

# Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society



[www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk)

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*Cover photograph: The 'Lyon' House (see page 20)*

**The deadline for the June Journal is 1st May 2008 (10.00 a.m.)**

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

## From the Chairman

*Brenda Hawkins [785]*

By the time you read this, the refurbishments at London Metropolitan Archives will be nearly complete and the Family Records Centre on the verge of closure. It seems such a short while since we were heralding the opening of the FRC as a huge improvement for researchers. It was sheer luxury to have censuses and BMD indexes under the same roof, available six days a week. Now, with material available online 24/7, there is no longer perceived to be a need for such huge premises and the FRC today is a shadow of its former self, as more and more packing cases are filled.

### **Win free tickets to WDYTYA –Live!**

As the major providers of genealogical information reinvent themselves, should family history societies do so too? We try to cater for the needs of our members, but to do so, we need feedback. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire in this journal. If you return it to the Secretary before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, it will be entered into a prize draw at the AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The first five members drawn will receive a free ticket to WDYTYA – Live!

If you don't win our prize draw, you still may be able to get in for less than £20. Provided enough of our members are interested, we can offer discounted tickets for £7.50. Please check our website or contact the secretary for up to date details. This offer must end by 21<sup>st</sup> March!

### **Do we still need microfilm?**

The argument goes that, with indexes online, there is no longer a need for microfilm or paper records to be made available. This is fine when the indexes are complete. A friend found a reference on British Origins to a PCC will: that of Francis Freemantle in 1784. There was no trace of this on Documents Online. He had supposedly died in foreign parts, which didn't help her much as she had no knowledge of anyone in the family being abroad at that period. As there were over 600 wills proved in the month, it would have been a mammoth task to look at each one online. Luckily, the microfilms are still available. When I found the reference, I could see why an indexer might have omitted it. There is no will. The documents begin with a letter from Francis to his brother, describing his travels. They represent the attempts of his brothers and a friend, who all hale from Southwark, to obtain the naval back pay to which Francis was entitled when he died. This information is all on Documents Online, but currently indexed under the name of the previous testator. It was fortunate for my friend that the excellent index produced by the Society of Genealogists and the microfilm were both available: using Documents Online alone a wealth of genealogical information would have been lost.

## **Wanted, a Bookstall Manager!**

WDYTYA – Live! will be at Olympia from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008. ESFHS will have a stall there and we are looking forward to meeting old and making new friends. We have attended this event and its predecessor, originally the Society of Genealogists Fair, since the inception of the latter over ten years ago. Sadly, it may be the last major event we are able to attend. Sue Adams, our bookstall manager, is retiring. For a decade, she and Gill Hyder have done a fantastic job, taking the bookstall to places as far apart as Horndean and Coventry.

Attending events is a hugely rewarding experience, especially in meeting out-of-county members. For many people, Sue is the face of the ESFHS. She has given a detailed job description in an earlier journal, but the main requirements are: a car with a capacious boot, a few free Saturdays per year and the muscles to lug the odd box of books at the venues where our trolley cannot cope. There are plenty of volunteers prepared to help out at most events, so the job need not be an onerous one. If you are interested, do please contact Sue.

## **News of Brenda Lippett**

I saw Brenda a few days ago, on the verge of transferring from Mayday to the Marsden. A bone marrow donor has been found and all being well she will have her transplant within the week. You can find more up to date news of her progress on the website <http://www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk> . She says that the photo of her is rather old, but that simply demonstrates how long she has been active within the society. Despite remaining within a single room for many weeks, with a restricted diet and all the uncertainties of her illness, she has remained remarkably feisty. She was hoping to write a piece for the journal. If her thanks do not appear elsewhere in this issue, I know she would like me to say how grateful she is for all the messages of support she has received. Please keep them coming! ❖

## **Sale of items for areas outside Lambeth**

Due to space constrictions, Lambeth Archives have had a cull of items in the collection not relating to Lambeth. These items were offered to the relevant Local History libraries in the first instance, and some were sold at the Archives Open Day in October. However we still have a number of items available for purchase by members of local societies. If you would like to have a look at the remaining items, please contact the Archives on 020 7926 6076 and make an appointment with either Fiona Price or Len Reilly.

The stock will remain on display until the end of June 2008. ❖

*Fiona M. Price, Local Studies Librarian, Lambeth Archives*

# Group meetings

## February

25 Mapping Rich & Poor: Charles Booth's Enquiry into London Life Sue Donnelly Southwark

## March

- 4 With whom did your ancestors meet? Colin Chapman Croydon
- 6 Members' evening Sutton  
*Get help with your research from experienced members of the Society*
- 8 Insanity – its treatment and the records Kathy Chater Richmond  
*Mental illness is a subject all too often swept under the carpet, but one which touched the lives of many of our ancestors, as it still does today. Note the date in your diary – you'd be mad to miss it!*

## April

- 5 Society AGM  
*Confirmed speakers Paul Blake (ESFHS President); Dr Ron Cox; Ted Scott*
- 23 Choosing a genealogy package John Hanson Lingfield
- 28 Bermondsey: Exploring traces c1856-c1939 Vivien Kermath Southwark

## May

- 1 The South Metropolitan District School, Sutton Ann Morton (TNA) Sutton
- 6 Interesting Ancestors Ted Scott & Tony Goring Croydon
- 10 Members' meeting Richmond  
*A chance to discuss problems, share successes and disappointments and much more and you can be sure of a warm, welcome and a nice cup of tea.*
- 28 Problems in London Ancestry Michael Gandy Lingfield

## June

- 5 Guilds and Livery Companies Richard Harvey Sutton
- 23 Housing the Working Classes of Victorian Southwark Martin Stilwell Southwark
- 25 My most difficult/interesting ancestor Members meeting Lingfield

## July

- 1 Latter Day Saints' records Sharon Hintze Croydon
- 3 How we lived in war time Robert Barltrop Sutton
- 12 Record Keeping David Carter Richmond  
*How we keep the results of our history research is a personal choice and there are many good ways of doing so. However, making notes on scraps of paper, which later on we cannot find, as many of us seem to do is not one of them. This talk aims to offer simple and effective ways to organise notes and also demonstrate that even though a computer can help it really isn't necessary to use one.*

