

Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

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The deadline for the September Journal is 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st August

All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite

From the Chairman

Joanna Grant [9080]

Last year the Group Secretaries arranged, with input from members, talks for the five venues of Croydon, Lingfield, Richmond, Southwark and Sutton on Family History Research plus local history. From memory none were cancelled due to weather.

All Group chairmen and secretaries remained the same and they are all due a big thank you for all that they do for the society. However, there is an addition to the Southwark Team: Paula Burger, who is now chairman. Thank you for taking on that role.

Membership fell again during 2011 despite raising the Society profile by advertising Group Meetings locally, online and sending details of meeting to Family History Magazines (and paying for a monthly entry about the Society in one of them). Those involved are the Group Secretaries and committee members as well as Maureen Burton who has kindly spent time and effort getting the group talks and events online and into magazines. We continue to sell CDs and fiche by post, thanks again to Maureen.

Committee members and others had attended fairs including WDYTVA live. We are increasing the number we will attend in this current year. At each event we gather a few more members.

Rita Russell suggested we should provide a postal service for books. This started in late 2011 with Sylvia Dibbs as the contact for orders and Brenda Hawkins ordering the books and writing interesting articles for our Journal about the books we had to offer. Maps have now been added to this postal service.

In January 2011 the society was advised that a late member, Diana Bradley, had left a bequest to the society of £1,000. It was suggested that the bequest should be spent on scanning the transcribed material held at the research centre at Lingfield. We have had to give up some of our storage space there due to the local police moving into the community centre, so scanning

material will save space; plus, it can be saved on computers outside the centre so ensuring all material will be safe in case a fire. It will also be much easier to send scanned copies to members to index and check. We have thanked Mrs Bradley's family and they are happy that we have arranged the scanning from the bequest.

Rita Russell and her team continue to transcribe at Croydon Local Studies; at present they are working on the burial registers of Cane Hill Hospital. Ted Scott has continued to prepare that data to go on *Find My Past*; this takes time and there is a delay before it actually appears on the website, which is no fault of Ted's although it must be very frustrating for him.

Two members are leaving after spending five years on the committee: Gill Hyder (Hon Treasurer) and Ted Scott. Both have been valuable members of the committee and I am sure they will continue to play an active part in the society.

At last year's AGM there was a discussion about the need for a new logo, as the old one was not suitable for the digital age. The membership present voted to have one with little change but simpler. We made contact with two graphic designers and a number of art schools but then chose to produce one in-house. Our thanks must go to Ted Scott with suggestions from other members of the committee. Peter Heather has kindly produced a Power Point presentation for the AGM which has shown the new logo. We are having a soft launch (meaning we will gradually reproduce it on all the society literature as we run out of stock).

I am sure that most of you know that I am standing down as Chairman as I plan to marry in July, and feel that I will not be able to give the society my full attention.

The committee and others who hold post within the society have given me their full support during my time as Chairman, for which I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude.

Group meetings

June

- 7 'Sarah Huggett and Uncle Dan' –
Low-life in Victorian Lodging Houses Ron Cox Sutton
Ron is a very experienced family historian and local historian.
- 19 Irish Ancestry Peter Christian Croydon
- 25 The Surrey Gardens in Walworth 1831 – 1878
Zoological gardens, Surrey Music Hall, etc. Stephen Humphrey Southwark
CHANGE of VENUE: this talk will take place in Pullen's Community Centre, 187 Crampton St, SE17 - at the Crampton St. end of Iliffe Yard. By bus: to Walworth Rd, Larcom St. stop, short walk down Amelia St. opposite [by 'Tankard' PH], then turn R. into Crampton St – Iliffe Yard is almost opposite. [Buses from London Bridge: 35 & 40 from foot of bridge; from Waterloo: 68, 171 & 176 from Waterloo Rd, outside Sainsburys.] MAP: www.pullensyards.co.uk/contact
- 27 Women in the 1800s – a social history Tom Doig Lingfield

July

- 5 Dating Family Photograph Jayne Shrimpton Sutton
Jayne is an acknowledged expert in dating photographs and has an MA In History of Dress.
- 14 Upstairs, downstairs – domestic service Ian Waller Richmond
- 17 Members' Evening Croydon
- 25 Researching Publican and Brewer history Simon Fowler Lingfield

August

- 2 Cricket Ball Makers to Cotton Weavers Chris Pocock Sutton
Chris's talk will look at different occupations that his ancestors had and how often current family members have similar jobs. Chris teaches family history for Sutton U3A, helps to run a family history drop in group at Roundshaw Library, and is Secretary of the Sutton Group of the East Surrey Family History Society.
- 13 Members' meeting – archives Southwark
Discoveries that have helped our research – please bring documents.

September

- 6 'What the butler saw' –
Victorian life below stairs Alison Gowans Sutton
Alison has a life long interest in the Victorians. She is a member of the Dickens Fellowship and edits their newsletter "The London Particular.". She is also a friend of the Charles Dickens Museum. . Alison belongs to Sutton U3A and the Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society.
- 8 Property and Land Records, part 3 Paul Blake Richmond
Paul concludes his series of talks on property and land records, with two twentieth century sources: Lloyd-George's 'Domesday' and the 1940s National Farm Survey

| | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-----------|
| 18 | Croydon families – Researching a typical Croydon road in 1911 | Brenda Hawkins | Croydon |
| 26 | Georgian London | Ian Bevan | Lingfield |

