

## Roper Union V1 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

On Saturday 18th October 2008 many families sharing the Roper surname met at St Peter and St Paul Parish Church, Lynsted, Kent.

The Churchwardens had been overwhelming in their support helping with arrangements for the day.

Several Ropers had met by 10am when we were given a talk on the history of this 12<sup>th</sup> century church. Especially of interest was the account of the Roper chapel with its magnificent tombs of John Roper and Christopher Roper. The latter having been sculpted by the international renowned sculptor, Epiphanius Evesham. A funerary helmet was shown that had been found behind one of the Roper tombs. This helmet was several centuries old and was most likely made for one of these Ropers.

At least nine different Roper families were represented. Three had travelled from America for the meeting and others from all over England. On display were family trees, photographs and other memorabilia. Ropers whose DNA had been tested were able to meet with 'cousins' from within their group, often for the first time.

L. David Roper gave an update on the DNA process and how it related to the different Roper families.

It was gratifying to see several people with the Roper name or with a Roper ancestor who had not attended a union before.

Several local Ropers who wished to progress their own family history came during the day.

Whilst some 40 Ropers enjoyed the day there must be other Ropers who would like to be involved in this type of event. Since the meeting we have been contacted by other Ropers who wish to be involved if and when another union is held. It has been suggested that the next union could be held in the autumn of 2010 somewhere in England.

Derek John Roper

