

Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society

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The cover photograph is of Limpsfield St Paul (*from Rita Russell*)

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

From the Chairman

Joanna Grant [9040]

It is the time of year of Family History Fairs and other Family history events.

In June we have a very successful “History Detectives” afternoon at Morden Hall Park, which is owned by the National Trust. Morden Park were able to arrange online access to both FMP and Ancestry so with three PCs and others helpers, including the bookstall, we were able to introduce many to our hobby. As always these events are enjoyed by both the enquirers and those giving so freely of their knowledge.

Before this Journal arrives on your doorstep we will have attended (on the 24th July) Buckinghamshire Family History Society’s Open Day in Aylesbury.

Other future events we will be at are:

14th September Croydon Local Studies Day

26th September Hampshire Family History Open Day at Horndean

Technology College

23rd October Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre WDYTYA Day

6th November West Surrey Open Day at Working.

Opportunities for members unable to come to meetings to meet those who help with these events. Please do introduce yourselves.

A point raised at the AGM was advertising. I prefer to call it publicity and to this end have been looking and contacting a number of local paper and free magazines in my area. Most are happy to list our group meetings and publish articles about the society.

The next step is to find someone who would like to take on the roll of publicity officer which would include writing articles, designing posters for public display and contacting possible outlets to publicise East Surrey FHS. So what are you waiting for?

Journal back issues

Back issues may be obtained, subject to availability, from the Treasurer, Gill Hyder. Postal and email address are listed inside the front cover of the journal. Please send £1.00 per copy to cover the cost of postage and packing.

Please note that extra copies of the current year’s journals may be obtained, subject to availability, from the Membership Secretary.

Please contact me – see contact details on the inside cover. As most of these things are now done by email you do not need to live in Surrey or the Greater London area.

This is an extract from a letter written by my father in 1973, a few months before he died, to a cousin:

“Dear Peter,

My first reaction to your letter of 18 May is that it is a great pity you were not pursuing your genealogical hobby whilst my Mother was active, as she was also bitten with the “bug”, whereas I am certainly not. However enclosed is a table to give you the basic information you seek.”

I did not see this letter till the late 1990s, when my father’s sister showed me a copy.

A lesson to be learnt? Do not think that all relatives are as interested in the family history as you are! My Grandmother certainly killed any interest her offspring had.

Guild of One-Name Studies

Born Abroad Seminar

The Guild will be hosting this seminar on 20th November 2010 in the Quinnell Hall at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN.

The excellent team of speakers for the day will be led by Michael Gandy, speaking on his speciality subject of Huguenot Ancestry; Kathy Chater on Black Ancestry in Britain; Jeanette Rosenberg, one of our own Guild Members and Education lead for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain plus Peter Bailey, Chairman, Families in British in India Society, who will be presenting on Researching Ancestors in British India 1600 - 1947.

Further information may be obtained from Rod Clayburn (Secretary, Seminar Sub-Committee of the Guild of One-Name Studies) by writing to 4 Winnham Drive, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 8QE or rod.clayburn@one-name.org.

Group meetings

September

- Thu 2 Beneath the City streets - London's unseen history
Peter Lawrence **Sutton**
Peter is a local historian specialising in London and Essex
- Sat 11 The Hearth Tax Pete Seaman **Richmond**
The Hearth Tax returns were collected twice yearly from 1662 to 1689, and are among the most important sources available to us which provide the names of thousands upon thousands of 'ordinary' people in the latter part of 17th century England. Pete (late of The National Archives) will tell us not only about these records but also about his work at the TNA with regard to the related and equally important Exemption Certificates.
- Tue 21 Members' evening **Croydon**
- Wed 22 Smithfield and St Barts John Neal **Lingfield**

October

- Thu 7 Film archives for the Family Historian
Kathy Chater **Sutton**
Kathy is an author and a Family Historian
- Tue 19 Bribery & corruption: the unreformed electoral system & its records
Richard Harvey **Croydon**
Richard is a retired librarian: He worked at Guildhall Library for 34 years and is currently doing a PhD on an aspect of London Tramways at the Institute of Historical Research (nothing to do with family history!). The talk relates to the means of conducting Parliamentary elections prior to the introduction of universal suffrage in the C20, and the records it produced, notably poll books
- Mon 25 Southwark: 'Police' Prosecutions in the 1820s
Peter Shilham **Southwark**
Peter is the compiler of the SELON [S East LONDON] Index; his talk will discuss the latest on Workhouse transcriptions & indexes
- Wed 27 Alien immigration Paul Blake **Lingfield**
An over view from 1066 to the 20th century

November

- Thu 4 Members' evening – exploring the censuses **Sutton**

Sat 13 Strawberry Hill Kim Hacker Richmond
The district of Strawberry Hill, now part of Twickenham, takes its name from the villa built there in 1747 by Horace Walpole. Kim (from Twickenham Library) will lead us through the rich history of this fascinating and interesting place.

Tue 16 The Great Exhibition of 1851 Anne Carter Croydon
Anne originally trained at the Italia Conti Stage School. The acting skills subsequently acquired in repertory theatre still prove useful when she performs her one woman show (in costume) "An Audience with Queen Victoria". She worked at Rochester Cathedral for 11 years in The Education and Visits Department, after which she became Head of Drama and Elocution at Gads Hill School, a post from which she has now retired.

Wed 24 Gedcom explained John Hanson Lingfield
How do we import and export our trees? John says it is simple!

December

Thu 2 Nonsuch House Jeremy Harte Sutton
Jeremy is the Curator of the Bourne Hall Museum at Ewell. After the talk we will have our Christmas Social. Contributions of food and drink are invited.

Croydon: United Reformed Church (small hall), Addiscombe Grove, Croydon
3rd Tuesday (except August and December); 8.00 p.m.
Secretary: Mary Gill

Lingfield: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield
4th Wednesday (except August and December); 2.30 p.m.
Secretary: Rita Russell (01342 834648)

Richmond: Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond
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

1st Monday of alternate months; 12 noon
Secretary: Sheila Gallagher (020 8337 8580)

Sutton: St Nicholas's Church Hall, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton
1st Thursday; 8.00 p.m.
Secretary: Chris Pocock

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

Projects report

Rita Russell [7123]

We have settled down to a programme of transcribing and checking at Croydon Local Studies Library. At the time of writing (end of July) we have completed two baptismal registers for the Workhouse Infirmary and several hundred of the burials in St. John's parish church, and I hold backup here at Lingfield. The burials don't seem so popular to do: I wonder why, as they have been easy to read!

We have quite a collection of data for Croydon – parish records, MIs, poor law etc. and we may well try a CD for these in September. The data will certainly be on the Index.

Having said that, I don't know if other societies are managing to sell their CDs and fiche, but we had a bad day at the Bucks Open Day on 24th July. I am considering if or how we make our Super Index more available for look-up. If someone finds a 'name' they can then contact the Society for details for a fee.

This will be discussed at a projects meeting in August where we shall also sort out our programme of transcribing/copying to move things along during the autumn and winter.

Bookstall

We visited Aylesbury for the Bucks Open Day on 24th July. As mentioned in the projects report our sales of fiches and CDs was hopeless. We did, however, help many people with their queries and sold quite a few books.

On 14th September we are at the Croydon Local Studies Open Day and on 26th September we are off to Horndean in Hampshire, so we hope to do better at these events. Our website has other events for October onwards.

A volunteer to run the bookstall is still required. They do need to be able to store the stock and the support equipment.

Unwanted Certificates

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

Type	Surname	Forenames	Registered	Date	From
B	FROUD	George	SRY Wandsworth	1874	10016
B	FROUD	Albert	SRY Waterloo 2nd Lambeth	1875	10016
B	FROUD	Ann	SRY St.George Martyre	1868	10016
B	FROUD	Arthur	SRY Camberwell	1874	10016
B	FROUD	Emil	SRY Waterloo 2nd Lambeth	1868	10016
B	HARRIS	Norah	SRY Streatham	1907	10016
B	MOORE	Ellen	MDX Pancras	1863	10016

Tech Topic – File types - Part 4

Brian Hudson [7324]

.ged (the file extension for a GEDCOM file)

Many years ago the problem of sharing computer-based family history data was foreseen by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). As a result they produced a specification for a file format that allowed the interchange of data between different Family History Programs (FHPs). This format, known as GEDCOM (G^Enealogical Data CO^Mmunications), has been regularly updated and is currently at version 5.5, but the basic concept is still the same: one FHP exports the data into a file that can be imported into another FHP.

In an ideal world GEDCOM files would import faultlessly into everyone else's programs but some software companies have made their own changes to the format, which can cause problems. However, in most cases, the basic information will be transferred with any errors flagged up for the user to correct. A GEDCOM file can be opened in a basic text editor or word processor although other software is available which makes the file easier to view (see below for Cyndis List website).

For security it is probably worth saving your FHP data in both the software company's file format and GEDCOM. When sharing with other people GEDCOM is the most useful format unless the recipient has the same FHP. Don't forget to edit your data unless you intend to send everything in your file as it may include confidential personal information.

If you want to know more there are many websites on the subject, a good starting place is www.cyndislist.com/gedcom.htm.

Genealogical Record Research Services covering Surrey, Sussex and London

Do you live too far away to justify the expense of locating your genealogical 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

Humphrey Gregory Pridden

– a name you don't forget!

Brenda Hawkins [785]

The grandchildren of Elsie **Pridden** were unaware that she had had a brother, Humphrey Gregory Pridden, named after her father. There were no family stories handed down. What follows, therefore, is gleaned solely from sources both online and in record offices.

Humphrey Gregory Pridden is not a name you readily forget. So important was it within the family that five successive Pridden males called their sons Humphrey Gregory Pridden. Because the name is such a mouthful, I will abbreviate it to HGP, and use roman numerals to distinguish between the generations.