23 Researching Military Ancestors in WW2 Ken Divall Lingfield

## August

7 The future of Family History Chris Pocock Sutton

## September

2 Pitfalls of *Who do you think you are?* Croydon

13 Maps, Directories and the Census Jeanne Bunting Richmond  
*It is becoming easier and easier to find our ancestors listed on the census returns, but not always so obvious where the address was exactly. This talk offers strategies for accurately locating our ancestors' addresses using a combination of maps and directories.*

24 Missing Links – what to do next Eric Probert Lingfield

## October

22 East Surrey in 1851; people and places in the census Dr Ron Cox Lingfield

27 Constructing my Crome family tree: Norfolk & London Leslie Crome Southwark

## November

4 London, the Metropolitan nightmare Paul Blake Croydon

8 The Villages of East London Peter Lawrence Richmond  
*Two hundred years ago 'East London' consisted of 26 villages in the County of Middlesex. This talk identifies some of these villages and provides the evidence that many are still there, hidden in modern suburbia.*

26 Reading old handwriting Mari Alderman Lingfield

Ensure you check the day of the week carefully as not all Groups meet on the same evening.

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, 7.45 p.m.

Secretary: Wendy Shuttleworth (020 8406 3814)

Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield, 2.30 p.m.

Secretary: Rita Russell (01342 834648)

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond, 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, 12 noon

Secretary: Sheila Gallagher (020 8337 8580)

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, 8.00 p.m.

Secretary: Christopher Pocock (020 8642 6789)

*Doors usually open 30 minutes before the start of the meeting (not Croydon)*

# Projects report

*Rita Russell [7123]*

We had a good December producing no fewer than three CDs. The one of Southwark Marriage licences has proved a best seller, much to the delight of the transcribers/checkers as well as the publications manager.

The others were –

- 1) East Surrey MI Collection One – 10 churches and chapels.
- 2) St John the Divine, Felbridge burials – this parish goes into East Grinstead, West Sussex.

We have issued the second CD for St Mary-at-Lambeth burials. The years are the remainder of 1819 to 1838. We are now working on the transcriptions for the years prior to 1777 with the aim of the third CD being available as soon as possible. We are also working on transcriptions of the marriages for St Mary's. Quite a number have been done and checked but need a final check so another CD is in the offing for this year.

Lambeth settlement examinations are progressing, albeit slowly, but they will be available later this summer. We have also done some work on the Westminster Lying-in Hospital that was in Lambeth. The transcripts for both these sets of records contain some very interesting information

Carshalton Monumental Inscriptions will also be well on their way to a CD by the time you read this. The Parish records are also proceeding but with difficulty whilst the Sutton Local Studies library is closed during March.

Croydon Group started work on a totally different subject in January – the Carriage Tax. If your ancestor had anything with more than one wheel in the 1750s he or she paid tax of £1 per wheel. This will also be on CD.

I have also acquired the index of the burials in Betchworth churchyard. These have been typed and are on the Super index.

We can always do with more helpers for transcribing and checking, so please do volunteer. The more help we have the more we can produce for the benefit of our members and the public.

## Super Index

All the indexes we have in a suitable format are being added to the Super Index. All our recent publications are there, plus other items where we can only provide a research service such as the Betchworth burials.

The committee has decided that a print-out will be £1 per page whilst an email copy will be 50 pence per page. Anyone can contact me through email or by post (SAE please) for a quote.

The index will show what we have to offer in the way of information that can also be supplied. The costs will vary again according to the amount of material provided and I can provide further quotes.

The website has a list of the parishes and places already included. ❖

# Tech Topic – Data storage Part 2

Brian Hudson [7324]

## CDs and DVDs

CD stands for Compact Disc and DVD for Digital Versatile Disc. Both are Optical Discs (ODs) which store data in the form of pits on a flat surface that is illuminated by a laser with the reflected light picked up by a sensor. The discs are produced by two methods: in the mass production of music or computer discs a glass master disc is used to make a 'stamper' which stamps out copies known as CD-ROMs (CD-Read Only Memory) whilst for small quantities such as the society's publications or home production on a computer a laser is used to change the qualities of a special surface on the disc, a process known as Burning.

## Type of disc

The following is just a summary of the most commonly used discs. A standard blank CD generally has a capacity of 700MB although there are some with 650MB. Higher capacity discs are available but they are not a popular option. CDs are the media most likely to be of use to a family historian for data storage.

A standard blank DVD has a capacity of 4.7GB; there is a new generation of DVDs which have greatly increased storage of up to 25GB but at the moment they are not yet a practical or economic proposition for the average home user.

What the initials mean: **R** = Recordable, also known as Write Once Read Many (WORM). Once a CD-R has been written on (recorded on or burnt) the disc cannot be erased and reused. **RW** = ReWritable. A CD-RW disc can be rewritten about 1000 times, the existing data is erased and the disc burnt again. In both these the hyphen after CD is just that, a hyphen, but on DVDs it has a different meaning although R and RW mean the same as for CDs.

The bad news is that for DVDs there are two different specifications: **DVD-** and **DVD+**. The good news is that modern DVD players/recorders are multi-format so for practical purposes it doesn't really matter, but DVD- is the most popular format.

When buying discs where security and reliability could be important, it is not worth skimping on materials. Stick to branded discs, they can usually be found on offer at good prices with a bit of shopping around on the high street or the internet.

For information on discs for archiving purposes see the article written by Rodney Fry [6600] at [www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk/ctb](http://www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk/ctb) where you will also find a very useful piece he has produced on the topic of conservation. ❖  
*To be continued in the next Journal when Hard Drives will be discussed.*



# Preserving your family history records

Brian Hudson [7324]

## Part 2 – Family history program backup

The same technique used by your family history program to produce a backup file will also produce a file to share with friends and family.

If you have used your program to store pictures and documents, sound files, etc. then the only way to retain all that information and data is to create a backup using the option that is probably in the program's File menu. Check the user manual or Help menu for details of how your program's backup facility works.

There should be a choice of locations on where to save the backup, e.g. the hard disk, CD, USB drive. The amount of data to be stored will determine the size and type of media required; floppy discs are probably not going to be ideal and a CD or memory stick will probably be best. The time to find out how a program backs up and how much storage space is required is NOW, not when disaster is looming.