October

| | | | |
|------|---|------------------|-----------|
| 4 | Suffer little children <i>A talk about children working in Victorian times up chimneys: in factories etc. Judy is an author and historian interested in family and social history.</i> | Judy Davies | Sutton |
| 16th | Industry in Southwark <i>A talk about the industries located in the riverside district of old Southwark in Bermondsey & Rotherhithe going west to east.</i> | Stephen Humphrey | Croydon |
| 22 | High and Low estate – costume and textiles in 18th Surrey society <i>Jane is on the staff of the Surrey History Centre and will use many illustrations to explore Surrey sources for the history of eighteenth century fashion.</i> | Jane Lewis | Southwark |
| 24 | History of the Fire Brigade | Ken Divall | Lingfield |

November

| | | | |
|----|--|------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Suffragettes in Epsom and its environs <i>Jeremy is the curator of the Bourne Hall museum, Ewell</i> | Jeremy Harte | Sutton |
| 10 | The Royal Surrey Gardens <i>A lost aspect of life in 19th century Metropolitan Surrey pleasure ground and zoological garden visited by Queen Victoria and site of the Surrey Music Hall</i> | Stephen Humphrey | Richmond |
| 20 | Wills and probate | Celia Heritage | Croydon |
| 28 | History of Policing the Railways | Kevin Gordon | Lingfield |

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP
3rd Tuesday (not August and December); 8.00 p.m.

Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield, RH7 6AB
4th Wednesday (not August and December); 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: Rita Russell (01342 834648)

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond, TW9 1SA
2nd Saturday of alternate months; 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: David Carter (020 8642 6437)

Southwark: Southwark Local History Library, behind John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High St, SE1 1JA
Fourth Monday of alternate months (not December); 12 noon.
Secretary: Sheila Gallagher (020 8337 8580)

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, SM1 2RG
1st Thursday; 8.00 p.m.
Secretary: Chris Pocock (020 8642 6789)

Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Please check the Society website for updates.

A Village at War - Newdigate in World War One

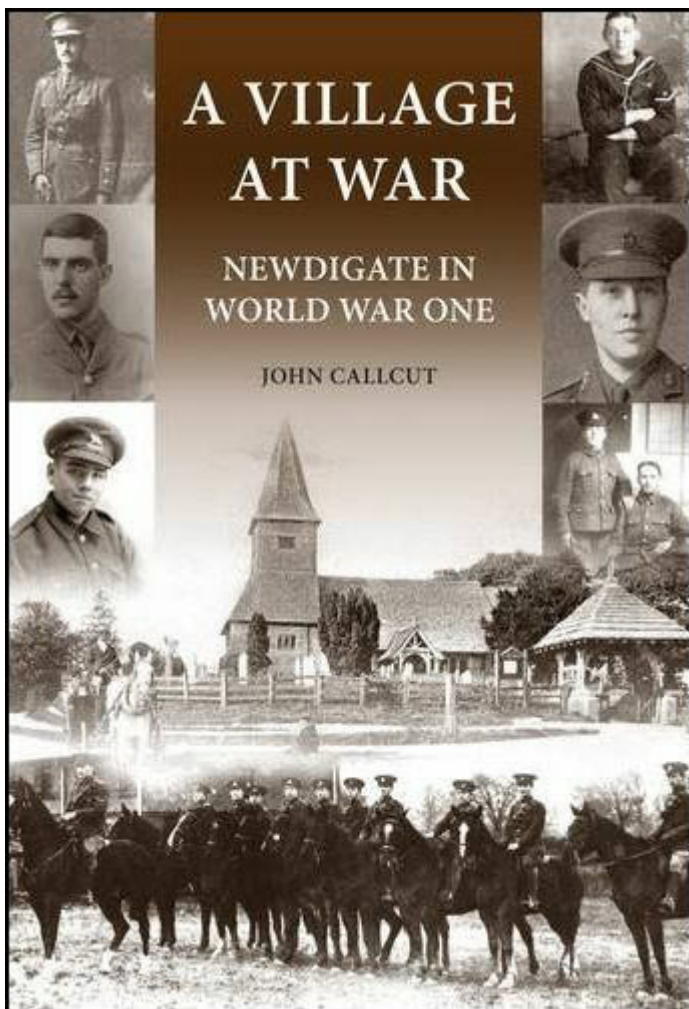
Andrew Arnold [9873]

Whilst many books about the effects of the First World War on local areas tend to focus on those who lost their lives, *A Village at War* manages to combine this with a complementary narrative about the effects of the war on the village itself. Adopting a chronological approach the narrative is anchored by extracts from the monthly parish magazine, supplemented by stories from the *Dorking Advertiser* and research from a wide variety of other sources.

Details of the 32 men who lost their lives are well-researched and interesting in themselves, with detailed biographies and pictures of many of the men. A broad spectrum of ranks and units are represented, although unsurprisingly many of the locals joined either the East Surrey regiment or The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Coupled with the additional information about how the war was perceived by those at home, the social composition of the village and the effects of the war on the local families are really brought to life.

Life on the back at home was by no means easy, and through the parish magazine we see the initial patriotic calls for men to enlist turn into ongoing fundraising campaigns to send the men home comforts and more practical items, most notably sandbags. The birth of the women's labour force and the debate that this caused is also seen through the eyes of the local people and their experiences. One also gets the sense of loss as the local casualties start to mount (including the son of the rector, the author of many of the patriotic 'call to arms' editorials featured in the parish magazine), and the impact this had on the individual families and the village as a whole. As the war drags on the justness of the cause is a common theme in the parish magazine, as are thinly veiled comments about those men not seen to be playing their part.

Comprehensively illustrated with many pictures of the area and the people, *A Village at War* offers a window onto a microcosm of rural England during the war years. Meticulously researched over 25 years, it has obviously been a labour of love for the author and also benefits from the reminiscences of some of the locals who lived in the area during this time. Required reading for anyone with an interest in Newdigate or who wants to know what the effect of the war was on a typical rural Surrey village.



