

Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

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The deadline for the June Journal is 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st May
All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite

From the Chairman

Joanna Grant [9080]

One of the big events of the Family History year, WDYTIA Live, will be over for another year by the time this edition of the Journal drops on your mat. I hope that we were able to meet some more members that are not able to get to our meetings. Don't forget: if you are able to get to other events that we attend, please do introduce yourselves. These events are on our website and often in the Journal as well as the information on all the Group meetings.

The Open Day and AGM this year will be at our Croydon venue as the hall there is a more suitable size, so allowing us to have more room for the Bookstall, Help Desk and displays. Though at Croydon, it will be run by the Sutton Group with help from the members who run the Help Desk and Bookstall plus others who are on hand to help. This year the Open Day is entitled "Archives – use them or lose them". With so many cutbacks to our archives it is important that we all do visit them and do not just rely on the internet.

I hope you will agree that we have three entertaining speakers on this subject and it would be a shame not to come and listen to their advice. We are inviting other Archives and Local Studies' Libraries in the Society's area to come on the day, but due to cutbacks they may not be able to come in person, only providing some literature. Julian Pooley, as well as giving a talk, hopes to bring another member of staff from the Surrey History Centre to answer any questions people may have.

As mentioned in the December Journal, Gill Hyder is coming to the end of her term as Treasurer so please do come forward to offer to take over the role or suggest someone who may be interested. There will be plenty of support offered. There are only six committee meetings a year so not much of a commitment.

My life has changed over the past year; I have become engaged and I am to marry this summer, plus having moved into a new

home that needs a fair amount doing to it. Reluctantly I will be standing down as Chairman of the ESFHS. Is there anyone out there who would like to consider the role of Chairman? If so please make contact. I have enjoyed my two years as Chairman, but feel that now is the time to find someone else to head the Society.

Members' Interests 2012

Time to update your entries

Now is the time to check your current entries and decide if they need updating. Peter Grant, our Members' Interests Co-ordinator, receives many enquiries and they are often of great mutual benefit to both member and enquirer, but only if the information is up to date. Some entries have not been changed for a long time, which does not mean that they are wrong, but it is worthwhile checking to see if they need to be revised, removed or supplemented. It is also important to make certain that Peter has your current email address.

The existing Directory of Members' Interests (DMI) section on our website contains the data we held in March 2011 listed by membership number (but not members' names or addresses), as well as a guide to using the DMI. If you do not have access to your details on the internet, you can write to Peter for a copy of your data.

To ensure that any revisions are included in the 2012 DMI, updates must reach Peter by 31st March. These can be sent to him by email or post; contact details are inside the cover of this journal.

The clock is ticking - Peter is waiting for your updates right now . .

Group meetings

March

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 | Members' Evening
<i>Family History Quiz and Help Desk</i> | | Sutton |
| 10 | Markets and Fairs on the road to the West | Andrea Cameron | Richmond |
| 20 | Surrey in the nineteenth century
<i>Life of the poor and emigration in the early 19th century</i> | Dr Judy Hill | Croydon |
| 28 | Another chance to have our photographs identified and dated | Jayne Shrimpton | Lingfield |

April

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|-----------|
| 5 | London Labyrinth Kathy Chater
<i>Kathy is an author, lecturer and family historian. Her talk will be about helping us research our ancestors who lived and worked in London.</i> | Sutton | |
| 17 | My average ancestor
<i>During a lifetime most people left a large number of records (we all generate about 100 records). This talk takes a chronological tour of those records and explains how they can help put the flesh on the bones of our research, where they can be found and what we can find.</i> | Ian Waller | Croydon |
| 23 | Useful websites for Family History Research
<i>Christine is a recently retired Library Manager from Southwark Libraries, where she ran Family History computer workshops & gave talks.</i> | Christine Mullett | Southwark |
| 25 | The Civil War in Surrey
<i>Although there were no big battles in Surrey, the talk explores the significance of the Protestant dissenting groups such as Diggers and Levellers founded by Gerrard Winstanley of Cobham.</i> | Laurence Spring | Lingfield |

May

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|-----------|
| 3 | Using the Internet to Research Abroad
<i>John is a lecturer and family historian specialising in IT and family history.</i> | John Hanson | Sutton |
| 12 | Members meeting | | Richmond |
| 15 | Liberty printing and/or William Morris | speaker tbc | Croydon |
| 23 | Mending bodies, saving souls
<i>A talk on the Victorian medical practices, hospitals and treatment of disease and injury</i> | Ian Waller | Lingfield |

June

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|---------|
| 7 | 'Sarah Huggett and Uncle Dan' – Low-life in Victorian Lodging Houses
<i>Ron is a family historian and a local historian specialising in Surrey.</i> | Ron Cox | Sutton |
| 19 | Irish Ancestry | Peter Christian | Croydon |

- 25 Surrey Gardens in Walworth 1831 – 1878 Stephen Humphrey Southwark
Life in Metropolitan Surrey in the 19th century
Note that this talk will take place in Pullen's Community Centre, at 187 Crampton Street, SE17. This is at the Crampton Street end of Iliffe Yard. By bus: to Walworth Rd, Larcum Street stop, short walk down Amelia Street opposite [by Tankard PH], then R. into Crampton Street – Iliffe Yard is almost opposite. [Buses from London Bridge: 35 & 40 from foot of bridge; from Waterloo: 68, 171 & 176 from Waterloo Road outside Sainsburys.

July

- 5 Dating Family Photographs 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

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.

-
- Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP
 3rd Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.
 Secretary: Mary Gill (020 8405 0598)
- Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield, RH7 6AB
 4th Wednesday (except 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 Street, London, SE1 1JA
 Fourth Monday of alternate months; 12 noon (except August when the meeting dates will vary – see the Journal and the Society website). There will be no meeting in December.
 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 www.esfhs.org.uk for future meetings and last-minute alterations.

Behind the scenes

Tony Goring [4499]

Members living within reasonable distance of Banstead may be interested in a talk by Nick Barratt of *Who Do You Think You Are* fame to be held at Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 30th March. The talk is titled *Family History & the Media: a look behind the scenes of Who Do You Think You Are*. The evening is being organised by Banstead History Centre, which is an advice/help/resource facility run by volunteers in Banstead Library, and is a partnership between Surrey Libraries, Surrey History Centre, Banstead History Research Group, and other local community and history organisations.

Tickets are £5, including refreshments, and are available either from the Ibis Bookshop at 109 High Street, Banstead, SM7 2NJ (opposite Waitrose) or Banstead History, c/o 5 Garrard Road, Banstead SM7 2ER (tel: 01737 351747, e-mail banstead.history@ntlworld.com).

2012 Renewal Subscriptions

Ann Turnor - Membership Secretary (827)

I would like to thank all members who have paid their renewal subscriptions promptly.

