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JESS OF ROOS HALL

AN HISTORIC NOVEL

SET IN 18TH CENTURY EAST ANGLIA

Janet T. Sawyer

Roos Hall, in Suffolk, is reputed to be haunted by several ghosts, among them the pale face of a small girl peering out from the topmost gable window. In the lane which passes the house witnesses have seen the spectre of a black carriage and horses driven by a headless coachman. Black Shuck, the phantom dog of the East Anglian marshland, is also known to frequent this ancient road.

While the principal characters in this book are fictitious, the story is based on historical fact: scenes of rural, social, naval and colonial life in the late 18th and early 19th centuries are combined with the story of the Jarvis family of Beccles, Suffolk, and the lives of two orphans. The author describes how the gentry dealt with illegitimate offspring, and how their outlook and achievements were affected by ignorance of their true birth. Jess, the heroine of this book, is one of a host of vivid characters who populate this blockbuster novel. The heroics of Lord Nelson, sea battles, and the horrors of the slave trade are contrasted against the gentility of country life in England.

When **Janet T. Sawyer** retired to the Westcountry after forty years in Commercial Law in the City of London, her ambition was to use her History Degree she had gained long before at the University of Birmingham in order to research and write historical novels. Seeing a need to improve the teaching and understanding of British history, in this book she has wrapped real historical events within a family story and romance.

"Its purpose," she says, "is to inveigle you, the Reader, into appreciating features of the Agricultural Revolution in East Anglia, Lord Nelson's naval victories, the development of the Raj in India, and the horrors of the Atlantic slave trade, all within the space of one useful volume. Enjoy!"

The author's grandparents farmed at Ringsfield and later ran a dairy farm in Beccles, Suffolk. Her parents were married at Beccles Church, where the parents of Admiral, Lord Nelson, were wed. All the manifestations of Black Shuck in this tale werewitnessed by members of the author's family or their friends. Also by Janet T. Sawyer: *Watersmeet*



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