Help for researchers during the Olympics

Do you plan to visit London in July and August for the Olympics? If you think you'll have some spare time and would like to fit in some family history research we'll be pleased to help!

We can help you locate research centres in south and central London, and in eastern Surrey, and advise on opening times and contacts. The National Archives at Kew is 'on our patch' and we can help you get there and register as a user. We can also help you get to Surrey History Centre in Woking (a 25 minute rail journey from Waterloo plus a 15 minute walk).

If you just want to say hello and chat over a cup of coffee we'll be delighted to meet you and, of course, you'll be most welcome to attend any of the Society's meetings! Full details are available on our website: www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk or contact Committee Member Anne Ramon at aramon@virginmedia.com (020 8942 0079, 63 Ancaster Crescent, New Malden, SURREY, KT3 6BD).

Bucks Open Day

Buckinghamshire Family History Society will be holding its annual Open Day on Saturday 28th July 2012 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH (south-east of the town, between the A413 and A41).

This is Buckinghamshire's not-to-be-missed FH event.

The many attractions for researchers will include searches from the Society's full resources, including its baptism, marriage, burial and other databases; parish register and other publications for sale; expert advice; guest societies, local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

Admission is free, with free parking available at the venue. Further information, including a full list of attendees, can be found at www.bucksfhs.org.uk.

ESFHS Fairs & Events 2012

28 July

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. **Bucks FHS** Open Day

The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

23 September

10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. **West Middlesex Family History Society** Open Day

The White House Community Centre, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN

www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

Tech Topic – Forced shutdown

Brian Hudson

Many people will have faced that moment when the computer screen freezes and the only solution seems to be to switch off the computer at the mains or take the battery out of the laptop. At one time there was a *Reset* button which would have rebooted the computer but that has long since disappeared.

A better solution is to power down the PC by pressing and holding the power button for about five seconds. Then, after a short delay, press the power button again to restart the machine. This should not be done very often since it can cause a problem with Windows, or whatever operating system is being used. If the problem does recur then specialist attention may be required; it is possible that the freezing is a precursor to a disc failure. Hopefully family history files and other important data will have been backed up **regularly** and **recently** as insurance against such an event.

After any problem has occurred, experienced users may wish to use some disk maintenance programs to make sure all is well.

Cleanliness and Civility a Speciality — the Coffee Rooms in Bermondsey

Mike Latimer

Queen Victoria's 1897 Jubilee was celebrated with homemade decorations adorning the recently refurbished Coffee Rooms where my family once lived in Grange Road (see front cover). Established in 1856 in what I think was a newly built terrace, there is an 1859 PO directory entry for 'Coffee Rooms' at 190 Grange Road, Bermondsey. James Pilgrim was recorded in 1861 as Foreman to Hearth rug maker and his wife Elizabeth (née Crockford) as a Coffee Shop Keeper, together with their children and a servant. James was 50 in the 1871 census when his occupation is Coffee House Keeper and Elizabeth's entry is blank.

In 1875 Thomas William Lattimer married their daughter Elizabeth Pilgrim. On Elizabeth's 1848 birth certificate her father James is entered as Hearth rug maker living at 9 Swan Street, Bermondsey. The Lattimers were leather shavers; John (born 1805) arriving from Newcastle on Tyne about 1850 with his son George, George's wife Jessie and sons Thomas born 1848 and George born 1850. John's wife Elizabeth (yes, they are all called Elizabeth) stayed in Newcastle with the rest of her children and is never recorded in Bermondsey.

My grandfather, Hugh Lattimer, was born January 1882 at Grange Road, the only son of Thomas William Lattimer and Elizabeth. This all sounds very formal but family papers and stories reveal Hughie's parents were called Tom and Lizzie, and Hughie's sisters were Elizabeth, usually called Maud, Floss, Winns, Mabel and Minnie. There are tales of apple-pie beds and other family fun with cousins living close by or coming to stay.

Long ago when the only on-line census record was the free LDS 1881 census, I recall my joy late one night in finding a Thos W Lattimer aged 32 Tobacconist at 189 Grange Road, with Elizabeth, wife, two young daughters and servant. The surprise came when I



Children of Thomas & Elizabeth Lattimer. L to R: Elizabeth Maud, Hugh, Minnie, Winifred, Florence, Mabel (taken about 1900)

clicked on the next property and found James Pilgrim aged 60 Manager Manuft at 190, with Elizabeth, wife and his adult children (no mention of coffee shop). James and Elizabeth Pilgrim do not appear anywhere in the 1891 census, whilst Thomas is now at 190 as a Coffee House Keeper & Leather Shaver.

The 1901 census has Thomas at 188 entered as a Leather shaver - Own a/c, along with wife Elizabeth, and daughters Mabel and Minnie; Elizabeth M(aud) is at 190 as Head, Florence and Winifred all Dining Room Assts, plus Hugh, a Druggist's Clerk. I was told that the women folk always ran the cafe, serving the workers from the multitude of surrounding leather works, while the husbands worked as shavers in the leather trade. This didn't

stop Thomas having his name over the Rooms or on his 1896 hand bill.

I've never understood why the numbering changed from 190 to 188 - it may have been the result of the rebuilding mentioned in the hand bill. The 1896 P.O. Office Directory places the Coffee Rooms at 217 Grange Road - these must be the 'Temporary Premises'. By 1897 188 had become Dining Rooms.

Elizabeth Pilgrim appears as a widow on the 1901 census in Greenwich (where she was baptised in 1823) as a Retired Coffee Rooms Keeper aged 78, living with her eldest daughter Martha and son in law George Hunt.