This makes things a lot easier for me and helps with the calculation of how many journals need to be ordered from the printers. This has to be done at least a month in advance so prompt payment is really appreciated. Many thanks.

EAST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Open Day and AGM Saturday on 28th April 2012

Archives — use them or lose them

at United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP

Speakers, Help Desk, Displays

10.00 Doors open

10.30 Welcome from the Chairman

10.35 Michael Gandy

Archives from the user's viewpoint and planning a day at the archives

11.30 Break

11.45 Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre

Who Do You Think They Were? Discovering the lives and experiences of our ancestors

12.45 — 2.00 Break, visit Help Desk & Bookstall

2.00 John Phillips, recently retired Sutton Borough Heritage Manager

Archives, Family History & Building Conservation: the case of Honeywood Museum, Carshalton

3.30 AGM of East Surrey Family History Society

4.00 Doors close

Free Event, five minutes from East Croydon station

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..

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).

ESFHS Fairs & Events 2012

29 January

10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Bracknell Family History Fair
Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, RG12 9SE
www.familyhistoryfairs.com

24 – 26 February

24 10.00 a.m. – 6.30 p.m.

25 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

26 9.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Who Do You Think You Are Live

Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London, W14 8UX
www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com

31 March

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Dorset Family History Day
Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, BH17 7EP
www.dorsetfhs.org.uk

21 April

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Huntingdonshire Big Family History Fair
Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU
www.huntsfhs.org.uk

22 April

11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Morden Hall Park Family History Detectives
Morden Hall Road, London, SM4 5JD
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park/

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

Spotlight on Publishers: Godfrey Maps

There are times when just getting the birth certificate or the census record is not enough. You want to know more. Some areas are very well served by local history books and websites, but if you want to get a feel for the names of the local roads, where the workhouse was, whether the house had a front garden or where the trams ran, then you need an Ordnance Survey map.

The Society stocks a good range of Godfrey Maps: high quality facsimiles of large scale Ordnance Survey maps (approx 14" to the mile). There are three main editions reprinted: 1870s, 1890s and 1910s. Where all three editions are available, it is a reflection of the changes the area has seen. If nothing is available, this suggests that the area was largely undeveloped through to fairly recent times. We also have a select range of very large scale maps (36" to the mile) for areas such as the Elephant and Castle where there was an extremely high density of housing. These are shown in bold type in the list below.

In the 1870s, a great many roads changed their names. The plethora of King Streets and Henry Roads disappeared and more esoteric, unique names replaced them. Thus your best chance of finding an 1881 address is by looking at a map of the 1890s.

Because the titles of maps are sometimes ambiguous or misleading, we are offering the following facility: if you are not sure which map you want, just quote the *name of the road*; a *complete census reference* (1871 - 1911); *pre 1881, pre 1901 or post 1901* and the *scale* when ordering, for example: **Pawsons Road** *RG12 piece 593 folio 84 page 2 pre 1901 14" to the mile.*

Then we can check whether we do hold a relevant map.

Maps and all postal books are obtainable from Mrs Sylvia Dibbs, 19 Lime Tree Grove, Croydon, CR0 8AY. All maps are £2.50 plus 50p current postage & packing. Please make cheques payable to 'East Surrey Family History Society'.

Map	pre 1881	pre 1901	post 1901
7.14	Anerley & Penge	1868	
7.75	Bankside	1873	
98	Barnes	1867	1893
100	Battersea & Fulham	1866	1894
101	Battersea & Clapham	1870	1894
14.09	Beddington & Waddon		1911
13.08	Beddington Corner		1894
77	Bermondsey & Wapping	1872	1894
116	Brixton & Herne Hill	1870	1894
102	Camberwell & Stockwell	1871	
13.16	Carshalton (South)		1895
14.1	Central Croydon		1895
87	Chelsea	1865	1894
85	Chiswick	1867	1893
115	Clapham Common	1870	1894
125	Clapham Park & Balham	1872	
20.14	Coulsdon Common		1895
14.05	Croydon (Mitcham Road)		1911
14.07	Croydon (Woodside)		1911
7.1	Crystal Palace	1871	
145	Crystal Palace (Anerley & Upper Norwood)		1894
127	Dulwich Village	1870	1894
117	East Dulwich & Peckham Rye	1868	1894
286	East Surrey & Mole Valley		1885
7.95	Elephant & Castle	1872	
86	Hammersmith & Fulham	1871	1894
12.13	Hampton Court & East Molesey		1912
41.04	Horley		1912
89	Kennington	1871	1894
84	Kew, Gunnersbury etc		1894
140	Kingston & Hampton Wick		1894
7.94	Lambeth Road	1872	
136	Lower Norwood	1870	

143	Lower Streatham		1894	
138	Lower Sydenham		1894	
142	Merton		1894	
144	Norbury & Upper Norwood		1894	
97	North Sheen & Mortlake		1893	
12.04	North Surbiton			1932
90	Old Kent Road	1871	1894	1914
103	Peckham	1871	1894	1914
88	Pimlico, Sloane Square etc	1869	1894	1913
20.01	Purley			1910
20.02	Purley Oaks		1895	
113	Putney	1866		1913
99	Putney Bridge	1865	1894	1913
161	Putney Vale			1913
26.16	Redhill		1895	
26.15	Reigate		1895	
110	Richmond & St Margarets		1894	
111	Richmond Hill & East Sheen		1894	
112	Roehampton		1894	
78	Rotherhithe	1868	1894	1914
14.11	Shirley			1911
14.13	South Beddington			1911
14.14	South Croydon		1895	
15.02	South Norwood	1868		
150	South Norwood		1895	
141	South Wimbledon		1894	
123	Southfields	1867		1913
126	Streatham Hill & Tulse Hill	1870	1894	1914
13.15	Sutton		1895	
12.07	Thames Ditton		1895	
7.85	The Borough	1872		
14.02	Thornton Heath			1911
149	Thornton Heath & Norbury		1894	
134	Tooting		1894	1913
137	Upper Sydenham		1894	1914

114	Wandsworth		1894	
124	Wandsworth Common		1893	
20.11	Warlingham			1910
76	Waterloo	1872	1894	1914
7.84	Waterloo & Lambeth Marsh	1872		
7.74	Waterloo Bridge & Southbank	1874		
14.06	West Croydon & Selhurst			1911
79	West India Docks	1867		1914
136	West Norwood		1894	
135	West Streatham & Tooting		1894	
133	Wimbledon		1894	

Christ Church, Southwark, in 1821

Census, maps and history

Sheila Gallagher

A fortunate discovery was made when checking the Surrey pre-1841 censuses last year. The transcripts of Christ Church 1821 Census made by the late Christine Powell for her SELON Index¹ and by Maureen O'Sullivan for East Surrey FHS² are not duplicates but complementary, covering respectively the parish to the west and the east of Great Surrey Street (renamed Blackfriars Road in 1829)³. Both transcripts/indexes now include the surname and forename of the head of the household (the main occupier), house number, street name and number of families present. The original documents are at London Metropolitan Archives, bound into 2 volumes⁴ and include, in addition, numbers of males & females.

