapes), which were granted to his most trusted companions – they were charged with responsibility for constructing castles to secure control of the area.

At the heart of each rape, there would be a castle. Lewes Castle was at the centre of the rape of Lewes. The other rapes were at Arundel, Bramber, Pevensey and Hastings. Later, a sixth district was established at Chichester with its own castle.

The rape of Lewes was given to *William de Warenne*, a Norman baron who had fought in the Battle of Hastings (1066) and owned substantial holdings in Varenne (Normandy) as well as Conisbrough (Yorkshire), Reigate (Surrey) and later Castle Acre (Norfolk).

In May 1264, the Battle of Lewes was fought: *"On May 14th of 1264, the Battle of Lewes was fought in the fields below the castle. It was one of two primary battles of the Second Barons' War*. The battle served as the high point in the life of Simon de Montfort, the 6th Earl of Leicester. King Henry III left the safety of Lewes Castle to engage the Barons in battle. Henry's son, Prince Edward, later Edward I, routed part of the Barons' army with a cavalry charge and chased the retreating army off the battlefield, leaving Henry III and his army exposed. Henry was forced to sign the Mise of Lewes, surrendering many of his powers to Montfort."*

Source: https://great-castles.com/lewes.html

* The Second Barons' War (1264–1267) was a civil war in England between the forces of a number of barons led by Simon de Montfort against the royalist forces of King Henry III, led initially by the king himself and later by his son, the future King Edward I.

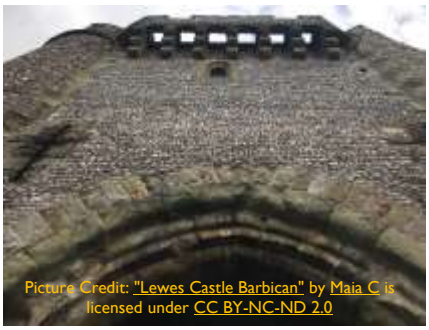
Initially, the castle was an earth and timber motte-and-bailey fortification. The motte (mound) itself is known today as Brack Mount and was probably built on an earlier burial mound. In about 1100, Lewes Castle was rebuilt in stone, and a second motte was added. A large gatehouse was also built to replace the former timber gateway into the bailey. In the 13th century, further modifications were made to the castle, with two (possibly three) towers added to the main shell Keep.

From the 15th century, the castle declined in importance, and it was mainly used as a warehouse for wool. Previously, in the late 14th century and at other times, it was used as a prison. The castle drifted into rack and ruin. During the 17th century, stone was removed from the site for use elsewhere, whilst the castle precinct was divided into tenements and sold off. The Keep underwent a series of modifications during the 18th and 19th centuries, with its tower refitted and the interior converted into a pleasure garden.

A somewhat sinister feature of Lewes Castle is unusual and little-seen in England – a series of machicolations**. They hang over the entrance to the castle. They are somewhat like an over-hanging balcony, except there are great holes in the floor through which repellant material such as stones and other missiles could be dropped, or hot oil poured down through these machicolations onto marauding raiders.

Source: Castles Forts Battles

** A machicolation (see picture below) is a floor opening between the supporting corbels of a battlement, through which stones or other material, such as boiling water or boiling cooking oil, could be dropped on attackers at the base of a defensive wall.



Picture Credit: "Lewes Castle Barbican" by Maia C is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

A Dorset Surprise

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Purbeck
- https://visitwareham.com/purbeck-and-the-jurassic-coast/
- https://www.dorsets.co.uk/purbeck
- https://dorsettravelguide.com/isle-of-purbeck-travel-guide/

It started tens of millions of years ago

A peninsula, which juts out into the English Channel in Dorset, is known as the Isle of Purbeck. It is not an island in geographical terms: It covers a 60-square mile area jutting into the English Channel, bordered on three sides by sea and on the remaining side, the North, partly by the River Frome, thus giving it a peninsula character. It is dominated by the Jurassic Coastline, the chalk ridge known as the Purbeck Hills and bordered by Poole Harbour, one of the largest natural harbours in the world.

The area's geography has given Purbeck an abundance of riches to quarry since ancient man arrived on its shores. As well as its fertile soil has navigable rivers, ports, and high defensive hills as protection from enemies. Today, Purbeck is best known for some of the most beautiful and iconic scenery in the South of England.

The chalk headlands started their formation tens of millions of years ago and are still not done. Thousands of years ago, these stacks would have been connected, but time and tide have taken their toll over the ages. Many rock formations like these have come and gone in the meantime, and new ones are still forming as the sea finds weaknesses in the stone, forming arches that eventually collapse, creating new stacks.

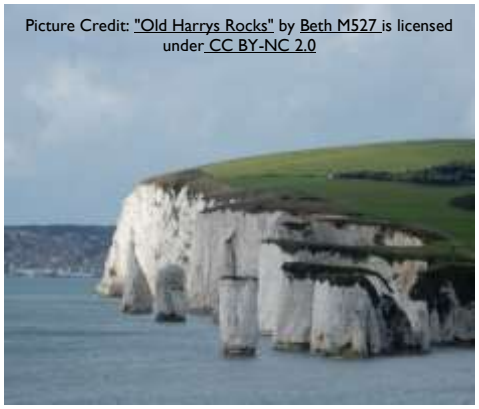
Sitting at the eastern end of the 95-mile-long Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, the Pinnacles' story begins in the later Cretaceous period, when the skeletons of sub-microscopic plankton drifted to the bottom of what was then a tropical sea. Fast forward millions of years, and this process formed the white limestone known as chalk - the fossilised remains of billions of tiny sea creatures, frozen forever on England's south coast.

In terms of natural landscape areas, the southern part of the Isle of Purbeck, and the coastal strip as far as Ringstead Bay in the west, are designated as *National Character Area 136 - South Purbeck* by *Natural England*. To the North are the Dorset Heaths, and to the west are the Weymouth Lowlands.

Limestone and Clay

In the past, limestone quarrying was undertaken - mainly concentrated around the western side of Swanage, the villages of Worth Matravers and Langton Matravers, and the cliffs along the coast between Swanage and St. Aldhelm's Head.

The "caves" at Tilly Whim are former quarries, and Dancing Ledge, Seacombe and Winspit are other cliff-edge quarries. Stone was removed from the cliff quarries either by sea, or by using horse carts to transport large blocks to Swanage.



Picture Credit: "Old Harrys Rocks" by Beth M527 is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Many of England's most famous cathedrals are adorned with Purbeck marble, and much of London was rebuilt in Portland and Purbeck stone after the Great Fire of London.

By contrast, the principal ball clay workings were in the area between Corfe Castle and Wareham.

Originally, the clay was taken by packhorse to wharves on the River Frome and the south side of Poole Harbour. However, in the first half of the 19th century, the pack horses were replaced by horse-drawn tramways. In the mid-1800s, with the arrival of the railway from Wareham to Swanage, most ball clay was dispatched by rail, often to the Potteries district of Staffordshire.

Quarrying still takes place on Purbeck, with both Purbeck Ball Clay and limestones being transported from the area by road. There are now no functioning quarries of Purbeck Marble. The Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum has an exhibition about ball clays, mining and the associated narrow gauge railways.

Geology

The isle has the highest number of species of native and anciently introduced wildflowers of any area of comparable size in Britain. The most frequently sought species is the Early Spider Orchid (Ophrys sphegodes), and it is most common on Purbeck. Late April is the best time to visit, and the largest population is usually in the field to the west of Dancing Ledge. Smaller numbers can be seen on a shorter walk in Durlston Country Park.

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

A large part of the district is now designated as an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (AONB). However, a portion of the coast around Worbarrow Bay and the ghost village of Tyneham is still, after many years, controlled by the Ministry of Defence, which use it as a training area:

- Lulworth Ranges are part of the Armoured Fighting Vehicles Gunnery School at Lulworth Camp.
- Tanks and other armoured vehicles are used in this area, and shells are fired.
- For safety reasons, the right of entry is only given when the army ranges are not operating.
- Large red flags are flown, and flashing warning lamps on Bindon Hill, and St Alban's Head are lit when the ranges are in use. The entrance gates are locked at such times, and wardens patrol the area.

Other spots

- ***Swanage***, at the eastern end of the peninsula, is a seaside resort. At one time, it was linked by a branch railway line from Wareham. It was closed in 1972 but has now partially reopened as the Swanage Railway, a heritage railway.
- ***Studland*** is a seaside village with its own sandy bay.
- Nearby, lying off-shore from The Foreland (also Handfast Point), are the chalk stacks named Old Harry Rocks: Old Harry and his Wife.
- ***Poole Harbour*** is popular with bird watchers, windsurfers and yachters; it contains Brownsea Island, the site of the first-ever Scout camp.
- ***Corfe Castle*** is in the centre of the isle, and it overlooks Corfe Castle village.
- ***Langton Matravers*** was once the home of several boys' preparatory schools; the last of these, The Old Malthouse School, closed in 2007.
- ***With its fossil-rich Jurassic shale cliffs, Kimmeridge Bay*** is the site of the oldest continually working oil well in the world.
- ***Worth Matravers*** is a village of stone houses around a pond, regularly featured on postcards of the Isle of Purbeck.