When sharing data the most common restriction is that the person receiving the file must have the same program as the person sending it; however, some programs do have the facility to import from others e.g. Roots Magic can import Family Origins, Personal Ancestral File and Family Tree Maker databases.

Many years ago the problem of sharing family history data was foreseen by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and they produced a specification for a file format that allowed different family history or genealogical programs to share data easily. The format, known as GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communications), has been updated over the years but the basic concept is the same; i.e. the data is saved as a small text file that can be opened in a basic text editor or word processor. In an ideal world GEDCOM files would import faultlessly into everyone else's programs but some manufacturers have put in their own changes to the format which can cause problems, although in most cases the basic information will be transferred with any errors flagged up for the user to correct.

For security of data it is probably worth saving in both GEDCOM and the manufacturer's format. For sharing with other users GEDCOM is going to be more useful and is normally a relatively small easily sent file. ❖

*In the next issue: Part 3 – Documents and pictures*

## Research Centre opening times

We are having problems at the centre due to a very noisy children's drama group in the room above us on Saturdays, so we have decided to move our opening times forward half an hour to 10.30 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. These revised times are shown on the inside front cover of the Journal. ❖



## Website roundup

*Brian Hudson [7324]*

[www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php](http://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php) – this site has a long list of old English Census occupations although it is not claimed to be exhaustive.

Mike Lattimer [9316] has contributed the following two websites:

[www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/index.html](http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/index.html) Music Hall & Theatre Site. Useful if you have artistes in your ancestry or you want a theatre ticket. Mike says he was able to check the opening date of a theatre built on the site of his granny's tenement. This site is richly illustrated and there are over a 1000 pages of detailed information on theatres and music halls many of which have long disappeared. For instance for Croydon it has the Davis, the Grand, the Empire, Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.

[www.ideal-homes.org.uk/a-z.htm](http://www.ideal-homes.org.uk/a-z.htm) Produced by Greenwich University, this has history and pictures of South East London Boroughs including some from the East Surrey FHS area. The site has improved enormously since I first reviewed it some time ago, and there are many pictures and maps of the Southwark and Lambeth areas.

### Wikipedia and East Surrey FHS

There is an entry for East Surrey on Wikipedia, the online open access encyclopaedia ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)); however, it needs help from you to keep it there.

I first put in an entry over a year ago but it was soon removed by a Wikipedia editor, without discussion, for 'not being relevant'. I tried again last year when there was different person in charge. The entry was designed to closely mirror the style and content of the few other Family History Societies who had managed to keep their entries in place. Nevertheless soon after putting on the new entry a message was posted about its lack of relevance and it was marked for possible removal. I have managed to put off the deletion of the entry so far but it's now up to other people to add any changes they think would make it more relevant. If it disappears again I won't waste time repeating the exercise, so Good Luck to whoever has a go.

### Windows XP

Microsoft has announced that support for their Windows XP operating system (OS) will end in April 2009. This means that there will not be any more updates from then on but that doesn't mean rushing out and buying the Vista OS. If a PC is a few years old it might not be able to run Vista without upgrading memory capacity and there are still many people happily using much older Windows OSs.



## News from Sutton Local Studies Centre

The only news to report, and also apologise for, is that the Local Studies Centre has been closed since the 4<sup>th</sup> February for approximately six weeks. It will still be closed when you read this.

I apologise for the short notice given – unfortunately not even the staff had much notice. The closure is so that essential maintenance work can be carried out on the roof and the air conditioning/heating ducts throughout the Central Library. The whole project is expected to take six months – even when we reopen readers may find the upper floors quite noisy for a period of time.



The good news is that when we reopen there should be no more leaks and when the whole project is completed the heating and cooling systems will be working better – so hopefully you won't find yourselves freezing on a Thursday evening.

Many thanks to all our readers for your patience. Please remember although the Local Studies Centre is closed we are happy to take phone calls, answer post and emails. Up-to-date details about the closure can be found on our website; contact details are below. ❖

*Kath Shawcross (Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, LB of Sutton)*  
(e) [local.studies@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@sutton.gov.uk); (t) 020 8770 4747; (w) [www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk)

## National Family History Conference 2008

This will be presented by the Family History Societies of Essex and Suffolk at the University of Essex, Colchester, Essex on Friday 29 August to Sunday 31 August 2008.

Explore the lives of your ancestors in urban, rural and coastal areas and meet family historians from round the world. There are two streams of talks, sales outlets, a banquet and the Federation General Meeting.

All-in residential (en-suite accommodation) cost is £210 but session rates also available.

Speakers include Pamela Horn, Brian Oldham, Clive Paine and Joan Grundy.

The programme is available at [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk), where you can also download and print out a booking form. Otherwise contact Mrs Heather Feather: (a) 52 Symons Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 5QE; (e) [heather@feather1.demon.co.uk](mailto:heather@feather1.demon.co.uk); (t) 01702 522992. ❖

# St Mary, Newington

Phil Degen [7046]

My interest in this church stems from a marriage in 1824 between Philip Dobbins **Webster** and Martha **Robinson** who were two of my maternal ancestors.

In the early 1990s I decided that I should like to visit and take photographs of as many churches where family 'events' had taken place in the past. Whilst visiting churches outside the Greater London areas some, such as Beddington and Croydon, could be reached by car, but most of the others had to be covered by travelling to the nearest tube station and then walking. Much shoe leather was worn away in the process!

Some years earlier I had found the above marriage from an IGI microfiche (those were the days before access through a home computer was possible) and I had noted the information that it had taken place at Newington – and this was my undoing. As I live north of the Thames this indicated Stoke Newington, so one sunny morning after a lengthy walk I was able to visit the old St Mary church there and take some quite good exterior photos. It was only later that I started thinking that things did not add up particularly, as both the families before and after the marriage were in Surrey, with no connection with Stoke Newington. Then the penny dropped and I realised that I should have visited Newington in Surrey. Possibly I would have noticed this earlier if I had obtained a copy of the actual parish register entry but unfortunately, in those days, the archivist at GLRO (now London Metropolitan Archives) refused to allow photocopies of actual entries to be provided.