In May 1905 the Lattimer family left the Rooms after Floss got married. Her newsy letter back to her father from her honeymoon at Shanklin includes 'Keep your spirits up & don't pucker up your forehead too much'. Thomas died at Catford on his birthday 27 May 1910; Elizabeth Lattimer/Pilgrim died there in 1916.

There is still a cafe at 188 Grange Road. Until recently it was called The Grange Cafe, now The Embassy. How many coffees and teas have been served in the last 160 years?

Do any other members of ESFHS have connections to 188/190 Grange Road?



Acknowledgements: Southwark Local History Library, 211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JA (see also page 26).

Funeral records

Linda Dart née Stephenson [8574]

I was recently told about the records held by Frederick W Paine and their Museum at 24 Old London Road, Kingston Upon Thames.

F W Paine's branches cover many of the areas that our society covers, for example Chessington, Kingston-upon-Thames, Malden, Morden and Sutton; the company has been in the funeral business for 125 years and holds records dating back to 1906. So it's highly likely that their staff may have arranged the funerals of our ancestors.

Ian (the curator) is extremely helpful guiding one through the indexes to find the record for the funeral arrangements. Both indexes and records are beautifully hand-written in copperplate handwriting and Ian told me that staff had to be trained to complete these records. It is quite amazing to read these documents, and there can be snippets of information there previously unknown: for instance, I always thought my great-aunt died at home but the records showed she actually died in St Thomas' hospital, London. There are also a limited number of records from another Kingston funeral company, Farebrother, which can also be consulted.

As well as records there is a museum of funeral artefacts and photographs, all tastefully displayed. A visit to this exhibition compliments Tom Doig's talk on Victorian Funerals.

I was recommended this resource and would like to share it with other family historians with ancestors in the area. As can be expected of a resource of this size, it is essential to telephone Ian first to arrange an appointment and his number is 020 8547 1556.

I hope other members will find this resource as useful as I did.

News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley

Archive of the Year!

Like many local authority archives, Surrey History Centre is currently undergoing a Public Value Review, a very detailed and searching assessment of the services we provide and the reason for doing so. It demands that we provide extensive evidence for the value that we provide to the council for funding us but also to the public who use our services, our stakeholders, depositors and partners. We were therefore absolutely delighted to be voted 'Archive of the Year 2012' by readers of *Your Family History* magazine. The magazine sent us posters about the award last year, inviting us to display them in our searchroom so that members of the public could nominate us if they wished. People were asked to vote for the archive service which offered the best service from staff, the best facilities in the searchroom, the most accessible and highest quality finding aids and catalogues, the best range of services provided on online, the widest range of documents available for consultation, the strongest connections with the local community and the best facilities for disabled people. Presenting the award, at Who Do You Think You Are? Live at London's Olympia in February, Dr Nick Barratt praised our commitment to public service, our opening hours, the excellence of the advice offered by our friendly and approachable staff and the amazing resource provided by our website, www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk. If you voted for us, thank you very much indeed. The award could not have come at a better time. It is wonderful to know that the public value us so highly.

New Indexes Online

We are adding new indexes to our website all the time. While many of these are prepared by our wonderful team of volunteers, some have also been compiled by members of staff. Jane Lewis, who many readers will have either met in our searchroom or at family history fairs, has just completed indexes to the register of deaths

at the Surrey county gaol and to the first case book of the Princess Mary Village Homes. The gaol register covers the years 1798-1878 and is held with our quarter sessions records under the reference QS5/4/7/24. Jane's index gives the name, age, date and death and occupation of the deceased prisoners, but if you visit us to see the original register, you will also discover the nature of their offence and the cause of death. Executions are included. The index to the first register of cases of the Princess Mary Village Homes at Longcross near Chertsey, covers the years 1870-1890. The Homes were founded as an expression of the evangelical piety of two Victorian ladies, Mrs Susanna Meredith and Miss Caroline Cavendish. After extensive work with female prisoners, in 1870 they turned their attention to the children of criminal parents, whose physical and moral health were threatened by the poverty and depravity of their environment. The first little girls were sent to foster parents in and around Addlestone, but as the numbers increased this was found to be inconvenient and in 1870 a home was set up in Essam Farm House, Longcross, by Miss Cavendish.

The ladies recognised the value of small family groups reflecting normal family life and so the idea of a village of cottage dwellings was born with house mothers caring for about ten children in each one. The homes were established in 1872 and were certified by the Home Secretary as an Industrial School under the Industrial Schools Act of 1866 (see SHC Ref 2591/4/3).

This first register of cases provides the name, background and subsequent history of each girl. The girls could either be admitted under the Industrial Schools Act or be placed in the Home voluntarily by parents and guardians. The details contained in the register can provide very useful (if often sad) information about family circumstances, social conditions and child poverty but they can also explain why the family you are interesting might suddenly 'disappear' from other sources - due to deaths of parents or family breakdown. As it is over a hundred years old, this particular case book is accessible to anyone who wishes to

visit us to see it, but subsequent case books and admission registers in this collection are subject to restrictions under the Data Protection Act.

Jane's index to the Princess Mary Village Homes register was prepared as part of the coursework for her Diploma in Genealogical Studies from the University of Strathclyde. Her success in gaining this qualification and her extensive knowledge of a wide range of family history sources across the country are a tremendous asset for us all, staff and public alike.

Our regular visitor, Ruth Mathewson, has also gained the Diploma in Genealogical Studies from Strathclyde and for her coursework she has prepared an index to the first 3200 patients admitted to the care home run by the Anglican Sisterhood of St Peter at Maybury Hill, Woking. St Peter's Memorial Home was officially opened on 20th October 1885. The patient registers provide a remarkable insight into social history of women's health, but on a more personal level, tell the story of Victorian women from all walks of life, above and below stairs. They give details of each patient admitted and provide us with unique insights into the lives of these women, including details of their next of kin, health, piety, character, family circumstances and working lives. There are many sad stories between these pages, but also uplifting ones too, written with much wit, humour, compassion and occasionally some rather caustic observations from the nuns too!