In 1821 Christ Church vestry commissioned H. Gardner to survey and map the parish, see pp enabling the identification of the smallest alleys and courts listed in the census.

History: Detailed information and many illustrations may be found online⁵. To summarise: the parish 'roughly coincides with the Manor of Paris Garden', was part of St. Margaret's parish before 1540 and subsequently in St. Saviour's parish until 1671 when it became Christ Church. It was bounded on three sides by 'streams or sewers below high water level', alongside Broad Wall on the west and Gravel Lane (later Gt. Suffolk St.) on the east, where a hard raised surface 'kept the track above the floodplain fields'. Embankment walls along the R. Thames protected Upper Ground (Street), the oldest thoroughfare⁶. The first church was consecrated in 1671 but inadequate foundations in marshy ground required its replacement in 1741 by the church depicted on the map. This survived until 1941 when gutted by fire in the Blitz of WW2. The present church was built in 1959.

Records: Most Parish records are divided between LMA⁷ & Southwark Local History Library⁸.

Development: Maps are widely available and illustrate changes in social and industrial use⁹.

Roque 1746¹⁰ labels Christ Church and Hopton's Almshouses and depicts several riverside stairs & wharves, glass manufactories, houses surrounded by gardens, four 'Green Walk's & one 'Melancholy Walk' and four tenter grounds¹¹, all intersected by ditches & open water.

Gardner in 1821 shows Blackfriars Bridge, opened 1769, and Great Surrey Street bisecting the parish and leading to the adjoining parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark & Newington. Demonstrating commercial growth he indicates many more riverside wharves¹², landside yards for lime, timber, iron, stone and coal and manufactories for engines, glass, soap, lace and hats, amongst residential streets and squares. Contemporary means of transport are reflected in a coach manufactory, several mews and stables, a riding school and a farriery. New property development is illustrated by Nelson Square, laid out from 1807-1814: a garden surrounded by 3, 4 or 5 storey brick houses decorated with

ironwork balconies & gateways and patterned fanlights. Education was available in the four listed schools. Christ Church parochial school¹³ (No.1 on map) included 130 boys and 80 girls. The Surrey Institution/Rotunda - 'this academic mansion' - provided lectures, reading rooms and a chemical laboratory¹⁴. Nonconformist religion featured in the Surrey Chapel and Upton's Chapel. Philanthropy, for 'deserving' parishioners was provided in Hopton's¹⁵ and Edwards's¹⁶ Almshouses. The indigent poor were admitted to Christ Church Parish Workhouse, Marlborough St.¹⁷ or the Farmed Workhouse, Bear Lane.

Comparing Gardner's map with the 1821 Census [E. Division] is revealing: it is possible to identify some named persons from other sources¹⁸. John Rennie of the Engine manufactory lived in Stamford St. Joseph Quincy of 1 Albion Place probably owned the adjacent woodyard.. Rev. Rowland Hill had built his round chapel in Great Surrey St. in 1782 and lived at 45 Charlotte Street, next door. He preached to large congregations and was buried in 1833 in a vault under the pulpit. Rev. James Upton lived at 10 Green Walk and preached to Particular Baptists at his chapel in Church St. from 1785. All 26 poor men occupying the 2-room cottage almshouses endowed by Charles Hopton are named, including one William Shakespear. However, no names are recorded for 52 persons (1 male, 51 females) in '44 inhabited houses' in Church Street listed after Rachel Bone. They are identified as being Edwards' Almshouses by cross-referencing with the 1831 Census. David Showell at 37 Bear Lane, labelled 'Farmed Work House', is head of just one family of 59 males and 93 females. He appears at that address in Sun Fire Insurance records¹⁹ between 1816 and 1832, variously described as 'Worsted & Mop Yarn Manufacturer', 'Farmer of the Parish Poor' and 'Gent'. Other parishes paid him to take their paupers²⁰.

William Hansard is said to have built most of Nelson Square and lived at No.1 in 1821²¹. Sir Charles Aldis, first occupier of No.3

from 1808 and at No. 49 in 1821, was parish surgeon for a time. John Bowler with his one family occupied No.24; he had made hats at the manufactory on the east side of the square²², probably the one labelled 'Lloyd's' on the map, but had moved production elsewhere in Southwark by 1821²³. In 1821 J. Lillo was at No.26; from November 1814 to February 1815 Percy Bysshe Shelley, with Mary Shelley and 'Claire' Clairmont, had taken lodgings there with Thomas Lillo²⁴.

In 1821 13,339 persons lived in Christ Church parish - 6280 males and 7059 females. The number of families and total persons living in one house varied widely depending, of course, on its size and the inmates' prosperity. Total number of heads of households in Christ Church Eastern Division 1821 is 1008 and the number of families 1849, leaving 841 families unnamed. For census purposes 'one person' could be deemed a distinct family if neither boarding nor lodging but renting separately²⁵. The number of families per house varied from one to eight. About half the houses (499) were occupied by one family only but 8 families (25 persons) lived at 6 Paradise Row. The two highest occupancies were both in Gravel Lane: 29 persons at No. 15 and 26 at 24.

These two sources illustrate life in NE Surrey in the parish described variously as Christ Church Surrey or Christ Church Southwark. Despite the limitations of unrecorded families and house numbers plus later street name changes, they can help researchers whose ancestors lived there if used with surviving parish documents. So much information is available online and most of the rest* is accessible thanks to those dedicated transcribers and indexers, Christine Powell, her nephew Peter Shilham and our own Maureen O'Sullivan.

* Not including Christ Church, Surrey Armed Association, Rules & Attendance Register 1798-1803 at Lambeth Archives, Minet Library, reference LA IV/36/5/1 - in case any member would like to investigate and transcribe!

Acknowledgments: my thanks to the staff at LMA & SLHL and also to Peter Shilham, Stephen Humphrey & my daughter, Marie Louise Hennessy, for their kind assistance.

¹ SELON INDEX Apply to P. Shilham, 6 Beckford Close, Wokingham, BERKS RG41 1HN.

² ESFHS Research Collection: see www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk

³ J.H. WARBIS *Surrey Streets & Alleys to 1860* available at Southwark Local History Library, Reference section.

⁴ LMA P92/CTC/424 [W. Division] & P92/CTC/416 [E. Division]; also microfiche X15/158.