So at last I was able to visit the correct location, only to find that the current church had been rebuilt in 1958 and was also in a different location to the one in 1824. This prompted me to investigate the history of St Mary and the following is a brief account of the somewhat chequered career of the church.

There was a medieval church on the west side of Newington Butts, and whilst little is known of this church, there is a list of rectors from 1212 which is almost complete. It appears that the church was rebuilt at some time as John Aubrey's *History of Surrey* published in 1719 states that the church was about 150 years old. But the construction must have been a bit dodgy as around 1714 during Sunday service 'there happened a sudden Rupture in the Wall' causing the congregation to run out in confusion with many being bruised and trodden under foot. The church was entirely rebuilt about 1720 but some years later there were complaints about the defective condition of the walls and tower and practically the whole building had to be demolished. So a replacement church was erected on the site in 1792.

But in 1876 it was pulled down so that Newington Butts could be widened and a new St Mary was erected on the east side of Kennington Park Road; it was consecrated in 1876. But this was not the end of its troubles, as on 10 May 1941 it was burnt out during an air raid with the exception of the tower, which is still standing and was incorporated into the latest St Mary which was consecrated in 1958.

In addition to taking my own photos I have also tried to obtain images of the church nearer to the time of the 1824 marriage, and I was successful in obtaining copies of prints from the Guildhall College collection and also from London Metropolitan Archives, who also have a photograph of the church which was demolished in 1876. As the prints give approximate dates when they were made it is possible to obtain an image of the church near to the time that an event took place.

It seems that I was not alone in confusing Newington and Stoke Newington as when I contacted Guildhall they told me that they would be rectifying mistakes in their College collection!



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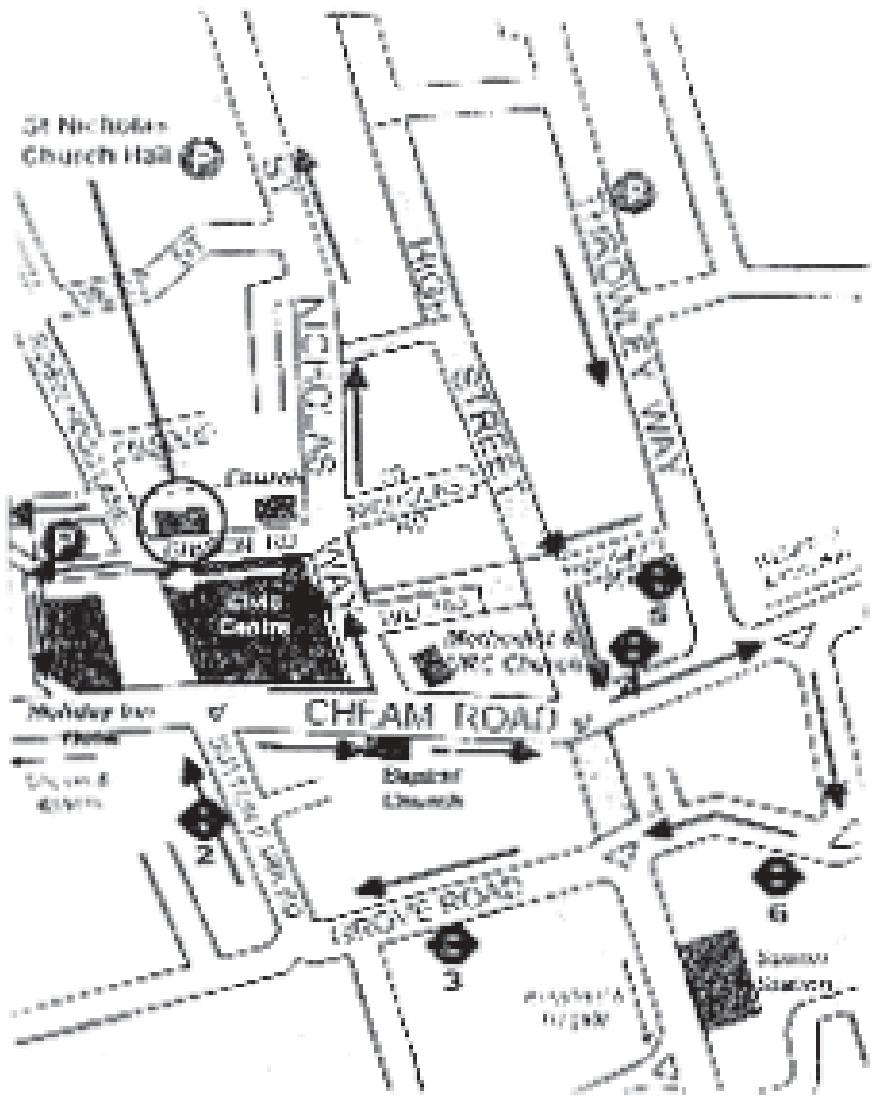
## **Society Annual General Meeting**

**The 2008 AGM will take place in St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Way, Sutton (see map opposite).**

The programme will be as follows:

- 10.00 a.m. Doors open
- 10.30 a.m. Welcome
- 10.35 a.m. Croydon Schools from their records (Ron Cox)
- 11.15 a.m. Refreshment
- 11.30 a.m. Talk on Emigration (Paul Blake)
- 12.15 p.m. Lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Case Study (Ted Scott)
- 2.25 p.m. Case Study (speaker tba)
- 2.45 p.m. Refreshment
- 3.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting

There will be displays and help desks available during the day and the bookstall will be present.



## “ . . . she had a trying Cockney accent . . . ”

Tony Goring [ 4499]

This article is about a lady who is proving something of an enigma. Perhaps a reader may be able to shed further light on her, or suggest further avenues of enquiry.

In 1934 Garratts Hall, a Georgian mansion which had stood in Garratts Lane, Banstead, since 1691, was demolished. It is thought that the house was built by Thomas **Lambert**, of a prominent local family whose standing reached a peak in the person of Sir Daniel Lambert (1685-1750), Lord Mayor of London in 1741. The property passed from the Lambert family in the 18th century but was regained by them in 1857 when bought by John Lambert, a prodigious landowner who, through purchase and inheritance, acquired most of Banstead and its surroundings in the mid 19th century.