The index covers most of the period 1885-1908 and can be used to find the original register reference and page entry for your ancestor, not only perhaps explaining at last why that odd census candidate of 1891 or 1901 was so far from where you expected her to be, but also solving a family history puzzle too.

You can access these indexes via our website, www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre and following the link on the front page to our searchable online indexes. Some of the

indexes are also available for purchase via the link to the Surrey Heritage Shop on the same page.

New Accessions

Two parish deposits of note relate to St Andrew's Church, Cobham (ref 8972) and All Saints, Leatherhead (ref 8986). The Cobham records include a nice series of plans relating to the church extension of 1821-1822 and parish newsletters going back to 1892-1920s. The Leatherhead records include a baptism register for the years 1889-1911.

We also purchased a court roll of 1729 relating to the little-documented manors of Monkenhook and Markwick in Alfold, once a possession of Waverley Abbey (ref 8962). And have also taken in a nice set of official programmes, scripts, scores and photographs relating to the famous Abinger Pageant of 1934, accumulated by Anne Farrer (ref 8852). The pageant was scripted by novelist E M Forster and provided with music by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Other recent deposits have included the records of Surrey County Netball Association (ref 8967) going back to 1930. They comprise minutes, reports and newsletters and papers, 1930-2010 and enhance our holdings of the county's sporting bodies, which is particularly pleasing in the build up to the Olympics.

Finally, we were delighted to receive permission to copy the diary and notebook of Elizabeth Davis (1765-1825) who was living at Gosden House, Shalford, in order to look after her widowed brother-in-law's children (Z/588). The diary goes back to 1793 and is packed full of fascinating personal detail and social history information.

Alice in Wonderland

Do you remember the Alice anniversaries of 1932, 1965 or 1998? Dr Will Brooker, head of Film research at Kingston University and author of the book *Alice's Adventures: Lewis Carroll in Popular Culture*, is looking for help for his new research project. Will is

researching the way the anniversaries of the life of Lewis Carroll (C L Dodgson) and the publication of Alice were marked in Guildford and the surrounding areas on these three key dates- to discover what Carroll meant to Surrey throughout the 20th century. He will be bringing a film crew from Kingston University to the Surrey History Centre and Guildford Museum - during the latter's current exhibition: Victorian Child - aspects of childhood in the time of Alice (showing 26 March-19 May) but will be keen to hear from anyone who is able to help after that exhibition has closed. The project will result in a half hour documentary celebrating the importance of Lewis Carroll to Guildford and Surrey, in the words of local people, Lewis Carroll's living descendants, and leading Carroll experts. If you might be willing to take part in filmed interviews, please let him know. Alternatively, if you have a particular memory you'd like to share by email, or videos, photographs, documents or souvenirs from any of the anniversaries, please get in touch on drwillbrooker@gmail.com.

Forthcoming events at Surrey History Centre

Researching your First World War Ancestor

A talk by military historians, Andy Robertshaw and Steve Roberts, on Saturday 9 June 2012, 11a.m. - 12 noon. Tickets £5.00.

Military Ancestry Roadshow

Saturday 9 June 2012, 12.30 - 4.00 p.m. Do you have medals, uniforms or photos from your family's military past? Our panel of experts will help you identify them and discover the truth about your family's military history. This is a free event. No valuations given.

The 1948 Olympic Torch Run through Surrey

A talk by Phil Cooper, Exploring Surrey's Past Officer. Using old photographs, archive material and the memories of those who took part, this talk follows the 1948 Olympic torch on its journey from Greece, in the throes of civil war, through Surrey and on to Wembley Stadium. It compares the Austerity Games of 1948 and the "make do and mend" philosophy of the time with the preparations for London 2012.

The talk also shows how easily errors can creep in to the historic record and well-known landmarks disappear within living memory. Saturday 23 June 2012 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. Tickets £5. Spaces are limited so please book tickets on 01483 518737

BBC Event – Great British Story

Saturday 30 June. Two talks about hidden histories. For timings see the Events page on www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre.

Jeff Dowse, Conservator - Archive Conservation at the Surrey History Centre, and Phil Jones, Senior Archaeologist- Settlement sites and sacred offerings: prehistoric and later archaeology in the Thames Valley near Chertsey.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Surrey celebrates Jubilees and Coronations on Film at Surrey History Centre's Annual Film Day on Saturday 7 July 2012, 11.00 - 12 noon at Surrey History Centre.

The enigmatic Dr Frank Gray, director of Screen Archive South East, will treat us to a visual history of how the region celebrated past coronations and jubilees. Films featured will include Queen Victoria's Diamond jubilee of 1897, festivities for the jubilee of George V in Walton on Thames and district as recorded by the cinema manager Clifford Spain in 1935, and Coronation celebrations in Horley in 1953.

Ticket price is £5.00 and includes tea & coffee. Spaces are limited so please book tickets on 01483 518737.

Spotlight on Publishers: Local History Reprints

John Brown (publisher) specialises in reprinting local history publications long out of print. We stock a wide range of his books. The major series are:

Lyson's History of . . .

| | £ | | £ | | £ |
|-----------|------|-----------|------|------------|------|
| Addington | 2.50 | Battersea | 2.99 | Carshalton | 2.50 |
| Clapham | 2.50 | Croydon | 2.99 | Merton | 2.50 |
| Mitcham | 2.50 | Putney | 3.50 | Streatham | 2.50 |
| Sutton | 2.50 | Tooting | 1.99 | Wandsworth | 2.99 |
| Wimbledon | 2.99 | | | | |

These are taken verbatim from “The Environs of London: being an historical account of the Towns, Villages, and Hamlets within 12 miles of that Capital; interspersed with biographical anecdotes” originally published in 1792.