⁵ via www.british-history.ac.uk *Survey of London*, Vol.22, Bankside (parishes of St. Saviour & Christ Church, Southwark) & WALFORD, E. *Old & New London* (1882) , from which quotations are taken. www.collage@cityoflondon.gov.uk

⁶ Paving Commissioners' records for highways from 1793 at Southwark Local History Library [SLHL].

⁷ *Records marked * are available in SELON Index & as transcripts & indexes at SLHL.*

LMA: Parish registers - C&B from 1671, M from 1792 [C 1813-37*]; Vestry Mins 1756-1863; 1821 Census [* & in ESFHS Collection]; Workhouse & Poor Law records from 1798 *see LMA catalogue*.

⁸ SLHL: VM 1863-1900; Surveyors of Highway Mins 1823-1855; Rates Ledger 1837-1846 ; Poor Ratebook 1820-1900 [some rates*]; Edwards' Charity – Applicants 1816-36 * ref: 1/Box 30; 1831 Census *; Tombstones recorded 1898, ref.5938.

⁹ *See*: Horwood 1794-99; BACON, G. & HYDE, R. *A-Z of Victorian London* (1987) , *etc*.

¹⁰ ROQUE, J., London Topographical Society & HYDE, R. *A-Z of Regency London* (1982)

¹¹ Tenterground: an area used for stretching & drying newly manufactured cloth.

¹² SLHL: Deeds for *Old Bridge House Wharf (& adjoining properties)* 1768-1907, ref: 1985/310/A; & for Temple-West Estate (vicinity of Blackfriars Rd) 1791-1914, ref: 1979/26

¹³ Endowed by Edward Edwards, opened in 1716

¹⁴ *Survey of London*, Vol.22, Chap.22, PP 115-121.

¹⁵ Charles Hopton endowed 26 almshouses, built 1756

¹⁶ Edward Edwards endowed 44 almshouses, built 1753

¹⁷ *See* www.workhouses.com.uk

¹⁸ *Survey of London*, Vol.22.

¹⁹ LMA Sun Fire Insurance MS 11936

²⁰ SLHL: Newington, Workhouse Minutes, 1813, 1824 *etc see index*; Ref: 930-9

²¹ *Survey of London*, Vol.22, Chap.26, pp 129-132.

²² Stephen Humphrey – personal communication.

²³ LMA Sun Fire Insurance MS 11936, several references from 1821 on.

²⁴ *Survey of London*, Vol.22, Chap.26, pp 129-132.

²⁵ www.hist.pop 1821 Census Schedule

Little Gems

Rosemary Turner

I have been researching The Lodge, Morden, which used to occupy land at the rear of the house in which I lived with my parents. The foundations are now in woodland in Morden Recreation Ground. I got side-tracked and started researching the owners and occupiers of the house.

Living there at the time of the 1910 Valuation Records, and also the 1911 census, was Ada Margaret Pugh-Cook, a widow aged 45. The census showed that she had been born in Chile, S America, and that she was living there with her five sons, four daughters, four servants and a friend. Two children had been born in Chile.

I assume that she was originally married to a Mr Jewell, possibly in Chile, as she had five children with this surname: Maurice Fredrick Stuart and Richard Fisher Halifax born in Chile, and Daisy, Rose, and Edward Herbert born in this country.

She married George Edward P Cooke (no hyphenation) at Dartford in 1900 (March quarter). His children all have a jewel as a Christian name, even the boys: Ruby Valentine, George Garnet, Richard Jasper and Coral Margaret. I have been pondering the reason for these names: possibly George knew Mr Jewell and it was a tribute to him.

I have not been able to trace Ada and George in the 1901 census, or the death of George, so it is back to the building again.

Geneological Record Research Services covering Surrey, Sussex and London

Do you live too far away to justify the expense of locating your geneological records in S. E. England repositories?

Let me do the legwork extracting the records for you.

Prices from £6 per hour + expenses (see website for details)

Andy Spooner, Old Scaynes Hill House, Clearwater Lane,
Scaynes Hill, West Sussex, RH17 7NF, England

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

Paxton Park Maternity Home

*Diane Robinson [10016]
Little Paxton, St Neots, Huntingdonshire*

I write this article because there seems a certain amount of intrigue surrounding these premises during the post war years until closure in September 1955.

I do know for a fact that there were hundreds of babies born at Paxton Park between the end of the War and 1955, myself included, and it would seem, from the scant information found on the internet, that no-one can get the answers they want as to why their mother was sent to this hospital to give birth.

I was always told by my parents that the reason for my arrival there was to do with the danger of floods in London after the bad winter of 1946/47. This, I find irrelevant because St Neots was at least three feet under water due to the river having breached its banks because of the rain and already saturated ground from winter snow melt.

Because of a question asked by a friend in March this year, it got me re-thinking the whole issue once again. I then searched through my own photo album and found pictures (1947) of the High Street in St Neots flooded knee-deep - this did not seem to make sense. Also, why would my mother have been sent from the Norbury area of London some 85-100 miles away to a flood zone? I have purchased a book by David Broad, and have to say that the pages on Paxton Park make for interesting reading (especially compared to present day maternity care).

This really got me thinking, and I was fortunate enough to find (on an internet site) a lady who was also looking for the reasons why her birth was at Paxton Park.

We are now in constant touch trying to find out if there are any records held by anyone - e.g. council, library, museum, etc. This seems to have drawn a blank so far. Although there is probably much more research to be done, and more questions to be asked,

it is becoming very frustrating not knowing who to contact and ask. And of course, one has to bear in mind that prior to 1948 there was no NHS, which probably adds to the difficulty on tracing records. I have even viewed my own medical records, in hope, but from my birth year (1947) to about 1962 they are missing. However, somebody somewhere must have given the orders to send mothers to 'PP' - David Broad's book suggests it was because of bomb-damaged hospitals and the hospitals being full of war casualties. Is the latter likely in a maternity ward?

I have recently been sent copies by a friend of an article from "Genealogist Magazine" written by a lady who was born at Paxton Park. The account of her birth and the reasons for her mother being sent there (which were medical) are far from a nice experience. In fact it makes disturbing reading, and is nowhere near as rosy as David Broad's account in his book.

I have now convinced myself that there was a good reason, possibly medical, why my mother was dispatched to PPMH for my birth - sadly, my mother is no longer here to answer the important questions, and as her sister says, 'things like that were never spoken about in those days.'

I also believe that there were many babies being born in hospitals local to where my parents lived at this time, or born at home.

The question is, "who" gave the directive to send mothers to these obscure places, and "why", and "where" are the records? In every avenue of search I have pursued, nobody seems to know, or worse still does not want to know or investigate.

If anyone has had a similar experience to this, or one in the same Maternity Home, I should be pleased to hear from them.