John Pridden named his second son HGP I in tribute to his father-in-law. He had reason to be grateful: John Pridden had run away from home to escape a brutal step-father. Arrived in London, it was the generosity of friends which enabled him to set up in business as a bookseller. In addition to any marriage settlement, Humphrey Gregory lent his son-in-law £150 in 1757. (Humphrey waived the outstanding bond in his will a decade later.) John Pridden's life was characterised by generosity. He helped his silversmith neighbour back into trade by leasing him his shop at 100 Fleet Street when Joseph Bracebridge went bust and lost his own shop to a rival. John Pridden's elder son was the Revd John Pridden BA, vicar of St Brides and a Minor Canon of St Pauls. HGP I followed his father's trade and became a freeman of the Stationers' Company.

From the distance of two hundred years, it is possible to imagine that those who attended the wedding of HGP I to Elizabeth **Mearns** at St Mary Newington in 1810 foresaw a future of married bliss with HGP I an ornament to his class. But the Revd John did not conduct the ceremony, which was by licence. It is very likely that the Revd John wished to have little to do with a brother who described himself variously as a bookseller and a gentleman but was probably regarded as neither by those who were. Their father left the rents from 100 Fleet Street to HGP I, while the other siblings got their inheritance outright. Could association with Joseph **Bracebridge**, a confessed gambler, have led the younger man astray?

At Christmas time 1817 HGP I chose a cosy fireside nook in his local hostelry. This was, unfortunately, the favourite seat of another customer. A row broke out. They scuffled, he fell to the floor. He managed to get himself home, but told his wife he was dying. He was right. A case was brought in the Old Bailey. The doctor, however, said sourly that his liver was so diseased he was likely to have died at any time.

After a couple of months, the Revd John proved his brother's will. This was an unwitnessed scrap of paper, written shortly after their father's death in 1807, leaving named possessions to his siblings. Joseph Bracebridge, under an obligation to the Priddens and in daily contact with Revd John and his new wife attested that the note was indeed HGP I's handwriting. I wonder how much the widow knew of these goings-on?

The Revd John, excited by his new marriage, had made his own will in 1817. It is perhaps strange that he leaves very little to his blood relations (he had no children to succeed him) and that he makes no mention that under the terms of his father's will, Joseph Bracebridge's rent should go to HGP I's descendants, but most curious of all is the unsigned, undated scrap of paper, describing his father's will (which he had proved) as "surreptitious" and cutting out his sisters' children entirely. So when he died in 1825, there was nothing for HGP I's widow and three sons.

HGP II, HGP I's middle son, was being catapulted into a world where he might sink or swim. FamilySearch readily found his marriage at St James, Hoxton in 1839, to Harriet Sarah **Nash**. The 1841 census, however, did not produce a happily married family: Harriet was in Shoreditch workhouse with HGP III aged five and Harriet aged two. Shoreditch Workhouse admissions have been in the process of being conserved for the last couple of years and are not readily available for consultation. London Metropolitan Archives does, however, hold settlement examinations for the period – lots of them. In fact, it looks as if each JP had his own book. On 27th May 1841, at the Magistrate's Court in Worship Street, Harriet had to admit that she had been deserted by her husband. Further, she had to provide details of her marriage. Her son was clearly more than two years old, so she had to give his date of birth and confess he was illegitimate. There then arose the question of where they were legally settled. Her brother in law, Joseph Thomas Pridden gave evidence on the same day that HGP II had gained settlement of his own, by working as a servant for more than a year for a Mr Warren of Piccadilly under the assumed name of Timothy **Cannon**. I could understand that Humphrey Gregory Pridden was a burden and a mouthful of a name, but where did such an alias come from? This was not as contrived as you might think – his mother had remarried, to William Cannon, when HGP II was only four. It must have been evident by 1830 that no support would be forthcoming from any branch of his father's family. Meanwhile, the Poor Law was working inexorably. Harriett and her daughter were not the responsibility of Shoreditch, although HGP III might have been. As a bastard, strictly, his settlement was where he was born.

However, it was more humane to keep him with his mother. HGP III celebrated his 6th birthday in Shoreditch Workhouse, then they were removed to the workhouse at St George Hanover Square.

Poor Harriet must have been getting used to such things. In November 1836, when her illegitimate baby was some five months old, HGP II was hauled before the magistrates at Worship Street. He had worked for Charles **Longhurst** for some four or five months as a journeyman shoemaker. In Mr Longhurst's own words: "I had reason to suspect him and placed four pairs of shoes over the door of the warehouse and two pairs on the handle of the door." What followed was inevitable. When a pair of shoes was found in HGP II's bag, PC Edward Holness was summoned. In his words, the prisoner said "his wife would be in a queer way and that he did not steal the shoes, but they must have somehow dropped in his bag by mistake." Sadly, this was refuted by his employer's statement that he had been begged not to prosecute. The prisoner went to jail for two months.

While Harriet was in the workhouse, where was HGP II? There is no Humphrey Pridden in the 1841 census. Nor is Joseph at the address he gave mere days earlier. But in St Marylebone, "Humphry Prides" aged 20 and John Prides aged 14 are living with baker Thomas Pullin as journeymen for him.

The records of Westminster Archives have yet to be investigated, but the steady stream of offspring indicates that Harriet and her husband were not parted for long.

The Morning Chronicle in 1845 reported the case of Pridden v Brace, brought in the Court of Exchequer. Sealskins were bought from the defendant in the case and sold to Pridden's brother. Unfortunately, no money had changed hands. When the defendant tried to reclaim his property, he was accused of theft. The judge threw the case out, declaring that the brothers were incapable of recognising truth when they saw it. Could this be HGP II and Joseph? There are no surviving records at TNA, but it sounds very like their style.

HGP II and Harriet are reunited on the census in 1851, but you might not spot them. They are calling themselves Bridden. Even sickly baby Edward, being nursed by Harriet's mother several miles away, bears this surname. Just in case anyone should get suspicious, HGP II, now a Pocket Book Maker, has adopted John as a Christian name while HGP III is currently known as Samuel.

Meanwhile, in the Court of Chancery, over twenty years after his death, a squabble had broken out over Revd John's will. HGP II, his two brothers and a host of other potential beneficiaries were all plaintiffs. The London Gazette had advised all next of kin to place their claims with one of the Masters of Chancery

and prove their kindred on or before 10 February 1850. To be using another alias when the case was unlikely to have been concluded suggests a serious necessity.

Poor Harriet! All these ups and downs cannot have been good for her. She was buried 29 June 1851 aged 34. Baby Edward followed her to the grave within six months. HGP II tried to find a new mother for his children. He even got as far as having the banns read. But the potential bride had a lucky escape and the marriage never took place.

By contrast, the final sixty years of HGP II's life seem relatively scandal free. He took his surviving children to Bradford. HGP II earned his living as a sausage skin and violin string maker; HGP III became a boot & shoemaker. The family maintained links with Harriet's family in Hackney. HGP III came back south, probably to work for his half-uncle Henry **Stagg**, where he met and married Henry's sister-in-law Eliza **Wright** in 1863. HGP IV was born shortly afterwards, their only child. HGP III died of consumption (probably the cause of all his brothers' early deaths as well as that of his mother) and his widow had to go back to work, leaving HGP IV to be reared by Henry Stagg and her sister. In the grand tradition of these families, Henry calls himself Smith on two successive censuses.

HGP II patented an improvement for mangling clothes and fabrics. In 1875 he was once more in the public gaze. It was alleged that he and a man called **Keble** had gone into partnership. Feeling he was too much the junior partner, Keble asked to see the agreement with a view to changing it. When he was told that no such partnership existed, Keble vented his frustration by stealing the horse and cart. HGP II gave Keble into custody; Keble retaliated by accusing him of perjury. Had the prosecution been aware of HGP II's past history, they might well have argued their case more strongly. As it was, the jury in Leeds Town Hall that August in 1875 found there was insufficient evidence and our hero was acquitted.

The last sight I have found of HGP II was in the 1911 census, a couple of years before his death, living with a widowed grand-daughter. He had outlived his brothers, his sons. His great grandson, HGP V was to die in the Great War, and with it the name of Humphrey Gregory Pridden.

This is, of course, still work in progress. There are lots of questions still to be answered and I may have completely misread some of the characters described. But the combination of sources available online (PCC wills, Google Books, Old Bailey records, London Gazette, Times Digital Archive amongst others) together with the more conventional Chancery records at the National Archives and poor law material at London Metropolitan Archives start to paint a far more vivid picture than census records alone.

Website round up

Brian Hudson [7324]

www.deceasedonline.com This has been mentioned before but, by the time you read this item, the website will hold statutory burial records for the London Borough of Merton for the following cemeteries: Church Road, Gap Rd, London Rd and Merton and Sutton. There are approximately 100,000 records in total which include scans of burial registers and grave details. Searching is free; to view material there is a choice of Pay Per View or Subscription.

www.blacksheepindex.co.uk This lists over 500,000 names taken from over 1500 newspapers and journals. The index covers a wide variety of topics and occupations, e.g. Masters and Commanders, Liverpool Builders, the Police Index and the Mining Index to name but a few. Searching is free with payment for reports.

www.parishroots.co.uk This contains historical information about towns, parishes and hamlets within the UK. Unfortunately information on Surrey is rather sparse although you may have more luck with other places. Exploring the site will reveal hidden gems such as *Lighting of the Streets* from *A Handbook for London 1849* which is to be found, not unsurprisingly, under the London category.

www.ancestry.co.uk/lma_nonconformist Now available at Ancestry are records from the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), the latest of which are the London Non-Conformist registers 1694–1921. A subscription is generally required to access the records but they may be available for free at a local library in the UK. Unfortunately the commercial Ancestry/LMA collaboration encroaches on the type of records that Family History societies such as East Surrey have traditionally worked on. However, dedicated volunteers and their rigorous checking procedures ensure that the Society's work is to a very high standard of accuracy.

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.