Earlier Occupants of the Area

There are several Iron Age, Roman and Saxon archaeological sites to be found on the isle of Purbeck. *Nine Barrow Down*, for example, takes its name from the nine barrows (stone age burial mounds) that have been found along this ridge on the northern side of the Purbeck Hills, while *Flowers Barrow*, near Kimmeridge in the south, is an Iron Age hill fort built 2500 years ago, a part of which has been lost to the sea thereby dramatically demonstrating the effect of coastal erosion. The town of *Wareham* retains its Saxon earth embankment wall, and its churches have Saxon origins. One of these, *St Martins-on-the-Walls*, was built in 1030 and today contains traces of medieval and later wall paintings.

Several Romano-British sites have been discovered and studied on the Isle of Purbeck, including a villa at Bucknowle Farm near Corfe Castle, excavated between 1976 and 1991. The Kimmeridge shale of the isle was worked extensively during the Roman period to make jewellery, decorative panels and furniture.

At the extreme southern tip of Purbeck is St Aldhelm's Chapel, which is Norman work built on a Pre-Conquest Christian site marked with a circular earthwork and some graves. In 2000 the whole chapel site was declared a *Scheduled Ancient Monument*.

The great castle at Corfe Castle village gives the village its modern name. The castle commands the strategic gap in the Purbeck Ridge and dates from after the Norman Conquest of 1066, but this may replace Saxon work as the village was where Saxon *King Edward the Martyr* was murdered in 978.

During the English Civil War, the castle was twice besieged by Parliamentarian forces. The first siege, in 1643, was unsuccessful, but by 1645 Corfe was one of the last remaining royalist strongholds in Southern England and fell to a siege ending in an assault. Now owned by the *National Trust*, the castle is open to the public. It is protected as a Grade I listed building and a *Scheduled Ancient Monument*.

History of Ballet

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

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Etymology

The etymology of the word "ballet" reflects its history and comes from French. It was borrowed into English around the 17th century. The French word originates in the Italian *balletto*, a diminutive of *ballo* (dance). Ballet ultimately traces back to Italian *ballare*, meaning "to dance".

A Brief Timeline

Ballet originated in the Italian Renaissance courts of the 14th and 15th centuries. The first reference to ballet is found in the work of *Domenico da Piacenza*, who lived in the early 14th century. Ballet spread from Italy to France (with the financial support of *Catherine de' Medici**), where ballet developed even further under her aristocratic influence. Her elaborate festivals encouraged the growth of *ballet de cour*, which included dance, decor, costume, song, music and poetry. Members of the higher echelon of society and nobility were treated to lavish events, especially wedding celebrations, where dancing and music created an elaborate and joyful spectacle. The *ballet* would typically take place in royal palaces to celebrate the birth or marriage of influential people, like princes or princesses. The technique of ballet dancing was quite different to ballet in the 21st century - dance moves were performed using a flat foot, and the dance was performed within lines on the dance floor.

As court entertainment, the ballets were performed by courtiers. Whilst a few professional dancers occasionally took part, they were usually cast in grotesque or comic roles.

In the early days of ballet, the dancers wore masks, layers upon layers of brocaded costuming, pantaloons, large headdresses, and ornaments. Although it was sumptuous to look at such restrictive clothing made it difficult to move gracefully. Dance steps were composed of small hops, slides, curtsies, promenades, and gentle turns. Dancing shoes had small heels and resembled formal dress shoes rather than any contemporary ballet shoe we might recognise today.* Catherine de' Medici was an Italian noblewoman and queen consort of France from 1547 until 1559, by marriage to King Henry II and mother of kings Francis II, Charles IX and Henry III.

Publicity shot of the original cast of Tchaikovsky's ballet, The Sleeping Beauty, St Petersburg: Mariinsky Theater, 1890. Carlotta Brianza starred as Aurora.

PUBLIC DOMAIN, Wikimedia Commons.

This photo is in the archives of RIA Novosti (Photo #60755, RIA05-011343, A69-32163). It has also been published in Warrack, John (1973) *Tchaikovsky*, London: Hamish Hamilton

An early example of *de' Medici's* development of ballet is through *'Le Paradis d' Amour'*, a piece of work presented at her daughter's wedding – that is, *Marguerite de Valois* to *Henry of Navarre*.

The first formal *'court ballet'* ever recognised was staged in 1573, *'Ballet des Polonais. 'Ballet des Polonais'* was commissioned by *Catherine de' Medici* to honour Polish ambassadors. They were visiting Paris upon the accession of Henry of Anjou to the throne of Poland.

In 1581, *Catherine de' Medici* commissioned another court ballet, *Ballet Comique de la Reine*. However, her compatriot, *Balthasar de Beaujoyeulx*, a court musician and choreographer, organised the ballet. Together, they were responsible for presenting the first court ballet to apply the principles of *Baif's Academie* by integrating poetry, dance, music and set design to convey a unified dramatic storyline. Dances now had an air of mystery, and the performers usually wore masks, costumes and accessories. Women wore huge wigs and tight corsets to heighten their femininity, while male ballet dancers donned tights and lighter clothing to give them more freedom of movement.

By 1661, a dance academy had opened in Paris, and in 1681, ballet moved to the theatrical stage from the courts. The French opera *Le Triomphe de l'Amour* incorporated ballet elements, creating a long-standing *opera-ballet* tradition in France. By the mid-1700s, French ballet master Jean Georges Noverre rebelled against the artifice of *opera-ballet*, believing that ballet could stand on its own as an art form.

In the late 17th century, Louis XIV founded the Académie Royale de Musique (the Paris Opera), and the *Paris Opera Ballet*, the first professional theatrical ballet company, was born. Theatrical ballet became an independent art form, although still closely associated with opera.

Ballet dancing became more impressive during this period, with hops, jumps and airborne twists increasing in popularity. Famous ballet dancers and choreographers like *Marie Sallé* even let their hair down and wore lighter clothing. It sparked a feminist revolution within the dancing community with her expressive, dramatic performances rather than a series of "leaps and frolics" typical of ballet of her time.

In the 18th century in France, *ballet d'action* was developed. The movements of the dancers were designed to express the storytelling and characters. It is how ballet became an essential part of the dramatisation of the opera. It was included in operas as interludes called *divertissements*.

The Royal Danish Ballet and the Imperial Ballet of the Russian Empire were founded in the 1740s and began to flourish, especially after about 1850. Soon, ballet spread around the world with the formation of new companies, including *The Royal Ballet* (1931) in London, the *San Francisco Ballet* (1933), *American Ballet Theatre* (1937), the *Royal Winnipeg Ballet* (1939), *The Australian Ballet* (1940 as the predecessor Borovansky Ballet), the *New York City Ballet* (1948), the *National Ballet of Canada* (1951), and the *National Ballet Academy and Trust of India* (2002).

By the 19th century, female performers were causing shockwaves by wearing dance skirts cut to just above the ankle. Technical ballet ability improved, so ballet performances became longer, and the dancers became softer and more fluid and graceful in their movements. Early classical ballets such as *Giselle* and *La Sylphide* were created during the Romantic Movement in the first half of the 19th century - it influenced art, music and ballet. Concerned with the supernatural world of spirits and magic, it often showed women as passive and fragile and started the trend of *Romantic Ballets.*

Dancing on the tips of the toes, known as *pointe work*, became the norm for a ballerina. The romantic tutu, a calf-length, full skirt made of tulle, was introduced later.

The popularity of ballet soared in Russia, and during the late 19th century, Russian choreographers and composers took it to new heights. Marius Petipa's *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*, by Petipa and Lev Ivanov, represent classical ballet in its grandest form. It displayed classical technique — pointe work, high extensions, precision of movement and turn-out (the outward rotation of the legs from the hip)—to the fullest. Complicated sequences that showed off demanding steps, leaps and turns were choreographed into the story. The classical tutu, much shorter and stiffer than the earlier romantic tutu, was introduced to reveal a ballerina's legs and the difficulty of her movements and footwork.

In the 20th century, styles of ballet continued to develop and strongly influenced broader concert dance. For example, in the United States, choreographer George Balanchine created what is now known as neoclassical ballet. Subsequent developments have included contemporary ballet and post-structural ballet - for example, seen in the work of William Forsythe in Germany. Russian choreographers Sergei Diaghilev and Michel Fokine experimented with movement and costume, moving beyond the confines of classical ballet form and story. Diaghilev collaborated with composer Igor Stravinsky on the ballet *The Rite of Spring*. The ballet was so different, with its dissonant music**, its story of human sacrifice, and its unfamiliar movements, that it caused the audience to riot.

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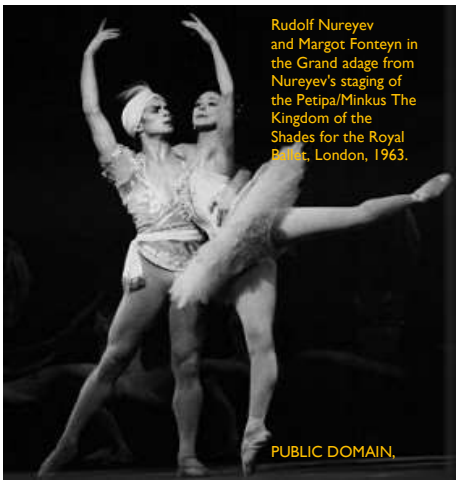
Choreographer and New York City Ballet founder George Balanchine, a Russian who emigrated to America, would change ballet even further. He introduced what is now known as *neo-classical ballet*, an expansion of the classical form. He also is considered by many to be the greatest innovator of the *contemporary "plotless" ballet*. With no definite storyline, its purpose was to use movement to express the music and illuminate human emotion and endeavour.