In 1903 a descendant, Lieut-Colonel Frederick Lambert, Middlesex Yeomanry, magistrate and partner in a firm of champagne producers, put the property up for sale. With its numerous reception rooms, ballroom, chapel, library, twenty-three bedrooms, lodges, bailiff's house, stables, farm buildings, and 44 acres of grounds, he must have felt it was time to downsize, given there was only himself, his wife, and two daughters in residence with a handful of servants. However the estate found no buyers, so thoughts turned to the idea of letting it, perhaps for institutional use.

As such it caught the eye of Mrs Mary **Davies**, who rented it from Lt-Col Lambert and set up a girls' boarding school, Garratts Hall School, that continued until her death in 1930. The Rev A W **Hopkinson**, Vicar of Banstead, knew Mrs Davies and the school from 1918 onwards. He wrote of her in his book of reminiscences, *Pastor's Progress*: 'She had no academic qualifications, no capital, no influence, she had a trying Cockney accent, and latterly was almost blind . . . Nevertheless, by sheer force of personality and amazing courage, she built up one of the most lucrative schools in England.' The Vicar adds that one of her pupils was Megan **Lloyd George**, daughter of the Liberal Prime Minister; whilst Earl Haig, Commander of the British Expeditionary Force in WWI, also sent his daughters there. That the school became a lucrative venture can hardly be doubted, for in 1925 Mrs Davies bought the entire estate from Lt-Col Lambert and became the sole owner.

The foregoing stems from research carried out by the Banstead History Research Group, which in turn has relied on Sir Henry Lambert's two volume *History of Banstead*, published 1912 and 1931. My interest has centred on Mrs Davies as it seems strange, to say the least, that someone described in the Rev Hopkinson's terms could at that time command such respect that the Prime Minister's daughter's education was entrusted to her. I have therefore tried to establish who she was and where she came from.

The GRO death indexes for 1930 led to the death certificate, which

showed that she died 'aged 77' (which proved to be inaccurate) on 17 Apr 1930 at a nursing home in Ewell. The certificate also revealed that she was the widow of Horace Addison Charles Davies, which came as no great surprise as the title *Principal: Mrs Horace Addison Davies* is on the first page of the school prospectus, a document located and purchased on eBay! A search on the website *ancestry.co.uk* revealed – from the GRO indexes – that a Horace Addison Charles Eugene Davies had married in the fourth quarter of 1888 in Lambeth Registration District. The marriage certificate showed that Mr Davies, a solicitor, aged 29, married Mary Louisa **Adams**, aged 34, at the Church of Emmanuel, West Dulwich, on 21 Dec 1888. Her father was listed as Frederick Emilius Adams, gentleman; her father-in-law as Charles Tizard Davies, Clerk in Holy Orders. My doubts about the Rev Hopkinson's description of Mrs Davies were not diminished.

From this it proved straightforward to locate Mary's birth in the GRO indexes. Her birth certificate showed that she was born 7 Aug 1854 at 254 High Street, Southwark, that her father was Frederick Emilius Adams, a Colonial Agent, and that her mother was Georgina Augusta Adams née **Cobb**. It was time to consult the census. The 1861 census showed the family at 1 - - - Place [*indecipherable*], off Loughborough Road, Brixton, where Mary was listed as the eldest of five children, and Frederick's occupation that of 'marble merchant'. Ten years later he was absent, and his wife and children were at 9 Stafford Road, off Stockwell Park Road, in the household of Mary's aunts. But in 1881 Mary, aged 26, is 'Principal of a ladies school', no less, at 6 Park Road, Dulwich; there are six resident pupils, one other teacher, plus two servants. So at a relatively early age she appears to have acquired a position of some authority and responsibility.

The 1891 census showed Mary and her husband at 'Oakfield', 126-128 Thurlow Park Road, West Dulwich, where Mr Davies, solicitor, was listed as head, but where his wife was described as 'Principal of a ladies college'. Her father Frederick, now a widower aged 69, was present. But Mary's marriage was of brief duration. Her husband died of tuberculosis on 2 Oct 1895, aged 36, at 'Oakfield', according to a classified death notice in the *Norwood Press and Dulwich Advertiser*. In his will he left £1311 9s 2d, a goodly sum, worth close to £100,000 today. The same newspaper bore a weekly advert for the college at 'Oakfield', announcing that 'a Liberal, General and Modern Education is provided for the Daughters of Gentlemen'. The 1901 census showed Mary, aged 46, widow, at the same location, where she remained 'Principal of a ladies college'. Two years later she moved to Garratts Hall in Banstead. Interestingly there is still a school at 'Oakfield', 126-128 Thurlow Park Road, West Dulwich. No knowledge or record of Mrs Davies is held there, but I'm told that oral tradition has it that a school has been on the site continuously since 1887, which presumably was when she set it up, given the 1891 census details.



Notwithstanding the Vicar of Banstead's somewhat ambivalent attitude towards Mrs Davies, the Garratts Hall School's mission statement read: 'The School aims at giving a thoroughly modern and cultured education in a wide and liberal sense; and that this should result in fitting girls of good social position for the best type of home life. Among the many subjects taken , and interests promoted, the growth of those high principles which alone make for the development of true noble womanhood, stands first.' This hardly sounds like a declaration of one without qualifications or influence, whilst her alleged 'lack of capital' was rather confounded by the fact that at death she left the sum of £27776, in today's terms approx £1,200,000. She is buried, with her husband of only seven years, in a rather overgrown section of Norwood Cemetery.



Perhaps the Vicar's attitude towards her was coloured by a dispute between the two of them that was recorded by Sir Henry Lambert. When the estate was again put on the market following her death it was bought by the Garratts Hall Estate Company, who subsequently developed the land for housing. In the transfer of ownership there was expressly excepted from the sale the right to occupy the south aisle of All Saints Church, Banstead, the south aisle having been constructed in 1861 at the Lambert family's expense. This was said to be 'appurtenant to Garratts Hall', then owned by John Lambert. This right had been claimed by Mrs Davies as lessee and subsequent owner of the mansion, but disputed by the Rev. Hopkinson.