Family revelations using the Internet

Peter Thompson [3642] – continued from June Journal

James Richard Thompson

Granddad Walter's elder brother I find the most interesting character. He was named after his father and was born 27 March 1880 in Kennington, Lambeth, London. From granddad's book he said that his brother was in the Scots Guards. A trip to the National Archives at Kew proved fruitless in obtaining his army records, because all the army records of the Guard Regiments are held at their Wellington Barracks in London. On contacting the Archivist (who is a serving soldier); he kindly found James' army record for me and invited me to the Barracks to see them. The Archivist was very helpful and spent time explaining the records in detail to me. There were personal letters from James to the Scots Guards from Vancouver, Canada.

James Richard Thompson joined the Scots Guards on the 23 Mar 1898 (just a few days short of his eighteenth birthday) and served in South Africa in the Boer War between 1898 and 1901. He was invalided and sent back home to The Royal Chelsea Hospital in London where on the 10 October 1901 he was discharged from the army as unfit for military service.

He met and married a local Lambeth girl Florence Fry, and they were married in Blean near Herne Bay in Kent on the 7 February 1904, this was rather surprising, as the couple both came from Lambeth in south London. Perhaps travelling to South Africa had opened James's eyes to better things, so again Passenger Ships Lists were helpful in establishing that the couple were crossing the Atlantic on the SS Mongolian in 1906 sailing from Glasgow to Quebec as stowage passengers, the cheapest form of accommodation in the bowels of the ship. The couple actually disembarked in Toronto. James and Florence were both 25, and James's occupation was a Moulder.

Florence must have been pregnant whilst travelling to Canada as on the 31 May 1906 Florence Victoria was born in Bradford, Winnipeg. The trip to a new life in Canada obviously didn't work out, and by 1908 they were on their way back to England. The SS Lake Manitoba's Ships Passenger List has James and Florence embarking from St John, New Brunswick to Liverpool during Mar 1908. James by now was a gas fitter, and found work back in the home area of Lambeth, later moving to Southgate north of the Thames working for the Hornsey Gas Co.

The 1911 census had the family living back again in south London, at 112 Ferndale Rd. Clapham, with the three children, Florence (5) Harold (3) and Walter (1), but the census also revealed that Florence had lost another child.

The beginning of the First World War with its upheaval in Europe brought tremendous changes and upheaval to families, and the Thompson family was no exception. Many men flocked to enlist in the armed services, and James re-enlisted in the Scots Guards for the second time on 12 October 1914. Soon he was on the front line on France, having left Florence with four children to bring up, (as Horace had been born in 1912). Poor Florence found the task of bringing up the children on her own and on limited money very difficult, and resorted to fraud, by falsely obtaining £2/15/- from an Army Service Charity, the S.S.F.A Association; although she was paid £1 -8s – 6d from the Army and 4/6d from her husbands former employers the Hornsey Gas Co, but, 8/ 6d was required for her rent. She was sentenced to 6 months in prison (reduced to 1 month) at the Middlesex Quarter Sessions; Florence was also in poor health. The three boys were taken into care by Dr Barnado's whilst little Florence was cared for by family.

Meanwhile, James had fought in the battles at Mons and Ypres, and was invalided home about Christmas time 1914 with frost-bitten feet, but after a few weeks was sent back to the front, but in January 1916 he was invalided home again suffering from severe shell shock and a kind of paralysis of his feet and legs. Soldiers suffering from shell shock were first of all assessed near the front line, those who had mild symptoms were rested and then repatriated to the front line again, and the moderate to severe sufferers were shipped back to the UK. The moderately sick were sent to Army Hospitals and after some rest returned to the front line. The most severe cases were sent to one of two Mental Hospitals. James was sent to Moss Side Hospital in Maghull Lancashire, run by the Red Cross in 1916. Notes from a lecture given by Dr John Rowlands to the Liverpool Medical History Society, entitled A Mental Hospital at War – the story of Moss Side Military Hospital, Maghull, during the First World War”ⁱⁱ.

This lecture was very revealing as to the treatment of the men which was very poor, also they were badly fed. The worst aspect was the uncaring attitude of the “top brass” in the army echelons. The lecture notes revealed that the Generals’ disregard for shell shock victims was ignorant and callous, that the “shell shock condition didn’t exist and that they were either malingerers or were suffering from venereal disease”! Fortunately, there were three excellent gentlemen who were instrumental in developing treatments for shell shock victims; they were Prof Eliot Smith, Mr T. H. Pear and Dr W. H. R. Rivers.

In July of 1916, three parallel situations occurred, the first being James who was very ill but recovering slowly and just coming out from the hospital in Maghull. The second was Florence coming out of prison but with poor health

needing an internal operation in hospital and hence couldn't care for the children; and the whole family being assessed by Dr Barnado's as to whether the children went into care or not. It was not known who cared for the children during this period.

The Dr Barnado report states that James had severe shell shock and was not expected to work again, whereas Florence was quite ill with internal problems, and that no members of the family were in a position to look after the boys. James agreed that the boys would go into Dr Barnado's only for the duration of the war, and that they were to be kept together. None of James' wishes were adhered to; the boys were admitted to Dr Barnado's but were separated, although living near each other in Norfolk. The boys stayed on at Barnado's for many years until 1926! Little Florence was looked after by some relative so didn't go into Dr Barnado's.

James was discharged from the army as unfit in 30 March 1916. He did manage to get himself together, but after the war ended in 1918, the home situation for the nation was dire, prospects for employment were difficult, and so James decided to emigrate from the UK to New Zealand. Florence the mother in the meantime seems to have disappeared, whether she went to New Zealand with James or she died has not been established.

By 1926, James wanted his boys to be with him in New Zealand, and requested them to be released from Barnado's, but here a mystery occurred, as only the eldest two boys Harold and Walter were allowed to go, whilst the youngest Horace, had to stay behind, as the paternal grandparents refused him to go to New Zealand, but no reason was given. Horace was traumatised by this decision, in fact he never saw his brothers again. Horace is still alive and is 97 years old.

Passenger Ships Lists have Harold and Walter sailing from Southampton on the SS Waimana on the 4 February 1926 to Auckland, Harold was 16 and Walter 15, their departure address was once again 21 Venner Rd. Sydenham, London, the Thompson "staging post"!

The effects of the shell shock must have scarred James for life, and soon after the boys came to New Zealand he was off again, to Australia, leaving the boys behind now in their late teens. Then next to Vancouver in Canada, this information was given in his army records which were a great help, stating that he worked as a policeman in the Vancouver Docks. I am indebted to the help from the Archivist at the Canadian Genealogical Centre website, who found from the 1939 British Columbia Directory, Vancouver Section a Jas (James) Thompson watchman in the National Harbour Board residing at 249 East Hastings. What happened to James after that is still "work in progress".

Canada seems to be a magnet for this section of the family, as James' daughter Florence Victoria later emigrated from the UK to Canada marrying Horace Henry Graham Randell who came from Reigate in Surrey, England. They married in Vancouver 19 June 1926, so perhaps it wasn't surprising that James ended up in Vancouver.

In the later part of December 1942, Churchill sailed to Canada and between the 28th and the 31st December 1942 he addressed the Canadian House of Commons. I have a clipping from a Canadian newspaper about that time of Florence meeting Winston Churchill.

“Mrs Florence Randell chatted with Churchill

“Winston Churchill arrived in Ottawa . . . Mrs Florence Victoria Randell of 487 Cooper St, and formerly of Vancouver, who is a supervisor of lady inspectors, clothing department, Inspection Board of the United Kingdom and Canada . . . Mrs Rendell's uncle Sgt W H Thompsonⁱⁱⁱ formerly of Scotland Yard is Mr Churchill's personal escort introduced his niece to Mr Churchill . . . Mr Churchill recalled having met Mrs Rendell's brother Walter Henry Thompson who is with the Royal New Zealand Air Force serving in Britain.”

It would be nice to know more about Florence Victoria and what happened to her and her family.

To sum up, it's thanks to the internet that so much has been revealed about my family's history. Without these Passenger Ships Lists and the Canadian census material, these people would have just been names on my Family Tree, with the comment “grandfather had a brother James Richard and a sister Alice”. I was thankful that my local library subscribes to the Ancestry Library Edition, which allowed me to access the *full range* of information offered by Ancestry for *free*!

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank a fellow ESFHS member, Floyd Cooper, for his help in finding Florence Victoria's marriage for me; this help spurred me on to search further with Canadian family history websites.

To Jean Miller in New Zealand, the daughter of Harold Thompson, for information and photographs of her father, her uncle Walter and auntie Florence Victoria Randell.

To Marion Thompson for her help regarding her father Horace who is now 97.

i Findmypast.co.uk

ii Lecture given by Dr John Rowlands to the Liverpool Medical history Society, thus entitled

iii The journalist made a small error of fact, as grandfather had been promoted to Inspector in 1934

Halfarthing Manor — Wandsworth, Surrey

Runelle Prance [5372]

I first became interested in Halfarthing Manor when transcribing the will of Ruth **Wheeler**, dated 21st June 1816. She was the wife of Caleb Wheeler of Barbados in the West Indies. Halfarthing is left to her son Caleb together with other copyhold property, a messuage and premises with appurtenances situated near the waterside at Wandsworth, in Surrey.

Wandsworth was named after the River Wandle which flows into the Thames. The origin of the name Wandsworth is Wandlesworth – worth or village on the river Wandle which passes through it.

The earliest reference to Halfarthing Manor I can find is that of Geoffrey **Wulf** of Halfarthing in Surrey, household archer to Sir Alan **de Buxhall** KG. It appears he was born in 1313 at Battersea, Brixton Hundred. He married Lucy **a Becket** of Lambeth in 1337 and he died in 1400 at Wandsworth. He was recruited by a distant relative, Sir Allan de Buxhall of Salehurst, Sussex, as a yeoman archer. He used money earned from the French Wars to purchase the tenancy of Halfarthing Manor in 1345.