Tech Topic – The bigger picture

Brian Hudson

There are times when it is useful have more space for working on the computer screen and less taken up by menus and margins. Read on for ways to reclaim some or all of the space.

Microsoft Office

The latest versions of Office (from 2007 onwards) have a large Ribbon at the top. This can be reduced in size by placing the cursor anywhere on the Ribbon and right clicking the mouse. A box will then appear with an option to Minimize the Ribbon, select this and a reduced Ribbon appears; however the full set of commands is still available when any menu heading is selected.

To go back to the full ribbon right click on the Ribbon and again select Minimize the Ribbon, which now has a tick next to it.

Web browser

When using a browser, such as Internet Explorer, Firefox or Google Chrome, and a full screen view of a web page is required, then pressing F11 on the keyboard will extend the page to the full screen. Depending on the browser, the menu functions can still be viewed by moving the cursor to the top of the screen.

To return to normal view press F11 again.

Celluloid Danger – Camberwell Boy Fatally Burned

Glynice Smith [9927]

4 Chester House, Prospect Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5BW. Tel: 020 8449 7802.

Email: GlyniceS@aol.com

It was claimed for many decades that Charles Henry Payne (born Bermondsey, 1883) and his wife Lilian had only two children – Ronald (born Willesden, 1915) and Clarice (born Brighton, 1918). The discovery of an elder brother came as a complete surprise. Yet the information on his death certificate and the inquest findings unlocked the sad story of little Leslie Charles Payne.

Leslie was born on 5 July 1911, in Richmond, Surrey. Just prior to his birth, his father was a waiter in a tearoom and his mother a confectioner, living over the shop. Why, then, did the family move from the leafy suburbs to rent a basement room of a terraced house in overcrowded Camberwell? Perhaps it was because Charles had family living nearby.

On Friday 19 December 1913 tragedy struck at 34 Grosvenor Terrace, Camberwell. Lilian had only left little Leslie for a few moments to bring him some water from the kitchen. It was sufficient time for him to climb out of bed and get so close to the fire that his nightshirt caught alight. He might have taken his mother's celluloid hair comb from the mantelpiece and thrown it in the flames. The public at the time were unaware that celluloid was (and is) highly inflammable.

Lillian's landlady accompanied her and Leslie to the doctor's surgery. They took the boy to Guy's Hospital where, according to the death certificate, he died hours later due to "shock from burns due to ignition of flannelette nightgown when temporarily alone in a room where a burning fire was unguarded". Leslie was just 2 years and 4 months old. What a terrible shock it must have been for his father, Charles, to come home to find his son dead.

The inquest was held on 23 December 1913 in Southwark. Up until 1926, all inquests were held before a jury of between 12 and 24 people. It must have seemed like a grand jury to Charles Payne when he stood to give his statement before them and the coroner. Lilian was too ill to attend but her landlady had spoken up for her - she was a careful mother and it seemed unusual that, on fateful day, she had left the fire without a guard. Lilian had been blacking the grate.

The verdict was accidental death and no suggestion was made that Lilian had been negligent - it was just a very sad, tragic accident, which would haunt her life.

The accident was reported in the South London Press with the title “Celluloid Danger. Camberwell Boy Fatally Burned”.

How did I learn so much detail? When I raised the subject, relatives suddenly recalled the accident! I also discovered a book called *Coroners' Records of England and Wales*, by Jeremy Gibson, from which I found that the Coroner's Records for Southwark were kept at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). There I learnt that, whilst many coroners' records have been lost because they were not obliged to keep them more than fifteen years, the depositions (or witness statements) were stored separately and might still exist. This was the case for Leslie Charles Payne. As it was almost a century ago, the 75-year closure rule on certain archives did not apply.

Subsequently I visited Southwark Local History Library, to look for any newspaper report of the accident. I found much more than I expected due to the enthusiasm and expertise of the Archivist and members of staff. They located the piece in the South London Press immediately, as well as maps of Grosvenor Terrace and Electoral Registers. I am indebted to them for permission to reproduce photographs of the road around the period when the Payne family were in residence. If members have ancestors in the Southwark area, I highly recommend a visit to the archives but do email or call in advance if possible.

So, the moral of this tale is to be persistent, explore the lesser known sources or unusual archives for facts about an unusual death and inquest. You might strike lucky too.

Sources:

GRO Death Certificate of Leslie Charles Payne

LMA Coroners Records and Depositions

Southwark Local History Library, 211 Borough High St, London SE1 1JA Tel: 020 7525 0232

local.history.library@southwark.gov.uk

The Merton Historical Society

The Merton Historical Society is the publisher of a huge range of books on the Merton area. They range from chunky paperbacks dealing with extremely detailed local history, slim monographs and, what are possibly of most use to family historians, their series of Local History Notes and Studies in Merton History.

Online censuses enable many of us to get back to 1841 with relative ease, but often with little idea as to where our ancestors were living, or in what circumstances. The 1841 census is regrettably vague as to addresses. In a high street, one might establish where the nearest pub was and work back and forth, using directories and later censuses in attempt to gain a better understanding. Usually, we resign ourselves simply to knowing an ancestor was in that parish. The series of Tithe Apportionment Maps - for Morden in 1838, Merton in 1844 and Mitcham in 1846 - help us considerably. The books contain a background to the apportionments in each parish, the schedules, which list amongst other things the owners, occupiers and the rent charge, and maps: reduced copies of the tithe apportionment maps themselves, plus maps showing major owners, major occupiers and the state of cultivation. Not every property fell within the scope of tithes and many an occupier would sublet his premises. You do, however, get a much clearer better appreciation of what the places were like. Having recently attended a study day at the Surrey History Centre where we explored the potential of the tithe maps, I am amazed how greatly they enhance our understanding of the parishes at the dawn of the Victorian age.

In addition, a survey was undertaken in Mitcham in 1838 by Messrs Crawter & Smith. This lists every property in Mitcham, with acreage and usage, giving names of both proprietor and occupier.

“The Now & Hereafter Poor” is a study in the administration of the Poor Law in the parish of Mitcham prior to 1834. This is not a

list of names: for those you need to look at our own collections; but it provides a fascinating background to the subject.

All the below are available on our bookstall and from Mrs S Dibbs, 19 Lime Tree Grove, Croydon, CR0 8AY. Please make cheques payable to East Surrey Family History Society.

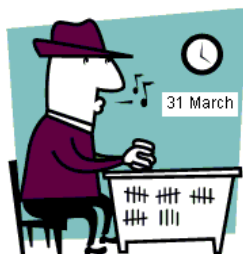
The second column below shows the cost of the book; the last column shows the cost including UK postage and packing.