Little else is known about this seemingly remarkable woman. No photograph of her has yet come to light, and little information about her school apart from the contents of the prospectus. Needless to say, I would be pleased to hear from anyone with further information. ❖

# The elusive first marriage of William Steer Tearoe

*Pauline Taylor [4474]*

In submitting this history I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Roy Edwards for all his help in the early TEAROE research days. We have, of course, been able to add much more since then but, had it not been for Roy it would no doubt have taken me much longer to find my cousin Rick Tearoe in Canada and therefore much longer to put together the TEAROE history.

Whilst putting together a history of the **Tearoe** family from John TYRO, Citizen and Draper of London who died at Wandsworth in 1605, up until the present day, I have encountered a problem that I am still trying to resolve. Because of the rarity of the name I have traced the family in the records of the Drapers' Company, the Company of Watermen and Lightermen, Lambeth Court Books, Vestry Minutes, Churchwardens Accounts, Parish Registers and Wills. However the problem of the first marriage of William Steer Tearoe remains.

He was the son of Nahor Tearoe and Ann (**Steer**). He was baptised 25 Aug 1750 at St Mary Lambeth and became a waterman being bound to his father on 25 Oct 1764. A baptism certificate showing the correct date was recorded plus an age of 14 years and 2 months and the parish of origin was shown as Lambeth. William Steer served the normal apprenticeship term of seven years plus an extra 2 months and was Made Free at the Court on 10 Jan 1772.

A great deal is known about William Steer's background. His great grandfather, William **Teroo**, was married to Katherine **Lane** at St George the Martyr Southwark on 19 Jul 1664. William was a waterman as, in 1665, the Surrey Quarter Sessions has this entry. 'William Teroe waterman (plus others) (all) late of Lambeth have on diverse occasions since 19th May refused to watch or assist the constable in watching when summoned by Francis Adney parish constable.' By 1689 this William Teroo/Teroe must have died as his son, also William born in 1664, was turned over (transferred) to Katherine Teero and this means that Katherine was a widow but that she was allowed to take on apprentices on her own account unless she remarried.

William Teero the second married late, as did most watermen, and was 31 when he and Alice **Broomhead** were married at St Mary Lambeth on 02 Jan 1695/6. Alice was the daughter of John Broomhead, a waterman and the Sexton at St Mary. William and Alice lived near the Blackamores Head, Bishops Liberty near the Horseferry and they had eight children. On 10 Apr 1705 William Tearoe waterman was appointed Sexton in room of John Broomhead who had died. Despite William being concerned about the state of his finances in his Will of 1726 three of his sons, also watermen, married into well known Lambeth families.

William Tearoe the third, born 1696, married Lydia **Summersell**, the daughter of John Summersell schoolmaster of Lambeth, at St Mary in 1723. Abraham Tearoe married Elizabeth **Kiteley** in 1734 and Nahor Tearoe married Ann Steer at Holy Trinity Clapham 10 Sep 1747. All three of these sons died young: William aged 34 in 1730, Abraham also aged 34 in 1742 and Nahor aged 57 in 1772. Abraham and Nahor both became the Sexton at St Mary and Nahor was Headborough for Lambeth Town and Overseer for the parish. The short life of Abraham is recorded in Thomas Allen's 'History of Lambeth' in which he mentions a monumental inscription to Mr Abraham Tearoe (late Sexton of this parish) who departed this life May ye 27th 1742 aged 34 years. Also two of his children who died before him. One child, William, baptised 05 May 1736 at St Mary, survived and this child plays a leading role in the mystery surrounding his cousin, William Steer, and the missing marriage.

Throughout the early years of his life William Steer would have lived with at least some of his seven brothers and sisters at their parents' home in Church Street. Nahor would have been busy as his duties as the Sexton included attending every divine service, making sure that the church linen was washed, ensuring that the church was kept clean and adorned, that the pews were opened and candles provided, that dogs and ex-communicants were excluded and that no disturbances occurred within the church. Reconciling this life with that of a waterman is difficult as the shocking behaviour of watermen is well documented. In 1750, the year that William Steer was born, Hawksmoor's prospectus for the new Westminster Bridge states: 'there is no need of saying anything of the Badness and Inconveniency of Lambeth Ferry since there is scarce anyone ignorant of it, and some have found it to their cost'. Surely he cannot have been referring to my esteemed 5xgreat grandfather!

In trying to establish whether my 5xgreat grandfather was Nahor or his older brother Abraham I have learnt that watermen did not, in most cases, marry until they had been Made Free, that a wife would often return to the home of her mother for the birth of her first child and that children were given the name of a deceased brother or sister in order to perpetuate that name. All of these have a role to play in the mystery of William Steer.

The mystery begins with the marriage at St Mary Lambeth on 10 Sep 1778 of William Tearoe widower and Charlotte **Tate**. This William could be the son of Abraham Tearoe and Elizabeth except that on 23 Jul 1780 William Steer Tearoe, son of William and Charlotte, was baptised and he seems to have been their second son as, on 18 Feb 1780, William Steer Tearoe of Ferry Street had been buried at St Mary. This William Steer of Ferry Street cannot have been the husband of Charlotte as three more children of William and Charlotte were baptised later. I have tried to find the first marriage of this William and a baptism of William Steer Tearoe of Ferry Street but, apart from the baptism of a Jane Catherine Tearoe,

daughter of William and Ann at St Mary 05 Jun 1770, and the burial of Ann Tearoe on 20 Mar 1776, I have had no luck.

Ann Tearoe was probably the wife of one of the Williams and probably the mother of Jane Catherine but if she was the wife of William Steer Tearoe then he must have married before he was Made Free and the marriage may have taken place in her home parish. This scenario could explain why the baptism of William Steer of Ferry Street has not been found as, if he was the child of William's first marriage and not the son of William and Charlotte, he could have been born and baptised in the home parish of his mother Ann. It is very unlikely, taking into account the custom of the day, that the father of a son baptised William Steer would have been anyone other than William Steer himself but, until I find the missing marriage, I cannot be sure. Jane Catherine Tearoe married Francis **Hudson** at St Martin in the Fields on 17 Sep 1795 but the entry gives no clue as to who her father was nor is the burial of William on 22 Jun 1780 of any help as it simply says buried William Tearoe.