After this I came to an abrupt halt; I could find nothing else in the Manorial Rolls, so I thought I'd check British History on Line. There was nothing on Halfarthing but there were many references to Allfarthing Manor, Surrey – was this the original spelling and had this changed to Halfarthing with usage, or vice-versa?

Here are the references to Allfarthing:

The manor known as Allfarthing appears in the second half of the 14th century in the possession of Westminster Abbey as three separate fees with Battersea and Wandsworth, but then is merged into Barking fee about 1403. The three estates appear to have been then only known as Allfarthing till the 15th century.

“A grant of free warren in his demesne lands in Allfarthing & Wandsworth was made to John **de Molyne**s in 1334. View of frankpledge and court leet, expressly excluded from the 16th century leases, were amongst the appurtenances of this manor in the grants to Endymion & Thomas **Porter**. There was a capital messuage here from the 16th – 19th century but this has now been taken down. The tenants of the manor enjoyed common pasture in the commons or waste called Wandsworth East & West Heaths and in Garrett & Hayford Greens. The Allfarthing woodland, reserved by the Crown whilst the manor was only leased, was a very fruitful source of revenue to Endymion Porter. A water mill in the parish belonged to his heir John Porter.

“A few records are preserved of a manor in Wandsworth which, chiefly on the ground of the grant of free warren to John de Molyne, has been identified with Allfarthing. Such scanty evidence, however, survives leads rather to the conclusion that it was originally part of Downe Manor and held of the Abbot of Westminster.”

The loss of Allfarthing to the abbot towards the end of the 15th century was still a friction in 1535.

“The manor of Allfarthing was afterwards a parcel of the possessions of the monastery of Westminster & at a subsequent period was annexed to the honour of Hampton Court. It was leased by King Henry V 111 in 1534 for 60 years to Thomas Lord Cromwell who assigned the lease to Elizabeth **Draper** – widow, it was renewed for 31 years to Elizabeth **Snowe** by whose family was assigned to John **Bowyer** Esq. “The manor was among lands fettled upon Charles 1 when Prince of Wales & in the year 1625 was demised for 99 years to Sir Henry **Hobart** & others, under whom ‘Endymion Porter, gentleman of the bed chamber & one of the favourite attendants of King Charles took a lease of 31 years to commence in 1646. He afterwards procured the remainder of this term & in the year of 1628 the fee simple was granted in revision to Thomas Porter Esq. from whom it descended to the late Pierce Patrick Walsh Porter Esq. it is now vested in his son. The manor house has been many years a school”.

The “Allfarthing Piece” was appropriated by the Manor of Allfarthing in 1642. Magdalen College, Oxford were the landlords in the 19th century and they leased it for use as a plant nursery. Part of the land was developed for housing in the late 19th century.

Senex’s map of Surrey 1729 shows the area in more detail. Wandsworth has developed with several mills along the Wandle. An area called Half Farthing is noted on this map, which is most likely located in the area of All Farthing Lane.

In the archive record *Exploring Surrey’s Past* there is held ‘an exact Plott and Description of the Manor of Allfarthinge lienge . . . and being within the Townships of Wandlesworth and Battersey’. This shows the date of 1640, being a copy from an original map of 1633. The map originally was made on three pieces of parchment stuck together and attached to a roller. During repair it was divided into its constituent membranes and is now stored in three pieces.

Allfarthing manor was sold to Earl Spencer in 1816.

There are still references to the manor name to this day: Allfarthing Lane, where there are many houses listed for sale and rental, and Allfarthing Primary School.

I am still trying to find where Caleb Wheeler (husband of Ruth Wheeler) is listed as a copyholder or lease holder of the manor, or perhaps Ruth was the one and so the search goes on. If there is anyone who has further knowledge of the manor of Allfarthing or who might be able to check on some information at the Surrey History Centre I am quite prepared to pay for their time. I know there are some documents that may have information, but being in Australia I can't search myself.

Anyone interested can contact me direct by email: runelle@iinet.net.au.

Book Review

Brenda Hawkins [785]

The Priest and the Playwright by MF Brown

*Pub: Pen Press, 22 Eastern Place, Brighton BN2 1GJ: ISBN13 978-1-906710-63-7
181pp £7.99 (part of the proceeds will be given to CAFOD)*

Father (later Bishop) William Brown was the parish priest for St Anne's, Vauxhall for over fifty years. In that time he supervised the building of the church and did much to ameliorate the lives of his parishioners in a poverty-stricken area of South London. Despite a busy life he found the time for a rewarding friendship with Pearl Craigie, an American socialite, cut short by her untimely death at the age of 38 in 1906.

A Catholic priest whose family were distant both in miles and affection, and a divorcee resolved never to repeat her mistake, they made ideal confidants each for the other.

The author is lucky to have had access to both sides of their correspondence. Pearl emerges from this like a doomed heroine of an Edith Wharton novel, while William tolerates his curate and battles on committees, fighting resolutely for the causes he espoused. It is a complete panorama of Edwardian life, from the Buccaneers, the American women valued only for the wealth they brought to their marriages, to the poor children of St Anne's given lemonade in a bathtub at a special party. The glimpses of parish life are accidental to this story, and the author states that in his memoirs the bishop named none of his parishioners, but the descriptions of the poverty, and the endless problems of funding and building the church are an illuminating insight to conditions of the day.

How the Surrey Sargants became the Essex Sargants

Jim Sargant [9057]

(grandson of Jesse and Kathleen, son of William Henry & wife May Elizabeth)

The origins of this branch of the **Sargants** are uncertain in the confusion of a family in which members gradually changed their religious beliefs from Baptist to Anglican and in which the spellings of the surname differed according to the whims of those responsible for recording BMDs.

The earliest of these that can be stated with certainty is Benjamin Serjant, born in Horley in 1810 – although even this event is only traceable from census returns. It is highly likely that his parents were Philip Serjant, born in 1785 & Mary **Cook**, born 1792 over the border at Forest Row, in Sussex. That being so, we have the link to many of the Sargants, Sargents, Sergeants etc in Surrey and Sussex-over-the-border, as Philip & Mary appear to have had eleven children, who in turn had numerous offspring.

Benjamin married Amelia **Vigar**, born in 1814 in Burstow, at the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Nutfield, on April 13 1834. This place and date are significant, giving one of the several indications that Benjamin was the eldest son of Philip & Mary. Parish records show that the witnesses to the marriage were Thomas Serjant and Catherine Brown. On the same day, in the same Church, a Thomas Serjant, son of Philip & Mary, had an adult christening – possibly a necessity for him to be a witness and suggesting that he could be Benjamin's brother. A fortnight later, Thomas and Catherine were married at Horley.

Benjamin was an agricultural labourer and spent his married life living in the Merstham/Nutfield/Chipstead area. He and Amelia had ten children, records showing various spellings of the surname. The eldest, Philip, adopted Sargant, as did William, the youngest and a twin.

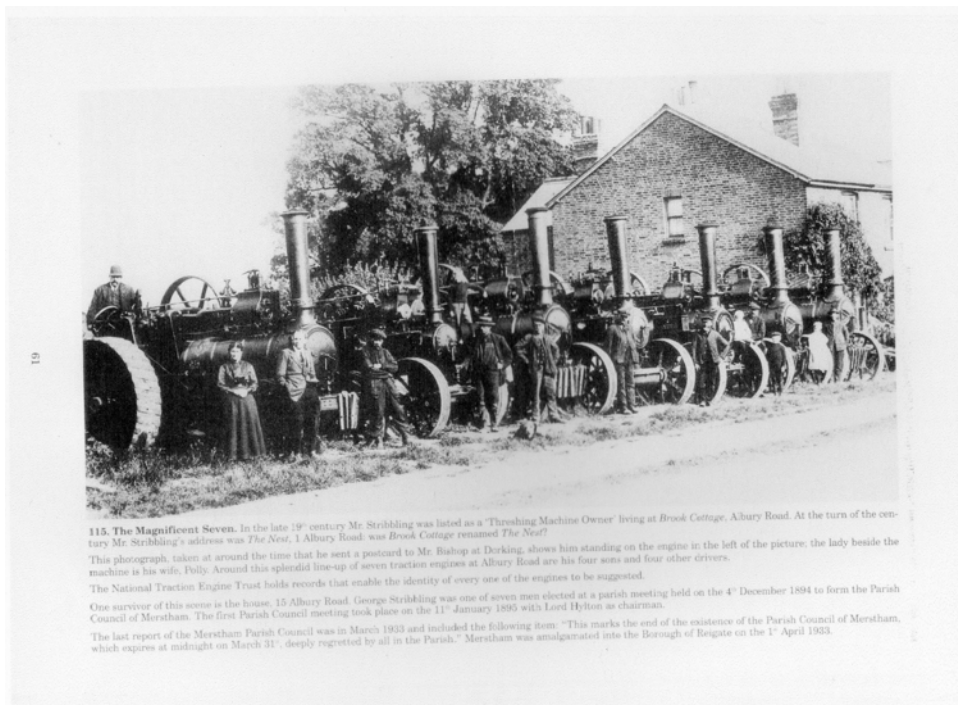
The twins, William and John were born at Merstham on December 3 1853 and christened two days later at St Katherine's Church there. While William remained a local lad all his life, John and most of his family emigrated to New York State in the early part of the 20th century and there are many of his descendants living in various parts of the USA and Canada today.

William married Agnes **Gadd**, from Newdigate, on March 25 1872 at Holmwood. The couple lived in that area initially, but soon moved to Bores Green, Merstham. Two of their children died in infancy, but by the 1881 census, the family consisted of William and Agnes, plus children Amelia (8), John Hewitt (5) and Jesse (1). There were three lodgers at Bores Green – probably all siblings

of Agnes. William was a farm servant. A further son, Harrie, was born in 1884, but sadly his mother died a year later.