The Parish of Merton in 1844:

The Tithe Apportionment Map	0.75	1.90
Mitcham in 1838: A Survey by Messrs Crawter & Smith	1.00	2.15
Morden in 1838: The Tithe Apportionment Map	2.95	4.10
Mitcham in 1846: The Tithe Apportionment Map	2.95	4.10

Members' Interests

Please see the announcement on page 3.



Thank you to the Aussies

Judy Woodlock

May I, as the Australian Representative of the Society, thank all those members who were thoughtful enough to send me a card or note thanking me for collecting subscription renewals.

It is a pleasure to do this job as I feel that some of our members are like old friends whom I just haven't seen for a while; so many of the names are familiar. I'm pleased that I can do this small task to make being a member a little easier for Aussies.

Sometimes members are worried that I haven't received their cheque, but it is only because I keep them and bank in early February when I remit the subscription renewals to the Society. Sorry if your cheque doesn't get cleared in the month you send it. Many thanks; I look forward to receiving your best wishes.

News from Surrey Heritage January 2012

A Sense of Place

Have you ever stopped to think about the setting for all the baptisms and marriages recorded in early parish registers? What did the church look like when our ancestors gathered there, around the font or at the altar two centuries ago? Many of us visit churches associated with our families to gain some idea of the place that they knew, but of course so much has changed since the Victorians scraped the walls or rebuilt the chancel that the building that our families knew in 1800 would scarcely be recognizable to them today. Fortunately the topographical artists John Hassell (1767-1825) and his son, Edward Hassell (1811-1852) painted most of Surrey's churches and chapels during the 1820s. Their atmospheric watercolours vividly record the box pews, uneven flagstone floors and Georgian interiors in exquisite detail. We hold nearly seven hundred of their paintings at Surrey History Centre but there are many more at the British Library, Lambeth Archives and other collections. Many of them were produced for gentlemen collectors such as Robert Barclay of Bury Hill near Dorking who wished to 'extra-illustrate' their copies of Owen Manning and William Bray's *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* published in three volumes between 1804 and 1814. They are an important source for architectural scholars but often overlooked by family historians and so I was particularly pleased to be invited to curate a small exhibition of them at The Lightbox in Woking running from December 2011 to February 2012. I selected about eighty examples of the Hassells' work drawing on both our collections and those of Lambeth Archives. I focused on parishes around Woking but included Chertsey and Guildford and, when I saw them all displayed together, I realized how well they complement the written record of the parish registers. Churches and chapels ceased to be a name written on the spine or flyleaf and became places that would have been known and recognized by our ancestors. Though the exhibition has now finished, you can

still see it online on the Exploring Surrey's Past website
http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/people/artists/john_hassell/exhibition

A sense of place and the setting for key moments in the lives of our ancestors was also central to another exhibition that was held in our foyer throughout January. 'Living Away from Home: Life in some of Surrey's Victorian and Edwardian Residential Institutions' looked at life in three kinds of residential institution which were common in Surrey at the turn of the twentieth century: Holloway Sanatorium, a mental hospital for the middle classes at Virginia Water; Charterhouse, a public school for boys near Godalming; and common lodging houses for the poor in Redhill, Chertsey and Staines. It considered how these places were organised and decorated and afforded a fascinating glimpse of how some of the people who lived there reacted to their surroundings. The display was part of an ESRC-funded project, 'At Home in the Institution? Asylum, School and Lodging House Interiors in London and South East England, 1845-1914', based in the History Department at Royal Holloway University of London and can still be viewed at <http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/living>.

New Accessions and Catalogues

I'm pleased to report that new material continues to be added to our collections. Recently completed catalogues include a nice set of records relating to the Rickards family of Elm Bank, Leatherhead, which we purchased at auction (ref: 8850). The estate and house were purchased by Edward James Rickards (1814-1893) in 1864, and the records include his diary between 1852 and 1881 and some interesting photograph albums, but other generations of the Rickards family are also represented such as Edward's lawyer father George Rickards (d.1857), whose personal account book of 1811-19 and journal of a tour through North Wales in 1802 survive.

For historians of Cobham, we have received and catalogued research files compiled by Dr David Taylor, author of many noteworthy books on the village and its properties and families (ref: 8866).

The diaries of Helen Lloyd (1899-1977) of Albury, who was the organiser of the Women's Voluntary Service Centre in Guildford Rural District during World War II, provide a fascinating insight into the stresses and strains of life on the home front (ref: 8916). Extracts from the diaries are to be published this year by Surrey Record Society. Look out for further details of this project on the Society's page listed under 'Useful Sources for Surrey Local History' on our website, www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre

We have also taken in records of a number of Strict Baptist Chapels, which had formerly been held by Gospel Standard Baptist Library (ref: 8922). The chapels represented are Brockham Green 1792-1971, Hope Chapel in Holmwood 1903-1939, Horsell Common Chapel, 1814-1965, Salem Chapel in Lingfield, 1925-1975 and Ebenezer Chapel, Smallfield Common, Burstow, 1850-1993. The records include church meeting minutes and some membership lists and could be a useful source for family historians whose ancestors appear to be missing from registers.

A very significant recent purchase at the end of 2011 was two beautiful surveys of the estates of the Clayton family of Marden Park, Woldingham (ref: 8948). The surveys were made in 1761 by William Chapman and in 1781 by Yeakell and Gardner and incorporate many hand-drawn maps of the family's extensive lands in east Surrey, including Bletchingley, Godstone, Chaldon and Tandridge. We received substantial grants from the Friends of the National Libraries and from the Surrey History Trust to assist us in the purchase and were delighted to be successful as the surveys complement the archives of the Clayton family which were already in our custody.

School Records

School admission registers and log books are a popular source for many family historians, but those that are less than a hundred years old are now subject to access restrictions. In a decision notice dated 5 April 2011, the Information Commissioner recorded that the information they contain can be deemed as sensitive personal information and, as such, can be made exempt from disclosure under section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We are, therefore, applying some new procedures for requests to access these records. Full details will shortly be published on our website, but basically anyone can still apply for access to his or her own school records providing that they can supply us with two forms of proof of identity and complete a form requesting access to restricted documents. There will also be a Data Protection search fee which is currently £10.00. If you are seeking access to the records for other research - tracing an ancestor or studying the history of the school, for example - we will need to handle your request under the Freedom of Information Act and we may find it necessary to charge a 1-hour's research fee (currently £33.00) in advance of a search. We will also ask you to complete a form requesting access to restricted documents.

Finally, some of our forthcoming events are listed below. Please keep an eye on our website or Twitter @SurreyHeritage for up to date information - we look forward to seeing you.