The Rev. Daniel Lysons knew his market, and peppered his book with as many names as he could. While many of the references are to the great and the good, he is equally fond of the curious and remarkable. He darts about from the earliest times to the 1780s and back again, cramming in facts and figures in a gossipy, conversational style.

Walford's History of . . .

| | £ | | £ | | £ |
|-----------------------|------|---------------------|------|----------------|------|
| Camberwell | 2.50 | Clapham | 2.50 | Croydon Palace | 2.50 |
| Croydon Parish | 2.50 | Croydon Town | 2.50 | Lambeth | 1.99 |
| Newington, Walw'th | 2.50 | Norwood, Streatham | 2.50 | Putney | 2.99 |
| Rotherhithe | 1.99 | Southwark Bankside | 2.50 | Southwark Inns | 2.50 |
| St Saviour's S'thwark | 2.50 | Stockwell, Kenn'ton | 2.50 | Sutton | 2.50 |
| Sydenham | 2.50 | Tooting | 2.50 | Wandsworth | 2.50 |

from “London Old and New” originally printed in 1878.

As befits a good Victorian, Edward Walford is interested in the improvements of the age, describing railway stations, public libraries, asylums and prisons, as well the historical aspects of the place and noted past residents.

Sexby's History of . . .

Streatham Common 2.50 Tooting Common 2.50 Wandsworth Common 2.50

These are from “The Municipal Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces of London” originally printed in 1905.

Lieut-Col JJ Sexby explores the origins of public open spaces, describing how they were acquired, how they have changed over time and relating various anecdotes.

These are all A5 booklets with soft covers, obtainable from Mrs S Dibbs, 19 Lime Tree Grove, Croydon, CR0 8AY. Please make cheques payable to East Surrey Family History Society.

Please add 50p UK postage & packing for each title costing £2.50 and less, and £1.15 for books costing more than £2.50.

Errata

In previous editions of the journal prices of a couple of Merton Local History Society publications were accidentally transposed. They should be:

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Mitcham in 1838: A Survey by Messrs Crawter & Smith | 2.95 | 4.10 |
| Morden in 1838: The Tithe Apportionment Map | 1.00 | 2.15 |

The first price is the cost of the publication: the second price is the cost including post and packing (within the UK). Apologies for any confusion this has caused.

The death of Henry Hoof at Merstham in 1840

Paul W. Sowan

A short history of the London to Brighton railway, published in or about 1977, reported a dramatic tunnelling accident and death in 1840. The tunnel was driven in the years 1838 - 41 and opened to traffic in 1841. The book tells us that . . .

“The hillside through which the Merstham tunnel was being dug was riddled with disused mining galleries. On 19 March 1840 one of these was struck by workmen, releasing a flood of water which swept away wooden supports, and caused part of the works to collapse, so that Henry Hoof, a member of the contracting firm, died.”

No source is cited for this startling information, and there is no mention of it in J.T.H. Turner's three-volume history of the line. If primary sources have been reported accurately, our understanding of the geology of the south end of the Merstham tunnel has to be revised! In addition, the extent of the underground building-stone quarries would appear to be greater than is currently known from other sources, such as exploration underground, and site investigations for the M23 motorway.

The stated date of the accident, 19th March, agrees with the date of Hoof's death given on his gravestone in the nearby churchyard, the wording on which reads as follows . . .

“Sacred to the Memory of Mr. Henry Hoof
(brother to Tho. & William Hoof
Contractors on the London & Brighton Railway
who died 19th of March 1840 aged 50 years
Whilst in the execution of the Merstham Tunnel.”

The closing bracket is missing, but with or without it there is no mention of flooded mine galleries, wooden pit props, and rock falls. 'Whilst in the execution of the Merstham Tunnel', in my opinion, simply records Hoof's occupation at the time, not the location of his death. The gravestone is, so far as I am aware, apart

from the death certificate, the only available primary source relating to Hoof's death.

There are indeed numerous mined tunnels nearby, but none of them closer than 400 yards or so to the railway tunnel portal. The railway tunnel is almost certainly cut in the Chalk, whereas all the local mines were dug in the underlying Upper Greensand. And the underground floodwater levels in the nearest accessible mines are well-known to cavers, and well below the level of the railway tracks.

A certificate of a death 'in the Sub-district of Horley in the Reigate Union' numbered 283 records that a Henry Hoof, described as a labourer, died on 18th of March 1840 at Merstham, aged 49. The informant was one Elizabeth Fox, of Nutfield, who was 'present at the death'. The cause of death was 'consumption' (tuberculosis). The slight disparities notwithstanding, this seems to be the same Henry Hoof. The gravestone, a substantial slab of sandstone a few yards from the north-east corner of the church, seems to me to be rather grander than a labourer might expect, and quite 'appropriate' for a contractor.

The trivial disparities in date of death (18th or 19th) and age at death (49 or 50) are insufficient to cause me to doubt that this was one and the same person.

Tuberculosis, a bacterial infection, is not the same as being drowned or crushed to death in a collapsing mine; and it seems unlikely that Elizabeth Fox was present, and survived, underground. She was well enough to register the death a couple of days later.

Unless or until some other primary source surfaces to confirm the claimed dramatic accident, I continue to prefer the view that the account in the published book is an elaborated fiction based on a mis-reading of the gravestone. The author has not responded to my enquiries.