William went on to marry Dora Louise **Penny** in 1890, with whom he had two daughters, Florence and Eva. This second marriage seemed to have galvanised him into greater ambitions as it was then that he founded a coal merchant's business in Merstham. Later, Florence was to marry a Frederick **Martin**. He subsequently joined the firm, which became Sargent & Martin. After William's death in 1927, the business was run by Florence until after World War 2.

Going back in time, the second child of Benjamin Serjant and Amelia Vigar was Ann, born in 1837 and christened at Nutfield. She was to marry William **Stribbling** in 1860. William was an agricultural labourer who originally came from Hawkesdon, in Suffolk. He seems to have acquired some engineering skills, his occupation at the 1871 census appearing to read "foreman threshing machine". Ten years later, he was a "machinist" and by 1891 "agricultural engine proprietor".



The Stribbling fleet of traction engines expanded under the guidance of William's son George towards the end of the 19th century, when this photograph was taken alongside 15 Albury Road, Merstham.

Forward in time to Jesse, son of William and Agnes, born December 29 1879. On leaving school aged 12, he worked for a time on the Gatton Hall Estate of Sir Jeremiah **Colman**. Possibly influenced by his uncle, William Stribbling, Jesse became interested in steam engines and by the 1901 census, he was described as an engine driver, lodging with Thomas H. **Porter** (74) and his wife Susan (76) at The Marleys, Woodford Park, Walthamstow. Not many miles away, Kathleen Annie **Worraker**, born 5 May 1880 in Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, was working as a general servant to Frederick E. **Hughes**, insurance clerk, at 12 Kings Avenue, Hornsey, Muswell Hill. One of Kathleen's ancestors had founded the well-known Maldon Salt Company.

The couple were married in St Mary's Parish Church, Hornsey on January 17 1903. Soon after the wedding, they moved to Chalk Pit Lane, Oxted. Whether they had their own home there or lived with Jesse's Uncle John (before he and his family left for America) is not clear, but on the birth certificate of their eldest child, William Henry, born March 3 1904, Jesse's occupation was engine driver (stationary). This could have been at the nearby lime pits, where his Uncle John was a foreman, or even on one of traction engines operated by William and George Stribbling.

It seems probable that it was his interest in steam that prompted Jesse's move from Surrey to Essex. In 1909, the Roneo Company, at Romford, took delivery of the first Foden steam-driven lorry to be sold in Essex. This photograph taken at the time, shows workers surrounding the vehicle. Jesse is the driver.



Jessie and Kathleen moved with their children William Henry and Jessie Kathleen to 124 Clydesdale Road, Romford – close to the Roneo factory – and remained there for the rest of their married lives.

Jesse continued his working involvement with steam when he drove locomotives pulling the trucks carrying building materials between a wharf on the

Thames and Chadwell Heath on a private light railway built to service the construction of what is still the world's largest council housing estate – at Becontree. This estate was to provide the homes for hundreds of workers at the nearby Ford Motor Company at Dagenham –



where Jesse ended his working life. Initially he drove trains carrying pig iron to the body plant and later operating cranes transferring pig iron to the furnaces.

The Sargant family was augmented in 1922 with the arrival of Jean Doris. William Henry (Bill) and Jean Doris remained in Essex, but Jessie Kathleen

married a Scotsman, Patrick **Allanach**, and they settled in Ellon, Aberdeenshire, where Patrick was the village pharmacist. After an early career in the City of London, Bill took on a garage at Stock – between Chelmsford and Billericay – in 1939. This grew into a taxi service and later included private coaches. Later in life, he sold this business and became a successful greengrocer in Wickford. His children are still living within a few miles of each other in South-East Essex.



Jesse and Kathleen celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 1963.

Kathleen died later that year, and Jesse passed away in 1969.

Letter from the past

Joanna Grant [9040]

James Sanderson Clarke, a clergyman, is my Great Grandfather; he was born on 1st October 1820 and died on 9th May 1911, having preached his last sermon just three weeks before. Here is a letter to his son Stewart dated 28th October 1907.

My dear Stewart,

I believe I did it on my own authority. My father used a large square seal with nothing heraldic about it. I may have found arms and crest, attached to the name "Clarke", in some book of crests in the University Library, and the old book on whose cover I painted it, has my name and year date – 1844, i.e. my first year at St John's after my degree in 1843. I went up in 1839 from Stamford. I have no distinct recollections; but I think that my Grandmother lived with Uncle Sanderson at Elton, Northants, and Grandfather met her there; or she came to market with Philip Sanderson.

He (Edward Clarke) had a brother at Stamford, dissolute and drunken, another brother John, was a stockbroker and money-lender in London. He treated my father badly in money matters.

How Father exchanged the shoe-shop in Fleet Street for the White Hart at Windsor I do not know. Probably his father-in-law of White Hart, Reigate, helped. Thomas was eldest son, Uncle Edward much his junior. There were 7 aunts of whom Jane Walker was the eldest and Aunt Sarah the youngest. My Father put Mr and Mrs Soden in to manage the Christopher at Eton and got Aunt Caroline into the White Horse at Fetter Lane. There's our Genealogy for you. Get all you can out of All Saints Day; let them make a clean sweep of the House, and use plenty of Eau de Cologne 4711!

I had a letter 3 pages long from Mrs Tooth in Australia, to-day a cousin of Arthur's! Not Balfour!!! Oh! Oh!

With our best love,

Your affectionate,

Father

What a lot of information in just one letter written over 100 years ago!

I was given a copy of this letter when I visited a cousin in Cambridge a few years ago.

She has a whole room crammed with the Clarke family's research for the last 100 years plus. Slowly I am going through all the information she gave me, checking all the details are true as far as one can. I only wish the Grants had left the same amount of information behind!

News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley, Team Leader, Heritage Public Services

The surge in enquiries from members of the public keen to trace their ancestors or learn more about aspects of Surrey's history has continued this year. Between April 2009 and the end of March this year we handled over 16,000 enquiries from all over the world and produced 27,464 items from our strong rooms for visitors to our search room keen to explore our collections. The crescendo of interest in our holdings may owe something to our successful weekend at the *Olympia who Do You Think You Are? – Live* show in February, but it might also be spurred by the increasing availability of family and local history resources on the Internet. The indexing work undertaken by our wonderful volunteers (who between them contributed 14,416 hours of their time to help us in the last financial year!) is of crucial importance to our projects to make our collections more available. In my last report, I celebrated the completion of the huge amount of work undertaken by Kathryn and Philip Bennett to index the Chertsey Board of Guardians admission and discharge registers, 1894-1932; as I write this report, we have just published an index to the 25 volumes of the admission registers kept by the Royal Philanthropic Society School between 1788 and 1906.

The Philanthropic Society was founded in London in 1788 by a group of gentlemen, worried by the large number of homeless children in the city who could earn their living only through begging or crime. The Society began its work in October 1788, placing one child out to nurse, and by 1792 were maintaining several 'families' of children, cared for and trained by craftsmen and their wives, in rented houses. In that year the first central institution of the Society was opened at St George's Fields in Southwark. It was intended for the sons and daughters of convicts, and boys and girls who had themselves been convicted of crime. In 1802 a separate 'Reform' was opened for the criminal boys and the main institution was afterwards known as the 'Manufactory', since the boys were principally engaged in the manufacture of clothes, shoes, rope and other items. In 1848 the decision was taken to move the institution to Redhill in Surrey. The information given in the early registers is of enormous interest for family historians: name of boy; age; circumstances before admission; trade followed, notes on apprenticeship, behaviour, discharge and later news. As the Society helped many of the boys to travel overseas (often to Canada) to follow their chosen trades, these registers can be particularly valuable for Canadian genealogists. Mike Couper's superb index to these registers is now available on our website.

New Accessions

Accessions have continued to flow in at a steady rate over the last three months, with records of churches, local authorities and of sporting, social and amenity groups all well represented. Two of our archivists spent some time in a magistrates' court store, salvaging public house licensing application plans from the mass of accompanying paperwork. The plans, now held under the reference 8652, relate to the west of the county, including Guildford, Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere, and range in date from 1920 to the 2000s. The earliest document we have taken in recently is an early 13th century grant by John de Bekeham to Matthew and Elysea Pikard of a house and land in Beddington and rents from various other properties (ref 8692). It relates to property which later passed to the Carew family and was accompanied by two splendid illuminated grants of arms, dated 1828-9, to Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell, permitting him to take the surname and arms of Carew and to add two red antelopes to the combined coat of arms. Also worth mentioning is fine photograph album kept by Caroline Todd Inglis of Cultra, Northern Ireland: album, and dating from 1881-1902 (ref 8702). Of particular interest are photographs and other memorabilia relating to her time as a student at Royal Holloway College, Egham, between 1893 and 1895.

Our conservators have recently completed the repair and rebinding of a fine set of letters from Anthony Browne (1526-1592), 1st Viscount Montague, to Sir William More of Loseley (ref 6729/8/1-130). Browne, a staunch Roman Catholic, came to political prominence during Mary's reign, being created Viscount Montague in 1554 and appointed to the Privy Council in 1555. Although he was ejected from the Council on Elizabeth's accession, he succeeded in remaining prominent in political life, serving as lord lieutenant of Sussex in 1558 and 1569, and sitting as a commissioner at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots. Queen Elizabeth visited Montague at Cowdray Park in 1591 and William More remained good friends with him despite their differing religious views. Subjects of the letters include the musters, matters relating to the royal parks (Guildford, Witley, Windsor), the building and garden at Montague's house at Cowdray, the business of Commissioners of the River Wey, reports of war in the Low Countries and attacks of the Turks on Malta and Italy, a dispute at Montague's iron foundry, the inclosure of Horsley Common, Montague's embassy to Paris in 1572, the involvement of Montague's son Anthony in 'disorder' at Guildford, the levying of taxes and other county business.