24-26 February 2012: *Who Do You Think You Are? Live*

Don't forget to come along to our stand at this leading family history event at Olympia, London. To book tickets, call 0844 873 7330 or visit www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk

**Saturday 21 April, 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. at Surrey History Centre:
Lost Voices from the Titanic – A talk by Nick Barratt**

followed by book signing. April 2012 sees the centenary of the most infamous voyage in sea-faring history. Recapture the unfolding drama, tragedy and chaos of that fateful night through the words of those who were there, with Nick Barratt, TV presenter, expert genealogist from *Who Do You Think You Are?* & author of *Lost Voices from the Titanic: The Definitive Oral History*. Drawn primarily from the material assembled by Walter Lord for his classic 1958 film *A Night to Remember*, Nick will revive the forgotten stories, told by those who worked and sailed on the ship. Signed copies of Nick's book can be purchased on the day.

Tickets (£5.00) will include refreshments. Booking is essential and places are limited. To book, please call 01483 518737

To accompany this talk there will also be a small foyer display featuring sources for studying Titanic held at Surrey History Centre.

... and of course I'm very much looking forward to meeting you at the AGM on Saturday 28th April where I will be manning a stall and giving a talk with the title *Who Do You Think They Were? Discovering the Lives and Experiences of our Ancestors*.

News from Sutton Local Studies & Archives Centre

Kath Shawcross (Sutton Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager)

Like most local authority library services, Sutton is looking to make savings over a four year period with most of the savings being made in the first two years. The councillors in Sutton have decided not to close any of our branch libraries which is very good news. However it becomes very challenging then for management to find ways of saving the best part of a million pounds, which is what we have to find for the Library Service.

I am glad to report that there has been no suggestion that the staffing in the Local Studies & Archives Centre should be cut. We may find ourselves challenged in other ways however and already

we have had our purchasing and conservation budgets cut slightly. Five librarians recently took redundancy which impacts on cover staff for us but nothing more serious. Our opening hours have been reduced by ½ hour on Saturdays (opening at 9.30 now) but we've actually increased by ½ hour our opening hours on Sundays (now 1-4.30 p.m.). I'll keep the Society up-to-date with future news.

On to digitisation news. Thanks to a generous grant from the East Surrey Family History Society we have been able to digitise 21 of our oldest local directories dating from 1869 to 1899. This includes searchable PDF files, some of which I plan to put on our website (it is currently being redesigned so must wait). This means too that the public will be able to photocopy the hard copy surrogates that have been produced as part of the digitisation project. Please see photographs in this issue.

Also digitised thanks to a grant from Film London are more home movies and videos from our archive collection. Seven more films have been added to London's Screen Archive on YouTube - I hope you enjoy them.

[http://www.youtube.com/user/LondonsScreenArchive?blend=1&ob=video-mustangbase.](http://www.youtube.com/user/LondonsScreenArchive?blend=1&ob=video-mustangbase)

Personally I've been kept unusually busy as the Borough's joint War Memorial Officer due to vandalism of the Carshalton War Memorial at the end of September. All the plaques containing WWI soldiers' names were stolen. There is no chance of their return and the Council has decided to replace them with stone plaques, which is in fact how the original memorial was designed. By the time you read this the new plaques will be in place. This has become too common an occurrence up and down the country so I would encourage readers, if you live near a memorial, to help keep an eye on it.

Our volunteers are busy transcribing WWI letters and producing a Google Bomb Map - the map should be live by the June issue.

Website round up

Brian Hudson

<http://tinyurl.com/newspaper-archs> - Although the web page is dated 1999 most of the newspaper archive links still work and some are free. Collect Britain leads to other fascinating areas of research at the British Library.

Little scope for actual research here but the two academic collections provide interesting material.

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk - In November last year the British Library and brightsolid (sic) launched the website of the British Newspaper Archive (BNA). Over 3 million pages were available by January this year and more are being added daily, with 40 million being their target. Searching is free, with a payment to view images. There is a choice of Pay Per View (PPV) or subscription packages: 48 hours for £6.95, 30 days for £29.95 or a one year subscription for £79.95. The BNA can be used for free at the British Library's reading rooms in St Pancras, Colindale and Boston Spa.

www.hearthtax.org.uk/communities/surrey - Find out more about the 17th century Hearth Tax; if you have an ancestor in the period 1662 and 1689, then try searching the 1664 Surrey name list.

Treasurer wanted for ESFHS by April 2012

Gill Hyder, our present Treasurer will complete five years in the post at the AGM in April 2012. As the Society's constitution states that no Executive Committee member may serve for more than five years consecutively, we need a new Treasurer. You do not need bookkeeping experience as the Society accounts are currently managed on Excel spreadsheets. Ideally the Treasurer needs to live within the East Surrey area to enable the countersigning of cheques by other authorised Society officers. Executive Committee meetings are held in Croydon on the 3rd Thursday of alternate months, starting in May each year after the AGM.

For further details please contact Gill on treasurer01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk.

Nominations for Committee Members

Nominations for members of the Executive Committee are invited from any members of the Society. No qualifications are required; just an interest in family history and the Society.

The Committee meets six times per year, on the 3rd Thursday of alternate months starting with January. For convenience the meetings are held at the URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, which is a central location with good bus, train and tram links as well as parking.

If you need any more information then please get in contact with me, Sue Adams, at secretary01@east Surrey fhs.org.uk or speak to any Committee member at meetings.

Website round up extra

Brian Hudson

The item on www.familysearch.org - 1911 Census in the previous journal (Dec 2011) probably needed a little additional information to help locate the page to start from, so here is a step by step guide:

- on the Familysearch home page look down to Browse by location and click on Europe
- in the left hand panel go down to Collections and click on Census & lists
- at the top of the new page should be Historical Record Collections and the 8th item down is England and Wales census, 1911, click on that for the search page.

Or go straight to the page using <http://tinyurl.com/fs1911census>.

Genealogist Caveo (part 3)

Richard Brown [7582]

The case of Thomas Cathie Wheeler, for murder, heard on 10th May 1852. Reference Number: t18520510-572. Evidence was given by witnesses who appeared at the Police Court & Coroner's hearings, and by some new witnesses.

572. Thomas Cathie Wheeler was indicted for the wilful murder of Elizabeth Wheeler.

(The prisoner did not plead to the indictment, but upon the application of Mr Ribton the Jury were sworn to try whether he was then of sound mind and understanding.)

Wintown **Harris**. I am a surgeon at Horsemonger-lane Gaol.

Cross-examined by Mr Payne.

Q. What was the particular ground of insanity, the particular delusion?

A. He wanted to commit suicide.

Q. But if a man is committed for murder, and says, "If I don't commit suicide the law will do it for me," do you think that looks like madness?

A. He said his complaint was always that he wanted to commit suicide; and he committed murder on purpose to do it; on purpose that the law might do it; that his complaint was suicide, and he should not be well till it was done.

John Cathie. I am the prisoner's uncle.