** Musical dissonance can be compared to the conflict between characters in a story. The tension builds and rises to a peak, to be resolved by the story's calm conclusion. Dissonance in music is often, but not always, followed by harmonic resolution in musical pieces.



Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn in the Grand adage from Nureyev's staging of the Petipa/Minkus The Kingdom of the Shades for the Royal Ballet, London, 1963.

PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Focus on Rambert Dance Company

In the early 1960s, working in London, I recollect that my employers had a client called *Ballet Rambert*. I have to confess that ballet made no sense to me then, but I think I met Madame Rambert once or twice as I was working on her accounts. Today, writing about her company, I have learned much more. Dame Marie Rambert (1888–1982) founded the famous dance company. She was born in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, where she was inspired to become a dancer after seeing Isadora Duncan perform. After an early career as a recital artist and teacher, she went to Paris. Serge Diaghilev's *Les Ballets Russes* engaged her as assistant to choreographer Vaslav Nijinsky on *The Rite of Spring*.

During her year with the *Ballets Russes*, her appreciation of classical ballet developed - combining a love for traditional and new dance forms. Her association with Diaghilev led her to study ballet with the renowned Italian ballet master Enrico Cecchetti. She joined the company as a dancer in the *corps de ballet*. In 1919, Rambert established a dance school in Notting Hill Gate, London, teaching Checchetti's methods, and in 1920, she transitioned into teaching ballet professionally. The school would become the foundation of today's Rambert Dance Company, the UK's first classical ballet company. Although based at the Mercury Theatre, the company was best known as a touring company, travelling nationwide and soon became known as the *Ballet Rambert* until the current name was adopted in the 1980s.

Focus on Sergei Diaghilev

Ballet with a more athletic style was developed in Imperial Russia in the late 19th century. Diaghilev's company performed in the Mariinsky Theatre at St. Petersburg. The three famous Tchaikovsky ballets, *Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty,* and *The Nutcracker*, date from that time. Diaghilev was a great impresario. In 1909, he founded *Les Ballets Russes de Sergei Diaghilev*, considered by many to be the greatest ballet company of all time. Its success was so extraordinary, its ballets so revolutionary, and its artists so electrifying that its appearance in Paris before the First World War sparked an international ballet boom.

His dancers included the legendary Nijinsky and the Imperial prima ballerina Karsavina and Pavlova, Danilova and Spessivtseva. His choreographers included Fokine, Massine and Balanchine; his composers included Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Ravel and Debussy; his set designers included Picasso, Cezanne, Matisse, Utrillo, Bakst and Braque; and the ballets they created changed the course of ballet history.

Source: https://kids.kiddle.co/Ballet

Focus on Ballet Trivia

- ***Ballet's five feet positions*** were designed to allow dancers even weight distribution: the creation of the 'five positions' has been attributed to a few different individuals but was largely codified by Pierre Beauchamps in France during Louis XIV's reign.
- **Male ballet dancers may lift 1½ tons during a *single performance* -** that's the combined weight of the various dancers they will have to raise during some performances and hold up in the air on stage.
- ***Ballerinas may go through 2-3 pairs of ballet shoes a week*** - the turns and leaps of ballet quickly wear through the soft materials of shoes, and in some extreme cases, a ballerina might need a new pair of shoes after just 1 hour of intense practice.
- ***Pointe shoes*** – these are special shoes designed for taking the pointe position entirely up on the toes. All pointe shoes are still entirely made by hand. For professional prima ballerinas, pointe shoes are sometimes custom-made to fit the individual's foot perfectly. A prima ballerina may be able to complete 32 *fouette turns* in a row on the same spot. When turning and keeping in the same spot, the ballerina's pointe shoes create so much friction that they can become hot to the touch. After this, the shoe is considered worn out and must be replaced for the purpose of performance.
- ***Spandex*** - in 1959, Spandex was invented. It proved to be a turning point in ballet costumes, and many ballerinas started to wear Lycra Spandex costumes to allow greater freedom of movement than ever before.

Focus on Ballet Types and Ballet People

Ballet Types

Contemporary Ballet: Taking inspiration from classical ballet elements and adding modern jazz techniques and other dance forms, contemporary ballet focuses more on athleticism and bigger and swifter tempos. Unlike neoclassical ballet, however, it adds acting and complex plots to dance, with a lot of floor work and turn-in of the legs.

Classical Ballet: a traditional style of ballet that stresses the academic technique that has been developed through centuries of the existence of ballet.

Modern Ballet: a type of ballet from the 20th century. Modern ballet looks to re-invent itself and reach out with an ever-increasing degree of creativity and movement.

Neoclassical Ballet: This genre evolved from classical ballet, distinguishing itself for typically being abstract. The music of choice tends to be neoclassical as well. It focuses on athleticism and strong moves with a touch of risqué in physicality.

Picture Credit: "DANCE - Complexions Contemporary Ballet" by Steven Pisano is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Romantic Ballet: Romantic ballets have a strong focus on presenting a mood and cast of different characters to tell a story. They are often performed in romantic tutus, which are long tulle skirt that either goes to the knees or to the ankles. *Giselle* and *La Sylphide* are two examples of romantic ballets.

Ballet People

Ballerina: a female dancer in a ballet company.
Ballerino: Ballerino is used in Italian for a "male dancer" who dances principal roles in a ballet company.
Ballet Master or Ballet Mistress: a person in a ballet company whose job is to give the daily company class and to rehearse the ballets in the company repertoire.
Balletomane: A ballet fan or enthusiast.
Choreographer: a person who composes or invents ballets or dances.
Danseur: a male dancer (also a ballerino) in a ballet company.
Régisseur: a title for someone who restages or rehearses a ballet company. Depending on the size of the ballet company, there may not be a specific title of a régisseur with all of the rehearsing or restaging left up to the ballet masters or mistresses.

The Five-Foot Positions

Once the preparatory position or pose has been established, the feet must be positioned. Below is an outline of the basic ballet positions of the feet from the preparatory position:

1. ***First position.*** The heels are kept together, and the feet are turned outward in a straight line.
2. ***Second position.*** The feet are separated by a distance of one foot, and they are turned outward in a straight line.
3. ***Third position***. The feet are turned outward, and the heels are placed together, one in front of the other.
4. ***Fourth position.*** The feet are separated by a distance of one foot, and they are turned outward with one foot in front of the other, parallel to each other so that if you drew a line from the heel of one foot to the toe of the other, they would form the sides of a square.
5. ***Fifth position.*** The feet are turned outward, one foot is placed directly in front of the other, and the first joint of the big toe extends past each heel.

Source: https://www.masterclass.com/articles/understanding-the-basic-ballet-arm-and-foot-positions#how-to-stand-in-a-preparatory-position

Conclusion

It was my intention for this article to include more items:

- *a dictionary/glossary of Ballet terms*
- *the five basic arm positions*
- *the seven body positions*
- *a description of the top ten Ballets*
- *a list of the top 'artists', both past and present*

For the *Balletomane*s among my readers, I apologise for the temporary absence of these items – I hope to write about them shortly.

A classic example of a son's devotion and faithful service

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felicia_Hemans
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Nile
- http://www.endtimepilgrim.org/boystood.htm

Casabianca is a poem by the English poet *Felicia Dorothea Hemans*, first published in *The Monthly Magazine, Vol 2,* August 1826. The poem starts:

'The boy stood on the burning deck Whence all, but he had fled; The flame that lit the battle's wreck Shone round him o'er the dead.'

There's a sad story behind the poem. The story comes from an extraordinary incident of devotion and heroism witnessed during the *Battle of the Nile*.

The Battle of the Nile

The *Battle of the Nile* was a major naval battle between the British Royal Navy and the Navy of the French Republic at Aboukir Bay on the Mediterranean coast, off the Nile Delta of Egypt. The Battle (1st to 3rd August 1798) was the climax of a naval campaign that had raged across the Mediterranean during the previous three months, as a large French convoy sailed from Toulon to Alexandria carrying an expeditionary force under General Napoleon Bonaparte. The British fleet was led in the Battle by Rear-Admiral *Sir Horatio Nelson*; they decisively defeated the French under Vice-Admiral *François-Paul Brueys d'Aigalliers*.

Bonaparte sought to invade Egypt as the first step in a campaign against British India as part of a wider effort to drive Britain out of the French Revolutionary Wars. As Bonaparte's fleet crossed the Mediterranean, it was pursued by a British force under Nelson, who had been sent from the British fleet in the Tagus to learn the purpose of the French expedition and to defeat it. He chased the French for over two months, on several occasions missing them only by a matter of hours.

Bonaparte was aware of Nelson's pursuit and enforced absolute secrecy about his destination. He was able to capture Malta and then land in Egypt without interception by the British naval forces.

With the French army ashore, the French fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay, 20 miles northeast of Alexandria, Egypt. Commander Vice-Admiral *François-Paul Brueys d'Aigalliers* believed he had established a formidable defensive position. He was wrong.

The British fleet arrived off Egypt on 1st August and discovered Brueys's dispositions, and Nelson ordered an immediate attack. His ships advanced on the French line and split into two divisions as they approached. One cut across the head of the line and passed between the anchored French and the shore, while the other engaged the seaward side of the French fleet. Trapped in a crossfire, the leading French warships were battered into surrender during a fierce three-hour battle, while the centre succeeded in repelling the initial British attack. As British reinforcements arrived, the centre came under renewed assault and two hours before midnight, the French flagship *L'Orient* exploded.