J.T.H. Turner (1977) has stated that no particulars survive for the London & Brighton Railway Company's contract for making the Merstham tunnel, and suggests a formal contract was not made. He identifies the contractor as 'Hoof' although interestingly the inscription on Henry Hoof's gravestone implies that all three brothers acted jointly.

I am indebted to Maureen O'Sullivan for drawing my attention to the 1841 census for Surrey which, though presumably too early to record Henry, does have Thomas (at Nutfield) and William (at Reigate) who would seem to be more than likely Henry's brothers and co-contractors. Various members of the Hoof family, sometimes in association with a man called Pritchard, have been recorded in connection with railway construction, and especially with tunnelling, in southern England in the 19th century.

This inquiry into an obscure corner of family history (and possibly (but very possibly not) mining and railway history), which I started some years ago, has more recently had a useful outcome. I received and responded to an enquiry from engineers a few years ago concerning the possibility of ground instability caused by mining at the tunnel portal, and assured them that to the best of my knowledge and belief no such problem exists. The engineers appear to have picked up the story of the flooded and collapsing mine tunnels, and as they had to lift some heavy electrical equipment out of and into the railway cutting just outside the tunnel they were concerned about a safe place to stand a tower crane. In the event such a crane was erected at this location, and did not topple over and short-circuit much of the Southern Railway!

London in 1788

Andrew Macnair (admacnair@aol.com)

William Faden's 1788 map of London and its Environs has been digitally redrawn.

This innovative reproduction of Faden's eighteenth century map, covering almost two thousand square miles, is centred on the city and reaches out to include St Albans, Guildford, Tonbridge and Chelmsford. It beautifully portrays the extensive commons, heaths and downs just prior to their loss to parliamentary enclosure. Central London is a fraction of its present size with Hampstead and Walthamstow, Clapham and Sydenham shown as peripheral villages. It was surveyed at a time when a gentleman could ride on horseback from his house in Westminster to watch the racing on Epsom Downs and return home in the early evening across open countryside. Animals could be driven for ten uninterrupted miles across the commons associated with Epping Forest.

The map clearly displays at its periphery the estates of landed gentry who wished to enjoy their countryside pursuits but remain reasonably close to the social, political and business attractions of the metropolis. It shows the capital just before the arrival of industry, the construction of the docks on the Isle of Dogs and the development along the Lea valley. The French Department of War

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Scaynes Hill, West Sussex, RH17 7NF, England

Web: <http://www.grrs.co.uk> Tel: +44 (0) 1444 831602 Email: grrs@btinternet.com

thought it so accurate that they re-engraved the map in 1801 in preparation for their planned invasion of England.

Details of the map are available at www.fadensmapoflondon.co.uk and images of the map can be seen on the Amazon book website – simply type ‘faden’ ‘london’ and ‘macnair’ into the search box. Until recently the map was only offered as individual map sheets but the whole map (at a scale of 1 inch to 0.85 miles) is now available in six sheets within a card booklet folder.

From the Editor

I have a copy of the Central South sheet of the map and the clarity is astounding. It is clear that it is a computer reproduction but this brings the great advantage that all the lettering is perfectly clear and legible. It covers the area from the Thames in the north to Reigate in the south, and from Chislehurst in the east to Epsom in the west. The map arrived within two days of ordering, and came securely packaged in a stout mailing tube some four feet long – it certainly won't go through your letterbox! If you have ancestors who came from anywhere within the area covered by the six sheets of the map I am sure you will find it of interest.

Cover photograph

The photograph advertising the last Jubilee celebration (that of Queen Victoria) was kindly sent in by Mike Lattimer, who writes:

“My grandfather (Hugh Lattimer) wrote on the surround of the original photograph: ‘188 Grange Road, Bermondsey: Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The decorations were home made.’”

Richmond at War

Simon Fowler

I am looking for help in writing a history of Richmond during the Second World War.

One of my problems is that I don't know very much about Richmond people who lived and died during the war, so I am looking for volunteers to do some research into the 97 civilians who were killed by enemy action, the men from Richmond who joined the services and did not return, and the people who lived in the town during the war.

People like air ace Paddy Finucane DSO DFC and Bar who died over the English Channel in July 1941. His last words were "This is it, chaps." But what else can we find about him?

Or the artist Mary Kent Harrison, who painted the town a number of times in the early 1940s. In particular I am trying to track down her excellent

painting 'Victory Day Richmond Hill 1945' which was used in a book by George Orwell. There is an excellent website about the artist run by her son at www.marykentharrison.com although it contains little about Richmond. But can we find out more about her?

Twenty people were killed on 20 September 1940 when a landmine dropped on Peldon Road and destroyed several rows of houses. They are listed by the



Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but there must be more information out there.

There are lots of other opportunities as well to help with other aspects of the book (does anybody know about Royal Artillery batteries, for example, or how the rationing system worked?) and to help prepare the exhibition at the Museum.

As well as the warm glow from helping with a very worthwhile project and the occasional 'cuppa and a wad', this is a very good way of learning about the Second World War and the records you can use to research ancestors who were there. Full training will be provided.

If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch. Ring 020 8940 6884 or email me at thesimonfowler@gmail.com.

We shall be launching the project in the autumn.

Unwanted Certificates

If you find a certificate that looks as though it may help with your research, contact the member who is offering it. Any transaction is then solely between you and the member concerned – the Society plays no further part.

| Type | Surname | Forenames | Registered | Date | From |
|------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------|------|
| D | KUHN | Jacob | Whitechapel | 1850 | 9516 |
| D | MOSSMAN | Emma | ESS Southend on Sea | 1922 | 9516 |
| M | STOTT / BURTON | Jonathan / Ann | Leeds | 1851 | 9156 |
| M | STOTT / MURDOCH | John William / Isabella | MDX Westminster | 1892 | 9516 |
| D | STOTT | William Wilson | SRY Lambeth | 1913 | 9516 |
| D | STOTT | John | SRY East Dulwich | 1921 | 9516 |

The above certificates listed are free of charge to members who send a suitably sized s.a.e. Please check first at cadmerend@btinternet.com to ensure they are still available.

