

*The Book of* HAPPISBURGH

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*Top:* The caravan park situated between the church and the clifftops has long been a popular holiday destination (© Norfolk County Council) *Above:* Looking north along the beach from Cart Gap, taken after the Second World War. Note the remains of the pill boxes built into the cliff, and other pieces of broken concrete from former defences lying on the beach. *Front cover top:* Members of the community going to church during the First World War. Mrs Ducker, wife of the postmaster, is in the foreground. *Front cover lower:* Happisburgh lighthouse became operational in 1791. Gas was used to fuel the light from 1865, the gas being manufactured from coal on the premises and stored in two large gas holders in the yard behind.

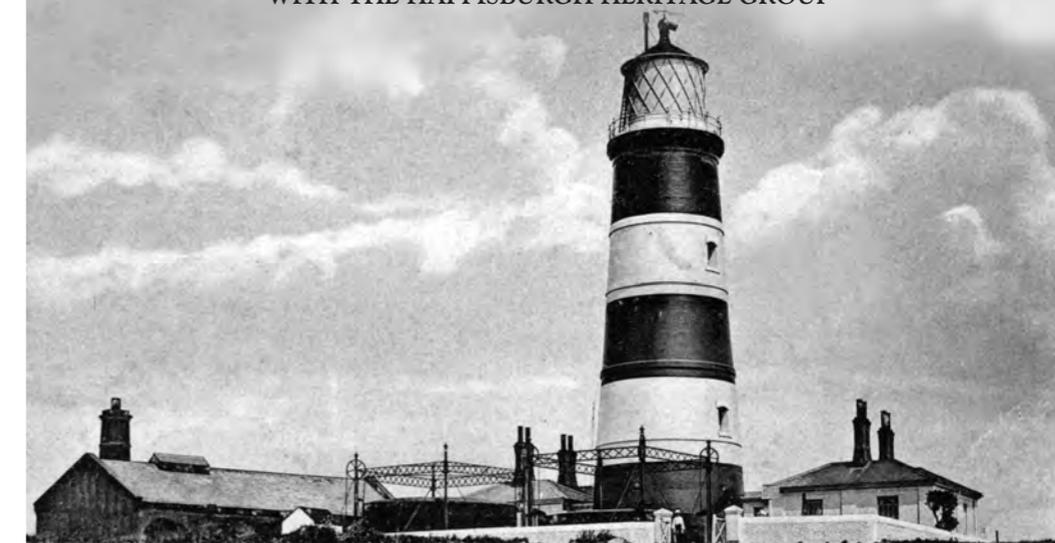
JUST A SMALL SELECTION OF THE FAMILY NAMES RECORDED IN WORDS AND PICTURES IN *The Book of HAPPISBURGH*

- |          |        |          |          |
|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| Ferguson | Harvey | Marshall | Thompson |
| Grimmer  | Larter | Millar   | Watling  |
| Hannant  | Lawson | Siely    | Weddall  |



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**HAPPISBURGH**

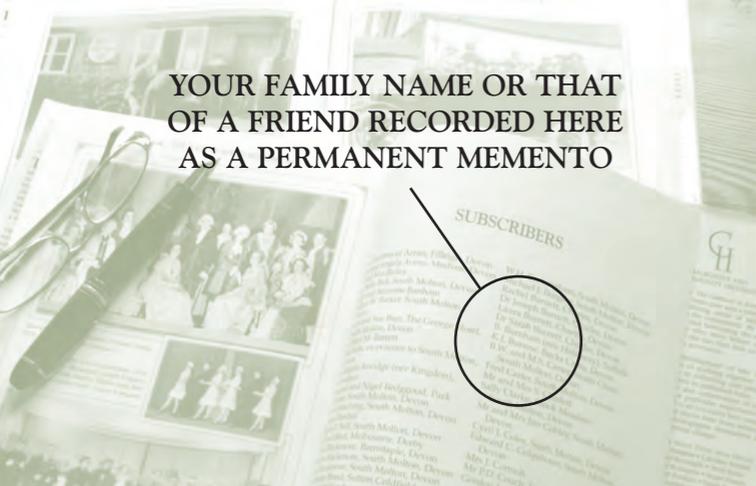
MARY TRETT & RICHARD HOGGETT  
 WITH THE HAPPISBURGH HERITAGE GROUP



INCLUDING OVER 250 PHOTOGRAPHS

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*'I bought a copy of our village history for each of my children for Christmas and they were all delighted... a personalised heirloom to treasure!'* Mrs S.B., Bideford



*The Wayside Stores and Post Office in 1902. Four-year-old Esther Ducker stands in the shop doorway and her brother and sister, Charles and Helen, are by the gate.*