Picture Credit: The Destruction of 'L'Orient' at the Battle of the Nile, 1st August 1798 RMG BHC0509.tiff. The Artist was George Arnold.

The rear division of the French fleet attempted to break out of the bay, with Brueys dead and his vanguard and centre defeated, but only two ships of the line and two frigates escaped from a total of 17 ships engaged. The Battle reversed the strategic situation between the two nations' forces in the Mediterranean and entrenched the Royal Navy in the dominant position it retained for the rest of the war.

The Commander's Son: Casabianca

On 1st August 1798, the English naval squadron under *Lord Nelson* sailed into the Battle, catching the French fleet at anchor and completely unprepared. The French flagship was the *L'Orient,* and it soon found itself flanked by English ships attacking it from both sides. A fierce battle was soon raging, and the flashes of 2000 guns lit up the ships in the gathering darkness. *L'Orient* was caught by the English broadsides and was set ablaze.

It was then that the English sailors saw an amazing sight. There on that burning deck, they saw a boy standing alone. His name was *Giocante Casabianca Joseph*, the 12-year-old son of *Luce Julien Joseph*, the commander of *L'Orient*. There Casabianca stood, alone at his post. He was surrounded by flames and facing the astonished English foe. Soon afterwards, the fire reached the powder magazine deep down in the hold. The boy perished when *L'Orient* erupted in a massive explosion, the sound of which was heard at *Rosetta,* which was 20 miles away. And the glow of the fireball was seen as far away as *Alexandria*. It was an enormous explosion of a magnitude rarely seen back in those times.

The English sailors stood in awe at what they had just witnessed. For some twenty minutes, the guns were silent. The English officers and men were absolutely horrified at the carnage that had taken place. They sent a ship to rescue the survivors from the water. About 70 French sailors were saved.

The account of that boy who stood on that burning deck was told and retold. Eventually, it passed into legend. The story remains a classic example of devotion and faithful service. And the poem continues to serve as a source of inspiration and wonder for many throughout time and across many nations. That boy who stayed at his post on that burning deck has not been forgotten.

And the story of his heroic stand is remembered right up to the present day in a poem. Generations of schoolchildren learned the original poem by heart but may have preferred the numerous parodies it inspired. It starts with the famous line, "*the boy stood on the burning deck*".

Casabianca, the Poem

(Poem © Out of copyright)

The boy stood on the burning deck
Whence all, but he had fled;
The flame that lit the Battle's wreck
Shone round him o'er the dead.

Yet beautiful and bright he stood,
As born to rule the storm;
A creature of heroic blood,
A proud, though childlike form.

The flames roll'd on... he would not go
Without his father's word;
That father, faint in death below,
His voice no longer heard.

He call'd aloud... "Say, father, say
If yet my task is done!"
He knew not that the chieftain lay
Unconscious of his son.

"Speak, father!" once again he cried
"If I may yet be gone!"
And [As'] but the booming shots replied,
And fast the flames roll'd on.

Upon his brow he felt their breath,
And in his waving hair,
And looked from that lone post of death,
In still yet brave despair;
And shouted but one more aloud,
"My father, must I stay?"

While o'er him fast, through sail and shroud
The wreathing fires made way,
They wrapt the ship in splendour wild,
They caught the flag on high,
And stream'd above the gallant child,
Like banners in the sky.

There came a burst of thunder sound...
The boy-oh! where was he?
Ask of the winds that far around
With fragments strewed the sea.

With mast, and helm, and pennon fair,
That well had borne their part;
But the noblest thing which perished there
Was that young faithful heart.

Author: Mrs Felicia Dorothea Hemans

Casabianca, a Parody

The boy stood on the burning deck,
His feet were covered in blisters.
He had no trousers of his own,
And so he wore his sister's.

What is PNEU?

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parents%27_National_Educational_Union
- https://charlottemasonpoetry.org/characteristics-of-a-p-n-e-u-school/
- https://burgesshillgirls.com/about-us/school-history
- https://charlottemasonpoetry.org/the-teaching-methods-of-charlotte-mason-and-the-p-n-e-u/
- https://www.time4learning.com/homeschooling-styles/charlotte-mason.html#what-is-charlotte-mason-style
- https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/alumni/memory-lane/charlotte-mason-college/

Picture: Charlotte Mason,
Painted by Frederic Yates in 1902
In the Public Domain

The *Parents' National Educational Union (PNEU)* was founded in 1887 in Bradford, Yorkshire. It started as the *Parents' Educational Union* and adopted the word "National" in 1890. PNEU Schools have always been known to have a well-structured and broad curriculum. There are PNEU schools throughout Britain and the world.

The organisation provided resources and support for teachers and homeschoolers in the United Kingdom by following the educational ideas of the renowned Victorian educationalist *Charlotte Mason*. She co-founded PNEU together with *Emeline Petrie Steinthal*.

Charlotte Mason established her House of Education in the Lake District (Ambleside) in 1892. The school was a learning institution for governesses; students learnt to teach the home-educated children of the professional middle classes of the late Victorian era. It was set up to train students in the *Mason* philosophy and methods and all other aspects of education. Her ideas challenged the generally accepted views of how to educate children. She believed that "children are persons" and that teachers and parents should treat them as individuals who need to be stimulated early by a broad curriculum, not simply trained to read, write, and count. The curriculum should contain the best literature, the best art, the best contemporary science etc. Today, these ideas may seem self-evident, but they were not self-evident at the end of the 19th century.

It could be argued that it is only because of *Charlotte Mason* and others like her that the ideas are self-evident now. The *Charlotte Mason Teacher Training College* and the PNEU have undergone many changes. The College is now an integral part of St Martin's College, Lancaster.*

* Source: https://fairfield.school/?id=pneu

The PNEU national and international exposure is credited to *Henrietta Franklin*. She had met *Charlotte Mason* in 1890, and by 1892, she had opened the first school in London based on these principles. In 1894, *Franklin* became the secretary of the PNEU and went on speaking tours to major cities in America, Europe and South Africa. She devoted her own money to the cause and wrote on its behalf. *Franklin's* biography cites and credits the PNEU's continued existence to her.

The PNEU motto is: *I am, I can, I ought, I will*, explained as:

- ***I am*** – each of us is a person in our own right and has within us the power of knowing ourselves, both our qualities and our faults.
- ***I can*** – we have the ability to use our talents to the full and should never be tempted to waste them through lack of effort.
- ***I ought*** – our own conscience and knowledge of right and wrong tell us what we ought to do, and we should all do our best to see that we carry this out.
- ***I will*** – a determination on our part to listen to our conscience and to act on what we ought to do.

The Charlotte Mason Method**

The *Charlotte Mason* method is based on Charlotte's firm belief that a child is a person, and teachers must educate that whole person, not just their mind. So a *Charlotte Mason* education is three-pronged: in her words, "Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life."

An Atmosphere, A Discipline, A Life

- ***Atmosphere****:* means the surroundings in which a child grows up. A child absorbs a lot from his home environment. *Charlotte Mason* believed that the ideas that rule a parent's life make up one-third of the child's education.
- ***Discipline:*** means the discipline of good habits—and specifically the habits of character. Cultivating good habits in a child's life makes up another third of their education.
- ***Life:*** applies to academics. *Charlotte Mason* believed that children should receive living thoughts and ideas, not just dry facts.

** Source: https://simplycharlottemason.com/what-is-the-charlotte-mason-method/who-was-charlotte-mason/

Last words

Worth reading is a paper by Miss O'Ferrall (Ex-student H.E.), Volume 33, no. 11, November 1922, pages. 777-787 available online HERE.

Burgess Hill School for Girls (now called Burgess Hill Girls) was initially started as a PNEU school in 1906. It has consistently maintained its place as one of the highest-ranking schools in Sussex. My daughter attended the school and finished as Head Girl.

Eating Bees without getting stung

The blue-headed bee-eater (*Merops muelleri*) is a species of bird in the family *Meropidae*. It is found in forest habitats in tropical West and Central Africa, including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Kenya. None, as far as I know, live in Sussex!

Picture Credit: "Blue-headed Bee-eater" by Rainbirder is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Species that breed in subtropical or temperate areas of Europe, Asia and Australia are all migratory.

There are about 25 species of bee-eaters that live throughout tropical and subtropical parts of the world, with males and females sporting striking feathers. The birds live in large colonies, often burrowing into sandy cliffs along a riverbank.

The sexes are similar, and the adult length is about 19 cm. The back and wings are dark brown, while the remaining plumage is mainly ultramarine blue. The crown of birds living in the east is blue, fading to white on the forehead; western populations have blue heads. The chin and upper throat are scarlet, with a black margin. The belly is a paler shade of blue. The eyes are red.

The bird will position itself on conspicuous perches such as at the top branch of a high tree, a shrub, or on electricity poles, wires, and other vantage points. It makes it easy to spy on insects and have an uninterrupted flight.

As the name suggests, these birds love to eat bees and other flying insects - wasps, butterflies, dragonflies, and beetles - which they catch in a mid-air swoop. The bee-eaters are almost exclusively aerial hunters of insect prey.

