

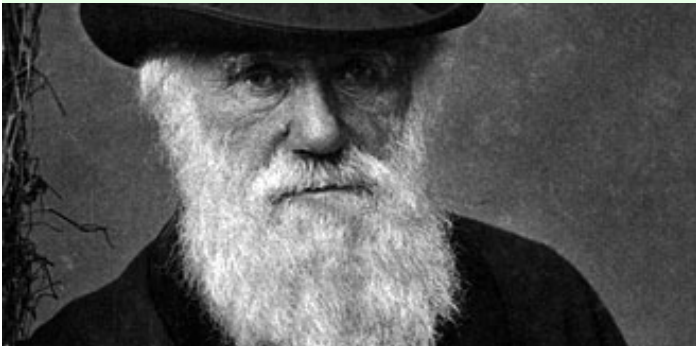
Your Key to the Past

News from Cambridgeshire
Archives and Local Studies

Letter from Charles Darwin's father found in Cambridgeshire Archives

A letter by Charles Darwin's father, written when Charles was only one year old, has been discovered in Cambridgeshire Archives. The letter was written from the Darwins' home in Shrewsbury by Dr Robert Waring Darwin (1766-1848) to Robert Baumgartner of Godmanchester. In the letter, Dr Darwin prescribed a course of arsenic as medicine for Baumgartner's complaint of "chronic inflammation." It is believed that Baumgartner died shortly afterwards.

The letter was rediscovered as part of the Archives Service's Big Move project, which aims to barcode all of the boxes and volumes held in the archives, and to make electronic copies of the catalogues. More details, and images of the letter, can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/online/drdarwinletter.htm



Early release for 1911 census

The National Archives has released the 1911 census. Free searches can be made of the indexes at www.1911census.co.uk, available on computers at Cambridgeshire libraries. To view transcriptions or images of the original pages, users will need to buy 'credits' online using their credit card. The census has been released early, but some minor parts of the information have been deleted due to their sensitive nature. All the information family historians need to help with their research are there, such as names, ages, gender, occupation, and address.

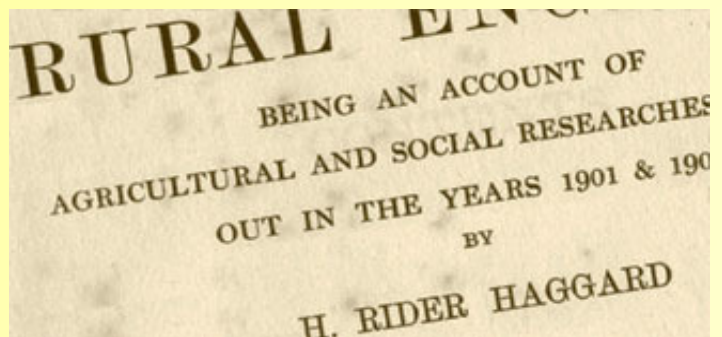
What did Karl Marx think of Cambridgeshire?

Our new online display, **Writers on Cambridgeshire**, showcases some of the irreplaceable historical documents we hold by focussing on the comments made by famous writers on the places and people of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.



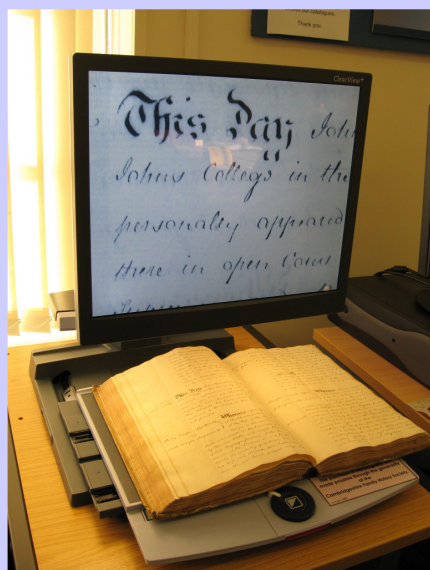
Nineteenth century residents of Gamlingay. Marx commented sadly that the houses here were "rotting to pieces."

You can learn: what Daniel Defoe thought about the cheese he was served in Stilton; what Rider Haggard thought of the cottages in Bluntisham; how Celia Fiennes described Whittlesea Mere; and what Karl Marx thought of living conditions in the Huntingdonshire villages of Gamlingay and Hartford. All the writers' comments are illustrated with photographs and documents from our archive and local studies collections. To see the display, just visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/writers.



Rider Haggard visited agricultural cottages in Bluntisham during his journey across the county in 1901.

New magnifier for Cambridgeshire Archives



Continuing its ever-generous support of CALS, Cambridgeshire Family History Society has recently funded the purchase of an electronic magnifier for the searchroom at Cambridge. Capable of magnifying up to 50 times in positive or negative mode it will be a valuable aid for customers with impaired sight and helpful for deciphering small or difficult handwriting.

Archives Offices

Cambridgeshire Archives

Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP
01223 699399

cams.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Huntingdonshire Archives

Grammar School Walk
Huntingdon PE29 3LF
01480 375842

hunts.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Main Library Collections

Cambridgeshire Collection

Milton Road Library, Ascham Road
Cambridge CB4 2BD

Huntingdon Library

Dryden House, Huntingdon PE29 3NU

Wisbech Library

Queen Mary Centre, Wisbech PE13 2PE

All library enquiries 0845 045 5225
your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Details of all services available on our website

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archives

Ely 900

This year marks the 900th anniversary of the Diocese of Ely and a variety of events will be taking place across the county.

The Cambridge Antiquarian Society's Conference 'Ely 1109-2009: celebrating 900 years' will focus on the early history and archaeology of Ely and a new display on parish records will be launched by Cambridgeshire Archives.

The conference will take place on the 28th March at The Faculty of Law, 10 West Road, Cambridge.

For further information visit:

<http://www.ely.anglican.org/900/events/cas.html>

Thousands of catalogue entries now linked with digital images

More than three thousand digital images of documents are now available online, as part of Cambridgeshire Archives's CALM database.



The Queen visiting Papworth Hospital, 196: (1140/5/17/71)

The most recent images to be made available include many from the archives of Papworth Village Settlement and Tuberculosis Hospital; other images include photographs of Huntingdon's medieval borough charters, 18th century maps of Cambridgeshire, and Victorian glass plates of people and events in Huntingdonshire. You can find images by going to our website, selecting the link **Archives catalogue** in the lefthand menu, and then selecting **Start your search**. If you choose the option "Image" in the DocumentFormat field then your results will narrow down only to those catalogue entries with images attached.