Website round up

Brian Hudson

Bradshaw's guide – Anyone who has watched the BBC TV series *Great British Railway Journeys* with Michael Portillo will no doubt have been interested in his Victorian guidebook by George Bradshaw. A modern facsimile of the book has sold in large numbers and it has remained in the best seller list for many weeks (103 weeks in the Amazon top 100 at the end of April).

A digital copy of the 1866 edition is available to view online or download as a PDF at

<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000075905>. It has been produced in four sections as originally published. Section 1 covers the Surrey area and it can be browsed either by page or through the search box; if a place name is entered a list of results will show on which page the place has been mentioned.

Thanks to Celia Bailey, Sheila Gallagher and Ann Ramon for contributing the following websites.

<http://archive.org/details/toronto>

Celia says that it “...has loads of downloadable British topographical books, including Victoria County History and some early Croydon and Surrey ones. You may find something of interest. It has an amazing array of stuff.”

It has indeed, just type in the search criteria e.g. **Croydon** and see where it leads and then read the pages online or download the file.

www.flickr.com/people/naphotorecords

Sheila told me that photographs of Metropolitan police service records from the National Archives (TNA) are available on this photo sharing site. Click on the Collections and Sets links to see what is available. The records include Police Joiners and Attestation registers. Further details of these TNA Police records and their folio numbers are shown on the Your Archives website which can be reached by clicking on the Metropolitan Police

(MEPO) link at <http://naphotorecords.wordpress.com/about/>.
For more information about Police records go to the NA website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

click on the **Records** tab

click on the **Looking for a person?** tab

look down the list in the third column for **Police**.

www.victorianlondon.org

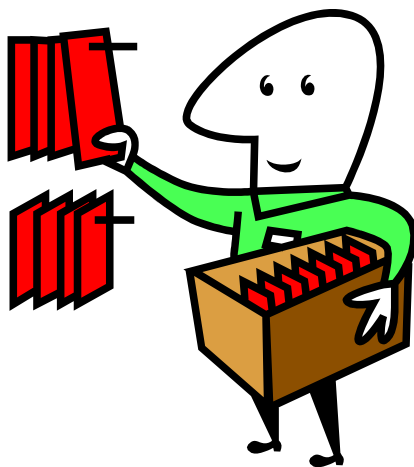
Ann sent me this link for the **Victorian Dictionary of London**, a veritable cornucopia of out-of-copyright material for London and the surrounding area. Just explore by browsing through the various sections or search for something specific, a place or persons. Aptly, since 2012 is his 200th birthday, Charles Dickens features in many of the search results.

Members' Interests for 2012

The 2012 Directory of Members' Interests (DMI) has been published on our website - look for the link on the home page. The Members' Interests Co-ordinator, Peter Grant, received a large number of updates following the article in the last Journal and these, together with entries from new members, have been carefully entered into the DMI database.

If you have an enquiry but don't have access to the internet, then contact Peter at the address shown inside the front cover of the Journal.

Peter has carefully filed the new and updated DMI entries . . .



Can you help?

Burchell

Jill Rowland: gilianrowland@googlemail.com

Mabel Watson (née Burchell) died on February 18 1990. Her address was Guildford Road, Croydon, and the informant of her death was her brother, Alfred Charles Burchell, from Haslam Avenue, Sutton. Alfred Charles Burchell had been born on 15th November 1907; his death was registered in Sutton in October 1995. Mabel married my relative Joseph Edwin Watson in 1931 in Wandsworth and they lived in Croydon with Ada Burchell from the 1950s. He died 1954.

I would be grateful to receive any information anyone has about this family.

Reeves Pierrots

Janet Evans [10146]; cje2582@o2.co.uk

I have a photograph of a group of people (men, women and one child) in Pierrot costumes; the child at the front of the picture is holding a board bearing the words "The Reeves Pierrots, 1906/7" and on the back of the photograph is written the date 1910. One of the people in the group is my grandfather. I know that in 1904 he lived in Canterbury Road, Peckham; in 1911 he was in Arica Road, Brockley; and in 1912 he was in Dacre Street (later renamed Fludyer Street), Lewisham.

Googling 'Reeves Pierrots' retrieves the photograph I have and nothing else. I have tried searching the internet more broadly, for amateur groups, concert parties, music halls etc, but can find nothing relevant. Can anyone tell me anything about Reeves Pierrots? I should be grateful for any information.

Can you help?

School uniform?

Marc Capron; dcapron@blueyonder.co.uk

According to my mother, my grandfather (Edward William McKone, born Westmoreland Road, Walworth in 1886) won a scholarship to a local school. The outfit was orange and blue (I believe orange socks and blue uniform). Providing the information is correct can anyone identify the school?

Caterham Nursing Home

Penny Jack [9968]

Thank you to all those members of the society who kindly responded to my letter in March's journal regarding the location of Caterham Nursing Home.

All the information offered has proved useful and will enable me to continue pursuing what happened to the Maternity Ledgers after the home closed.

Vouchers for sale

The Society keeps vouchers for sale at £5 for

Findmypast (including 1911 census)

If you would like to purchase any, please send a cheque (payable to "East Surrey FHS") and a stamped addressed envelope to Sue Adams, 10 Cobham Close, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9DS.