Our Heritage Lottery funded Ockenden project is now in its final stages. Woking Community Play Association put on 10 performances in April of *'The*

Vision, their imaginative and moving retelling of the story of the Woking based refugee charity, the Ockenden Venture, later Ockenden International. The final stage of the project is to complete the cataloguing of the charity's extensive archive so that researchers can begin to use the records, which are already generating considerable interest. A display in our foyer (until 17th July) gives further information about the charity's inspirational story and visitors can also view brief clips from digitised film about its work with displaced persons after World War II and with the Vietnamese boat people in the 1970s.

Our project to transcribe the tithe apportionments of the 1840s, which detail ownership, occupation and use for most pieces of land within the county, is also making excellent progress. Seven parishes have been completed and checked and a further significant group is being worked on by our large pool of volunteers. Once this group is completed around half the apportionments will have been transcribed and we are hopeful that all will be complete next year. To demonstrate the project we are holding an event on November 13th which will include talks on the tithe system in general and on the use that can be made of the maps and apportionments generated by the 1836 Tithe Act.

Save the date! 6th November 2010

Family History Day at the Imperial War Museum, London

As the summer of 1940 drew to a close, the Luftwaffe began night bombing raids against London and other British cities. As the winter wore on, the air raids became heavier, and between August 1940 and May 1941 over 43,000 civilians were killed.

Have you ever wondered how the Blitz affected your family? What role did your ancestors play to help win the war on the home front?

The Family History Day will give visitors the opportunity to speak to a range of Museum experts and other organisations about starting or developing their Family History Research.

A series of special lectures offering more in-depth advice on how to find out more about your family will also be taking place and there will be the opportunity to visit the Explore History Centre, a specially-designed public space where anyone can drop in for free and find out how the Imperial War Museum's vast collections could help to uncover their past.

Check our website for more information and ticket sales.

www.iwm.org.uk/whatson

The Sad Story of Great-grandma

Barbara Sanders [6264] bsandbed@tiscali.co.uk

There are two things I remember my Grandma saying, both very relevant to the story of her family. Firstly, whenever anyone suggested an extravagance, as she saw it, she would say “You’ll have us in the workhouse!” Secondly, she used to hint that her parents were of rather superior stock, having the *double-barrelled* name of **Pope-Dowsett**. Maybe this was tongue-in-cheek, or maybe, more sadly, it was because the truth was too painful.

The leading character in this story is Grandma’s mother, Ellen **Dowsett** (probably known as Nelly), born on 7 October 1858 at 22 George Street, Battersea, to James Dowsett, a labourer, and his wife Mary Ann. Ellen’s life must have been hard, her father dying when she was not yet 4 years old, in 1862.

Ellen’s future was to be with Joe **Pope**, bearing a large family and renting various homes in Wandsworth. Joseph William Pope had been born one of 12 children in the East Sussex village of Iford on 24 Dec 1855, but at some time moved to London. Many years of searching for their marriage were fruitless – because it never happened, as I eventually found out. Maybe Joe had had an earlier marriage in Sussex.

Their first child was Eleanor (or Ellen) in 1879. Mary Ann Pope, known as “Polly” (my Grandma) was next, born on 28 Dec 1880 at 22 Ram Square, Wandsworth, a modest 2-up, 2-down terraced house, in 1881 shared with another family with five children; the Wandsworth Civic Centre now stands on its site.

In 1891 the “Pope” family were living in three rooms at 5 Pier Terrace, Jews Row, Wandsworth, having now added Bessie (1882), George (1886), Amy (1888), and Henry (or Richard?) (1890). Annie (1884–1886) had not survived.

When the 1901 census came along I was puzzled that Ellen Pope and all the younger children seemed to have disappeared. A possible Joe Pope was there, but he was ‘single’ and there was no likely Ellen Pope to be found; had the family moved away? I did however take note of a few Dowsetts who might just have some connection with the family.

Some time later I attended a post-graduate conference at Surrey (Roehampton) University. A paper presented by Ann Morton of the National Archives set me off on a new line of research: she introduced me to the North Surrey District School (NSDS) at Anerley in south east London, used by the Wandsworth and Clapham Poor Law Union to accommodate pauper children.

This rang a bell! I needed to take a closer look at those ‘possibly connected’ Dowsetts of 1901. An Ellen Dowsett was an inmate of Wandsworth and Clapham

Union Workhouse. Dowsett children: Amy, Henry, Robert and Minnie were 'pauper scholars' at the school at Anerley – there was some overlap of names of the mother and younger Pope children of 1891 . . .

The London Metropolitan Archives held the Poor Law records I needed. Grandma's secret was exposed! On 7th December 1895 Ellen Dowsett (not Pope) and her 5 youngest children were admitted to the Wandsworth and Clapham Workhouse. The Paupers Examination Book records the statement of "Dowsett, Ellen, age 36" to the Wandsworth Board of Guardians on 11th December 1895:

Last lived at 14 Wharf Road Wandsworth, there 4 years [of] life in Wandsworth
5 children in House [i.e. workhouse] with me
I have eight children
Father Joseph William Pope
With him I have lived for 17 years
Landlord had us all turned out on the 7th December
I don't know where the man is now but I think somewhere in Wandsworth
He has been going about with another woman for the last 12 months.

So Joe Pope and Ellen Dowsett had never married, but had lived together since 1878, and produced eight living children plus, as I later found out, one lost in infancy – one every two years. Now Ellen is homeless in the cold of December and her man has run off with another woman. Her children are named as: George 9, Amy 7, Henry 5, Albert 3, & Minnie 15 weeks. She and the children are obliged to use her real name of Dowsett, since there was no marriage. This explains why our Grandma's maiden name was Pope – she had gone into service before her mother was deserted, whilst her little sister Minnie, a babe in arms on entering the workhouse, was always a Dowsett. Those in between had various combinations of the two surnames at different times.

Women, boys and girls were segregated into separate blocks in the workhouse and would probably meet up for only one hour on Sunday afternoons. Ellen was put to work in the workhouse laundry where she would certainly have worked hard for her keep.

In 1898 the children were transferred to the North Surrey District School at Upper Norwood. It was a massive 'barracks' building, purpose-built by the Poor Law Board in 1849 to house 500 children, to provide not only accommodation and schoolrooms, but a wide range of facilities such as workshops, laundry, chapel, and even a dairy, cowhouses and other farm buildings, plus large gardens. Although the regime was strict and to modern ideas unsympathetic, the children

were educated and well-prepared for earning a proper income: the boys being prepared for the armed services or taught trades, farming, and gardening, and the girls trained in dairy-work and domestic service. They normally stayed there until the age of 14 or 15 when they left for employment.

Our Dowsett children were frequently admitted and discharged, suggesting that their mother was trying to care for them and restore a home life, but then giving up again. In school the boys and girls were segregated, and probably never saw their mother for months at a time. Henry also spent 3 months in The Grove Fever Hospital, Tooting (the original buildings are still part of the present day St. George's Hospital).

In the 1901 census Ellen Dowsett is 41 and single, a laundress, still an inmate of Wandsworth & Clapham Union Workhouse. Joe Pope is single, a potman living in at the Rose and Crown pub in Wandsworth High Street. Mary Ann Pope (Grandma), 20, is a live-in servant with Henry Powell, draper, and his family at 70 High Street, Putney.

When Mary Ann married Walter Bedwell in 1904, her father was 'deceased' according to their marriage certificate. He was actually alive at that time but was disowned. In fact, Joe Pope, general labourer, of 32a Pevensey Road, Tooting died in Wandsworth Infirmary on 7 December 1910, aged 54, of 'heart failure due to congestion of the lungs'. The inquest was held on 9 December; he was buried on the 13th at Wandsworth Cemetery.

As the Dowsett children reached 14 or 15 they left the District School. The girls went into service. The school had a reputation for producing well-trained domestic staff, and girls could be returned to the school if they proved unsatisfactory. Unfortunately the leaving records have not survived.

However, we can pick up on the family again in the 1911 census. Joe Pope had already died, but George Dowsett, the eldest son was a gardener, aged 25, single and head of the house at 7 Skelgill Rd, Putney where he was caring for his mother Ellen and young sister Minnie, 16, their workhouse days behind them. On the 1911 census form Ellen entered the data in the boxes for 'number of children' but then noticed this should refer to 'present marriage', so crossed it out. Luckily it is still legible: 9 children born alive, 1 died, 8 still living. I have clearly identified the five surviving girls, plus Annie who died aged 2 in 1886.

In 1911 Grandma and Grandad (Mary Ann and Walter Henry **Bedwell**, gardener) were both 30 and well settled in at 65 Festing Rd, Putney; already May, Walter, Florence and Violet had been born.

Bessie was 28, married to Arthur **Gibbs**, 27, bricklayer, living at 17 Sudlow Rd, Wandsworth with their 3 children.

Ellen (“Nell”), 30, was married to Arthur Henry **Evans** (35), builder’s labourer, living at 7 Florence Terrace, Kingston Vale, with their two children plus a nephew of Arthur’s and 19 year old Albert Dowsett.

Henry has not shown up in 1911, but a Richard Dowsett, 21, gardener’s labourer is lodging with the Dean family, local greengrocers at an unspecified address in Kingston Vale. Is he our Henry?

In 1911 Amy Dowsett, 22, was a servant, living in at 4 Hazlewell Rd, Putney. The couple who had had this beautiful large house built in 1905 were Edgar Walter Willis, 32, managing director of a church furniture manufacturer, and his wife Dora, 31.* Amy married late, aged 36, on 16 October 1926 at St John the Baptist, Kingston Vale. Her husband was Henry George William Johnson, widower, 43, storekeeper, of 1 Vale Cottages. Amy married from her sister Nell’s home at 7 Florence Terrace. There were no children.

The Dowsett boys are leading me a dance. There should be three boys, but 5 names come up in various records. George is clear, but I suspect Henry and Richard are the same person, and Albert and Robert likewise. There could be transcription errors, and it’s not unusual for people to use their second Christian name, or even make up one they prefer. Searching for alternative first names with surnames of either Pope or Dowsett is tricky, especially as the brothers may have died in the Great War, or emigrated.