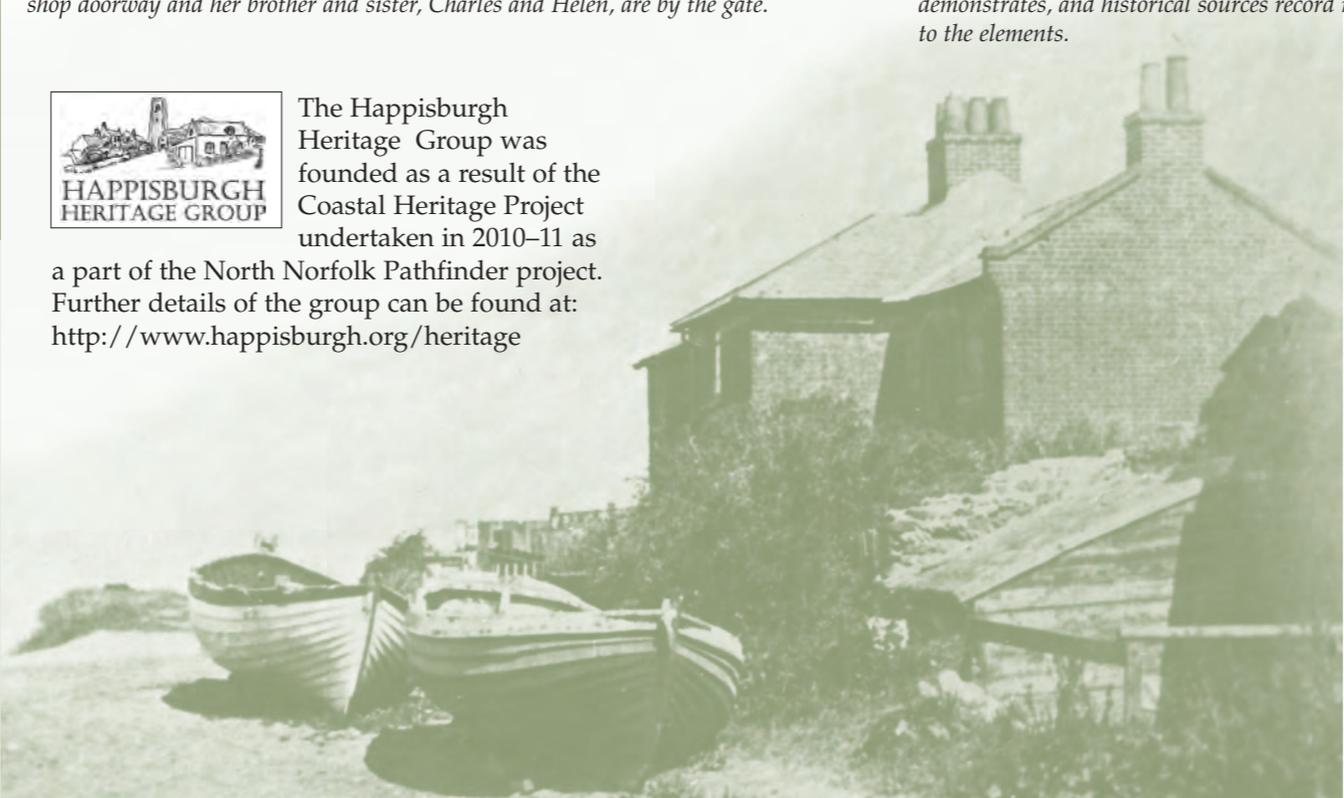
The Happisburgh Heritage Group was founded as a result of the Coastal Heritage Project undertaken in 2010–11 as a part of the North Norfolk Pathfinder project. Further details of the group can be found at: <http://www.happisburgh.org/heritage>



*The erosion at Happisburgh is not a new problem, as this early 20th-century photograph demonstrates, and historical sources record many instances of fields and buildings being lost to the elements.*

**Left:** Some of the earliest photographs of the village date from the 1890s, including this view of the first coastguards' cottages built at the top of the Town Gap which allowed access to the beach.

**Below:** The Jacob and Rachel Valentine became the Happisburgh lifeboat in 1907 and the practice launch held every August Bank Holiday attracted many visitors. The boat carriage was pulled by a team of horses from a local farm.



## THE COMMUNITY

Famous for the erosion which has dramatically reshaped its coastline, the north-east Norfolk village of Happisburgh can truly claim to have witnessed the full range of human history. Recent archaeological excavations on Happisburgh beach have found internationally significant evidence for the earliest human occupation so far discovered in northern Europe, while on the clifftops above stand the medieval church, the Arts and Crafts Happisburgh manor and the iconic lighthouse, the only independently operated lighthouse in the United Kingdom. The fields surrounding the settlement have revealed traces of prehistoric burial mounds and a Roman farmstead, and also contain the remains of a significant Second World War radar station.

This book presents Happisburgh's rich archaeological and historical heritage, using archaeological drawings, aerial images, historical documents, old photographs and personal recollections to tell the story of this coastal community whose residents have literally lived their lives on the edge.

The book is interspersed with biographies of local characters, which help to tell the story of everyday life in this coastal community, as well as revealing little-known episodes such as the case of the Happisburgh poisoner! Famous visitors are also highlighted, including artists J.M.W. Turner, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, and author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

## THE AUTHORS

**Mary Trett** was born in Happisburgh, where she still lives, and has studied and written extensively about its history.

**Richard Hoggett** has been an archaeologist for 15 years and is currently the Coastal Heritage Officer for Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Service.