The bird usually crushes the insect in flight and so avoids being stung: on returning to its perch, the bird smashes the unfortunate prey on a branch and rubs the dazed insect on a hard surface. Pressure is applied to the insect's body, thereby discharging most of the venom and breaking the exoskeleton before swallowing the carcass of the bee whole in one gulp.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee-eater

Idioms – what they are, what they mean and more

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:
• https://www.boredpanda.com/origins-commonly-used-phrases-words-idioms/
• https://www.ef.com/wwen/blog/language/20-english-idioms-that-everyone-should-know/ • https://www.history.com/
• https://www.stylist.co.uk/books/everyday-sayings-explained/124076 • https://www.theidioms.com/

An idiom is a phrase or expression that typically presents a figurative, metaphorical non-literal meaning attached to the phrase, which has become accepted in common usage. But, some phrases become figurative idioms while retaining the literal meaning of the phrase. Categorised as formulaic language, an idiom's symbolic meaning is usually different from its literal meaning. In the English language, there are estimated to be at least 25,000 idiomatic expressions. It's important to know the difference between *breaking a leg* and *pulling someone's leg*. Here are a few examples of idioms with their meaning, many with their meaning and how they came into use.

- ***Achilles Heel:*** It means a weakness or vulnerable point and comes from Greek mythology - Thesis dipped her son Achilles in the Styx (a river believed to be a source of incredible power and invulnerability). However, she was holding her son by his heel, meaning it was the only part of his body that was not touched by water, making his heel vulnerable. Eventually, Achilles was killed by the shot of an arrow in his heel.
- ***A Hot Potato:*** a controversial issue or situation that is awkward or unpleasant to deal with - for example: '*Sending bullying texts to classmates in my school is a hot potato.*'
- ***As Right As Rain:*** What does it mean? Perfect, it couldn't be better.
- ***Barking Up The Wrong Tree:*** Meaning: Pursuing a mistaken or misguided line of thought or course of action. This phrase refers to hunting dogs who chased their prey up a tree. Once it climbed the tree, the dogs barked at them, but sometimes the dogs would continue barking even if the quarry was no longer there.
- ***Beat About The Bush***: To discuss a matter without coming to the point or making a decision. The idiom relates to an action performed while hunting, driving birds and other animals out into the open.
- ***Best Thing Since Sliced Bread***: Meaning/Usage: It's excellent, really good. It means that something is the best and most helpful innovation or development invented for a long time.
- ***Bite The Bullet:*** Meaning: Decide to do something difficult or unpleasant that one has been putting off or hesitating over. During battles, there was no time to administer anaesthesias while performing surgeries. Because of that, patients were made to bite down on bullets to distract themselves from the pain.
- ***Blood Is Thicker Than Water:*** Meaning/Usage: Family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones. Even though many think this idiom means putting family ahead of friends, it meant the complete opposite. The full phrase was *"The blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb,"* and it referred to warriors who shared the blood they shed in battles together. These 'blood brothers' were said to have stronger bonds than biological brothers.
- ***Blue Blood:*** Noble birth. Saying that some has blue blood comes from the Middle Ages, where it was believed that those who had pale skin (meaning their ancestor have not inter-married with darker skin partners) were noble or aristocrat.
- ***Break A Leg:*** What does it mean? To wish someone good luck. How do you use it? This idiom is not at all threatening. Often accompanied by a thumbs up, 'Break a leg!' is an encouraging cheer of good luck. It is said to have originated from when successful theatre performers would bow so many times after a show that they would break a leg.
- ***Born With A Silver Spoon In Your Mouth:*** It means to be born into a wealthy family of high social standing. It is an old tradition for godparents to gift a silver spoon to a christened child. However, as not everyone could afford a luxury gift, those receiving the spoon as a gift were considered wealthy and sometimes even spoiled.
- ***Break The Ice:*** Do or say something to relieve tension or get a conversation going in a strained situation or when strangers meet.
- ***Bury The Hatchet:*** Meaning/Usage: End a quarrel or conflict and become friendly. During negotiations between the Puritans and Native Americans, men would bury all of their weapons, making them inaccessible.
- ***Butter Someone Up:*** To flatter or otherwise ingratiate oneself with another person so that that person will do what you want them to do.
- ***By And Large:*** It means the whole, everything considered. It originates from the 16th century when the word 'large' meant that a ship was sailing with the wind at its back. Meanwhile, 'by' meant the opposite, that the ship was sailing into the wind. The mariners used the phrase 'by and large' to refer to sailing in any and all directions, relative to the wind.
- ***Cat Got Your Tongue:*** Usage: Said to someone who remains silent when they are expected to speak. There are two stories on how this saying came into being. The first one says that it could have come from a whip called *"Cat-o'-nine-tails"*, used by the British Navy for flogging and often left the victims speechless. The second may be from ancient Egypt, where liars' tongues were cut out as punishment and fed to the cats.
- ***Caught Red-Handed:*** Usage: Used to indicate that a person has been discovered in or just after the act of doing something wrong or illegal. An old law stated that if someone butchered an animal that didn't belong to him, he would only be punished if he was caught with blood on his hands.
- ***Call (or Haul) On The Carpet:*** It means to be severely reprimanded by someone in authority. Like many idioms, the precise origin of this one is not certain.
- ***(To Get) Cold Feet:*** It means a loss of nerve or confidence. This idiom originates from a military term: warriors who had frozen feet could not rush into battle.
- ***Come Rain Or Shine:*** What does it mean? No matter what. How do you use it? You guarantee to do something, regardless of the weather or any other situation that might arise, such as: '*I'll be at the football match, come rain or shine.*'
- ***Crocodile Tears:*** Meaning/Usage: Tears or expressions of sorrow that are insincere. A 14th century book called *"The Travels of Sir John Mandeville"* recounts a knight's adventures through Asia. The book says that crocodiles shed tears while eating a man they captured. Even though it is factually inaccurate, the phrase 'crocodile tears' found its way into William Shakespeare's work and became an idiom in the 16th century, symbolising insincere grief.
- ***Don't Look A Gift Horse In The Mouth:*** It means finding fault with something that has been received as a gift or favour. While buying a horse, people would determine the horse's age and condition based on its teeth and then decide whether they want to buy it or not. People use this idiom to say it is rude to look for flaws in something gifted to you.
- ***Don't Throw The Baby Out With The Bathwater:*** Meaning/Usage: To discard something valuable along with other things that are undesirable. In the 16th century, most people would bathe only once a year. And even when they did that, the entire family would all bathe in the same water. Usually, men of the house bathed first, followed by other males, females, and finally babies. At the end of this yearly routine, the water would be so dirty and cloudy that mothers would have to be careful not to throw their infants out with the water.
- ***Eat Humble Pie:*** Make a humble apology and accept humiliation. It comes from the Middle Ages – after a hunt, there would be a huge feast at which the Lord of the Manor would receive the finest piece of meat. Others of lower status would eat a pie filled with entrails and innards (also known as "umbles").
- ***Elephant In The Room:*** Meaning/Usage: An idiom for an important or enormous topic, question, or controversial issue that is obvious or that everyone knows about but no one mentions or wants to discuss because it makes at least some of them uncomfortable and is personally, socially, or politically embarrassing, controversial, inflammatory, or dangerous. Usage: an obvious truth or fact, especially one regarded as awkward or undesirable, but is intentionally ignored or left unaddressed.
- ***Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining:*** It means that a negative occurrence may have a positive aspect to it. It can be traced to a piece written in 1634 by English poet John Milton called *Comus: A Mask*, which was presented at Ludlow Castle. He spoke of a silver lining of brightness behind a gloomy cloud, and soon afterwards, 'Milton's clouds' became a staple of English Literature. The proverb *'every cloud has a silver lining'* eventually came into being in the 1800s, a time of optimism and positivity in the upper classes of Victorian England.
- ***Get My Goat:*** It means to irritate someone. For example, some horses get anxious during horseracing, so owners would place goats in the stalls to calm them down. Rival horse owners would sometimes steal the goats, upsetting the horse and making it more likely to lose.
- ***Give The Cold Shoulder:*** Reject, ignore or be deliberately unfriendly towards (ostracise/ignore). Originally, this idiom was considered an act of politeness. In medieval times in England, after everyone had finished eating, the host would give his guests a cold piece of meat from the shoulder of beef or pork to show that it was time for everyone to go home.
- ***Go Bananas:*** It means to do something insane or extremely silly. The expression 'to go bananas' has no conclusive origin, but it may be linked to 'go ape', which became popular in the 1950s when monkeys were being launched on rockets and were a popular subject in films and TV. The link between monkeys, bananas and crazy behaviour may have been the catalyst for the popularisation of the expression. Bananas have often been central to slapstick comedy in general, with somebody slipping on a banana peel a timeless classic.
- ***Go Down In Flames:*** What does it mean: To fail spectacularly. Example: '*That exam went down in flames. It's my fault. I should have studied harder.*'
- ***Jump On The Bandwagon:*** It means to follow a trend. It happens when a person joins in with something popular or does something just because it's the fad of the day.