Nahor, the most likely candidate to be my 5xgreat grandfather, died in 1772 and the register records 'Nahor Tearoe, Sexton, Church Street, Waterman buried 05 Aug 1772'. The next day Ann Tearoe was chosen to be Sexton in room of her late husband. Ann was buried on 13 Oct 1786 and recently a cousin in Canada bought, on the internet, a mourning ring bearing the inscription 'Ann Tearoe ob 4 Oct 1786 aet: 62'. How I wish this ring could speak and tell us where to find the elusive marriage of her son William Steer Tearoe!



## Researching German WW1 documents

A lecture on the above subject by Brigitte Mitchell will be given on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45 p.m. at the Surrey Branch of the Western Front Association. Researching British and Dominion records in the National Archives is well-known but how do you go about researching German records to get a different viewpoint?

The Lecture will take place at The Day Centre (behind Waitrose), Lushington Drive, Cobham, KT11 2LY. Lushington Drive is off the A245 in the centre of Cobham, just by Waitrose. It is five minutes from the Painshill Roundabout on the A3 and 10 minutes from J10 on the M25. Entrance is free although a donation would be welcome to help with the costs of the meeting.

The Western Front Association aims to further interest in the period 1914-1918, perpetuating the memory, courage and comradeship of those of all sides who served their countries in France and Flanders during the Great War. The Surrey Branch meets on the third Wednesday of each month and a full year's programme can be obtained from Mrs Jenny King, email [jennykingiec@aol.com](mailto:jennykingiec@aol.com) or telephone 01883 652615.



## The Lyon Business

Many years ago my mother, Dorothea Teague (née Barker), was left a picture painted by her godmother, Emily Lyon, of her family home in the Old Kent Road. Forty years later, my mother gave the painting to the Southwark Collection.

Years later we were talking about the Lyon family and fell to wondering about that picture, those people: why would their house be called 'St Mary-le-Strand House'? Stephen Humphrey, local history librarian at the Southwark Record Office was most helpful. He sent a copy of a page from *Peckham & Camberwell Illustrated*, 1895, which proved invaluable. Meanwhile, the picture was now at the local collection in the care of Christopher Jordan, who sent an excellent photograph of it.

This house, in which Emily Lyon, her sister Barbara and their father John lived was leased from the guardians of the parish of St Mary-le-Strand. It had been the workhouse for the poor of this Westminster parish and still had a plaque over the main door engraved with the name and date, 1811. Westminster City archives hold much information on the workhouse (built 1811) and the land, 'granted to St Mary's for charitable purposes in 1667 by Alice Loveday', when it was known as 'Smith's Letts'.

The *Peckham & Camberwell Illustrated* states that 'Mr. Robert Lyon came from Port Glasgow at the end of the 18th. century and set up business, first in Homerton, later moving to Clapton' (both now in the London Borough of Hackney). Here the archives department retains traces of Robert's business, a trade card of 'Robert Lyon, bleacher, scourer, etc.' and a note of a lease of land in Church Street, (now Mare Street). A signatory is John A. Lyon. Robert Lyon was said to be related to Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon; his eldest son, John Andrew, was born in Homerton in 1809, his younger, Washington, in Clapton in 1818, whilst his four daughters were born in one or other of these parishes.

In 1836 the firm moved to the premises in Peckham, on account of the 'superiority of the water in South London for bleaching purposes'. From a map in *Lost Rivers of London* by Nicholas Barton (1962), it can be seen that the little River Peck rises in the heights of Forest Hill, runs down through East Dulwich and may still be seen flowing in Peckham Rye Park. The section nearest to Old Kent Road remained uncovered until 1831; it ran alongside Asylum Road, adjacent to the Lyon land, so it may be assumed that it was the water of the Peck which was so excellent for bleaching.

On the death of Robert in 1841, the business passed to his wife, Barbara, and there is a lease endorsed: '25 years from 1857, from the Trustees to Barbara, widow of Robert'. Over the years buildings on the site were greatly altered and enlarged by the Lyons to accommodate the flourishing business, with the family living in the house in some comfort with the services of a live-in cook and servant, as well as dailies, as is



shown in the census returns. Robert stated in his will that, on the death of Barbara, the property was to go equally to their sons, John Andrew and Washington. The latter, sometime a Member of the Court of Common Council of the City of London, lived with his family in adjoining Asylum Road.

Census returns show a steady increase in the number of employees, rising from 97 in 1861 to 107 in 1881, mostly men but some boys, women and girls too. In 1895, 'the firm employed 150 hands and enjoyed the highest reputation for consideration extended to all who served them'. 'The works are complete, a suite of offices and operative departments; a special room for cleaning Government bedding; disinfecting goods, clearing rooms for finishing silks, a lofty modern dye house and two large steam boilers, each 18 ft. long by 7ft. diameter'. Special mention is given to 'Mr. Washington Lyon's steam disinfector . . . The firm has contracts with Government for cleansing blankets and other naval and military stores, with a host of hospitals, Vestries, provincial corporations and Amsterdam City Council . . . There is no comparable firm in the Metropolis which can claim so long or honourable career as theirs'. This extract from the *Peckham & Camberwell Illustrated* ends with the following words, 'We are glad to note that there are younger members of the family, now in the business who, when their elders retire, will, we trust, continue the policy which has raised the house to its present position'.

The hopes so positively expressed in the journal of 1895 appear to have come to nothing. When John Andrew died aged 90, four years later, in 1899, he and his two daughters were still living in St Mary-le-Strand House, now not of Old Kent Road, but 72 Leo Street – the new road named after them. His will, drawn up in 1883, following the death of his wife, devised 'all the property that I may be possessed of to my daughters, Barbara E. Lyon and Emily Gibb Lyon'. It was proved in March 1900: they were the two executrixes. Census returns show that by 1901 both Barbara and Emily were living in Pepys Road, New Cross. Miss Lyon (as she was always known) was 46, her sister, Miss Emily, 45; noted as 'living on means'. That same year, 1901, Washington Lyon died aged 83. Having spent time in Hastings for health reasons, he returned to his home, Clifton House, 85, Asylum Road to die. In his will, written in 1896, he left the house and contents to his son, John William, a salvage broker, and named him sole executor. His son, Dr Thomas Glover Lyon was bequeathed 'full benefit of my patent Steam Disinfector and letters patent'. 'Residue of my property and estate I leave in equal shares between my sons Robert (eldest), salvage broker, Thomas G. Lyon, M.D. and John William'. It was proved on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1901.