I have seen him five or six times. He was never addicted to drink, previous to this malady he was one of the most steady industrious young men that could possibly be. He was the chief support of his mother and family. His over anxiety and assiduity in business, I am satisfied, brought it on. I should say he appeared to understand perfectly well the charge I alluded to in my conversation.

Charles Tongs (or Thoms). I am a carpet bag and hassock manufacturer, and live at 1, Durham-place, Lambeth-road. The prisoner and his mother resided in my house eleven months, up to the time of this unfortunate occurrence. Three or four days before he committed this act, he had been out to fetch something for his dinner, and when he came to the door he fancied that Ben Count had been insulting him, and he put down his provisions, took off his coat, and said he would fight Ben Count the champion of England.

(Ben Caunt was the bare-knuckle boxing champion of England in 1841 - '45.)

Cross-examined. Q. Were there times when he seemed to answer rationally in conversation? A. Oh yes; he answered rationally enough; only half an hour before he committed the deed he came down and asked me to give, him a piece of carpet to lay down by the side of his bed.

The jury found the prisoner to be of Unsound Mind. He was "Ordered to be Detained until Her Majesty's pleasure be known."

Thomas was sent down to Horsemonger Lane Gaol, and then transferred to Bethlem Hospital on 3rd June 1852, where he was held as a criminal lunatic.

In his Bethlem Hospital case notes, it was recorded that Thomas Cathie Wheeler, aged 28, was brought from Newgate.

My copy of the notes includes transcriptions of the Warrant for the reception of Thomas Cathie Wheeler in the Criminal Lunatic Asylum in St George's Fields in the County of Surrey, and of the Warrant of transfer. The warrants are signed by S H Walpith.

On the 25th of October 1852, he attacked a warder with a goose iron. In The Times, there was the following report: -

"Attack upon a Keeper in Bedlam. — A man named Wheeler, made a savage attack upon one of the keepers in the institution on Thursday. It appears that about dinner-time Wheeler managed to

gain access to a cupboard, where the tailors' goose-irons are kept, and, taking one of them, came behind Hooper, the keeper, and attacked him in a most desperate manner, that doubts are entertained of his recovery." Other patients restrained him, "while others locked up the knives and forks, to prevent him inflicting further injuries. The alarm-bell having being rang, further assistance arrived, when Wheeler was secured and confined in an indiarubber closet, to prevent, him doing any mischief to himself. No cause can be assigned for this brutal attack, further than that Wheeler had often importuned Hooper to allow him to wear his own dress, instead of that of the institution. The unfortunate keeper was after the attack removed to the infirmary of the institution, where he remains in a very precarious condition."

According to his case notes: -

"He was noticed to be shy and suspicious when he was brought from Newgate and very soon he attempted the life of an Assistant. Though still dangerous he has become latterly very weak in his mind and talks a great deal nonsense collects rubbish, is untidy in his dress, at times refuses food talks to himself and prays much: he also much thinner."

Towards the end of his stay at Bethlem, he was found to be "the most abusive and foulest mouthed man in the Hospital and at the same time a most dangerous person, but a coward." On the 23rd of March, 1864, he was sent to Broadmoor.

Soon after his admission to Broadmoor, he was assessed and described as "A large framed man, very small cranium, incoherent, imbecile. Still suffers somewhat from rheumatic pains, his ankles swell towards evening, he is clean, quiet, constantly craving for food, numerous delusions that people come to him in his room etc. Height 5 ft 9½in. Head circumf 22in Hereditary taint - Maternal Grandmother, two maternal aunts and one sister all

insane, and in addition to this one of his mother's brothers committed suicide and another is high spirited and rather flighty."

Throughout his stay, he was noted to be "delusional, used filthy language at times, and was forever complaining about the food, although he had a good appetite!"

On the 11th of December 1872, he "Succeeded in making his escape yesterday while coming from the airing court in the afternoon. Wheeler cleverly secreted himself amongst the shrubs where he lay till it was dark enough to climb the wall of the court by which he got to the fields beyond. Fortunately he did not know the neighbourhood and was discovered near Crowthorne by the messenger who brought him back in the evening. He was not missed till nearly two hours after the patients were brought in from the Court."

Apart from this incident, there is nothing remarkable in his case notes. In April 1902, his health was deteriorating, and was "Bodily becoming much more feeble." In 1904, he was sleeping in the infirmary. The last note before his death was made on 7th November 1906 when he was "full of delusions. Health good."

His death was registered in the March ¼ of 1907. "Wheeler Thomas Cathie 83 Easthampstead 2c 303." [Free BMD extract.] His Broadmoor case notes record that he died on 25 01 1907.

The following, extracted from the Legal Observer Digest - May-Oct 1852, has an interesting ring these days.

"Arraignment of Lunatic Offenders.

Case before Mr. Baron Platt.

"We are inclined to agree with the general observation of the writer in The Times, (see below) that too much attention is given; in the administration of both civil and criminal Justice, to offences against property, as compared with offences against life, liberty,

person, and character. For this, however, neither the Common Law nor the Judges are to blame. In the instance directly under consideration, if the prisoner had been indicted for any offence involving the loss of property, the course prescribed by law would have been precisely similar to that adopted in Wheeler's case."

In the Times, dated Monday, April 19, 1852

"Lambeth . . . Mr. Norton said it was a lamentable thing that the law as regarded lunatics was not more stringent. It was evident that this man was quite unfit to be at large, and there ought to be a law empowering the lunatic asylums to insist upon the most ample security that a discharged lunatic would be properly taken care of. They ought not to be given up at the mere request or caprice of any of their family, but some protection should be given to insure the public security."

I was intrigued to note that the names of the witnesses who resided at 1, Durham Place were different from those enumerated in the 1851 census. It's amazing how mobile people were, but I did not expect to see almost an entire household to have changed within the course of one year.

Many of us set out in the hope of finding famous ancestors or to possibly unlock fortunes. However, the reverse can so easily be the case, as the story of Thomas Cathie Wheeler shows.

It is certainly a case of *Genealogist Caveo*.

Annual General Meeting

Programme and other details on page 7 of this issue.

Can you help?

Caterham Nursing Home

Penny Jack [9968]

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I am seeking any information on what became of Caterham Nursing Home, where I was born in 1946.

In particular I would like to find out in which road the nursing home was located, when it closed and whether or not patients' medical records were saved, and if so where.

I have been in contact with the Surrey History Centre in Woking but they have been unable to help.

If any member has any information (e.g. a photo of the building), or can suggest where I can find out more, I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Members' Interests

Ann Metcher, President

The Gold Coast Family History Society in Queensland, Australia, has launched a new Members' Interest List that can be accessed by any researcher, worldwide.

The list can be found on our website at www.goldcoastfhs.org.au.

All enquiries are secure and are passed on to the relevant member via the facilitators.

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.