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- ***Kick The Bucket:*** Meaning/Usage: To die. When killing a cow at slaughterhouses, people would place a bucket under the animal while positioned on a pulley. While trying to adjust the animal, the cow would kick out its legs and kicking the bucket before being killed.
- ***Let The Cat Out Of The Bag:*** To carelessly (or by mistake) reveal a secret. Some time ago, pig farmers would bring them wrapped up in a bag to the market. Unscrupulous ones would replace the pig with a cat, and if someone accidentally let the cat out, their fraud would be uncovered.
- ***Let Your Hair Down:*** To behave uninhibitedly, for example, it was an important rule between Parisian nobles to wear elaborate hairdos while in public, and some of the looks required hours of long work—a moment of taking your hair down after a long day became associated with a relaxing ritual.
- ***More Than You Can Shake A Stick At:*** Meaning: a large amount or quantity of something. This idiom was born when farmers, who waved sticks to herd sheep, would have more sheep than they could control.
- ***My Ears Are Burning:*** It means that you are subconsciously aware of being talked about or criticised. The idiom dates back to ancient Romans, who believed that burning sensations in various organs had different meanings. It was thought that if your left ear was burning, it signalled an evil intent, and if your right ear was burning, you were being praised.
- ***No Spring Chicken:*** Someone who is no longer young - past their prime.
- ***Once In a Blue Moon:*** It means *rarely*. This idiom is used to describe something that doesn't happen often. Example: '*I am remiss as I remember to call my parents to invite them to dinner only once in a blue moon.*'
- ***One For The Road:*** Having a final drink before leaving for home. During the middle ages, the condemned ones were taken through what today is known as Oxford Street in London to their execution. During this final trip, the cart would stop, and they would be allowed to have one last drink before their death.
- ***Piece Of Cake:*** Something that is easily achieved. The saying 'Piece of Cake' comes from American poet Ogden Nash who, in 1930, was quoted saying, *'Life's a piece of cake'*.
- ***Pleased As Punch:*** It means feeling great delight or pride. The 17th century puppet show called 'Punch and Judy' featured Punch, who killed people and took great joy in doing so. He would feel pleased with himself afterwards, from which the saying 'pleased as Punch' was born.
- ***Pull Someone's Leg:*** It means to play a practical joke. It is the perfect phrase to learn if you're a fan of practical jokes. 'Pull their leg' is similar to 'wind someone up'. Use it in context: *'Relax, I'm just pulling your leg!'* or *'Wait, are you pulling my leg?'*.
- ***Raining Cats And Dogs:*** Meaning/Usage: Raining very hard. This idiom has two stories that try to explain its origin. The first explanation is this phrase comes from Norse mythology, where cats would symbolise heavy rains and dogs were associated with the God of storms, Odin. The second version says that in 16th century Britain, houses had thatched roofs providing one of the few places where animals could get warm. Sometimes, when it would start to rain so heavily, that roofs would get slippery and cats and dogs would fall off.
- ***Read The Riot Act:*** To give someone a strong warning that they must improve their behaviour. In 18th century England, the Riot Act was a legal document read aloud in front of a crowd larger than 12 people that were considered a threat to the peace. A public official would read a small part of the Act and order people to leave peacefully within an hour - anyone remaining after one hour was subject to arrest or removal by force.
- ***Rest (or Resting) on Your Laurels:*** The idea of resting on your laurels dates back to ancient Greece - Laurel leaves were closely allied to Apollo, the god of music, prophecy and poetry. Apollo was usually depicted with a crown of laurel leaves, and the plant eventually became a symbol of status and achievement. Victorious athletes at the ancient Pythian Games received wreaths made of laurel branches, and the Romans later adopted the practice and presented wreaths to generals who won important battles. Since the 1800s, it has been used for those who are overly satisfied with past triumphs.
- ***Rule Of Thumb:*** It means a broadly accurate guide or principle, based on experience or practice rather than theory. It is believed that the *Rule of Thumb* idiom comes from England in the 17th century - Judge Sir Francis Buller ruled that husbands could beat their wives with a stick if it were no wider than his thumb.
- ***Run Amok***: Meaning/Usage: To behave uncontrollably and disruptively. The saying comes from the Malaysian word *amoq* (also *amuck* and also spelled *amuk*), which describes the bizarre behaviour of tribespeople who, under the influence of opium, would become wild and attack people.
- ***See Eye To Eye:*** It means to agree with a point or argument someone is making.
- ***Sell Someone Down The River:*** To betray someone, especially to benefit oneself. This idiom comes from the 19th century in the Southern States of America, in the trade of importing and selling slaves for profit.
- ***Show A Leg:*** Get out of bed; get up. In days gone by, just before ships were about to leave port, sailors would try to sneak in a lady and hide them in their hammock. Before leaving, officers would ask anyone in a hammock to 'show a leg.' If a hairless leg appeared, the woman was asked to leave the ship.
- ***Show Your True Colours:*** It means to reveal one's real character or intentions, especially when they are disreputable or dishonourable. To confuse their enemies, warships would use multiple flags. However, warfare rules dictated that the ships must show their actual flag before firing and hence, they would then *'show their true colours.'*
- ***Sit On The Fence*:** What does it mean? To be undecided. How do you use it? If you're sitting on the fence, you've not decided which side of an argument you agree with.
- ***Sleep Tight:*** Meaning/Usage: Sleep well (said to someone when parting from them at night). It is believed that the saying comes from the time of Shakespeare when mattresses were secured by ropes. *Sleeping tight* meant sleeping with the ropes pulled tight, making a well-sprung bed.
- ***Spill The Beans:*** What does it mean? To give away a secret or to confess to something. How do you use it? If you told someone about their own surprise party, you'd have 'spilled the beans' or even 'let the cat out of the bag'.
- ***Steal One's Thunder:*** It means to win praise for oneself by preempting someone else's attempt to impress. It is said to have come from the time of dramatist John Dennis early in the 18th century after he had 'invented' a thunder machine for his unsuccessful 1709 play *Appius and Virginia* and later found it used by someone else at a performance of *Macbeth.*
- ***Take It With A Pinch (or Grain) Of Salt:*** What does it mean? Don't take it too seriously, such as: '*I heard about his stories, but as they are usually far-fetched, I take everything he says with a pinch of salt.*'
- ***The Ball Is In Your Court:*** What does it mean? It's up to you. It's your move now, but this idiom refers to life rather than a sport. If you've got the 'ball,' someone is waiting for you to make a decision.
- ***The Third Degree:*** Meaning: A saying commonly used for long/intense interrogations. There are several possibilities about the origin of "the third degree." The idiom is most likely derived from Freemasonry, whose members undergo rigorous questioning and examinations before becoming "third degree" members or "master masons."
- ***The Walls Have Ears:*** Meaning/Usage: Be careful what you say, as people may be eavesdropping. In France, the Louvre Palace was believed to have a network of listening tubes to hear everything said in different rooms. People say that this is how Queen Catherine de' Medici discovered political secrets and plots.
- ***The Whole Nine Yards:*** It means to do everything possible or available. It comes from World War II, when pilots would have a 9-yard chain of ammunition. When a fighter pilot used all their ammunition on one target, they would give *'The whole nine yards.'*
- ***Through Thick And Thin:*** It means to be loyal no matter what. It is often used to describe families - 'through thick and thin' means that you're by each other's side no matter what happens, through the bad times and the good.
- ***Turn A Blind Eye:*** Meaning/Usage: Pretending not to notice/see. It is believed that this phrase originates with the British naval hero Horatio Nelson. During the 1801's Battle of Copenhagen, Nelson's ships battled against a large Danish-Norwegian fleet. When his more conservative superior officer flagged for him to withdraw, the one-eyed Nelson supposedly brought his telescope to his bad eye. He proclaimed, *"I do not see the signal."* He went on to score a decisive victory.
- ***Under the weather:*** What does it mean? To feel ill. How do you use it? Usage: If someone says they're feeling under the weather, your response should be *'I hope you feel better soon,'* not '*Would you like to borrow my umbrella?*'.
- ***Waking Up On The Wrong Side Of The Bed:*** To start the day in a bad temper. Historically, the left side of basically anything has been considered 'the evil side,' so waking up on the left side was also considered a sign of bad luck. To ward off evil, house owners would push the left sides of the beds to the corner, so their guests would have no other option than to get up on the right side.
- ***White Elephant:*** A useless or troublesome item you own, especially one that is expensive to maintain or difficult to dispose of. White elephants were considered sacred creatures in Thailand, yet they were also very hard and costly to take care of.
- ***Wolf In Sheep's Clothing:*** Meaning: A person or thing that appears friendly or harmless but is really hostile. It's a warning that you can't necessarily trust someone who seems kind and friendly on the outside.
- ***You Can Say That Again:*** It means, *That's true.* It is generally exclaimed in agreement to something that's been said, such as: when someone *says 'Cameron Diaz is gorgeous*, you can reply: *'You can say that again.'*

Picture Credit: [Cropped] "Raining Cats and Dogs" by David Blackwell is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0

There are thousands more I've left out, such as *Ace in the Hole, Against the Grain, Airy Fairy, All Bark and No Bite, Ants in Your Pants, Always a Bridesmaid but Never a Bride, Apple of One's Eye, Burning a Candle at Both Ends.*

Which idiom is your favourite?

Visit HERE for an extensive list.

Lady Mary – The Scourge of Smallpox

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Mary_Wortley_Montagu
- https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/mary-wortley-montagu-smallpox/
- https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/who-was-lady-mary-wortley-montagu

Portrait of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762)
by Jonathan Richardson the younger
In the Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jonathan_Richardson_d._J._001.jpg

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (née Pierrepont (15th May 1689 – 21st August 1762) was an English aristocrat, writer, and poet. Whilst Mary may have been born into privilege, her gender meant that she could take little credit for her scientific breakthrough in combating and ultimately eradicating smallpox. Her gender also barred her from membership of the Royal Society, England's famed academy of sciences.