I believe our Henry Dowsett is the one who was killed in action on 8th August 1918 and buried in Borre British Cemetery, France. This Henry is recorded as born in Wandsworth, residence Putney, so he fits. His wife since 1916 had been Dorothy née Ellis, her address given as 13 Wimbledon Road, Garratt Lane, Lower Tooting – she could have been staying at her parents’ home. I haven’t so far been able to find death records for the other brothers, so they may also be casualties of World War 1.

*

* By strange coincidence this house was very familiar to me, long before I was aware of the family connection. A friend from my single days married the grandson of Mr Willis and my friends inherited this very house. They even called their firstborn Amy, so perhaps Great Aunt Amy left a lasting impression on the place! Their children and ours were born around the same time, so we spent many happy hours together in the house and garden, unlike Amy the maid, who, I am reliably informed, lead a lonely life as the only servant and was forbidden from gossiping to the servants next door!

This branch of our family had a tough life. Ellen Dowsett, deserted single mother and one-time workhouse washerwoman, would be astounded to see the quality of life her descendants have now. But in spite of all the hardships and separations one blessing shines out – the strong family bonds that kept them supporting each other.

If any member of the East Surrey FHS can add to this story, or would like to know more about my research, I would be pleased to hear from you. I am also looking for details of the Dowsett connection in East Sussex. Ellen Dowsett's father James claimed to have been born in Essex, where Dowsetts are very plentiful, but I have reason to believe that he was part of a Dowsett family that moved to Hastings in the 1840s.

Newington Workhouse Minutes

*Extracts (1818–1849) held at Southwark Local History Library;
transcribed & indexed by Peter Shilham*

[Ref: SLHL Volumes 930-939]

. . . in which family & social history are revealed, sometimes in great detail, as is the day to day administration of parish poor relief (before & after the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834) – "all human life is here" at its beginning and its end. However, as with Quarter & Petty Sessions minutes, a tantalizing glimpse of events is often all you get, without the end of the story – but if the Hensons were your ancestors, would you value the following?

Vol. 934, p.161[R] Thurs 4 Sep 1828

"William HENSON, having a bed in pawn at Mr. BARBER's for 40/- [£2] his wife being near her confinement and without a bed to lie on, it was agreed to redeem the same."

Perhaps Mrs. HENSON, as a parishioner, was granted the attendance of one of the parish midwives, at a cost to the parish of 5s. However, as we find earlier, the midwives' conduct must be above reproach:

Vol. 934, p.64 [R]_23 Mar 1826

states that Mrs JEFFRIES, parish midwife to the outdoor poor, having given birth to several illegitimate children, was "not a proper person". She was dismissed [p.66] & replaced by Jane Elizabeth PLATER, wife of Thomas, of Kent St., who agreed to do the duty @ 5s. per case and "furnished a certificate of

competency" signed by Mrs. WEIGHT, Matron of the Westminster [General] Lying-in Hospital, Lambeth, & another of "having given great satisfaction" to Governors & patients of the Surrey Dispensary, signed by John HADDON.

p.66 records that Orders for the Midwife were to be printed & furnished to the Overseers.

p.177 [R] Thurs 5 Mar 1829 an increase of 1s/- to 6s/- per case for Midwives.

This is just one aspect of the detail discoverable amongst the vast number of topics concerning Newington parish, as follows:

Applications for poor relief from Newington, outdoor & in the workhouse—including names, ages, reasons for applying, viz:

Men – unemployment, sickness [including mental] & accidents, bereavement,

Women – as men, also desertion, bigamy, imprisonment or transportation of husband, pregnancy {including bastardy}

Children – bastardy & death or desertion of parents

& grounds for entitlement: renting @ £10 + p.a., yearly hired service or apprenticeship when single, in parish of Newington.

Subsequent Personal Histories: evidence required for settlement & bastardy examinations, removal orders [in & out of parish], for intermittent or regular outrelief; admission/discharge from the Workhouse; parish children with 'nurses' in the country or nursed by mothers/relatives & their subsequent apprenticeship; private establishments where the poor lived; those assisted to emigrate.

Workhouse Administration & Maintenance: names of committee members, overseers, officers (including medical & relieving); of tradesmen tendering to supply food, goods, services etc, & to bury the parish poor; of persons who 'farmed the poor', including in asylums; of emigration agents etc.

Exceptional events: including theft of 4 bodies from the Workhouse 'Dead House' [1828], and deaths of Newington parish children from cholera at DROUETs in Tooting during the scandalous epidemic of 1848 & immediate removal of the others to Margate.

To hear about other interesting insights into the way of life of the unfortunate, of the destitute and desperate poor and the petty and professional criminal, come to the next Southwark Group Meeting (at Southwark Local History Library, John Harvard Library, Monday 25th October at 12 noon) and consult the transcripts & indexes containing thousands of names.

Peter will also describe his recent work, transcribing and indexing records of the Clink Paving Commissioners: Charges brought by Patroles ['constables'] who 'policed' the Clink Liberty (the greater part of St. Saviour's Parish) 1817 & 1823-9 [ref. SLHL 43-6, 3258]. These include details of persons charged and their various offences, from assault, burglary, prostitution etc., similar to those found in records of Petty & Quarter Sessions in the ES Research Collection.

As Peter concludes, it can be seen that, where various parish and Poor Law records survive, it can be useful working through all of them for a particular date so as to build up a picture of an ancestor, albeit not one that one may always be proud of!

The Life of Henry Reeves

Maureen D. Copping née Reeves [9698]

Henry **Reeves** was one of my ancestors, and it is through this line of the family that I inherited the love of writing as they were all printers.

Henry was born in Melksham, Wiltshire, in the June quarter of 1838, the seventh child of John Reeves, shoemaker from Devizes; John signed his marriage register with an X, as he could not write. He married Anne **Stockwell** who came from Melksham, and Anne signed her name on the marriage register. They were married in Melksham Parish Church on 16 September 1827.

Anne and John had 12 children between 1828-1849. [1] George 1828, [2] John 1830 [3] Mary 1831 [4] Elizabeth born 28 April 1833 [5] Benjamin born 4 October 1835 [6] Ann born 27 August 1837 died 1838. [7] Henry born June quarter 1838 [8] Jane born December 1839 [10] Alfred born 1846 [11] Louisa born March 1848 and [12] Augusta born 1849.

Henry became a bookbinder and served his apprentice in Lowestoft, Suffolk; he moved there sometime between 1851-1857. It is not known which firm he served his apprenticeship with, as there were several printing firms in the town.

On 15 November 1859 Henry met and married Emma Elizabeth **Kell**, who came from Bruisyard, Saxmunden. Emma had been born in Bruisyard in 1829, and baptised on 16 August 1829.

They were married in at St Margaret's Parish Church, Lowestoft, on 15 November 1859. Witnesses at their wedding were Elizabeth Reeves and Daniel Wayth. Also present were John Reeves, shoemaker, father of Henry, and Edward Kell, miller, father of Emma. The marriage was by Licence.

According to the 1851 census they lived at 42 Mariner Street, Lowestoft, with their 5 month old daughter Elizabeth Ann. The census is dated April 1861 and by November 1861 Emma died. Emma's father was Edward Kell, who was a miller by occupation. Emma was buried on 22 September 1861 at Bruisyard.

On 8 July 1862 Henry, shown as a widower, married as his second wife Mary Ann **Newson** from Oulton, near Lowestoft. They were married in St Margaret's Parish Church by Banns at Lowestoft.

It is not known where Henry lived at the time of his second marriage, although it could have been Mariner Street, or Wesley Street as shown on the 1871 census. Or maybe it was Church Road, when William my ancestor was born.

Henry and Mary Ann had eight children, [1] Frederick born 8 August 1863 became a carpenter [2] twins Alfred and [3] Harry both born 1864 and buried at St Margaret's Church, Lowestoft in 1865. [4] Frank born 1868 [5] William born 17 March 1869, compositor printer, [6] Edith 1871 [7] Arthur 1872 who also became a compositor and [8] Ellen born 1876 in Newington, Surrey. In the 1881 census the family are residing at 3 Falcon Terrace, Camberley, Surrey.

In the 1871 census the family is possibly recorded at 4 Wesley Street, Lowestoft with eldest daughter Elizabeth age 10, with children Frederick, Frank, William and Edith. Wesley Street is on the junction with Church Road, and they lived in a large house by the name of Ferncotte.

From 1867 to 1870 Henry is shown in the directories as local Manager for Samuel Timms, booksellers, stationers, printers and bookbinders at 60 High Street, Lowestoft. In 1870 the firm of Samuel Tymms property was taken over by Arthur Stebbings, publisher. They were the printers of the Lowestoft Journal when it started in 1873. The firm of Samuel Tymms then moved south of the river to premises at 6 Pier Terrace, where his widow is listed in the directories as Berlin wool stockists and circulating library.

It is possible that from 1870 to 1875 that Henry, finding himself displaced, had a go at working from home at his residence of Ferncotte, Church Road, Lowestoft, and then finding it not viable moved south where his youngest child Ellen was born in 1876.

I seek information about any of the following:

Two of Henry's children followed him into the print trade, William [my ancestor] and Arthur. I haven't been able to find where the family lived in the 1891 census, or when Henry and Mary Ann Reeves died.

William married Louisa Hyde **Fox**, daughter of Mark John Fox, Miller and Elizabeth Fox. The family lived in Lambeth. William and Louisa's eldest son

Frederick William Reeves, born Rotherhithe, 14 June 1891, married May Matilda **Sheehan** on 12 June 1916. They lived at 19 Vincent Road, Noel Park, London. I have no info on the Sheehan family either.