What happened thereafter is unclear; many questions remain still to be answered. Was the business disposed of? Was old St Mary-le-Strand workhouse demolished immediately or did it stand for a few more years? ❖

## Fairhall / Shrubbs / Tadgell

My mother was orphaned at the age of 5 in 1920 and therefore knew nothing of her family.

I have traced her mother, who was born Alice Maria **Fairhall** in 1875: she married a George **Shrubbs**. In 1895 he seemed to disappear and then she married my grandfather Edward **Tadgell** in 1906. They had two children: Alice (b1913, d1918) and Florence (b1915, d1990).

When Alice snr died, also in 1918, she was buried under the name of Alice Maria Shrubbs, wife of George Shrubbs. My grandfather was still alive then, and they lived at the same address in Balham, South London. He had been discharged from the army two years earlier, so was not away on active duty. I have all of the certificates and in the 1901 census she was living with her parents in Croydon.

Do you think she could have been a bigamist? or does this point to total confusion with the records? I would be interested to hear from anyone who has any ideas on this.

*Josie Aslett [9645]*

## Italian PoW camps

The Anglo-Italian FHS is collecting any information they can find about the whereabouts of Italian PoW and Internee camps during WW2.

British records are sparse, having been either burnt or destroyed, so please does anyone have personal memories that they would let me have?

*Isabel M. Wilson [5263]*

## Kellys Directories

Does anyone have access to any Kellys Directories covering the Dorking area for the period 1950-1963? I am particularly looking for information on the hotels and guest houses on the A24 Horsham Road. I also would like to know who the owners were for the Brook House Hotel that was definitely there in 1957 and was burnt down in 1963; was this building known by any other names, like Knoll Farm?

Could anyone look in the Dorking Advertiser for me for an article on the fire, which I believe took place on 17 December 1963?

I am researching and writing local history. you can look me up on my webpage of [www.maureenschoice.co.uk](http://www.maureenschoice.co.uk); I can offer exchange research, as I have about half a dozen Kellys directories for the Eastbourne area.

*Maureen Copping [9698]*

## Pink / Earl / Curson

I am searching the background of Kenneth James Ormerod Pink who was born at Hartfield Road, Wimbledon in 1885.

So far I have found his parents were William Pink and Ellen Earl; they were living in Farnham, Surrey when their first two daughters were born. These were Mabel Earl (1878) and Winifred Blanche (1880). The rest of



the family were born in Wimbledon: Algernon Claud W. (1883), Kenneth James Ormerod (1885), Colin Benjamin (1887), Janet Mary (1888), Isabel Ellen (1893), Gwendoline Eliza (1895).

Kenneth James Ormerod married Josephine Miles née Curson in 1909 in Hackney, London: he was a leading signalman in the Royal Navy.

Is anybody researching this family? If so, I would like to hear from them.

*Diane Cole [9488]*

## **Schools in Camberwell**

My father, Arthur Alfred LANSDOWN, and some of his siblings were born in Acorn Street, Camberwell, whilst others were born in adjacent streets. Can anyone can help me with schools in the area from the 1890s to about 1920?

The children were Annie Emily (1885), Phoebe Elizabeth (1888-1892), Daniel William (1890), Grace (1893), Florence (1895), John (1897), Arthur Alfred (1899), Helen (1902) and Phoebe (1908). Their parents were Annie (née COPE) and William LANSDOWN. John was killed on active service in 1916. My father told me that his name was on an honour roll at the school they attended. He was present at the unveiling and his former teacher told his class that he'd thought my father would end up in jail, instead he had been around the world (he served in the Merchant Navy).

On a visit to the area in 2005, I discovered that Brunswick Park school is close to Acorn Street (now combined with Benhill Road). The Principal said all old records were disposed of in the 1970s. Does anyone know what happened to the honour roll? On searching the London Metropolitan Archives website I noticed there was also an Acorn Street School as well as Southampton Street School in New Church Road. The family lived at one time in New Church Road. Having been to the area all these schools would have been very close. Can anyone please help me narrow down which school the children would have attended?

*Judy Woodlock [975]*

## **Springett**

My ancestors in the Springett family were living at Swiss Cottage, High Park, Walworth in 1853. As I am travelling to England in June this year I would like to see the area, but am totally confused of the whereabouts as there is a Swiss Cottage in Walworth.

I have the 1871 Old Ordnance Survey Map- London Sheet No: 90 "Old Kent Road" which shows Swiss Cottage in Albany Row with what looks like a park behind it. The only trouble is this seems to be about 500 yards away from where the enumerator collected the census in 1851. i.e. South St, Ann St, Anns Row, Thurlow Place to Ann St, Aylesbury St, Horse and Chicken Lane, East St, James St including James Place & Victory Place,

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South Side of East St, from Horse and Chicken Lane to Parish boundary Surrey Square, including Claremont Place and Crawley Cottages.

I know there is twenty years difference in the map and the census, but would love to sort it out before I get to London. Does anyone have any ideas, or is there a 1851 map for the area?

The other query I have is: can anyone advise me of the possible burial places for the following people? Henry Goss Springett (lived at 3 Brief St Myatt's Park, Camberwell, died on 12th Jun 1929); Rebecca Springett (lived at 5 Herbert Road, Stockwell, died on 16 April 1887); John Jackman Springett (lived at 17 Apollo Buildings, Gloster St, Lambeth, died on 16 March 1858); Charlotte Springett (lived at 35 Vauxhall Mansions, Gloster St, Lambeth, died on 18 January 1900); Ann Wright (lived at 16 Cloncurry St, Fulham, London, died on 16th July 1911).

*Marion Hall [9679]*

### Vouchers for sale

The Society keeps the following vouchers for sale:

**Census Online £4.50**

**FamilyHistoryOnline £5.00**

**Findmypast (was 1837 Online) £5.00**

If you would like to purchase any of the above, please send a cheque (payable to "East Surrey FHS") and an SAE to the Bookstall Manager, whose details appear on the inside back cover of the Journal

## Searches

All initial enquiries for searches in the Society Research collection are handled by Beryl Cheeseman; her contact details are shown on the inside cover. Please send an SAE with any postal enquiries.

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