In 1712, Lady Mary married Edward Wortley Montagu, who later served as the British ambassador to the Sublime Porte*. Lady Mary joined her husband in the Ottoman excursion, where she spent the next two years of her life.

During her time there, Lady Mary wrote extensively about her experience as a woman in Ottoman Istanbul. After returning to England, Lady Mary devoted her attention to her family's upbringing before dying of cancer in 1762.

* *Sublime Porte* was also known as the Ottoman Porte or High Porte (a *synecdoche*, a type of figurative speech used to attach a human characteristic to a non-human object) for the central government of the Ottoman Empire).

Education

Mary Wortley Montagu's education was divided between a governess and the use of the library at the family property, Thoresby Hall.

According to Lady Mary, the governess gave her "one of the worst [education] in the world" by teaching Lady Mary "superstitious tales and false notions". To supplement the instruction of her despised governess, Lady Mary used the well-furnished library to "steal" her education.

By the time she was 16, she had written two volumes of poetry, a short novel and taught herself Latin.

Smallpox

Smallpox first appeared in Europe during the early Middle Ages, and bit by bit, it became more and more deadly. It has been estimated that it killed 60 million Europeans between 1700 and 1800 alone. People who caught it and survived were often left scarred and with long-term health conditions, including blindness. Whether you were young or old, rich or poor, the 'speckled monster' (as it was later called) was indiscriminate.

Inoculation

Aside from her writing, Lady Mary is also known for introducing and advocating smallpox inoculation to Britain after returning from Turkey. Her papers address and challenge the hindering contemporary social attitudes towards women and their intellectual and social growth.

In the 18th century, Europeans began an experiment known as *inoculation* or *variolation* to prevent (but not cure) smallpox. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu defied convention by introducing smallpox inoculation to Western medicine after witnessing it during her travels and stay in the Ottoman Empire.

Previously, Lady Mary's brother had died of smallpox in 1713, and although Lady Mary herself recovered from the disease in 1715, it left her with a disfigured face. In the Ottoman Empire, she witnessed the practice of inoculation against smallpox (variolation) – which she called *engrafting* and wrote home about it in a number of her letters. Variolation used live smallpox virus taken from a mild smallpox blister and introduced it into the scratched skin of the arm or leg (the most usual spots) of a previously uninfected person to promote immunity to the disease. Consequently, the recipient would develop a milder case of smallpox than the one they might have otherwise contracted.

Lady Mary was keen to spare her children: in March 1718, she had her nearly five-year-old son, Edward, inoculated with the help of Embassy surgeon *Charles Maitland*. On her return to London, she enthusiastically promoted the procedure but encountered a great deal of resistance from the medical establishment because it was regarded as a folk treatment process. Opponents of the treatment derided it as oriental, irreligious, and a fad of ignorant women.

In April 1721, when a smallpox epidemic struck and killed people in Britain and as far away as Boston, Massachusetts, Lady Mary had her daughter inoculated by surgeon *Charles Maitland* and publicised the event. It was the first such operation done in Britain. Convinced of its efficacy, Lady Mary persuaded *Caroline of Ansbach*, *Princess of Wales*, to test the treatment. In August 1721, seven prisoners at Newgate Prison awaiting execution were offered the opportunity to undergo variolation instead of execution: they all survived and were released.

Despite this, controversy over smallpox inoculation intensified. However, *Caroline, Princess of Wales,* was convinced of its value, and two daughters were successfully inoculated in April 1722 by French-born surgeon *Claudius Amyand.* Later, other royal families followed Montagu's act.

Nevertheless, inoculation was not always a safe process; some inoculates developed a real case of smallpox and could infect others. The inoculations resulted in a "*small number of deaths and complications, including serious infections.*" Subsequently, *Edward Jenner* developed the much safer technique of vaccination using cowpox instead of smallpox. As a result, and somewhat unfairly, he and not Lady Mary Montagu received the credit for beating smallpox.

Lady Mary's Legacy

In May 1958, during the 11th World Health Assembly at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, *V.M. Zhdanov*, a well-known virologist who was the Deputy Minister of Public Health of the Soviet Union, proposed a program for global smallpox eradication and substantiated its feasibility.

In 1967, WHO embarked on a worldwide campaign to eradicate smallpox which they certified as achieved in 1979. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's introduction of smallpox inoculation had ultimately led to the development of vaccines and the later eradication of smallpox.

Humanity won its battle against smallpox arguably due to the resilience of Lady Mary Montagu, who pioneered inoculation in 18th century Britain and Europe, despite tremendous resistance.

The medical breakthrough, which Lady Mary promoted widely (later superseded by *Edward Jenner's* vaccination), was the first time in Western medicine that antibodies were created to secure immunity from disease.

Quotations by Lady Mary Montague

"No art can give me back my beauty lost."

"It is 11 years since I have seen my figure in a glass [mirror]. The last reflection I saw there was so disagreeable I resolved to spare myself such mortification in the future."

"Civility costs nothing and buys everything."

"True knowledge consists in knowing things, not words."

"Nature is seldom in the wrong, custom always."

"You can be pleased with nothing if you are not pleased with yourself."

"There is no remedy so easy as books, which if they do not give cheerfulness, at least restore quiet to the most troubled mind."

"Life is too short for a long story."

"Forgive what you can't excuse."

"Whatever is clearly expressed is well wrote."

No Rhyme or Reason

People, not computers, invented the English language, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). On the question of answers, here are some good ones:

- Why does lemonade have imitation flavouring, but furniture polish and toilet bleach contain real lemon juice?
- Why do we park in driveways yet drive on parkways?
- Why is it that when I transport something by car or van, it's called a shipment, but it's called cargo when I transport something by ship?
- Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car not called a racist?
- Why are wise men and wise guys opposites?
- Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
- Why isn't number 11 pronounced onety one?
- If lawyers are disbarred, and clergymen are defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and drycleaners depressed?
- Why is it that if someone tells you that there are a billion stars in the universe, you will believe them, but if they tell you a wall has wet paint, you have to touch it to be sure?
- Why do "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- Why did Japanese Kamikaze pilots wear crash helmets.
- Why is there no egg in eggplant or ham in hamburgers and no apple or pine in a pineapple?
- Why are sweetmeats sweets, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat?
- Why do people recite at a play and play at a recital?
- How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same?
- How can overlook and oversee be opposites while quite a lot and quite a few are alike?
- How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?
- Have you ever run into someone who was combobulated, gruntled, ruly or peccable?
- Does it make any sense to fill in a form by filling it out?
- Why do your feet smell while your nose runs?
- If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
- Why is it called a TV "set" when you only get one of them?
- Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors and lawyers call what they do "practice"?
- Why is the word "abbreviate" so long?
- Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
- Why, when you are driving and looking for an address, do you turn the radio down?
- If a convenience store is open 24hrs a day and 365 days a year, why are there locks on the door?
- Why are cigarettes sold in petrol stations when smoking is prohibited?
- How does the man who drives the snowplough get to work?
- Why is it so hard to remember how to spell mnemonic?
- Why are boxing rings square?
- Why do they sterilise needles used for lethal injections?
- Why do celebrities spend their entire lives trying to become well-known and then wear dark glasses so no one will recognize them?
- If something is top secret, why would you write "confidential" on the envelope? Wouldn't it make people want to open it instead of using a plain old manila envelope with nothing on it?
- What's the point of thongs? It's like buying a wedgie.
- What's a free gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- Why does snow fall, but rain drops?
- Why do people make rubber ducks yellow when real ducks are green or brown?
- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why does an alarm clock "go off" when it begins ringing?
- Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?
- Why is there an expiration date on "sour" cream?
- Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic?"
- When two planes almost hit each other, why is it called a "near miss?" Shouldn't it be called a "near hit?"
- Why do light switches say on/off? When it's on, you can see it's on, but when it's off, you can't see to read.
- Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?
- Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"
- Why can you drink a drink but you can't food a food?
- If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
- Why do people long for eternal life when they don't even know what to do on a rainy Saturday afternoon?
- Why do we call this planet Earth when 90% of it is water?
- Why does a broken bone heal itself, but if you get a tiny cavity in a tooth, you have to get it filled?

Sources:
https://www.mathias.org/steve/nosense.htm
https://tiphero.com/things-that-make-no-sense

"Ough" can be pronounced in at least ten different ways

The different ways to pronounce OUGH include:

- -off: *Words like* cough *and* trough *rhyme with* scoff.
- -uff: *Words like* tough, rough, *and* enough *rhyme with* stuff.
- -ow: *The word* plough *rhymes with* now.
- -oh: *The word* though *rhymes with* go.
- -uh: *The common British pronunciation of the word* thorough *rhymes with* pizza.
- -oo: *The word* through *rhymes with* zoo.
- -up: *The word* hiccough *(a variant of* hiccup*) rhymes with* pickup.
- -awt: *The word* thought *rhymes with* got.
- -ock: *The obscure word* hough *rhymes with* rock.
- -och: *The word* lough *(a rendering of the Irish* loch*, meaning "lake") can be pronounced with a guttural sound in the back of the throat*

You can probably think of more – if you do, please let me know.

Did you know?

- The word ***run*** has hundreds of different meanings:

Some English words can be used to mean a ton of different things. (We actually use the word ***polysemy*** to refer to a situation where a word or phrase has multiple meanings.) For example, the word ***run*** is considered to have the most senses of any English word—said to be more than 600 - such as *running* a race, *running* a business, going on a grocery *run*, or checking to see if your fridge is *running*.