I should like to find out more about: the subsequent life of Arthur Reeves, son of Henry and Mary Ann Reeves born 1872, Lowestoft, who moved to Camberley, Surrey, and became a printer; Frank Reeves born 1868, Lowestoft, Surrey, moved to Newington; Edith Reeves, daughter of Henry and Mary Ann Reeves born 1871, Lowestoft, moved to Camberley, Surrey, believed to have married Mr Shaw and have two children Eric and Winnie; Ellen Reeves born 21.3.1876, Newington, Surrey, believed to have married Mr Newman and have 2 children; Arthur Henry Reeves, son of William and Louisa Hyde Reeves, born 19.9.1894 Deptford, died 29.9.1916.

Merton burial records

Richard Gray (Head of Marketing, www.deceasedonline.com)

We shall shortly be placing all the statutory burial records for the London Borough of Merton onto our website, www.deceasedonline.com. You may have heard about our website and how we are adding cemetery and cremation records from local government and private authorities to our national database.

Merton records will be for the following cemeteries: Church Road, Gap Rd, London Rd and Merton and Sutton. There are approximately 100,000 records in total and these will comprise scans of burial registers and grave details.

Merton is the fifth London authority to include its records on the Deceased Online database and we expect to have eight or more signed up by the end of the year together with many more councils across the UK.

Can you help?

Allan

Nigel Griffin (01704 224241 or email gossatoroco@tesco.net)

I am writing to ask if anyone might be able to help me in tracing relatives or interested persons in relation to a gentleman called David Allan. This man worked for the Royal Family for 50 years. He was born in 1867, his father was also called David Allan and was a cabinet maker. He married Edith Louise Payne on 25th August 1897 and they lived at 38 Golden Square, Soho, London. They had two children – David Harry who was killed in the Great War, and an unmarried daughter Dora Ester.

The 1911 Census shows them as living at 77 Rectory Grove, Clapham, and they continued to live there all their lives – their daughter still was living there, I believe, in 1972. David Allan died on 24th September 1944 at St James's Hospital Balham, aged 77, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Wandsworth Cemetery.

I have this gentleman's miniature medal group (and know where the full-size medals are also) which are most significant as they include the Royal Household Long and Faithful Service Medal with bars for 30, 40 and 50 years service. Quite an achievement!

I am most desirous to make contact with a relative or anyone who knew him and/or his family to find out more about his life. Please contact me if you are able to help.

Brown / Moulton

Colin Tasker colin.tasker@talktalk.net

I am wondering if anybody can help me to find a marriage and death record for a Thomas Brown born 23rd November 1870 in the sub-district of Kent Road, St Saviour, to parents Daniel Brown and Elizabeth Brown née Moulton?

I have no way of knowing if this is my grandfather but it is the only link that corresponds with his birth dates and his father's Christian name on the marriage certificate that I have obtained and census form 1881 RG11 piece 522 folio 54 page 39 for 8 Dobbs Cross, St George The Martyr, Southwark.

If it is possible by checking the Surrey strays index it could possibly confirm that my Thomas Brown married my grandmother in Southport, Lancashire, on 1st April 1908, and that it was the same Thomas Brown on the 1881 census mentioned above in Southwark. Other than that it is possible that I may never be able to get any further with him, which would be a shame to come up a brick wall so early.

The only other census result for a Thomas Brown was 1901 in Wakefield, Yorkshire: it gave the occupation as a tailor, the correct age group but unfortunately not his place of birth. On the 1881 census it shows that he had siblings and I am wondering if any of your members have any information on them – Daniel, Sarah A and Henry.

It is all the more difficult as my grandfather died of TB when my mother was a baby on 26th May 1909, so she knew nothing of her father and was unable to tell us anything at all. Possibly descendants of Daniel, Sarah A, and Henry may be members of your society and may have some tiny clues of my elusive Thomas, and whether he did come from Southwark.

Coulsdon Methodist Church Centenary

Georgina Inwards [6997]

Please may I have the help of members? During 2011 Coulsdon Methodists are celebrating the centenary of the building of the church. I hope to gather together a useful archive and to put on an exhibition. I have, of course, contacted present church members and former members who have moved away, but I am hoping that there may be some members of the ESFHS who may be able to help further.

There has been a Methodist society in Coulsdon since 1907, soon after the start of the development of the suburb. This was in the valley adjacent to the A23 and Brighton Railway originally known as Smitham Bottom, rather than the old village of Coulsdon on the nearby hill. Initially they met in the house of Mr Thomas H Bond, which I believe was called "St Gowans" in what was then Fanfare Road, now Downs Road, Coulsdon. I believe that he died before the building of the church but he is generally regarded to be the 'father of the Methodist movement in Coulsdon'. Harold Barclay Bond who, I believe, was his son proposed the building of the church and acquired the site.

Harold Bond (born c1880 in Hackney) was a founder of Bond and Sherwell in 1908, estate agents still in Coulsdon although there is no family involvement with the business now. His wife was Harriet Gertrude (née Gillett, born 1881). I believe that they had a son Robert who attended the church until the 1960s and then retired to Sussex; they also had two daughters, Kathleen and Joyce. Harold and Harriet both lived to 1976 and are remembered by a few of the older church members.

Two of the other prime movers on the building committee were Howard Banfield Geydye (born 1874 Bristol), and his brother in law Norman Perks Volkman (born c1880, Stratford, Essex): they married sisters Margaret Mabel Barnes and Ethel May Barnes respectively.

I would love to hear from any descendants of these families – do they have any memories of them or possibly photos that I could use? Or, of course, anyone with any connections with the church at any time who would like to share any memories, photos or information on past church members. Any contributions would be very gratefully received. Thank you.

Herr / King

Chris Johnson Johno@busseybridge.fsnet.co.uk

I'm trying to find the family of John Frederick Herr, who was killed in action on 7th April 1944 in Burma. His birth was registered in Croydon in 1917 and that of

his sister Marie in 1914. His mother's maiden name was King and that's all I've been able to find I'm afraid. I'd be grateful for any assistance.

Hore / Hoare / Reynolds / Benham

Annette Pateman [9483]

Since joining the society I have discovered the family name of Hoare was spelt Hore at the beginning of the 19th century and consequently will not appear in 'members interests'.

Richard Hore, baptised in 1810 at St Mary Magdalen Church, Bermondsey, was the son of Elizabeth and William Hore, a tanner living at Star Corner. On the 1841 census Richard Hore (38), a horse keeper, was living in Ebenezer Row with his wife Sarah (35) and children Elizabeth (12), James my 2x great grandfather (9), Sarah (3), and Mary (9 mths).

Extensive searches of the all the marriage indexes at Southwark Library and the marriages at St George the Martyr Church have not produced a marriage entry. Did they ever marry or were they married by special licence as they appear to have lied about their ages? On the 1851 census Richard Hore (40), a Groom, was living at Wilderness Street but the enumerator has only put the initials of the rest of the family. S wife (40), J son (19), R son (16), J son (4), Lb son (2) and Elizth **Reynolds** widow and mother-in-law (68). Unless Elizabeth married twice it means Sarah's maiden name was Reynolds.

My 2 x great grandfather James John Hoare (carman) married Eliza **Benham** at St Pauls Church, Bermondsey in 1856 and their children were James John (1857), Richard (1859), Mary Ann (1861), John and William (1863), William (1873), Henry (1875), Abraham and John (1880).

This line of our Hore/Hoare family lived in and around Star Corner for over one hundred and twenty years. If anyone is related or has further details I would be delighted to hear from them.

The Moorings – 2 Champion Park, Denmark Hill, Camberwell

Jennie Saunderson [10013]

The above address was a maternity home for single mothers; it is where my mother was born in 1921.

As her father is unknown to us, I am searching for a possible baptism for her in the hope that her father's name may have been entered in a baptism register. She was brought home and raised by her mother's family.

The charity that ran The Moorings still exists and has offices in Croydon. I have contacted them, but as my mother was not put up for either fostering or adoption, her birth records were not kept.

I don't have a possible baptism for her in Croydon and I need to trace a possible church in the Denmark Hill area where baptism for some of the babies born at The Moorings may have taken place, to enable me to search at the London Metropolitan Archives. It is also possible that the maternity home, being a Christian concern, may have had a chapel on site and baptisms took place there.

I should appreciate any help with this.

Webb / Alchin / Finnigan

Yvonne Thornton [8044] yvonne1905@tiscali.co.uk

My paternal grandmother, Eliza Webb, was born 13 JUN 1867 in Merton Road, Mitcham; her mother was Harriett Webb. Eliza had a relationship with Thomas Alchin and they lived in Croydon. Their children were Alfred (born 1883 in Croydon workhouse), Phoebe Mabel (born 11 FEB 1888 in Croydon workhouse), Thomas (born 1890 at 6 Bensham Lane, Croydon), Eliza (born 1892 at 20 Forster Road, Croydon), Daisy (born at 5 Forster Road) in 1895).

Phoebe Mabel married Joseph Hillsley at Earlsfield in 1915 and they moved to Belvedere; Joseph died and Phoebe remarried.

Eliza died at 5 Forster Road in 1894, just two years old.

Eliza Webb, born 1867, died aged 38 in 1898 at 57 Forster Road; the death certificate gives the informant as E. Alchin, sister-in-law, of 56 Forster Road.

I have never proved a marriage for Eliza. The children continued to live with Thomas Alchin after Eliza died and I found them in the 1901 census. For a long time I have been looking for marriages and deaths in the family, perhaps for Thomas and his sister Daisy, but certificates that I have bought have turned out to be the wrong ones.

Eliza's mother Harriett was admitted to Caterham Asylum about 1872; she was previously believed to have been in Clapham and Wandsworth workhouse. Her mother was shown as a 'Mrs Finnigan' of Park Crescent, Clapham, although I couldn't find the name Finnigan in Park Crescent and I don't know her Christian name. I have therefore not found Harriett's birth, but I believe it to have been around 1835.

I should really like to know what happened to Thomas and Daisy after the 1901 census and wonder if anyone can give help or advice in this matter.