- A sentence that contains every letter in the alphabet is called a ***pangram***.

A ***pangram*** manages to make room for unpopular letters like *Q*, *X*, and *Z*. A popular example of a *pangram* often used in learning to type on a typewriter is *"A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog."* Another example of a *pangram* is "*The joyful wizards quietly mixed groovy black potions."*

- The most commonly used words in English.

Evidence shows that the word ***the*** is the most commonly used English word. Taking the silver medal is the verb ***be*** (and all of its forms). The helpful conjunction ***and*** takes third place. Finally, the words ***a, of, to, in, I, you***, and ***it*** complete the top 10.

Source:
https://www.thesaurus.com/e/grammar/english-language-facts/

Dorothy Eady: the girl who said she had lived in ancient Egypt

Sourced/Excerpted from Wikipedia and Further Reading:

- https://medium.com/the-collector/the-baffling-tale-of-dorothy-eady-a8e996982674
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Eady
- https://www.healthline.com/health/foreign-accent-syndrome
- https://www.brown.edu/Research/Breaking_Ground/bios/Sety_Omm.pdf
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Dorothy Louise *Eady*, also known as *Omm Sety* or *Om Seti* (16th January 1904 – 21st April 1981), was born in London. She was an antiques caretaker and folklorist. She was the keeper of the Abydos Temple of *Seti I* and draftswoman for the Department of Egyptian Antiquities. She is primarily known for her belief that she had been a priestess in ancient Egypt in a previous life and for her considerable historical research at Abydos.

Dorothy Eady's story starts with something that happened in 1907 when she was three years old. She fell down the stairs at her home in London and became unconscious. Nobody knows for sure what happened next. Some say she was pronounced dead before suddenly regaining consciousness. Others claim she had suffered a rare brain injury, such as *foreign accent syndrome**. The family doctor was surprised when the girl's parents called him back to the house barely one hour after the fall to say their daughter was alive and seemed to be perfectly healthy.

However, Dorothy was never the same again. From then on, she claimed to be the reincarnation of a priestess in the cult of Isis — and seemed to have intimate knowledge to back it up. Dorothy even knew details that had never been published. She had vivid dreams of the vast building with large columns and beautiful gardens.

* Foreign accent syndrome (FAS) happens when you suddenly start to speak with a different accent. Although very rare, it is an actual condition. Only about 100 people have ever been diagnosed with this condition since the first known case emerged in 1907. It doesn't just affect English speakers. FAS can happen to anyone and has been documented in cases and languages all over the world.

Apart from the change in her speech patterns, something else baffled her parents: she kept asking them to take her home. When Dorothy was asked where 'home' was, the girl couldn't say.

When she was four, her parents took her to the British Museum in London. At first, Dorothy was bored, but upon seeing the Egyptian sculptures, she hugged them and didn't want to leave the museum. Like a child having a temper tantrum, she started to yell and scream when it was time to go, refusing to leave. Dorothy told her parents these were 'her people'. At some point on a later visit to the museum, she caught the attention of the prominent Egyptologist *Sir E.A. Wallace Budge*, who encouraged her to learn hieroglyphics.

At the age of seven, she discovered a photo of the Abydos Temple of Seti (the father of *Rameses the Great*) – see below. She immediately ran to her parents and told them she had found her home but was puzzled as there used to be more trees and a beautiful garden next to the temple.

Picture Credit: "Temple of Seti I at Abydos (XVI)" by isawnyu is licensed under CC BY 2.0

At 15, Dorothy said she began to have 'visitations' from *Pharaoh Seti I*, of the New Kingdom 19th Dynasty of Egypt. Recurring impressions occurred during her adolescence of being in an Egyptian environment. She suffered from nightmares and somnambulism (sleep-walking and sleep-talking), for which she was committed to a mental hospital for observation on several occasions.

Dorothy continued to claim to be the reincarnation of an ancient Egyptian priestess, and with her 'knowledge', she helped experts track down previously unknown historical sites. Dorothy later worked out the details of her previous life.

She told her parents that night-time apparitions of the god *Hor-Ra* dictated it to her over a year-long series of visitations. Claiming to be the reincarnation of a girl named *Bentreshyt*, Dorothy described being abandoned at age three and being raised after that in the temple of Seti I at Abydos — the very same building she had pointed out when she was just a four-year-old. She recounted meeting the pharaoh in the temple gardens while serving as a priestess of Isis. For a priestess of Isis to lose her virginity, though, was a capital offence. After becoming pregnant with *Seti*'s child, *Bentreshyt* was ordered to stand trial.

Instead, she chose to kill herself.

At age 27, Dorothy began writing for an Egyptian magazine in London, and it was there where she met *Emam Abdel Meguid*, whom she later married. Taking residence in Cairo, she bore her husband a son.

Naming her son *Sety* after her long-lost pharaoh lover, she assumed the name *Omm Sety*, Arabic for "*mother of Sety*". Ultimately the marriage failed, lasting only two years before *Emam* left her and moved to Iraq. In any event, *Omm Sety* loved Egypt more than she did him, so she stayed behind in Cairo, raising her son and working as a draftswoman with the National Department of Antiquities. During her tenure there, she published numerous books and articles that are still widely admired.

Dorothy's contributions to Egyptology are undeniable. She had a seemingly preternatural understanding of hieroglyphics and was highly knowledgeable about the local ruins. In 1981, when she died, she was featured in a National Geographic documentary (video available HERE) entitled *Egypt: Quest for Eternity* — a fitting name for someone claiming reincarnation. As an adult, she became an Egyptologist of some renown. Her career became the focus of films and books, and she is regarded as one of the most convincing examples of reincarnation that has been known.

Sadly, despite all her contributions to Egyptology, the locals still feared *Omm Sety*. She went to her death at age 77, aware that no Christian or Muslim cemeteries would accept her.

Picture Credit: Dorothy Eady, a screenshot from the National Geographic documentary *Egypt: Quest for Eternity*

Finishing Touches

The Story of a Shoeshiner who Shone

Every morning, the CEO of a large bank in Manhattan walks to the corner for a shoeshine. He sits in an armchair, examines the Wall Street Journal and the shoeshiner buffs his shoes to a mirror shine.

One morning, the shoeshiner asks the CEO: "*What do you think about the situation in the stock market?*" The bank man answered arrogantly, "*Why are you so interested in that topic?*"

The shoe guy replies, "*I have millions in your bank,*" he says, "*and I'm considering investing some of the money in the capital market.*"

"*Hmm, what's your name,* " asked the executive. "John H. Smith," was the reply.

The CEO arrives at the bank and asks the Manager of the Customer Department; Do we have a client named John H. Smith? "*Certainly",* answered the Customer Service Manager, "*he is a high-net-worth customer with 12.6 million dollars in his account.*"

The executive arrives at the corner the next day, approaches the shoe shiner, and said, "*Mr. Smith, I would like to invite you next Monday to be the guest of honour at our board meeting and tell us the story of your life. I am sure we could all learn something from your life's experience.*"

At the board meeting, the CEO introduces him to the board members. "*We all know Mr. Smith, from the corner shoeshine stand, but Mr. Smith is also an esteemed customer. I invited him here to tell us the story of his life. I am sure we can learn from him.*"

Mr. Smith began his story... "*I came to this country fifty years ago as a young immigrant from Europe with an unpronounceable name. I got off the ship without a penny. The first thing I did was change my name to Smith. I was hungry and exhausted. I started wandering around looking for a job but to no avail. Fortunately, I found a coin on the sidewalk. I bought an apple. I had two options, eat the apple and quench my hunger or start a business. I sold the apple for 25 cents and bought two apples with the money. I also sold them and continued in business.*

When I started accumulating a few dollars, I was able to buy a set of used brushes and shoe polish and started polishing shoes. I didn't spend a penny on entertainment or clothing, I just bought bread and some cheese to survive. I saved penny by penny and after a while, I bought a new set of shoe brushes and polishes in different shades and expanded my clientele.

I lived like a monk and saved penny by penny. After a while, I bought an armchair so my clients could sit comfortably while I shined their shoes, which brought me more clients. I did not spend a penny on the joys of life. I kept saving everything I could.

When the last shoeshiner on the corner decided to retire a few years ago, I had already saved enough money to buy his shoeshine location at this great location.

Finally, six months ago, my sister, who was a prostitute in Chicago, passed away and left me 12.6 million dollars."

Hmm!

Courtesy of Alan Tatnall

The Parts of Speech

Every name is called a **noun**,
As *field* and *fountain*, *street* and *town*.

In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,
As *he* and *she* can clap their hands.
The **adjective** describes a thing,
As *magic* wand or *bridal* ring.

The **verb** means action, something done,
To *read* and *write*, to *jump* and *run*.
How things are done the **adverbs** tell,
As *quickly*, *slowly*, *badly*, *well*.

The **preposition** shows relation,
As *in* the street or *at* the station.
Conjuntions join, in many ways,
Sentences, words, *or* phrase *and* phrase.

The **interjection** cries out, "*Hark!*
I need an exclamation mark!"

Through Poetry, we learn how each
of these make up
THE PARTS OF SPEECH.

I was sitting on a bus behind a mother and her young son.
Her boy kept looking around and pulling funny faces at me.
After a few minutes, I got tired of his antics…
So I said, "When I was young, my mother told me that if I made an ugly face.. I'd stay that way."
The little monster replied, "Well you can't say you weren't warned."